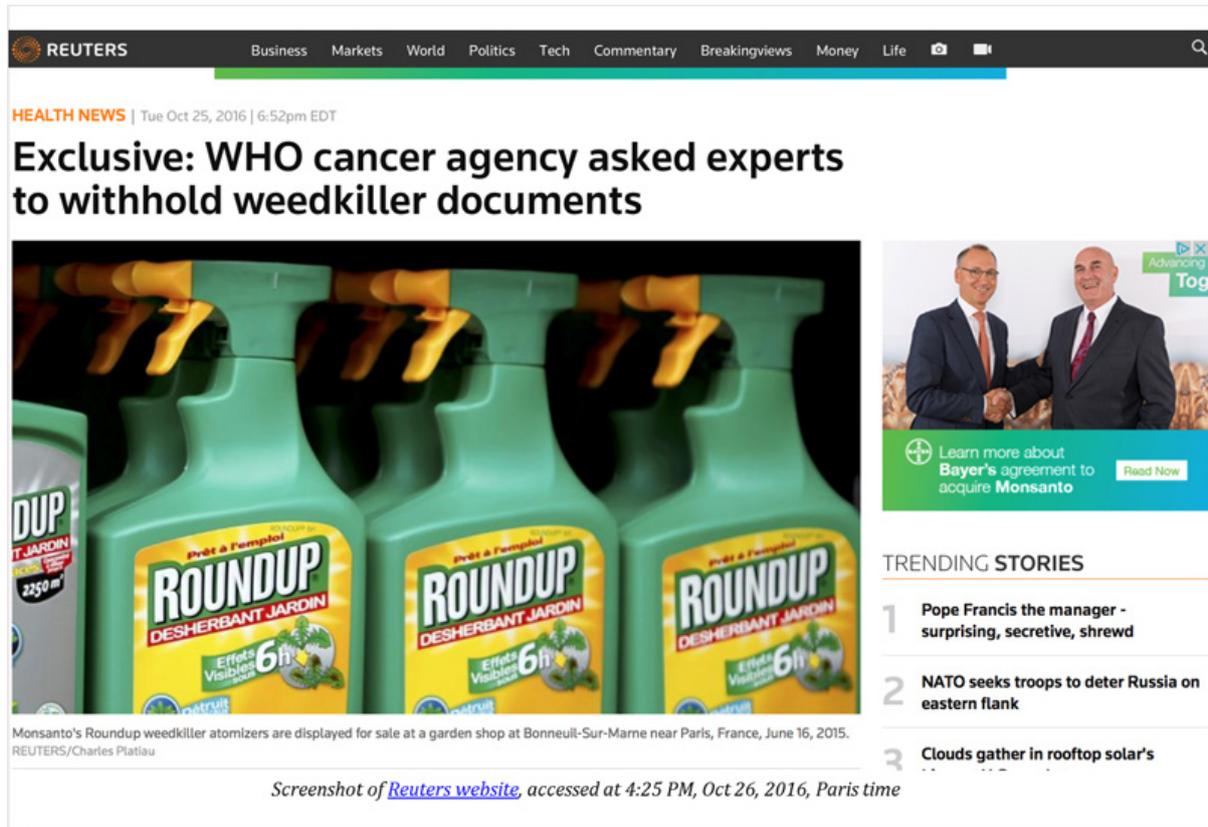


IARC responds to Reuters article



The screenshot shows a Reuters news article from October 25, 2016. The main headline is "Exclusive: WHO cancer agency asked experts to withhold weedkiller documents". Below the headline is a photograph of several green Roundup weedkiller bottles. To the right of the main article is a sidebar with a "TRENDING STORIES" section. The first story in the list is "Pope Francis the manager - surprising, secretive, shrewd". Below the main article, there is a caption: "Monsanto's Roundup weedkiller atomizers are displayed for sale at a garden shop at Bonneuil-Sur-Marne near Paris, France, June 16, 2015. REUTERS/Charles Platiau". At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a note: "Screenshot of Reuters website, accessed at 4:25 PM, Oct 26, 2016, Paris time".

An article from Reuters (published on 25 October 2016) on the subject of access to documents concerning the IARC Monographs Programme severely distorts the motives of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). IARC wishes to make it clear that its motivation is to ensure that scientists are free to openly and critically debate the scientific evidence on whether an agent causes cancer in humans, in the best interests of public health worldwide.

IARC was approached for advice by United States-based scientists, who had been part of an IARC Monographs Working Group that evaluated glyphosate. The scientists and their institutes were subject to Freedom of Information or Open Records requests made by various interested parties, including lawyers representing Monsanto. Many of the scientists have also received broad subpoenas for documents and records relevant to IARC's evaluation of glyphosate. In light of the interests at stake, including ongoing lawsuits in the USA involving Monsanto, the scientists felt uncomfortable releasing these materials, and some felt that they were being intimidated. It was in this context that IARC was asked for advice.

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The position of IARC in consultation with the World Health Organization concerning the public release of deliberative documents, or records of deliberative scientific discussions, is consistent with national laws concerning the prevention of disclosure of draft and deliberative documents.

The article by Reuters follows a pattern of consistent but misleading reports about the IARC Monographs Programme in some sections of the media, beginning after glyphosate was classified as *probably carcinogenic to humans*.

For clarity, IARC is making available the full set of questions posed by Reuters on 21 October and the answers provided by IARC on 25 October.