

# Case study:

## Keeping the Internet on during Benin's Presidential Elections



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With protests intensifying and social media interruptions reported in the weeks leading up to Benin's presidential elections in April, many Internet and civil rights organizations were growing nervous about the potential for another Internet shutdown.

So, two months before the presidential elections, Internet Society's Benin Chapter started proactively mounting a campaign, approaching a host of local and international rights organizations for support – including Access Now, Amnesty International Benin, Citizen Voice and Action, the Bloggers Association of Benin, and Citizen 229.

With partners, the Benin Chapter contacted local media and posted social media messages with the **#CoupezPasInternet** (**#DontCutInternet**) hashtag, which were magnified by posts and shares from at least 30 bloggers and partners.

Then, on 8 April, they published the open letter and publicized it with a Facebook live conference and Tweetup, garnering international media coverage.

