

Unleashing the Power of Investigative Journalism

How ICIJ Rocked the Third Quarter of 2023

Our investigations shape policies, redefine the boundaries of transparency and foster accountability. However, change takes time. The profound effects of our work often unfold gradually. Sometimes it takes years for the world to right injustices, such as in the case of Isabelle Adjani, who was ordered to stand trial six years after the Panama Papers.

In Gabon

- [A coup ended a half century of dynastic rule](#) by the Bongo family, which concealed enormous wealth in shell companies while their nation of impoverished citizens stagnated. Ousted president [Ali Bongo](#) was a key figure in the Pandora Papers. The 2021 investigation exposed his and his family's use of offshore tax havens, raising questions about financial transparency and tax evasion.

In France

- The [French parliament reprimanded](#) President Emmanuel Macron and his government for secret negotiations and special treatment of Uber. The rebuke was in response to [ICIJ revelations](#) that the ride-hailing giant used aggressive lobbying strategies to circumvent regulations as it fought to secure a foothold in France during the company's early years.
- French actress [Isabelle Adjani has been ordered to stand trial](#) on charges of money laundering and tax fraud partly tied to revelations in the [Panama Papers](#).

In Spain

- Authorities opened a [new tax investigation into Latina superstar Shakira](#). The probe stems from allegations of two instances of tax fraud in 2018. She already is scheduled for a December trial on separate allegations that she failed to pay income taxes between 2012 and 2014 when she lived part-time in Barcelona.

The pop diva's use of offshore companies in low- or no-tax jurisdictions was exposed in ICIJ's 2017 [Paradise Papers](#) investigation. The 2021 Pandora Papers investigation subsequently linked Shakira to additional shell companies that Spanish authorities already were investigating.

In Ukraine

- Billionaire Ihor Kolomoisky was arrested last month and remains in pre-trial detention pending the outcome of separate investigations by anti-corruption authorities in his country. He is accused of embezzling \$250 million through an offshore company and laundering more than \$14 million abroad.

Kolomoisky's use of complex financial structures were featured in [earlier investigations](#) by ICIJ and BuzzFeed News. Those stories exposed his [use of shell companies](#) to funnel money into his U.S. real estate empire.

In the United States

- The [Internal Revenue Service is investigating](#) cases of Russian oligarchs evading sanctions through assets hidden in South Dakota. The probe follows [ICIJ revelations](#) of the state's emergence as a financial secrecy center courting wealthy clients with promises of privacy and asset protection. [South Dakota Public Broadcasting](#) first reported the development.

- In a [significant repatriation of art to Cambodia](#) from a private collection, the family of Florida billionaire George Lindemann is returning 33 ancient statues. The surrender follows [ICIJ revelations](#) that many of these antiquities were likely looted from Cambodian sacred sites. The restitution marks a significant development amid increased efforts to recover stolen relics, with a focus on artifacts tied to disgraced art collector Douglas Latchford. Just one month earlier, the [National Gallery of Australia](#) joined a slate of institutions that have agreed to return Khmer relics linked to Latchford.
- A new study by George Washington University researcher Kathryn Prinkey shed light on the challenges museums face when tainted art is discovered in their collections. Her research focused on pieces connected to antiquities trader Douglas Latchford, a major figure in the Pandora Papers. Published in The International Journal of the Inclusive Museum, "[The Fallout of the Pandora Papers: How Museums are Responding and How to Handle Future Tainted Wealth and Art in the Market](#)" emphasizes the need for comprehensive ethical guidelines and recommends funding for provenance research positions.

In Popular Culture

- A new crime drama inspired by ICIJ's Panama Papers debuted last week in the U.K. The six-part primetime series, Payback, is produced by Line of Duty creator Jed Mercurio. Read more [here](#).
- New artwork inspired by the Panama Papers has gone on display at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva. Entitled CEO Poverty, the acrylic piece by Argentinian artist Carlos Clementt is a representation of economic inequity. More [here](#).
- American author David Baldacci also found inspiration in ICIJ's work. [In his own words](#), here's how the Panama Papers and Pandora Papers [inspired](#) his bestselling thriller, The 6:20 Man.