

Acknowledgments

Freedom of the Press 2011 could not have been completed without the contributions of numerous Freedom House staff and consultants. The section entitled “The Survey Team,” contains a detailed list of writers and advisors without whose efforts this project would not have been possible.

Karin Deutsch Karlekar served as project director of this year’s index. Extensive research, analytical, editorial, and administrative assistance was provided by Eliza B. Young and Tyler Roylance, as well as by Sam Feldman, Jennifer Hetrick, Holiday Dmitri Kumar, Darren Kwong, and Valerie Popper. Jennifer Dunham and Shannon O’Toole served as additional copy-editors. Overall guidance for the project was provided by Arch Puddington, director of research, and by Christopher Walker, director of studies. We would also like to thank our consultant writers and advisors and other members of the survey team for their contributions.

We are grateful for the insights provided by those who served on this year’s review teams. In addition, the ratings and narratives were reviewed by a number of Freedom House staff based in our Washington, D.C. and overseas offices, as well as by members of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) network. This report also reflects the findings of the Freedom House study *Freedom in the World 2011: The Annual Survey of Political Rights and Civil Liberties*. Except where noted otherwise, statistics on internet usage were taken from the International Telecommunications Union.

Primary funding for the 2011 index was made possible by the Leon Levy Foundation, the Hurford Foundation, and the Nicholas B. Ottaway Foundation. Additional funding was provided by the National Endowment for Democracy, Free Voice, Amgen Corporation, the Lilly Endowment Inc., the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the F.M. Kirby Foundation Inc., the American Federation of Teachers, and Freedom Forum.

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Freedom of the Press 2011

Methodology

The 2011 index, which provides analytical reports and numerical ratings for 196 countries and territories, continues a process conducted since 1980 by Freedom House. The findings are widely used by governments, international organizations, academics, and the news media in many countries. Countries are given a total score from 0 (best) to 100 (worst) on the basis of a set of 23 methodology questions divided into three subcategories. Assigning numerical points allows for comparative analysis among the countries surveyed and facilitates an examination of trends over time. The degree to which each country permits the free flow of news and information determines the classification of its media as “Free,” “Partly Free,” or “Not Free.” Countries scoring 0 to 30 are regarded as having “Free” media; 31 to 60, “Partly Free” media; and 61 to 100, “Not Free” media. The criteria for such judgments and the arithmetic scheme for displaying the judgments are described in the following section. The ratings and reports included in *Freedom of the Press 2011* cover events that took place between January 1, 2010, and December 31, 2010.

Criteria

This study is based on universal criteria. The starting point is the smallest, most universal unit of concern: the individual. We recognize cultural differences, diverse national interests, and varying levels of economic development. Yet Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states:

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers.

The operative word for this index is “everyone.” All states, from the most democratic to the most authoritarian, are committed to this doctrine through the UN system. To deny that doctrine is to deny the universality of information freedom—a basic human right. We recognize that cultural distinctions or economic underdevelopment may limit the volume of news flows within a country, but these and other arguments are not acceptable explanations for outright centralized control of the content of news and information. Some poor countries allow for the exchange of diverse views, while some economically developed countries restrict content diversity. We seek to recognize press freedom wherever it exists, in poor and rich countries as well as in countries of various ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds.

Research and Ratings Review Process

The findings are reached after a multilayered process of analysis and evaluation by a team of regional experts and scholars. Although there is an element of subjectivity inherent in the index findings, the ratings process emphasizes intellectual rigor and balanced and unbiased judgments.

The research and ratings process involved several dozen analysts—including members of the core research team headquartered in New York, along with outside consultant—who prepared the draft ratings and country reports. Their conclusions are reached after gathering information

from professional contacts in a variety of countries, staff and consultant travel, international visitors, the findings of human rights and press freedom organizations, specialists in geographic and geopolitical areas, the reports of governments and multilateral bodies, and a variety of domestic and international news media. We would particularly like to thank the other members of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) network for providing detailed and timely analyses of press freedom violations in a variety of countries worldwide on which we rely to make our judgments.

The ratings were reviewed individually and on a comparative basis in a global meeting involving analysts and Freedom House staff. The ratings are compared with the previous year's findings, and any major proposed numerical shifts or category changes are subjected to more intensive scrutiny. These reviews are followed by cross-regional assessments in which efforts are made to ensure comparability and consistency in the findings.

Methodology

Through the years, we have refined and expanded our methodology. Recent changes are intended to simplify the presentation of information without altering the comparability of data for a given country over the 30-year span or the comparative ratings of all countries over that period.

Our examination of the level of press freedom in each country currently comprises 23 methodology questions and 109 indicators divided into three broad categories: the legal environment, the political environment, and the economic environment. For each methodology question, a lower number of points is allotted for a more free situation, while a higher number of points is allotted for a less free environment. Each country is rated in these three categories, with the higher numbers indicating less freedom. A country's final score is based on the total of the three categories: A score of 0 to 30 places the country in the Free press group; 31 to 60 in the Partly Free press group; and 61 to 100 in the Not Free press group.

The diverse nature of the methodology questions seeks to encompass the varied ways in which pressure can be placed upon the flow of information and the ability of print, broadcast, and internet-based media to operate freely and without fear of repercussions: In short, we seek to provide a picture of the entire "enabling environment" in which the media in each country operate. We also seek to assess the degree of news and information diversity available to the public in any given country, from either local or transnational sources.

The **legal environment** category encompasses an examination of both the laws and regulations that could influence media content and the government's inclination to use these laws and legal institutions to restrict the media's ability to operate. We assess the positive impact of legal and constitutional guarantees for freedom of expression; the potentially negative aspects of security legislation, the penal code, and other criminal statutes; penalties for libel and defamation; the existence of and ability to use freedom of information legislation; the independence of the judiciary and of official media regulatory bodies; registration requirements for both media outlets and journalists; and the ability of journalists' groups to operate freely.

Under the **political environment** category, we evaluate the degree of political control over the content of news media. Issues examined include the editorial independence of both state-owned and privately owned media; access to information and sources; official censorship and self-censorship; the vibrancy of the media and the diversity of news available within each country; the ability of both foreign and local reporters to cover the news freely and without harassment; and the intimidation of journalists by the state or other actors, including arbitrary detention and imprisonment, violent assaults, and other threats.

Our third category examines the **economic environment** for the media. This includes the structure of media ownership; transparency and concentration of ownership; the costs of establishing media as well as of production and distribution; the selective withholding of advertising or subsidies by the state or other actors; the impact of corruption and bribery on

content; and the extent to which the economic situation in a country impacts the development and sustainability of the media.

CHECKLIST OF METHODOLOGY QUESTIONS 2010

- Each country is ranked on a scale of 0 to 100, with 0 being the best and 100 being the worst.
- A combined score of 0-30=Free, 31-60=Partly Free, 61-100=Not Free.
- Under each question, a lower number of points is allotted for a more free situation, while a higher number of points is allotted for a less free environment.
- The sub-questions listed are meant to provide guidance as to what issues are meant to be addressed under each methodology question; it is **not** intended that the author necessarily answer each one.
- As a general guideline, the index is focused on ability to access news and information (which predominantly means print and broadcast media but can also including blogs, social media, and other forms of digital news dissemination) and providers of news content, which predominantly means journalists but can also include citizen journalists and bloggers, where applicable.

A. LEGAL ENVIRONMENT (0-30 POINTS)

1. Do the constitution or other basic laws contain provisions designed to protect freedom of the press and of expression and are they enforced? (0-6 points)

- Does the constitution contain language that provides for freedom of speech and of the press?
- Do the Supreme Court, Attorney General, and other representatives of the higher judiciary support these rights?
- Does the judiciary obstruct the implementation of laws designed to uphold these freedoms?
- Do other high-ranking state or government representatives uphold protections for media freedom, or do they contribute to a hostile environment for the press?
- Are crimes that threaten press freedom prosecuted vigorously by authorities?
- Is there implicit impunity for those who commit crimes against journalists?

2. Do the penal code, security laws, or any other laws restrict reporting and are journalists or bloggers punished under these laws? (0-6 points)

- Are there restrictive press laws?
- Do laws restrict reporting on ethnic or religious issues, national security, or other sensitive topics?
- Are penalties for 'irresponsible journalism' applied widely?
- Are restrictions of media freedom closely defined, narrowly circumscribed, and proportional to the legitimate aim?

- Do the authorities restrict or otherwise impede legitimate press coverage in the name of national security interests?
- Are journalists regularly prosecuted or jailed as a result of what they write?
- Are writers, commentators, or bloggers subject to imprisonment or other legal sanction as a result of accessing or posting material on the internet?
- Is there excessive pressure on journalists to reveal sources, resulting in punishments such as jail sentences, fines, or contempt of court charges?

3. Are there penalties for libeling officials or the state and are they enforced? (0-3 points)

- Are public officials especially protected under insult or defamation laws?
- Are insult laws routinely used to shield officials' conduct from public scrutiny?
- Is truth a defense to libel?
- Is there a legally mandated 'right of reply' that overrides independent editorial control?
- Is libel made a criminal rather than a civil offense?
- Are journalists or bloggers regularly prosecuted and jailed for libel or defamation?
- Are fines routinely imposed on journalists or media outlets in civil libel cases in a partisan *or* prejudicial manner, with the intention of bankrupting the media outlet or deterring future criticism?

4. Is the judiciary independent and do courts judge cases concerning the media impartially? (0-3 points)

- Are members of the judiciary subject to excessive pressure from the executive branch?
- Are the rights to freedom of expression and information recognized as important among members of the judiciary?
- When judging cases concerning the media, do authorities act in a lawful and non-arbitrary manner on the basis of objective criteria?
- Is there improper use of legal action or summonses against journalists or media outlets (e.g. being subjected to false charges, arbitrary tax audits etc.)?

5. Is Freedom of Information legislation in place and are journalists able to make use of it? (0-2 points)

- Are there laws guaranteeing access to government records and information?
- Are restrictions to the right of access to information expressly and narrowly defined?
- Are journalists able to secure public records through clear administrative procedures in a timely manner and at a reasonable cost?
- Are public officials subject to prosecution if they illegally refuse to disclose state documents?

6. Can individuals or business entities legally establish and operate private media outlets without undue interference? (0-4 points)

- Are registration requirements to publish a newspaper or periodical unduly onerous or are they approved/rejected on partisan or prejudicial grounds?
- Is the process of licensing private broadcasters and assigning frequencies open, objective and fair?
- Is there an independent regulatory body responsible for awarding licenses and distributing frequencies or does the state control the allocations process?
- Does the state place extensive legal controls over the establishment of internet web sites and ISPs?
- Do state or publicly-funded media receive preferential legal treatment?
- Are non-profit community broadcasters given distinct legal status?

- Is there substantial media cross ownership and is cross-ownership of media encouraged by the absence of legal restrictions?
- Are laws regulating media ownership impartially implemented?

7. Are media regulatory bodies, such as a broadcasting authority or national press or communications council, able to operate freely and independently? (0-2 points)

- Are there explicit legal guarantees protecting the independence and autonomy of any regulatory body from either political or commercial interference?
- Does the state or any other interest exercise undue influence over regulatory bodies through appointments or financial pressure?
- Is the appointments process to such bodies transparent and representative of different interests, and do representatives from the media have an adequate presence on such bodies?
- Are decisions taken by the regulatory body seen to be fair and apolitical?
- Are efforts by journalists and media outlets to establish self-regulatory mechanisms permitted and encouraged, and viewed as a preferable alternative to state-imposed regulation?

8. Is there freedom to become a journalist and to practice journalism, and can professional groups freely support journalists' rights and interests? (0-4 points)

- Are journalists required by law to be licensed and if so, is the licensing process conducted fairly and at reasonable cost?
- Must a journalist become a member of a particular union or professional organization in order to work legally?
- Must journalists have attended a particular school or have certain qualifications in order to practice journalism?
- Are visas for journalists to travel abroad delayed or denied based on the individual's reporting or professional affiliation?
- May journalists and editors freely join associations to protect their interests and express their professional views?
- Are independent journalists' organizations able to operate freely and comment on threats to or violations of press freedom?

B. POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT (0-40 POINTS)

1. To what extent are media outlets' news and information content determined by the government or a particular partisan interest? (0-10 points)

- To what degree are print and broadcast journalists subject to editorial direction or pressure from the authorities or from private owners?
- Do media outlets—either print, broadcast, or internet-based—that express independent, balanced views exist?
- Is media coverage excessively partisan, with the majority of outlets consistently taking either a pro- or anti-government line?
- Is there government editorial control of state-run media outlets?
- Does the government attempt to influence or manipulate online content?
- Is there opposition access to state-owned media, particularly during elections campaigns? Do outlets reflect the views of the entire political spectrum or do they provide only an official point of view?
- Is hiring, promotion, and firing of journalists in the state-owned media done in a non-partisan and impartial manner?
- Is there provision for public-service broadcasting that enjoys editorial independence?

2. Is access to official or unofficial sources generally controlled? (0-2 points)

- Are the activities of government—courts, legislature, officials, records—open to the press?
- Is there a ‘culture of secrecy’ among public officials that limits their willingness to provide information to media?
- Do media outlets have a sufficient level of access to information and is this right equally enforced for all journalists regardless of their media outlet’s editorial line?
- Does the regime influence access to unofficial sources (parties, unions, religious groups, etc.), particularly those that provide opposition viewpoints?

3. Is there official or unofficial censorship? (0-4 points)

- Is there an official censorship body?
- Are print publications or broadcast programs subject to pre-or post-publication censorship?
- Are local print and broadcast outlets forcibly closed or taken off the air as a result of what they publish or broadcast?
- Are there shutdowns or blocking of internet sites or blogs?
- Is access to foreign newspapers, TV or radio broadcasts, websites, or blogs censored or otherwise restricted?
- Are certain contentious issues, such as official corruption, the role of the armed forces or the political opposition, human rights, religion, officially off-limits to the media?
- Do authorities issue official guidelines or directives on coverage to media outlets?

4. Do journalists practice self-censorship? (0-4 points)

- Is there widespread self-censorship in the state-owned media? In the privately owned media?
- Are there unspoken ‘rules’ that prevent a journalist from pursuing certain stories?
- Is there avoidance of subjects that can clearly lead to censorship or harm to the journalist or the institution?
- Is there censorship or excessive interference of journalists’ stories by editors or managers?
- Are there restrictions on coverage by ‘gentlemen’s agreement,’ club-like associations between journalists and officials, or traditions in the culture that restrict certain kinds of reporting?

5. Do people have access to media coverage and a range of news and information that is robust and reflects a diversity of viewpoints? (0-4 points)

- Does the public have access to a diverse selection of print, broadcast, and internet-based sources of information that represent a range of political and social viewpoints?
- Are people able to access a range of local and international news sources despite efforts to restrict the flow of information?
- Do media outlets represent diverse interests within society, for example through community radio or other locally-focused news content?
- Do providers of news content cover political developments and provide scrutiny of government policies or actions by other powerful societal actors?
- Is there a tradition of vibrant coverage of potentially sensitive issues?
- Do journalists or bloggers pursue investigative news stories on issues such as corruption by the government or other powerful societal actors?
- NOTE: When scoring this question, please take into account the level of penetration of different types of media, e.g. print, broadcast, internet, foreign.

6. Are both local and foreign journalists able to cover the news freely in terms of harassment and physical access? (0-6 points)

- Are journalists harassed while covering the news?

- Are certain geographical areas of the country off-limits to journalists?
- Does a war, insurgency, or similar situation in a country inhibit the operation of media?
- Is there surveillance of foreign journalists working in the country?
- Are foreign journalists inhibited or barred by the need to secure visas or permits to report or to travel within the country?
- Are foreign journalists deported for reporting that challenges the regime or other powerful interests?

7. Are journalists, bloggers, or media outlets subject to extralegal intimidation or physical violence by state authorities or any other actor? (0-10 points)

- Are journalists or bloggers subject to murder, injury, harassment, threats, abduction, expulsion, arbitrary arrest and illegal detention, or torture?
- Do armed militias, organized crime, insurgent groups, political or religious extremists, or other organizations regularly target journalists?
- Have journalists fled the country or gone into hiding to avoid such action?
- Have media companies been targeted for physical attack or for the confiscation or destruction of property?
- Are there technical attacks on news and information websites or key online outlets for information exchange?

C. ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT (0-30 POINTS)

1. To what extent are media owned or controlled by the government and does this influence their diversity of views? (0-6 points)

- Does the state dominate the country's information system?
- Are there independent or opposition print media outlets?
- Does a state monopoly of TV or radio exist?
- Are there privately owned news radio stations that broadcast substantial, serious news reports?
- Do independent news agencies provide news for print and broadcast media?
- In the case of state-run or funded outlets, are they run with editorial independence and do they provide a range a diverse, non-partisan viewpoints?
- NOTE: This question is usually scored to provide 0-2 points each for print, radio and TV forms of news media.

2. Is media ownership transparent, thus allowing consumers to judge the impartiality of the news? (0-3 points)

- Is it possible to ascertain the ownership structure of private media outlets?
- Do media owners hold official positions in the government or in political parties, and are these links intentionally concealed from the public?
- Are privately owned media seen to promote principles of public interest, diversity and plurality?

3. Is media ownership highly concentrated and does it influence diversity of content? (0-3 points)

- Are publications or broadcast systems owned or controlled by industrial or commercial enterprises, or other powerful societal actors, whose influence and financial power lead to concentration of ownership of the media and/or narrow control of the content of the media?
- Is there an excessive concentration of media ownership in the hands of private interests who are linked to state patronage or that of other powerful societal actors?

- Are there media monopolies, significant vertical integration (control over all aspects of news production and distribution), or substantial cross-ownership?
- Does the state actively implement laws concerning concentration, monopolies, and cross-ownership?

4. Are there restrictions on the means of news production and distribution? (0-4 points)

- Is there a monopoly on the means of production, such as newsprint supplies, allocations of paper, film, or Internet service providers?
- Are there private and non-state printing presses?
- Are channels of news and information distribution (kiosks, transmitters, cable operators, Internet, mobile phones) able to operate freely?
- Does the government exert pressure on independent media through the control of distribution facilities?
- Is there seizure or destruction of copies of newspapers, film, or production equipment?
- Does geography or poor infrastructure (roads, electricity etc) limit dissemination of print, broadcast, or internet-based news sources throughout the country?

5. Are there high costs associated with the establishment and operation of media outlets? (0-4 points)

- Are there excessive fees associated with obtaining a radio frequency, registering a newspaper, or establishing an ISP?
- Are the costs of purchasing paper, newsprint, or broadcasting equipment subject to high additional duties?
- Are media outlets subject to excessive taxation or other levies compared to other industries?
- Are there restrictions on foreign investment or non-investment foreign support/funding in the media?

6. Do the state or other actors try to control the media through allocation of advertising or subsidies? (0-3 points)

- Are subsidies for privately run newspapers or broadcasters allocated fairly?
- Is government advertising allocated fairly and in an apolitical manner?
- Is there use of withdrawal of advertising (i.e. government stops buying ad space in some papers or pressures private firms to boycott media outlets) as a way of influencing editorial decisions?

7. Do journalists, bloggers, or media outlets receive payment from private or public sources whose design is to influence their journalistic content? (0-3 points)

- Do government officials or other actors pay journalists in order to cover or to avoid certain stories?
- Are journalists often bribed?
- Are pay levels for journalists and other media professionals sufficiently high to discourage bribery?
- Do journalists or media outlets request bribes or other incentives in order to cover or hold certain stories?

8. Does the overall economic situation negatively impact media outlets' financial sustainability? (0-4 points)

- Are media overly dependent on the state, political parties, big business, or other influential political actors for funding?
- Is the economy so depressed or so dominated by the state that a private entrepreneur would find it difficult to create a financially sustainable publication or broadcast outlet?

- Is it possible for independent publications or broadcast outlets to remain financially viable primarily by generating revenue from advertising or subscriptions?
- Do foreign investors or donors play a large role in helping to sustain media outlets?
- Are private owners subject to intense commercial pressures and competition, thus causing them to tailor or cut news coverage in order for them to compete in the market or remain financially viable?

PRESS FREEDOM IN 2011: SIGNS OF CHANGE AMID REPRESSION

Karin Deutsch Karlekar

The proportion of the world's population that has access to a Free press declined to its lowest point in over a decade during 2010, as repressive governments intensified their efforts to control traditional media and developed new techniques to limit the independence of rapidly expanding internet-based media. Among the countries to experience significant declines in press freedom were Egypt, Honduras, Hungary, Mexico, South Korea, Thailand, and Ukraine. And in the Middle East, a number of governments with long-standing records of hostility to the free flow of information took further steps to constrict press freedom by arresting journalists and bloggers and censoring reports on sensitive political issues. These developments constitute the principal findings of *Freedom of the Press 2011: A Global Survey of Media Independence*, the latest edition of an annual index published by Freedom House since 1980.

The report found that only 15 percent of the global population—one in six people—live in countries where coverage of political news is robust, the safety of journalists is guaranteed, state intrusion in media affairs is minimal, and the press is not subject to onerous legal or economic pressures. At the same time, the global media environment, which has experienced a pattern of deterioration for the past eight years, showed some signs of stabilizing. For example, the declines in the Middle East and in crucial countries like Mexico and Thailand were partially offset by gains in sub-Saharan Africa and portions of the former Soviet Union.

Prospects for a reversal of the negative trend were enhanced by the protest movements that emerged across the Middle East in the early months of 2011. While this report assesses developments in 2010—and thus does not take into account the potentially dramatic changes in Tunisia, Egypt, and other Arab countries—its findings are a vivid reminder of the central role that the denial of press freedom and freedom of expression has played in the suppression of broader democratic rights in the Middle East and elsewhere. A principal complaint of the Middle East protesters has been the role of regime-controlled media in circulating government propaganda and stifling opposition voices. While the fate of political reform in the region remains unclear, the demands for change could well have ripple effects in other parts of the world, including sub-Saharan Africa, the former Soviet Union, and even China.

During 2010, however, many of these positive pressures remained below the surface. Indeed, authoritarian efforts to place restrictions on the press, new media, and other instruments of expression gained momentum in a number of strategically important countries, such as China, Iran, Russia, and Venezuela. These states were also notable for their attempts to restrict media freedom and influence the news agenda beyond their borders. Meanwhile, media in new and aspiring democracies proved vulnerable to a combination of hostile forces, including political leaders determined to mute critics, powerful business interests, drug traffickers, and armed insurgents or terrorists. Among the countries that experienced press freedom declines because of these forces were Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, Fiji, Iraq, Turkey, Ukraine, and Yemen. Backsliding was also seen in relatively open press environments, with South Korea falling into the Partly Free range and Hungary experiencing significant setbacks.

The year's most impressive gains were brought about through major legal and regulatory reforms and a greater official willingness to allow media freedom and diversity in Guinea, Moldova, and Niger. Smaller improvements were noted in Colombia, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan, as well as a number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including Kenya, Senegal, and Zimbabwe.

Key Trends in 2010

- **Misuse of licensing and regulatory frameworks has emerged as a key method of control in a number of semidemocratic and authoritarian settings.** Authoritarian regimes have increasingly used bogus legalistic maneuvers to narrow the space for independent broadcasting, effectively countering an earlier trend of growth in the number of private radio and television outlets. In Russia, Venezuela, and a range of other countries, denial or suspension of broadcast licenses or closure of outlets on spurious grounds are preferred methods for suppressing unwelcome views.
- **Control over new means of news dissemination, particularly internet-based social media, has become a priority for authoritarian governments.** As media delivery systems have expanded from traditional print formats and terrestrial broadcasting to satellite television, the internet, and mobile telephones, authoritarian governments have intensified efforts to exert control over the new means of communication as well as the news outlets that employ them. Blocking of satellite television transmissions was noted in Egypt and Iran, while the social-networking website Facebook was blocked briefly in Pakistan and remained unavailable in China, Syria, and Vietnam. Some democratic and semidemocratic states also moved to implement additional controls over the internet, including South Korea and Thailand, which increased censorship of online content.
- **The role of nonstate forces in the suppression of press freedom is growing.** In Mexico, violence associated with drug trafficking has led to a dramatic increase in attacks on journalists and rising levels of self-censorship and impunity. In 2010, the country's organized crime groups moved more aggressively to control the news agenda; no longer satisfied with silencing the media, they have demanded specific coverage that suits their interests. Somewhat less intense pressure by drug trafficking groups drove continued declines in Guinea-Bissau, another burgeoning narcostate.
- **Worsening violence against the press and impunity for such crimes are forcing journalists into self-censorship or exile.** The level of violence and physical harassment directed at the press by both official and nonstate actors remains a key concern in a number of countries. In media environments ranging from conflict zones to struggling democracies with a weak rule of law, the press is facing increased intimidation or outright attacks. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, some of the deadliest countries for journalists in 2010 were Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Mexico, and Pakistan. These attacks have a chilling effect on the profession, encouraging self-censorship or exile, and the failure to punish or even seriously investigate crimes against journalists has reached scandalous proportions.
- **Threats to media freedom remain a concern in established democracies.** Various pressures impinge on press freedom in democratic countries as diverse as India, Israel, Italy, and South Africa. Increased censorship and attempts to exert official influence over the management of broadcast outlets led to a decline in South Korea's status, from Free to Partly Free. In Hungary, the conservative government of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán pushed restrictive legislation through the parliament and seized control over media regulators and public broadcasters.

The Global Picture in 2010

Of the 196 countries and territories assessed during 2010, a total of 68 (35 percent) were rated Free, 65 (33 percent) were rated Partly Free, and 63 (32 percent) were rated Not Free. This balance is almost exactly the same as in the edition covering 2009, which featured 69 Free, 64 Partly Free, and 63 Not Free countries and territories.

The survey found that only 15 percent of the world's inhabitants live in countries with a Free press, while 42 percent have a Partly Free press and 43 percent live in Not Free environments. The population figures are significantly affected by two countries—China, with a Not Free status, and India, with a Partly Free status—that together account for over a third of the world's nearly seven billion people. The percentage of those enjoying Free media in 2010 declined by another point to the lowest level since 1996, when Freedom House began incorporating population data into the findings of the survey. Meanwhile, the share living in Not Free countries jumped by three percentage points, reflecting the move by three populous states—Egypt, Mexico, and Thailand—into this status designation.

The most significant regionwide decline occurred in the Middle East and North Africa, while smaller negative trends were apparent in the Americas, the Asia-Pacific region, and Western Europe. The regional average for Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union remained unchanged, with declines in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic states balanced by improvements in the former Soviet Union. Meanwhile, sub-Saharan Africa registered a significant improvement in 2010, with dramatic political openings in some countries and positive legal reforms in others.

The year featured a total of nine status changes—five negative and four positive—with all but one spanning the Partly Free–Not Free divide. In terms of significant numerical shifts, statistics were far more balanced than in recent years, with declines (12 countries) only marginally outnumbering gains (11 countries).

Five-Year Trends

Global press freedom deteriorated from 2005 to 2010, with modest declines every year, and particularly steep declines in 2007, 2008, and 2009. The trend seems to have leveled off in the latest year under review, with a decline in the global average score of just 0.07 points. However, it remains unclear whether this near equilibrium will tip toward an overall improvement in 2011.

The negative trend of recent years has affected every region. The most pronounced setbacks occurred in Hispanic America, led by a constriction of media space in a number of Andean countries. Almost as large was the deterioration apparent in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, with declines noted in democracies and authoritarian regimes alike. Smaller but still significant declines were noted in the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and Western Europe. While the Asia-Pacific region declined overall, South Asia provided a bright spot, driving an improvement in the Asia subregion.

Over the past five years, country declines of 10 or more points have outnumbered gains of a similar scale by almost a two-to-one margin. Many of these downturns occurred in emerging democracies that were tested by political upheaval, polarization, coups, or outright civil war, such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Fiji, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Similarly, countries with declines of three or more points in the past five years outnumber countries with similar gains by a more than a two-to-one margin (66 to 29 countries). It is notable that the number of countries experiencing declines has outnumbered those experiencing gains for each of the past five years, with more than two-to-one margins noted for 2006–07 and 2007–08. In the past year, this disparity has all but disappeared.

Worst of the Worst

The world's 10 worst-rated countries are Belarus, Burma, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. In these states, independent media are either nonexistent or barely able to operate, the press acts as a mouthpiece for the regime, citizens' access to unbiased information is severely limited, and dissent is crushed through imprisonment, torture, and other forms of repression. Despite hope in recent years that the impact of the internet and other new media would lead to improvements in these countries, most of their scores remained stagnant in 2010. However, there were marginal improvements in Burma, due to somewhat more open media access to opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi following her release from house arrest, and in Cuba, due to the release of a number of imprisoned journalists to exile in

Spain. Meanwhile, Turkmenistan's media environment worsened owing to the shutdown of a major mobile-phone service provider, which cut off many residents from outside sources of information, and Iran suffered further declines as a result of blocked satellite television and internet services. Journalists in Uzbekistan faced additional repercussions for their work, including a spate of criminal libel prosecutions.

The Driving Forces of Positive Change

Broad openings in the media environment usually require a change of government and a broad political commitment to reform. The biggest improvements in 2010, many of which occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, came in the context of recent elections or the removal of despotic rulers, leading to new governments with an overt interest in reform. After significant declines associated with short-lived dictatorships in 2009, Guinea and Niger bounced back in 2010, moving into the Partly Free range. And a new coalition government elected in Moldova in 2009 enacted a range of reforms that vastly improved the climate for independent journalism in the past year. Similar political changes took place in the countries that have shown the greatest numerical improvement over the past five years, such as Bangladesh, Haiti, the Maldives, and Nepal. However, major political shifts are often made possible by, and consolidated through, more incremental improvements to media freedom.

While many governments appear unwilling to eliminate the array of laws used to punish journalists and news outlets, and some have been applying them with greater determination, legal reform can play a key role in providing greater space for free expression. Positive legal steps in 2010 led to improved scores for a number of countries, including broad constitutional reforms in Kenya, the passing of a freedom of information law in Liberia, and a concerted effort to fight impunity and investigate the murders of journalists in Colombia. Meanwhile, regulatory reforms took place in Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, and Zimbabwe. Notably, many of these victories were achieved only after lengthy advocacy campaigns by journalists and civil society activists.

Over the longer term, the advent of satellite technology and the privatization of the broadcast sector in a number of countries has led to a greater diversity of private radio and television stations. This phenomenon has been particularly apparent in countries with previously state-dominated broadcast media in the Middle East, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. The explosive growth in internet and mobile-phone usage, particularly in the developing world, has also created a variety of new channels for the flow of information, with the result that complete state control over the news is almost impossible. The most recent effects of these changes can be seen in the Middle East and North Africa, where satellite channels such as Al-Jazeera and internet-based platforms like Facebook and Twitter played a key role in the political revolts of early 2011.

Taken together, these trends suggest that future expansions of both media freedom and general political freedom will require sustained support for legal and regulatory reforms, for freedom of the internet and other new media, and for those engaged in pushing back against official repression and threats from nonstate actors—be they journalists, press freedom activists, or independent media companies.

Regional Findings

Americas: In the Americas, 17 countries (49 percent) were rated Free, 14 (40 percent) were rated Partly Free, and 4 (11 percent) were rated Not Free for 2010. The region's population is almost evenly split between those living in Free (41 percent) and Partly Free (42 percent) media environments, with the remaining 17 percent living in Not Free countries. These figures are significantly influenced by the open media environments of the Caribbean, which tend to offset the less rosy picture in Central and South America. There were two negative status changes, with Honduras and Mexico joining the ranks of Not Free countries, as well as a number of significant numerical declines. Not since 2006 have so many countries in the region been designated Not Free. The regional average score worsened compared with 2009, with the bulk of the decline occurring in the political and economic categories.

Press freedom conditions remain extremely restricted in **Cuba**, which has one of the most repressive media environments worldwide, and **Venezuela**, where the government of President Hugo Chávez continued its efforts to control the press. Further pressures were placed on independent Venezuelan broadcast outlets during the year, including the revocation of licenses, and the head of a major television station, Globovisión, fled into exile.

Ongoing deterioration in Mexico and Honduras tipped both countries into the Not Free range in 2010. **Mexico**'s score worsened from 60 to 62 due to the country's escalating drug wars, which have taken their toll on journalists. Violence and intimidation by criminal groups have steadily increased in a climate of impunity, leading to heightened self-censorship by the profession as a whole as well as the murders of more than 60 journalists over the past 10 years. During 2010, the nature of drug gangs' control over the news agenda expanded from prohibitory censorship to concerted attempts to place propaganda or press releases in selected media outlets. This was typically achieved through a combination of threats and bribery. In **Honduras**, political conditions stabilized somewhat in 2010 following a coup in 2009, and some legal and constitutional protections for press freedom that had been suspended the previous year were reinstated. However, journalists' ability to work safely was severely compromised by a sharp rise in harassment and attacks in early 2010, including the killing of six journalists in March alone. The aggression and intimidation came from both sides of the political divide. This increase in violence, coupled with a climate of impunity in which journalists' deaths were not investigated thoroughly or in a timely manner, pushed Honduras's score from 59 to 61, placing it just inside the Not Free bracket.

Following a series of declines in recent years, Ecuador and Bolivia experienced significant downgrades in 2010. **Ecuador**'s score fell five points, from 47 to 52, to reflect an increasingly polarized media environment and a rise in negative rhetoric and actions against news outlets by the administration of President Rafael Correa. Pressures on the media included a growing number of criminal defamation suits, raids and shutdowns of broadcast outlets, government advertising boycotts, and official attempts to influence the news agenda through the establishment of state-owned or controlled outlets. Meanwhile, **Bolivia**'s score moved from 43 to 46 due to the approval of several new laws that allow the government to impose fines, withdraw operating licenses, and imprison journalists under loosely defined criteria. The legislation led to an increase in self-censorship by journalists. More modest declines were registered in **Argentina** as a result of continued tensions between the government and oppositionist news outlets. Journalists faced increased attacks and harassment, and there were officially sanctioned attempts to restrict the production and the distribution of newspapers, particularly those associated with the Clarín media group.

The only significant positive numerical movement in the Americas for 2010 took place in **Colombia**, whose score improved from 60 to 56 due to progress in ending impunity for past attacks on journalists. Charges were filed in a number of cold cases, and previously closed investigations were reopened.

The **United States** remains one of the better performers in the index, but it faces several challenges, including a lack of protection-of-sources legislation at the federal level and a threat to media diversity stemming from poor economic conditions for the news industry. In 2010, protection for free speech was strengthened by a new law designed to shield American writers from "libel tourism" cases in foreign courts. Also during the year, several major releases of classified documents by the antisecrecy organization WikiLeaks led to heated debates over the ability of democracies to take legal action against those responsible for publicizing leaked information.

Asia-Pacific: The Asia-Pacific region as a whole exhibited a relatively high level of press freedom in 2010, with 14 countries and territories (35 percent) rated Free, 13 (32.5 percent) rated Partly Free, and 13 (32.5 percent) rated Not Free. Yet the regionwide figures disguise considerable subregional diversity. For example, the Pacific Islands, Australasia, and parts of East Asia have some of the best-ranked media environments in the world, while conditions in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and other parts of East Asia are significantly worse. The country breakdown also obscures the fact that only 5 percent of the region's population has access to Free media, while 46 percent live in Partly Free and 49 percent in Not Free

media environments. A modest decline in the average score for the Asia-Pacific region was caused by slight deteriorations in all three topical categories (legal, political, and economic) in 2010.

Asia includes two of the worst-rated countries in the world, Burma and North Korea, as well as China, Laos, and Vietnam, all of which feature extensive state and party control of the press. Conditions in the world's largest poor performer, **China**, remained highly repressive in 2010. Authorities increased censorship and Communist Party propaganda in both traditional and online media, with a focus on politically sensitive issues like the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to jailed democracy advocate Liu Xiaobo in October. Detailed party directives—which can arrive daily at editors' desks—also curbed coverage related to public health, environmental accidents, deaths in police custody, and foreign policy. Dozens of activists, dissidents, and journalists remained in jail for their writing at year's end, with minority-language journalists facing special persecution. Nevertheless, journalists and bloggers continued to test the limits of permissible expression by exposing official corruption, circulating underground political publications, and engaging in imaginative efforts to circumvent China's comprehensive internet filtering system, the so-called Great Firewall.

The region featured two important status changes in 2010. **South Korea**, which had long hovered at the low end of the Free range, slipped by two points, from 30 to 32, earning it a Partly Free designation. Contributing factors included an increase in official censorship as well as government attempts to influence media outlets' news and information content. Over the past several years, an increasing number of online comments have been removed for expressing either pro-North Korean or anti-South Korean views. The current conservative government has also interfered in the management of major broadcast media, with allies of President Lee Myung-bak receiving senior posts at large media companies over the objections of journalists.

Also in 2010, additional pressure on the media in politically turbulent **Thailand** led to a four-point score decline, from 58 to 62, and a status downgrade to Not Free. Key factors included the use of the restrictive new Computer Crimes Act to punish online expression, a continued increase in lèse-majesté prosecutions, and periodic violence between political factions that caught journalists in the crossfire and led to censorship of media outlets.

Elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region, **Fiji**, which had registered the world's largest score decline in 2009, slipped further in 2010, falling from 54 to 57 points due to an entrenchment of prepublication censorship, a new law regulating foreign ownership of media outlets that forced the sale of a major independent newspaper, and the establishment of a media tribunal with powers to imprison or heavily fine journalists for publishing or broadcasting anything against the "national interest." **Vanuatu**'s score worsened as journalists' ability to cover official events was impeded, and authorities engaged in a campaign of harassment against the independent *Daily Post* newspaper. **India** suffered modest declines in 2010, as improvements in the economic strength of the media sector were eclipsed by increasing reports of corruption among journalists. There was also an uptick in physical violence and harassment directed at the media by local authorities and nonstate actors, and worsening civil strife in Kashmir affected journalists' ability to cover the news safely and effectively. **Cambodia**'s score also deteriorated due to an aggressive use of disinformation and defamation legislation against journalists, as well as a reduction in media diversity following the closure of an opposition newspaper.

Modest score improvements were noted in **Bangladesh**, whose media environment benefited from the licensing of new broadcast outlets and a decrease in cases of physical harassment and torture of journalists by security forces. The score for the **Philippines** recovered somewhat, having dropped in 2009 due to that year's Ampatuan massacre, which claimed the lives of 32 journalists and media workers. Nevertheless, the country was still troubled in 2010 by the murder and intimidation of journalists, and impunity for such crimes remained the norm.

Central and Eastern Europe/Former Soviet Union: In the CEE/FSU region, 8 countries (28 percent) remained classified as Free, 12 (41 percent) were rated Partly Free, and 9 (31 percent) were rated Not Free. However, a majority of the people in this region (56 percent) live in Not Free media environments, while only 18 percent have access to Free media and 26 percent live in Partly Free media environments.

In 2010, the regional average score remained unchanged, with an improvement in the legal category cancelling out a drop in the economic category. However, this stasis masked movement in the two main subregions. The better-performing subregion of Central and Eastern Europe showed an overall decline, while the more repressive non-Baltic former Soviet Union benefited from a dramatic opening in Moldova and smaller positive steps in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan. In both subregions, change was largely concentrated in the political category.

While the region shares a common history of communist oppression, the trajectory of countries in the non-Baltic former Soviet Union has diverged significantly from that of Central and Eastern Europe in terms of respect for fundamental political rights and civil liberties. The press freedom ratings for these two subregions reflect a similar divergence. All of the countries of Central Europe and the three Baltic states are assessed as Free, and 9 of the 12 non-Baltic former Soviet states are ranked as Not Free. It is also notable that 3 of the 10 worst press-freedom abusers in the entire survey—Belarus, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan—are found in the former Soviet Union. Other countries of particular concern include Russia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan. The media environment in **Russia**, which serves as a model and patron for a number of neighboring countries, is marked by the use of a pliant judiciary to prosecute independent journalists; increased self-censorship by reporters; impunity for the physical harassment and murder of journalists; and continued state control or influence over almost all media outlets.

In **Azerbaijan**, the state and ruling party dominate the media landscape, and independent journalists and bloggers continue to face legal and physical harassment for expressing dissenting views. In 2010, Azerbaijani officials openly disregarded repeated orders from the European Court of Human Rights to release Eynulla Fatullayev, a wrongfully imprisoned journalist. Despite the Kazakh government's promises to enact reforms as a condition of its chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2010, conditions in **Kazakhstan** also deteriorated. A spate of libel suits were filed against journalists, and authorities implemented a new law designed to increase controls over the internet.

While press freedom conditions in the former Soviet Union have generally been stagnant and repressive in recent years, the subregion featured several positive changes in 2010, including a dramatic improvement in Moldova. In one of the year's largest numerical jumps, **Moldova's** score rose from 65 to 55, triggering a status upgrade to Partly Free, to reflect the new ruling coalition's steps to increase legal protections for journalists' rights and reform the regulatory framework. In addition, management at the state broadcaster was professionalized, new private broadcast outlets began operating, and officially sanctioned legal harassment of journalists declined substantially. Significant gains were also noted in **Georgia**, whose score moved from 59 to 55 due to an improved political environment that led to a reduction in legal and physical harassment of journalists, fewer instances of official censorship, and more balanced coverage by the public broadcaster. Despite an outbreak of serious ethnic violence in **Kyrgyzstan**, the country's score improved from 73 to 70 to reflect a lack of libel prosecutions and a new public-service broadcasting law. In addition, the interim government, which took power after the overthrow of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev in April, lifted bans on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and several websites and newspapers.

By contrast, worrying negative trends emerged in several countries to the west. **Hungary**, one of the region's better performers and a European Union member state, suffered a major score decline, from 23 to 30, due to new media laws that imposed potentially broad restrictions on content and called for the licensing of print and online media outlets. The new laws require journalists to reveal their sources under certain circumstances, and prescribe large fines for unbalanced or "immoral" reporting. Other causes for concern included the establishment of a new regulatory agency dominated by progovernment appointees and increased political control over the public broadcaster. **Ukraine**, which has consistently been one of the best performers in its subregion in recent years, also saw an erosion of media freedom, falling from 53 to 56 points. After pro-Russian opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich took office as president in February, broadcast frequencies were withdrawn from critical outlets and extralegal harassment of journalists increased, leading to greater self-censorship.

Middle East and North Africa: The Middle East and North Africa region continued to have the world's poorest ratings in 2010, with a single country (5 percent) rated Free, 2 (11 percent) rated Partly Free, and 16 (84 percent) rated Not Free. The breakdown by population is even more stark: only 2 percent each of the region's people live in Free and Partly Free media environments, while a staggering 96 percent live in countries or territories designated as Not Free. In 2010, the regional average score suffered the most dramatic deterioration of any region, led by declines in the legal and political categories.

Although transnational satellite television and internet-based platforms for information dissemination have had a positive impact, media environments in the region remain constrained by emergency rule, harsh defamation and blasphemy legislation, and laws against insulting monarchs and public figures. Of long-standing concern are **Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Tunisia**, where the state exercises near-total control over media ownership and content, and any journalists and bloggers who expressed independent views faced serious repercussions during the year. Meanwhile, journalists in the **Israeli-Occupied Territories/Palestinian Authority** were subject to pressure and threats from both major Palestinian political factions as well as from Israeli forces operating in certain areas.

The most significant movement in the region was **Egypt's** downgrade from Partly Free to Not Free. The country's media environment had opened in recent years due to the greater availability of internet-based news sources and satellite television stations, as well as a greater willingness among journalists to risk punishment by engaging in critical coverage. However, the authorities pursued a broad-based crackdown prior to and during the November 2010 parliamentary elections, causing Egypt's score to decline from 60 to 65. Journalists and bloggers faced numerous instances of legal harassment, spurious arrests, and violations of due process. The preelection period also featured the suspension of satellite television transmissions and mobile-phone-based news services, as well as an attempt to impose official restrictions on live coverage of the elections, including the censoring of certain television programs and editors.

Significant declines occurred in two countries struggling with considerable political turmoil and internal conflicts. **Iraq's** score moved from 65 to 68 after the government issued restrictive media guidelines and created a special court to try journalists. Moreover, additional journalists were assassinated, attacked, and jailed without charge, and parts of the country became more dangerous for reporters to work in. Conditions continued to deteriorate in **Yemen**, whose score moved from 80 to 83 because of increased prosecutions of journalists, a state advertising boycott of private media outlets, and heavy government control over editorial content at state-run outlets, with censorship focused on sensitive political and national-security related topics.

After a considerable shrinking of the space for free expression in the wake of a disputed presidential election in 2009, **Iran** suffered further backsliding in 2010. Its score moved from 89 to 91 due to the government's imposition of additional blocks on the internet and satellite television, and its decision to restrict funding for antigovernment publications. Score declines were also noted in **Morocco**, as a result of an advertising boycott that forced the closure of a key independent newspaper, as well as **Kuwait**, due to the closure of the local Al-Jazeera bureau and an increase in fines handed down to critical journalists.

Sub-Saharan Africa: A total of 5 countries (10 percent) were rated Free, 22 (46 percent) were rated Partly Free, and 21 (44 percent) remained Not Free in sub-Saharan Africa. This marks the first time that a plurality of countries in the region have been rated Partly Free. In terms of population, 5 percent live in Free media environments, while a majority (53 percent) live with Partly Free media and 42 percent live in Not Free environments. Because of its large size and political dynamism, Africa tends to be a volatile region, with changes in the media environment often tied to larger political openings or restrictions. Thus a steep decline in the regional average score in 2009 was followed in 2010 by the largest numerical improvement of any region. Changes in the political category, and especially in the legal category, fueled most of the gains. Still, press freedom conditions remained dire in **Equatorial Guinea** and **Eritrea**, two of the world's 10 worst performers, where authoritarian governments use legal pressure, imprisonment, and other forms of harassment to suppress independent reporting.

In a year of largely positive changes, the region saw three status upgrades, all from Not Free to Partly Free. Following significant declines in 2009, both Guinea and Niger rebounded dramatically in 2010. **Guinea**'s score jumped from 71 to 59 points (the survey's largest numerical movement) due to legal measures enacted by a new transitional government at the beginning of the year, including a constitution providing protection for press freedom and two new media laws passed in June. There was also a decrease in legal and physical harassment of journalists, and a decline in censorship and other official attempts to restrict independent news coverage. Following the February ouster of its increasingly repressive president, Mamadou Tandja, **Niger**'s transitional military government created a new, more independent media regulatory body and allowed the reopening of a private radio station that had been closed by the previous government. Legal and extrajudicial harassment of journalists, censorship, and official control over media content were all substantially reduced in 2010, while reporters' ability to cover the news and media diversity improved, boosting Niger's score from 68 to 59. Meanwhile, **Liberia** was upgraded to Partly Free due to a more modest score change, from 61 to 59. The gain stemmed from the enactment of a freedom of information law and a decrease in physical attacks on journalists.

Significant score improvements that fell short of status upgrades were plentiful in sub-Saharan Africa. In **Kenya**, the adoption of a new constitution with additional protections for media freedom, combined with a lack of legal cases against journalists, improved the score from 57 to 54 for 2010. A reduction in harassment in the form of advertising boycotts and shutdowns of radio stations led to a similar score jump, from 57 to 54, for **Senegal**. The score for **Mauritania** improved from 56 to 53 owing to a decrease in violence and intimidation by state actors and a new law that allowed private investment in the broadcasting sector. Improved media diversity was a factor in **Zambia**, whose score improved from 64 to 61 amid an increase in the number of private community radio stations and television stations. Finally, **Zimbabwe**'s score rose from 84 to 81 points to reflect a modest improvement in the regulatory environment, as the Zimbabwe Media Commission began operations and licensed new print publications, including two daily newspapers. In addition, fewer physical attacks on journalists were reported during the year. Even with these gains, however, the media landscape in Zimbabwe remained extremely repressive, with near-total government control over the broadcast sector, foot-dragging on attempts to open new broadcast outlets, and continued legal and physical harassment of independent journalists. A smaller numerical improvement was noted in **Nigeria** due to expansions in media diversity and coverage, as well as the nullification of the Nigeria Press Council Act by the Federal High Court, which had the effect of relaxing constraints on the media industry.

Continued deterioration was seen in **Guinea-Bissau**, whose score moved from 54 to 57 points due to an increase in attacks and intimidation of journalists, particularly by drug traffickers. The poor economy contributed to the media's difficulties, as newspaper production was disrupted by a shortage of materials. **Madagascar** also suffered further setbacks, with a score decline from 61 to 64 as a result of a breakdown in the rule of law and judicial independence, a flagrant disregard for media freedom by the dictatorial "transitional government," and heightened attacks against journalists and media outlets. Smaller numerical declines occurred in **Angola**, due to an increase in harassment and pressures on several formerly independent newspapers following a change in ownership; **Côte d'Ivoire**, as a result of pressures on the media by both sides of the political divide in the period surrounding the presidential election; and **Sudan**, owing to the reinstatement of a system of prior censorship and additional pressures on journalists in the run-up to the 2011 referendum on Southern Sudan's independence.

Western Europe: Western Europe has consistently boasted the highest level of press freedom worldwide; in 2010, 23 countries (92 percent) were rated Free, and 2 (8 percent) were rated Partly Free. In terms of population, 72 percent of the region's residents enjoy a Free press, while 28 percent live in Partly Free media environments. In a change from recent years, the regional average score showed the second-largest decline of any region, with losses in the political category and to a lesser extent in the economic category.

The region's largest numerical change in 2010 was the decline in **Turkey**'s score, which fell from 51 to 54 as a result of heightened harassment of journalists under a number of laws, including Articles 301

and 216 of the penal code and antiterrorism legislation. This legal pressure led to increased self-censorship by journalists, editors, and media owners.

Although most countries in the region benefit from a firmly established tradition of media freedom, several exhibited small declines in 2010. **Denmark**'s score dropped from 11 to 13, primarily to reflect an attack on political cartoonist Kurt Westergaard and other intimidation stemming from the 2005 controversy over cartoons of the prophet Muhammad. Offshoots of the affair also triggered attacks on a journalist in Sweden and riots in Norway. Meanwhile, the score for **Iceland** moved from 10 to 12—costing the country its long-standing position as the best performer in the index—as a result of the economic crisis, which affected media sustainability and led to the sale of a leading independent newspaper, of which a former prime minister and central bank chief was appointed editor.

Italy remained a regional outlier with its Partly Free status, and registered a small score decline in 2010 due to increased government attempts to interfere with editorial policy at state-run broadcast outlets, particularly regarding coverage of scandals surrounding Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. The **United Kingdom**'s expansive libel laws remain a concern, as they have been used by both foreign and British litigants to stifle criticism from news outlets, book authors, and civil society groups within the country and abroad, often at great financial cost to the defendant. However, following sustained pressure from press freedom and media industry advocacy groups, there were some initial moves toward reform that may bear fruit in 2011.

GLOBAL PRESS FREEDOM RANKINGS

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
1	Finland	10	Free
2	Norway	11	Free
	Sweden	11	Free
4	Belgium	12	Free
	Iceland	12	Free
	Luxembourg	12	Free
7	Andorra	13	Free
	Denmark	13	Free
	Switzerland	13	Free
10	Liechtenstein	14	Free
	Netherlands	14	Free
	Palau	14	Free
13	New Zealand	15	Free
	St. Lucia	15	Free
15	Ireland	16	Free
	Monaco	16	Free
17	Germany	17	Free
	Marshall Islands	17	Free
	Portugal	17	Free
	St. Vincent and Grenadines	17	Free
	San Marino	17	Free
	United States of America	17	Free
23	Costa Rica	18	Free
	Estonia	18	Free
	Jamaica	18	Free
26	Barbados	19	Free
	Canada	19	Free
	Czech Republic	19	Free
	United Kingdom	19	Free
30	Bahamas	20	Free
	St. Kitts and Nevis	20	Free
32	Australia	21	Free
	Austria	21	Free
	Japan	21	Free
	Micronesia	21	Free
36	Cyprus	22	Free

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
	Lithuania	22	Free
	Malta	22	Free
	Slovakia	22	Free
40	Belize	23	Free
	Dominica	23	Free
	France	23	Free
	Spain	23	Free
	Suriname	23	Free
45	Grenada	24	Free
	Mali	24	Free
	Trinidad and Tobago	24	Free
48	Papua New Guinea	25	Free
	Poland	25	Free
	Slovenia	25	Free
	Taiwan	25	Free
	Uruguay	25	Free
	Vanuatu	25	Free
54	Ghana	26	Free
	Latvia	26	Free
	Tuvalu	26	Free
57	Cape Verde	27	Free
	Kiribati	27	Free
59	Mauritius	28	Free
	Nauru	28	Free
61	Chile	29	Free
	Israel	29	Free
	São Tomé and Príncipe	29	Free
	Solomon Islands	29	Free
65	Greece	30	Free
	Guyana	30	Free
	Hungary	30	Free
	Samoa	30	Free
69	Tonga	31	Partly Free
70	Hong Kong	32	Partly Free
	South Korea	32	Partly Free
72	Benin	33	Partly Free
	Serbia	33	Partly Free
	South Africa	33	Partly Free
75	Italy	34	Partly Free

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
	Namibia	34	Partly Free
77	Bulgaria	35	Partly Free
	East Timor	35	Partly Free
	India	35	Partly Free
80	Montenegro	37	Partly Free
81	Antigua and Barbuda	38	Partly Free
82	Mongolia	39	Partly Free
83	Botswana	40	Partly Free
	Dominican Republic	40	Partly Free
85	Burkina Faso	41	Partly Free
	Croatia	41	Partly Free
87	El Salvador	42	Partly Free
	Romania	42	Partly Free
89	Peru	43	Partly Free
90	Brazil	44	Partly Free
	Mozambique	44	Partly Free
	Panama	44	Partly Free
93	Bolivia	46	Partly Free
	Philippines	46	Partly Free
95	Nicaragua	47	Partly Free
96	Bosnia and Herzegovina	48	Partly Free
	Comoros	48	Partly Free
	Lesotho	48	Partly Free
	Macedonia	48	Partly Free
	Tanzania	48	Partly Free
101	Haiti	49	Partly Free
102	Albania	50	Partly Free
	Maldives	50	Partly Free
104	Argentina	51	Partly Free
	Kosovo	51	Partly Free
106	Ecuador	52	Partly Free
	Nigeria	52	Partly Free
108	Indonesia	53	Partly Free
	Lebanon	53	Partly Free
	Mauritania	53	Partly Free
	Sierra Leone	53	Partly Free
112	Bangladesh	54	Partly Free
	Congo (Brazzaville)	54	Partly Free
	Kenya	54	Partly Free

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
	Senegal	54	Partly Free
	Turkey	54	Partly Free
	Uganda	54	Partly Free
118	Georgia	55	Partly Free
	Malawi	55	Partly Free
	Moldova	55	Partly Free
121	Colombia	56	Partly Free
	Seychelles	56	Partly Free
	Ukraine	56	Partly Free
124	Bhutan	57	Partly Free
	Fiji	57	Partly Free
	Guinea-Bissau	57	Partly Free
	Kuwait	57	Partly Free
128	Guatemala	59	Partly Free
	Guinea	59	Partly Free
	Liberia	59	Partly Free
	Nepal	59	Partly Free
	Niger	59	Partly Free
133	Paraguay	60	Partly Free
134	Central African Republic	61	Not Free
	Honduras	61	Not Free
	Pakistan	61	Not Free
	Zambia	61	Not Free
138	Algeria	62	Not Free
	Mexico	62	Not Free
	Thailand	62	Not Free
141	Cambodia	63	Not Free
	Jordan	63	Not Free
143	Angola	64	Not Free
	Madagascar	64	Not Free
	Malaysia	64	Not Free
146	Armenia	65	Not Free
	Egypt	65	Not Free
148	Qatar	66	Not Free
149	Cameroon	67	Not Free
150	Côte d'Ivoire	68	Not Free
	Iraq	68	Not Free
	Morocco	68	Not Free
	Singapore	68	Not Free

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
154	Gabon	69	Not Free
155	Kyrgyzstan	70	Not Free
156	Oman	71	Not Free
	Sri Lanka	71	Not Free
	United Arab Emirates	71	Not Free
159	Bahrain	72	Not Free
160	Djibouti	73	Not Free
	Togo	73	Not Free
162	Burundi	74	Not Free
163	Afghanistan	75	Not Free
	Brunei	75	Not Free
	Chad	75	Not Free
166	Swaziland	76	Not Free
	Venezuela	76	Not Free
168	Ethiopia	78	Not Free
	Sudan	78	Not Free
	Tajikistan	78	Not Free
171	Azerbaijan	79	Not Free
172	Kazakhstan	80	Not Free
173	Congo (Kinshasa)	81	Not Free
	The Gambia	81	Not Free
	Russia	81	Not Free
	Zimbabwe	81	Not Free
177	IOT/PA*	83	Not Free
	Saudi Arabia	83	Not Free
	Vietnam	83	Not Free
	Yemen	83	Not Free
181	Rwanda	84	Not Free
	Somalia	84	Not Free
	Syria	84	Not Free
184	China	85	Not Free
	Laos	85	Not Free
	Tunisia	85	Not Free
187	Equatorial Guinea	90	Not Free
188	Iran	91	Not Free
189	Cuba	92	Not Free
190	Belarus	93	Not Free
191	Burma	94	Not Free
	Eritrea	94	Not Free

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
	Libya	94	Not Free
	Uzbekistan	94	Not Free
195	Turkmenistan	96	Not Free
196	North Korea	97	Not Free

* Israeli-Occupied Territories/Palestinian Authority

Status	Number of Countries	Percentage of Total
Free	68	35
Partly Free	65	33
Not Free	63	32
TOTAL	196	100

AMERICAS

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
1	St. Lucia	15	Free
2	St. Vincent and Grenadines	17	Free
	United States of America	17	Free
4	Costa Rica	18	Free
	Jamaica	18	Free
6	Barbados	19	Free
	Canada	19	Free
8	Bahamas	20	Free
	St. Kitts and Nevis	20	Free
10	Belize	23	Free
	Dominica	23	Free
	Suriname	23	Free
13	Grenada	24	Free
	Trinidad and Tobago	24	Free
15	Uruguay	25	Free
16	Chile	29	Free
17	Guyana	30	Free
18	Antigua and Barbuda	38	Partly Free
19	Dominican Republic	40	Partly Free
20	El Salvador	42	Partly Free
21	Peru	43	Partly Free
22	Brazil	44	Partly Free
	Panama	44	Partly Free
24	Bolivia	46	Partly Free
25	Nicaragua	47	Partly Free
26	Haiti	49	Partly Free
27	Argentina	51	Partly Free
28	Ecuador	52	Partly Free
29	Colombia	56	Partly Free
30	Guatemala	59	Partly Free
31	Paraguay	60	Partly Free
32	Honduras	61	Not Free
33	Mexico	62	Not Free
34	Venezuela	76	Not Free
35	Cuba	92	Not Free

Status	Number of Countries	Percentage of Total
Free	17	49
Partly Free	14	40
Not Free	4	11
TOTAL	35	100

ASIA-PACIFIC

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
1	Palau	14	Free
2	New Zealand	15	Free
3	Marshall Islands	17	Free
4	Australia	21	Free
	Japan	21	Free
	Micronesia	21	Free
7	Papua New Guinea	25	Free
	Taiwan	25	Free
	Vanuatu	25	Free
10	Tuvalu	26	Free
11	Kiribati	27	Free
12	Nauru	28	Free
13	Solomon Islands	29	Free
14	Samoa	30	Free
15	Tonga	31	Partly Free
16	Hong Kong	32	Partly Free
	South Korea	32	Partly Free
18	East Timor	35	Partly Free
	India	35	Partly Free
20	Mongolia	39	Partly Free
21	Philippines	46	Partly Free
22	Maldives	50	Partly Free
23	Indonesia	53	Partly Free
24	Bangladesh	54	Partly Free
25	Bhutan	57	Partly Free
	Fiji	57	Partly Free
27	Nepal	59	Partly Free
28	Pakistan	61	Not Free
29	Thailand	62	Not Free
30	Cambodia	63	Not Free
31	Malaysia	64	Not Free
32	Singapore	68	Not Free
33	Sri Lanka	71	Not Free
34	Afghanistan	75	Not Free
	Brunei	75	Not Free
36	Vietnam	83	Not Free

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
37	China	85	Not Free
	Laos	85	Not Free
39	Burma	94	Not Free
40	North Korea	97	Not Free

Status	Number of Countries	Percentage of Total
Free	14	35
Partly Free	13	32.5
Not Free	13	32.5
TOTAL	40	100

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE / FORMER SOVIET UNION

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
1	Estonia	18	Free
2	Czech Republic	19	Free
3	Lithuania	22	Free
	Slovakia	22	Free
5	Poland	25	Free
	Slovenia	25	Free
7	Latvia	26	Free
8	Hungary	30	Free
9	Serbia	33	Partly Free
10	Bulgaria	35	Partly Free
11	Montenegro	37	Partly Free
12	Croatia	41	Partly Free
13	Romania	42	Partly Free
14	Bosnia and Herzegovina	48	Partly Free
	Macedonia	48	Partly Free
16	Albania	50	Partly Free
17	Kosovo	51	Partly Free
18	Georgia	55	Partly Free
	Moldova	55	Partly Free
20	Ukraine	56	Partly Free
21	Armenia	65	Not Free
22	Kyrgyzstan	70	Not Free
23	Tajikistan	78	Not Free
24	Azerbaijan	79	Not Free
25	Kazakhstan	80	Not Free
26	Russia	81	Not Free
27	Belarus	93	Not Free
28	Uzbekistan	94	Not Free
29	Turkmenistan	96	Not Free

Status	Number of Countries	Percentage of Total
Free	8	28
Partly Free	12	41
Not Free	9	31
TOTAL	29	100

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
1	Israel	29	Free
2	Lebanon	53	Partly Free
3	Kuwait	57	Partly Free
4	Algeria	62	Not Free
5	Jordan	63	Not Free
6	Egypt	65	Not Free
7	Qatar	66	Not Free
8	Iraq	68	Not Free
	Morocco	68	Not Free
10	Oman	71	Not Free
	United Arab Emirates	71	Not Free
12	Bahrain	72	Not Free
13	IOT/PA*	83	Not Free
	Saudi Arabia	83	Not Free
	Yemen	83	Not Free
16	Syria	84	Not Free
17	Tunisia	85	Not Free
18	Iran	91	Not Free
19	Libya	94	Not Free

* Israeli-Occupied Territories/Palestinian Authority

Status	Number of Countries	Percentage of Total
Free	1	5
Partly Free	2	11
Not Free	16	84
TOTAL	19	100

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
1	Mali	24	Free
2	Ghana	26	Free
3	Cape Verde	27	Free
4	Mauritius	28	Free
5	São Tomé and Príncipe	29	Free
6	Benin	33	Partly Free
	South Africa	33	Partly Free
8	Namibia	34	Partly Free
9	Botswana	40	Partly Free
10	Burkina Faso	41	Partly Free
11	Mozambique	44	Partly Free
12	Comoros	48	Partly Free
	Lesotho	48	Partly Free
	Tanzania	48	Partly Free
15	Nigeria	52	Partly Free
16	Mauritania	53	Partly Free
	Sierra Leone	53	Partly Free
18	Congo (Brazzaville)	54	Partly Free
	Kenya	54	Partly Free
	Senegal	54	Partly Free
	Uganda	54	Partly Free
22	Malawi	55	Partly Free
23	Seychelles	56	Partly Free
24	Guinea-Bissau	57	Partly Free
25	Guinea	59	Partly Free
	Liberia	59	Partly Free
	Niger	59	Partly Free
28	Central African Republic	61	Not Free
	Zambia	61	Not Free
30	Angola	64	Not Free
	Madagascar	64	Not Free
32	Cameroon	67	Not Free
33	Côte d'Ivoire	68	Not Free
34	Gabon	69	Not Free
35	Djibouti	73	Not Free
	Togo	73	Not Free

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
37	Burundi	74	Not Free
38	Chad	75	Not Free
39	Swaziland	76	Not Free
40	Ethiopia	78	Not Free
	Sudan	78	Not Free
42	Congo (Kinshasa)	81	Not Free
	The Gambia	81	Not Free
	Zimbabwe	81	Not Free
45	Rwanda	84	Not Free
	Somalia	84	Not Free
47	Equatorial Guinea	90	Not Free
48	Eritrea	94	Not Free

Status	Number of Countries	Percentage of Total
Free	5	10
Partly Free	22	46
Not Free	21	44
TOTAL	48	100

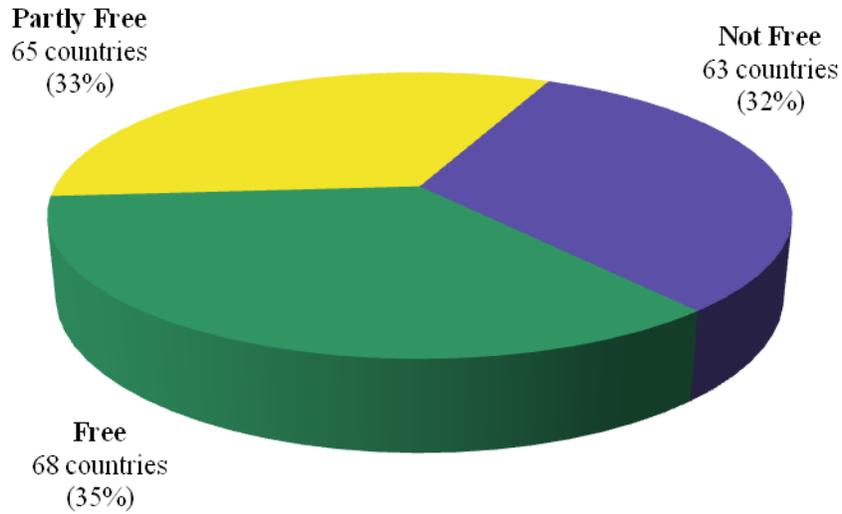
WESTERN EUROPE

Rank 2011	Country	Rating	Status
1	Finland	10	Free
2	Norway	11	Free
	Sweden	11	Free
4	Belgium	12	Free
	Iceland	12	Free
	Luxembourg	12	Free
7	Andorra	13	Free
	Denmark	13	Free
	Switzerland	13	Free
10	Liechtenstein	14	Free
	Netherlands	14	Free
12	Ireland	16	Free
	Monaco	16	Free
14	Germany	17	Free
	Portugal	17	Free
	San Marino	17	Free
17	United Kingdom	19	Free
18	Austria	21	Free
19	Cyprus	22	Free
	Malta	22	Free
21	France	23	Free
	Spain	23	Free
23	Greece	30	Free
24	Italy	34	Partly Free
25	Turkey	54	Partly Free

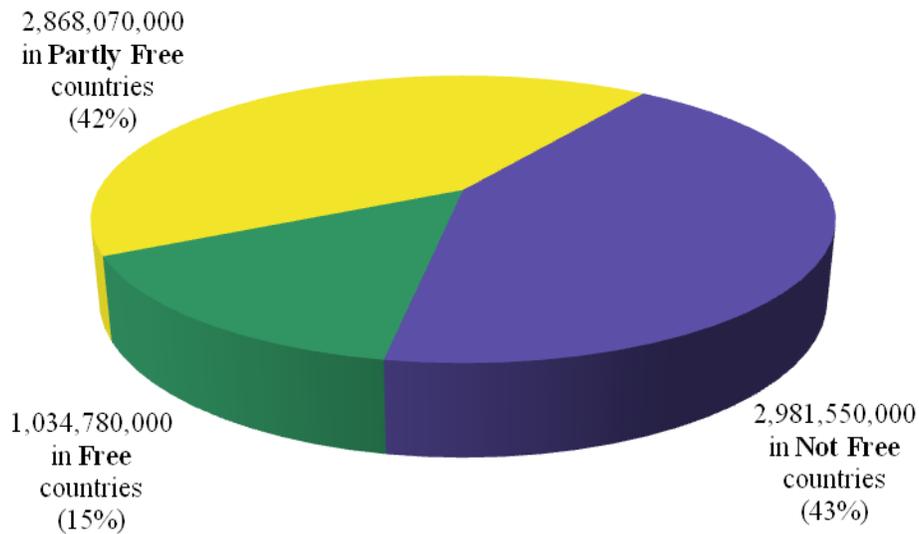
Status	Number of Countries	Percentage of Total
Free	23	92
Partly Free	2	8
Not Free	0	0
TOTAL	25	100

Global Data

Status Breakdown by Country



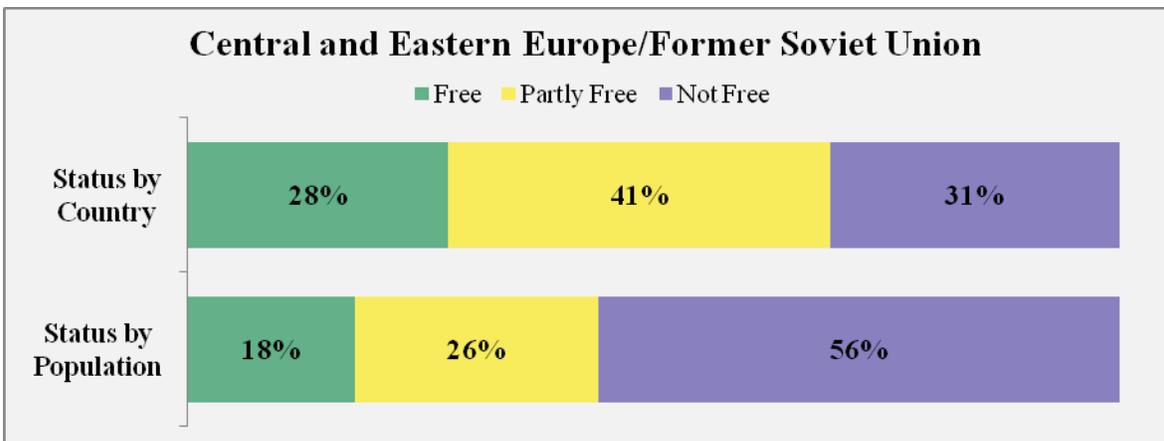
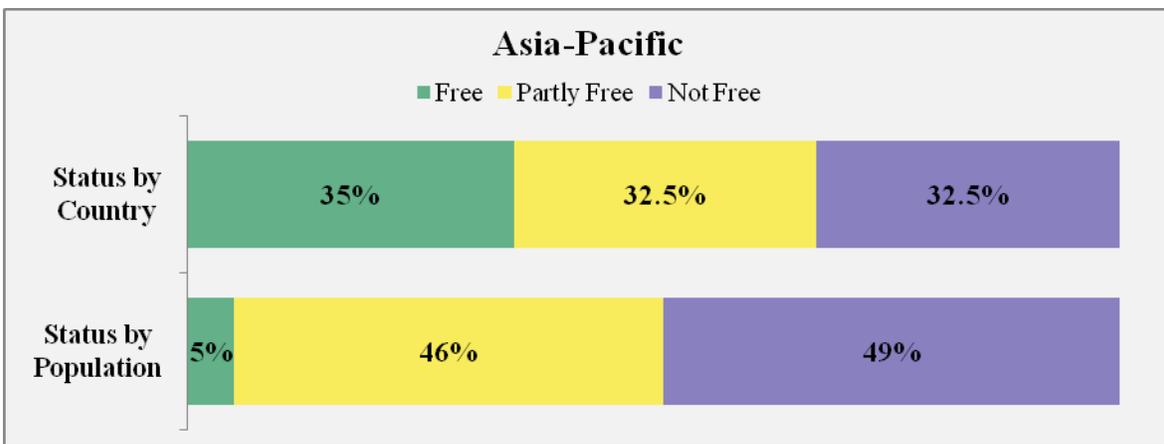
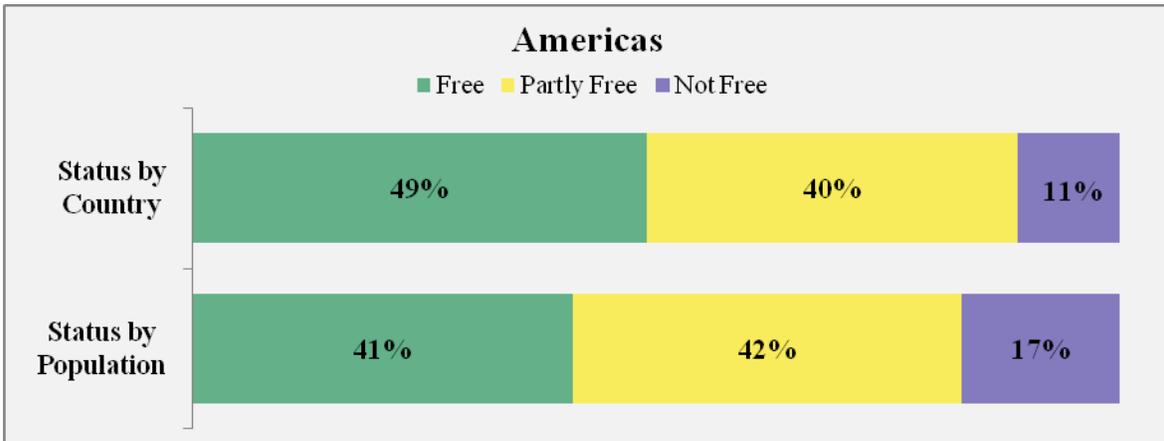
Status Breakdown by Population

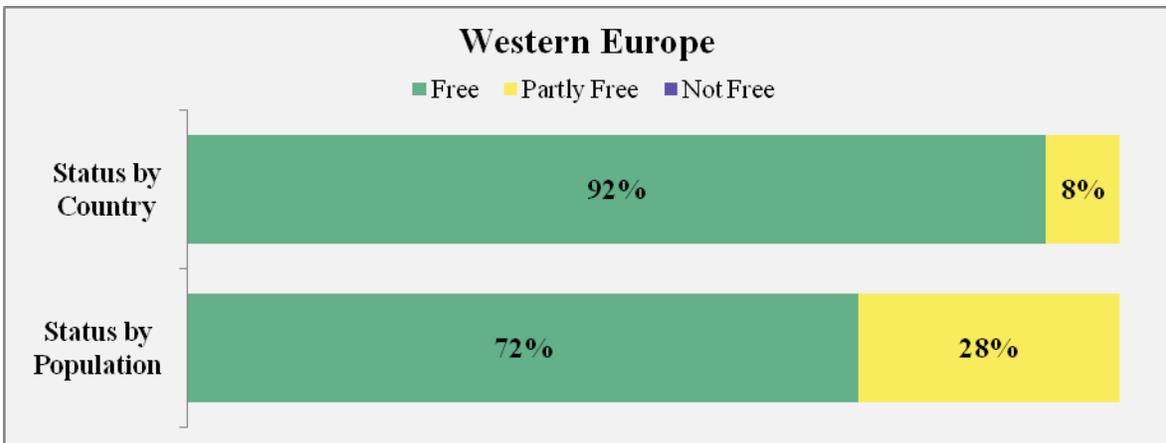
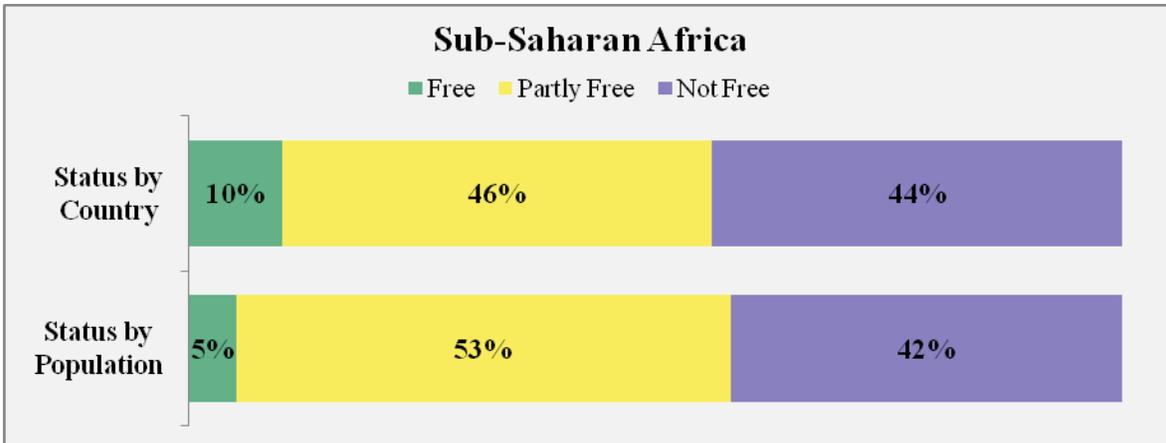
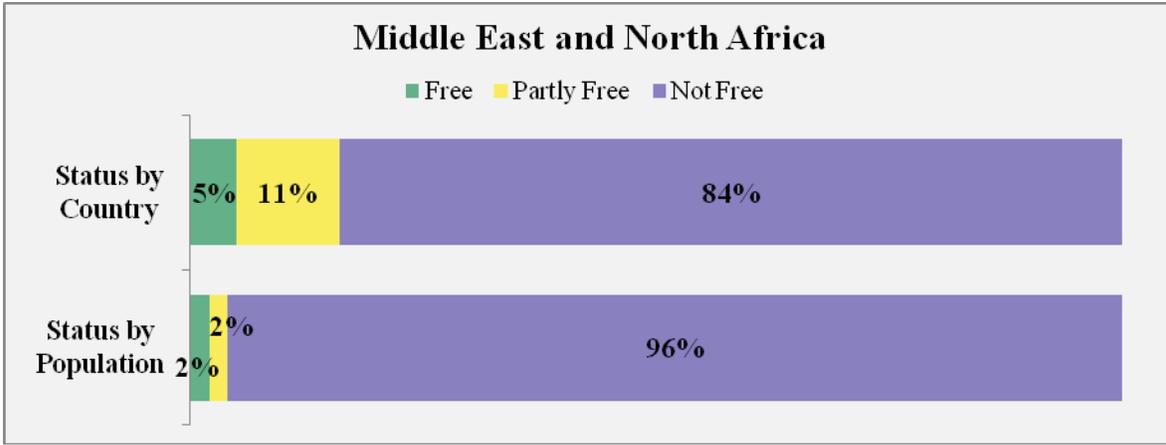


Global Trends in Press Freedom

Year Under Review	Free Countries		Partly Free Countries		Not Free Countries	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2010	68	35	65	33	63	32
2000	72	39	53	28	62	33
1990	61	39	34	22	62	39
1980	37	24	31	20	86	56

Regional Data





Freedom of the Press 2011

Country Reports

Afghanistan

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 22

Political Environment: 33

Economic Environment: 20

Total Score: 75

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	69,NF	69,NF	71,NF	74,NF	76,NF

The media landscape in Afghanistan, although diverse and robust, faces issues of insecurity, censorship, biased media content, and little protection for journalists. Article 34 of the constitution allows for freedom of the press and of expression, and a revised 2005 Mass Media Law guarantees the rights of citizens to obtain information and prohibits censorship. However, there are broad restrictions on any content that is “contrary to the principles of Islam or offensive to other religions and sects.” A newly revised media law, drafted by a coalition of journalists, government bodies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and media organizations, was submitted to the National Assembly in 2010. However, because there have been four media laws approved since March 2002, many journalists are unsure of which media law is under effect and thus often practice self-censorship of content in an effort to avoid violating cultural norms or offending local sensitivities. In March, the National Directorate of Security (NDS), an Afghan intelligence agency, told the media not to cover stories live from the sites of terrorist attacks, a move that drew criticism from journalists. The government later distanced itself from that directive. In the same month, the Ministry of Information and Culture and the Afghan journalist community agreed to protocols for the media and state agencies regarding the coverage of terrorist attacks. In July, the ministry shut down Emrooz TV, a private broadcaster, following criticism from Islamic conservatives, though the station was reopened after several days.

In addition, the legal environment does not allow for extensive protections for journalists. Article 130 of the constitution stipulates that courts and Islamic jurists can rule on a case “in a way that attains justice in the best manner,” allowing for ambiguity and discriminatory rulings. Under Afghan law, cases involving journalists should be handled by the Media Commission, but this is not always upheld. For example, in September 2010, the NDS arrested Hojtallah Mujadadi, a radio station director. They denied him access to a lawyer and detained him for helping insurgents, despite President Hamid Karzai’s pleas to free him. Mujadadi was still detained at year’s end. In March, journalist Ahmed Ghous Zalmai and two publishers were released from prison sentences that began in September 2008 for publishing a translation of the Koran in the Dari language without the Arabic original.

Afghanistan’s state of war has left the political environment fraught with unclear guidelines for journalists and threats from various groups. In September, NATO arrested

Mohammed Nadir, a cameraman for Al-Jazeera, and Rahmatullah Naikzad, a journalist for Al Jazeera and the Associated Press, after accusing them of spreading propaganda for the Taliban; however, both journalists were released one week later. Violence and security remain issues of considerable concern. For example, a veteran Afghan television journalist, Sayed Hamid Noori, was stabbed to death in September, although the cause of his death is under investigation. Noori was known to be a political activist on behalf of groups opposed to Karzai. In March, Kosuke Tsuneoka, a Japanese freelance journalist, was kidnapped by the Taliban, but was freed in September. However, two French journalists and their Afghan translator and driver, who had been kidnapped in December 2009, were still detained at the end of 2010. In addition to targeted killings and kidnappings, journalists face the dangers of reporting in a war zone. Rupert Hamer, a war correspondent from Britain, was killed in January in an explosion, while another journalist was injured. In June, James P. Hunter, an army journalist from the United States, was killed in an explosion in Kandahar, and Joao Silva, a *New York Times* photographer, was injured in an explosion in October. However, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, press fatalities have not risen in proportion to the overall dangers in the country. This may be due in part to journalists traveling with the military more often, and also being cautious about what they cover.

As of September 2010, there were 20 private TV channels, 220 radio stations, and 300 newspapers operating in the country. The government owns some media networks, including print press and radio and television stations, but it does not control most media. The media landscape reflects the disparate political and cultural beliefs across the country. Major sources of funds for media outlets include political parties, ethnic groups, the military, international donors, and foreign governments such as Iran and Pakistan, all of whom are pushing for some influence in the country. Private broadcast media outlets, particularly those that are commercially viable, such as Tolo TV, exercise the greatest amount of independence in their reporting. Low literacy rates and fragmented geography mean that local pockets of the population receive varying information from different media sources. International radio broadcasts in Dari or Pashto—such as those from the British Broadcasting Corporation, Voice of America, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty—remain key sources of information for many Afghans. Despite high levels of government and self-imposed censorship, international and local media organizations have for the past decade been promoting training programs aimed at developing a genuinely independent media in the country.

Illiteracy also accounts for a low penetration rate of internet use, at 4 percent of the population in 2010. However, insecurity in the country has also hampered the development of an optic-based internet network. Though Afghan blogs and websites are not numerous or greatly developed, the government still imposes online censorship. In June, the Ministry of Communications blacklisted websites that “promoted alcohol, gambling and pornography, as well as ones that hosted dating and social networking services.”

Albania

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 16

Political Environment: 17

Economic Environment: 17

Total Score: 50

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	50,PF	50,PF	50,PF	50,PF	50,PF

The constitution guarantees freedom of the press, and the media are vigorous and fairly diverse. However, outlets often display a strong political bias, and their reporting is influenced by the economic or political interests of their owners. Libel remains a criminal offense, punishable by fines and up to two years in prison. While there have been no criminal libel cases against journalists in recent years, former culture minister Ylli Pango successfully sued the private television station Top Channel for airing hidden-camera video of him asking young female job applicants to disrobe. He had been forced to resign after the recordings were broadcast in March 2009. In June 2010, a court ordered the station to pay roughly \$500,000 in damages to Pango on the grounds that they had been obtained illegally. The government of Prime Minister Sali Berisha has repeatedly used administrative mechanisms, including tax investigations and arbitrary evictions from state-owned buildings, to disrupt the operations of media outlets it perceives as hostile. Regulatory bodies are seen as highly politicized.

Journalists sometimes face intimidation and assaults in response to critical reporting. Mero Baze, the owner of the newspaper *Tema* and host of a talk show on the independent television station Vizion Plus, was allegedly assaulted by businessman Rezart Taci and two of his bodyguards in November 2009. Through his media outlets, Baze had accused Taci of tax evasion and irregularities in his acquisition of a state-owned oil refinery. Taci, who has close ties to Berisha, was acquitted in December 2010, while the bodyguards were each fined 350,000 lek (\$3,500). Also in 2010, Piro Nase of the newspaper *Panorama* and the broadcast station TV Planet was assaulted in November by unidentified attackers who made threats related to his work, and officials with the opposition Socialist Party (PS) forced a crew from the public broadcaster, Albanian Television and Radio (RTSh), to leave the scene of a May PS hunger strike, purportedly for the journalists' own safety.

RTSh is financially dependent on the state and typically shows a strong progovernment bias. Three private television stations have national reach, and dozens of smaller television and radio outlets also operate in a poorly regulated environment. Albanians have access to foreign radio content and television broadcasts from neighboring Greece and Italy. There are a variety of daily and weekly newspapers, but circulation is low. Media outlets typically rely on financial support from owners and a few major advertisers, and self-censorship to suit their interests is common. Journalists are especially vulnerable to editorial pressure due to a lack of employment contracts and irregular pay.

There are no government restrictions on the internet, which was accessed by 45 percent of the population in 2010. Penetration has been increasing in recent years, but access in rural areas remains limited.

Algeria

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 22

Political Environment: 23

Economic Environment: 17**Total Score: 62**

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	61,NF	62,NF	62,NF	62,NF	64,NF

The Algerian constitution guarantees freedom of expression. However, the 1992 state of emergency remained in effect throughout 2010, allowing the government to legally penalize any speech deemed threatening to the state or public order. A 2001 amendment to the Information Code further restricts press freedom by criminalizing writing, cartoons, and speech that insults or offends the president, the parliament, the judiciary, or the armed forces. Defamation and other legal charges brought against journalists continue to be a constant threat, hindering the press's ability to cover the news. A number of sentences for defamation were handed down during the year, involving both fines and prison time. In March 2010, a correspondent of *El Bilad* received a two-month prison sentence for the 2009 publication of an article criticizing a senator for corruption. In a separate case in March, Algerian courts fined the publisher of *Ennahar El Djadid* for defamation.

State agencies regularly engage in both direct and indirect censorship. Self-censorship also remains widespread, largely out of fear of defamation accusations or other forms of government retaliation. Foreign media outlets continue to face challenges in reporting freely. Officials block foreign papers when they carry content deemed subversive. In particular, coverage by international media outlets of issues related to national security and terrorism continues to be restricted. Al-Jazeera's Algeria office remained closed in 2010. In September 2010, two journalists from *Assahra Ousbouiya*, a Moroccan weekly, were detained for four days. They were held because of their attempt to report on the conditions of refugees from Western Sahara, an area of dispute between Morocco and Algerian-backed local separatists.

Algeria has a vibrant but fragile independent press, which often acts as a more effective check on official power than opposition parties themselves. There are currently more than 100 private daily and weekly newspapers, 29 of which print over 10,000 copies for each edition. Television and radio, both of which are entirely state owned, broadcast biased information, display favoritism toward the president and generally refrain from covering dissenting views. However, more than 60 percent of households have satellite dishes that provide access to alternate sources of information. The government has tremendous economic influence over print media, as most newspapers are printed on state-owned presses. In January 2008, the government placed six state-owned printing presses under the direct control of the Communications Ministry, threatening the editorial autonomy of half of Algeria's privately owned newspapers. The state-owned advertising agency continued to favor content with a pro-regime bias in 2010 by controlling the placement of ads by state entities and companies, which form the largest source of income for most papers.

About 12.5 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. The government monitors e-mail and internet chat rooms, and internet service providers are legally liable for the content they host. In a break from the past, Algeria began censoring select internet sites in 2010. The websites of Algerian political movement Rachad and the country's only independent news radio station, Radio Kalima-Algérie, were blocked at various points throughout the year. Radio Kalima-Algérie is a common regime target because of its coverage of sensitive stories, including cases of alleged corruption among government officials, and the fact that it occasionally

contradicts official news coverage. Bloggers, like traditional journalists, face potential defamation suits, and several have been fined for posting “defamatory material.” However, there were no reported cases of legal or physical harassment against bloggers or online journalists during 2010.

Andorra

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 1

Political Environment: 4

Economic Environment: 8

Total Score: 13

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	14,F	13,F	13,F	13,F	13,F

Angola

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 18

Political Environment: 25

Economic Environment: 21

Total Score: 64

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	65,NF	62,NF	63,NF	61,NF	62,NF

Despite constitutional guarantees that protect freedom of expression and the press, the media in Angola continues to operate in a restrictive environment. In 2010, state-run media continued to be the predominant source of information, as the government maintained tight control over private media outlets through legal and political means. The year was also a violent one for media workers, as a number of journalists were harassed, intimidated, and attacked.

While the constitution provides for basic liberties such as freedom of expression, recent laws passed by parliament regarding state security and insult hamper the free activities of the media. Defamation continues to be a crime punishable by imprisonment. In November 2010, the Angolan parliament passed a new state security law meant to replace the old law, known as Article 26 of 1978, which was often utilized by the government to imprison opposition journalists and activists. While the new law is an improvement from the 1978 law, it still allows for the detention of persons who “insult” the Republic of Angola or the president in “public meetings or by disseminating words, images, writings or sound.” This clause leaves room for the arbitrary detention of political opponents of the government and does not meet international standards of freedom of expression.

The government continues to give preferential treatment to state-owned media. Interviews with top politicians and state officials as well as access to information related to the

government are usually only granted to progovernment or state-run outlets. Despite the existence of a law guaranteeing access to public information, in practical terms accessing information remains extremely difficult. The president, Ministry of Communication, and Ministry of Information also have the right to censor material. In 2010, this included coverage of the January attack on members of the Togolese soccer team in the enclave of Cabinda. Many journalists practice self-censorship for fear of reprisal.

There was unprecedented violence against journalists in 2010, as many were the target of intimidation, hostility, and aggression. In October, journalist Rafael Marques was detained and harassed by police forces, allegedly because of his antigovernment position. In another incident that month, radio host Antonio Manuel da Silva was stabbed by unknown assailants who claimed he deserved it because his radio show had recently made fun of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. In a more serious case, radio host Alberto Chakussanga was fatally shot in his own home in September. Chakussanga hosted an Umbundu-language program on Radio Despertar, a station that was often critical of the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) party. The government had previously targeted the station and attempted to censor its hosts because the radio station continually “issues calls for civilian disobedience.” Prior to Chakussanga’s murder, an MPLA spokesperson issued a public warning to journalists who “conspire” against dos Santos. As of the end of the year, the state had failed to arrest or prosecute anyone for these crimes. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, foreign journalists have faced difficulties in receiving accreditation and press permits, particularly for reporting on sensitive issues or regions. Self-censorship by journalists at both state-run and private outlets is commonplace.

The government also keeps tight control over the largest media outlets in the country. The state-owned newspaper *Jornal de Angola* and television channel TPA (Televisao Publica de Angola) remain the most widely utilized media sources in the country, and together with state-owned Radio Nacional de Angola (RNA), they are the only outlets with a national reach. While more than a dozen privately owned newspapers operate, most are owned by individuals with connections to the government or ruling party, and are distributed primarily in urban areas. The reach of many privately owned and controlled radio and television stations is also limited to the capital city, Luanda. Privately owned radio stations are not allowed to use repeaters to extend their broadcast signals outside their base province; rather, they are obliged to open a new station in every province in which they wish to broadcast. Therefore, the extent to which privately owned media penetrates the population outside Luanda is extremely limited. Denial of state and private advertising as a method of pressuring independent news outlets continues to be an issue, and in recent years has led to the forcible sale of a weekly newspaper. Authorities and private owners occasionally seize and destroy print runs of newspapers that carry stories critical of the government. In June 2010, after a local company with an undisclosed ownership structure bought three influential independent newspapers, coverage at the papers changed, with less reporting on corruption and other sensitive issues.

Unlike radio, television, and print media, the internet remains basically unregulated by the government and there are numerous sites that post material critical of dos Santos and his regime. However, internet penetration in Angola is extremely low—at 10 percent of the population—and the medium is generally only accessible to a small part of the population in Luanda.

Antigua and Barbuda

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 9

Political Environment: 16

Economic Environment: 13

Total Score: 38

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	38,PF	38,PF	39,PF	38,PF	38,PF

The constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press, and the government generally respects these rights. Defamation remains a criminal offense, and cases are occasionally brought against journalists. As in previous years, a main source of friction between the authorities and the media is the lack of clarity about what subjects can be discussed on radio talk shows. In December 2010, a prominent attorney, Anthony Astaphan, successfully appealed for a court order preventing three talk show hosts—Lennox Linton, Matthias Peltier, and Angelo Allen—from discussing an ongoing judicial process involving a former chief magistrate and another lawyer. Astaphan denied that the move constituted a curb on press freedom, stating, “The laws of the freedom of expression have expressly recognized as an exception to freedom of expression the law of contempt of court.”

The islands have 1 daily newspaper, 1 biweekly paper, and more than 10 radio stations, including the state-owned Antigua and Barbuda Network (ABN), the ruling United Progressive Party’s Crusader Radio, the opposition Antigua Labour Party’s ZDK Liberty Radio International, and the independent Observer Radio. ABN runs the islands’ only freely available television service, and there is one cable television company. Most private media outlets are owned by firms affiliated with either the current government or its predecessor. In April 2010, one of Antigua and Barbuda’s two daily newspapers, *Antigua Sun*, which was published by the Sun Printing and Publishing Company Limited (SPPC), closed because of financial constraints. Forty-eight employees of *Antigua Sun* were laid off, and there seems to be little prospect of the paper reopening. The closure is directly related to the collapse of the business empire of SPPC’s owner, Texas financier Allen Stanford. In February 2009, Stanford was charged with operating a US\$7 billion Ponzi scheme. Arrested by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation in June 2009, he remains in prison in the United States pending trial. There are no government restrictions on the internet, which was accessed by 80 percent of the population in 2010.

Argentina

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 12

Political Environment: 23

Economic Environment: 16

Total Score: 51

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
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Total Score, Status	45,PF	49,PF	47,PF	49,PF	49,PF
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In 2010, tensions continued to increase between the Argentine government and news media outlets perceived to be hostile to the current administration. Critics charged that a new media law was designed to be used against these outlets, and attacks continued against independent journalists.

The constitution provides for freedom of the media and of expression. Since 2009, libel and slander by journalists are no longer punishable by imprisonment, although fines can still be issued in cases of “real malice.” However, 2010 saw at least one case in which this crucial reform was ignored by the courts. In February, an appeals court in Salta Province upheld a decision by a lower court sentencing journalist José Acho to two years in prison and a \$5,000 fine as a result of criminal defamation charges filed by a local artist. The case stemmed from a story written by Acho about alleged murky dealings by the plaintiff related to the acquisition of public lands. The six members of the appeals tribunal ignored the new law, which excludes matters of public interest from any criminal defamation proceedings.

On the other hand, there were several positive verdicts issued by the country’s courts, and the Argentine Supreme Court continued to show true appreciation for the fundamental tenets of press freedom. In May, the court rejected two criminal defamation cases against the *La Mañana* newspaper by invoking the real malice principle, under which a plaintiff in a case that involves a public official or the public interest must prove that the defendant knew that the published information was false and had acted maliciously in publishing it. The Supreme Court also overturned a criminal defamation case against La Plata’s *El Día* newspaper. The daily published a story using as its source police reports that eventually turned out to be incorrect. The court ruled that *El Día* did its best to get the story right and that the plaintiff’s demands of accuracy were too extreme. Press freedom also prevailed in a case involving the editor in chief of the *Río Negro* newspaper, Italo Pisani, and its publisher, when relatives of the victims of a deadly traffic accident filed civil charges, demanding \$80,000 in compensation for “moral damages” and “invasion of privacy” caused by the publication of an award-winning photo of the aftermath of the accident that showed relatives grieving over two dead bodies. The judge ruled in May that due to the fact that the photo showed a scene of public interest, the invasion of privacy claims were invalid, and acquitted both Pisani and the publisher of the newspaper. The same month, an appeals court in Quilmes acquitted journalist Adrián Di Nucci of criminal defamation charges filed by a local lawyer. Di Nucci published in the weekly *El Suburbano* a series of e-mails by plaintiff Mónica Frade who felt her privacy was invaded and her reputation damaged. The court ruled that the e-mails dealt with a matter of public interest and that the defendant never expressed any intention to libel the plaintiff. The judges overturned the decision of a lower court that had ordered Di Nucci to pay \$3,700 in damages.

In 2009, the legislature passed a controversial Law on Audiovisual Communication Services, which aimed to diversify ownership in the media sector. Fears that the law would be used against the government’s opponents in the media prompted lawsuits that delayed implementation for about a year, but in September 2010 the law came into effect. While the law could potentially lead to further diversification of the broadcast sector, critics raised concerns regarding the composition, independence, and powers of a new broadcast regulatory body. Observers believe it will be used against media companies hostile to the government, who often come into conflict with the administration and progovernment media outlets.

There are also concerns that authorities restrict access to information. The site Perfil.com was denied information about the use of private planes by President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner and her predecessor and husband, Néstor Kirchner, from 2007 to 2010, despite having fulfilled all the bureaucratic requirements to receive the information, according to the Argentine Association of Journalistic Entities (ADEPA). In late September, the Senate passed a right to information bill, but the Chamber of Deputies had not yet passed an equivalent bill at the end of 2010. Advocates warned against a repeat of the previous attempt to pass a right to information bill, which won approval from the Chamber of Deputies in 2003 but languished in the Senate for two years before being abandoned.

The hostile relationship between the government and media has become an important obstacle to the practice of journalism in Argentina and to the public's right to be duly informed about matters of social interest. ADEPA has denounced this dangerous conflict and called on the government to accept the press's role as the watchdog of democracy and to stop its attacks on the news media, warning that this attitude is putting Argentine journalists in vulnerable positions and even physical danger. No other example illustrates this dangerous relationship of the government and the news media better than the administration's open hostility toward the country's largest media conglomerate, Grupo Clarín (and to a lesser extent toward the newspaper *La Nación*). This antagonism intensified in 2009 when 200 tax agents raided the offices of *Clarín* newspaper after it ran a cover story alleging that the government improperly granted a farm subsidy. When the paper called the raid a government intimidation tactic, the tax agency claimed that it was a mistake, and promised to investigate the incident and fire the officials responsible. A judicial probe was started in 2010 but had yielded no results by year's end. In 2010, the administration used several tactics to silence Grupo Clarín, including blocking the distribution of the newspaper and interfering with the supply of newsprint to *Clarín* and other "hostile" publications by means of illegal strikes by a progovernment union. Senior members of the administration and federal legislators also conducted verbal and judicial attacks against *Clarín* journalists. Journalists from the paper were charged with criminal publication of information from an ongoing criminal investigation; excluded from official press conferences (even those held in foreign countries) because of articles deemed "too aggressive" against the government; charged with civil defamation after accusing a public official of corruption; wiretapped; and compared to Nazis by a government minister. Tensions between President Kirchner and the independent media have increased, and in October she upped the ante by calling for the nationalization of the news media so they would "acquire a national conscience and defend the country's interests."

Argentina also saw a worsening of physical and other types of attacks on members of the media, including the murder of community journalist Adams Ledesma Valenzuela, who was stabbed to death outside his home in the Villa 31 shantytown north of Buenos Aires in September; his wife was also threatened following the murder. Ledesma, a Bolivian immigrant, had organized several social and cultural activities for the community, including journalism and photography classes, and was the founder and owner of *Mundo Villa* newspaper and its associated local TV station. The attack was condemned by local press freedom group El Foro de Periodismo Argentino (FOPEA), but the perpetrators and motives remained unclear.

A number of lesser incidents of violence were also reported during the year, mostly affecting reporters as they attempted to cover the news or in retaliation for airing stories critical of local officials. In Loncopué, in Neuquén Province, Norberto Guerrero, owner of FM Arco Iris radio station, blamed local officials for vandalizing his broadcast equipment in January, which took him off the air. Guerrero had been very critical of allegedly illegal mine-stripping

operations around his town. In August, an intentional fire destroyed part of the studio of FM Cerrillos radio station, which also served as the home of station owner Carlos Villanueva. Villanueva's car was also destroyed by the fire, and some of his broadcast equipment was stolen, temporarily forcing the station off the air. Villanueva blamed the incident on the head of the local government, who had been the target of his criticism. Three months later, several shots were fired at Villanueva's house, nearly hitting his wife. In the western town of Andalgalá, a Canal 10 reporter and his camera operator were beaten and their video equipment stolen while covering a protest by miners in February; the same day, an FM La Perla radio reporter received death threats while reporting on the disturbances. Also in February in the northern town of Las Palmas, Dante Fernández, owner of the FM Frontera radio station, was repeatedly beaten by two supporters of José Ramón Carbajal, head of the local government, while Fernández was getting ready to cover a story about alleged poisoning of the town's water supply. In the town of Salta, *Nuevo Diario* photographer Rolando Díaz was covering a fire in April when a policeman grabbed him by his neck and took him to his car. Other journalists covering the incident kept the policeman from taking Díaz away. Just south of Salta, a day later, the head of the local municipal council punched *El Tribuno* newspaper reporter Jaime Barrera in the head. These incidents are illustrative of a number of similar attacks recorded by ADEPA on members of the news media in 2010, including in Buenos Aires, Rosario, Tucumán, La Rioja, Salta, and Junín.

Argentina has a large private media sector, with more than 150 daily newspapers, hundreds of commercial radio stations, and dozens of television stations. The dominant television networks are privately owned. Many radio stations operate on temporary licenses pending regulatory reform. As in past years, the government was accused of manipulating the distribution of official advertising to limit free speech, a practice termed "soft censorship" that had been institutionalized by Néstor Kirchner. In 2010, according to *La Nación*, Cristina Kirchner's administration spent \$27 million on official ads, of which 67.5 percent went to programs broadcasted by Canal 9, a TV channel whose owner is closely linked to the government. The problem has persisted even though the Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that "the government may not manipulate advertising by giving it to or taking it away from media outlets on the basis of discriminatory criteria." In 2009, a federal appeals court ruled that the government violated constitutional freedom of the press when it withheld advertising from Editorial Perfil, the country's largest magazine publisher. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, which had not yet announced a decision at the end of the year. As noted above, official attempts to regulate the production and distribution of newsprint represented an additional onslaught on media freedom during 2010.

About 36 percent of Argentines accessed the internet in 2010, the third-highest usage rate in Latin America, after Brazil and Mexico. There are no government restrictions on the internet, although Argentina has sometimes censored search results to protect the privacy of celebrities.

Armenia

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 20

Political Environment: 25

Economic Environment: 20

Total Score: 65

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	64,NF	64,NF	66,NF	68,NF	66,NF

Despite constitutional and legal protections, press freedoms are restricted and the media environment in Armenia remains oppressive and has not improved since the flawed 2008 presidential election. The year was marked by continual antigovernment protests. Before and after the January 2010 parliamentary by-election in Yerevan, the authorities behaved in much the same way they did in 2008, pressuring and harassing the media in an effort to stifle the opposition. Although Armenia passed freedom of information legislation in 2003, the government has subsequently failed to adopt a number of regulations needed to implement the legislation. International and local media organizations praised a May 2010 amendment to the penal code that removed imprisonment from the list of sentences for defamation. Monetary fines are now the maximum punishment.

However, in June, despite international criticism, the government adopted amendments to the Law on Television and Radio that further consolidated government control over the broadcast media. The legislation, adopted as part of the digitalization process, now enables the regulator to revoke licenses without any justification and impose broadcasting restrictions, and also specifies that only one digital television license will be issued for each region outside the capital. Human Rights Watch expressed concern that the legislation would reduce the number of broadcast TV stations from 22 to 18. Meanwhile, the license of broadcaster A1+ remains suspended, despite a 2008 ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that the government had improperly revoked the license in 2002. In 2008, the government suspended all licensing until the digitalization process was complete in 2010. In December, the National Commission on Television and Radio, whose members are appointed by the president, denied A1+ station's license for the 13th time. Local television station Gala, based in Gyumri, has been under government pressure since it broadcast speeches by an opposition presidential candidate in 2007. In 2010, the station's bank accounts were frozen and its equipment seized, and its advertisers were pressured to cease their business with the station.

Armenia's perceived lack of judicial independence, climate of impunity, and continued violence and harassment against the media continue to result in self-censorship, which is widespread, particularly in broadcast media. In January 2010, opposition member and editor in chief of the independent daily *Haykakan Zhamanak* Nikol Pashinian was convicted of inciting mass disorder and assaulting a police officer during the mass protests following the 2008 election and sentenced to seven years in jail. Pashinian frequently wrote investigative reports critical of the government. Although the government passed a resolution for amnesty for all those implicated in the March 2008 protests, Pashinian was immediately arrested after he came out of hiding in 2009. In November 2010, Pashinian was beaten in jail and placed in a strict-regime prison after he wrote a series of editorials from captivity. Several journalists were detained after police clashed with protestors in late May. While most journalists were released the same day, a journalist with *Haykakan Zhamanak*, Ani Gevorgian, was arrested for assaulting police.

Most of the dominant media are controlled by the government or government-friendly individuals. Television is the country's primary medium, and one of the only stations with a national reach is state-owned, although several dozen other private stations operate. Russian and minority language media are widely available. State and public media receive preferential treatment; they receive first access to official news and the lion's share of government

advertising. Print media are available mostly in Yerevan and larger cities. Small state subsidies are available for private print media, but due to high distribution and licensing costs, newspapers are not profitable. Most media are dependent on narrow advertising resources and have little guarantee of independence. The government does not require registration to access the internet or satellite television, and these are freely available.

The internet penetration rate was 37 percent in 2010. Although online media are not widely read, bloggers have played an important role in recent years in providing political information, such as after the 2008 presidential election. In March 2008, the government restricted access to opposition websites, but there have been no reports of restrictions on the internet since then, according to the U.S. State Department.

Australia

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 5

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 21

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	19,F	21,F	21,F	22,F	22,F

Press freedom in Australia operates by convention rather than by constitutional guarantees, except in the state of Victoria, where it is protected under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. In May, both the Australian Information Commissioner Act 2010 and Freedom of Information (Reform) Act 2010 received assent and both took effect in November. The Australian Information Commissioner Act 2010 provides for the appointment of the Australian Information Commissioner, the Privacy Commissioner, and the Freedom of Information (FOI) Commissioner. These changes form an important part of the Australian government's broader FOI reforms, which were seen as a big win for free speech. The reforms revised the fees charged for FOI requests, making them more accessible; allowed for fewer exemptions; and created a new single public-interest test weighted in favor of disclosure. According to the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, a local advocacy and industry support group, the government has shown great cooperation and willingness to support and enforce the new FOI laws.

Also in 2010, two Evidence Amendment Bills were introduced, one to the Senate and one in the House of Representatives. By and large, they would achieve the same outcome, making the default position a protection of confidential sources that could only be overturned by a judge in exceptional circumstances. The House bill passed in that chamber, and both bills were still before the Senate when it adjourned at the end of 2010. Such bills would prohibit the police from secretly accessing journalists' confidential sources. In October 2010, Northern Territory police secretly searched a journalist's phone records to identify his sources on the police force. Claiming that they were bound to investigate the allegation of a criminal offense, Police Commissioner John McRoberts approved the search. According to Ombudsman Carolyn Richards, police were able to identify the source from this search. More disturbingly, upon discovery of the source, police conducted a second, more extensive search of the journalist's

records for unknown reasons. The ombudsman found the second search technically illegal but not “unreasonable.” There were similar searches of *Herald Sun* journalists’ phone records in September in Victoria.

Most media are privately owned, though private ownership is concentrated, with the print media dominated by the Fairfax Group and Rupert Murdoch’s News Ltd. Australia also has a strong tradition of public broadcasting. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation, although state-owned and entirely funded by the government, remains editorially independent. In 2010, the internet was accessed by 76 percent of the population. The Australian Communications and Media Authority has the power to censor internet content hosted within Australia and maintains a “blacklist” of overseas websites. Since 2008, the governing Australian Labor Party has proposed a system of mandatory filtering of overseas websites. This meant internet service providers would be required to block access to banned material hosted on overseas servers. In November, the Department of Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy indicated that the earliest date any new legislation on this proposal could reach parliament was 2013.

Austria

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 8

Political Environment: 8

Economic Environment: 5

Total Score: 21

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	21,F	21,F	21,F	21,F	21,F

The federal constitution and the Media Law of 1981 provide the basis for free media in Austria. Freedom of information legislation is in place, and the government generally respects these provisions in practice. Libel and slander laws are in place to protect politicians and government officials, but according to a 2007 report released by international watchdog group Article 19, “a large number of defamation cases in Austria are brought by public officials and even judges themselves.” Many press freedom advocates urge the Austrian government to revise its stringent libel laws. There is no official censorship, although any form of pro-Nazism or anti-Semitism is prohibited by law. In 2010, there was an issue of editorial confidentiality as the Vienna Higher Regional Court ordered the Austrian Public Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) to release unedited tapes of a documentary. These tapes became controversial because they provided footage of Heinz-Christian Strache, leader of the Austrian Freedom Party, encouraging two men to give a Nazi salute, illegal under Austrian law, at a rally. The defense claimed that the tapes should be protected by editorial confidentiality under Article 31 of the Austrian Media Act, and the case was still underway at the end of 2010. Physical attacks or harassment of journalists are rare.

Daily national and regional newspapers are fiercely competitive and are both publicly and privately owned. Following amendments to the Broadcasting Law in 2004, Austria’s public broadcaster has faced growing competition for audiences from private outlets. Cable and satellite are widely available, providing both Austrian and German stations, some of which tailor programming for the Austrian audience. Media ownership is highly concentrated. The largest

newspaper also owns the only radio station in many regions of Austria, despite the fact that the Cartel Court must check to ensure media diversity. The Austrian government provides all daily and weekly newspapers with annual direct payments, with larger amounts of money going to newspapers considered especially important contributors to the diversity of opinions. A 2003 law reformed this press subsidy scheme, in order to promote regional diversity, professional development of journalists, and special projects. In recent economic times, these subsidies have helped newspapers to survive and to contribute to media pluralism. Receiving these subsidies does not require any obligation regarding content. Internet access is unrestricted, and 72 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010.

Azerbaijan

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 26

Political Environment: 31

Economic Environment: 22

Total Score: 79

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	73,NF	75,NF	77,NF	78,NF	79,NF

The freedom of expression situation in Azerbaijan remains dire. The authorities continue to imprison journalists and bloggers who express dissenting opinions. Violence against journalists has not abated, and the media is harassed with impunity. Libel is a criminal offense, which the government frequently uses for political gain.

Various other criminal laws, including terrorism, hooliganism, drug charges, inciting hatred, and tax evasion, are used by the authorities to deal with critical reporting. Several criminal and civil lawsuits were filed in 2010 against the weekly newspaper *Khural* and its editor in chief, Avaz Zeynalli, and the paper was ordered to pay heavy fines that it could not afford. The newspaper's staff launched a hunger strike at the end of the year. In February, the editor in chief of the *Femida 007* newspaper, Eyyub Karimov, was convicted of libel in a case filed by the interior minister. He was sentenced to a year and a half of "corrective labor," and ordered to pay 15 percent of his salary to the government.

The government has failed to appoint an information ombudsman as required by its 2005 freedom of information legislation. In December, the parliament amended its constitutional law and cancelled the creation of an ombudsman. Authorities at all levels systematically refuse to respond to information requests. The government nominates all members of the National Television and Radio Council (NTRC), the country's regulatory body. Amendments adopted in 2009 restrict the ability to film or photograph anybody without the individual's consent, even at public events. In 2010, the government sought to further entrench this restriction. The government proposed amendments to the Law on Mass Media that would specifically prohibit members of the media from using video, photo, or voice recording without consent, and recommended similar amendments to the Law on Obtaining Information.

The authorities use various methods to censor the media, even though official censorship has been banned since 1998. The case against Eynulla Fatullayev, a well-known investigative

and independent journalist and editor in chief of two of Azerbaijan's most popular independent newspapers, has received wide international attention. Fatullayev has been in prison since April 2007 after being convicted of civil and criminal defamation. Fatullayev had been reporting on the failure to solve the 2005 murder of his colleague at *Monitor*, Elmar Huseynov. Six months later, he was found guilty of threatening terrorism and inciting ethnic hatred, and sentenced to a total of eight and a half years in prison. In July 2010, he was sentenced to another two and a half years on a charge of alleged drug possession inside his prison. In April 2010, the European Court of Human Rights found that the Azeri government had "grossly" restricted media freedom by imprisoning him, and ordered the government to release him. In October, the European court rejected an appeal by Azerbaijan, but Fatullayev remained in prison at year's end. Throughout the year, the authorities harassed Fatullayev's family members, as well as international and domestic journalists covering the case. In May, a Norwegian filmmaker and cameraman, who were in Azerbaijan filming a documentary about Fatullayev, were harassed and their materials seized by authorities.

The political environment in Azerbaijan is dominated by the president and the ruling party. The parliamentary elections in November marked a rise in government harassment of the media, as was the case during earlier elections. Nevertheless, reports of violence and harassment in 2010 were fewer than in 2005—when the previous elections were held—an indication of the president's significant consolidation of power in the last five years, the weakness of the opposition, and high levels of public fear and apathy. Prior to the elections, news coverage on state and public broadcasters was highly biased, and several websites critical of the government were blocked. Journalists covering the elections were frequently harassed and detained. Several media members, including a Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) correspondent and a journalist from the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety (IRFS), were detained after witnessing electoral fraud. Some journalists also reported being removed from polling stations.

Journalists continued to face violent attacks throughout the year, particularly from authorities and often if they were reporting on antigovernment demonstrations. In February 2010, a SalamNews correspondent was beaten while taking photos for a news story. The program coordinator of the Baku-based Media Rights Institute (MRI), Khalid Agaliyev, was questioned by the police in July after the institute published a report on the legal situation of the media in Azerbaijan. Also in July, a group of journalists, including employees of IRFS, Turan Information Agency, and RFE/RL, were harassed by Presidential Administration guards while trying to cover a protest. In August, two reporters—Elmin Bedelov of *Yeni Musavat* and Anar Garayli of *Milli Yol*—were assaulted by guards while photographing houses of wealthy Baku residents. Also in August, a sports journalist for *Komanda* newspaper, Rasul Shukursoy, was stabbed two weeks after writing a critical article about football player Mahmud Gurbanov. Gurbanov had previously visited *Komanda*'s newsroom in a rage, assaulting the paper's editor and damaging property.

State influence and dominance of the media continues to harm diversity and pluralism. Ownership of print outlets is reserved mainly for government officials or the ruling party, although several opposition parties do operate newspapers as well. The broadcast media is almost entirely in the hands of the government and its allies. The authorities use economic pressure on distribution, printing, and advertising to control the print, broadcast, and online media industries. There is no effective method of distribution outside major cities. The allocation of state advertising and state subsidies is not conducted transparently. Most journalists work without employment security or contracts, and receive irregular salaries. The British Broadcasting Corporation, RFE/RL, and Voice of America were taken off the air in January

2009 as part of new NTRC regulations that banned foreign broadcasters from accessing national frequencies.

Online media has grown in recent years, including internet TV, and internet penetration has risen substantially, to 36 percent of the population in 2010. However, internet access is mostly limited to Baku and several other major cities. There were concerns that the government would introduce internet TV licensing ahead of the elections. With internet media gaining prominence in Azerbaijan, the government turned its attention to prominent bloggers. Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizade were victims of an attack in July 2009, which appeared to be an act of random violence but was reportedly staged. The two bloggers, well known for their critical posts, were subsequently convicted of hooliganism, and were jailed through most of 2010. They were released in November pending appeal. Genimet Zakhidov, editor of *Azadliq*, was similarly convicted and jailed on hooliganism charges in 2008. He was released in March 2010. Additionally, a student of the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy was expelled in January after publishing reports online alleging bribery at the university.

Bahamas

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 3

Political Environment: 10

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 20

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	16,F	17,F	20,F	20,F	20,F

Bahrain

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 25

Political Environment: 27

Economic Environment: 20

Total Score: 72

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	72,NF	71,NF	71,NF	71,NF	71,NF

Despite constitutional protections guaranteeing freedom of expression and of the press, the government has continued to enforce the 2002 Press Law to restrict the rights of the media. The Press Law includes 17 categories of offenses and allows for up to five years imprisonment for publishing material criticizing Islam or the king, inciting actions that undermine state security, or advocating for change in the government. Journalists may be fined up to 2,000 dinars (\$5,300) for an additional 14 offenses. In 2008, the appointed upper chamber of parliament put forward proposals to reform the harshest provisions of the Press Law, but the elected lower chamber—

which has a more conservative slant—has thus far refused to consider the proposed amendments. In February 2010, several members of parliament expressed support for the amendments in principle, but the suggested revisions were still pending at the end of the year.

There is no law guaranteeing freedom of information, and the Ministry of Culture and Information (MOCI) has the authority to censor and prevent the distribution of local and foreign publications, close newspapers through court proceedings, ban books and films, block websites, and prosecute individuals. The government frequently invokes restrictive press laws to deter the media from criticizing government policies. In February 2010, the government pressed defamation charges against the Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, a Shiite political group with substantial parliamentary representation, for issuing statements that criticized the ruling family and other public figures. In August, the independent newspaper *Al-Wasat* reported that the information minister suspended its online audio reports after the website featured interviews with detainees who were allegedly mistreated in Jaw prison. The government also imposed restrictions on the Al-Jazeera satellite channel, and its local bureau was temporarily shut down in May after airing a broadcast on poverty in Bahrain.

In addition to press and defamation laws, the government used counterterrorism legislation to curtail the activities of opposition groups and restrict freedom of expression. In August, human rights groups warned that Bahrain's anti-terrorism law was being utilized to silence dissenting opinions in the lead-up to October parliamentary elections, and robust political debate was largely missing from all types of media during this period. In September, Bahrain's leading human rights organization was placed under administrative management by the government. This occurred after it made its headquarters available for a press conference in which family members of detained terror suspects accused the police of mistreating the prisoners, all of whom were members of Bahrain's disadvantaged Shiite minority.

The government continues to exert pressure on individual journalists and bloggers who publish controversial articles through gag orders, arrests, and physical violence. In August, Muhannad Abu Zeitoun, an editor at the progovernment newspaper *Al-Watan*, was attacked by two men who wounded his hand. Later the same month, the public prosecutor issued a gag order banning journalists from reporting on the detentions of dozens of opposition activists, including many Shiites. Among the activists targeted in the crackdown was leading blogger Abduljalil Alsingace, an opposition figure who has used his popular website as a platform for criticizing government policies aimed at marginalizing the Shiite community. In August, state security forces arrested Alsingace upon his return from London, and subjected him to physical and psychological torture for several weeks. Authorities continued to issue gag orders throughout the year, including one on March 25 that barred local media from reporting on a multimillion-dollar money-laundering scandal involving a former minister.

Despite these threats and restrictions, as well as widespread self-censorship stemming largely from a fear of legal battles over slander or false reporting, the Bahraini media's coverage of news and politics is more critical and independent than reporting in most other Gulf countries. Nonetheless, newspapers tend to avoid covering "sensitive" issues such as sectarian tensions, relations with surrounding Gulf countries, governmental corruption, demonstrations, and human rights violations. There are six privately owned daily newspapers, four in Arabic and two in English. While several of these newspapers are critical of the government, only two, *Al-Wasat* and *Al-Waqt*, are considered truly independent. Although the government does not own any newspapers, the MOCI maintains significant control over private publications. Newspapers, which rely heavily on advertising revenue to sustain their operations, practice self-censorship to

avoid offending advertisers who do not want their businesses associated with critical reporting. The government maintains a monopoly on all broadcast media, and private operating licenses are not awarded despite continued interest from media owners. However, there is some room for free expression on television call-in shows. Radio and television broadcasts are generally received without interference, and the majority of households have access to satellite stations. Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, based in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, respectively, remain Bahraini citizens' main sources of news.

Approximately 55 percent of Bahrain's population accessed the internet in 2010, but internet usage was subject to restrictions and government intervention. Under the 2002 Telecommunications Law, the government has considerable authority to regulate internet activity. All websites are required to register with the MOCI, and religious and political content is heavily censored. The government is a major shareholder in Batelco, the country's principal telecommunications company. Batelco monitors e-mail and filters internet content by routing internet activity through proxy/cache servers. Website administrators are responsible for all content posted on their sites and are subject to the same libel laws as print journalists. In previous years, the government has filtered thousands of websites annually under the pretense of protecting citizens from pornography and other offensive material; however, many of the filtered sites were reportedly targeted for their politically sensitive content. In January 2010, the OpenNet Initiative reported that the government was filtering Twitter feeds associated with opposition activists, and the feed @FreeBahrain was temporarily blocked in early January. Despite these restrictions on internet activity, Bahrain has a very active online community with at least 200 blogs; however, the government has arrested individual bloggers for commenting on controversial religious and political issues. In September 2010, authorities arrested and reportedly tortured a leading blogger, Ali Abdulemam, for allegedly disseminating "false news" through the online portal BahrainOnline.org. The portal has been censored by the Bahraini government because of its reputation as a forum for political and human rights activists.

Bangladesh

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 17

Political Environment: 21

Economic Environment: 16

Total Score: 54

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	68,NF	66,NF	68,NF	63,NF	56,PF

Bangladesh's media environment remained relatively open in 2010 despite some worrying signs of intolerance by the government. Although the constitution provides for freedom of expression subject to "reasonable restrictions," the press is constrained by national security legislation as well as sedition and criminal libel laws. Journalists can also still be charged with contempt of court or be arrested under the 1974 Special Powers Act—which allows detentions of up to 90 days without trial—for stories that are critical of government officials or policies. Draft amendments to the criminal code approved by the cabinet in December 2009 would outlaw the

arrest of editors, publishers, journalists, or writers in connection with cases of defamation filed against them; however, this promising reform had not yet been approved by the end of 2010, and arrests stemming from defamation charges continued to occur. A journalist and writer who was first arrested in 2003, Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury, still faced sedition, treason, and blasphemy charges; his trial began in June 2008 and was ongoing during 2010, but he was allowed to travel abroad while the proceedings continued.

The pro-opposition daily *Amar Desh* faced a barrage of legal and regulatory threats in 2010. In June, authorities in Dhaka forcibly closed the paper and arrested its acting editor, Mahmudur Rahman, who is a close adviser to opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Khaleda Zia. Rahman was initially charged with fraud and publishing without a valid license, but then was also charged with sedition; the sedition charge allowed authorities to hold Rahman indefinitely, and he was reportedly tortured in custody. In August, Rahman and several colleagues were sentenced for contempt of court in a separate case initiated in May, and Rahman was handed the maximum six-month jail sentence; it was the first time anyone had been jailed for contempt. Over the past two years, various staff members at the paper have been charged with multiple counts of defamation for articles critical of the ruling party. However, after a Supreme Court order expired, the paper resumed publication in July pending a resolution of its licensing application.

A Right to Information (RTI) Act, which took effect in July 2009, aims to improve transparency. It applies to all information held by public bodies, simplifies the fees required to access information, overrides existing secrecy legislation, and grants greater independence to the Information Commission tasked with overseeing and promoting the law, according to the press freedom group Article 19. In June 2010, the chief information commissioner called for the law to be extended to cover private corporations. Following the Ministry of Information's adoption of the "Community Radio Installation, Broadcasting, and Operation Policy" in 2008, authorities approved the first community radio licenses in April 2010. Later that month, authorities ordered the closure of the private, pro-opposition Channel 1 TV station, citing violations of broadcasting regulations. A draft broadcasting act, which would allow nonprofit entities to operate radio and television stations and would update existing regulations, remained under discussion in 2010; local industry representatives urged that the draft conform to international best-practice standards and be finalized with sufficient input from relevant stakeholders.

The print media are generally allowed more leeway than broadcasters and new media, particularly private television channels that provide 24-hour news coverage. In December 2009, authorities reportedly drafted unofficial guidelines for media houses regarding television talk shows, noting that "provocative statements" could lead to the banning of a show. Military intelligence and public relations officials monitor media content, and while they no longer issued regular guidance to media outlets regarding content, they did occasionally caution specific journalists on coverage of particular stories or topics. A number of journalists reported receiving threatening telephone calls and other forms of intimidation from intelligence agencies, and some practiced self-censorship when covering sensitive topics.

Journalists continue to be threatened and attacked with impunity by organized crime groups, party activists, and Islamist groups, although the level of harassment has declined and no journalists have been killed as a result of their work for the past five years, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Local rights group Odhikar noted dozens of instances of attacks or other intimidation, mostly by political party activists or local criminal gangs, against members of the media in its 2010 human rights report. Impunity for those who perpetrate crimes

against journalists remains the norm, with at least 16 murders since 1998 remaining unpunished, according to the International Press Institute. Investigations of such crimes generally proceed slowly, if at all. A primary threat to journalists' physical safety comes from security forces, including the police and military intelligence. Police brutality toward reporters or photographers attempting to document political protests or other sensitive events remains a concern, as do occasional cases of arrest, detention, or custodial torture of journalists.

With hundreds of daily and weekly publications, the privately owned print media continue to present an array of views, although political coverage at a number of newspapers is highly partisan, and outlets presenting views that were critical of the government faced increased pressure in 2010. Private broadcasting has expanded in recent years, with more than a dozen satellite and cable television stations and three radio stations now operating; three new television stations, including two 24-hour news channels, started in 2010. A number of private broadcast outlets are owned by those with close political connections or official affiliations. The state owns or influences several broadcast media outlets, including the public BTV, which remained the sole national terrestrial channel. Private outlets are required to air selected government-produced news segments and official speeches. Political considerations influence the distribution of government advertising revenue and subsidized newsprint, on which many publications depend. Private media owners and corporate interests are also able to influence content through allocation of advertising.

Access to the internet, although generally unrestricted, was limited to 3.7 percent of the population in 2010. During the last few years, the number of online news outlets, including news websites and internet-based radio stations, has increased. Some journalists' e-mail correspondence is reportedly monitored by police, and those brought in for questioning have been asked to supply personal internet passwords to intelligence officers. In May, authorities temporarily blocked access within Bangladesh to Facebook following a furor over a cartoon-drawing competition of the prophet Mohammed hosted on the social networking site, as well as the posting of satirical pictures of a number of political leaders; the young man who posted the images was also arrested. Access to the site was restored after a week, when the offending content was withdrawn.

Barbados

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 3

Political Environment: 10

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 19

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	17,F	17,F	19,F	19,F	19,F

Belarus

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 29
Political Environment: 36
Economic Environment: 28
Total Score: 93

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	88,NF	89,NF	91,NF	91,NF	92,NF

Belarus’s level of press freedom remained extremely restricted in 2010. The global economic crisis and deteriorating relations with neighboring Russia forced President Alyaksandr Lukashenka to briefly reach out to the European Union. The government continued to repress independent voices but, in an effort to gain Western financial support, temporarily relaxed some restrictions ahead of the fraud-marred December 19 presidential election. When election officials announced that Lukashenka had allegedly received 79 percent of the votes against 9 opposition candidates, securing a fourth presidential term, security forces violently dispersed 10,000 protesters and arrested over 600 protestors as well as 26 journalists. In addition, Lukashenka verbally threatened independent journalists during a press conference the day after the presidential election.

Despite constitutional provisions for freedom of the press, criticism of the president and government is considered a criminal offense, and libel convictions can result in prison sentences or high fines. Judges, prosecutors, police officers, and tax officials regularly used politicized court rulings and obscure regulations to harass independent newspapers and websites during the year. On March 16, authorities launched a spurious criminal defamation investigation on behalf of a former regional officer of the KGB security service, Ivan Korzh, against the independent human rights news website Charter 97, the independent newspaper *Narodnaya Volya* and Irina Khalip, the Belarusian correspondent for the Moscow-based independent newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, using the case to conduct police raids, confiscate computers, and summon journalists for questioning during the rest of the year. Belarusian authorities also revoked the citizenship of Moscow-based Belarusian journalist Pavel Sheremet in March in retaliation for his articles on the independent news website *BelarusPartizan*.

A draconian new media law took effect in 2009, forcing all media to register with the Information Ministry. This made it easier for the government to deny required accreditation and to shutter outlets for coverage that does not “correspond to reality” or that “threatens the interests of the state.” The law also allows for penalties against outlets that merely report statements (for example, by political parties or nongovernmental organizations [NGOs]) that “discredit the Republic of Belarus.” The Justice Ministry in January and the Supreme Court in March instructed the Belarusian Association of Journalists to stop providing legal assistance to journalists and stop issuing membership cards, the Moscow-based Center for Journalism in Extreme Situations (CJES) reported. Prior to the election, the Foreign Ministry refused to accredit foreign correspondents who had previously criticized Lukashenka—including the Sweden-based photojournalist Dean Cox; Yevgeny Ogurtsov, a journalist for the Russian state radio station *Golos Rossii*; and two journalists from the Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*. Throughout the year and particularly during the presidential election campaign, authorities censored criticism of Lukashenka in Russian news programs on Channel One, RTR, and NTV, which were broadcast in retaliation for Lukashenka not joining a Russian customs union and not recognizing two Kremlin-backed secessionist regions in Georgia.

The government subjected both independent and foreign media as well as press freedom activists to systematic political intimidation for reporting on human rights abuses and unauthorized demonstrations. In September 2010, the founder and director of Charter 97, Aleh Byabenin, was found dead in his summer house outside Minsk, and authorities quickly ruled the death a suicide after conducting an incomplete investigation. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, a friend of Byabenin's saw unexplained bruises on several parts of the body. On the insistence of friends and relatives, local prosecutors reopened the investigation, but in December they announced that they had found no signs of foul play. Several journalists who wrote articles raising questions about the lack of a credible investigation in the case received death threats that authorities failed to investigate.

During the government's violent post-election crackdown in Minsk's Independence Square, some 20 journalists were beaten and another 26 were arrested, the Belarusian Association of Journalists reported. Ten of those detained journalists received 10 to 15 day prison sentences while 2 others—Natalya Radina, editor of Charter 97, and Irina Khalip, of *Novaya Gazeta*—remained in detention at year's end for suspicion of organizing and participating in public disorder, and faced up to 15 years in prison. In the week after the election, police and security officers raided and confiscated equipment from independent and opposition newspapers such as *Nasha Niva*, as well as foreign media bureaus, including Western-funded, Belarusian-language Belsat television, Radio Racyja, and European Radio for Belarus. Most local independent outlets regularly practice self-censorship, which intensified following the presidential election.

The state maintains a virtual monopoly on domestic broadcast media, which consistently glorifies Lukashenka and vilifies the opposition. Only state media broadcast nationwide, and the content of smaller television and radio stations is tightly restricted. Two weeks before the December 19 presidential election, state television allowed opposition candidates to speak once on state television, while 89 percent of the prime time news coverage was devoted to glorifying Lukashenka, monitors for the Vienna-based Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe reported. Tax exemptions for state media give them a considerable advantage over private outlets. In the print sector, the government has banned most independent and opposition newspapers from being distributed by the state-owned postal and kiosk systems, from being printed by the state printer, and from any access to state advertising contracts or media subsidies. Independent papers are forced to sell directly from their newsrooms and use volunteers to deliver copies, but regional authorities sometimes harass and arrest the private distributors. Some of these restrictions were partly and briefly relaxed prior to the presidential election—allowing activists to distribute opposition newspapers somewhat freely—but reintroduced during the post-election crackdown.

Although internet access continued to grow, reaching about 31.7 percent in 2010, the government restricted and monitored internet use. A media law that took effect in 2009 requires domestic and international websites to register with the Information Ministry or be blocked, forcing many independent print publications to switch to foreign domain names based in neighboring countries. The state-owned telecommunications company Beltelekom, which is the sole internet service provider (ISP), already controls all international data transfers and blocks some critical websites, while the KGB reportedly monitors internet communications. Charter 97 was hacked throughout the year, which interrupted access to its content, according to local and international press reports. Journalists accused Beltelekom of increasing internet restrictions during the presidential election campaign and the post-election crackdown. Websites like Charter

97, *BelarusPartizan*, *Gazetaby.com*, European Radio of Belarus, and the Belarusian service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty sustained multiple denial of service attacks and were blocked on election day; access to social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, as well as Google and Yahoo e-mail services, was also blocked on election day; and readers of independent news websites were redirected to mirror sites that contained progovernment disinformation intended to send protestors to incorrect locations. Since 2007, internet cafe owners have been required to keep records of their customers' identities and the websites they visited, facilitating inspection by the security services. Lukashenka strengthened these provisions with a presidential decree signed in February 2010 that required ISPs to retain data on individuals' internet use for a year and allowed police and security officers to access this information, as well as requiring ISPs to be able to block access to websites within 24 hours when requested by state media regulators.

Belgium

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 3

Political Environment: 4

Economic Environment: 5

Total Score: 12

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	11,F	11,F	11,F	12,F	12,F

Freedom of the press is safeguarded under articles 19 and 25 of the Belgian constitution, and the rights of the press are generally respected in practice. The law prohibits hate speech, including Holocaust denial, which carries a maximum sentence of one year's imprisonment. Roeland Raes questioned the authenticity of Anne Frank's diary in 2001 and was charged with Holocaust denial in September 2010. Journalistic sources are protected under a 2005 law, which also protects journalists from search and seizure. In March 2010, police raided the Roj TV headquarters in Denderleeuw under suspicion of financial fraud and of disseminating propaganda for the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). More than 10 members were detained, including the station director and three journalists. In September 2010, the Belgian computer crime unit led raids in 12 countries, which resulted in the arrest of 10 people and the closure of 48 servers that were suspected of illegally distributing copyrighted material online.

Media ownership is highly concentrated, and a small number of media groups own the major newspapers. Ownership and distribution are distinct in Belgium's two regions, Flanders and Wallonia. Three major companies dominate newspaper distribution in Flanders, and two in Wallonia. The two regions have completely autonomous public broadcasters, one that broadcasts in French and the other in Flemish; each also has its own domestic and international broadcasting network. While this is not often an issue, in May 2010 the French language public broadcaster cancelled the electoral political debate that it was supposed to broadcast with its Flemish language counterpart. The Belgian media felt the effects of the 2008 financial crisis, so much so that in March 2009, the minister of media in Flanders called a states assembly and invited all media actors to discuss the severity of the situation. There are no government restrictions on the use of the internet, and 79.26 percent of the population had access in 2010.

Belize

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 8

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 23

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	21,F	21,F	22,F	21,F	21,F

The constitution protects the right to freedom of expression, although there are several legal limitations to that right. The government may impose a fine of up to US\$2,500 and imprison for up to three years anyone who questions the financial disclosures of public officials. Newspapers are subject to criminal defamation laws, and the Belize Broadcasting Authority holds the right to preview broadcasts with political content and remove material it deems libelous. There is increasing tension between the media and the government. According to local reports, in December 2010 the government sent out a press release announcing that it was “suspending normal relations with Channel 5,” which included forbidding government officials from supplying the channel with any information or interviews. Channel 5 is Belize’s premier television station and is watched by a large percentage of the population, and the station had tackled sensitive topics such as alleged illegal immigration. After an outcry by local groups, however, the cabinet decided to rescind this decision at year’s end.

While there are no daily newspapers in Belize, there is a vibrant market for weeklies. Papers are privately owned, with two weeklies directly affiliated with political parties. In general, reporting covers a wide range of opinions. Government-operated radio was privatized in 1998, and today there are 8 television stations and 33 licensed radio stations. The People’s United Party and the United Democratic Party both have radio stations with which they are affiliated. Concerns over government control of the broadcast industry continues after the 2009 “nationalization” of Belize Telemedia, the country’s leading private telecommunications provider, in which the owners allegedly were offered no compensation. The opposition People’s United Party branded the action an “expropriation.” While the government does not restrict internet access or use, lack of infrastructure and high costs limited usage to 14 percent of the population in 2010.

Benin

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 11

Political Environment: 12

Economic Environment: 10

Total Score: 33

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	30,F	30,F	31,PF	31,PF	33,PF

Benin has traditionally been ranked among the best-performing African countries for press freedom, with freedom of speech protected by the constitution and normally respected by the government. However, a number of worrying trends have persisted since the 2006 election of the current president, Thomas Boni Yayi, who has used the country's 1997 Press Law criminalizing libel more liberally than his predecessor. For example, in 2010 a political activist named Andoche Amegnisse, who created a newspaper titled *Anyone but Boni Yayi in 2011*, was briefly imprisoned for defaming the head of state. Access to information is not yet guaranteed by law.

The government's media regulatory body, the High Authority for Audio-Visual Media and Communications (HAAC), also used its position on at least two occasions in 2010 to warn journalists of the consequences of what it considered to be unfair coverage. While most of these warnings did not result in regulatory sanctions, the HAAC did suspend the broadcast of Radio France Internationale for 14 hours in August to prevent the dissemination of a program on a financial corruption scandal in which the president was accused of being involved.

While Benin has not typically been known as a country where journalists are attacked for their work, there were a record number of such incidents in 2009, including one in which a missile was launched at a reporter's car. However, there was a decrease in the number of reported attacks in 2010, with the most serious incident involving a legislator harassing a cameraman for filming him while eating groundnuts.

Print media outlets are predominantly private, while the broadcast sector has a mixture of state-run and private radio and television stations. Radio remains the primary source of news and information, and a number of local stations broadcast alongside the state-run station, which has national reach. However, the ability of public broadcaster ORTB to remain independent of political pressure is weak. Benin's numerous well-established print media outlets have a history of providing aggressive reporting and robust scrutiny of both government and opposition leaders. However, the media market became especially saturated in 2006 by the large number of politicized publications that emerged in the month preceding that year's highly contentious presidential election. These newspapers, many of which have persisted in one form or another, are little more than propaganda for political parties or particular politicians, and frequently receive direct funding from them, often as their primary source of funding. This situation once again became particularly problematic in advance of the 2011 presidential election, as presidential hopefuls scrambled to influence the information voters consumed. Many media outlets have become clear and vocal advocates of one candidate or another, leading to the further polarization of content and the corrosion of impartial reporting. While the proliferation of such news outlets has certainly contributed to a greater diversity of content, the inability of most of them to garner a consistent profit outside of political contributions further limits accuracy and fairness in reporting by making poorly paid reporters susceptible to, and frequently dependent on, bribes. Subsidies and advertising contracts are both reportedly used to influence media content, according to the Africa Media Barometer report.

While internet access is still available primarily through slow dial-up internet cafés, it remains unhindered by government censorship. Internet access in the country is also increasing, albeit more slowly than many of its neighbors. At a penetration of 3.13 percent, the internet cannot yet be considered a primary way for citizens of Benin to access information.

Bhutan

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 18

Political Environment: 20

Economic Environment: 19

Total Score: 57

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	65,NF	62,NF	61,NF	61,NF	57,PF

The media environment in Bhutan continued to be restricted in 2010, and government influence on private media was evident in many instances. The constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, adopted in July 2008, guarantees the right to free speech, opinion, and expression. However, the 1992 National Security Act prohibits criticism of the king and the political system. The constitution also guarantees the right to information, but efforts to pass a right to information act, which would put into effect the provisions in the constitution, stalled in 2010. Media workers have expressed concerns that the government is not committed to bringing the act to fruition.

In February 2010, the monarchy announced the establishment of the Bhutan Media Foundation with the aim of supporting the development of mass media through scholarships, training programs, and internships. However, many journalists expressed fears that the foundation would be used by the monarchy to impede the independence of media outlets. Physical attacks on the press in Bhutan are rare. In May 2010, a van belonging to the *Journalist* weekly newspaper was vandalized in Thimphu; however, no journalists were injured in the attack, and no arrests had been made by year's end.

Bhutan's main print publication, the state-owned biweekly *Kuensel*, generally reports news that puts the kingdom in a favorable light, but has increasingly been highlighting societal problems and carrying stories critical of the government. Two new private media outlets were established in August 2010—a private radio channel in Thimphu, and *Druk Neytshuel*, the first private newspaper in Dzongkha, Bhutan's national language. There are no private television broadcasters, but cable television services carry uncensored foreign programming, albeit with bans on channels that provide "controversial content" as well as high sales taxes and regulatory obstacles that render costs prohibitive for many citizens. In November, the government announced that it would conduct a print media circulation audit, in order to ascertain which newspapers had the highest circulation, and accordingly allocate its advertising budget. Many private newspapers, including *Bhutan Times* and the *Journalist*, withdrew from the audit in protest, citing the unfair advantage to the older, more established newspaper *Kuensel* as the main reason. In December, the government finally announced that there would be no change made to the government's advertising policy.

The internet is gaining use in Bhutan, but was accessed by only about 13.6 percent of the population in 2010. The government occasionally restricts certain websites considered to be offensive to the state or pornographic. There were no cases of the government blocking access to websites with antigovernment content in 2010, although there have been incidents in the past when the websites of news outlets critical of the state have been targeted.

Bolivia

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 13

Political Environment: 21

Economic Environment: 12

Total Score: 46

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	33,PF	37,PF	39,PF	42,PF	43,PF

Press freedom declined further in 2010 as journalists were caught up in a polarized political environment in which strong rivalries exist between pro- and antigovernment media outlets, and government officials regularly express negative rhetoric against the news media, particularly those commentators who are critical of the policies of President Evo Morales. Bolivia's 2009 constitution protects freedom of expression but allows for some limitations. While Article 21 lays out an expansive right to communicate freely, Article 107 imposes a duty to communicate with "truth and responsibility." Article 107 also creates the opportunity for content-based restrictions by stipulating that the media must contribute to the promotion of the ethical, moral, and civic values of the nation's multiple cultures. In 2010, legal protections for media freedom came under threat due to the approval of five new organic laws (those whose approval need an absolute majority in the legislature and are just one step short of being part of the constitution). The country's three most important journalistic associations denounced all of them, especially the electoral reform law, for containing anti-press freedom provisions. The other laws in question are the Judicial Reform Law, the Multi-Ethnic Constitutional Law, the Decentralization and Regional Autonomy Law, and the Multi-Ethnic Electoral System Reform Law.

Another new law, the Law against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination, which represented an attempt to address ongoing issues regarding the portrayal of indigenous peoples in the media as well as their limited level of access to media outlets, attracted fierce opposition from both the country's press corps and international press freedom organizations. Although its text contains several ambiguous references to the media, two of its articles, 16 and 23, potentially penalize freedom of information and opinion by allowing for the imposition of fines, permitting the withdrawal of operating licenses, and mandating imprisonment for reporting on or condoning racism or discrimination. On October 7, 17 Bolivian dailies protested against the law by publishing the same sentence on their front pages: "Without freedom of expression democracy is in danger." International watchdogs also called on the legislature to reform the bill, but despite these protestations, the law was passed and enacted on October 8. The law was put to the test the following month in a case that took place in Potosi, where the former secretary of the peasants' federation sued the presenter of a television program on which an audience member had called the plaintiff "llama face," a racial slur against the indigenous people of Altiplano. The program was subsequently taken off the air by the channel's managers. As the regional press freedom organization IPYS noted, this case illustrates the problems created by the law regarding the responsibility of media outlets; namely, the potential for a channel or presenter to be sued for comments they did not make or endorse, thus opening up the possibility of self-censorship. In a second case, where the law was applied retroactively, local officials in the Oruro region pressed

charges in October against the daily *La Patria*, in relation to an article that referred to them by the diminutive “*concejiles*” (little councilmen), a term they considered to be discriminatory.

Defamation remains a criminal offense, with higher fines and sentences being applied to those who insult high-level officials. On February 23, Óscar Sandy, the executive director of a government-run institution, pressed criminal defamation charges against Carmen Melgar, a journalist for the Unitel television network. Sandy accused her of defaming the public institution when she reported, truthfully, that there was flour that had passed its “best before” date in the institution’s warehouses. Journalists face other types of legal harassment as well. Magazine editor and TV producer José Pomocusi was released after being summoned to testify about his alleged links to a plot to assassinate the president, which apparently was led by a group of businessmen from Santa Cruz. No connection between Pomocusi and the alleged plotters has been found. Three journalists were also summoned to testify about their alleged participation in attacks against peasants in Sucre in 2009. Two of them were able to prove that they were not in that city during the incidents, and the third testified that he was there only to cover the conflict.

On a positive note, Morales was the main engine behind the declassification of military files pertaining to several dictatorships that ruled Bolivia, especially those documents related to forced disappearances. The presidential order, however, was challenged by the army’s chief of staff, who refused to release the files.

Threats and attacks against the news media occurred with increasing regularity in 2010. These included cases in which journalists were physically beaten by crowds and local officials. On July 9, a mob that was being evicted by the police near Cochabamba, in central Bolivia, beat up a group of journalists who were covering the operation. The assailants also stole two cameras and assaulted a camera operator, who suffered a wound to the head. On March 13, Carlos Valverde Bravo, presenter of the program *Sin Letra Chica*, broadcast by the Activa TV cable network, showed images of a beating he suffered at the hands of two men. Valverde accused Gloria Limpías, organizer of the Miss Bolivia beauty pageant, of being behind the attack, which he assumed to be in retaliation for comments he had made about the contestants’ involvement in the electoral campaign of Morales’s ruling party. A security camera filmed the attack against Valverde, who was hit on the head by the men. One of Bolivia’s most notorious media bashers is Percy Fernández, mayor of the country’s second-largest city, Santa Cruz de la Sierra. In one instance, he threatened to shoot a reporter from the ATB TV network after the news crew tried to interview him on the street. Days before that incident, also in Santa Cruz, a mob of street vendors attacked a group of journalists with stones and clubs, injuring five of them. In Sucre, a group of progovernment activists pushed and shoved a Red Unitel TV network crew that was trying to interview the head of the municipal board.

As in Venezuela and Ecuador, the rapid growth of state-owned media continued in Bolivia in 2010. In addition to the state-owned television station, the government operates a news agency, a weekly newspaper, and a growing network of community radio stations. Civil society groups have expressed concern over the significant expansion of state-run channels and the conversion of all public media into a “proselytizing force” for the president. The television sector and Bolivia’s eight national and numerous local newspapers are for the most part privately owned, but many are tied to political parties, particularly in La Paz. Newspaper readership is limited due to low literacy rates, and radio is often the principal news medium, with community radio stations playing a major role. The government news agency, Agencia Boliviana de Información, currently provides a free news service via the internet to both public and private

channels nationwide. About 20 percent of the population has access to the internet, and thus far the medium has not faced any official restrictions.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 9

Political Environment: 23

Economic Environment: 16

Total Score: 48

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	45,PF	45,PF	45,PF	47,PF	48,PF

The constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina guarantees freedom of the press, but attacks on journalists continued in 2010. Since the Dayton Accords that ended the civil war in 1995, the country has been split into two semi-independent constituent entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), whose population is mostly Bosniaks and Croats, and the Republika Srpska, whose population is mostly Serbs. Each entity has its own public broadcaster, private media, and political parties. Intimidation of the press is especially common in the Republika Srpska.

Libel has been decriminalized since 2003, but the burden of proof is placed on defendants, municipal courts are often biased, and suits can drag on for years. The Freedom of Access to Information Law is not always heeded by government bodies and journalists rarely use it. Under the Law on Communications of 2003 in the Federation, broadcast media are licensed and monitored by an independent Communications Regulatory Agency (CRA), which is financially independent but often exposed to political pressure. However, its licensing decisions are generally seen as fair and impartial. The print media are self-regulated by the Press Council of BiH, which in 2010 expanded to include online media. The Press Council handles complaints about the press from the public, but it has no power to fine, suspend, or close down media outlets. Instead, it mediates between the complainant and the publication, often resulting in a retraction or the publication of a response or denial from the complainant. In 2010, 113 citizen complaints were filed with the Press Council.

The presidential and parliamentary elections held on October 3—the ninth elections in the 15 years since the end of the war—generated a lot of media coverage. Due to CRA and Election Commission rules, public TV stations carried many candidate presentations and debates, some of which attracted high viewership. One candidate for the Bosniak member of the presidency was media magnate Fahrudin Radončić, who came in a close second. Radončić is the owner of the *Dnevni Avaz* (*Daily Voice*), the highest-circulation newspaper in the country, as well as several magazines and a TV station. During the campaign, *Dnevni Avaz* was highly critical of all Bosniak parties other than Radončić’s own SBB BiH party, the Party for a Better Future of BiH.

In the Republika Srpska, there were cases of harassment of journalists by government officials. On October 3, a member of the Republika Srpska’s ruling party sent a memo to Alternativna Televizija (Alternative Television, ATV) barring its journalists from visiting or

reporting from election locations. One week earlier, an ATV journalist was allegedly insulted and called a liar by the Republika Srpska’s prime minister, Milorad Dodik, after asking a question about progress on a planned highway. In March, Dodik had sent a confidential memo to leaders of the Bosnian Serb community in which he called for a boycott of Federation TV (FTV), the Federation of BiH’s public broadcaster. Dodik called FTV’s coverage “biased and distorted,” according to Reporters Without Borders, which condemned the attempted boycott as a violation of the 2001 Freedom of Information Act.

There were cases of intimidation against journalists and news agencies while covering the news in both constituent entities. On the morning of January 13 in Bijeljina, the Republika Srpska’s second-largest city, a police raid shut down BN Television’s broadcasting for four hours. The Southeast Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO) condemned the unnecessary disruption of programming caused by the raid, which was based on concerns over nonpayment of taxes and an anonymous phone call. In March, journalist Rade Tesic’s car was set on fire while parked near his house in Doboj, Republika Srpska. Tesic, who was unharmed, had recently written several articles about local criminal networks for *EuroBlic*, the Bosnian edition of the Serbian paper *Blic*, in response to which the staff of *EuroBlic* had received verbal threats.

There were not many attacks on journalists in the Federation of BiH. On February 6, TV journalist Osman Drina was verbally and physically assaulted by local policemen in the town of Zenica, where he was reporting on a women’s basketball league. When the incident was reported, the Ministry of the Interior opened an investigation, but no results had been announced by year’s end. In September, a journalist for *Dnevni List*, Nevres Dedic, was attacked by a store owner when he attempted to take photos of a police raid of the store. Criminal charges were filed, but the case remained pending. Self-censorship is a widespread problem, as outlets are under pressure not to act against the economic interests of their owners.

According to IREX, Bosnia and Herzegovina has 11 daily newspapers, dozens of weekly and monthly newspapers, 143 radio stations, 44 television stations, and 6 news agencies, of which 2 are state owned, 2 are privately owned, and 2 are owned by religious organizations. The public television and radio stations in the two constituent republics are the most influential broadcasters in the country, although there are also several private TV stations with near-national reach. The print media is dominated by privately owned newspapers. Especially during the current economic downturn, the number of media outlets outstrips the amount of available advertising. This has led to increasing ethnic fragmentation and dependence on government and party financing. The internet is unrestricted, and 52 percent of the population had access in 2010.

Botswana

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 11

Political Environment: 17

Economic Environment: 12

Total Score: 40

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	35,PF	35,PF	36,PF	37,PF	39,PF

While press freedom is not explicitly guaranteed in the constitution, clauses guaranteeing freedoms of speech and expression undergird extensive legal protections for media outlets, and the government generally respects these freedoms in practice. However, the constitution also contains a number of provisions concerning national security, public order, and public morality that can be used to limit press freedom. Additionally, Botswana does not have a freedom of information law. The 2008 Media Practitioners Act established a statutory media regulatory body and mandated the registration of all media workers and media outlets—including websites and blogs—with violations being punishable by either a fine or prison time. The act also seeks to create a new Media Council, with which the minister of communication can exert significant influence through control of essential committees. Since the act's passage, the Law Society of Botswana has refused to comply with its implementation. In August 2010, a group of 32 individuals and groups representing media outlets, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and trade unions filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law.

The government occasionally censors or otherwise restricts news sources or stories that it finds undesirable. In 2010, coverage of the split in the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) and the resulting formation of the Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD) party were conspicuously absent from state-run radio and television broadcasts. In May, the independent *Mmegi* newspaper reported that Radio Botswana journalists who interviewed the press secretary of the BMD were subsequently called into the Office of the Presidency to explain their actions. Under President Ian Khama of the BDP—who took office in October 2009—government-press relations have worsened significantly, and Khama did not hold a domestic press conference in 2010. Fear of incurring reprisals for coverage critical of the new government has led to an increase in self-censorship over the past two years.

Journalists can generally cover the news freely and are seldom the targets of attacks. However, in October and November, there were a few separate cases of photojournalists being harassed by local authorities. One involved Lefoko Mogapaesi, who was arrested and detained by the Botswana police while covering the case of the Bakgatla Paramount Chief. The chief, along with 13 other members of his regiment, faced charges related to increased floggings of people in his district.

A free and vigorous print press thrives in cities and towns, with several independent newspapers and magazines published in the capital. State-owned outlets dominate the local broadcast media, which reach far more residents than the print media, and provide inadequate access to the opposition and government critics. The private Gaborone Broadcasting Corporation television system and two private radio stations have limited reach, though Botswana easily receives broadcasts from neighboring South Africa. The country's widest-circulation newspaper, the state-owned *Daily News*, is free to readers and is generally the only newspaper available in rural areas. High printing costs and limited distribution networks mean that independent papers generally have modest print runs. The government has restricted buying advertisements in private newspapers deemed too critical of the government, and has even made efforts (albeit unsuccessful) to ban private advertising in *Mmegi* and the *Sunday Standard*.

The government does not restrict internet access, though such access is rare outside cities, with 6 percent of the population using the medium in 2010. According to the Africa Media Barometer 2009 report, the online version of one newspaper, the *Botswana Gazette*, removed its interactive functionality in an apparent act of self-censorship.

Brazil

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 14

Political Environment: 19

Economic Environment: 11

Total Score: 44

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	39,PF	42,PF	42,PF	42,PF	43,PF

Brazil has a vibrant democracy with strong constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression, but 2010 was a tumultuous year for the Brazilian press in terms of its freedom to operate. There were gains in the legislative arena in the form of a new freedom of expression bill, but setbacks in the judiciary as courts continued to issue injunctions preventing the press from reporting on several important criminal cases.

In 2010, the judicial branch was extremely active in issuing injunctions to prevent media outlets from covering numerous stories, often involving politicians. In one high-profile case, a federal court in Brasilia, the capital, in 2009 censored the national newspaper *O Estado de São Paulo*; this order continued throughout 2010. The censorship order was instituted after the newspaper published reports from a federal investigation that found evidence of nepotism and corruption on the part of Fernando Sarney, son of the current Senate leader and former president José Sarney. Judge Dácio Vieira banned coverage of the investigation by the newspaper and fined it 150,000 reais (\$88,000) for each story published on the case. The order, which the newspaper is challenging as unconstitutional, is set to be heard by the Supreme Federal Tribunal in 2011.

In May, a civil court prohibited *Diario do Grande ABC* from publishing any further reports on the mismanagement of the schools in São Bernardo do Campo after Luiz Marinho, the mayor and former labor minister under former president Luiz Inácio “Lula” da Silva, complained that the newspaper was tarnishing his reputation. Additionally, court orders barring the publishing of reports in newspapers, magazines, blogs, websites, and on television increased dramatically during the weeks leading up to the presidential election that was held in October 2010. A total of 21 censorship orders were reported in these weeks as a result of lawsuits filed by politicians. Several media outlets were fined, forced to remove content, or barred from publishing stories.

The judiciary was also part of several advancements for the freedom of the press in 2010. In September, the Supreme Federal Tribunal struck down a 1997 law that prevented members of the broadcast media from mocking or making fun of politicians during election periods. The law stated that broadcasters are prohibited from utilizing “trickery, montages or other features of audio and video to degrade or ridicule a candidate, party or coalition.” Violators of the law were subject to a \$60,000 fine. The court ruled that only in a state of emergency could the government legally take such measures to curtail the freedom of the press. Additionally, the national legislature has taken important steps in securing freedom of information. The Chamber of Deputies has passed a freedom of information bill that would secure for citizens the right to information on public agencies, including budgets, salaries, staffing, and internal reports, as well as protections to whistleblowers. The bill is currently awaiting full approval from the Senate

before it officially becomes law. While the law represents a huge step forward, it fails to establish an administrative oversight agency to ensure that the law is carried out effectively. It also fails to provide a definition of the public bodies that are governed by the law.

There were numerous reports of violence against journalists and other members of the media in Brazil in 2010. Journalists working in provincial areas were especially vulnerable to attack. In March, the headquarters of the newspaper *Leia O Jornal*, located in Osasco, were attacked with Molotov cocktails. The events were allegedly the work of a neighboring town's mayor, Rubens Furlan, who was displeased with the newspaper's negative accusations against his administration. The most highly publicized event of the year involved the murder of Francisco Gomes de Madeiros, the news director of local station Radio Caicó in the northern state of Rio Grande do Norte. The murderer, João Francisco dos Santos, initially confessed that he had murdered Gomes because of his reporting of a 2007 robbery charge against dos Santos, but authorities believe that he was actually hired by current prisoner Vladir Souza do Nascimento. Authorities allege that Nascimento was motivated to murder Gomes because his criminal operations from jail were being hindered by Gomes's reporting. In a positive step, prosecutors won convictions against four men charged with the 2007 murder of journalist Luiz Carlos Barbon Filho, who had released a report exposing a local child prostitution ring that led to the conviction of 10 people. He was murdered in 2007 while sitting at a bar terrace. A court in São Paulo convicted three military police officers and a businessman with murder, aggravated murder, and criminal association.

Brazil is South America's largest media market, with thousands of radio stations, hundreds of television channels, and a variety of major newspapers. Control of mass media in Brazil continues to be highly concentrated among a few extremely large media companies. The Globo Organizations conglomerate enjoys a dominant position, controlling Brazil's principal television and cable networks as well as several radio stations and print outlets. Another company, Editora Abril, leads Brazil's magazine market. Politicians often have strong interests in media companies. One in every five legislators on the powerful Committee on Science, Technology, Communication, and Information has business connections to radio and television stations, which could lead to potential conflicts of interest. Hundreds of politicians nationwide are either directors or partners in some 300 media companies, most of them radio and television stations, according to the independent media monitoring group Media Owners (Donos da Midia).

The internet represents a new frontier for the Brazilian public, with about 40.65 percent of the population accessing the internet in 2010. Though the internet is seemingly an open forum for all to express themselves, the judiciary has grown increasingly aggressive in its attempts to regulate content. Google alone reported that on 398 separate occasions in the first six months of 2010, Brazilian authorities ordered content be removed from the company's servers. Additionally, the initial draft of a "Civil Rights Framework for the Internet in Brazil" is being prepared for introduction to Congress. The initial form of the bill would have greatly restricted freedom of expression on the internet, with strong libel and defamation clauses against internet providers and websites. While many of the strongest clauses of defamation were removed after severe criticism, the final form may still provide for censorship of content.

Brunei

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 28
Political Environment: 25
Economic Environment: 22
Total Score: 75

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	77,NF	76,NF	75,NF	75,NF	75,NF

The absolute monarchy of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and emergency laws—in effect for nearly half a century—continue to restrict journalists and limit the diversity of media content in Brunei. Harsh press legislation has required that newspapers apply for annual publishing permits and noncitizens obtain government approval to work as journalists since 2001. The government has the authority to arbitrarily shut down media outlets and to bar distribution of foreign publications. Journalists can be jailed for up to three years for reporting “false and malicious” news. The May 2005 Seditious Act further restricted press freedom by expanding the list of punishable offenses to include criticism of the sultan, the royal family, or the prominence of the national philosophy, known as the Malay Islamic monarchy concept. Under the amended law, persons convicted of such crimes, or any publishers, editors, or proprietors of a newspaper publishing items with seditious intent, face fines of up to BN\$5,000 (approximately US\$3,800).

No incidents of attacks on or harassment of journalists have been reported in recent years. The government has on occasion, however, warned the media not to take chances while reporting on the sultanate. Media are generally not able to convey a diversity of viewpoints and opinions, and criticism of the government is rare. The country’s main English-language daily newspaper, the *Borneo Bulletin*, is controlled by the sultan’s family and often practices self-censorship to avoid angering the government, though it does publish letters to the editor that criticize official policies.

The private press is mostly owned or controlled by the sultan’s family or practices self-censorship on political and religious matters. In July 2006, after receiving permission from the sultan, an independent media company run by a group of prominent businessmen launched a second English-language daily, the *Brunei Times*. The paper’s global focus is intended to help foster international investment in light of the country’s dwindling oil and gas reserves, thus promoting current government priorities. It also offers a wider range of international, finance, and opinion pieces, as well as online polls on government policies. A smaller Malay-language newspaper and several Chinese-language newspapers are also published within Brunei. Foreign newspapers are available, but require prior government approval before distribution. The only local broadcast outlets, including the country’s one television station, are operated by the government-controlled Radio Television Brunei, but residents can also receive Malaysian broadcasts, and international news is available via satellite channels.

In 2010, roughly 50 percent of the population accessed the internet, which is reportedly unrestricted. Yet the primary internet service provider is state owned, and the country’s internet practice code stipulates that content must not be subversive, promote illegitimate reform efforts, incite disharmony or instability, or fall out of line with “Brunei Darussalam’s religious values, social and societal mores.” It also requires all sites that carry content or discuss issues of a religious or political nature to register with the Broadcasting Authority and makes failure to register punishable by imprisonment for up to three years and/or a fine of up to US\$200,000. In 2006, the government called on internet cafés to install firewalls to prevent users from viewing

immoral content and, according to the U.S. State Department, the government continues to monitor private e-mail and internet chat room exchanges of citizens suspected of being subversive, which is believed to reduce the number of chat room visitors.

Bulgaria

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 11

Political Environment: 14

Economic Environment: 10

Total Score: 35

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	34,PF	34,PF	33,PF	36,PF	34,PF

The constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press, and the government generally respects these rights in practice. Defamation is punishable by large fines, and government officials have filed suits against journalists, but the courts tend to favor press freedom in such cases. In October 2010, a Bulgarian court acquitted German journalist Jürgen Roth of slandering former interior minister Rumens Petkov, who had sought monetary damages after Roth's book accused him of having close ties to crime bosses. The law on freedom of information is considered fairly strong, but in some cases, state institutions have reportedly resisted information requests. In April 2010, the cabinet turned over information on the prime minister's trips abroad only after a journalist filed a lawsuit to obtain it. Regulatory bodies have been accused of politicization, corruption, and other irregularities when making licensing decisions. Amendments to the Television and Radio Act approved by the parliament in May 2010 reduced the number of members of the regulating body from nine to five, making it more prone to economic and political influence; the president vetoed these amendments later in the month, but this veto was overruled by the parliament, which passed the act for a second time in June. Positively, a number of new licenses have been issued, though the process is still viewed as nontransparent.

Media outlets express a diverse range of public and political views, in most cases without government interference. However, reporters continue to face pressure and intimidation aimed at protecting economic, political, and criminal interests. The perpetrators often operate with impunity, which, combined with low pay for journalists and weak professional journalist associations, leads to self-censorship. After an apparent lull in 2009, there were some serious attacks in 2010. Radio host and crime writer Boris "Bobbie" Tsankov was murdered in a suspected contract killing on January 5. Police accused two brothers involved in organized crime against whom Tsankov had allegedly been scheduled to testify on January 13. One brother fled the country, and the investigation was ongoing at year's end. Dimitar Varbanov of the television station bTV was struck on the head with a hammer by a fraud suspect he was attempting to interview in February; the suspect was immediately arrested. Other journalists were harassed and threatened by local officials during the year for reporting on sensitive topics. In a sign of attitudinal changes at the national level, however, a ruling party member was forced to resign as deputy speaker of parliament in July after a Nova TV reporter accused him of attempting to suppress a story on alleged corruption by customs officials.

Two of the three leading national television stations, bTV and Nova TV, are owned by foreign companies. The third is state-owned Bulgarian National Television (BNT), which benefits from both state subsidies and advertising revenue. BNT and Bulgarian National Radio do not display a strong political bias, but observers have cast doubt on their editorial independence. Foreign media firms also play a dominant role in the print and radio sectors, although at least three important newspapers—in addition to bTV—changed hands during 2010 as companies reorganized their regional holdings in a difficult economic climate. In July, the Culture Ministry announced stricter rules on ownership disclosure for newspaper and magazine publishers. Pay levels for journalists have been consistently low, and the recession has only worsened journalists’ financial difficulties. Even at leading outlets, many hold second jobs, and some double as media advisers for political campaigns.

Many traditional media outlets have established a presence on the internet, which is not restricted by the government and was accessed by about 46.23 percent of the population in 2010. Access in rural areas remains limited. Legislation that took effect in May 2010 obliges internet and mobile-telephony providers to turn over traffic data to assist criminal investigations.

Burkina Faso

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 13

Political Environment: 15

Economic Environment: 13

Total Score: 41

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	38,PF	39,PF	41,PF	41,PF	41,PF

Article 8 of the constitution and the Information Code of 1993 guarantee the freedoms of expression, information, and the press. Article 49 of the Information Code allows every journalist free access to sources of information, with exceptions for information pertaining to the internal and external security of the state, military secrets, strategic economic interests, ongoing investigations or legal proceedings, or anything that threatens the dignity and privacy of Burkinabes. In practice, these exceptions are used frequently by officials, and access to government information remains difficult. Libel is a criminal offense and the burden of proof is on the defendant, but few journalists have been charged in recent years.

Burkina Faso’s media regulatory body, the Conseil Supérieur de la Communication (CSC), consists of 12 members appointed by the government, and has been criticized for inconsistent and mismanaged licensing procedures. The body has the power to summon journalists to hearings about their work, which can be followed by a warning that the CSC will not tolerate further “noncompliant behavior.” The CSC issues approximately five summonses each year. While the CSC boasts that it has approved a growing number of private radio stations, newspapers, and television channels, as well as requests for radio frequency spectrum, critics note that it should focus additional efforts to address the economic sustainability of media outlets. President Blaise Compaoré came into power through a coup d’état in 1987 and has since been reelected by wide margins. Prior to the most recent 2010 election, the CSC held meetings

with local and international journalists asking them to respect journalistic standards of objectivity and balanced reporting.

To avoid aggravating public authorities, state-run outlets generally refrain from covering controversial subjects, though programming allows for coverage of the opposition. Conversely, the private media are generally free of overt censorship, do criticize the government, and investigate more sensitive topics, although journalists occasionally face harassment by public authorities for coverage deemed unfavourable, which leads some to practice self-censorship. The media situation in Burkina Faso was relatively quiet in 2010 except for a renewed call by media institutions for the government to re-launch the investigation into the death of prominent journalist Nibert Zongo, who was assassinated in 1998 while investigating a murder tied to Compaoré’s brother. No attacks on the media were reported during the year. Foreign radio stations were able to broadcast freely.

More than 239 radio and television stations are in operation in the country and there are at least 5 national dailies, but very low circulation figures and structural difficulties place the print media in a fragile economic situation. A 2009 study by the Norbert Zongo National Press Center found that *L’Observateur Paalga*, a private newspaper, was the most read print outlet in the country. There are several other private dailies and one official daily, *Sidwaya*, which displayed a progovernment bias but also allowed opposition figures some space to air their views. Although the private media is growing, including the birth of news magazines such as *Zénith*, *Citoyen*, *Carrefour africain*, and *Le Journal du Jeudi*, ownership still lacks transparency. Only one of six journalists has more than 10 years’ experience, and one out of three has less than three, according to a 2006 study. Frequent power outages interrupted production and low salaries affected the integrity of the journalism profession. Low literacy rates and poor economic conditions make the broadcast media the preferred choice for news and entertainment. Infrastructural deficiencies and poverty limited access to the internet to approximately 1.4 percent of the population in 2010. There were no reported restrictions on internet content.

Burma (Myanmar)

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 30

Political Environment: 37

Economic Environment: 27

Total Score: 94

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	96,NF	96,NF	97,NF	96,NF	95,NF

The 2008 constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press, but the Burmese media environment remained among the most tightly restricted in the world in 2010. Private periodicals are subject to prepublication censorship under the 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Act, which requires that all content be approved by the authorities. As a result, coverage is limited to a small range of permissible topics, and publications are sometimes required to carry government-produced articles. For example, in January 2010, domestic journals were pressured by the military censor board to print pro-junta articles. Under censorship rules announced in

2005, media outlets are allowed to offer “constructive” criticism of government projects and report on natural disasters and poverty, provided the coverage does not affect the national interest. In practice, however, the government tolerates virtually no media independence. New legislation was passed in 2010 banning journals from misquoting the constitution, and in July, this provision was used to suspend the weekly newspaper the *Voice*. Several other journals were banned by the censor board during the year.

National elections held in November 2010 dominated legal and political press freedom issues in 2010. The country’s Press Scrutiny and Registration Board (PSRB) banned any commentary on the electoral laws as early as March in preparation for the election. In October, the election commission announced that it would not allow foreign journalists to enter the country to cover the election. Additionally, several opposition parties were dissolved prior to the elections, including Aung San Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy. Parties that did participate in the elections had challenges in campaigning because the government restricted opposition party access to the media, as well as requiring campaign materials and drafts of campaign speeches to gain approval from the censor board. In November 2010, Aung San Suu Kyi was released from an extended period of house arrest; in total, she had been under house arrest for 15 of the past 21 years. She was allowed access to the media in the aftermath of her release, and several journals and weeklies were allowed to publish news of the release. However, several of these publications were then punished for giving the release too much attention.

More generally, both local and foreign journalists’ ability to cover the news is restricted. Small numbers of foreign reporters are allowed to enter Burma on special visas, but they are generally subject to intense scrutiny while in the country, and in past years have occasionally been deported. A reporter from the U.S.’s Cable News Network (CNN) was arrested and expelled in March 2010 with no explanation after entering the country with an approved visa to cover the Armed Forces Day celebration. Local journalists remain subject to harassment and imprisonment. At the end of 2010, at least 13 journalists were in prison, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Hla Hla Win, a video reporter for the Oslo-based Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) media outlet, was arrested in 2009. In late 2009, she was sentenced to 20 years in prison for alleged violations of both the Electronic Act and the Export Import Act. Her assistant Myint Naing was also sentenced to 20 years in prison.

The government owns all broadcast media and daily newspapers, and exercises tight control over a growing number of privately owned weekly and monthly publications. The Ministry of Information only issues licenses to private publishers if they print government-approved material exclusively, and the Press Scrutiny Board can suspend licenses of publications that print objectionable material. Authorities also restrict the importation of foreign news periodicals. Although some people have access to international shortwave radio or satellite television, those caught accessing foreign broadcasts can be arrested. Nevertheless, as the only source of uncensored information, foreign radio programs produced by the Voice of America, Radio Free Asia, and DVB are very popular. The monthly subscription fees to access satellite channels are high, so most Burmese viewers install the receivers illegally.

Access to the internet is expensive, tightly regulated, and censored, with the government controlling all of the several dozen domestic internet service providers. These factors, in addition to the poor infrastructure of the country, mean that only 0.2 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. While there are no existing laws relating to monitoring internet communication, the government tracks internet activity and blocks websites, including foreign news sources and foreign-hosted e-mail services. Online chat records and e-mail messages have

been used as evidence in court, such as in the trials of comedian and blogger Zarganar, and members of the 88 Generation Students group. The government further increased its control of the internet in the lead-up to the November elections. In September, the websites for *Irrawaddy*, *Mizzima News*, and DVB were either blocked or shut down due to cyberattacks. In an effort to further extend control over the internet, some internet cafes started to monitor their visitors in 2010. Blogger Win Zaw Naing was arrested in 2009 for posting pictures and reporting about a series of 2007 protests led by Buddhist monks. Naing faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted, but there was no news of his sentence at year's end. The Committee to Protect Journalists has designated Burma as the worst place in the world to become a blogger.

Burundi

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 22

Political Environment: 30

Economic Environment: 22

Total Score: 74

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	74,NF	77,NF	74,NF	75,NF	73,NF

While Burundi's constitution provides for freedom of expression, this right is rarely respected in practice. Much of the current media legislation is vague and not favorable for a free press. The 1997 Press Law forbids the dissemination of "information inciting civil disobedience or serving as propaganda for enemies of the Burundian nation during a time of war." The 2003 Media Law also provides for harsh fines and prison terms of up to five years for the dissemination of information that insults the president or is defamatory toward other individuals. In 2006, legislation was proposed that would more accurately define the responsibilities and limitations of journalists, but little progress has been made, and criminal prosecutions for libel and defamation continue to be used by the authorities to deter critical journalism. In August 2010, Thierry Ndayishimiye, editor of the newspaper *Arc-en-Ciel*, was detained on a libel charge for an article detailing alleged corruption and embezzlement of funds at the state energy company. He was released on bail two days later.

The government continued to be intolerant of criticism, leading to widespread self-censorship in both private and state-run media. During the months surrounding the June presidential election, officials often denied the media access to information. Before the election, the minister of the interior prohibited the broadcast of political debates, despite protests from the National Communications Council and party leaders. In addition, the police and political party activists routinely beat and threatened several journalists covering the elections. A journalist with the privately owned, pro-opposition Radio Publique Africaine (RPA), Emmanuel Ndayishimiye, was attacked and hit with bricks by police officers on his way home in June. Another RPA staff member, Faustin Ndikumana, in September was arrested and detained by intelligence officials for "illegally transporting weapons." In what appeared to be a pattern of harassment, several other RPA staff members were also interrogated by authorities in September.

The government dominates Burundi’s media industry. It owns *Le Renouveau*, the only daily newspaper, as well as the public television and radio broadcasters, National Radio and Television of Burundi. Two private television stations also operate. The state radio outlet is the only one with national coverage; while nearly a dozen private stations provide a more balanced range of viewpoints, many of them operate across a very limited range. Radio remains the most widely used medium for information dissemination. There are up to eight private newspapers, but they do not publish regularly, their readership is limited, and they are hampered by financial and infrastructural constraints. Several dozen private internet and fax-based news sources complement the traditional media landscape.

Owing to economic and infrastructural limitations, only 2.1 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. There are no apparent government restrictions on internet access, although the National Communications Council bars websites from “posting documents or other statements by political organizations that disseminate hate or violence,” and the government appears to be equally intolerant of criticism that appears online. In July, renowned journalist Jean Claude Kavumbagu was detained on treason charges. Kavumbagu, the editor of the online Net Press news agency, had been previously imprisoned on five occasions, most recently for seven months on criminal defamation charges. The July arrest was the result of an article criticizing Burundi’s security forces and their ability to defend the country against possible terrorist attacks. Kavumbagu remained in detention at year’s end after judges dismissed a release application in September.

Cambodia

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 21

Political Environment: 23

Economic Environment: 19

Total Score: 63

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	61,NF	58,PF	60,PF	61,NF	61,NF

Media freedom remained under attack in 2010 as the Cambodian government moved forward with several pieces of legislation restricting space for free expression and continued to use criminal charges to punish opposition media. Toward year’s end, the government began to show indications of extending these restrictions to the internet.

Laws regulating freedom of the press are vague and their application uneven. The 1993 constitution guarantees the right to free expression and a free press, though media personnel are often prosecuted under the defunct criminal code of the UN Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) or amended provisions of the 1995 press law prohibiting reporting deemed threatening to political stability. On December 10, Cambodia’s new penal code, intended to fully replace its UNTAC predecessor, went into effect. While it no longer categorizes disinformation as a crime, the code continues to criminalize defamation by prohibiting written criticism of public officials or institutions, regardless of its veracity. Article 495 of the penal code also prohibits distributing material that could “create serious turmoil in society.” On December 17, an associate with the

UN World Food Programme was arrested under this “incitement” article for sharing articles with two colleagues from opposition outlet KI-Media that lampooned government officials. Parliament also passed an anti-corruption bill that lacks sufficient protection for whistleblowers, including journalists. Also in December, a draft of a long-anticipated law on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) was released containing an onerous registration and reporting mechanism that was expected to intentionally fetter the work of informal, grassroots media outlets.

Judges, most of whom are closely tied to the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), continued to try defamation cases under criminal codes. In February 2010, Radio Free Asia reporter Sok Serey was sued for broadcasting on alleged corruption in a community mosque, and the following month the editor of *Khmer Amatak* was fined in connection with an article on corruption. Two jailed journalists were released during the year: Hang Chakra, editor in chief of the opposition daily *Khmer Machas Srok* who had been detained in 2009 for articles critical of the deputy prime minister, and Ros Sokhet, who was released early after having received a two-year prison term in 2009 for disinformation.

Police often utilize physical intimidation to silence reporters. LICADHO, a Cambodian human rights group, reported at least three separate cases in 2010 of military personnel physically harming journalists attempting to photograph incidents of illicit gambling and logging. The editor of *Prey Nokor* was forced to resign in August when government officials threatened to deport him for the newspaper’s coverage of ethnic Khmer Krom issues. Impunity is a concern; the cases of 10 journalists murdered since 1993 all remain unsolved.

In a highly politicized environment, most media outlets are openly aligned with various political factions, leaving little space for balanced views and journalism conducted in the public interest. The majority of the approximately 20 Khmer-language newspapers in operation are owned by individuals associated with or sympathetic to the ruling party. Editors or owners of opposition-aligned outlets are often pressured either financially or legally to fold their publications. The recently freed editor of *Khmer Machas Srok* closed his paper this year, leaving only two active opposition newspapers. A few international publications, such as the *Phnom Penh Post*, exist, but the longtime French-language *Cambodge Soir* shut down in 2010 due to financial difficulties. All television and most radio stations, the main sources of information for the two-thirds of the population who are functionally illiterate, are owned or controlled by either the CPP or by Prime Minister Hun Sen’s family and associates. Opposition outlets are often denied radio and television frequencies. Access to international broadcasts, including Radio Free Asia and Voice of America, as well as local independent radio services such as Voice of Democracy, is generally unrestricted. Cambodia’s poor economy presents added financial challenges to opening and operating independent media institutions. Due to low literacy rates, print media are often unable to attract advertising to generate sufficient revenue to be sustainable. Journalists’ pay is very low, and accepting bribes to run or not run particular stories is not uncommon.

The government started to show signs of concern over increasing internet penetration and the internet’s use by opposition voices. Owing to infrastructural and economic constraints, only 1.26 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. Independent news sources and blogs have recently appeared, and the government’s order to opposition website KI-Media to shut down in December marked the first significant indication of the state’s attempts to curb online dissent.

Cameroon

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 21

Political Environment: 25

Economic Environment: 21

Total Score: 67

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	65,NF	67,NF	65,NF	65,NF	66,NF

Press freedom in Cameroon in 2010 remained constrained by the use of both laws and extralegal arrest and detention to harass journalists. The 1996 constitution guarantees the freedoms of expression and of the press “under the conditions fixed by law.” Libel and defamation remain criminalized. The burden of proof rests on the defendant in libel cases, and a guilty verdict can carry prison terms and heavy fines. Laws against libel and publishing obscene materials were used against journalists several times during the year. In January, Jean Bosco Talla, publication director of the privately owned weekly *Geminal*, was released early from prison after paying a fine of \$6,800. He had been held for a month in prison for offences such as insulting the president and publishing an extract from a book that spoke about “homosexuality at the highest level of the state.” Even though much of the independent press reports critically about the government, the threat of prosecution leads many, particularly within the broadcast media, to self-censor. Meanwhile, the political landscape has continued to fan a media environment that remains devoid of any professional organization, unity, and solidarity among journalists.

Radio and television stations must be licensed, and the application and annual fees can be burdensome. No new licenses were issued in 2010, but the government tolerated the numerous stations operating without licenses. Rural nonprofit radio stations are exempt from licensing fees but are barred from discussing politics. There is no law allowing citizens access to government information, and the government does not generally make documents or statistics available to the public or the media.

During the year, a number of cases were reported of extralegal abuse of journalists, particularly those investigating corruption—and the government’s lack of effort to address it—or other sensitive topics. Jean-Marc Soboth, one of four journalists who had been charged in 2009 regarding leaked documents in an official embezzlement case, fled into hiding in January 2010 after receiving anonymous death threats. Many instances of extralegal abuse involve official attempts to uncover journalists’ sources. In February, Simon Hervé Nko’o, a reporter for the Douala-based weekly *Bebela*, and Serge Sabouang, the editor of the fortnightly *La Nation*, were arrested by members of the General Directorate for External Investigation (DGRE) and detained without charge for a week. Nko’o was arrested for possession of a compromising document implicating the secretary general of the president’s office; his home was searched and ransacked, and he was tortured by security agents in order to reveal his sources. After his release, Nko’o went into hiding.

Harsh prison conditions make extended detention an even worse punishment for targeted journalists. Sabouang was arrested again later in February together with Bibi Ngota of the *Cameroun Express* and Robert Mintya of *Le Devoir* in connection with an anticorruption case, and the three were detained in common cells holding 30 hard-core felons with no beds and poor

sanitary facilities. Ngota died in April after being held for nearly two months in jail without access to his high blood pressure medications. Sabouang and Mintya were released conditionally in November. Mintya had been taken from the prison to a hospital in August, two weeks after he had been seriously injured by a fellow inmate in his cell. In May, Lewis Medjo, a journalist and publisher of the Douala weekly newspaper *Détente Libre*, was released from prison. He had been sentenced to three years in 2008 for “publishing false news” about the president. While in prison, he suffered from ill health and shared a cell with more than 30 others in very poor sanitary conditions. After Medjo’s release, he claimed that contributors to his newspaper, who have been writing under pseudonyms for fear of reprisals, had been receiving anonymous calls and threats asking them to break their contract with *Détente Libre*.

In addition, there were several cases of security forces directly interfering with journalists’ attempts to report on corruption cases. In January, Nadège Christelle Bowa of *Le Messenger* had her notes confiscated from an interview with Thierry Michel Atangana, a former presidential adviser jailed on corruption charges. In February, detained reporter Justin Blaise Akono was forced to delete courtroom photos taken during a hearing in the trial of Titus Edzoa, a former presidential adviser accused of embezzlement.

Cameroon has about 25 regularly published newspapers, private and state owned, as well as dozens of others that publish sporadically. A number report on a range of controversial issues and criticize the government, although their reach is largely confined to urban areas. Radio is the most important medium for most of the population. The state-owned CRTV operates both radio and television outlets. The first private radio and television licenses were granted in 2007, and dozens of private stations operate as well, but have more limited reach. Foreign broadcasters are permitted to operate within Cameroon and are widely accessible to those who can afford the necessary equipment. However, such stations are required to partner with a national station in order to broadcast. The government is the largest advertiser, and some private media sources noted that it used this financial heft to influence certain content. Official funding to support private media outlets is also disbursed selectively, according to the U.S. State Department.

Access to the internet is not restricted by the government, though consumers suffer slow connections and high fees at internet cafes. Cameroon is burdened with some of the highest bandwidth charges in West and Central Africa despite its access to the SAT3/WASC submarine cable, which links it to Europe. Access was limited to 4 percent of the population in 2010, increasing marginally from approximately 3.8 percent the previous year.

Canada

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 5

Political Environment: 8

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 19

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	18,F	17,F	18,F	19,F	19,F

Canada's 1982 constitution provides protection for freedom of expression, including freedom of the press. The government may legally restrict free speech with the aim of ending discrimination, ensuring social harmony, or promoting gender equality, but what constitutes hate speech that is punishable by law remains vague and contentious. In November 2010, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case of *Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission v. William Whatcott*, in which Christian activist Bill Whatcott's flyers and messages against same-sex relations were found in violation of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code by the local human rights tribunal. The case was still pending at year's end. Legislation forcing journalists to reveal their sources when pertinent to criminal cases continued to be used, weakening media rights in an otherwise vibrant and free press environment. In May, the Canadian Supreme Court ordered the Toronto-based *National Post* to forfeit documents in a case concerning the constitutional right to protect confidential sources that could have potentially broad implications for journalists' freedoms. The court ruled that in this case, the public interest in the truth was greater than the need for protecting the identity of informants. In a separate case in October, journalist Daniel Leblanc won the right to protect his sources. The Supreme Court in this case said journalists should be able to protect confidential sources if they can demonstrate that it is in the public interest. This disparity between cases will continue to lead to confusion regarding the issue until a clearer distinction is articulated.

In 2009, the Supreme Court had attempted to strike a balance between freedom of expression and protection of reputation. It created greater protections for journalists against libel lawsuits by allowing them to evade liability if they could show that they acted responsibly in reporting a matter of public interest, even if the statements were untrue. This case was considered a victory for press freedom. Despite the Access to Information Act (ATI) passed in 1983, acquiring information from the federal government remains difficult. There is a long wait for information, and obtaining information can be hampered by the federal bureaucracy, as well as the governing party. According to local group Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, 44 percent of requests made under ATI exceeded the required 30-day limit.

Journalists in Canada are generally free from violence and harassment. However, in 2010 there were some cases of violence against journalists—as well as denial of admission into the country—surrounding major events such as the Winter Olympics in Vancouver and the G-20 summit in Toronto. Additionally, in February, the office of a local Tamil newspaper in Toronto was vandalized.

Both print and broadcast media, including the public Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), are generally free to express diverse views. The CBC broadcasts in French and English. Broadcasting rules stipulate that 30 to 35 percent of material must be Canadian. This is part of an effort to maintain Canada's national identity because of the proximity and influence of the United States. Internet use is widespread and generally unrestricted, with 81.6 percent of the population accessing the internet during the year.

Cape Verde

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 12

Total Score: 27

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	32,PF	29,F	28,F	28,F	28,F

Cape Verde's constitution directly provides for freedom of the press as well as confidentiality of sources, access to information, and freedom from arbitrary arrest. In recent years, the government has consistently demonstrated its ability to respect and protect these rights in practice, making Cape Verde among the freest media environments in Africa. A 1999 constitutional amendment still excludes the use of freedom of expression as a defense in defamation cases; however, there have been no such libel cases since 2002. The law requires broadcasters to obtain operating licenses, and government approval is needed to establish new newspapers and other publications. However, there were no reports that the government denied or revoked licenses for political reasons in 2010. The government does not generally restrict access to the media that it controls, although opposition candidates reported difficulty in accessing airtime on state broadcasters before the February 2006 presidential election. Self-censorship is widespread among journalists, however, and has been one of the largest obstacles to the creation of a truly free press. There were no reported cases of intimidation of, or violence against, journalists in 2010.

Many media outlets are state operated, although there are a growing number of private publications and broadcast outlets. Print media include a government publication appearing twice weekly and a handful of independent weeklies and monthlies; Portuguese and Brazilian newspapers are also readily available. In addition to the state-run radio and television stations, approximately a dozen independent and community-run FM radio stations broadcast regularly, and television viewers can access two pay-TV stations and a new free-to-air channel available in the capital on a test basis. Foreign broadcasts are uncensored. Geographic barriers and harsh terrain in a country made up of several islands also constitute impediments to the distribution of newspapers and other media products. This has contributed to a growth in importance of the community radio sector, which now includes five stations. Raising funds and the lack of specific regulations governing community radio have been identified as major problems for the sustainability of this sector, and community radio advocates have called for government help with operating costs and new legislation.

Internet usage has risen dramatically over the last few years, from 8 percent in 2007 to 30 percent in 2010. There were no reports that the government restricted internet access or monitored e-mail messages.

Central African Republic**Status: Not Free****Legal Environment: 19****Political Environment: 23****Economic Environment: 19****Total Score: 61**

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
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Total Score, Status	61,NF	58,PF	61,NF	61,NF	61,NF
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Central African Republic’s 2005 constitution provides for freedom of the press, though authorities have continued to use intimidation, suspension of outlets, and legal harassment to limit reporting, particularly on sensitive topics such as official corruption and rebel activity. A 2004 press law that went into effect in 2005 abolished imprisonment for many press offenses, such as libel and slander, but criminal penalties remain for some defamation charges, incitement of ethnic or religious hatred, and the publication or broadcast of false information that could “disturb the peace.” According to IREX, a February 2009 court order sought to decriminalize a number of these press offenses. There were no reported cases of journalists being arrested or imprisoned in 2009 or 2010, an improvement over 2008, when multiple journalists were sentenced to prison for convictions ranging from defamation to obstruction of justice. However, in September 2010, journalist Alexi Remangai was detained for three days following a defamation complaint by a government official. The case was pending at year’s end. Reporters, particularly from privately owned outlets, continue to face difficulties in accessing government information or covering official events.

Journalists continue to face harassment and threats from the authorities, and some, particularly those who work in state-owned media outlets, practice self-censorship to avoid reprisals. Complaints filed against authorities in regard to any transgressions are often ignored. Most journalists are not paid regularly for their work and are poorly trained, although a journalism department was established at the University of Bangui in 2009. Journalists cannot always operate safely outside the capital due to increased activity by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan rebel group. The LRA, which does not have popular support, is primarily active in the southeast, near the borders of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Several private newspapers offer competing views, including five dailies published in French. Many of them provided a certain amount of diverse political coverage in preparation for presidential and parliamentary elections, which were originally scheduled for 2010 but were postponed until January 2011. However, even those papers that provide political coverage have limited influence due to low literacy levels, high poverty rates, and the lack of a functioning postal service to deliver newspapers outside the capital. Financial problems due to the lack of an advertising market and a lack of sustainability plague many newspapers, and due to poverty, some journalists accept bribes to cover certain stories. Radio continues to be the most important medium for the dissemination of information. The state owns Radio Centrafrique, as well as the only television broadcasting station, and both outlets reflect predominantly progovernment views. Due to technical deterioration, the reach and broadcast capacity of even state-owned outlets has shrunk dramatically. While the government monopolizes domestic television, there were privately owned alternatives to Radio Centrafrique, including Radio Ndeke Luka (funded by the United Nations), international broadcasters such as Radio France Internationale, and a number of community radio stations. Internet access is unrestricted, and there are no reports that the government monitors e-mail. However, only 2.3 percent of the population was able to access this medium in 2010.

Chad

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 23
Political Environment: 31
Economic Environment: 21
Total Score: 75

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	73,NF	74,NF	74,NF	76,NF	77,NF

Chad’s constitution allows for freedom of expression, but authorities have routinely used threats and legal provisions to censor critical reporting. However, 2010 saw a lull in harassment of the press and a slight shift away from draconian legal penalties. A 2008 press law, Decree No. 5, increased the maximum penalty for false news and defamation to three years in prison, and the maximum penalty for insulting the president to five years. Separately, the High Council of Communication (HCC), Chad’s media regulatory body, banned reporting on the activities of rebels and any other information that could harm national unity. In August 2010, the National Assembly first rejected and then overwhelmingly passed a government-submitted bill, Law No. 17, which removed Decree No. 5’s prison sentences, but replaced them with sentences of six months to a year in prison and heavy fines for inciting racial or ethnic hatred and “condoning violence.” Defendants bear the burden of proof in defamation cases and face a prejudiced judicial process.

Journalists and publishers risked harassment, especially from authorities, when publishing articles critical of the government, and many practiced self-censorship to avoid reprisals. Impunity remains high for perpetrators of harassment against journalists. In 2009, the authorities summarily expelled the Cameroon-born editor of *La Voix du Tchad*, Innocent Ebodé, after he wrote an op-ed in response to a government official’s suggestion that the Nobel Peace Prize should have been awarded to Chadian president Idriss Deby. After Ebodé’s expulsion in December 2009, authorities brought a case challenging *La Voix*’s legality and license. When Ebodé returned to Chad to challenge the order, he was abducted and detained by unknown men in late December 2009. In January 2010, a court issued an order for the seizure of all issues of the paper, but the order was lifted later in the month. In a separate case in October, after local newspaper *N’Djamena Bi-Hebdo* published an article that the prime minister deemed dangerous to the country, the HCC warned media houses, especially *N’Djamena Bi-Hebdo*, to not print articles that may incite violence or hatred.

Private newspapers circulate freely in the capital, but they have little impact on the largely rural and illiterate population. The state-run Chad Press Agency is the only news service in the country. Permission from the prosecutor’s office, the HCC, and the Ministry of Commerce is required to establish a newspaper. The only television station is state owned. Radio is the primary means of mass communication, and licenses are granted by the HCC, which is considered to be greatly influenced by the government. The licensing fee for commercial radio stations continues to be prohibitively high, at five million CFA francs (\$11,000) per year. The HCC is also said to monitor and control radio content. There are over a dozen private and community-run stations on the air. Advertising is the main source of revenue for media outlets, but it is scarce. Nevertheless, media outlets depend on advertising heavily, since other sources of revenue, such as government subsidies, are even more unreliable. There are no reports that the government restricts internet access, but the internet infrastructure remains government owned, and approximately 1.7 percent of the population accessed this medium in 2010.

Chile

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 8

Political Environment: 13

Economic Environment: 8

Total Score: 29

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	26,F	30,F	30,F	29,F	30,F

Ownership concentration, restrictions on the development of community radio, and the use of the penal code to silence journalists continue to restrain press freedom in Chile. Positive developments in 2010 included the sale of the new president's private television network and the implementation of a year-old access-to-information law, even while further reform is needed to strengthen the autonomy and capacity of the administrative council and the reach of the law.

Criminal charges of various origins continued to be used against reporters in 2010. On September 11, police arrested freelance reporter Marcelo Garay Vergara for allegedly not complying with a court summons in a pending criminal case. Garay said he was never notified of the summons. In 2009, he had been arrested and accused of illegally taking pictures on private property to illustrate a report on a Mapuche indigenous people's dispute with the government, but was reportedly released the next day. More positively, a court in January acquitted freelance journalist Pascale Bonnefoy of criminal defamation related to a 2006 article that named a retired army officer as a torturer who had terrorized thousands of political prisoners after the 1973 coup. Bonnefoy had faced up to 10 years in prison. In April, Chilean documentarian Elena Varela López was acquitted on charges of criminal association and "links with a terrorist group" in connection with two holdups in 2004 and 2005. Prosecutors were asking for a sentence of 15 years. She had been accused in 2008 of participating in a criminal terrorist group while making a documentary about the Mapuche. Reporters Without Borders reports that terrorism charges previously had been used against foreign filmmakers who took an interest in the Mapuches' disputes with logging companies.

Congress in May passed a new law regulating community radio. Groups hailed it as a step in the right direction, but one containing important flaws. Chilean community radio is still defined in geographic terms rather than by communities' interests; thus, while increasing a radio station's power from 1 watt to 25 watts (or in indigenous areas, up to 40 watts) bolsters community radio's reach, the definition of what type of organization can operate a community station is overly broad and does not make explicit provision that it should be operated by a non-partisan group operating in a community's interest. Further, advocates denounced restrictions on advertisers that limit their viability as financing mechanisms, as well as a requirement to produce expensive technical studies prior to moving to newly assigned spectrum. Further, the law reserves only 10 percent of spectrum on FM for community radio, leaving 90 percent of the FM dial, digital radio, and AM for commercial or state radio. Importantly, the new law does not derogate Article 36 (b) of the telecommunications law, which penalizes unlicensed radio operators with jail time as well as fines. The Telecommunications Secretariat, often at the behest

of the commercial radio owners association, reported that it had initiated legal proceedings against 31 community radio stations in 2009 through July 2010. In November, three more stations were shut down, with five radio operators detained.

Journalists generally are able to report freely without having to practice self-censorship. There were a few reports of harassment and attacks on journalists during the year. In May 2010, documentary maker Jaime Díaz was assaulted while attending and filming a local council session. In September, some journalists covering the street demonstration marking the anniversary of the 1973 coup overthrowing the government of President Salvador Allende were attacked.

Media are predominantly in private hands. The concentration of print media is a legacy of dictatorship-era closures of critical media. Due to few regulations on the structure of the industry, two newspaper consortia currently own 95 percent of Chilean newspapers, which consequently deters a diversity of viewpoints. Radio is the most accessible medium for Chile’s poor and popular sectors, but radio concentration has also begun to become a concern. Various groups reported that only three consortia own 55 percent of commercial radio stations, while five own 70 percent. The concentration of ownership further compounds the problem community radio stations face. Television ownership is more plural, with a state-affiliated channel, a Catholic university channel, and private broadcasters reaching national airwaves.

There were no government restrictions on the internet, which was accessed by 45 percent of the population in 2010. A so-called net neutrality law was approved in Chile in July, and went into effect in August. The law—the world’s first to mandate net neutrality—forbids internet service providers from restricting or interfering with content or access to content by users.

China

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 29

Political Environment: 34

Economic Environment: 22

Total Score: 85

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	83,NF	84,NF	84,NF	85,NF	84,NF

China’s media environment remained one of the world’s most restrictive in 2010. The Chinese authorities kept a tight grip on traditional and online media coverage of a range of politically sensitive topics. In 2010, that included stifling independent reporting and writing about the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to jailed Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo in December. Liu was one of dozens of activists, dissidents, and journalists who remained in jail for their writing at year’s end. Minority-language journalists were at particular risk. A fresh series of arrests targeted Tibetan and Uighur reporters and editors, who were accused of threatening the state or promoting a separatist cause. However, despite the threats, domestic journalists continued to push the limits of permissible expression, lobbying for expanded rights and freedom from physical attack.

Article 35 of the constitution guarantees freedom of speech, assembly, association, and publication. However, such provisions are subordinated to the national interest as defined by the

courts, and the constitution cannot be invoked in court as a legal basis for asserting individual rights. Judges are appointed by and generally follow the directives of the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP), particularly in politically sensitive cases. There is no press law that governs the protection of journalists or punishment of those who attack them. Instead, vague provisions in the criminal code and state-secrets legislation are routinely used to imprison journalists and other citizens for the peaceful expression of views that the CCP considers objectionable. In April, the state-secrets law was revised. But instead of narrowing the definition of what is off-limits, the law extended responsibility to internet and telecom firms to monitor “secret” content. Journalists and their sources remained at risk. An open-government ordinance went into effect in 2008, and was hailed by some observers as an advance for freedom of information. But journalists have had limited success in using it, according to Hong Kong University’s China Media Project, due to an official culture of secrecy and a lack of legal recourse. Journalists and other media workers are required to possess government-issued press cards in order to be considered legitimate journalists, and must pass annual political tests in order to maintain their registration. Those who violate content restrictions risk having their press-card renewals delayed or rejected, being blacklisted altogether, or facing criminal charges.

The CCP maintains direct control over news media coverage through its Central Propaganda Department (CPD). This is reinforced by an elaborate system of vaguely worded regulations and laws. Taboo topics include calls for greater autonomy in Tibet and Xinjiang, relations with Taiwan, the Falun Gong spiritual group, and any criticism of CCP leaders. In addition, the CPD and provincial censors issue secret directives restricting coverage of breaking news as well as broad areas of content. Reporting on the WikiLeaks disclosures was forbidden, according to international news reports, and the site itself was blocked. And local propaganda departments issued directives on topics as apparently neutral as car crashes and as personally damning as the online diary posted by a Guangzhou propaganda official’s mistress, according to Berkeley-based *China Digital Times*. Topics of particular sensitivity are limited strictly to coverage provided by the official Xinhua News Agency.

In October, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that imprisoned Chinese democracy advocate Liu Xiaobo would be awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for his “long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.” Liu has been jailed since 2008, and is serving an 11-year sentence on charges of “inciting subversion of state power.” The lead author of the prodemocracy manifesto Charter 08, he has also been a frequent critic of Communist rule in China. In advance of the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, news outlets were instructed not to report on, broadcast excerpts from, or post links about the event, or to publish Liu’s writings. The award highlighted China’s regime of censorship, and internationally, Beijing reacted with anger, denouncing the decision and calling Liu a “criminal.” Although news was suppressed within China, in some corners of the country, a debate simmered and occasionally rose to the surface. Just days after the committee made its October announcement, 23 pro-reform CCP elders submitted an open letter to the National People’s Congress. The letter—which was dated before the announcement and made no mention of Liu—called for an end to media control and a full realization of the press freedom guarantees of the Chinese constitution. In the days running up to the event, Chinese lawyers, activists, and writers supportive of Liu faced harassment, blocks in internet and cell phone use, and detention, according to the Hong Kong-based Chinese group Human Rights Defenders.

CCP leaders use control of the media to propagate positive views of the party and government, while vilifying those deemed to be their enemies. During 2010, the authorities also

continued to employ more subtle means to “guide” news coverage. This included proactively setting the agenda by allowing key state-run outlets to cover ostensibly negative news in a timely but selective manner, then requiring that other media and internet portals restrict their reporting to the established narrative. The aim is to preempt less favorable coverage by bloggers, foreign journalists, and more aggressive commercial news outlets. Journalists who attempted to investigate or report on controversial issues, criticized the CCP, or presented a perspective that conflicted with state propaganda directives faced the risk of harassment, job loss, and abuse. Bao Yueyang, the party-appointed editor and publisher of the *China Economic Times*, was removed from his post in May after the newspaper ran an investigative report by well-known investigative journalist Wang Keqin, according to international news reports. The report alleged that health officials in Shanxi province had mishandled vaccines that were given to children, resulting in four deaths.

Those who cross the party-determined lines can also face arrest. According to international media freedom watchdogs, at least 30 journalists were in prison at the end of 2010. The estimate is likely to be low, given the difficulty of collecting accurate information. Several of the year’s imprisonments highlighted the sensitivity of writing about protests against Han Chinese rule in Xinjiang and Tibet. Those imprisoned included Gheyret Niyaz, a former newspaper journalist and the administrator of a website called Uighur Online. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison in July on charges that he endangered state security. Charges stemmed from an interview he gave to a Hong Kong magazine in which he criticized official handling of July 2009 protests in Urumqi that turned violent. Three Tibetan writers, Jangtse Donkho, Buddha and Kalsang Jinpa, were sentenced in December to jail terms of between three and four years on charges that they incited separatism. The three had written about the Tibetan protests of 2008 in a small, locally distributed journal called *Shar Dungri (Eastern Snow Mountain)*, according to Radio Free Asia.

Several high-profile cases of violence against reporters highlighted a growing area of concern. Late in the year, *Northern Xinjiang Morning Post* reporter Sun Hongjie died after he was beaten by six men at a construction site. Authorities in Xinjiang said the assault was unrelated to his journalism. However, his colleagues were skeptical, saying Sun’s investigative reporting may have made him a target, according to international news reports and global watchdogs. Over the summer, science writer Fang Shimin used his Sina microblog account to draw attention to a brutal attack on a collaborator, science reporter Fang Xuanchang. Months later, he too was attacked. But public attention to the violence may have spurred police action; four suspects were arrested in September. In a special report, the New York–based Committee to Protect Journalists said the incident was part of a growing trend of press freedom advocacy in China. The organization found that Chinese journalists are increasingly coming to the defense of their colleagues and advocating their right to report the news without fear of retribution.

But Chinese authorities ceded little ground at home, while investing considerably in media platforms designed to disseminate state-sanctioned messages beyond national borders. Officials lashed out at countries that sought to honor the year’s Nobel Peace Prize awardee. State-run Xinhua News Agency launched an English-language news channel to broadcast internationally, and the official *China Daily* expanded its overseas operations. At the same time, foreign media companies operating in China found themselves under attack. Conditions for foreign journalists remained severely restricted and fell short of international standards. Since 2007, foreign journalists have been free of travel restrictions in most areas and allowed to conduct interviews with private individuals without prior government consent. However, the

looser rules do not apply to correspondents from Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan, and travel to Tibet and other politically sensitive regions still requires prior approval and close supervision by authorities.

Media outlets are abundant in China, but the reforms of recent decades have allowed the commercialization of outlets without the privatization of ownership. Most cities have their own newspaper published by the local government or party branch, as well as more commercialized subsidiaries whose revenue comes from advertisements rather than government subsidies. Some observers argue that the commercialization of the market has shifted the media's loyalty from the party to the consumer, leading to tabloid-style and sometimes more daring reporting. Others note that reforms have opened the door for economic incentives to reinforce political pressure and self-censorship, as publications fear the financial costs of being shut down by the authorities as well as a loss of advertising revenue should they run afoul of powerful societal actors.

The prevailing salary arrangements generally pay journalists only after their stories are published or broadcast. When a journalist writes an article that is considered too controversial, payment is withheld, and in some cases the journalist must pay for the cost of news gathering out of his own pocket. A small number of elite media outlets combat such deterrents to aggressive reporting by paying journalists even for reports that are subjected to censorship. This has resulted in a few outlets championing popular causes and printing embarrassing exposures of official malfeasance, though media personnel who engage in such journalism can be fired or arrested. Corruption among Chinese journalists continued in 2010, and payments from public relations firms to journalists for attending press conferences remained a common phenomenon.

China is home to the largest number of internet users globally, with the figure reaching 450 million, approximately 34 percent of the population. The government has long employed an extensive surveillance and filtering system to prevent Chinese users from accessing material that is considered obscene, harmful to national unity, or politically subversive. Efforts to censor and control internet content have intensified markedly in recent years. However, owing to technological advancements and the efforts of domestic and overseas activists, the suppression of information has become more difficult in recent years. Despite the authorities' multilayered apparatus for controlling online content, the sheer volume of internet traffic and the speed with which information can spread has created some opportunities for exposure of local corruption and open political discussions, so long as taboo keywords are avoided. A growing number of Chinese also use proxy servers to circumvent internet restrictions and receive illegal satellite transmissions. As some journalists and media outlets push the limits of permissible coverage, reporting by local commercial outlets is amplified via the internet, giving their stories a wider audience. Restrictions on the flow of information are tighter in the ethnic minority areas of Tibet and Xinjiang than in the rest of the country. In Xinjiang, a near-complete internet blackout, instituted in the wake of violent riots in 2009, was not lifted until May. International telephone services and text messaging were also restored that month.

In addition to technical filtering, the Chinese authorities require private companies running a wide variety of websites to censor the content they host in accordance with official directives; firms that do not comply with official requests to remove content risk losing their business licenses or having their website shut down. Foreign internet companies have also cooperated with the Chinese government on censorship enforcement. Google's announcement in January that it was no longer willing to censor its search results led to a face-off with authorities over whether it could continue to operate in the country. Google said its decision had stemmed in part from a discovery that a sophisticated cyberattack had been launched at its system, apparently

aimed at infiltrating the accounts of human rights activists. In March, at least a dozen journalists and activists found that their Yahoo e-mail accounts had also been compromised. The authorities, going beyond the blocking of content, have taken steps in recent years to actively guide online discussion. Since 2005, the government has recruited and trained an army of web commentators, known as the Fifty Cent Party, to post progovernment remarks. Some estimates place their number at over 200,000.

Colombia

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 12

Political Environment: 28

Economic Environment: 16

Total Score: 56

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	61,NF	57,PF	59,PF	59,PF	60,PF

Press freedom is guaranteed by Colombia's 1991 constitution, and 2010 saw significant progress in combating impunity, including notable legal decisions in the murders of at least 4 journalists and the reactivation of 14 additional media-related probes. However, attacks and threats against reporters continued, primarily in provincial areas, while instances of terrorism involving journalists and broadcast stations also resurged in 2010.

Significant judicial developments included the dismissals of criminal defamation cases against three prominent journalists: Alfredo Molano and Alejandro Santos of the magazine *Semana*, and columnist Mauricio Vargas. Yet, a new criminal libel proceeding was launched against columnist Claudia López for accusing former president Ernesto Samper Pizano of murder and influence peddling. Additionally, the Congress debated several press freedom-related measures in 2010, including a proposed bill establishing sanctions for media violations of the rights and responsibilities contained in the Code of Children and Adolescents, and another regulating media on the publication of election news and opinion polls. This bill would include recurrent decrees banning reports on voter harassment and other irregularities during election day unless confirmed by an official source. Legislative actions regarded as positive by news media organizations included a bill requiring licenses for newspaper vendors, and a Habeas Data bill limiting access to personal information for all purposes, including journalistic reports and editorials. A proposed bill obliging all media to give substantial price reductions for electoral advertising was limited to cover electronic media only.

Major improvements were made in the fight against impunity. The General Prosecution Office reclassified the unsolved murder of Guillermo Cano Isaza in 1986 as a crime against humanity. The same office also issued an arrest warrant without bail against José Miguel Narváez, former deputy director of the Colombian security agency DAS, for the suspected murder of reputable journalist and humorist Jaime Garzón in 1999. A regional prosecution branch also charged former congressman Dixon Tapasco Triviño and his father, Ferney Tapasco González, with the 2002 murder of journalist Orlando Sierra, the assistant director of the daily *La Patria* in Manizales department of Caldas. Both individuals were bound in this criminal

proceeding as the intellectual masterminds behind the murder, while Óscar Alonso López Escobar, a member of Tapasco González's security circle, was charged as an accessory, an intermediary between the Tapascos and the paid *sicarios* (assassin). A local criminal court in the southern town of Florencia delivered a 40-year sentence against Esneider Mayorga Corrales, mayor of Curillo, for the murder of journalist Hernando Salas Rojas in 2009. Mayorga was convicted as intellectual author of the crime, while Elber Parra Cuéllar, his paid murderer, pulled the trigger, using the former's automatic pistol. Parra Cuéllar received a 42-year prison term for his crime. In total, 27 criminal inquiries for murdering journalists were reopened in 2010, with 14 of them yielding important results.

Arrests and formal inquiries have also been conducted in connection to illegal spying on journalists, justices, opposition leaders, and human rights workers by top officials in the government of former president Álvaro Uribe Vélez. Former legal secretary of the presidency, Bernardo Moreno, was fired and banned from holding public office for 18 years because of his role in a scandal over secret telephone, e-mail, and other interceptions, while a number of former DAS directors were sanctioned in similar fashion. Current president Juan Manuel Santos, who took office on August 7, admitted that 170 reporters are now under government protection and promised that Colombia would be a true democracy where fundamental liberties—including freedom of expression—are guaranteed. Investigations on the illegal spying continued under his administration.

Despite progress in solving past murders, Colombia remained a dangerous environment for journalists, with several members of the media killed in 2010. Clodomiro Castilla Ospina, owner and director of the magazine *El Pulso del Tiempo* and reporter for *La Voz de Montería* in the northwestern department of Córdoba, was killed in March. He had been under government protection after publishing reports linking government officials with illegal parliamentary groups. Rodolfo Maya Aricape, a journalist and leader of the local indigenous community in rural Caloto, was also murdered, although it remains to be determined whether he was murdered because of his reporting activity or because of his political activism. Additional cases of suspected murder remained unclear.

Many journalists were also harassed or endangered during the year. For example, in August 2010, Marco Tulio Valencia of the *El Norte* newspaper in Mariquita, Tolima department, avoided five gun shots when walking home. This journalist, who had been threatened before, believes the murder attempt was connected to his reports on local operations of drug gangs. Terrorism continues to be a problem in Colombia, and it affects press freedom. Colombian attorney general Guillermo Mendoza confirmed that a bomb that exploded outside the building of Caracol Radio in Bogota was aimed at the station. The explosion injured nine people within a week of Santos's inauguration. Two more terrorist attacks with explosives took place against the Puerto Wilches community radio station in Meta department and Linda Estéreo, a Caracol Radio affiliate in Doncello. Reporters in community media appear at an increasing risk in rural areas, often forced to rely on self-censorship to protect their lives.

Media ownership is highly concentrated among groups of private investors, and television is the dominant news medium. Independent and privately owned print and broadcast media are generally free to express a variety of opinions and cover sensitive issues without official restrictions, and all print media in Colombia are privately owned. The government operates one educational and two commercial television stations, along with a national radio network. There are hundreds of community radio stations in Colombia, although they sometimes receive pressure from the government and armed groups. There is a widespread perception that

journalists accept bribes in exchange for biased coverage. Local media depend heavily on advertising by provincial and municipal government agencies to stay in business. These low salaries create financial dependence, which allows for an incentive for collusion among media owners, journalists, and officials. This concept, in turn, affects editorial views and news coverage.

There were no official government restrictions on access to the internet, although there were instances of secret tapping of the e-mail accounts of critical journalists, independent judges, and opposition leaders. The internet was accessed by 36.5 percent of the Colombian population in 2010. A multimedia journalism program called Promotores para el Desarrollo (PpD), which includes participants from rural communities, has been initiated in the departments of Sucre and Magdalena.

Comoros

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 14

Political Environment: 19

Economic Environment: 15

Total: 48

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	47,PF	48,PF	54,PF	50,PF	50,PF

Although the freedoms of speech and of the press are protected by the 2001 constitution, the Comoran government partially restricts these freedoms. In practice, journalists are subject to harassment and harsh defamation laws, and self-censorship is reportedly widespread. The authorities have in past years arrested journalists, seized newspapers, and silenced broadcast outlets for reports that were found to be objectionable, although these practices are less common under the current administration. It is yet to be seen how a referendum on constitutional changes—which passed with 93.9 percent of the vote in May 2009—will impact freedom of the press. The reforms, which extend the term of President Ahmed Abdallah Sambi until 2011, also empower him to dissolve the federal parliament and rule by decree with parliament’s approval.

On semiautonomous Anjouan island, under the renegade regime of Colonel Mohamed Bacar, press freedom was curtailed and several reporters were harassed and detained in the year before his removal by an African Union military force in March 2008. No progress was made in either the 2007 arrest and beating of four journalists by Anjouan policemen, or the detention of radio reporter Elarifou Minihadji of the Comoran Foundation for Human Rights. Since the removal of Bacar, all journalists in detention have been released, and there have been no reports of media harassment on the island. In the past, the media environment has varied considerably among the union’s three islands, with slightly greater levels of freedom on Grand Comore and Moheli and greater levels of repression on Anjouan.

Comoros has six independent newspapers and one state-owned weekly, *Al-Watwan*. In addition to the state-owned Radio Comoros and Television Nationale Comorienne, several other regional and private stations have proliferated in recent years and are funded predominantly by donations from locals as well as from citizens living abroad. The Anjouan regional government

operates its own stations under Radio-Television Anjouanaise (RTA), and public radio from the French island of Mayotte is popular. Although the internet is available and unrestricted by the government, poverty, illiteracy, and a poor telecommunications infrastructure limited access to 5.1 percent of the population in 2010.

Congo, Democratic Republic of (Kinshasa)

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 25

Political Environment: 32

Economic Environment: 24

Total Score: 81

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	81,NF	80,NF	81,NF	81,NF	81,NF

The laws of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the country's 2005 constitution provide for freedom of speech, information, and the press, but these rights are limited in practice by President Joseph Kabila's government and various nonstate actors. Officials have used an array of regulations and laws to restrict free speech and suppress political criticism, including bringing criminal charges against journalists and shutting down broadcast operations. Several journalists were charged under DRC's repressive criminal defamation laws. In July 2010, the editor of *Le Monitor*, Pascale Mulunda, was arrested and accused of libel. After three weeks, he was released on bail but placed on probation, and his case remained pending at year's end. In November, the publisher of *Africa News*, Achille Kadima Mulamba, was sentenced to eight months in prison in connection with a story alleging embezzlement of public funds. He was free on appeal at year's end. Journalists were also subject to a range of vague anti-state charges. Beginning in April, Jullson Eninga of the Kinshasa newspaper *Le Journal* spent five months in prison while on trial for treason after he published a communiqué by a militia group. Eninga was eventually acquitted and released. Local media outlets are also subject to regulation by the High Authority on Media (HAM). The agency's mandate is to ensure freedom of expression, but it has the power to temporarily suspend outlets for hate speech and other serious ethical transgressions, and its decisions have at times been criticized as politically biased. In October 2009, the National Assembly passed a bill establishing yet another regulatory agency, the High Council for Broadcasting. Press freedom groups have expressed concerns about the transparency of the selection process for council members; however, the council was not established at year's end.

The trend of attacks and harassment that journalists have faced in the past continued in 2010. In September, 31 local and international press freedom groups wrote a letter to Kabila reporting "an increase in deliberate attacks on journalists and media in the past two months, attacks that could foreshadow even greater repression" in the run-up to presidential and legislative elections scheduled for November 2011. In June, one of Congo's most senior and prominent human rights activists, Floribert Chebeya, was murdered in Kinshasa, compounding fears over freedom of expression. Government officials and security agents throughout the country frequently harass critical journalists and media outlets, often via the national intelligence agency, known as the ANR. About 17 local journalists spent at least 48 hours in jail in 2010,

some without charge, according to the Congolese press freedom group Journaliste en Danger (JED). One reporter, Tumba Lumembu of the newspaper *Tempête des Tropiques*, was held incommunicado in ANR custody for two weeks in September before being formally accused of “insulting the head of state.” He was then transferred to prison and finally exonerated in November.

Nonstate actors, including armed groups, also subjected local journalists to threats and abuse. Journalists working in the east, where a two-year military offensive against foreign-origin armed groups is ongoing, were particularly vulnerable to threats and self-censorship. In April 2010, cameraman Patient Chebeya Bankome was murdered in Beni, North Kivu province, the fifth local journalist to be killed in the turbulent Kivus region since 2007. Three soldiers were quickly convicted of the murder, but JED called for the investigation to be reopened, arguing that the trial was rushed and that the facts behind the case had not been sufficiently established. In October, Congolese authorities allowed Radio France Internationale (RFI), a major source of news for many residents, to begin broadcasting again after being forced off the air in 2009. However, local radio stations remained subject to the whims of local authorities. For example, three radio stations connected to exiled former presidential candidate Jean-Pierre Bemba (currently on trial before the International Criminal Court) were shuttered for three days in July. In September, rural community radio station Radio Bandundu FM was shuttered for a month on the orders of a provincial governor after he was criticized by a talk show guest.

The population of DRC largely relies on radio broadcasts for the news due to high rates of illiteracy and the relatively high costs of newspapers and television. Many private newspapers are nonetheless published, particularly in Kinshasa, and although they are not always objective, they are often highly critical of the government. Private newspapers must pay a license fee of 250,000 Congolese francs (\$280) and meet other administrative requirements before operating. There are several hundred privately owned radio and television stations, in addition to three state-owned radio stations and a state-owned television station. The state broadcasters reportedly favor Kabila’s party, though other political parties represented in the government are occasionally granted access. The UN peacekeeping mission in DRC, known as MONUC, operates the only nationwide independent radio network, Radio Okapi, which has set new standards for reporting and media objectivity in a volatile political scene. Many media outlets are reportedly owned by public figures and businessmen, and are used for political propaganda rather than objective reporting. Journalists at major outlets are usually poorly paid and lack sufficient training, leaving them vulnerable to bribery and political manipulation. While internet access has spread in urban areas thanks to the proliferation of private internet cafes, only 0.72 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. The government does not engage in internet censorship.

Congo, Republic of (Brazzaville)

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 16

Political Environment: 21

Economic Environment: 17

Total Score: 54

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	51,PF	51,PF	51,PF	53,PF	54,PF

There was little change in the press freedom environment in the Republic of Congo in 2010, although fewer infringements were reported than in the election year of 2009. The constitution and the law recognize freedom of the press, but certain types of speech, such as incitement of violence or ethnic hatred, are criminalized and carry monetary penalties. The law provides for revoking the accreditations of journalists at government and foreign-owned media outlets if their reporting reflects adversely on the government's image, although there have been no reports of such revocations in recent years. In May 2010, the High Council on Freedom of Communication issued new censorship orders, which resulted in the suspension of the weeklies *Le Trottoir* and *Le Choc* for two months and three months, respectively. The broadcaster Forum TV and Radio also was suspended for its critical commentary of the government.

The government under President Denis Sassou-Nguesso has a long history of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary imprisonment, abuse of detainees, official impunity, and restrictions on freedom of the press and freedom of association. In 2009, journalist and activist Bruno Jacquet Ossébi died of injuries sustained in a house fire that killed his companion and her two children. Ossébi had recently reported on corruption in the management of Congo's oil wealth. The Brazzaville fire service identified the cause as a short circuit, although in a subsequent interview with the Committee to Protect Journalists, the commander of the Brazzaville fire rescue center admitted that the finding was not based on a forensic investigation. The fire coincided with a similar fire at the house of exiled dissident Benjamin Toungamani in France. Toungamani and Ossébi had been planning to join an international lawsuit against Sassou-Nguesso. Ossébi's death was ruled an accident, and no further developments in the case have subsequently come to light. There were several other reports of harassment of journalists around the time of the July 2009 presidential elections, but no similar incidents were reported in 2010.

Most Congolese get their news from television and radio. There are five television stations in Congo: state-run Télé-Congo expresses the government's views, two private channels are owned by relatives of Sassou-Nguesso, one private channel is owned by Army General Norbert Dabira, and the remaining private channel is named for the president's older brother. However, there have been reports that some private channels have been more critical of the government in recent years. Of the country's six radio stations, three are government-owned and the remaining three are private but exhibit a progovernment bias. Print media are more independent and critical, occasionally publishing letters from opposition leaders, but are heavily concentrated in Brazzaville and do not reach far into rural parts of the country. The internet and satellite TV are unrestricted but not widely used, with only 5 percent of population having access to the internet in 2010.

Costa Rica

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 5

Political Environment: 7

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 18

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	18,F	20,F	19,F	19,F	19,F

Costa Rica's constitution guarantees press freedom and this right is generally upheld; however, punitive press laws, particularly concerning defamation, are occasionally used to restrict the operations of the media. In February 2010, the Supreme Court struck down prison terms for defamation in a landmark decision. The court issued the ruling in a case against José Luis Jiménez Robleto, a reporter with the San José-based daily *Diario Extra*, who had been charged with defamation after publishing a news story on alleged embezzlement. Robleto was sentenced in March 2004 to 50 days in prison based on the anachronistic 1902 press law. His conviction was overturned by the Supreme Court. In 2004, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights had overturned the 1999 conviction of a Costa Rican journalist for criminal defamation, ruling that Costa Rica needed to amend its outdated criminal defamation laws, which are incompatible with international human rights standards. Despite calls for reform of defamation laws and the positive decision in Robleto's case, journalists are still vulnerable to criminal charges for defamation. In addition, the current constitution reserves readers the right of reply to newspapers in response to information that the readers deem inexact or egregious. During the year, congress reviewed a proposed reform that would expand the scope of the right of reply from information to opinions as well. The Inter American Press Association has expressed concerns that this initiative could limit press freedom and expression.

Journalists are not often victims of physical threats or violence in Costa Rica. There were no reports of attacks or harassments against journalists in the year. Challenges to a free media environment tend to stem from the courts, though the majority of recent legal decisions have represented gains for press freedom.

Costa Rica has a vibrant media scene, with numerous public and privately owned newspapers, television outlets, and radio stations. Private media ownership is highly concentrated, however, and tends to be conservative. The press is relatively free to cover sensitive political and social issues, and to openly criticize the government. Radio is the most popular outlet for news dissemination. There are nine major newspapers, and cable television is also widely available. New online news organizations have become very popular. The internet served as an additional source of unrestricted information and was accessed by more than 36.5 percent of the population in 2010.

Côte d'Ivoire**Status: Not Free****Legal Environment: 21****Political Environment: 28****Economic Environment: 19****Total Score: 68**

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	65,NF	68,NF	66,NF	67,NF	66,NF

Since the onset of civil conflict in 2002, press freedom has generally not been respected in Côte d'Ivoire, despite constitutional protections. While gradual improvements had been seen over the past few years with a reduction in the number of attacks on the media and a tentative opening of the independent media space, the situation noticeably deteriorated following the second round of the much-awaited, and frequently delayed, presidential election in November 2010.

While imprisonment for defamation was abolished in November 2004, defaming the head of state or other state institutions is still punishable by fines of up to 20 million CFA (\$44,000), and journalists can, and have, been imprisoned for this as well as a variety of other offenses. For example, in July 2010 three journalists at *Le Nouveau Courrier* were arrested and held in pre-trial detention after they refused to reveal their sources for a story on corruption in the cocoa and coffee sectors. While in the end the court was legally unable to sentence them to prison for the offense, it suspended the paper for 15 days and fined each individual journalist 4.6 million CFA (\$10,000).

According to an in-depth report from Reporters Without Borders on the quality of presidential election coverage in Côte d'Ivoire, Ivorian media outlets on the whole performed fairly well in their coverage leading up to the first round in October 2010 and the second round in November. During the first round, the media devoted more than three times as much coverage to President Laurent Gbagbo compared with his next-closest rival, Alassane Ouattara, but in the second round the two candidates received roughly equal and generally even-handed coverage. However, national regulations prevented radio stations from providing political commentary, and on October 13 the National Audiovisual Communication Council (CNCA) prohibited radio stations from covering political activities during the campaign.

While the lead-up to the polls was relatively peaceful despite the tensions created by such a highly anticipated election and increasingly xenophobic campaign rhetoric, the subsequent behavior of Gbagbo's administration dispelled any hope that the media environment in Côte d'Ivoire might be improving. As soon as the electoral commission announced that Ouattara had won, the Constitutional Council, filled with Gbagbo loyalists, rejected the announcement, and Gbagbo supporters began harassing, attacking, and unlawfully detaining journalists, both domestic and international, who acknowledged Ouattara's internationally recognized victory. Despite the escalation of the situation—which was not resolved by year's end—no journalists were killed in 2010. An exception to the crackdown by the Gbagbo administration on the media was the behavior of Eugène Dié Kacou, president of the Ivoirian National Press Council (NPC) and himself a former journalist. Dié Kacou showed remarkable resilience in the face of government pressure, refusing to use the council, which regulates the print media, to forcibly close pro-Ouattara media outlets. After the Republican Guard raided a publishing house and two printing presses in December, temporarily stopping distribution of opposition papers, the NPC issued a strongly worded press release condemning the raids and supporting media freedom.

While the international media—and French outlets in particular—have long had difficulty operating in Côte d'Ivoire, they were directly targeted in 2010 both before and after the election. In February, when Gbagbo took the extraordinary step of disbanding both his cabinet and the electoral commission due to disagreement with their preparations for the upcoming election, the French television station France 24 was banned for more than a week when it tried to cover the ensuing protests. More drastically, after the second round of the election in November, the National Broadcasting Council banned the broadcasts of all international radio and television news programs, and by the end of December more than a dozen foreign journalists had been

arrested and many others had been directly and violently targeted by pro-Gbagbo militia groups. Although it was also threatened for its acknowledgement of Ouattara’s victory, the UN radio station in the country was still able to broadcast in the country at year’s end.

The government-controlled daily newspaper *Fraternite Matin* had the largest circulation among print media and rarely criticized the government, but a number of private papers competed with it and contained more critical coverage. Control over Radiodiffusion Television Ivoirienne (RTI)—the state broadcaster and the only terrestrial television station in operation in the country—was a major focus of both camps following the election, with RTI employees being threatened if they did not support Gbagbo’s victory in their coverage. In response, the Ouattara camp launched its own radio station, Radio Côte d’Ivoire–Voice of the Assembly, broadcasting political statements, pro-Ouattara coverage, and music 24 hours a day from the Abidjan hotel where Ouattara was sequestered. By the end of December, control of RTI was of such importance that pro-Ouattara supporters marched on its headquarters in an attempt to gain control of the facility, which they believed belonged to Ouattara after his electoral victory. The ensuing violence resulted in at least 30 deaths. While RTI is the only national terrestrial television station, there are more than 100 low-power noncommercial community radio stations operating throughout Côte d’Ivoire, though many have logistical difficulties broadcasting at the end of the year and their content is restricted by broadcasting regulations that prohibit political commentary on such stations.

The internet was not restricted by the government, even following the election. However, due to poverty and infrastructural limitations, less than 2.6 percent of the population was able to access the internet in 2010. However, from October 31 through the end of the year, the government suspended all SMS messaging services, limiting people’s ability to send and receive news through this medium during a crucial political period.

Croatia

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 9

Political Environment: 17

Economic Environment: 15

Total Score: 41

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	39,PF	37,PF	36,PF	38,PF	40,PF

Croatia is currently in the process of accession to the European Union (EU), which has exerted some pressure on the government to fight corruption and provide the conditions for independent media. As amended in June 2010, the Croatian constitution recognizes the right to information as well as freedom of the press. Despite this, the state has often tolerated harassment of journalists and used legal action as a weapon against media outlets. Defamation is a criminal offense, but the crime is only punishable by a fine. Hate speech, however, is a punishable offense that carries a maximum prison sentence of five years. Interior Minister Tomislav Karamarko’s ongoing campaign of legal harassment against journalist Zeljko Peratovic continued in 2010. In 2009, Karamarko had made several complaints against Peratovic for “disseminating information likely

to upset the population”; Peratovic was questioned by the police and the investigative judge, and in November 2010, the Zagreb prosecutor’s office opened criminal proceedings against him for violating the confidentiality of Karamarko’s original investigation. The state social services have also opened investigations against Peratovic on charges of pedophilia, which was dropped when no evidence could be found, and for neglecting to take proper care of his daughter, which was ongoing at the end of the year. Several other journalists faced legal harassment due to their work.

Broadcasting licenses are handled by the Croatian Telecommunications Agency, which has been criticized by media analysts for its lack of both transparency and independence from political control. The Croatian Journalists’ Association, of which more than 90 percent of journalists in the country are members, has a code of ethics to which the majority of journalists adhere and that reviews complaints from individuals and institutions.

Despite the country’s Access to Information Act, journalists find it difficult to request and acquire information, including information open to the public domain, from the government. New amendments to the act expanding the definition of classified information raise further concerns about restrictions to information. In April 2010, Zagreb police searched the home of Marko Rakar and interrogated him after Rakar published a leaked list of registered war veterans on his blog. According to Human Rights Watch, “the government had resisted efforts to release the list, which civil society activists believe contains people fraudulently receiving pensions as war veterans.” Starting in September, the government attempted to block the newspaper *Jutarnji List*’s publication of reports by two investigative journalists, Sergej Trajkovic and Tomislav Kukec, on commercial abuses and lack of government oversight in the meat industry. SCOOP, a network of investigative journalists within the region, reported that several journalists were fired during the year because they were investigating corruption in the public sector.

Reporters also sometimes face extralegal intimidation and attacks as a result of their work or when attempting to cover the news. In August 2010, a reporter and journalist for national radio and television station HRT were accosted, threatened, and stoned by participants during a nationalist celebration they were covering. The attack on Ivonu Ramadzu and Kresimira Morica occurred in Čavoglave during the fifteenth anniversary of a Croatian victory during the Yugoslav Wars, at which the mayor of Zagreb was reportedly present and did nothing. The police eventually arrived but made no arrests, although more than 20 people reportedly participated in the hour-long incident. In October, staff members of Croatian weekly *Novosti* received death threats, in response to one of *Novosti*’s cover articles about the collision and crash of two Croatian military aircraft. However, some progress was made in 2010 regarding past cases of harassment. In November, six persons were sentenced to prison for the murder of Ivo Pukanic, who had been killed by a car bomb in October 2008. In December, more than two years after journalist Dusan Miljus had been attacked in June 2008, four individuals were arrested and one charged with the attack on Miljus. Both Miljus and Pukanic were investigating corruption and organized crime.

The state-owned public broadcaster, HRT, is funded by advertising and a license fee. As in 2009, there were ongoing reports of political interference with the work of HRT journalists. In March 2010, the ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) party sent a letter of protest to HRT complaining that recent coverage of parliamentary question time included only questions and comments from opposition Social Democrat legislators, and no responses from government members. At the end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010, the head of HRT, Vanja Sutlic, and the chief editor of the news programming division, Hloverka Novak-Srzic, were dismissed by HRT’s program council after a petition signed by thousands of citizens accused the two of censorship

and violation of laws on freedom of expression. However, the following July the program council appointed Novak-Srzic acting programs director, over the protests of several members of the program council, who tendered their resignations. The program council was unable to find a replacement to take the helm of HRT, and at the end of the year it remained leaderless. HRT faced financial problems in 2010 that forced it to shut down its Belgrade bureau.

Other than HRT, there are dozens of private television and radio stations, both local and national, and cable and satellite access is common. German-owned Europa Press Holdings (EPH) and Austria's Styria control most of the print media market, which is in violation of the media law that states that no private owner should be allowed to control a market share of more than 40 percent. According to IREX, advertising revenue in 2010 continued to drop greatly, a pattern that has reoccurred in the past three years. The poor economic environment for media outlets and journalists' fear of being laid off have led to increased self-censorship. Many media outlets avoid discussion of government fiscal policy, because they fear there would be repercussions against their inability to pay tax and the threat of having to file for bankruptcy. The government did not restrict access to the internet, which was accessed by 60 percent of the population during the year.

Cuba

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 30

Political Environment: 34

Economic Environment: 28

Total Score: 92

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	96,NF	96,NF	94,NF	94,NF	93,NF

Cuba has the most restrictive laws on free speech and press freedom in the Americas. The constitution prohibits private ownership of media outlets and allows free speech and journalism only if they “conform to the aims of a socialist society.” Article 91 of the penal code imposes lengthy prison sentences or death for those who act against “the independence or the territorial integrity of the state,” and Law 88 for the Protection of Cuba's National Independence and Economy imposes up to 20 years in prison for committing acts “aimed at subverting the internal order of the nation and destroying its political, economic, and social system.” Cuba's legal and institutional structures are firmly under the control of the executive branch. Laws criminalizing “enemy propaganda” and the dissemination of “unauthorized news” are used to restrict freedom of speech under the guise of protecting state security. Insult laws carry penalties of three months to one year in prison, with sentences of up to three years if the president or members of the Council of State or National Assembly are the objects of criticism. The 1997 Law of National Dignity, which provides for prison sentences of 3 to 10 years for “anyone who, in a direct or indirect form, collaborates with the enemy's media,” is aimed at independent news agencies that send their material abroad.

In July 2010, the Cuban government promised the Spanish government, the Cuban Catholic Church, and the international community that within four months it would free the 52

prisoners, including 20 journalists and editors, still held since the 2003 crackdown on political dissent and independent journalism known as the “Black Spring.” By the end of the year, 17 journalists and editors and most of the other of the Black Spring detainees had been released. The Cuban authorities forced the released prisoners to leave the country in exchange for their freedom. They were immediately flown to Spain in a Cuban effort to marginalize opposition groups. Three journalists and several other dissidents involved in this case remained in prison at the end of the year, having refused the government’s offer of exile. While the release was a relief for journalists and their families after years of suffering, the gesture did not signal fundamental changes in freedom of expression for all Cubans, and the laws under which they were jailed remain in place. The U.S. government and some European leaders publicly stated that Cuba was moving in the right direction by releasing the prisoners, but the European Union (EU) decided to maintain its 1996 Common Position toward Cuba. The 27-nation bloc turned down Spain’s request to withdraw the doctrine, and continued to link improved European-Cuban relations to Havana’s progress on human rights and democratization.

Journalists continue to be at risk of imprisonment or other severe sanctions if they engage in independent reporting or commentary. In a different case, Alberto Santiago Du Bouchet of the independent news agency Habana Press remained in prison at the end of 2010. He had been given a three-year sentence imposed in May 2009 for disrespect and distributing enemy propaganda.

The government owns all traditional media except for a number of underground newsletters. It operates three national newspapers, four national television stations, six national radio stations, and one international radio station, in addition to numerous local print and broadcast outlets. All content is determined by the government, and there is no editorial independence. Cubans do not have the right to possess or distribute foreign publications, although some international papers are sold in tourist hotels. Private ownership of electronic media is also prohibited.

Approximately 15 percent of Cuba’s population accessed the internet in 2010, but in most cases, they were connected to the government intranet and not the internet proper. Many citizens have access only to a closely monitored Cuban intranet, consisting of an encyclopedia, email addresses ending in “.cu” used by universities and government officials, and a few government news websites such as that of the newspaper *Granma*. Outside of hotels, only a few privileged individuals have a special permit to access the international network of the World Wide Web. The regime threatens anyone connecting to the internet illegally with five years in prison, while the sentence for writing “counterrevolutionary” articles for foreign websites is 20 years. However, the authorities do not have the means to set up a systematic filtering system. This forces the government to count on several factors to restrict internet access: the exorbitant cost of connections—about US\$1.50 per hour from the points of access to the state-controlled intranet, US\$7 per hour from a hotel to access the international network (the average monthly salary is US\$20)—and infrastructural problems, particularly slow connections.

Despite these restrictions, there is a small but vibrant blogging community. Bloggers in Cuba have yet to be jailed for their work, but they often face harassment and intimidation. Independent Cuban blogger Laritza Diversent claimed that the trials that characterized the crackdown in 2003 have been replaced by extralegal harassment, including official summonses and arbitrary detentions, and social and cultural marginalization. Some, such as Yoani Sanchez, have also been prevented from travelling abroad to receive awards for their work.

Cyprus

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 5

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 8

Total Score: 22

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	22,F	22,F	22,F	22,F	22,F

Freedom of speech and expression are guaranteed under Article 19 of the constitution. These rights are generally respected on the Greek part of Cyprus, where the independent press is vibrant and frequently criticizes authorities. The Press Law of 1989 ensures freedom of the press through guaranteeing the circulation of newspapers, the right to not reveal sources, and access to official information. Because there is not a formal press council, journalists must use self regulation to deal with “complaints or noncompliance with journalistic standards.”

While there are some press freedom laws on the Turkish side of the island, authorities are hostile to the independent press, and journalists can be arrested, put on trial, and sentenced under the “unjust actions” section of the criminal code. Although Turkish Cypriots can legally enter the south, journalists based in the north are often denied access at the border and are occasionally harassed by border guards and nationalist groups. The Turkish-controlled zone has its own press and broadcasters, and news outlets in general mirror the island’s political division.

In the past, the Northern Cyprus government has frequently targeted independent newspapers. However, in January 2010, the chief executive officer of Dias Media Group was murdered in the southern capital, Nicosia. The alleged motive for the killing was revenge and a struggle to control Sigma TV, a member of one of the largest Cypriot media groups. The trial, after several delays, was ongoing at the end of the year.

Cypriots have access to Greek and Turkish broadcasts throughout the island. There are 7 daily newspapers and 31 weekly newspapers. There are also several monthly and other occasional publications; however, many daily newspapers are closely linked to political parties. In Northern Cyprus, there are several daily newspapers available, although mainland Turkish papers are generally preferred. The internet is not subject to any known government restrictions, and 53 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010.

[The numerical rating for Cyprus is based on conditions on the Greek side of the island]

Czech Republic

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 8

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 19

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	20,F	18,F	18,F	18,F	18,F

Freedom of the press is constitutionally guaranteed, though the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms prohibits speech that might infringe on national security, individual rights, public health, or morality, or that may evoke hatred based on race, ethnicity, or national origin. Libel remains a criminal offense, but prosecutions are rare. The Press Law provides a sound basis for independent journalism, and media protections have been bolstered by Constitutional Court and other institutional rulings. According to the Institute for the Protection of Journalists, members of the Czech Syndicate of Journalists—the largest professional organization of journalists in the country—are “often consulted on media matters by judges.”

No major media-related legislative changes were introduced until the final days of 2010, when an amendment was submitted to relax certain aspects of the controversial 2009 “muzzle law.” The law in question banned the publication of information gained from police wiretaps, as well as information about individuals involved in criminal acts (both victims and perpetrators). Violators of these terms were subject to exorbitant fines, and up to five years’ imprisonment. With the passage of the amendment, Czech media will resume the right to report information related to official corruption, and fines for violating the 2009 law will be reduced.

National print media consist of a variety of daily newspapers, weeklies, and magazines representing diverse points of view, although the economic crisis has perhaps increased the temptation to treat major advertisers favorably. Foreign corporations own a number of these publications, including most Czech dailies. Media-related legislation includes minimal ownership restrictions, and none on foreign ownership. Most electronic media outlets are also privately owned, and they generally convey diverse views without fear of government or partisan pressure. Media advocates have expressed concern that while public media are widely respected, their financial sustainability is being undermined by tighter control of public funds and increasing restrictions on advertising. Observers also point to declining depth and quality of reporting, with weak accountability among the tabloids in particular. The internet continues to develop rapidly, with 69 percent of the population enjoying regular and unrestricted access in 2010.

Denmark

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 2

Political Environment: 6

Economic Environment: 5

Total Score: 13

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	10,F	11,F	10,F	11,F	11,F

The aftermath of the cartoon crisis still affected Danish media in 2010, but press freedoms remained intact. Freedom of speech is protected in Section 77 of the constitution, and the

government generally respects these rights in practice. However, certain legal restrictions exist for libel, blasphemy, and racism. The fallout from the newspaper *Jyllands-Posten's* 2005 publication of cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad escalated in 2010. The 'bomb-in-turban' cartoonist, Kurt Westergaard, continued to receive protection by the authorities. On January 1 Somali national Mohamed Geele entered Westergaard's house and attempted to murder him with an axe. The attack failed, but concerns for the cartoonist's life remain.

In February, the major daily newspaper *Politiken* signed an agreement with Saudi lawyer Faisal Yamani, apologizing for republishing the Muhammad cartoons in 2008. The apology was widely criticized by the rest of the Danish press, which had republished the cartoons in 2008 in reaction to arrests after an apparent planned attempt on Westergaard's life. In March, Yamani threatened the collective Danish press with a libel suit in an unknown jurisdiction, but at year's end no legal proceedings were underway. In January 2010, a survey showed heightened self-censorship among Danish writers and artists, but the results of the survey were contested.

The private print media are vibrant, although many papers have clear political sympathies. The 2008 financial crisis led to severe revenue problems for the press, but as yet no major changes have taken place. Government subsidies and the VAT exemption are vital for the press, and state support is available for struggling newspapers. Danmarks Radio, the public broadcaster, operates two general interest television channels, a 24-hour news channel, and four national radio channels. TV2 is a privately run but government-owned television network. State-run television and radio broadcasting is financed by an annual license fee. Public service radio is dominant, but tightly regulated commercial, national, and local radio has some importance. Satellite and cable television are also available, as is a variety of internet-based news. The government does not restrict use of the internet, but some observers contended that a system designed to block child pornography mistakenly blocked other sites. In 2010, 89 percent of the population had access to the internet.

Djibouti

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 24

Political Environment: 26

Economic Environment: 23

Total Score: 73

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	69,NF	69,NF	72,NF	73,NF	73,NF

In 2010 the media environment remained restrictive, with almost complete government ownership of print and broadcast media, very low levels of internet access, severe limitations on free speech, and frequent harassment of journalists. Although Article 15 of the constitution affords the right to free expression, in practice the government imposes restrictions on the independent press. Free speech is limited by prohibitions on libel and distributing false information. The U.S. military presence in Djibouti creates additional pressures for self-censorship, as journalists are encouraged to refrain from reporting on soldiers' activities. Journalists generally avoid covering sensitive issues, including human rights, the army, the Assa

rebel group the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy, and relations with Ethiopia. The official media, which makes up almost all the media in the country, does not criticize the government and practices widespread self-censorship.

The domestic media sector is very limited. Because of high poverty levels, radio is the most popular news medium, as few Djiboutians can afford newspapers, televisions, or computers. The government owns the principal newspaper, *La Nation*, as well as Radio-Television Djibouti, which operates the national radio and television stations. Community radio, which has gained great popularity across Africa, is nonexistent, and Djibouti is one of the few countries in Africa without any independent newspapers (one periodical run by an opposition party still publishes). Although Djiboutian law technically permits all registered political parties to publish a newspaper, the opposition-oriented *Le Renouveau* newspaper was permanently closed by the authorities in 2007 on the grounds of libel, after it printed an article stating that a businessman had paid a bribe to the national bank governor, the president's brother-in-law. Printing facilities for mass media are government-owned, which creates obstacles for those publishing antigovernment news media. While there are no private radio stations within the country, a clandestine independent radio station operating from abroad, *La Voix de Djibouti*, started broadcasting in the country in January 2010. Foreign newspapers and magazines are sold freely in Djibouti, and foreign radio broadcasts are available from the British Broadcasting Corporation, Voice of America, and Radio France International, offering alternative sources of information to the public. The only internet service provider is owned by the government. Although there are no reports that the government monitors e-mail or internet activity, the Association for Respect of Human Rights in Djibouti claims that its site is regularly blocked. Less than 5 percent of the population was able to access the internet in 2010.

Dominica

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 5

Political Environment: 11

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 23

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	19,F	20,F	22,F	22,F	23,F

Dominican Republic

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 7

Political Environment: 20

Economic Environment: 13

Total Score: 40

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	19,F	20,F	22,F	22,F	23,F

Total Score, Status	37,PF	40,PF	39,PF	40,PF	39,PF
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The law guarantees freedom of the press, and the media is vibrant and diverse. The government generally respected press freedom in practice. The new constitution, proclaimed in January 2010, protects journalists' rights to keep sources confidential.

Defamation is a criminal offense punishable by fines and jail time. In June, Dominican Agrarian Institute (IAD) director Héctor Rodríguez Pimentel threatened to file defamation lawsuits against advertisers for investigative journalist Alicia Ortega's program on the television channel Noticias SIN. The program had previously linked Pimentel to cases of corruption. After strong media support for Ortega, Pimentel withdrew his threats against advertisers. A privately-owned television station, Canal 53, was forced off the air in March 2010 after the host of one of its programs called government officials "thieves" and "protectors of drug traffickers" on the air. The station, which had been broadcasting for more than 20 years, was also accused of illegally using two terrestrial broadcast frequencies by the Dominican Telecommunications Institute (INDOTEL), which is charged with regulating the media. INDOTEL claimed that Canal 53 could continue broadcasting by cable, but the station's owner said the authorities had confiscated its cable transmission equipment. Station owners filed a suit against INDOTEL, but the case remained unresolved at year's end. Other channels experienced interruptions in their broadcasting transmissions during the period prior to the May elections, possibly due to coverage that was critical of the government.

Attacks and intimidation against the press by both state and private actors are an occasional problem. In June 2010, the host of a television panel discussion show on a privately owned channel was shot in the neck and jaw as he arrived at work. He was hospitalized and lost some vision in his left eye, but his injuries were not fatal. The gunmen were not identified and the motive was unknown. In August 2008, a cameraman at a Santiago-based television station was shot and killed along with a friend. The cameraman, Normando García, had been receiving anonymous threats for several months and his car had been set on fire a few weeks prior to the murder. In 2010, businessman Jaime Flete García (no relation) was charged with hiring two hit men to kill Normando García, who had produced incriminating footage of Flete García assaulting a client in a dispute over money, and had testified against Flete García in court.

The Dominican Republic has several daily newspapers, more than 200 radio stations, and many terrestrial and cable television stations serving its population of a little over 10 million people. Ownership of many of these stations and the country's newspapers is concentrated in the hands of a few powerful individuals and companies. Self-censorship as a result of pressure from owners due to their political and economic interests is reportedly a concern. A leading investigative daily, *Clave*, closed in August 2010, after reportedly receiving threats. There are two state-owned television stations and one state-owned radio station. Approximately 40 percent of the population accessed the internet during the year. There are no reports of internet censorship, and there are several online news sources in English and Spanish.

East Timor

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 11

Political Environment: 11

Economic Environment: 13

Total Score: 35

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	39,F	42,PF	38,PF	37,PF	35,PF

The media environment in East Timor remained stable in 2010, largely owing to the implementation of a new penal code in 2009 that decriminalized defamation. Freedom of press and expression is protected under Articles 40 and 41 of the constitution. The controversy over five draft media laws proposed by the United Nations Development Program continued, as Timorese and regional press organizations argued that the proposed laws would place new restrictions on journalists. The London-based freedom of expression advocacy group, Article 19, noted a number of positive features in the laws, such as a provision giving the Media Council the power to mediate defamation cases. However, the council would also be given the authority to fine journalists and news organizations for violations that Article 19 called “vaguely defined.” Cases that could not be resolved by the Media Council would be sent to the courts.

A culture of deference and respect for hierarchy continues to pervade journalism in East Timor, and most news reported out of Dili, the capital, features verbatim accounts recorded during organized press conferences. While most public officials pay lip service to freedom of the press, not all are comfortable with its actual practice, and there is a sense among many—including some international advisors—that journalism should ideally be linked with the process of nation-building. However, journalists are able to cover the news freely, and there are few cases of reporters being harassed or attacked. In June 2010, several officers of the national police force beat Joao da Silva, a journalist from *Diario Nacional*, when he was taking pictures of the Government Palace. In August, José Belo received a threat against the *Tempo Semanal* newspaper, for which he is an editor. The threat was purported to be from the wife of a shareholder in Maubere Security, a Dili-based security company whose collapse the newspaper had covered in a high-profile article in 2009.

One weekly and three daily newspapers operate on a regular schedule in East Timor, and several more appear sporadically. Circulations are very small, and are hampered both by low purchasing power and a lack of distribution outside Dili. After the country gained independence in 2002, broadcast media outlets became dominated by public radio and television outlets, but community radio stations—many with international funding—also play an important role in the media landscape. According to a 2009 Southeast Asia Press Alliance fact-finding mission, there are more than 15 community radio stations across the country, along with 1 national and 3 commercial stations. There is one national and one private television station. However, technical difficulties limit the reach of many broadcast media outlets in the rural areas, leaving many without access to any media. The presence of internationally funded media-assistance organizations has had mixed effects on journalists in East Timor. These organizations have made significant financial contributions, thereby decreasing the importance of funding from the state and arguably increasing journalistic independence. At the same time, evidence suggests that their presence has contributed to what some Timorese journalists call a “project mentality,” in which news organizations become dependent on grants from nonstate actors and find it difficult to be independently sustainable. International media development organizations have had limited success in attempting to train a new generation of local journalists, but media work continues to

be poorly paid, and journalists with good language and writing skills can easily find work in other industries.

Internet access was limited to just 0.21 percent of the population in 2010 due to poverty and inadequate infrastructure. Nonetheless, the government does not censor websites or restrict users' access to diverse content.

Ecuador

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 17

Political Environment: 23

Economic Environment: 12

Total Score: 52

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	41,PF	41,PF	41,PF	44,PF	47,PF

Press freedom in Ecuador deteriorated sharply in 2010. An increasing culture of harassment against journalists has resulted in part from President Rafael Correa's open hostility to the media, and the country's two-year-old constitution contains worrisome provisions on freedom of expression. These provisions were not yet in force in 2010 because the legislature had yet to approve a communications law by year's end, but the proposed Organic Law of Communication, Freedom of Expression, and Access to Public Information, known as the Communications Bill, was widely expected to pass. The bill, which had been debated in Congress for more than a year, would introduce prior censorship by the state, stricter mandatory licensing of journalists, and obligatory registration for media outlets with a Communication and Information Board that would control editorial content. The bill would also weaken safeguards that guarantee the anonymity of sources.

During the year, President Rafael Correa engaged in regular harsh verbal diatribes against the press, which he has called "my greatest political enemy," "ignorant," "mediocre," "primitive," "corrupt," "bloodthirsty," and "deceitful." In reaction to criticism of his administration from journalists at Teleamazonas TV and Ecuavisa TV, Correa urged the public to take the news media to court for "human rights abuses." Correa also urged the National Assembly to consider the news media a "public entity" and to legislate accordingly. This would make all media outlets in the country subject to public scrutiny by the state, in clear defiance of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' interpretation of Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

Libel and defamation remain criminal offences punishable by up to three years in jail, and local press freedom organization Fundamedios noted dozens of instances of judicial harassment of journalists in 2010, a large number of which were initiated by public officials. For example, in January, *El Universo* reporter Peter Tavra Franco was sentenced to six months in prison with a \$3,000 fine because of defamation charges brought by a plaintiff, Mónica Carrera, who was wanted for human trafficking. Tavra, with the assistance of his newspaper, appealed the verdict, and the case was ongoing at the end of the year. In March, former *El Universo* columnist Emilio Palacio was sentenced to three years in prison and was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine as a

result of criminal defamation proceedings. At issue was a column Palacio had written titled “Camilo, the Bully,” about Camilo Semán, chairman of a state lending institution. The judge justified the severity of her sentence by saying that “the plaintiff is a public official.” Moreover, President Correa himself applauded the decision. In June, as a court was about to rule on Palacio’s appeal, Semán decided to withdraw the case. The same month, Tulio Muñoz Figueroa, owner of a television and radio station in the coastal city of Manta, was ordered to pay \$400,000 in fines for defamation of a former public official. The case stemmed from an interview in which Muñoz questioned the legitimacy of the public official’s actions. Two lower courts had previously acquitted Muñoz and called the charges “malicious and reckless.” The following month, television journalist Carlos Ochoa was indicted for criminal defamation charges in Quito by a public official. Meanwhile, journalist Freddy Aponte was sentenced to pay more than \$54,000 on top of another sentence of six months in prison from a different criminal defamation proceeding. The charges were brought by the former mayor of the town of Loja, José Bolívar Castillo. Journalists must have a university degree in journalism, be certified by the Ministry of Education, and join a professional association in order to legally practice their profession.

The regulatory framework was increasingly used to restrict media freedom. In December, radio station La Voz de la Esmeralda Oriental Canela, known for its criticism of local officials, was finally shut down after the National Telecommunications Council (CONATEL) denied the renewal of its license in September based on “bogus administrative violations,” according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). Station owner Wilson Cabrera alleged that the refusal was triggered by pressure from a local legislator the station had criticized. However, in March, an administrative court ruled for independent television network Teamazonas in a suit that could have cost it the renewal of its license. Correa, on his Saturday television show, called the decision “an outrage,” and the chairman of CONATEL threatened to appeal the decision. In August, Jorge Ortíz, anchor of two Teamazonas political shows, resigned because of what he called “the persistence and animosity of the government’s attacks against me.”

Perhaps the most outstanding incident of censorship took place after the September 30 attempted coup against Correa by police officers unhappy with a reduction in their salaries and benefits. The government declared a state of emergency and ordered all television and radio stations to broadcast the signal of the official state channel, Ecuador TV. The virtual seizure of the country’s broadcast media ensured that Ecuadorians got only the official version of what transpired during the coup attempt. In another instance of editorial pressure, the government ordered the transformation of the *El Telégrafo* newspaper from a public to a progovernment publication, over the strong protests of the editorial staff. *El Telégrafo* had been a privately owned paper until three years before, when debts and legal troubles led the government to take it over. After protesting Correa’s plans for the newspaper, the editor-in-chief was forced to tender his resignation in March. Later 20 editors, columnists, and reporters resigned in protest. In August, Julio Ayala Sierra, anchor of *Punto de Vista* a political commentary talk show on Radio Atalaya in Guayaquil, ended his show after 17 years on the air, alleging that his criticism of the Correa administration had caused the station to be “blacklisted.” Sierra claimed the state had stopped placing advertising on Radio Atalaya and other stations because of this criticism, although the government denied the existence of such a blacklist. In December a unit of the Special Police raided the offices of *Vanguardia* magazine, evicted the staff, and seized the magazine’s computing equipment. The alleged reason for the action was failing to pay the rent for the office space, which is located in a building that had been impounded by the state. CPJ, however, concluded that the seizure was a “reprisal for the magazine’s editorial positions” and

that the publishing company paid the full amount owed in early January. The magazine's staff has not been allowed to go back to their offices and the police have not returned the seized equipment.

In addition to hostile government rhetoric and regulatory actions, Ecuadorian journalists have faced a sharp uptick in physical threats and attacks. Fundamedios, the country's most active press freedom organization, reported that in 2010 there were 151 attacks on the news media, including 4 assassinations or disappearances, 21 cases of physical aggression, 1 kidnapping, and 21 cases of direct intimidation—a sharp increase from the previous several years. In March, Jorge Santana Carbonell, editor-in-chief of *Tribuna* magazine and CQ15 TV anchor, died of the injuries received after he was run over by a car while traveling on his motorcycle. Santana had written articles denouncing cases of criminal behavior in the town of Cantón Pasaje. The home of the executive director of the Ecuadorian Association of Journalists was broken into and meticulously searched on January 17. Only two objects of low value were missing. Later that year, a bomb scare forced the evacuation of the entire building that houses the country's public media.

The majority of media outlets—both print and broadcast—are privately owned. Private television and radio stations are required by law to disseminate official government messages and programs for up to one hour a day. In addition, the national government controls 20 media companies, including 5 television stations with high viewership and several widely read newspapers. Twelve of these companies had been private until the 2008 financial crisis, when the state took ownership of them to settle their parent company's debt from bankruptcy. By law, the government was required to promptly divest itself of the 12 companies, but after more than two years it has not done so. Those private media outlets not under government influence tend to have combative relationships with the government. The government is also the country's largest advertiser, which gives it further influence over privately owned media. Public advertising is equitably distributed between private and public TV stations, according to a study by the nongovernmental organization Participación Ciudadana.

There are no community television stations and only two community radio stations, in part due to long-standing legal hurdles that make their establishment difficult. For example, for many years, community radio stations could only receive frequencies after a favorable report from the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces until this requirement was declared unconstitutional. Community stations are also barred from accepting advertising contracts but receive no state funding to cover operating costs. However, in November 2010 the government allocated 14 radio frequencies to indigenous organizations and planned to provide them with equipment and training. The internet is accessed by about 24 percent of the population, with most users living in urban areas, and there are no reported restrictions on access.

Egypt

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 23

Political Environment: 24

Economic Environment: 18

Total Score: 65

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	61,NF	62,NF	59,PF	60,PF	60,PF

Status change explanation: Egypt declined from Partly Free to Not Free as a result of a crackdown prior to and during the November 2010 parliamentary elections, which included legal harassment, spurious arrests, and violations of due process against journalists and bloggers. The pre-election period also saw satellite television outlets and text-message based news services banned; both are key outlets for disseminating independent views.

The crackdown on the media and professional and citizen journalists intensified in 2010 as the government imposed a series of restrictions and suspensions in the months leading up to the November parliamentary elections. The government ramped up its attempts to muzzle the press throughout the year, using a range of tactics including filing spurious charges, harassing and arresting journalists and bloggers, and violating due process, even as the Emergency Law continued to have a chilling effect, and regulatory bodies sought new ways to restrict freedom of expression and information. Meanwhile, the blurred line between professional journalists and political activists remained an ongoing challenge to press freedom.

Although Egypt's constitution devotes an entire chapter to defining the rights, responsibilities and authorities of the press, the Emergency Law that remained in place at year's end abrogates these freedoms by allowing the authorities to ban publications for reasons of national security or public order, and to try offenders in military tribunals with limited right to appeal. Article 48 of the constitution prohibits censorship, except under Emergency Law. Article 47 ostensibly guarantees the freedom to both express and publicize opinion via any technological medium, but approximately 35 articles in various laws specify penalties for the media, ranging from fines to prison time.

In addition to the Emergency Law, the Press Law and penal code provisions circumscribe the media, despite constitutional guarantees of press freedom. Even after the Press Law was amended in 2006, dissemination of "false news," criticism of the president and foreign leaders, and publication of material that constitutes "an attack against the dignity and honor of individuals," or an "outrage of the reputation of families" remain criminal offenses that are prosecuted selectively by the authorities. Penalties include fines ranging from 5,000 to 20,000 Egyptian pounds (\$900 to \$3,600) for press infractions, and up to five years in prison for criticizing the president or a foreign head of state. During the year, dozens of defamation and other cases were filed against journalists and media outlets. For example, veteran journalist and government critic Ibrahim Eissa has faced numerous criminal defamation charges over the past few years; as of October 2010, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported that Eissa had had 65 cases filed against him in his career for violating Egypt's press law, 30 of which remained pending. Former newspaper editor Magdy Hussein, who had been imprisoned for political activism but should have been due for standard early release, was imprisoned for an additional year and fined after a 14-year-old defamation case regarding an interior minister was resurrected in July. Journalists have few professional protections and no right to access of information, and remain vulnerable to prosecution under these laws, although some journalists have asserted their independence and proved willing to stand up to the state.

Spurious and trumped up charges are also used to intimidate and silence journalists and bloggers. Award-winning digital journalist Wael Abbas was charged with selling communications services without a license, and because neither he nor his lawyers were ever

informed of the trial date, he was sentenced in absentia to six months in prison and fined 500 Egyptian pounds (\$86). Although the conviction was ultimately thrown out, the threat of multiple charges for the same alleged crime and the ensuing legal battles exert a chilling effect on bloggers and journalists more widely. Imprisoned journalists and bloggers are routinely denied the right to due process and are subjected to ill-treatment and even torture. Authorities in Egypt continued to imprison blogger Hani Nazeer without trial despite six rulings by the administrative court requiring his release. Nazeer's lawyers reported that they were not allowed to see their client and said that he had been mistreated, a common claim by citizen journalists imprisoned for their writing. Nazeer was released in July 2010, but was arrested again under Emergency Law in October. Blogger Kareem Amer, who had been imprisoned in 2006 in a landmark case as a result of his online writings, was released in November 2010 after he had finished serving his four-year sentence, but reported being beaten prior to his release from prison.

Licensing of all media, including newspapers, is controlled by the government. The president heads the High Press Council, which must approve all new newspaper licenses along with the cabinet and security services. Meanwhile, the Egyptian Radio and Television Union (ERTU), which is under the control of the Information Ministry, is in charge of granting radio and television licenses. A draft audiovisual broadcasting bill that would assign penalties ranging from one month to three years in prison for "attacking social peace, national unity, public order and society's values" remained under consideration in parliament. The bill also provides for the creation of a national broadcasting regulatory agency headed by Information Ministry officials and members of the state security services. The agency would be empowered to withdraw news outlets' licenses arbitrarily. In 2010, satellite television stations bore the brunt of censorial and regulatory harassment. On October 19, the Information Ministry suspended 12 television stations carried by the state-owned NileSat service. According to Reporters Without Borders, the state-controlled satellite television operator also stopped transmission of at least eight additional stations not on the list. Twenty others received warnings. The stations allegedly broadcasted programs without the proper permissions, or were accused of inciting intolerance and extremism. Also in October, the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority imposed several new rules aimed at restricting live coverage of election news, including rules effectively preventing live broadcasts by private production companies, which provide coverage to a range of international and domestic broadcasters.

Officials also stepped up interference over media content in other ways. On October 3, the popular talk show *Baladna Belmasry*, hosted by Ibrahim Eissa on the ON TV satellite channel, was pulled off the air. Two days later Eissa was fired as editor-in-chief of the independent *Al-Dustour* newspaper after the leader of al-Wafd party, Sayyid al-Badawi, paid \$4 million to buy the paper in a deal that unconfirmed media accounts claimed was brokered by the opposition party and the government to ensure the former a bigger gain in the elections. Eissa had refused the new owner's request not to publish an article by opposition figure Mohammed el-Baradei, although al-Badawi claimed his termination was due to a labor dispute. Also in October, the information minister, Anas el-Feqqi, suspended a popular sports commentator on the government-owned *Nile Sport* station after he criticized the interior ministry for failing to maintain order when a sporting match got out of hand.

Approximately 1,000 activists, among them bloggers and citizen journalists, were arrested in the lead up to the election. According to Human Rights Watch, at least 10 journalists were arrested or detained while attempting to cover the elections. Journalists reported being

barred from entering polling stations even when they produced the required permits, including Al Jazeera English correspondent Adam Makary, who was barred from six different polling stations. CPJ noted that police and security forces beat and detained journalists, confiscated and destroyed footage and notes, and posed as journalists in order to spy on civil society activists and the opposition (a technique which is commonly used to obtain information, according to reports). The independent *Al-Dustour* reported that journalist Buthayna Kamel was approached by someone posing as a journalist from *Al-Akhbar* that she suspected was in fact a state security officer due to his questioning of her in a manner inconsistent with a journalist.

Opposition journalists continued to face persecution in 2010 as intimidation and harassment of the press remained a problem even when elections were not a central concern. In January, 19 activists, including bloggers and journalists, were arrested by government forces while traveling to Southern Egypt to mourn the deaths of victims of prior sectarian violence against the Coptic Christian minority. Additionally, protesters and journalists were assaulted by security forces in Cairo in April after demanding an end to the 29-year state of emergency. Another blogger was tried in military court, despite the fact that he is a civilian, because he allegedly published false information about the military on his blog.

Although there are more than 500 newspapers, magazines, journals, and other periodicals in Egypt, this apparent diversity disguises the government's role as a media owner and sponsor. A majority of print outlets are still in the hands of the state, which also owns 99 percent of newspaper retail outlets, and individuals cannot own more than a 10 percent stake in any newspaper (although in practice this restriction is enforced unevenly). Editors of Egypt's three largest newspapers, *Al-Ahram*, *Al-Akhbar*, and *Al-Gomhorya*, are appointed by the president. Print media production and distribution is also controlled by the state. All terrestrial television broadcasters—two national and six regional—are owned and operated by the government through the ERTU. There are, however, four privately owned, independent satellite channels and several pan-Arab stations that attract wide viewership. The government supports state media directly and through advertising subsidies, and independent media face significant financial challenges. Lack of professionalism and low salaries that encourage bribery are a challenge to journalism in Egypt. The state-owned *Al-Ahram* newspaper, for example, altered a photo of President Mubarak's meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama to make it appear as if Mubarak was leading a group of dignitaries. The Photoshop trick was quickly revealed and ridiculed throughout the press and blogosphere.

Egypt does not filter internet access, although the government can repress internet activism using the Emergency Law. At the end of 2010, 26.74 percent of Egyptians accessed the internet regularly. Starting in 2009, authorities increasingly targeted citizen journalist bloggers at the airport and confiscated their equipment and data. In 2010, they continued to target these independent voices, confiscating computers, passports, and mobile phones of several citizen journalist bloggers, including Wael Abbas, Magdi Saad, Abdel Rahman Ayyash, and Ahmed Abu Khalil. Egypt has at least 55.4 million mobile phone users, making cell phones one of the most important means of communication and information exchange. Text message-based news services that have emerged over the past couple of years enable people to get headlines on their mobile phones, but on October 11, the Telecommunications Regulation Authority imposed new regulations requiring news companies to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Information and the Supreme Press Council in order to send mass text messages. The license could cost up to \$88,000, and restricts the ability of the public to obtain up-to-the-minute information. The new

regulations were widely seen as an attempt to restrict information prior to the November elections, and to make it more difficult to disseminate information and organize via text message.

El Salvador

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 11

Political Environment: 17

Economic Environment: 14

Total Score: 42

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	43,PF	42,PF	42,PF	42,PF	43,PF

Freedom of the press is protected under the constitution, and Salvadoran journalists are generally able to report freely on the news. Critical reporting on the government and opposition parties is for the most part permitted. At the same time, press freedom is hindered by a lack of public transparency, reflected in the absence of freedom of information legislation. The penal code grants judges the right to restrict media access to legal proceedings in cases they deem of importance to national security, or determine that the publicity would prejudice the case. A court decision in August 2007 declared that media workers would no longer be summoned to testify in criminal cases. In March 2010, the Legislative Assembly introduced a motion to subject staffers to a polygraph test in order to identify individuals who had leaked information to the media concerning a salary increase for legislators. The request was withdrawn amid vocal public opposition. In one of the year's most controversial legal cases involving the press, freelance journalist María Haydee Chicas was arrested on July 2, along with 13 other individuals, while reporting on a demonstration in Suchitoto against government plans to privatize water distribution in the region. Chicas was charged with committing an "act of terrorism" under El Salvador's 2006 Antiterrorism Law. Although Chicas was granted provisional release on July 23, the government did not lift the terrorism charge, which carries a sentence of up to 15 years in prison.

In May 2010, the president, government officials, and the media jointly recommended that legislative bodies create access to information legislation and decriminalize libel and defamation as part of the outcome of an Inter American Press Association conference. However, in September, the Supreme Court declared that Article 191 of El Salvador's Penal Code—which exempted journalists from imprisonment if they were convicted of libel and defamation offenses against government officials—was unconstitutional. In December, the legislative assembly approved the Transparency and Public Information Access Law, but the president had yet to sign or veto the legislation.

Although El Salvador is generally a safe place to practice journalism, there are still sporadic threats against journalists, especially in the provinces. According to Reporters Without Borders, Radio Victoria, a community radio station in the northern department of Cabañas that has been supporting environmental activists in their opposition to a Canadian company's local gold-mining operations, received threats in January 2010 just days after two more activists were murdered. Journalists from the radio station again received death threats in late April and early

May. In a positive development, in October, authorities arrested Iván Antonio Leiva, another suspect in their investigation into the September 2009 murder of Christian Poveda, a documentary filmmaker with dual French and Spanish nationality. Antonio Leiva, 23, is an alleged member of the “Mara 18” gang, which was the subject of Poveda’s film. In total, 37 suspects were indicted in connection with the murder.

While there are five daily newspapers, each with an estimated circulation of 250,000, most of the country depends on privately owned television and radio networks for news. Limited resources prevent many media outlets from producing to their full capacity, and self-censorship is often exercised to avoid offending media owners, editors, and government officials. According to the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, there is little access to community radio stations due to the bidding method used to grant radio frequencies. There were no reported government restrictions on the internet. Access to the internet was limited to 15 percent of the population in 2010.

Equatorial Guinea

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 27

Political Environment: 36

Economic Environment: 27

Total Score: 90

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	88,NF	89,NF	89,NF	90,NF	90,NF

The 30-year-old regime of President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo continued to control Equatorial Guinea’s media with a heavy hand in 2010. Freedoms of expression and of the press are legally guaranteed, but these rights were ignored in practice. As in past years, the government relied on its extensive powers under the Law on the Press, Publishing, and Audiovisual Media to severely restrict press freedom, making the country one of the world’s most censored media environments. Although journalists in recent years have been permitted to voice mild or vague criticism of government institutions, criticism of the president, his family, other high-ranking officials, and the security forces was not tolerated. Almost all local coverage was orchestrated or tightly controlled by the government, and there were no laws guaranteeing freedom of information. Local journalists and private publications were required to register with the government through a prohibitively complex and bureaucratic process. Following widespread criticism from human rights and media advocates, prominent African leaders, and scientists and health professionals, UNESCO announced in October 2010 that it was indefinitely suspending its \$3 million Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences, which was set up in 2008; the controversial prize had sparked a global backlash due to Nguema’s abysmal record on human rights and economic transparency.

Local journalists were subject to systematic surveillance and frequently practiced self-censorship. In February 2010, a journalist with the state-run radio in the mainland city of Bata, Pedro Luis Esono, was detained for three days after he reported on-air the alleged discovery of seven bodies at a city dump. In April, Samuel Obiang Mbana, a local stringer for Agence France-

Presse (AFP) and the Gabon-based Africa No. 1 radio, was detained by police for several hours after he attempted to cover arrivals for a regional summit in central Africa. Mbaná, one of a tiny number of Equatoguinean journalists who have worked for foreign media, was arrested by presidential security agents at the Malabo International Airport and accused of working without proper accreditation—an accusation which he denied, according to Reporters Without Borders. Mbaná's predecessor correspondent for AFP, Rodrigo Angue Nguema, was a frequent target of government ire, and was held for four months in Black Beach Prison in 2009 in connection with defamation charges brought by the head of the national airline, Ceiba. Foreign journalists were not able to report freely, and at times were denied visas.

The most influential medium is radio, but all domestic radio and television stations were operated by the government or members of the president's family. Applications to open private radio stations have been pending for several years but remained unapproved. The Roman Catholic Church applied to establish a radio station in 2007, but the government had not granted authorization by the end of 2010. At the same time, uncensored satellite broadcasts were increasingly available to those who could afford the service. The government operated at least two newspapers, while a handful were published by nominally independent figures or members of the tiny political opposition. The country has little of the infrastructure necessary for independent media to operate, such as printing presses and newspaper retailers, and the lack of a well developed local private sector hindered media outlets' ability to raise revenues through paid advertisements. Due to low literacy rates, international print media were generally unavailable in the rural areas.

The government did not restrict internet access, although the authorities were believed to monitor citizens' e-mails and internet use. According to the U.S. Department of State, the internet has replaced broadcast media as the primary medium for opposition views. According to International Telecommunication Union statistics for 2010, an estimated 6 percent of the population accessed the internet.

Eritrea

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 30

Political Environment: 40

Economic Environment: 24

Total Score: 94

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	91,NF	94,NF	94,NF	94,NF	94,NF

The media environment in Eritrea continued to be among the worst in the world, as it remains one of the few countries that lacks any form of privately owned media. The once-vibrant private print press ceased to operate in 2001, after a ban imposed by the government of President Isaias Afwerki and the subsequent imprisonment of key editors and journalists. Since then, the crackdown has extended to state-employed journalists, many of whom have fled the country due to intimidation and arbitrary imprisonment.

The constitution guarantees freedom of speech and of the press, and Afwerki continues to claim that in his country “no one is prevented from freedom of speech.” In an interview with the Swedish broadcaster TV4 in June 2009, the president dismissed private outlets as being driven by personal interests and indicated that real freedom for the Eritrean people could only be provided by the state-owned media. In an interview for *Al Watan* newspaper in October 2010, the president expressed similar sentiments. Despite the absence of any private media, the 1996 Press Proclamation Law continues to apply in principle, mandating that all newspapers and journalists be licensed. It also stipulates that publications must be submitted for government approval prior to release, and prohibits reprinting articles from banned publications.

The country continued to have the worst record in Africa for the detention of journalists, and despite its significantly smaller population, is almost tied with China in terms of global figures. The Committee to Protect Journalists estimates that at least 19 journalists remained in jail in 2010, almost all of whom are being held incommunicado. There is little information on the condition of those imprisoned—such as Swedish-Eritrean journalist and founder of the now closed newspaper *Setit*, Dawit Isaac—though unconfirmed reports indicate that several have died in detention. According to Eyob Bahta Habtemariam, an ex-guard at the notorious Eiraeiro prison camp, Isaac is still being held in solitary confinement and is in very poor physical and mental health. Many more journalists were arrested in 2010, including the well-known journalist and official Said Abdulhai in March. Foreign journalists are not able to freely enter the country and are generally not welcome unless they agree to report favorably about the regime. There have been occasional reports from journalists operating undercover, and Afwerki has conducted interviews with foreign broadcasters such as Swedish TV4 and the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera. However, it remained almost impossible to report from within the country in 2010.

The three newspapers, two television stations, and three radio stations that operate in the country remained under state control. Individuals are allowed to purchase satellite dishes and subscribe to international media, though the importation of foreign publications without prior approval is not permitted. There are several Eritrean-affiliated stations that are attempting to reach listeners in Eritrea including Radio Erena, which broadcasts via satellite and over the radio from Paris, as well as opposition-aligned stations broadcasting from Ethiopia. The government requires all internet-service providers to use government-controlled internet infrastructure. Many websites managed by Eritreans overseas are blocked, as is the video-sharing website YouTube. Authorities are believed to monitor e-mail communications, although internet use is extremely limited, with just 5.4 percent of the population able to access the medium in 2010.

Estonia

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 5

Political Environment: 6

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 18

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	16,F	16,F	16,F	15,F	17,F

The constitution provides for and the government respects freedom of speech and of the press. Libel is not a criminal offense. Numerous media outlets operate throughout the country, and the independent media express a wide variety of views without government interference. The Public Information Act, the primary law governing freedom of information, obliges the authorities to assist the public in accessing public documents. In June 2009, Estonia was among 12 European countries that signed the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents, which establishes the right for anyone to request information held by public authorities at no charge.

In 2010, the Ministry of Justice introduced legal amendments that included provisions regarded by many as a threat to freedom of speech, including one that would allow courts to jail journalists for refusing to disclose their sources. The proposals were widely condemned by press freedom advocates and Estonia's journalistic community, and the country's major newspapers published blank pages on March 18 in protest. In November, parliament approved a less controversial version of the amendments that still included a provision allowing authorities to seek damages from media outlets deemed to have engaged in libel or slander, in order to prevent them from causing further damage. The law as passed still allowed journalists to be jailed for refusing to disclose sources, but only in investigations of the most severe crimes.

The country's public broadcasters are Estonian Television, which runs two channels, and Estonian Radio. There are two primary national commercial television stations—Kanal 2 and TV3—and a large number of private radio stations and cable and satellite services. The Estonian-language print media landscape includes four national dailies, as well as regional, municipal, and weekly papers. For the country's sizable Russian-speaking population, there are television programs in Russian, Russian-language newspapers, as well as access to broadcast and print media from the Russian Federation. Media ownership has become increasingly concentrated over the years, with Scandinavian business interests taking a sizable share. As a result of the economic crisis in Estonia in 2009, some smaller publications were forced to cease publishing, while other media outlets cut staff and salaries and reduced international and regional news coverage. The recession also led to declines in the media advertising market. However, as the economy showed signs of recovery by the end of 2010, the decline in advertising revenues had slowed, even registering positive growth of 13 percent in the second quarter of 2010 in the internet sector.

The government allows unrestricted access to the internet. Estonia remains among the leading countries in the world regarding internet penetration, with approximately 74 percent of the population active online in 2010, up from about 50 percent in 2006. In June 2009, the Estonian Supreme Court ruled that web portals, as well as online news websites, could be held responsible for reader comments posted on their sites. The case was appealed to the European Court of Human Rights and is pending.

Ethiopia

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 27

Political Environment: 33

Economic Environment: 18

Total Score: 78

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	75,NF	77,NF	76,NF	76,NF	78,NF

The political climate in Ethiopia in 2010 was heavily influenced by national elections that took place in May, which saw the ruling party, the Ethiopian People Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), and its affiliates, win all but two seats in the parliament. The government took a variety of measures to secure greater control over the country, avoid the unrest that accompanied parliamentary elections in 2005, and ensure an electoral outcome favorable to itself. To this end, journalists and opposition figures were intimidated and harassed, but, most importantly, the EPRDF used state resources to support its political platform, creating an uneven playing field for other parties to compete.

The constitution guarantees freedom of the press, but this right is often restricted in practice. The Freedom of the Mass Media and Access to Information Proclamation became law in December 2008 after years of consultation and debate. The legislation has been criticized by the private media and press freedom groups for imposing constraints on journalists and harsh sanctions for violations. The most controversial provisions were included in the penal code that took effect in May 2005. Of greater concern is the selective approach the government takes in implementing laws, as well as the lack of an independent judiciary. Journalists have few guarantees that they will receive a fair trial, and charges are often issued in response to personal disputes. Court cases can continue for years, and many journalists have multiple charges pending against them. Following an arrest in 2009 on criminal defamation charges, in January 2010, *Al-Quds* editor in chief Ezedin Mohamed was sentenced to one year in prison for another article, which criticized statements made by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Mohamed was released on September 11. However, on the same day, Akram Ezedin, Mohamed's son and interim editor in chief for *Al-Quds* during Mohamed's imprisonment, was arrested without charge for the publication of articles criticizing the local Islamic Council in Ethiopia's Afar region. In another case in March 2010, the Ethiopian Supreme Court overruled a 2007 presidential pardon given to four publishing companies, Serkalem, Sisay, Zekarias, and Fasil. The publishing houses had been shut down as part of the 2005 postelection crackdowns on independent press and political opposition, and the publishers and editors were imprisoned. The Supreme Court's decision required the publishing companies to pay a record fine. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, four journalists are in jail as of December 2010, including two Eritrean journalists from Eri-TV who were reportedly arrested by Ethiopian forces in the Somali capital of Mogadishu in 2006, and continue to be held at an undisclosed location in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has one of Africa's most progressive freedom of information laws, although access to public information is largely restricted in practice, and the government has traditionally limited coverage of official events to state-owned media outlets. According to the media monitoring undertaken by the European Union in the run up to the 2010 elections, coverage tended to favor the ruling party, but its tone was largely neutral, and other parties were allowed access to the state television and radio broadcasters to present their platforms and participate in debates. However, the curtailing of the space for civil society to operate was influenced by less visible measures already adopted by the government in 2009, when legislative measures were taken to restrict the ability of actors other than the state to operate in areas such as human rights. The Proclamation for the Registration and Regulation of Charities and Societies was passed by the parliament in January 2009, curtailing the ability of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to operate in sectors other than education, health, and food security. The repercussions of this

law became increasingly evident around election time, reducing the ability of international NGOs to implement projects in the areas of governance and human rights, including freedom of expression. Another law that constrains public debate is the Anti-Terrorist Proclamation, which took effect in July 2009. It was theoretically designed to combat groups accused by the Ethiopian government of carrying out terrorist activities, such as the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). However, its broad definition of who can be considered a terrorist caused concern among international free-expression groups, as did language imposing prison terms of up to 20 years on those who “write, edit, print, publish, publicize, or disseminate” statements deemed to “encourage, support, or advance” terrorist acts. This provision had an almost immediate effect on the media. The exiled editors of a political newsletter, Dereje Habtewold and Fasil Yenealem, were convicted in absentia in August 2010 of involvement in a terrorist plot. The concern that the law was being used to prepare charges against the newspaper *Addis Neger* caused three of its editors—Mesfin Negash, Abiy Tekle Mariam, and Tamirat Negera—to flee the country. The same provision was employed by the Ethiopian government to pressure Kenya’s Nation Media Group to stop broadcasting an investigative documentary on the OLF.

Criminal prosecutions, harsh sentencing, official pressure, and the threat of exile have encouraged self-censorship among journalists. Foreign journalists and those working for international news organizations have generally operated with fewer restrictions than their local counterparts; however, they too regularly practice self-censorship and face harassment and threats from authorities. In June, Ethiopian authorities expelled Heather Murdock, a reporter for Voice of America (VOA) covering the rebel area in the eastern region of Harar. Physical attacks on members of the press are rare.

The state controls all broadcast media and operates the only television station. In 2007, a new broadcasting authority was created, and the first licenses were awarded to two private FM stations in the capital; they are owned by individuals seen as friendly to the EPRDF. Dozens of print outlets publish regularly and offer diverse views, although following the 2005 crackdown only a limited number of newspapers were allowed to continue publishing without interruption. There are currently 20 private Amharic and English-language newspapers, which generally focus on politics and business. The government controls the only newspaper printing press, and its abuse of this monopolization affects private newspapers’ circulations based on how much the companies can afford to print. The signals of international broadcasters Deutsche Welle and VOA have occasionally been jammed. This trend continued in 2010, but in contrast to previous years, when the government denied its involvement in blocking the signals, Zenawi claimed the right of its government to block broadcasting he said was fomenting ethnic violence. Zenawi has often mentioned the use of radios during the Rwandan genocide to justify his government’s repressive measures against national and international broadcasters.

Owing to an extremely poor telecommunications infrastructure, only 0.75 percent of Ethiopians accessed the internet. In 2010, the country was still relying mostly on slow and unreliable dial-up connections. The government has resisted liberalizing telecommunications, maintaining a near monopoly and keeping prices artificially high. According to the International Telecommunication Union, in 2010 Ethiopia was the second most expensive country for broadband internet; the price of a connection was 2,085 percent of average monthly income. Most of the political blogs, many of which are based abroad, have been blocked, hindering important voices from contributing to the local political debate. At the same time, the government has invested massive resources to use new communication technologies that allow it

to communicate with the periphery of the state. It has set up a satellite-based videoconferencing system known as WoredaNet to allow the prime minister, other ministers, high level civil servants to regularly communicate with local officials, although its efficacy remains limited.

Fiji

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 18

Political Environment: 27

Economic Environment: 12

Total Score: 57

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	28,F	39,pF	37,PF	40,PF	54,PF

The constitution, suspended since April 2009, guarantees press freedom and freedom of expression, but the military government led by Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama did not respect these rights in practice. Fiji's news media faced the strongest threat to their independence and survival during 2010. In February, the government instituted a new Crimes Decree, a replacement for the old penal code. This decree defines crimes of sedition to include any criticism of the government, including those made abroad. In late June, the government promulgated the Media Industry Development Decree (MIDD), and the new law took effect four days later. The decree provides for a new Fiji Media Industry Development Authority with the power to enforce the decree and investigate possible violations. The decree also establishes a separate media tribunal to hear cases referred by the authority and to impose prison sentences and fines on journalists whose work is deemed to be against "public interest or public order." Both of these offences are ill-defined. Violations of the decree are punishable by a fine of up to F\$1,000 or imprisonment of up to two years for journalists, and the penalty for any media company which breaches the law may be as high as F\$100,000. The MIDD also overrode traditional checks and balances by forbidding the judiciary to challenge the decree or the institutions established by it. News media outlets were only given a hasty opportunity to provide submissions on the decree; editors were reported to have been given two hours to read the 50-page draft law and make comments. The decree was widely condemned as entrenching the restrictions that had been introduced the previous year under the 2009 Public Emergency Regulations (PER), and ran counter to a pledge to end censorship with a legal framework to enable media to operate freely and independently. Meanwhile, the PER continued to be renewed monthly, and pre-publication censorship conducted in newsrooms remained in force.

At year's end, no journalist or media group had been charged under this decree, but there were reports of extralegal harassment against journalists by authorities. In July 2010, journalist Richard Naidu was detained overnight and interrogated for his news article on the FijiLive website. The article stated that Police Commissioner Commodore Esala Teleni had been suspended, but police claimed that the article was false. Television journalist Rachna Nath was also interrogated after her report on the arrest of former Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry was alleged to have incited public anger.

In spite of censorship and the threat of the decree, Fiji has one of the most developed media environments among South Pacific nations. A private radio network, Communications Fiji Limited, operates multiple and multilingual stations, and competes with the public broadcaster, Fiji Broadcasting Corporation. A new independent station, Mai Television, also competes with the long-established Fiji Television. In February 2010, the harsh publishing and broadcasting climate and a downturn in advertising revenue led to the closure of one of the country's three daily newspapers, *Fiji's Daily Post*, which had an Australian controlling interest. However, the rest of the country's news media remained relatively stable with the third daily, *Fiji Sun*, extensively publishing government press releases and consolidating its business position.

A major concern about the decree was a provision stipulating that media outlets could not be more than 10 percent foreign-owned. This clause was reportedly designed to make critical sections of the news media more pliant. It had particularly sinister implications for the country's oldest and most influential newspaper, the *Fiji Times*, founded in 1869 and wholly owned at the time by News Limited, the Australian branch of Rupert Murdoch's U.S.-based News Corporation. Since the 2006 coup, the newspaper, under the editorship of an indigenous Fijian, Netani Rika, had been the most critical media opponent of the regime and the strongest voice for a return to democracy. Widespread speculation centered on whether News Limited would divest itself of its 90 percent ownership, or would close the 141-year-old paper outright. Several publications in the Murdoch stable reportedly waged a campaign against the regime. However, it was announced after the deadline for interested parties to make bids for the newspaper that a locally owned major trading business, the Motibhai Group, would buy out the *Fiji Times*. Mahendra Motibhai Patel, who had been a director of the newspaper for 40 years, took control of the paper and appointed a former publisher, Dallas Swinstead, to take over the helm. He vowed to maintain the newspaper's independence. A week later, the editor and deputy editor had resigned and were replaced.

There were no government restrictions on the internet, which was accessed by nearly 15 percent of the population. However, the government did monitor internet traffic, especially to control criticism of the government by bloggers. In January 2010, 20 employees of the Suva City Council were suspended for antigovernment blogging activities. A month later, the contracts of 12 of these employees were terminated.

Finland

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 3

Political Environment: 3

Economic Environment: 4

Total Score: 10

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	9,F	9,F	9,F	10,F	10,F

Finland continued to be among the most free media environments in the world in 2010. Freedom of expression and access to information is guaranteed under Article 12 of the constitution. In general, journalists and media outlets are allowed to operate freely and without threats and fear

of repercussions; however, defamation is a crime in Finland, and the government actively pursues incidents of defamation of religion or ethnicity. In 2009, local politician and blogger Jussi Halla-aho was charged with racist comments and defamation of religion in a blog comment about the Prophet Mohammad and Somalis. In 2010 an appeals court upheld his conviction for defamation but dismissed the charge of racism.

Finland has an impressive newspaper readership, ranking third in the world for circulation in relation to population. According to the Finnish Newspaper Association, 200 newspapers are published, including 53 dailies. Media ownership is concentrated, with Alma Media and Sanoma controlling most newspaper distribution. Broadcasting is dominated by the public broadcaster Yleisradio OY (YLE), and commercial MTV, with commercial Nelonen Media an outsider. Radio is dominated by four public service channels and the commercial channel Radio Nova, as well as a large number of seminational and local stations. Public radio also broadcasts in the minority languages Swedish and Sami (Lapp).

The internet is open and unrestricted, and nearly 87 percent of all citizens have regular access. There have been concerns about the Finnish child pornography filter, which a blogger exposed as blocking many legal sites. Internet publications must name a responsible editor-in-chief and archive published materials for at least 21 days. In addition, Finnish law gives every citizen the right of reply and the right to have falsely published information corrected, in internet-based and traditional publications alike. In July 2010 it became a legal right for every Finn to have a 1MB broadband internet connection. In September, a threat made against Minister of Migration and European Affairs Astrid Thors became the first prosecution of a threat made on Facebook. The man who made the threat was convicted in December and fined 640 euros.

France

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6

Political Environment: 10

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 23

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	21,F	21,F	22,F	22,F	23,F

France's constitution and governing institutions provide an open press environment despite certain laws that limit aspects of press freedom in practice. Freedom of information legislation is intact, but there are exceptions in order to protect the reputation or rights of a third party, and requests are often denied. In September 2010, the High Authority for the Dissemination of Creative Works and Protection of Rights on the Internet (HADOPI) went into effect. Under the HADOPI law, which was passed in October 2009, three warnings will be issued to users who illegally download copyrighted material before their access is suspended for up to one year. These users could face additional fines or jail time. In addition to the HADOPI law, in December 2010, the French General Assembly passed its second reading of the proposed Law on Guidelines and Programming for the Performance of Internal Security (LOPSSI 2). The national security law would allow internet-service providers to block sites which are deemed to carry

child pornography without judicial consent. It would also give the police the authority to install or remove spyware from computers with judicial supervision. The Senate is expected to pass the law in early 2011.

There are strict antidefamation laws with fines for those found guilty. The law also punishes efforts to justify war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as incitement to discrimination and violence. Humorist Dieudonné M'bala M'bala was forced to pay a 10,000 euro fine in June for defamation against Licra, an anti-racism organization, for comments printed in the journal *L'Union* in 2009. Also in June, journalist Augustin Scalbert of the news website Rue89 was indicted for playing a video of Nicolas Sarkozy behaving rudely before an interview with public television channel France 3. In November, Sarkozy's chief of staff Claude Guéant and domestic intelligence chief Bernard Squarcini sued newspapers *Mediapar* and *Le Canard Enchaîné*, respectively, for accusing them of spying on journalists and tracking phone calls.

A new law that protects journalists' sources went into effect in January 2010. This law allows journalists to reveal their sources only when serious crimes have taken place and access to the source is required for the investigation; however, the new law was broken several times throughout the year. In January, two journalists, Stéphane Munka and Christophe Gautier, were detained and questioned about how they obtained photographs of murder suspect Jean-Pierre Treiber. Munka's home and laptop were searched by authorities. In another high-profile case, the French daily *Le Monde* sued the Elysée Palace in 2010, once in September and once in October, for violating its protection of sources. The September lawsuit came about when the French counterespionage agency admitted that it investigated the paper for its reporting on the Bettencourt-Woerth saga, an affair in which Sarkozy and Labour Minister Eric Woerth were accused of receiving illegal funding from L'Oréal heiress Liliane Bettencourt. *Le Monde* in October lodged its second complaint against the government after police requested access to phone bills of two of the newspaper's journalists, who were working on the same story.

While the media environment is generally safe for journalists in France, several journalists complained of difficulties in covering the street protests against government pension reform that paralyzed the country in October. During these protests, a reporter from the Canal+ television station was allegedly hit repeatedly by members of the CRS, a national riot police force.

The independent media are robust and express a wide range of opinions without restriction, and most of France's more than 100 newspapers are privately owned. There are over 1,200 radio stations, and since the state monopoly on radio ended in 1982, private stations have flourished, although public broadcaster Radio France stations continue to be popular. However, many media outlets—print as well as broadcast—are owned by companies with close ties to prominent politicians and defense contractors. In June 2010, Sarkozy met with the director of *Le Monde* to try and persuade the paper to sell to a particular company when the financially-troubled paper went up for sale. The board narrowly voted to sell the paper not to the Sarkozy-backed company, but to a trio of powerful left-leaning individuals. In August, Sarkozy appointed Remy Pfmilin to the head of public broadcasting. On the same day, Pfmilin fired a journalist who had broadcast pieces critical of the president. In 2008, the government announced a plan to wean public television off of advertising, which provided more than a quarter of its revenue. In 2009, ads were eliminated on the five public channels during prime time, and the channels are expected to become completely ad-free by 2013. The lost income was to be made up through higher taxes and licensing fees, but these revenue increases have not raised as much as was expected.

In 2010, 80 percent of the population accessed the internet. There are no government restrictions on the internet, but a 2006 antiterrorism law allows security agencies to monitor the

internet for suspected terrorists. Notably, in September 2010 Google was convicted of defamation when its search function “suggest” equated a plaintiff’s name with such terms as “rapist” and “Satanist” following a case where the plaintiff had been convicted of corruption of a minor.

Gabon

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 24

Political Environment: 23

Economic Environment: 22

Total Score: 69

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	67,NF	69,NF	69,NF	69,NF	71,NF

The constitution guarantees freedom of expression and of the press, but authorities continued to employ legal harassment, threats, and financial pressure to curb critical reporting in 2010. However, conditions have improved slightly under President Ali Ben Bongo Ondimba, who succeeded his father in 2009. Libel can be treated as either a civil or a criminal offense, and the government is permitted to criminalize civil suits and initiate criminal cases in response to alleged libel of government officials. Publications can also be legally suspended for libel and other offenses. In June 2010, reporter Jonas Moulenda of the state-owned daily *L’Union* was convicted of criminal defamation in a suit brought by Alfred Nguia Banda, the former director general of Gabon’s maritime transport agency, whose name had not even appeared in the cited article about the murder of Banda’s successor. Moulenda was given a suspended sentence and a fine of 500,000 CFA francs (\$900), and was free on appeal at the year’s end. In October, the editor of the independent newspaper *Le Temps* was imprisoned for five days for failing to pay the entire amount of an exorbitant defamation fine, which had been levied in 2004 for an article that suggested a member of the ruling party could have been involved in an armed robbery.

In 2010, the government continued to use its main regulatory body, the National Communications Council to curtail critical journalism. In May, the newspaper *Ezombolo* was banned from publishing for six months for “persistently insulting the head of state.” However, no media outlets were closed and there were no reports of attacks against journalists during the year. Past cases of assault and harassment were not investigated adequately.

The two government-affiliated newspapers, *L’Union* and *Gabon Matin*, are the only dailies in the country. Nine private weeklies and monthlies print sporadically due to financial constraints and government-ordered closures. Many of those outlets occasionally voice criticism of the government and ruling party, but self-censorship persists, especially when it comes to the president, although it was less common in 2010 than in previous years. Foreign publications are readily available. Gabon has seven private radio stations and four private television stations. The government owns two radio stations and two television stations that broadcast nationwide. Satellite television is also available to those who can afford it, and foreign radio broadcasts are widely accessible. Government officials and other powerful figures use financial pressure to control the press, and ownership of media outlets is opaque. In 2010, only 7.23 percent of the

population accessed the internet. There were no reports that the government restricted internet access or monitored e-mail.

The Gambia

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 26

Political Environment: 35

Economic Environment: 20

Total Score: 81

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	73,NF	77,NF	79,NF	79,NF	81,NF

The climate of press freedom and freedom of expression in 2010 remained largely unchanged in The Gambia from the previous year. The press continued to operate in an atmosphere of fear from legal and extralegal pressure, while the government ignored calls for accountability in past unresolved cases of abuse against journalists.

Although Article 34 of the constitution provides for freedom of the press and of expression, the government does not respect these rights in practice. Constitutional protections are undermined by other legislation, primarily the 2004 Newspaper Amendment Act, which requires newspapers to reregister and imposes excessive bonds on media institutions, as well as a 2004 criminal law that mandates stiff penalties and harsh punishments for publication of false information, including sedition and libel. These provisions have given the authorities great power to silence dissent. Although a 2005 press law guarantees the right of citizens to obtain information and prohibits censorship, there are broad restrictions on any content that is “contrary to the principles of Islam or offensive to other religions and sects.” Consequently, media outlets are sometimes fined and journalists are occasionally arrested for broadcasting “un-Islamic material,” resulting in self-censorship among media outlets.

Efforts to hold the government accountable for mistreating journalists in past years continued to bear little fruit. In December 2010, in a case brought in 2008 by the Ghana-based Media Foundation of West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Court of Justice ordered the Gambian government to pay \$200,000 compensation to exiled Gambian journalist Musa Saidu Khan, who had been detained and tortured for three weeks by state security agents in 2006. At the time of his arrest, Saidu Khan was the editor in chief of the now banned private weekly *The Independent*. On his release, he fled to the United States. In 2008, the ECOWAS court ordered the Gambian government to release and compensate “Chief” Ebrimah Manneh, who was detained in 2006 by state security agents and has been missing since then. The Gambian government rejected that decision in April 2009, with the Gambian attorney general and justice minister formally declaring that Manneh was not in government custody. Manneh’s arrest and disappearance came after he published a report critical of President Yahya Jammeh in the independent *Daily Observer* concerning the government’s inaction in investigating the 2004 assassination of journalist and press freedom activist Deyda Hydara. Investigations into the Hydara case have stalled since early 2005 following a leaked “confidential intelligence report” that smeared Hydara.

Other arrests and harassment of journalists continue to occur, although no physical attacks were reported in 2010. In March, the military detained two journalists for about two hours after they took pictures of a beach without authorization. In August, two journalists from *The Point* newspaper were summoned to appear in court after publishing an article that quoted a defense lawyer saying in court that his client had been tortured. The presiding judge disputed that the lawyer had made that claim in court, but when the lawyer expressed support for the journalists, they were immediately released. In June, Abdoulie John, a correspondent with the Associated Press and an editor at the online news outlet Jollof News, reported receiving several threatening late-night phone calls he believed to be from Gambian security forces. Due to similar threats and attacks, a number of Gambian journalists have fled into exile over the last two years. Yusupha Cham, a former reporter for *The Point* now living in the United Kingdom, received two threatening emails purporting to be from the feared National Intelligence Agency shortly after he began contributing articles to Gambian news websites. Journalists from news outlets perceived to be critical of the government are routinely denied access to public information and are excluded from covering official events. Self-censorship is widespread.

The government owns the *Gambia Daily* newspaper, a national radio station, and the only national television station. Political news coverage at these outlets generally toes the official line. There are eight private newspapers and nine private radio stations. Private media outlets are subject to official pressure, and many have also toned down coverage of the opposition. Most businesses avoid advertising with private media outlets for fear of government reprisals. A premium television network operates as a locally-based satellite station. Foreign news was rebroadcast on several local radio stations. The government did not interfere with access to foreign cable or satellite television news broadcasts, which were generally available to most citizens.

About 9 percent of the population has access to the internet. Two U.S.-based online news sites, *Freedom Newspaper* and *The Gambia Echo*, have periodically been blocked by the authorities. In August 2010 an ally of President Jammeh filed a defamation suit against *Freedom Newspaper* over several false stories published in 2009 that were later retracted.

Georgia

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 14

Political Environment: 22

Economic Environment: 19

Total Score: 55

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	57,PF	57,PF	60,PF	60,PF	59,PF

The constitution protects media freedom, and Georgia has some of the most progressive legislation in the region. However, there are concerns that the government has sought to control the independent and opposition media, particularly broadcast outlets. That said, there were far fewer reports of direct government intervention in 2010 than in previous years.

Article 19 of the 1995 constitution as well as the Law on Freedom of Speech and Expression explicitly protect freedoms of speech and expression, and also contain provisions for protection against censorship. The government decriminalized libel in 2004 in an effort to bring Georgian media law in line with European standards. Fewer legal cases were brought against journalists in 2010 than in previous years. However, legislation is at times slowly implemented, and enforcement is often determined by political concerns. Although Georgia adopted freedom of information legislation several years ago, local media report that government officials, particularly local authorities, work to limit or delay media access to information.

The Georgian National Communications Commission (GNCC), which regulates and licenses the country's telecommunications and broadcast media, has been criticized for a lack of independence. Progovernment outlets have at times been allowed to operate without licenses, while enforcement is often rigorous for opposition outlets. Although the GNCC renewed Maestro TV's general satellite broadcast license in 2009 after repeated delays, since May 2008 the GNCC has not issued any new terrestrial broadcast licenses, ostensibly because of an ongoing study of the existing media landscape. The director of the GNCC is the former director and shareholder of one of the main progovernment television channels, Rustavi-2.

The political situation in Georgia remains highly polarized, but tension between the ruling party led by President Mikheil Saakashvili and the opposition was significantly lower in 2010—and political stability higher—than in the previous three years. Similarly, the state's influence over the broadcast media was not as big of a concern in 2010 as in previous years, although it is likely to be a critical issue in future election periods. The members of the board of the state-run outlet Georgia Public Broadcaster (GPB), which operates television and radio stations, are approved by the president, and its main television channel, 1TV, is perceived as politicized and partisan. In 2009, the number of board members was increased to 15 after a campaign by opposition and civil society groups. The broadcaster rolled out a new channel in February 2010 devoted to politics, including live coverage of parliament and opportunities for a wide range of parties to air their viewpoints, and coverage of the May local elections was judged by independent researchers as significantly fairer than past coverage. However, the GPB retains a significant advantage over other media in that it is funded by state subsidies as well as commercial advertisements.

Instances of physical harassment and intimidation of journalists and media outlets occur occasionally. The independent outlet Trialeti TV, which is often critical of the government, reported several incidents of harassment throughout the year. A journalist and cameraman from the station were physically assaulted while covering the midnight removal of a Stalin statue in Gori. The station's owner reported being harassed by police and claimed that the arrest of his brother, a director at Trialeti, was politically motivated. Concerns about state harassment prompted a visit by the U.S. Ambassador to Trialeti's headquarters in December. Separately, investigative journalist Vakhtang Komakhidze reported receiving death threats from Georgian authorities in February 2010. Komakhidze was reporting on the separatist region of South Ossetia and producing a documentary about the 2008 conflict between Georgia and Russia.

A large number of private print outlets operate in the country and typically enjoy editorial independence, but have very limited circulation. Broadcast media tend to support either the government or the opposition. The two privately owned television broadcasters with nationwide coverage, Rustavi-2 and Imedi TV, are subject to government editorial control through opaque ownership deals, managerial appointments, and pressure, while opposition stations such as Kavkasia TV and Maestro TV do not have national reach. Several programs on Rustavi-2, for

instance, are officially sponsored by government ministries. Local media organizations report that one of their biggest challenges is the lack of transparency in media ownership and property rights, especially for television stations. Of particular concern is the lack of financial transparency related to licensing and the transfer of public funds to the media. The media, particularly broadcasters, do not have a high degree of financial independence; nationwide television stations are owned and subsidized by large businesses, which typically have close links to the state. As a result, these stations face indirect government control. The media market in Georgia is not competitive and highly monopolized, as is the advertising market with state and public broadcasters receiving a significantly larger portion of overall advertising than independent broadcasters. Several television stations have faced serious financial difficulties in the past year. Maestro TV was forced off the air twice after running out of money. Print media in Georgia are also challenged by a lack of advertising income and financial resources—problems that particularly affect their distribution capacity.

Approximately 27 percent of Georgians accessed the internet in 2010. The internet is not subject to government regulation. However, few newspapers have regularly updated websites, and many journalists lack knowledge about internet technology and web tools. Despite this, blogs and social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter are playing a growing role in spreading news and information.

The separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia are effectively under Russian control. Russia recognizes the two regions as independent states, and although the terms of the 2008 ceasefire stipulate that Russian troops are to pull out of the regions, this has yet to take place. International monitors are only present on the Georgian side of the buffer zone between Georgia proper and the separatist regions. There is little media presence in the scarcely populated region of South Ossetia. Local authorities operate a television stations, although most programming is rebroadcast from Russia. There is almost no independent press. In Abkhazia, a more ethnically mixed region, the media environment is more diverse. The local population has access to Russian TV and Abkhaz TV; Georgian TV is only available via satellite. Abkhazia's residents have access to Georgian and Turkish radio, and several private print media outlets exist. Overall, media ownership and coverage is dominated by local authorities. At the year's end, the Georgian government was preparing to re-launch a state-funded Russian-language TV service in an effort to reach out to the Russian-speaking populations in the separatist regions. The channel is called PIK—an acronym for First Information Caucasus in Russian—and is run by former British Broadcasting Corporation and France 24 journalist Robert Parsons. A previous incarnation run by GPB was on the air from 2009 to 2010.

[The scores for Georgia do not reflect conditions for the media in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, although these separatist regions are covered in the narrative report.]

Germany

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6

Political Environment: 7

Economic Environment: 4

Total Score: 17

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	16,F	16,F	16,F	16,F	17,F

The constitution guarantees freedom of expression and of the press, and the media remained free and vibrant in 2010. Hate speech, Holocaust denial, and Nazi propaganda are banned, but otherwise there is no official censorship. In 2010, a court convicted British bishop Richard Williamson for a comment that he made in 2008 denying the Holocaust, and ordered him to pay a fine of 10,000 euros (\$14,400). Criminal libel laws remain in effect, and two journalists were convicted in 2010 in a Dresden court for libeling two judges. Arndt Ginzler and Thomas Datt, who had investigated the Saxony Corruption Quagmire, a potential corruption scandal involving high ranking members of Germany's judiciary, in a series of magazine articles written for *Der Spiegel* and *Zeit Online*, were accused of making insulting allegations, defamation, and libel. Freedom of information legislation went into effect in Germany in 2006. These laws establish that information held by public authorities should be open and available, but they also contain numerous exceptions and require the payment of high fees in advance of every request.

An antiterrorism law that gave German authorities greater power to conduct covert surveillance took effect in 2009. The law permitted remote and secret searches of computers, telephone lines, and homes of suspected terrorists, and is meant to expand the investigative powers of the German Federal Criminal Police Office. Journalists are concerned that the law will limit the ability to keep their sources confidential, but at the end of 2010, there were no cases of it being explicitly used against journalists. In a positive step, a controversial data retention law that was passed in 2008 was overturned in 2010. The law had required telecommunication companies and internet-service providers to store information on citizens' e-mail and telephone contacts, as well as their internet browsing history for up to six months. It also permitted the wiretapping of lawyers, doctors, and journalists under certain circumstances. In March, the Supreme Court overruled this law on the grounds that it was unconstitutional and breached basic German privacy laws. The ruling also stated that all previously retained data must be deleted. Additionally, in April, German Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger reported plans to enact a law that would give greater protection to journalists who report information leaked from state government informants. The law would revise the penal code used to prosecute betrayal of state secrets and tighten the circumstances in which a journalist's materials could be confiscated. This new legislation was still up for debate at year's end.

Public broadcasting and media outlets generally enjoy editorial independence. However, in 2009, the board of Germany's national public broadcasting television network, Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF), declined to renew the contract of Nikolaus Brender, the network's editor, contrary to the network director's request. Media monitoring groups such as the Vienna-based International Press Institute alleged that political interference had played a significant role in the outcome. Violence against journalists is rare, and there were no reported attacks on journalists in 2010.

There are more than 300 daily newspapers and 25 non-daily newspapers in Germany. While local and regional newspapers have the greatest influence, there are some nationally distributed titles. Because of financial strains, there is a problem with media plurality in Germany due to the trend of merging editorial departments, which has led to a reduced diversity of views. Germany's television market is the most competitive in Europe, with more than 90 percent of households having cable or satellite television. There are public broadcasting systems

that include radio and television outlets in each of the 16 German *Länder* (states). They are financed through a license fee and are managed by independent bodies, whose content also feeds into the national ARD channel. In addition to the national ZDF public television station and two national radio stations, a number of private broadcast outlets operate throughout the country. Germany is also home to some of the world’s largest media conglomerates. Approximately 82 percent of Germans accessed the internet in 2010. There is a legal ban on accessing child pornography and Nazi propaganda.

Ghana

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 8

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 26

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	28,F	26,F	27,F	26,F	26,F

The overall climate for freedom of expression and the press remained generally healthy in 2010. The government of President John Atta Mills of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) sought to maintain the relative freedoms enjoyed by the press and media practitioners in the second year of the NDC’s return to power.

Freedom of the press is legally guaranteed, and the government generally respects this right in practice. Ghana’s criminal libel and sedition laws were repealed in 2001, but Section 208 of the 1960 Criminal Code, which bans “publishing false news with intent to cause fear or harm to the public or to disturb the public peace,” remains on the books. In the past, former public officials and private citizens have brought a spate of civil libel cases seeking crippling amounts in damages from media outlets, encouraging self-censorship. In May 2009, defamation claims were brought against the publishers of the *Daily Graphic* and the *Daily Democrat* newspapers by the former minister of aviation. The publishers faced potential payments amounting to \$207,000, but a final verdict had not yet been handed down by the end of 2010. However, in February 2010, courts dismissed years-old defamation suits brought against the *Daily Guide* and the *Daily Dispatch* by a member of parliament and a paramount chief, respectively.

President Mills’ cabinet approved a Right to Information Bill in November 2009 that would reinforce the constitution’s guarantee of freedom of information. The minister of information, John Tia Akologu, affirmed in May 2010 that the government was committed to passing the measure into law. Earlier in January, more than 500 people had demonstrated in the streets of the capital, Accra, to pressure the government to pass the bill. In spite of this, parliament failed to bring the bill to a vote during the year.

The surge of election-year harassment of journalists and overzealousness of police officers that took place in the previous two years declined substantially in 2010. However, the police used Section 208, described above, at least twice during the year. In July, the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) called on Ghana’s attorney general to drop criminal charges against the acting editor of Joy FM, Ato Kwamena Dadzie. He was charged in an

attempt to force him to reveal the station's sources following a story on a \$10 billion housing construction deal between the government and a South Korean company. The story claimed that the Ghana Real Estate Developers Association withdrew its opposition to the deal because its members received death threats via text messages. The minister of information dismissed the report as a fabrication and demanded its retraction.

Journalists and photographers continue to be subject to physical attack on the job. On two separate occasions in January 2010, photographers from the *Daily Guide* were assaulted in court by relatives of defendants whose trials they were covering. One of the photographers, Emmanuel Kubi, was also attacked by prison guards and arrested on the orders of the presiding judge, who detained him in a cell with criminals who further assaulted him. In June, a photographer for the *Daily Graphic* was also attacked in court. In September, Alexander Afriyea, a radio correspondent for Nhyira FM, was violently attacked on the job by supporters of the ruling party. Afriyea was also a candidate in an upcoming local election. On several occasions, radio stations were attacked by assailants trying to silence their programming. On two consecutive days in June, the privately-owned station North Star was attacked by members of the ruling party after a discussion program covered a local ethnic conflict. In September, privately owned station OTEC FM was stormed by a group of prison guards protesting coverage of a demonstration they had held for higher pay.

Dozens of newspapers, including two state-owned dailies, publish regularly, and there are 27 television stations in operation. Radio remains the most popular medium, with more than 150 FM radio stations in operation nationwide, 11 of which are state-run. The first community radio station, Radio Ada, was launched in 1999 and became a founding member of the Ghana Community Radio Network. Nine additional stations have started broadcasting, and several others have been awarded licenses by the National Communications Authority (NCA). Community radio stations have effectively informed citizens in marginalized communities throughout the country, contributing to stronger public involvement in local politics. However, the NCA has been criticized for slow licensing procedures and bias. Journalists claim that there has been no response to broadcast license applications from as far back as 2000. Poor pay and unprofessional conduct, including the fabrication of highly sensationalist news stories, remain problems.

Use of the internet is growing and remains unrestricted but access rate remains low at 8.55 percent of the population. An opposition group is currently suing the government to prevent it from installing a monitoring device on the international gateways of mobile telephone providers. The government argues the device will help minimize loss of revenue from international calls, but the plaintiffs claim it could be used to tap into text messages and internet communications.

Greece

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 9

Political Environment: 15

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 30

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	28,F	25,F	27,F	29,F	29,F

The constitution includes provisions for freedom of speech and the press, and citizens have access to a broad array of privately owned print and broadcast outlets. However, there are some limits on speech that incites fear, violence, and public disharmony, as well as on publications that are obscene, offend religious beliefs, or advocate violent overthrow of the political system. A 2007 media law mandates that the main transmission language of radio stations be Greek. The law also requires that radio stations keep a certain amount of money in reserve, as well as hire a specific number of full-time staff, which places a disproportionate burden on smaller, minority-owned stations. A libel hearing was to begin in September 2010 against journalist Takis Michas, who was being sued over his use of the term “paramilitary” to describe voluntary Greek units that were present at the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a subject often not talked about in Greece. The case was dropped.

Greece’s growing trend of violence against journalists continued in 2010. In July, men dressed in security uniforms murdered Sokratis Giolias as he stepped out of his apartment in Athens. Giolias was a radio journalist and contributing blogger to Troktiko, a website known for reporting on social issues and political scandals. The murder occurred just before Troktiko was to publish an investigation regarding corruption in the country. It was the first assassination of a journalist in the country in 20 years. A group named the Revolutionary Sect claimed responsibility for Giolias’s murder, and made threats against other well-known journalists. In December, journalists were subject to police violence as they covered the public demonstrations in reaction to government austerity measures established in response to the failing economy. Reporters were subjected to physical violence and in some cases forced to delete images taken of the protests. Some journalists who appeared to favor the government’s position were targeted by smear campaigns and vilified for their position.

Both public and private media in Greece are largely free from government restrictions, but state-owned stations tend to report with a progovernment bias. There are several independent newspapers and magazines, including some that are critical of the government. Broadcasting is largely unregulated, and many broadcast stations are not licensed.

Approximately 44 percent of the population accessed the internet on a regular basis. While internet access is generally not restricted, officials blocked the Google search engine for privacy reasons and prohibited Google from taking pictures in Greece for the Google Maps “street view” function in May 2009. “Street view,” which gives a 360-degree view of a street, has not been banned, but rather suspended until the government receives further requests for information from Google.

Grenada

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 8

Political Environment: 11

Economic Environment: 5

Total Score: 24

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	23,F	23,F	24,F	24,F	24,F

Guatemala

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 16

Political Environment: 25

Economic Environment: 18

Total Score: 59

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	58,PF	59,PF	58,PF	60,PF	60,PF

Guatemalan journalists continued to work under difficult conditions in 2010. Article 35 of the constitution ensures freedom of expression, which is generally respected by the government. Libel and defamation, however, remain crimes with penalties of up to five years imprisonment. Repeating another person's defamatory statement is also a crime, with similar penalties. There are several legal restrictions on press freedom, including Article 41 of the Radio Communications Law, which prohibits transmissions "offensive to civic values and the national symbols," "vulgar comedy and offensive sounds," and programs "contrary to morals and good etiquette." Positively, no legal cases were reported to have been brought against journalists during 2010. Access to information remains difficult in practice, especially for journalists covering corruption outside the capital, despite the Law for Free Access to Public Information, which was passed in April 2009.

There is no independent media regulation and licensing body, and the government controls the allocation of airwaves through public auctions that require bidders to meet technical and financial benchmarks. In August 2010, an initiative to legalize community radio stations was introduced in Congress. Community radio has long operated outside the law in Guatemala, but there were no new reports of station closures.

Sporadic cases of violence against the press by drug traffickers and other criminal organizations continued and were rarely prosecuted, encouraging self-censorship. A number of journalists also received death threats during the year. Journalists working in the rural areas were the most vulnerable to intimidation. Media groups reported a number of cases of extralegal intimidation and violence aimed at journalists, often in connection with stories exposing corruption, or which critiqued government officials. According to the Media Observatory, a Canadian nonprofit organization, there were 18 cases involving violations of freedom of expression in 2010. In October, the host of the television opinion program *Libre Encuentro*, businessman Dionicio Gutiérrez, announced his retirement from the program due in part to increased harassment and intimidation, and because he had received death threats. Gutiérrez was a frequent critic of the current administration. In May, a group of unidentified individuals broke into the offices of Centro Civitas, a nonprofit organization working with press freedom advocacy groups, and stole computers and files. Later in the year, Marvin del Cid Acevedo, an investigative reporter from *elPeriodico*, received numerous death threats and had his home broken into twice while he was investigating several stories involving drug trafficking and

government arms trades. During the first break-in, two computers were stolen and the assailants left a message written on a mirror saying, “You will die.” On September 27, Víctor Hugo Juárez, a journalist and businessman who owned two online media outlets, *Wanima News* and *Guatemala Empresarial*, was found murdered at the home of a friend, Byron Dávila Díaz, who was also killed. The crime remained unsolved at year’s end, and it is unclear if Juárez’s murder was connected to his work.

Newspaper ownership is in the hands of business elites with generally centrist or conservative editorial stances. There are four major daily papers, all privately owned. Electronic media ownership is concentrated in the hands of Angel Gonzalez of Mexico, a politically connected entrepreneur who favors conservative perspectives and controls four of Guatemala’s six private television stations. There are two licensed state television channels, but they are not currently broadcasting. One state-owned radio station competes with numerous private stations. The local print media continued to accuse President Alvaro Colom’s administration of using public advertising funds in a discriminatory fashion to punish or reward media outlets. The media also complained that the president and other high-level officials used smear tactics to publicly discredit journalists. There were no reports of government restrictions on internet usage, and the medium was accessed by about 10.5 percent of the population in 2010.

Guinea

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 17

Political Environment: 25

Economic Environment: 17

Total Score: 59

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	67,NF	67,NF	66,NF	66,NF	71,NF

Status change explanation: Guinea improved from Not Free to Partly Free due to policies enacted by a new transitional government at the beginning of the year, including a new constitution providing protection for press freedom, as well as two new media laws passed in June. Additionally, harassment of journalists and political censorship decreased.

The year was an eventful one for Guinea, opening with General Sékouba Konaté’s assumption of power as transitional president following an assassination attempt on former junta leader Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, and closing with the completion of a long-awaited presidential election that brought Alpha Condé, a long-time opposition activist in exile, to power. The two-round election, held in June and November and considered Guinea’s first free and fair vote since the country became independent in 1958, brought an end to two years of military rule and, many hope, to a half-century of autocracy. Condé’s inauguration in December was internationally heralded as a successful democratic transition. However, Condé’s ability to implement an ambitious reform agenda is uncertain, and interethnic relations remained tense in the wake of violence before and after the vote. Legislative elections are expected but have not been

scheduled; in the interim, a nonelected but pluralistic transitional council operates as a quasi-legislative body.

The transitional government promulgated a new constitution by decree in March 2010 that guarantees press freedom, and in June it passed two new media laws that were viewed as a significant improvement by international press freedom groups. The laws were drafted by a transitional commission led by journalists, in consultation with media executives, educators, and international experts. The first removed prison penalties for press offenses and narrowed the previously vague definition of defamation. The second called for the creation of a media regulatory agency with five of 11 members selected by media organizations—as opposed to being appointed by the president, as in the past. However, libel against the head of state, slander, and false reporting remain offenses under the new law and can be subject to high fines, and the implementation of the new provisions on the media regulatory agency remained uncertain at year's end. There was still no legislation guaranteeing freedom of information.

Although journalists enjoyed a greater degree of freedom than in 2009, when the military unleashed a violent crackdown on opposition supporters and the local press, members of the media operated in a politically polarized and occasionally dangerous environment. Several journalists were temporarily detained or otherwise harassed by members of the security forces while carrying out ordinary reporting activities. In July 2010, radio journalist Etienne Mansaré was stabbed in the back by unknown assailants, whom Mansaré's colleagues suspected were sent by the military. In mid-November, violence erupted between supporters of Condé and his unsuccessful presidential rival, Cellou Dalein Diallo, largely along ethnic lines, in the aftermath of the announcement of provisional election results. During the height of the violence, which lasted several days before a state of emergency was imposed, local news organizations were paralyzed and most journalists in Conakry, the capital, were unable to operate freely for fear of being targeted by party activists or members of the security forces. The media group that operates Sabari FM radio and the *Le Diplomate* newspaper suspended its operations for several days after Diallo supporters threatened to attack its offices, according to Reporters Without Borders. Independent journalists operating outside the capital were also subject to pressure from regional authorities, some of whom had retained the military positions Camara had appointed them to. Some journalists practice self-censorship, although a greater range of political coverage and diversity of opinion has emerged following the political transition.

The new media laws passed in June guarantee the freedom to open a newspaper. A number of private papers, mostly weekly editions, are published in Conakry, though their distribution in the interior is irregular. The only daily newspaper is state-owned and avoids criticism of the government. Advertising revenue is insufficient to cover the costs of operating a newspaper, but since 1996 the government has provided increasing subsidies for both print and online media, regardless of their political allegiances. Low pay for journalists can lead to ethical compromises, such as accepting bribes to kill unflattering stories.

In a country with high illiteracy rates, radio is by far the most influential medium. Radiodiffusion-Télévision Guinéenne, the state-run broadcaster, operates radio and television stations with programming in French, English, and a number of vernacular languages. At least 19 private radio stations operated in Conakry, along with one each in the cities of Kankan and Kamsar. There were also at least 12 rural and community radio stations in other parts of the country. Some local newspapers and broadcast outlets are thought to be controlled by political or business interests. Many citizens listened regularly to foreign radio programs on FM and shortwave radio. Unlike in previous years, no radio stations were suspended by the authorities in

2010, though some voluntarily halted their activities at times due to political unrest. The government did not restrict access to or distribution of foreign television programming via satellite or cable; however, few citizens could afford these services.

There generally were no government restrictions on access to the internet or reports that the government monitored internet activities, and the internet was a major platform for voicing antigovernment criticism, with the most popular sites managed by diaspora members outside of the country. Access to the internet has expanded through the growing number of privately run internet cafes in the capital and a few large towns, but only 0.96 percent of the population had regular access.

Guinea-Bissau

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 15

Political Environment: 25

Economic Environment: 17

Total Score: 57

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	47,PF	48,PF	53,PF	52,PF	54,PF

The overall condition of freedom of expression and the press in Guinea-Bissau deteriorated slightly in 2010, a reflection of unstable military-civil relations and the drug trafficking problem facing the country. In April 2010, troops under the command of the deputy chief of the armed forces staged a mutiny, briefly detaining Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior. Despite guarantees of protection by the 1993 constitution and a 2005 law, the government is able to use a number of crimes to threaten and charge critical journalists, including libel, libelous denunciation, abusing press freedom, and violating state secrets. However, no cases were reported in 2010. There is no legislation guaranteeing the right to access information.

Media practitioners continue to experience harsh treatment arising from the actions of authorities, security forces, and private citizens with close connections to the military and drug traffickers. In May 2010, the owner and publisher of *Diario de Bissau*, João de Barros, was physically assaulted in his office by a businessman and his driver, who smashed the newspaper's computers, interrupting his ability to publish. The police detained one suspect but released him without charge, and the investigation remained open at the end of the year. The attack, which followed a report on drug trafficking, continues a pattern of harassment and intimidation of journalists by those linked to drug traffickers and the military. Since 2009 at least three journalists have fled into exile because of threats related to their reporting on drug trafficking. The climate of fear stemming from frequent harassment and mistreatment of journalists has led to a significant amount of self-censorship, particularly on topics relating to drug trafficking.

In the past, authorities have threatened to shut down the main opposition radio station, Radio Bombolom, and at least one journalist was forced into exile after reporting on potential connections between the armed forces and drug traffickers. Following the murder of General Batista Tagme Na Waie in March 2009 and the assassination of President João Bernardo Vieira the following day, three private radio stations were shut down by the military, though they were

reopened the following day. Although there were no reports in 2010 of shutdowns or threats against radio stations, there continues to be a culture of impunity surrounding public officials and members of the armed forces who harass members of the press.

A government-owned newspaper, *No Pintcha*, operates alongside several privately owned print outlets. Three private radio stations compete with the state-run radio broadcaster. Operating in one of the world's poorest countries, Guinea-Bissau's press is plagued by financial instability. With only one state-owned printing press, publications struggle with high costs, slow production, and limited supplies. By July 2010, no newspapers were circulating in the country because of lack of availability of recycled paper used for production. Although many young people continue to pursue careers in journalism, the lack of resources hampers growth. Broadcast outlets face unreliable electricity. Access to the internet is limited to 2.45 percent of the population. No governmental restrictions on access are apparent.

Guyana

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 7

Political Environment: 13

Economic Environment: 10

Total Score: 30

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	27,F	29,F	31,PF	30,F	30,F

The constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press, and media are generally allowed to operate without interference. However, neither long-promised legislation to facilitate the distribution of private radio licenses nor a freedom of information bill have been introduced. Opposition parties charge that the repeated deferral of these pieces of legislation reflects the government's unwillingness to open up the media to wider ownership or allow greater diversity of viewpoints. The ruling People's Progressive Party has responded that it is determined to bring in the legislation, and that delays were due to a long drafting process. The so-called Broadcasting Bill is seen as key to the issuance of additional television and radio licenses, thereby breaking the existing state monopoly on radio. Journalists complain about difficulties in accessing official information. The proposed Freedom of Information Act is expected to make it a crime for the government to withhold information about state contracts and similar matters, but it had not been formally introduced by year's end. There is no criminal defamation in Guyana, but public officials utilize civil libel suits to stifle criticism. In July 2010, President Bharrat Jagdeo sued journalist Frederick Kissoon, as well as the editor in chief and publishers of *Kaieteur News*, for libel related to an article criticizing him, and successfully obtained an injunction against the newspaper from printing similar content. The libel case was pending at the year's end.

Although the government employs various tactics such as libel suits and advertising boycotts to stifle criticism, there are still robust critical voices within the media. Nevertheless, due to the president's sensitivity to criticism, some journalists have experienced difficulty in obtaining access to government events and press conferences. There are occasional cases of attacks and harassments against journalists and media outlets, but none were reported in 2010.

The government owns and controls the country's only two radio stations, run by the National Communications Network, under whose operation the government-run television station also falls. There are also 23 television stations, most of which are in private hands. Including the government-owned daily, the *Chronicle*, Guyana has seven national newspapers and six other periodicals, all of which are allowed to operate freely. The distribution of state advertising has for some time been a source of major controversy. Beginning in late 2006, the Government Information Agency suddenly withdrew state advertisements from the *Stabroek News*, and kept the ban in place until April 2008, when it resumed advertising without explanation. However, the majority of paid advertising appears in progovernment newspapers, including the newly-launched *Guyana Times*, which is owned by a friend of President *Jagdeo*. The *Kaieteur News*, which is regarded as favoring the opposition, has since opted to place government advertisements free of cost, and it is believed that this loss of revenue accounts for the December 2010 decision to charge for access to the paper's website. Use of the internet is unrestricted by the government, and approximately 30 percent of the population accessed this medium in 2010.

Haiti

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 14

Political Environment: 17

Economic Environment: 18

Total Score: 49

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	68,NF	59,PF	56,PF	53,PF	49,PF

The Haitian constitution upholds press freedom and forbids censorship except in the case of war, and these rights are generally upheld in practice. Journalists in Haiti work in difficult conditions with widespread and entrenched poverty, a corrupt judiciary, violence, intimidation, and a tradition of excessively biased media, and this was intensified in the aftermath of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake outside of Port-au-Prince in January 2010.

Despite harsh conditions in Haiti, the media situation has steadily improved over the past few years, and there have been efforts to address violence against journalists and the related problem of impunity for past crimes. The Independent Commission to Support the Investigations of Assassinations of Journalists was launched in 2008 by the president and the local press freedom group S.O.S. Journalistes to assist in the investigation and prosecution of past murders of journalists. Defamation remains a criminal offense, although there were no reported cases of it in 2010. The state-run National Telecommunications Council (CONATEL) issues licenses to radio stations and does not regulate content. There are six media associations or organizations, but no national code of ethics. As a result, there is no national body regulating journalism ethics and conduct.

No journalists were murdered in 2010, though many died as a result of the earthquake. In September, Orpha Dessources of Radio Boukman was beaten by police while she attempted to attend a press conference held by the police department regarding the arrest of a local gangster.

In December, there were several incidents of journalists being harassed and mistreated during violent street protests after the announcement of the presidential and legislative elections. Esther Dorestal, a reporter for Radio Metropole, was stopped and threatened by supporters of one presidential candidate as she was travelling to work in Port-au-Prince. A Haiti Press Network cameraman was attacked by the National Palace, reportedly by a group of people who believed that the news outlet had supported the rigging of the elections.

The earthquake affected all aspects of media. More than 95 percent of commercial and community radio stations—the primary source of news in Haiti—went off the air because of heavy damage to their equipment and offices. Nearly all radio stations had resumed broadcasting by the end of 2010, but many of them operated from tents or private homes. Many television stations had also returned to the airwaves by the end of the year. In print media, two major Haitian daily newspapers, *Le Nouvelliste* and *Le Matin*, stopped publishing in the aftermath of the quake, but continued to use the internet to spread the news. *Le Nouvelliste* began printing newspapers again in April, but *Le Matin* continued to only publish on the internet. Haiti’s sole Creole-language newspaper, *Bon Nouvel*, also stopped publication after the earthquake as its offices and printing facilities were destroyed. Because many radio stations depend on revenue from advertising, the destruction of the capital’s commercial and business sectors put a huge strain on their finances. Of about 50 pre-quake advertisers, only 10 maintained advertising after the catastrophe. In May, the Haitian government approved a \$5 million package to support and rebuild the nation’s media, but by the end of the year, financial assistance had only been provided to around 30 media outlets in the capital, which have each received sums ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 dollars. The provincial media were still waiting.

Radio remains by far the most popular news medium. There are four weeklies and two newspapers that publish more than once a week, all of which are privately owned. Television Nationale d’Haiti is government-owned, and there are several private television stations. However, Haiti’s television audience is small due to lack of electricity and resources. The concentration of wealth among a small number of Haitians negatively affects media outlets’ ability to obtain advertising revenue and sustain themselves financially. Journalists also struggle with low salaries, and some media outlets and journalists accept bribes due to economic hardship. There are no government restrictions on the internet, which was accessed by 8.37 percent of the population in 2010.

Honduras

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 16

Political Environment: 30

Economic Environment: 15

Total Score: 61

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	52,PF	51,PF	51,PF	52,PF	59,PF

Status change explanation: Honduras declined from Partly Free to Not Free because of a marked increase in harassment and attacks on journalists since the inauguration of President Lobo in January 2010, and an environment of impunity for murderers of media workers.

Freedom of speech and of the press are constitutionally protected in Honduras, but press freedom continued to deteriorate in 2010 with an increase in the number of journalists killed, harassed, or intimidated since the inauguration of President Porfirio Lobo in January. There continues to be a lack of accountability in Honduras since the 2009 coup, which has a negative effect on freedom of speech and of expression. Despite the 2005 abolition of the penal code's *desacato* (disrespect) provision, which was aimed at protecting the honor of public officials, restrictive press laws are still used to subpoena and punish journalists who report on sensitive issues such as government corruption, drug trafficking, and human rights abuses.

In August 2010, the government repealed a 2009 decree that had authorized the National Council on Telecommunications to cancel broadcasting licenses that promoted national hate and anarchy, or disrupted peace. Despite this positive development, censorship remains a major issue in Honduras. In the days immediately following the 2009 coup, programming on several broadcasting stations was suspended because of the military occupation. In September, a case against the de facto head of the National Telecommunications Commission regarding the September 2009 closure of Channel 36 and Radio Globo was dismissed, frequent media outlet closures remain an issue. Additionally, journalists who supported the ousted leftist president, Manuel Zelaya, were prosecuted and fired after the coup. Many news outlets that are harassed or shut down turn to the internet to continue providing news. Self-censorship is also an issue among journalists, and the increasing threats toward journalists magnified this trend in 2010. Several press freedom advocacy groups have said journalists felt they could be targets if they were seen as opponents of the government or powerful business figures. In August 2010, the power lines to the transmitters at Radio Uno, a station in San Pedro Sula, were cut by vandals who objected to its reporting on police repression of protests by teachers. The station had been a target of attack since the 2009 coup.

Ten journalists were killed by unknown actors in 2010, making Honduras one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a journalist. In a period of seven weeks early in the year, six journalists were murdered. The lack of serious investigation made this killing spree even more controversial, as Minister of Security Oscar Alvarez claimed that there was nothing to indicate that these murders were a result of their journalistic work. In March 2010, Joseph Hernández Ochoa of the privately owned Canal 5 TV station was killed while driving home in Tegucigalpa, the capital. The attack had likely targeted journalist Karol Cabrera, who worked for the state-owned Canal 8 TV station and also hosted a show on the privately owned radio station Radio Cadena Voces (RCV), and who was in the car with Ochoa at the time of the shooting. Cabrera, who had received multiple threats in connection with her work, was shot and seriously injured in the attack. The investigation was still underway at year's end, and Cabrera had fled the country.

In another deadly attack against journalists, Nahúm Palacios Arteaga, news editor of television station Televisora de Aguán-Canal 5, was killed in Tocoa. There was no autopsy and officials did not gather evidence from his body before the burial, showing the high level of impunity in cases involving the killing of journalists. Additionally, prosecutors have filed charges in only two of the 10 murders because of the difficult investigation laws. Other journalists killed include David Meza Montesinos of Abriendo Brecha TV and radio El Patio;

Bayardo Mairena of Canal 4 TV; Manuel Juárez of Radio Excelsior; Luis Antonio Chévez of radio W105; Georgino Orellana of Televisión de Honduras; and Luis Arturo Mondragón of Canal 19 TV. In February, President Lobo expressed his determination to bring to justice those responsible for the murder of journalists, but little had been done at year's end.

In addition to murders, several journalists received death threats throughout the year. Some were assaulted by supporters of the 2009 ousted president Zelaya, as well as by supporters of the administration of President Lobo. In August 2010, journalists Nelson Joaquín Murillo of Radio América and Amilcar Luque of *La Tribuna* were attacked by members of the National People's Resistance Front, a wide coalition of organizations that support to restoration of Zelaya. Meanwhile, René Rojas, host of the radio/television program *Libre Expresión* was harassed in September for exposing local traffic police abuses.

Although the independent media sector is active and can report without government restriction, most media outlets are owned by a small group of business magnates who have political and commercial interests and exercise considerable control over media content. This contributes to the manipulation of state advertising that is reportedly used to secure favorable coverage, and also influences the political and factual content of the reporting. Honduras has nine daily newspapers, six private television stations, and five radio stations that broadcast nationally, one of which is state-owned. The broadcast sector is growing as a result of increased investment throughout the country. However, community radio stations are not clearly recognized by law, which means that they operate under threat of closure. Corruption among journalists and government manipulation of state advertising purchases remain common. According to a 2008 report by the Open Society Institute, journalists often entered into contracts with government officials and received payments in return for favorable reporting.

Around 11 percent of the population had access to the internet in 2010, but poor infrastructure in the rural areas limits internet accessibility. The government did not restrict access to the internet until the 2009 coup, and following these events, access to the internet was hindered because of politically motivated power outages.

Hong Kong

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 11

Political Environment: 12

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 32

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	29,F	30,F	30,F	33,PF	33,PF

Although freedom of expression is protected by law and Hong Kong media remain lively in their criticism of the territory's government, political and economic pressures narrow the space for free expression. In recent years, Hong Kong journalists have also faced a growing threat of harassment and attack when reporting in mainland China.

Under Article 27 of the Basic Law, Hong Kong residents enjoy freedoms of speech, press, and publication, and these rights are generally upheld by the territory's independent courts.

However, they risk being undermined by the power of the Chinese National People's Congress to make final interpretations of Hong Kong's Basic Law, Chinese surveillance in the territory, and the economic interests of media owners involved in the Chinese market. Hong Kong has no freedom of information law; an administrative code is intended to ensure open access to government information. However, a year-long investigation by the Hong Kong ombudsman, released in January, found "considerable misunderstanding" among some officials about their responsibilities to transparency. Records were refused for no reason, or for inappropriate reasons, the ombudsman found, citing a lack of training among government staff. The report ignited calls among local journalists and watchdogs to give freedom of information requirements the force of law.

Press freedom advocates continue to express concerns too over the selective application of the Broadcasting Ordinance and the constitutionality of existing procedures for granting licenses to new media outlets. Decisions to grant or refuse licenses are made by the executive branch rather than an independent body. In January 2010, the Legislative Council endorsed an amendment to make the process more transparent. But, the amendment fell short of calls by the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) and other watchdog groups to revamp the procedures entirely and remove the potential for political or commercial interference. Authorities continued to obstruct broadcasts by the prodemocracy station Citizens' Radio, whose license application was rejected in 2006. In April, authorities warned Legislative Council candidates not to attend pre-election forums hosted by Citizens' Radio, according to local news reports. Several candidates attended anyway, and the forums were broadcasted. But the station was raided in May, and again in December, when authorities said its signals posed a threat to aviation safety. Currently only two broadcast companies, Television Broadcasts (TVB) and Asia Television (ATV), have licenses to compete in the free-to-air television market. The lack of competition has led to doubt about the diversity of news coverage by the current operators, according to HKJA. In a possible government overture to broaden the competition in this market, in July 2009 Rita Lau, the secretary for commerce and economic development, announced that the government would not set a limit for the number of free-to-air television broadcast licenses and in fact welcomed greater competition for the benefit of public choice. Subsequently, three existing pay-television operators submitted applications by late March 2010, but there were no further developments on their licenses by year's end.

Increasing media self-censorship poses a serious threat to free expression in this Chinese Special Administrative Region. In recent years, Beijing's influence over the news, publishing, and film industries has increased, prompting greater restraint on issues deemed sensitive by the Chinese central government. Such self-censorship stems in part from the close relationship between media owners and the central government. Several owners sit on the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), a political advisory body that has little real influence over government policy but is used by the ruling Communist Party to co-opt powerful members of society. Several media owners are also current or former members of the National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament, and many have significant business interests in mainland China.

Hong Kong journalists face restrictions and intimidation when covering events on the mainland, limiting their ability to provide national news to the local population. Mainland authorities require journalists to obtain temporary press cards from Beijing's liaison office in Hong Kong prior to each reporting visit to the mainland, and to obtain the prior consent of interviewees. Even with the accreditation, journalists from the territory have repeatedly been

subject to surveillance, threats, beatings, and occasional jailing when reporting on the mainland. In February 2010, Sichuan police detained and manhandled nearly a dozen Hong Kong reporters, preventing them from attending the sentencing of activist Tan Zuoren. In December, seven Hong Kong journalists were hit, kicked, and slapped by neighbors of another activist, Zhao Lianhai, outside his home in Beijing. The HKJA has repeatedly urged local authorities to do more to protect the rights and safety of Hong Kong reporters in mainland China.

Hong Kong’s media are outspoken. There is a high degree of professionalism, and political debate is vigorous. Hong Kong has dozens of daily newspapers in both Chinese and English, and residents have access to satellite television and international radio broadcasts from services like the British Broadcasting Corporation. Controversy continued in 2010 over the future of government-owned Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), which has earned high public approval ratings for its critical coverage of the government. After rejecting proposals to turn RTHK into an independent public broadcaster in 2009, the government issued a new charter redefining its roles, and Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen appointed an advisory board. Critics said that the government-appointed board, and the charter’s new articulation of the broadcaster’s roles, including promoting “one country two systems,” threatened the station’s editorial independence. In recent years, publications known for their criticism of the central government, such as the *Apple Daily* and the *Epoch Times*, have reported difficulties in attracting advertisers because of fears among private business owners that supporting these publications would damage their economic interests on the mainland. There are no restrictions on internet access in Hong Kong. The region has one of the highest internet usage rates in Asia with 69.4 percent of the population accessing the internet during the year.

Hungary

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 10

Political Environment: 11

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 30

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	21,F	21,F	21,F	21,F	23,F

Hungary’s constitution protects freedom of speech and of the press. Numerous competitive and independent media outlets generally operate without interference from the state, and many clearly reflect the divisions of the national political scene. However, a series of new press laws passed under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán from June to December 2010 has been criticized by international observers and European Union representatives for threatening media independence and pluralism. Libel remains a criminal offense, and journalists are responsible not only for their own words, but also for publicizing insulting or libelous statements made by others. Restrictive state secrecy legislation has also raised concerns.

In March 2010, then-President László Sólyom approved an amendment to the penal code outlawing public denial of the Holocaust or Nazi war crimes, with penalties of up to three years in prison. Orbán’s new government amended the law in June to remove specific references to the

Holocaust and to prohibit denial of unspecified crimes of Hungary's communist regime as well as those of the Nazis. In June, the new Fidesz government proposed a media reform package in an effort to tighten government control over broadcasting and to extend regulation to print and online media. The government passed media secrecy legislation in November that forced journalists to reveal their sources when covering issues related to national security or public safety, or if the information was classified. Reporters must also notify the authorities if a source reveals material considered a state secret. The penalties for failing to comply with such a request for information could amount to up to \$230,000.

In August, newly elected President Pál Schmitt—former deputy leader of Fidesz—approved legislation which restructured supervision over Hungary's public and private media; the National Radio and Television Commission (ORTT) merged with the National Media and Communication Authority (NHH) to create the National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH). The prime minister was granted the power to appoint the president of the NMHH for a nine-year term, without limits on reelection. The NMHH president also chairs the five-member autonomous Media Council, which has the power to fine television and radio stations for unbalanced coverage, as well as banning public subsidies to media outlets that are found guilty. The four other members are appointed by the parliament, in which Fidesz holds a two-thirds majority. Annamária Szalai, a former Fidesz politician, was appointed in August as the first director of the NMHH and chair of the Media Council, and the other appointed members were all candidates from the Fidesz party. The changes were criticized as restrictive by the opposition, press freedom groups, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The public media, including Hungarian Television, the Hungarian News Agency (MTI), Hungarian Radio, and Duna TV, were unified under the jurisdiction of the Media Council, threatening their political and financial independence. The law gives the head of the NMHH the right to nominate the executive directors of all public media. The public broadcasters have lost their right to produce their own news; they are obliged to use MTI's news coverage. Government-funded MTI will also make its news available for no charge, which goes against EU rules regarding free market activity by effectively disadvantaging outlets providing paid subscription-based news.

As the final portion of the package, in December, President Schmitt approved a new Media Act, which contained a series of broad provisions affecting all print, broadcast, and online media, including providers and publishers. Under the new act, the Media Council will be responsible for interpreting and enforcing these new laws, one of which awarded the council the power to levy fines or suspend outlets for unbalanced or immoral reporting—specifically content involving sex, violence, or alcohol. Radio and television stations can now receive fines of some \$950,000. Daily newspapers and online news outlets can receive fines of approximately \$120,000, and weeklies as much as \$47,000. Compounded with the ambiguity of the laws, the absurd fines associated with such infractions are likely to encourage further self-censorship. Additionally, these fines must be paid before initiating an appeals process. The new law also requires that all media outlets, including online services, register with the Media Council. Registration and licenses can be revoked by the NMHH.

While most aspects of the laws will come into force in early 2011, and independent media continued to operate freely in 2010, press freedom advocates have noted a serious government bias in many public media outlets. Individual journalists are also occasionally exposed to pressure from state organs. Physical attacks on reporters or media outlets are rare. In September, representatives from Hungary's media asked the courts to prevent the airing of

campaign ads by the rightist, anti-Roma party, the Movement for a Better Hungary (Jobbik), which they deemed offensive. However, the Supreme Court ruled that the advertisements—which referred to “gypsy criminals”—had to be aired in order to give equal coverage to all parties participating in the campaign.

The media landscape is dominated by private companies, with high levels of foreign investment in national and local newspapers. Privately held newspapers include 10 national and 24 local dailies. In July, Fidesz removed the article from Hungary’s constitution which had previously banned information monopolies. Hungary has three national public radio stations, and two main private stations. Under the new legislation, radio stations’ programming must devote at least 25 percent of airtime to Hungarian music. For television programming, 50 percent must go towards European productions. Additionally, the new law permits the restriction of not only domestic broadcasts, but those coming from abroad.

Diversity is on the rise in the electronic media; most notably, there has been an increase in vibrant and influential domestically owned electronic media outlets. The internet is widely available, but laws passed in 2010 gave the Fidesz-dominated Media Council greater control over online media outlets. The internet was accessed by approximately 65 percent of the population in 2010.

Iceland

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 1

Political Environment: 5

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 12

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	9,F	9,F	9,F	9,F	10,F

Despite enduring problems associated with the global financial crisis of late 2008, the Icelandic press is still among the freest in the world. Freedoms of the press and expression are protected under Article 72 of the constitution, and the government generally does not interfere in the independent media’s presentation of a wide variety of views. However, there are limitations to these rights, including fines or imprisonment for those who belittle the doctrines of officially recognized religious groups. In addition, individuals may face fines and up to two years in prison for verbal assaults based on race, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation. In June 2010, following revelations regarding the financial meltdown and inspired by the antisecrecy organization WikiLeaks, the parliament approved a resolution on an ambitious Icelandic Modern Media Initiative. The initiative aimed to create a global safe haven with unprecedented legal protection for the press, bloggers, and whistle-blowers. By year’s end the initiative still had widespread support, but no progress had been made in turning the resolution into law.

The country’s wide range of publications includes both independent and party-affiliated newspapers, but the financial crisis has led to cutbacks in both broadcast and print media. The Icelandic National Broadcasting Service (RUV) runs radio and television stations funded by license fees as well as advertising revenue. RUV was reestablished as a public corporation in

March 2007, having previously operated as a state-owned institution; it still has public-service obligations, and holds a market share of around 50 percent. Media concentration is a concern in Iceland, as the company 365 controls much of the country's private television and radio broadcasting, one of the major national newspapers, and several magazines. There was also some concern over the appointment of a former prime minister and central bank chairman as editor in chief of the largest independent newspaper, *Morgunbladid*, in late 2009. Web-based media are flourishing, and the internet is not restricted by the government. In 2010, 95 percent of the country's population accessed the internet, and 61 percent were reported to be on the social-networking site Facebook, which serves as an active forum for debate among both citizens and public officials.

India

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 9

Political Environment: 17

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 35

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	37,PF	35,PF	35,PF	36,PF	33,PF

India's vibrant media scene is by far the freest in South Asia, although journalists, particularly those in rural areas and certain conflict-racked states, faced a number of challenges in 2010, including an increase in legal actions and occasional incidents of violence. The constitution provides for freedoms of speech and expression, and while there are some legal limitations, these rights are generally upheld. The 1923 Official Secrets Act gives authorities the power to censor security-related articles and prosecute members of the press, but no such cases were reported during the year. State and national authorities have on occasion used other security laws, criminal defamation legislation, blasphemy provisions, and contempt-of-court charges to curb critical reporting, though a 2006 amendment to the Contempt of Courts Act introduced truth as a defense. Hate-speech laws have also been used against the press. In July 2010, magazine editor T. P. Nandakumar was arrested in Kerala on defamation charges and held briefly before being released on bail. In Tamil Nadu, A. S. Mani of the *Naveena Netrikan* magazine, who had been imprisoned on defamation charges in 2009, was detained for a month in July 2010 on spurious charges and mistreated in custody after writing an article on police corruption. In December, criminal charges were filed against K. K. Shahina, a reporter for the weekly magazine *Tehelka*, following its publication of an investigative story on the prosecution of Abdul Nasar Mahdani, a popular Islamic cleric and political leader from Kerala. Implementation of the landmark 2005 Right to Information Act has been mixed, with the majority of requests being blocked due to broad restrictions on the release of information.

The Press Council of India (PCI), an independent self-regulatory body for the print media composed of journalists, publishers, and politicians, investigates complaints of misconduct or irresponsible reporting. The regulatory framework for the rapidly expanding broadcast sector does not at present feature an independent agency that is free from political influence. A draft

bill on broadcasting regulation has been introduced on several occasions during the past decade, but it has failed to make headway; broadcasters' and journalists' groups oppose the measure, viewing it as a government attempt to extend control over the sector. In a bid to forestall official regulation of news coverage—including proposals by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) in the wake of the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks to increase regulation of television news feeds in times of crisis—the News Broadcasters' Association, an industry body that primarily represents the television sector, issued a new set of self-regulatory guidelines in February 2009, covering topics including crime, violence, and national security. While access to the profession of journalism is open, an accreditation mechanism for online journalists has not yet been developed. Media industry groups and local press freedom advocacy organizations remain somewhat weak.

Physical intimidation of journalists by a variety of actors continued to be a problem in 2010. A number of journalists were attacked, threatened, abducted, or detained by police, political activists, right-wing groups, insurgents, local officials, or criminals. Police attacks on journalists attempting to cover the news were a particular problem during the year, with a spate of incidents reported in February. One journalist was killed in the course of his duties, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. The reporter, Vijay Pratap Singh, was caught in a bomb blast targeting a local politician in Allahabad. Media offices were also targeted during the year. In July, Hindu nationalists attacked the offices of the Headlines Today television station in New Delhi, as well as the studios of the Marathi-language Zee 24 Taas station in Kolhapur. Journalists covering extractive industries in Orissa faced a dramatic increase in harassment in 2010, according to an investigation by the Free Speech Hub, a local watchdog website. In a positive development, the National Human Rights Commission in February ordered that approximately \$11,000 be paid in restitution to a journalist who had faced harassment by local police in a case dating to 2004. The PCI also investigated the case and ordered that local authorities file reports on the journalist's safety for a further five years.

Members of the press are particularly vulnerable in rural areas and insurgency-racked states such as Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, and Manipur. Reporters in these states faced pressure from both the government and insurgents in 2010. Those suspected of Maoist or other insurgent sympathies were sometimes threatened with sedition charges or detained by the authorities, while others were pressured to reveal their sources for sensitive stories. In July and again in November, media outlets in Manipur announced the joint closure of a number of newspapers in order to protest threats from armed political groups, according to the International Federation of Journalists. Increased civil unrest in Jammu and Kashmir during 2010 led to more instances of harassment of local journalists, particularly as they attempted to cover repeated confrontations between protesters and security forces. Many reporters in the state also had their special curfew passes seized and were otherwise harassed or beaten by police. The local media continued to face threats from militants regarding coverage of certain issues, and pressure to self-censor has also been reported at outlets that rely on state government advertising for the majority of their revenue. Jammu and Kashmir's local cable television stations, as well as pages on the Facebook social-networking site and mobile-telephone text messages, were censored during periods of unrest, and editions of local newspapers were unable to print in Srinagar as a result of curfews. According to the Asian Media Barometer for India, the authorities in a number of states occasionally block certain cable news channels or instruct cable operators not to carry channels based on their political slant or content. A number of foreign journalists have had trouble obtaining visas to report from within the country. In June 2010, authorities refused to renew the

visa of Shogo Takahashi, the New Delhi bureau chief of Japanese public broadcaster NHK, allegedly in reprisal for his negative reporting.

Most print outlets, particularly in the national and English-language press, are privately owned, provide diverse coverage, and frequently scrutinize the government. The low cost of newspapers—which are sold at prices far below the cost of production—ensures wider access to print media than in most low-income countries. The broadcast media are predominantly in private hands, and diversity in the television sector has expanded exponentially. However, the state retains a monopoly on AM radio broadcasting, and private FM radio stations are not allowed to air news content. Under a policy announced in 2006, which provided guidelines for the ownership and operation of community radio stations by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society groups, there has been a modest increase in community radio stations, leading to a greater diversity of voices and topics covered. The MIB reported that as of the end of 2010, 825 applications had been received, approvals had been granted to 263 applicants, and 103 stations had become operational. Doordarshan, India's state-controlled television station, has been accused of manipulating the news to favor the government, and some private satellite television channels provide coverage that reflects the political affiliations of their owners, according to the U.S. State Department.

The placement or withdrawal of advertisements is used by both the national and state-level governments to reward favored news outlets or punish those who produce critical stories. Bribery is also a major concern, as is overt blurring between the editorial and advertising departments at many outlets, sometimes through the use of “private treaties” between media outlets and major companies. During 2009, local media outlets brought attention to the ongoing practice of “cash for coverage,” in which payments are made to secure favorable news coverage for candidates and parties, particularly during election cycles. The allegations led to investigations by India's election commissioner and the PCI, but the practice of paid news remains deeply entrenched, as it bolsters salaries for journalists and revenues for media owners. In September 2010, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced new disclosure rules, formulated in consultation with the PCI, which would require all media houses to reveal any financial interests in companies that they report on. In November, a scandal over recorded telephone conversations, known as the Radia tapes controversy, led to criticism of several leading journalists for their apparent involvement in bargains between lobbyists and political parties. India is one of the few countries worldwide where print media remain a vibrant and financially sustainable growth industry, and rising numbers of both print and broadcast outlets that target national or various regional or linguistic audiences operate throughout the country. Restrictions on foreign news outlets were reduced in 2009, allowing 100 percent foreign-owned periodicals to print local editions with government approval.

The internet, accessed by about 7.5 percent of the population in 2010, remains largely unrestricted. However, the government retains the power to censor the medium, particularly on grounds of morality or national security. The 2008 Information Technology Act gives the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology the authority to block material that endangers public order or national security. The law also enables prosecution of cybercafés, search engines, and internet-service providers. Mobile phones are increasingly being used as a means of gathering and disseminating news and information, particularly in rural communities and areas with high rates of illiteracy. In 2010, authorities attempted to pressure Research In Motion, the Canadian manufacturer of the BlackBerry mobile device, into allowing official surveillance of its instant messaging and e-mail services.

Indonesia

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 18

Political Environment: 20

Economic Environment: 15

Total Score: 53

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	58,PF	54,PF	54,PF	54,PF	52,PF

Although Indonesia's media environment continues to be one of the most vibrant and open in the region, a number of new threats to press freedom emerged in 2010. These included increased acts of violence against journalists and a series of legal rulings that could be seen as encouraging extralegal attacks on those who question cherished cultural and religious beliefs, such as Islam, nationalism, and respect for authority. Draft legislation on issues such as multimedia content, state secrets, information technology, broadcasting, and electronic transactions suggested that many legislators were not fully cognizant of the meaning of Indonesia's constitutional press freedom guarantees or the specific protections for media workers enshrined in the 1999 Press Law.

As has been the case in recent years, Indonesia's courts issued a series of rulings in the areas of press freedom and freedom of expression in 2010 that seemed to contradict one another in both direction and spirit. The Constitutional Court found a law on book banning to be unconstitutional in October, just weeks after the Supreme Court upheld an earlier decision to jail Erwin Arnada, the editor of *Playboy Indonesia*, for public indecency. The Constitutional Court's April decision to uphold a law prohibiting blasphemy (Article 156a of the criminal code) also had profound implications for press workers, as did the judges' apparent endorsement of the government's argument that the prohibition of blasphemy was vital to protecting religious harmony. Activists from a coalition of Indonesian nongovernmental organizations opposed the ruling, contending that the blasphemy law had been used largely to defend Islam and to discriminate against religious minorities and other believers outside the mainstream of the six officially recognized faiths.

Defamation is a criminal offense covered by more than 40 provisions of the country's criminal code. The independent Press Council, created by the 1999 Press Law, is supposed to adjudicate all media disputes (according to a 2005 Supreme Court ruling), but authorities continue to undermine the council's mandate by bringing defamation charges to the courts. The June 28, 2010, edition of *Tempo* magazine, which contained a cover story that provocatively addressed the issue of police corruption, led the police to threaten the magazine with defamation charges under Articles 207 and 208 of the criminal code. Although the police soon agreed to mediation of the dispute by the Press Council, two unidentified men threw firebombs at the magazine's headquarters in early July.

A series of draft laws and policies issued by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology raised additional concerns during the year. These included a draft ministerial decree on multimedia content, which would allow internet-service providers to filter

and block pornographic content; a draft law on “telematics convergence” that would require online media outlets and other entities involving information and communication technologies to obtain licenses from the ministry; and a revision of Law No. 11/2008 on Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE) that would retain the law’s potential to be used to punish citizens for the expression of opinions via electronic and social media. In addition, according to the Southeast Asian Press Alliance, a draft law on state secrets prepared by the Ministry of Defense conflicted “substantially” with Law No. 14/2008 on Public Information Transparency. Finally, a draft revision of the criminal code, slated to replace laws that in many instances date back to the colonial period, still contained clauses on defamation. Although none of these draft laws were passed in 2010, each remained a priority for the 2011 legislative session. Significantly, in each of these cases, ministry officials demonstrated little understanding of the 1999 Press Law, which guarantees the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information.

The 2008 Law on Public Information Transparency provides for the right to freedom of information. It went into effect in April 2010, but many flaws remained in terms of implementation. Print media are regulated through the Press Council, while broadcast media must be licensed, a process handled by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. In October 2010, the Supreme Court temporarily restored broadcasting rights to Radio Era Baru, a Chinese-language station affiliated with the Falun Gong spiritual movement that frequently reports on human rights abuses in China. The government had refused to issue a license to the station since 2007 and confiscated the station’s transmitter in March 2010; a final ruling on the dispute was still pending.

Journalists remain subject to attacks and physical harassment from both the authorities and nonstate actors. The Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) reported that violence against the press in Indonesia increased in 2010, with 47 cases, up from 37 in 2009. These included the August murder of Sun TV journalist Ridwan Salamun, who was killed while reporting on a riot in Tual, Maluku Province. While at least two other murders of journalists were reported, they were not immediately proven to be work related. In one case, Muhammad Syaifullah, the Borneo bureau chief for *Kompas* newspaper, who had reported extensively on illegal logging and problems related to coal mining in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, was found dead under suspicious circumstances in July. Also that month, searchers found the body of reporter Ardiansyah Matra’is, who worked for local television broadcaster Merauke TV in Papua and had been threatened by soldiers over his coverage of illegal logging. In the days leading up to local elections, other journalists in Papua reportedly received threatening mobile-telephone text messages.

In another example of the type of violence against journalists that is common in Indonesia, Ahmadi, a reporter for *Harian Aceh* newspaper, was threatened and beaten by an army officer in June, presumably over a report about illegal logging. Many instances of violence against press workers occurred in conflict zones and other dangerous areas, leading the AJI to call for additional protection from both employers and the state, as well as increased efforts to address impunity for such crimes. In December, the Palu office of the AJI was itself attacked by the Kaili Youth Front (FPK), an ethnic youth group in Central Sulawesi, following a news report on one of their leaders. According to the AJI, there were no arrests even though the suspects were “clearly identified” as members of the FPK. Foreign journalists were generally restricted from traveling to the restive provinces of Papua and West Papua, though the government did approve some requests.

In general, the Indonesian public can access a variety of news sources and perspectives, provided by a significant number of private print and broadcast media outlets. Television is the most popular medium, and the sector is competitive, with 10 national commercial networks in addition to the state-owned Televisi Republik Indonesia. However, there is ongoing concern about the ability of large corporations and powerful individuals to control press content, either indirectly through the threat of lawsuits or directly through ownership. Advertising remains a robust source of income for newspapers and television companies, and the shift to online news sources has been slow.

In 2010, the internet was accessed by 9.1 percent of the population. There are no government restrictions on access, but the lack of high-speed infrastructure outside the major cities limits the internet’s use as a news source. In addition, the internet appears to be even more vulnerable than traditional media to restrictions on content. According to the 2008 ITE Law, individuals face up to six years in prison and heavy fines for online defamation, though no cases were reported in 2010.

Iran

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 30

Political Environment: 37

Economic Environment: 24

Total Score: 91

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	84,NF	84,NF	85,NF	85,NF	89,NF

The crackdown against the press in the aftermath of the 2009 presidential election continued into 2010 as journalists were arrested, imprisoned, threatened, and abused. Waves of censorship led to an increasing number of closed outlets and revoked licenses. The government arrested or interrogated journalists en masse ahead of planned opposition protests; in all, more than 100 journalists have been detained since the protests began in June 2009. Tactics of intimidation and harassment, unfair trials, and the lack of financial means to establish free and fair media outlets continued to severely hinder the media landscape in Iran. Moreover, the increased targeting of online media throughout 2010 exacerbated the restrictive environment in which journalists and bloggers operate.

Constitutional provisions and laws restrict what can be covered in the press and fail to provide protections for the media. In addition, the government regularly invokes vaguely worded legislation to criminalize dissenting opinions. The Press Law forbids the publication of ideas that are contrary to Islamic principles or detrimental to public rights. Article 500 of the penal code states that anyone who undertakes any form of propaganda against the state will be sentenced to between three months and one year in prison, but the code leaves “propaganda” undefined. Under Article 513, offenses deemed to be an “insult to religion” can be punished by death, or prison terms of one to five years for lesser offenses, with “insult” similarly undefined. In 2010, the government broadened the definition of the crime of *moharebeh*, or “enmity against God,” in order to convict activists and journalists. Other articles provide sentences of up to two years in

prison, up to 74 lashes, or a fine for those convicted of intentionally creating “anxiety and unease in the public’s mind,” spreading “false rumors,” writing about “acts that are not true,” and criticizing state officials, though many prison sentences have been arbitrarily harsh, ranging from 6 to more than 10 years.

Iran’s judiciary frequently denies accused journalists due process by referring their cases to the Islamic Revolutionary Court (IRC), an emergency venue intended for those suspected of seeking to overthrow the regime. Cases against journalists before the IRC have featured closed-door hearings, denial of access to an attorney, and denial of a fair jury to defendants. In July 2010, Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani, a member of the Assembly of Experts, forbade lawyers from defending political suspects, putting pressure on lawyers not to assist arrested journalists. In addition to intimidation, lawyers in such cases are often disqualified or kept uninformed of proceedings.

Amid strict censorship rules, officials continued to shut down newspapers and publications, especially if they covered the opposition, women’s rights, ethnic issues, or any topic the government deemed unacceptable. In March 2010, the government shut down the publications *Etemad* and *Irاندokht*, both linked to opposition leader Mehdi Karrubi, and blocked former president Mohammad Khatami’s website in October. The reformist weekly *Chelcheragh*, which covered culture, art, satire, and cartoons, was shuttered in November. The government arrested three editorial staff members of *Shargh* newspaper, along with the paper’s financier, without charges, and proceeded to close the outlet in December 2010. The authorities reinforced such actions with statements to the effect that publications carrying news about the opposition or failing to support the regime would be considered illegal. In order to remain in business, many outlets and journalists practice self-censorship and abide by official restrictions. In addition to print media, the government has targeted journalists’ associations and civil society organizations that support freedom of expression. The authorities also use official or loyalist media outlets to propagate false claims about activists. Fars News Agency, for example, often published fabricated confessions or resignations during 2010. Meanwhile, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) continued to monitor articles produced by the network prior to publication to ensure that they did not violate its rules or contain prohibited information.

Iran remains among the worst countries in the world with respect to the imprisonment of journalists. Waves of arrests occurred around the dates of planned opposition protests in 2010. At the beginning of February, for example, 60 journalists and internet activists were detained. At year’s end, 34 journalists were imprisoned and 31 were on short-term releases, though sometimes with six-figure bonds and instructions to remain silent. Numerous accounts of abuse in custody have been recorded, and many prisoners were tortured to extract confessions. The crackdown has prompted an exodus of journalists from Iran. According to a June 2010 report by the Committee to Protect Journalists, of the 85 journalists who had fled from their home countries in the past year, 29 were from Iran. The government responded to the phenomenon by announcing a special court to try Iranians living abroad.

In addition to arresting large numbers of journalists, the government continued to impose excessive sentences during the year, including lengthy prison terms and professional bans. For example, Jila Baniyaghoob, a women’s rights activist and journalist, was sentenced to a 30-year ban from media activities. The IRC handed a six-year prison sentence and a five-year ban on press activities to Badressadat Mofidi, a journalist and secretary general of the Iranian Journalists’ Association, without any legal basis. Though her prison term was later lifted, the professional ban remained in place. Canadian-Iranian blogger Hossein Derakhshan was forced to

confess to conspiring with foreign intelligence services, and despite retracting his confession in front of a judge, he was sentenced to more than 19 years in prison.

International media are unable to operate freely, have been accused by the authorities of fomenting the unrest surrounding the presidential election, and are often punished for airing criticism of the government. In November 2010, Iranian authorities charged two reporters from *Bild am Sonntag*, a German tabloid, with espionage for their stories on a woman who had been convicted of adultery and sentenced to death by stoning. The government requires foreign correspondents to provide detailed itineraries and proposed stories before visas are granted, and visas are regularly denied to foreign reporters who have previously been critical of the regime.

Because of the limited distribution of print media outside large cities, radio and television serve as the principal sources of news for many citizens, with more than 80 percent of residents receiving their news from television. Article 175 of the constitution forbids private broadcasting; the government maintains a monopoly on all domestic broadcast media and presents only the official political and religious viewpoints. The newspapers with the widest circulation and influence report from a conservative editorial position or are directly operated by the government. A state-run English-language satellite station, Press TV, was launched in 2007. Leaders of the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) have also announced their intent to launch a trilingual (Persian, Arabic, and English) news agency modeled on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) or the Associated Press. The IRGC already largely controls the semiofficial Fars News Agency. An increasing number of people own satellite dishes and access international news sources, though this is technically forbidden and confiscation of satellite dishes is known to occur. The IRGC reportedly has a budget of \$10 million dedicated to establishing jamming stations in Tehran and other cities. Foreign-based satellite radio stations such as Radio Farda and the Dutch-funded Radio Zamaneh provide news and information to a large part of the population.

Approximately 13 percent of the population regularly accesses the internet. However, the regime imposes systematic controls on the internet and other digital technologies. According to the OpenNet Initiative, the Iranian government has become one of the most sophisticated and pervasive filterers of online content in the world. It now has the technological capability to produce its own monitoring and filtering software. According to a parliamentary commission investigating Iran's privatization process, a private corporation linked to the IRGC bought 51 percent of the Telecommunications Company of Iran in October 2009 with little outside competition. The government retains direct ownership of the remaining portion. The transaction gave the IRGC control over Iran's telephone systems—both the fixed-line network and the two mobile-phone companies—and internet-service providers (ISPs). The government is also taking steps to restrict access to the internet: connection speeds have been slower, and authorities cut off service during critical moments in 2010, such as the anniversary of the 1979 revolution in February. In addition, the government carefully monitors social-media websites such as YouTube and Twitter, and now regularly restricts access to the social-networking site Facebook before any protest.

Blogs and online news websites—particularly those in the Persian language—were increasingly targeted for censorship during the year; authorities in 2009 had amended the 2000 Press Law to include online outlets. Blogging platforms such as Blogger and Persianblog were often blocked. Censors continued to regulate online publications, such as *Zanestan*, that deal with women's rights issues, and filter Iranian news sites including *Emrouz*, *Ruydad*, and *Roouz Online*. Meanwhile, independent or antigovernment bloggers were subject to harassment. In

February 2010, blogger Mohammad Esmaeelzadeh was sentenced to 91 days in prison for publishing insulting comments about the country’s supreme leader. Hamed Saber was detained in June for publishing photographs of Tehran protests online. Another blogger, student Navid Mohebbi, was arrested in September for a variety of alleged crimes, including acting against national security. Although subject to a more aggressive range of threats and restrictions in 2010, the internet still provided a key platform for informing the Iranian public, and online media remained a source of diverse news coverage and analysis. In an acknowledgment of its inability to completely silence online dissent, the regime has stepped up its efforts to hack sites—including those based abroad—that it cannot disable by other means, and to foster the large-scale creation of progovernment blogs, commentary, and news content.

Iraq

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 23

Political Environment: 29

Economic Environment: 16

Total Score: 68

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	71,NF	70,NF	69,NF	67,NF	65,NF

Iraq remained one of the world’s most dangerous places for journalists in 2010. Increasing government restrictions and the use of lawsuits against media outlets also posed significant challenges to media freedom during the year. While Iraq’s 2005 constitution guarantees freedom of the press, courts continued to rely on the highly restrictive 1969 penal code to prosecute reporters and media outlets on charges including libel and defamation. Moreover, in July, the Supreme Judicial Council announced plans to create a special court to address offenses committed by the media, and the new entity heard its first case in September. Press freedom groups objected to the move, noting that Article 95 of the constitution bans the establishment of special or extraordinary courts. The National Communications and Media Commission (NCMC), meanwhile, forced media organizations to agree to regulations giving it the authority to halt broadcasts, confiscate equipment, and withdraw licenses, among other powers. Orders issued by the Coalition Provisional Authority shortly after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion—including Order 14, which bans media incitement to violence—remain in effect. Iraqi law restricts reporters from defaming public officials, and self-censorship is widespread. In April 2010, a municipality in Dhi Qar province filed a lawsuit against a news website that published a citizen’s complaint about poor public services. The Dhi Qar provincial council reportedly shut down a local office of the Cairo-based satellite television station Baghdadiya in February for “promoting the dissolved Baath Party,” and in November the NCMC shut down the Baghdad office of Baghdadiya after it reported terrorist hostage-takers’ demands on the air. At the end of 2009, a group of journalists and academics drafted a law designed to safeguard access to information. In May 2010 they published an open letter urging the Iraqi parliament to pass the freedom of information law, but it was unclear when the legislature might vote on the issue.

Iraq registered the worst performance on the Committee to Protect Journalists' 2010 Impunity Index, which ranks countries based on the failure of authorities to arrest or prosecute suspects in the murder of journalists. In the cases of the 92 journalists thought to have been assassinated in Iraq since 2003, the government has not brought a single perpetrator to justice. At least five journalists and three other media workers were killed in 2010. The death toll was slightly higher than in 2009, when four journalists were killed, but far below the 2007 toll, when 34 journalists lost their lives. Sardasht Osman of the independent newspaper *Ashtiname* was kidnapped and murdered in May. The investigation was described by press watchdog organizations as "cursory." Officials concluded that Osman had been killed by members of Ansar al-Islam, but the extremist group denied responsibility for the killing. Prior to his murder, Osman had received threatening telephone calls, which began after he published a satirical article about alleged corruption among Kurdish government officials in a Swedish-based newspaper. Following the murder, a court in the autonomous Kurdish region fined the magazine *Rega* more than \$40,000 for publishing a report suggesting that regional security forces were involved in Osman's death. Two other prominent murders occurred elsewhere in Iraq in September: Al-Iraqiya television anchor Riad al-Saray was gunned down in Baghdad, and the next day Al-Mosuliya television presenter Safa al-Din Abdel Hamid was shot dead in front of his home.

Journalists also faced harassment, faring especially poorly in the run-up to the March 7 national elections. Journalists seen as critical of the government were denied media accreditation, and various reporters were beaten, intimidated, and detained by police and rival political forces. In February, the NCMC issued new regulations prohibiting broadcasters from "inciting violence or sectarianism," which it said was a crucial problem during election periods. Press freedom organizations criticized the regulations for their vague wording and harsh penalties that included suspension, fines, and the confiscation of equipment. On March 4, security forces in the Kurdish region raided Radio Dang, interrupting programming and confiscating equipment, and police beat two journalists for filming evidence of preelection fraud. Violence continued on election day itself, as independent journalists were blocked from entering voting stations or taking photographs of the premises. In many cases they were beaten, stripped of their equipment, and detained.

The Kurdish region has been a freer place for media than elsewhere in Iraq, particularly following passage of a regional press law in 2008 that prohibits the closure of news outlets and prison terms for press offenses. But journalists argue that their freedoms have been slowly eroding, and that Kurdish authorities still often relied on Iraq's restrictive 1969 penal code to prosecute journalists. In 2010, the region's ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) filed several civil suits against news organizations that had criticized its activities. One lawsuit sought \$1 billion for defamation from a newspaper affiliated with the opposition group Gorran, after it published an article alleging that the KDP and its ally, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), had made millions of dollars from illicit oil sales. In July, KDP leader Massoud Barzani accused journalists of taking advantage of the 2008 press law and suggested that the regional parliament should amend it. Journalists in the Kurdish region continued to face physical harassment and intimidation. In Dahuk in February, two journalists were arrested for publishing a poem criticizing Islam. In April, eight others were beaten by police while covering a peaceful student demonstration in Sulaymaniyah. Human rights and press freedom organizations blamed security forces allied with the KDP and PUK for the rise in attacks on journalists.

Elsewhere in Iraq, journalists cited increased restrictions, harassment, and a lack of access to information as impediments to their work. Reporters must receive official permission to

cover a story and are often forced to accept military escorts. At least twice in 2010, Iraqi government officials jailed journalists without charge. In April, an elite security unit that reports to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki arrested Saad al-Aossi, editor of the weekly *Al-Shahid* in Baghdad, six days after al-Aossi published an opinion piece criticizing al-Maliki for lack of transparency in filling government posts. In June, counterterrorism forces detained Riyadh Qassim, a Baghdad-based newspaper reporter, for 25 days before an investigative court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to hold him. Separately, in Anbar in March, military personnel briefly detained nine reporters and confiscated their cameras after they interviewed citizens in Fallujah who accused the army of failing to prevent rocket-propelled grenade attacks on election day.

The country is home to approximately 100 print outlets and an even larger number of television and radio stations. Still, Iraqi media are split along sectarian, ethnic, and political lines, and most news outlets are funded by political parties, blurring the distinction between news and opinion. The government controls the Iraqi Media Network, which includes Al-Iraqiya television and *Al-Sabah* newspaper. The difficult economic environment has led many media outlets to accept bribes in the form of advertising; advertising with no editorial demands attached makes up a small fraction of media outlets' incomes. Due to the dearth of advertising revenue, some outlets also offer kickbacks and bribes to both state and private advertising agencies. Al-Sharqiya, which broadcasts from Dubai, is one of the largest Iraqi television stations, and nearly half of Iraqis have access to foreign satellite television channels, including Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya.

The internet operates without government restriction. Internet usage has steadily increased, but factors such as poor infrastructure have made the penetration rate in Iraq the lowest in the region, with only 5.6 percent of the population accessing the medium in 2010.

Ireland

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 5

Political Environment: 6

Economic Environment: 5

Total Score: 16

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	15,F	16,F	15,F	15,F	15,F

Press freedom is constitutionally guaranteed and generally respected in practice. However, archaic defamation laws place the burden of proof on defendants. In 2010, former cabinet minister Michael Lowry claimed that he was defamed by journalist Sam Smyth under Section 23 of the Defamation Act, saying that Smyth's assertions "portrayed him as corrupt, dishonest, and untrustworthy." The case was still in progress at year's end. The constitution includes a clause banning the publication or utterance of "blasphemous matter," and a new law on the issue came into effect in January 2010, establishing blasphemy as a punishable offense and setting fines of up to €25,000 (\$33,000). Article 36 of the law states that a person has committed blasphemy if he or she "publishes or utters matter that is grossly abusive or insulting in relation to matter held sacred by any religion" and thereby intentionally causes "outrage among a substantial amount of

the adherents of that religion.” The law also included new grounds for defense and the option for media outlets to issue an apology without the assumption that they are admitting libel. Immediately after the legislation took effect, a group of Irish atheists published 25 blasphemous statements on an Irish website. There has been discussion on removing the blasphemy ban from the constitution, but by the end of the year, no progress had been made on withdrawing the new statute.

The Broadcasting Act of 2009 established the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, which is tasked with overseeing the public-service broadcasters, allocating public funding, and promoting accountability. The act expanded the role of the old Broadcasting Commission of Ireland, which had no responsibility for public-service broadcasting. In 2008, the Press Council of Ireland and the Office of the Press Ombudsman were set up to safeguard and promote professional and ethical standards among newspapers and other periodicals. Journalists can generally report freely without harassment and without having to exercise self-censorship.

Ireland has a strong and competitive print media sector, led by the privately owned *Irish Independent* and *Irish Times*. The national public broadcaster, Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTE), dominates the radio and television sectors, but provides a comprehensive and balanced news service. RTE does face competition from both private and public British television stations. There are dozens of licensed independent radio stations. Cross-ownership is allowed within certain limits, with publishers permitted to own up to 25 percent of a broadcast outlet. Internet use is not restricted by the government. Approximately 70 percent of the Irish population accessed the internet in 2010.

Israel

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 7

Political Environment: 15

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 29

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	28,F	29,F	28,F	31,PF	29,NF

Israel features a lively, pluralistic media environment in which press freedom is generally respected. Nevertheless, due to ongoing conflicts with Palestinian groups and neighboring countries, media outlets are subject to a military censor, and journalists sometimes face travel restrictions.

Legal protections for freedom of the press are robust. While the country’s basic law does not specifically address the issue, the Supreme Court has affirmed that freedom of expression is an essential component of human dignity. The legal standing of press freedom has also been reinforced by court rulings citing the principles laid out in the declaration of independence. Hate speech and publishing praise of violence are prohibited, and the 1948 Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance bans expressions of support for terrorist organizations or groups that call for the destruction of Israel. Publishers are required to receive a license from the Interior Ministry to operate a newspaper, while broadcasters are covered by a separate regulatory regime. The

Government Press Office (GPO) requires journalists operating in Israel to have proper accreditation to attend official press conferences, gain access to government buildings, and pass through Israeli military checkpoints. Foreign journalists, including some who are strongly critical of Israeli policies, are generally accredited. However, the GPO has occasionally refused to provide press cards—especially to Palestinians—citing national security concerns, thus preventing the affected reporters from entering Israel. In January 2010, Jared Maslin, the English-language editor for the Palestinian news agency Ma’an, was denied entry to Israel and detained at Ben-Gurion airport for a week for “failing to cooperate under questioning.” He was subsequently deported to the United States. Although Maslin withdrew his appeal of the deportation, both he and Ma’an claimed that the withdrawal was made under duress and without due process.

Under a 1996 Censorship Agreement between the media and the military, the censor has the power—on the grounds of national security—to penalize, shut down, or stop the printing of a newspaper, or to confiscate its printing machines. In practice, however, the censor’s role is quite limited, and journalists often evade restrictions by leaking a story to a foreign outlet and then republishing it. In 2009, two Palestinian journalists—Hadir Shaheen and Mohammed Sarhan of the Iranian Arabic-language television station Al-Alam—were indicted in Israel for reporting on the deployment of Israeli soldiers to Gaza without clearance from Israeli censorship authorities; after being released to house arrest, they were sentenced in June to two months (eight months with six suspended) in prison. In January 2010, however, the Israeli Supreme Court overturned the prison sentences. Separately, in April 2010, a widely condemned gag order on the case of journalist Anat Kam was lifted, revealing that she had been charged with “serious espionage” for giving *Haaretz* newspaper reporter Uri Blau over 2,000 classified military documents. Kam, who allegedly leaked the documents during her military service, had reportedly been under house arrest since December 2009, and was indicted in January 2010; negotiations for a plea bargain were ongoing at year’s end. Blau, who had been staying in London since before the indictment, returned to Israel for questioning by the Shin Bet domestic security agency in October.

A long-standing law forbidding Israeli citizens from traveling to “enemy states” such as Lebanon and Syria without permission from the Interior Ministry has on occasion been applied to journalists, most recently in 2007. Press freedom organizations have condemned the selective application of the law, as well as the potential effects of such travel restrictions on the diversity of news available to the Israeli public. In general, Israeli journalists are barred from entering the Palestinian territories without explicit military approval. However, under an informal arrangement, the military ignores the presence of Israeli journalists in the West Bank. Israeli journalists have been prohibited from entering the Gaza Strip since 2006 under a military decree that cites their personal safety; this ban was extended to all foreign journalists in November 2008. Following the onset of a major Israeli military operation in the territory in December 2008, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) extended the closed military zone two miles into Israeli territory, effectively preventing both local and foreign journalists from reporting on developments near the border as well. In late January 2009, restrictions on foreign journalists were lifted, as was the rule barring Israeli reporters from the border area. However, the older prohibition on Israelis entering Gaza remained in place at the end of 2010.

Deliberate violence against or harassment of journalists is rare in Israel, but it does occur, with the principal targets being Arab (both local and foreign) journalists. On two separate occasions in March and September 2010, several journalists were either injured or detained while covering clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinians in Jerusalem. The GPO has been known

to impose obstacles, especially in airport security checks, for foreign journalists who are suspected of an anti-Israel political orientation.

In June 2010, Israeli commandos arrested and detained 18 international journalists during a raid on a Gaza-bound activist flotilla that was attempting to bring goods into the territory to protest an Israeli naval blockade; nine people were killed and dozens injured during the operation. Many of the journalists were detained in Israeli jails and released after a few days, in some cases without their possessions or travel documents. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), at least six journalists had their equipment either confiscated or destroyed by IDF soldiers. In addition, detained photographer Issam Zaatari, of the Qatar-based satellite television station Al-Jazeera, reported that Israeli soldiers destroyed his camera and broke his arm on one of the ships and later subjected him to a lengthy interrogation. An ensuing debate over the initiation of violence during the raid played out in Israeli print and internet-based as well as international media outlets, with CPJ decrying “Israel’s editing and distribution of footage confiscated from foreign journalists.”

Israelis are active news consumers. Mainstream Hebrew newspapers garner an estimated one million daily readers, out of a population of less than eight million. The pluralistic makeup of Israeli society is reflected in the vibrant press landscape, which includes 12 daily newspapers. Three of those are mainstream Hebrew outlets, one has a national-religious outlook, three are aimed at ultra-Orthodox readers, one focuses on the Arab population, one is printed in English, and another is in Russian. In addition, there are two daily newspapers that are distributed free of charge. A wide range of weekly newspapers and internet news sites operate, and these are also divided along religious, ethnic, and language lines. The major newspapers are independent, and all newspapers are privately owned and provide a range of views. Some freely criticize government policies and aggressively pursue cases of official corruption.

A diverse selection of broadcast media is available, though ownership is somewhat concentrated. Most Israelis subscribe to cable or satellite services that provide access to international stations. As a result, the dominance of the state-run Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) in the television market has declined significantly. The IBA’s radio station, Kol Israel, and the military-operated Galei Tzahal remain popular, while a broad range of pirate radio stations also operate, serving the country’s ultra-Orthodox, Russian-speaking, and Arabic-speaking communities in particular. Israel has the region’s highest rate of internet usage, at over 67 percent in 2010, and the government generally does not restrict internet access, though surveillance of internet-service providers and telecommunications services is carried out, ostensibly for security purposes.

[This rating and report reflect the state of press freedom within Israel proper. The West Bank and Gaza Strip are covered in a separate report.]

Israeli-Occupied Territories/Palestinian Authority

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 28

Political Environment: 33

Economic Environment: 22

Total Score: 83

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	86,NF	84,NF	84,NF	86,NF	84,NF

Press freedom in the Palestinian territories is restricted by ongoing violence, as well as abuses by three governing authorities: the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank, controlled by the Fatah faction; the Gaza Strip government led by the Islamist group Hamas; and the Israeli military, which occupies parts of the West Bank and is at war with Hamas in Gaza. Journalists faced harassment, detentions, assaults, and restrictions on their freedom to report throughout 2010.

The Palestinian basic law and the 1995 Press and Publication Law provide for freedom of the press and freedom to establish media outlets, and state that there should be no censorship. However, restrictions are allowed if press activity threatens “national unity” and “Palestinian values.” This vague terminology gives authorities ample leeway to impede journalistic activity. In the West Bank, the PA Ministry of Information regulates all television and radio station licenses. Following its 2007 takeover of Gaza, the Hamas government introduced a new system of accreditation under which all journalists are required to register with the authorities.

Tensions between Fatah and Hamas continue to limit press freedom in both the West Bank and Gaza. Abuses include violence, arrests, threats, and restrictions on distribution and broadcasting, and the cumulative pressure has driven many journalists to practice self-censorship. In the West Bank, PA security forces often harass journalists linked to the Hamas-affiliated newspapers *Felesteen* and *Al-Resaleh*, as well as Hamas’s Al-Aqsa television station, which the PA banned in 2007. In February 2010, a Nablus military court sentenced Al-Aqsa correspondent Tariq Abu Zaid to 18 months in prison for “undermining the status of the PA” by reporting for Al-Aqsa; the court overrode a January ruling by the Palestinian High Court that Abu Zaid should be released. However, PA president Mahmoud Abbas ultimately ordered his release in November. In July, a Hebron court sentenced Shihab news agency reporter Amer Abu Arfa to three months in prison and a fine for “resisting the authorities” via his allegedly pro-Hamas reporting. In the Gaza Strip, journalists with Fatah-affiliated and independent media outlets were detained and assaulted, and Hamas authorities restricted journalists’ freedom of movement. In July 2010, both Palestine News and Information Agency (WAFA) journalist Hussam Almughani and *Siyasat* magazine editor Atef Abu Seif were summoned by Hamas’s Internal Security Service, detained, and allegedly beaten for their perceived anti-Hamas reporting. In October, the Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate, a Fatah-affiliated journalists’ group, was closed by Hamas security officials.

Israeli security policies and military activities also continued to restrict Palestinian media freedom in 2010. Israeli journalists have been prohibited from entering the Gaza Strip since 2006 under a military decree that cites journalists’ personal safety. This ban was extended to all foreign journalists from November 2008 to late January 2009, when a ceasefire ended an Israeli incursion into Gaza. However, Israeli journalists are still barred from entering. In June 2010, Israeli commandos arrested and detained 18 international journalists during a raid on a Gaza-bound activist flotilla that was attempting to bring goods into the territory to protest an Israeli naval blockade; nine people were killed and dozens injured during the operation. Many of the journalists were detained in Israeli jails and released after a few days, in some cases without their possessions or travel documents. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), at least six journalists had their equipment either confiscated or destroyed by IDF soldiers. In

addition, detained photographer Issam Zaatar, of the Qatar-based satellite television station Al-Jazeera, reported that Israeli soldiers destroyed his camera and broke his arm on one of the ships and later subjected him to a lengthy interrogation. An ensuing debate over the initiation of violence during the raid played out in Israeli print and internet-based as well as international media outlets, with CPJ decrying “Israel’s editing and distribution of footage confiscated from foreign journalists.”

Israeli security services continued to harass and detain reporters during the year, and were repeatedly accused by local and international press freedom organizations of targeting journalists for assault and arbitrary detention. Soldiers fired tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades at journalists covering events throughout the West Bank, particularly those from Palestinian news organizations and from Al-Jazeera. Soldiers also confiscated journalists’ equipment on a number of occasions in 2010. Freedom of movement is restricted by the Israeli checkpoint system, which requires military permission for passage into Israeli territory and often hinders travel within the West Bank. In addition, the IDF has increasingly restricted coverage of the regular protests near the Israeli security barrier in the West Bank by declaring such areas “closed military zones.” According to the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA), there were 218 “violations of media freedoms” in the territories in 2010 (up 26 percent from 2009), 139 of which were committed by the Israeli security forces and settlers, and 79 of which were committed by the Palestinian security forces in the West Bank and Gaza or by Palestinian militant groups.

There are three daily West Bank Palestinian newspapers—*Al-Hayat al-Jadidah*, which is completely funded by the Fatah-controlled PA; *Al-Ayyam*, which is partially funded by the PA; and *Al-Quds*, a privately owned paper based in Jerusalem that is subject to Israeli military censorship. Distribution of these papers in Gaza was banned by the Hamas government in July 2008, and although the bans on all but *Al-Hayat al-Jadidah* were subsequently lifted, Israel began blocking their distribution in Gaza that year as part of its broader sanctions on Hamas. In July 2010, Israel lifted its ban on shipments of the papers, but according to CPJ, Gaza authorities again prevented their distribution, allegedly demanding that the editors agree not to criticize Hamas. Meanwhile, a June 2007 ban on the Hamas-affiliated newspapers *Felesteen* and *Al-Resaleh* in the West Bank remains in place.

There are approximately 45 privately owned television stations, and the PA funds the official Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), which is under the direct control of Abbas. The PA has closed down Al-Aqsa television offices in the West Bank towns of Ramallah, Jenin, and Tulkarm. PBC transmissions have been blocked in Gaza since the Hamas takeover in 2007, while the Voice of the People radio station, operated by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, is generally allowed to operate but occasionally blocked. The Israeli military has utilized coercive tactics to restrict broadcasting by stations deemed to be advocating terrorism. In 2009, Israeli soldiers confiscated the broadcasting equipment of Radio Bethlehem 2000, based in Beit Jala. Foreign broadcasts are generally available. About 37 percent of the population in the Palestinian territories used the internet in 2010, and its use is not subject to restriction.

Italy

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 11

Political Environment: 13
Economic Environment: 10
Total Score: 34

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	35,PF	29,F	29,F	32,PF	33,PF

Freedoms of speech and of the press are constitutionally guaranteed and generally respected despite ongoing concerns regarding concentration of media ownership. The 2004 Gasparri Law on broadcasting was heavily criticized for provisions that enabled Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to maintain his control of the private media market, largely through his ownership of the Mediaset Group. In October 2009, the Constitutional Court overturned a law that had granted Berlusconi protection from prosecution while he remains in office. The ruling opened the way for a number of court cases against him to proceed, including a tax fraud case involving Mediaset. In June 2010, the Senate passed a bill that would limit the use of police wiretaps, prescribing heavy fines and up to 30 days in jail for journalists who publish content from such recordings before the implicated defendant goes to trial. The controversial bill was seen primarily as an effort to keep embarrassing information about politicians out of the news. Following international condemnation and protests by journalists, including a national strike in July, the government put a hold on the draft law, and it had not been enacted at the end of the year. In addition to this threat to media freedom, a comprehensive report released by the Vienna-based International Press Institute noted a number of other legal impediments, including the lack of a proper law to deal with conflict of interest (particularly between media ownership and holding political office), as well as licensing procedures for journalists that can potentially lead to official influence and limited opportunities for foreign-born reporters.

Defamation can be punished with either prison terms or fines, and civil cases against journalists remained common in 2010, as Berlusconi's private life came under growing scrutiny. In 2009, Berlusconi had sued several foreign newspapers for their coverage on his private life, particularly the claim that he had a sexual relationship with an 18-year-old girl. His separate libel cases against the Italian papers *La Repubblica* and *L'Unita* remained active with no verdict at the end of 2010. In October 2010, Berlusconi filed a libel suit against a television journalist for investigating his real estate investments in Antigua. The journalist, Milena Gabanelli, alluded to the idea that Berlusconi was involved in money laundering. In another case, commentator Marco Travaglio was fined €16,000 (\$21,000) for defaming the president of the Senate, Renato Schifani, during a television talk show that aired in 2008.

Political interference at the state broadcaster, RAI, remained a key issue of concern during the year. Under a long-standing arrangement, Parliament—now dominated by Berlusconi's coalition—has direct control over the appointment of most directors and a number of key journalists at RAI. The board of directors suspended political discussion on the broadcaster's three television channels during the month leading up to regional elections in March 2010, citing the difficulty of ensuring equal treatment to all political factions. However, the decision was seen as a politically motivated attempt by the Berlusconi government to maintain power. On two occasions during the year, Berlusconi called in to a political talk show on the state-owned network to complain that the show was biased and did not give equal time to center-right candidates. In past instances, RAI journalists who were overly critical of the government have been removed from their positions.

Journalists occasionally face physical threats or attacks from organized crime networks and other political or social groups. Several journalists live under police protection for their writing on organized crime, including Roberto Saviano, a journalist who wrote the best-selling book *Gomorra* about the Neapolitan mafia. Separately, journalists covering the highly publicized 2007 murder of British student Meredith Kercher have faced harassment and intimidation throughout the investigation, trial, and aftermath.

While the print sector is more diverse in both ownership and content, most Italians receive news and information through the broadcast media sector. There are many newspapers and news magazines, most of them with regional bases. Newspapers are primarily run by political parties or owned by large media groups, and they continue to provide a range of political opinions, including those that are critical of the government. Italy suffers from an unusually high concentration of media ownership by European standards. Berlusconi's return to power in April 2008 gave him indirect control over up to 90 percent of the country's broadcast media through the state-owned outlets and his own private media holdings. He is the main shareholder of Mediaset, which owns several television channels; the country's largest magazine publisher, Mondadori; and its largest advertising company, Publitalia. Publitalia controls 65 percent of the television advertising market, giving Berlusconi's channels an advantage in attracting advertising. In addition, one of the country's major nationwide daily newspapers, *Il Giornale*, is owned by Berlusconi's brother.

Approximately 54 percent of the population accessed the internet regularly in 2010. Although the internet is generally unrestricted, the government regulates certain websites, such as those offering gambling or child pornography. An antiterrorism law passed after the 2005 bombings in London requires internet cafés to obtain a government license, allows internet surveillance, and obliges internet café users to show photographic identification. In early 2010, three executives with the U.S.-based internet giant Google received six-month suspended prison sentences for privacy violations, having allegedly failed to promptly remove an objectionable clip posted on Google's YouTube video-sharing site in 2006. The defendants were acquitted of criminal defamation charges, but the ruling affected press freedom by potentially forcing website administrators to review all user-generated content before posting.

Jamaica

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 3

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 18

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	17,F	15,F	15,F	15,F	16,F

Jamaica upheld its free media environment in 2010, and has had an Access to Information Act in place since 2002, but criminal libel and defamation laws continued to hinder freedom of expression. A reform of the libel laws, first promised by the government over two years ago, finally made some progress at the end of the year. In December, a parliamentary committee

reviewed the report of a panel commissioned by Prime Minister Bruce Golding to recommend ways of revising the outdated laws. The lawmakers then proposed several changes, but drew criticism from media rights advocates for leaving intact a provision giving public officials the same protection from damaging statements as ordinary citizens. The provision’s opponents said it would perpetuate the existing lack of transparency and accountability among public officials.

Relations between the government and the media have been strained by proposed changes to the daily airing of programs from the official Jamaica Information Service (JIS) on radio and television. For decades, broadcasters have aired a short JIS program once or twice a day, as required by their licenses, but early in 2010 the government proposed airing JIS headlines 10 times or more per day. Media owners argued that the change would destroy some station formats, reduce commercial stations’ ability to earn advertising revenues, and effectively transform private broadcasters into government propaganda outlets. The Media Association of Jamaica (MAJ) described the proposal as an “offensive incursion against freedom of the media.”

Journalists and media houses face some threats from both state and nonstate actors, and some practice self-censorship on sensitive topics. In June 2010, the media became embroiled in a controversy that engulfed the country before and after the extradition of a reputed drug lord, Christopher “Dudus” Coke, to the United States, where he faced drug- and gun-trafficking charges. Violence flared in the capital, Kingston, when security forces launched an offensive to capture Coke, resulting in the deaths of 76 people and the imposition of a limited state of emergency. During this period, the two largest media entities in Jamaica, RJR Communications Group and the Gleaner Company, were advised by the police that they were under imminent threat of violence for reporting stories that were deemed unsympathetic to Coke’s interests. The police established a presence at RJR’s corporate offices and instructed both companies to increase security measures to protect staff and property. In early July, the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) condemned the actions of a policeman who allegedly assaulted a CVM TV cameraman who attempted to film the scene of a reported police killing in Saint Ann.

The country has two national daily newspapers and a daily afternoon tabloid. There are a number of national and regional periodicals serving a variety of sectors and interests, and there are more than 20 radio stations and 3 terrestrial television stations, as well as a number of cable channels. The majority of media outlets are privately owned and provide a range of news and commentary. The authorities imposed no restrictions on the internet, which was accessed by 26.1 percent of the population in 2010.

Japan

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 2

Political Environment: 13

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 21

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	20,F	21,F	21,F	21,F	21,F

Japan's prolific media garner one of the largest print readerships in the world. Press freedom is constitutionally guaranteed and generally respected in practice. However, in December 2010, the general affairs committee of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly approved Bill 156 to amend the Youth Healthy Development Ordinance, which authors and fans of Japan's popular *manga* (comic books) criticized for limiting freedom of expression. Originally passed in 1964, the ordinance aims to promote the healthy development of minors by restricting their access to harmful published material. The amendment allows for the expansion of the definition of "harmful publications" and allows the government to regulate images if the depictions are "considered to be excessively disrupting of social order."

Concerns remain regarding the lack of diversity and independence in reporting, especially in political news. The problem is perpetuated in part by a system of *kisha kurabu*, or journalist clubs, through which major media outlets maintain cozy relationships with bureaucrats and politicians. Exposés by media outlets that belong to such clubs are frowned upon and can result in the banning of members from press club briefings. Most of Japan's investigative journalism is conducted by reporters working outside the press club system. Foreign journalists with press cards from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are guaranteed access to most official press conferences. Although intimidation of the media is rare, politically motivated censorship occasionally blocks the dissemination of information. In November 2010, the KK Kyodo News Agency refused to distribute a press release announcing protests against Japan's alleged persecution of Unification Church members.

Many national dailies have circulations topping one million and often produce both afternoon and evening editions. More than half of the national newspaper market share is controlled by "the big three": the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the *Asahi Shimbun*, and the *Mainichi Shimbun*. There is considerable homogeneity in reports, which relate the news in a factual and neutral manner. Television news content, once dominated by the public broadcaster NHK, has diversified considerably with the rising popularity of TV Asahi, Fuji TV, the Tokyo Broadcasting System, and satellite television. Japan also has roughly 228 community radio stations. In recent years, the internet has become an increasingly important source of news and revenue, with online advertising sales overtaking newspaper ads for the first time in 2009. No government restrictions on access to the internet, used by 80 percent of the population, were reported in 2010.

Jordan

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 20

Political Environment: 24

Economic Environment: 19

Total Score: 63

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	61,NF	61,NF	63,NF	64,NF	63,NF

Jordan made small strides toward greater media freedom in 2010, but concerns remained over a court decision to ban coverage of a corruption trial, the continued prosecution of a former

parliamentary candidate, and government employees' lack of access to certain websites. After months of lobbying against a restrictive cybercrime law, Jordan's media celebrated a partial victory in late August, when the government dropped clauses from the law that would have allowed warrantless police searches at online media outlets, among other restrictions. Also in 2010, the country's fifth private radio station aimed at local audiences was launched, and the stations worked together toward establishing an independent federation of community radio broadcasters.

The constitution guarantees freedoms of expression and speech to the extent that they do not violate the law, but press laws include vague clauses and other restrictions that curb media freedom in practice and allow journalists to be tried under the country's penal code, rather than its civil code. Jordan's State Security Courts (SSCs) try journalists for violations involving speech and association, and the Press and Publications Law allows for fines of almost \$40,000 for speech that denigrates the government or religion. Journalists must belong to the Jordan Press Association to work legally, and those who are critical of the government have sometimes been excluded; in addition, the association does not include journalists who work for internet-based news outlets, which leaves them with limited legal protections. In 2007, the parliament passed the Right of Access to Information Law, which was supposed to improve freedom of information in the country. However, according to the Amman-based Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists, implementation of the law suffers from arbitrary classification and distribution of information by the different ministries and state institutions. Journalists complained that while the outlets for news have increased, they are often blocked from obtaining information on government policies and officials.

Jordan's SSCs continued to jail and prosecute journalists in 2010. In February, a court jailed a columnist for criticizing cooperation between Jordanian and U.S. intelligence agencies during a television appearance. The journalist was charged with actions that could damage relations with a foreign country and encouraging the government's overthrow, among other offenses. In March, an SSC banned reporters from covering a bribery case against a petroleum company and several nationally prominent figures, including a former finance minister, on the grounds that the details of the case involved Jordan's "economic security." In May, the presenter of the radio program *Awlad al-Balad* was arrested after allegedly insulting the minister of agriculture and joining an "unlawful mob" while participating in a peaceful sit-in with a group of workers. In July, the military prosecutor detained a student for writing a poem that allegedly insulted King Abdullah II. The prosecutor relied on several articles in the penal code that criminalize speech, including speech found to stir up national strife. In November, a parliamentary candidate who lost his election bid was jailed for causing "sectarian strife" by publishing campaign materials that decried Jordan's lack of social mobility. Also in November, an appeals court upheld a two-year prison sentence imposed by an SSC on a student found guilty of insulting the king in an electronic message.

Print media are required to obtain a license in order to operate. Jordan's 2003 Audio Visual Law ended the government monopoly on broadcasting, and in 2010 the government allowed the country's fifth privately owned radio station to open, up from just one such station in 2006. The newest station is a student-run outlet in Karak province that has reported on local elections. The other privately owned radio stations include one focused on women in elections and two that feature talk shows and debates. The new station signaled a step toward greater media diversity, but more than a dozen applications to launch other private radio outlets were

rejected in 2009. ATV, Jordan's first privately owned television station, has yet to begin broadcasting.

Editorial restrictions, whether official or unofficial, continue to prevent journalists from freely reporting or expressing viewpoints, and the government retains an additional measure of control through its appointments of the editors at some news outlets. In practice, the government tolerates a certain measure of criticism of officials and policies, and allows some room for Islamist movements to express their ideas, but criticism of the royal family is difficult. Moreover, the line between permissible and impermissible coverage is unclear, leading nearly all journalists to self-censor as a precaution. Intelligence agencies watch journalists closely, and the government gave free rein to intelligence officials, police, and prosecutors to clamp down on undesirable speech in 2010. Physical harassment of journalists occurs occasionally, but no cases were reported during the year.

While some print media in Jordan are independent, the government has a majority stake in one of the major daily newspapers and a minority stake in another, enhancing state influence in the press. Television remains under state control, although there have been some openings in the radio sector in the past several years. Access to satellite television and other international media is generally not restricted. In early 2010, Jordan's prime minister announced the removal of a 1 percent "culture tax" on advertising revenues, easing the financial burden of operating a publication. However, journalists continued to complain that the government often tries to shape the content of news coverage by pressuring advertisers.

The government supports access to the internet, and internet usage has increased, reaching 38 percent of the population in 2010; two-thirds of the users were males under the age of 30. Government employees were still restricted in 2010 from accessing many websites while at work. Most of the blocked sites were independent news portals that covered issues the state-owned media typically omitted, including sensitive political subjects such as the rights of day laborers. About 600 websites reportedly remain blocked. In 2010, the government sought to expand restrictive press laws to include online publications, a move that met with strong disapproval from journalists and media freedom organizations. Ministers voted to approve the 2010 Information Systems Cyber Crimes Law in early August, but under domestic and external pressure, the government later that month agreed to remove vaguely worded provisions prohibiting the electronic dissemination of information "that involves defamation or contempt or slander," or that affects "national security or foreign relations of the Kingdom, as well as public safety or the national economy." The latter article was revised to ban only information concerning those issues that were not already available to the public. In another amendment to the initial version, the government removed a provision allowing warrantless searches of the offices of online news outlets, instead requiring that police obtain a warrant from a court or prosecutor and provide evidence of a crime.

Kazakhstan

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 28

Political Environment: 29

Economic Environment: 23

Total Score: 80

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	75,NF	76,NF	78,NF	78,NF	78,NF

Kazakh media remain subject to legal restrictions, prohibitive libel and defamation judgments, self-censorship, harassment, and pressures from partisan owners and politicians. When Kazakhstan took the chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2010, the government pledged to improve human rights practices and increase media freedom. The level of press freedom nevertheless declined during the year, as a restrictive internet law passed in 2009 was used to intimidate bloggers and block websites, two independent newspapers were closed, and a journalist remained in jail.

The constitution guarantees freedom of the press but also provides special protection for the president. At least 44 libel suits were launched in the first six months of 2010, about half of them by government officials, according to a local press freedom group. Libel remains a criminal offense despite pledges by authorities during the year to work toward decriminalization, and there are higher penalties for defaming the president, members of Parliament, and other state officials. President Nursultan Nazarbayev in 2010 signed a law stipulating punishments for violations of privacy, but at year's end it did not appear to have been used against investigative journalists. A controversial new Code of Administrative Offenses that included harsh penalties for violating media regulations was proposed in Parliament and later withdrawn, although reportedly not because of criticism from human rights groups. Officials said the bill would be reintroduced after revisions were made. Kazakhstan is one of the few OSCE member states without a freedom of information law. Such a measure was proposed in 2010 by a group of lawmakers and legal experts, and it received the endorsement of the London-based freedom of expression group Article 19.

Journalists and media outlets that were willing to criticize the government continued to face harassment and obstacles to reporting in 2010, including intimidation and physical attacks. In March, a correspondent for an Almaty-based independent weekly was attacked near his home and left with a broken nose, a concussion, and other head injuries. The three attackers told the correspondent, "greetings from Zhanaozen," a southwestern city where he had been covering a large strike by workers for the national oil producer. The correspondent did not file a complaint because he did not trust the authorities to conduct an investigation, according to local media watchdog Adil Soz. In January 2009, Ramazan Yesergepov, editor of the independent newspaper *Alma-Ata Info*, was seized from a hospital where he was being treated for hypertension; after eight months of detention, he was sentenced to three years in prison and an additional two years of suspension from journalism. Despite repeated international appeals during Kazakhstan's year of OSCE chairmanship, he remained in prison. He was accused of revealing classified information after his paper published internal memorandums from the National Security Committee (NSC) as part of an investigative report on the NSC's alleged pressure on a local prosecutor in a tax evasion case.

Major broadcast media are owned either by the state or by members or associates of the president's family. Government oversight extends to most of the country's broadcast transmission facilities, and it is assumed that the majority of national television broadcasters are at least partly owned by the government. Kazakh law limits the rebroadcast of foreign-produced programming to 20 percent of a station's total airtime, overburdening smaller stations that are unable to develop their own programs. There are well over a thousand daily and weekly

newspapers in Kazakhstan. As with the broadcast media, many of them are either government run or controlled by groups or individuals associated with the president, and do not carry critical content. The government controls all of the country’s printing presses, and with advertising revenue in short supply, private print media are often forced to rely on state subsidies. *Respublika*, an opposition newspaper with a long history of conflict with the authorities, was forced to publish issues on a photocopier during 2010, as government-controlled printing presses and distribution outlets refused to cooperate with the paper.

Even as officials adopted social media for their own use, promoting state programs and confronting local authorities with incompetence, the state has increasingly contested internet freedom and online alternatives to state-owned news outlets. The internet was accessed by 34 percent of the population in 2010. A 2009 law classified websites as mass media outlets, giving the authorities greater latitude to shut them down under vaguely worded extremism statutes or in the interests of state security. On March 1, 2010, a government official stated that a computer emergency response team had been established and was developing “a blacklist of destructive websites.” The country’s two largest internet-service providers, KazakhTelecom and NurSat, were reported to have repeatedly blocked access to the LiveJournal blogging platform. Opposition sites like Zona.kz and the sites of opposition newspapers like *Respublika* were frequently blocked or subjected to distributed denial-of-service attacks. *Respublika*’s website remained inaccessible for much of the year and was forced to move to various mirror sites and the social-networking site Facebook, losing readership in the process.

Kenya

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 19

Political Environment: 18

Economic Environment: 17

Total Score: 54

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	58,PF	59,PF	60,PF	60,PF	57,PF

Kenyan media have continued to live up to their traditional reputation for vibrant and critical reporting, and the environment for media freedom improved during 2010. In August, Kenya enacted a new constitution that has been widely praised for extending freedoms of the press and expression. Article 33 specifically guarantees the freedom to seek, receive, and impart ideas or information. While there are potential curbs on the enjoyment of these freedoms with regard to incitement, hate speech, antigovernment propaganda in times of war, and privacy, they are not as severe as those in the old constitution. The new charter has also been praised for prohibiting state control over or interference with private media owners, distributors, producers, or their agents, and for requiring state-owned media to be impartial and adhere to the fairness doctrine at all times.

Libel and defamation cases, in which the burden of proof rests with the accused, are occasionally brought against journalists. National security laws such as the Law on Sedition are also used to suppress critical coverage. In mid-2010, journalist Joel Eshikumo was released after

serving an eight-month prison sentence for criminal defamation, and other cases against reporters remained pending at year's end. In January, the government announced new broadcasting regulations, effective immediately, that included censorship of content, a ban on ownership of different types of media, new rules detailing media coverage of elections, and a seven-year limit to media licenses. However, fears that these rules would be used to curtail media freedom had not occurred by year's end. The Information Ministry's draft freedom of information bill, published in 2007, has yet to be presented to Parliament, but access to information has improved with the passing of the new constitution. New rights guaranteed to the media effectively weaken secrecy laws such as the Official Secrets Act, which prevented the release of information on national security grounds.

The Media Council of Kenya, established by the 2007 Media Act, regulates the conduct and discipline of journalists but is hampered by a lack of funds. Because members of the council are nominated by media stakeholders and appointed by the Information Ministry, the independence of this regulatory body remains in doubt. A draft law on the Media Council was introduced in 2010 to amend the 2007 law. Although it maintains the use of statutory measures to regulate media ethics and standards, the bill would provide greater independence to the council and institute a Code of Ethics that is consistent with international standards. The Communications Commission of Kenya is responsible for broadcast media licensing and public broadcasting regulation. In compliance with the new constitution, a bill was introduced to establish an independent regulatory and oversight body for the broadcasting sector, which would replace the existing commission. Neither the Media Council bill nor the Communications Commission bill had been passed by year's end.

Extrajudicial attacks on the media by state and nonstate actors remain rare by regional standards, but there are occasional reports of official harassment or targeted killings of journalists. In December 2010, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported that Sam Owida, a reporter with the privately owned *Daily Nation*, had received threatening telephone calls for investigating the murder of Francis Nyaruri, another journalist who was found beheaded in January 2009 after he published stories on police corruption in the private *Weekly Citizen*. The principal magistrate in the murder case disqualified himself from the trial of the two suspected killers in October. Some journalists practice self-censorship on sensitive topics. In March 2010, the International Criminal Court (ICC) opened an investigation into Kenya's 2007 postelection violence. Among the six suspects believed to be responsible for crimes against humanity was Joshua Arap Sang, who allegedly used his radio show on Kass FM to organize crimes against supporters of the incumbent president's Party of National Unity.

Kenya's leading media outlets, especially in the print sector, are often critical of politicians and government actions. They remain pluralistic, rigorous, and bold in their reporting, although they also frequently pander to the interests of major advertisers. There are five daily newspapers, one business daily, and several regional weekly newspapers. In addition, a number of irregularly published independent tabloids are highly critical of the government. While the number of private broadcast media outlets has risen steadily, the government-controlled Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) remains dominant outside major urban centers, and its coverage tends to favor the ruling party. Two private companies, the Standard Media Group and the Nation Media Group, run independent television networks and respected newspapers. There has been a significant expansion of FM radio, particularly ethnic stations, and their call-in shows have fostered increasing public participation as well as commentary that is unfavorable to the government. However, community broadcasting is underdeveloped. International news media,

including the British Broadcasting Corporation and Radio France Internationale, are widely available in Kenya. The use of bribery by political actors to influence news coverage remains a concern, as does the allocation or withdrawal of advertising to control content.

There were no reports that the government restricted internet access. About 21 percent of Kenyans accessed the internet in 2010, and in recent years there has been a growth in online news publications as well as the use of social media sites. Due to lack of infrastructure and electricity, internet availability is still limited in rural areas, though expanding mobile-phone usage has increased access.

Kiribati

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6

Political Environment: 8

Economic Environment: 13

Total Score: 27

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	28,F	26,F	26,F	27,F	27,F

Kosovo

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 14

Political Environment: 19

Economic Environment: 18

Total Score: 51

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	NA	NA	NA	NA	53,PF

Article 40 of the constitution provides for freedom of expression, but the lack of international consensus on Kosovo's independence hinders efforts to improve democratization and protect political, civil, and media rights. A weak judiciary and underdeveloped civil society present further obstacles for media freedom. Defamation and insult remain part of the criminal code, although the penalties do not include imprisonment and journalists are infrequently targeted for prosecution. Freedom of information legislation has not been properly implemented.

Broadcast media are regulated by the Independent Media Commission (IMC), whose board had two vacancies beginning in March that went unfilled by the Assembly. In August, the IMC approved 12 new long-term broadcast licenses. The government has begun amending the IMC law, and it remains to be seen whether the independence of the IMC will be preserved during this process. Broadcasters in the Serb-controlled north of the country are not licensed by the commission. Print media self-regulate through the Press Council, which can require

newspapers to print the text of judgments against them. According to new rules adopted in January, the Press Council can no longer issue fines.

Security remains a serious concern for media workers, and there were several reported incidents of violence in 2010. On two occasions, the editor of Radio Kosovska Mitrovica in Zvečan, Caslav Milisavljevic, reported that explosive devices were thrown outside his home. No one was injured, but several cars, including one belonging to Milisavljevic's son, were damaged or destroyed. The police opened an investigation, but no suspects were apprehended by the end of the year. In February, a journalist for the daily newspaper *Koha Ditore*, Vehbi Kajtazi, reported being threatened by a former commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army in response to an article. The journalist further reported that the police encouraged him not to file a complaint.

Both the Serb-language media, present in the Serb-majority areas of northern Kosovo, and the Albanian-language media suffer political pressure and are often forced to practice self-censorship and avoid covering politically sensitive topics. Ethnic tension has eased since Kosovo declared independence in 2008, but this is largely a result of the growing geographic separation between the different ethnic and religious communities. The media environment remains highly politicized. *Koha Ditore* and the television station Kohavision reported that they felt threatened by an ethnically motivated smear campaign. Several journalists reported pressure from the authorities and members of political parties ahead of the December parliamentary elections. In November, one episode of the show *Debate Zone* on TV Klan Kosova was canceled due to alleged threats from a former lawmaker.

Media outlets are for the most part privately owned, and media diversity in Kosovo continues to grow. All nine national dailies are privately owned, but some are linked to political parties, which exchange their financial backing for favorable media coverage. Local newspapers rely on government advertising, and the government has continued to distribute advertising purchases disproportionately, favoring friendly print outlets. There are 104 licensed terrestrial broadcasters, of which 39 broadcast in minority languages. The constitution and legislation provide for strong protection of minority languages in the media, and in December 2009 the government launched a Media Minority Fund.

The law establishing the public broadcaster Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK) has still not been properly implemented. As a result, there are concerns regarding the independence and impartiality of RTK. A member of the government participates in selecting RTK's board, in violation of the rules of procedure. The license fee for RTK was collected through energy bills until the procedure expired in November 2010, and financing for the station going forward remained unclear in the absence of implementing legislation. There were no reports of government restrictions on the internet. According to the latest statistics from Internet World Stats, 20.7 percent of the population accessed the internet as of 2008.

Kuwait

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 19

Political Environment: 22

Economic Environment: 16

Total Score: 57

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	56,PF	56,PF	54,PF	55,PF	55,PF

Kuwait’s media environment, long considered one of the most open in the Middle East, regressed in 2010 amid increasing self-censorship, intimidation, and government pressure. Freedoms of speech and the press are protected under Articles 36 and 37 of the constitution, but only “in accordance with the conditions and in the circumstances defined by law.” The Press and Publications Law, revised in 2006, extends some important protections to the media, but it prohibits the publication of material that insults God, the prophets, or Islam. It also forbids criticism of the emir, the disclosure of secret or private information, and calling for the overthrow of the regime. Over 600 alleged violations of the law were reported in 2010, a dramatic increase from 2009. Further amendments were proposed by the Ministry of Information (MOI) in January 2010 after a local television station aired a story that was offensive to tribal families. The amendments, which had not been adopted at year’s end, would increase penalties for slander and libel and criminalize speech that “threatened national unity.”

Any citizen may press criminal charges against an author who they believe has violated the press law. Penalties for criticizing Islam were increased under the 2006 amendments, and can include prison sentences of up to one year and fines of up to 20,000 dinars (\$72,000). The government enforced the press law during 2010, including for internet-related offenses, and often in conjunction with other criminal charges. Mohamed Abdelqader al-Jassem, the founding editor of the Arabic editions of *Foreign Policy* and *Newsweek*, has been under attack by the authorities since November 2009, when he was arrested for accusing the progovernment media of fueling religious tension in the country. Al-Jassem faced more than 18 charges stemming from his newspaper articles, including “slight to the personage of the emir” and “instigating to dismantle the foundations of Kuwaiti society.” He spent 49 days in jail before his trial, and in November 2010 he was convicted of criminal defamation and sentenced to one year in prison, though the sentence was later reduced to three months on appeal. All of the other charges were pending at year’s end.

All publishers are required to obtain an operating license from the MOI to launch a daily. However, the MOI must issue the license or provide an explanation for its refusal within 90 days of application, and refusals can be appealed in court. Media outlet licenses may not be revoked without a court order. Despite the fact that the 2006 press law requires capital of at least 250,000 dinars (\$950,000) to establish a paper, the government licensed six new daily Arabic-language newspapers in 2007.

The MOI can censor all books, films, and periodicals it deems morally offensive. However, in practice, it does not actively interfere with or restrict access to news, and the Kuwaiti media are considered more critical and outspoken than those in the rest of the region. More in-depth reporting and a greater diversity of opinions appear in newspapers than in broadcast media. Nevertheless, given the ongoing restrictions in the press law and an atmosphere of increased governmental intolerance toward critical reporting, journalists continued to practice self-censorship in 2010, as failure to do so often results in reprisals. On March 7 alone, three newspapers were fined 3,000 dinars (\$800): *Alam al-Youm*, for publishing an article by al-Jassem, who was personally fined the same amount; *Al-Ruia*, for publishing comments made by a legislator in the National Assembly in which he criticized divisions within the ruling family; and *An-Nahar*, for publishing an article that was deemed offensive to the ruling family.

Journalists and media outlets occasionally face physical harassment. In October 2010, 10 people were injured when the headquarters of the privately owned satellite television station Scope TV was attacked by an armed mob searching for the station's owner, Fajr al-Saeed, and her brother, Mohammed Talal al-Saeed. Fajr al-Saeed was under criminal investigation at the time for airing a comedy show that mocked members of the parliament. The show was pulled from the air in August after three episodes, and al-Saeed was accused of "inciting the overthrow of the government" and "pressuring for a change of regime through use of force." She could face the death penalty or life in prison; the date of the trial had not been set by year's end. The October attack appeared to be in response to comments made by a Scope TV talk-show host the previous day, implying that a member of the ruling family (also a ministry official) was responsible for the legal action against al-Saeed.

International news is widely available, and a number of foreign media outlets maintain bureaus in Kuwait. News sources originating outside Kuwait must be reviewed by the MOI before circulation. The MOI screens all imported media for morally offensive content, and controls the publication and distribution of all materials classified as informational. The government closed the Kuwait City bureau of Al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based satellite television channel, in December 2010. The closure was in reprisal for the station's coverage of police brutality at an unauthorized demonstration against proposed amendments to the constitution, and for its airing of an interview with an opposition lawmaker. During the demonstration, journalist Mohamed al-Sindan of the daily *Al-Seyassah* was severely beaten. The Al-Jazeera office remained closed at year's end.

Fourteen Arabic and three English-language newspapers circulate in Kuwait, all of which are privately owned, largely independent, and diverse in their reporting. Private media have relatively transparent ownership. Private newspapers have their own presses and are free to set their own prices. The state owns nine local radio stations and five television stations. However, there are now 16 privately owned television stations, and satellite dishes are common. Although the advertising market remains limited, it continues to grow, thanks in part to an increase in advertising agencies. Wage levels for journalists at both state and private media were not high enough to discourage occasional bribery to influence coverage. Low salaries have also dissuaded many Kuwaiti nationals from pursuing journalism as a profession; at the end of 2006, only 2 percent of workers in the local media sector were Kuwaitis.

About 38 percent of the population used the internet in 2010, more than six times the percentage in 2000. The government continued to debate how best to regulate this growing medium. The government monitored internet communications for defamation and security threats, and the Ministry of Communications (MOC) continued to block websites suspected of "inciting terrorism and instability." The state already requires all internet-service providers to install and operate systems to block websites carrying material that is deemed anti-Islamic, Islamic extremist, or pornographic, as well as certain types of political websites. However, the blocking policies are not always clear or consistent. Internet café owners are required to obtain the names and identification of internet users and must turn over the information if requested by the MOC. A draft law that would further regulate internet usage was proposed in 2009 but did not pass during 2010.

Kyrgyzstan

Status: Not Free
Legal Environment: 21
Political Environment: 29
Economic Environment: 20
Total Score: 70

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	64,NF	67,NF	70,NF	72,NF	73,NF

Media freedom in Kyrgyzstan faced tremendous challenges in 2010, a year that featured the violent overthrow of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev in April; ethnic unrest in the south in June that led to the deaths of at least 400 people, the displacement of hundreds of thousands, and the arrest of two ethnic Uzbek journalists; a referendum on a new constitution later in June; and parliamentary elections in October. The uprising against Bakiyev was fueled by public discontent with his authoritarian rule, which included the suppression of press freedom.

Despite the country’s relatively progressive media laws, libel remains a criminal offense that can be punished with up to three years in prison. The authorities have ignored repeated calls to decriminalize libel, though no cases were reported in 2010. There is a law that guarantees access to public information, but a 2010 study by the Open Society Institute found that it was little known and seldom used, and that information is often designated “secret” with little justification. All media outlets must register to operate, and while a number of broadcasters have applied for permission, authorities have not approved any new licenses since 2006. Independent journalists reporting on politically sensitive issues like government corruption and the improper privatization of state companies have faced aggressive harassment from tax inspectors, security officers, and the state antimonopoly committee.

Media freedom was tested by political and social conflict during 2010. A crackdown on the media preceded the April revolution that overthrew Bakiyev. In March, authorities forced several private broadcasters to stop carrying the programming of Radio Azattyk, the Kyrgyz service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), after it reported on money laundering charges against a businessman who was close to the government and the Bakiyev family. In the month before the revolution, a Bishkek court suspended three independent newspapers, *Achyk Sayasat*, *Nazar*, and *Forum*, for allegedly insulting Bakiyev and inciting disorder.

Following the April events, an interim government headed by Roza Otunbayeva resumed the Kyrgyz broadcasts of RFE/RL on state radio and reopened the suspended newspapers. Otunbayeva also oversaw the conversion of the state television outlet into a public-service broadcaster under a law that the parliament had passed but Bakiyev had failed to implement; independent journalists and civil society representatives were appointed to a supervisory board for the station. Elvira Sariyeva, former managing director of Internews in Kyrgyzstan and currently the president of the public relations firm I-Media, was made the chairperson. Kubat Otorbayev, who had served as acting director since April, was elected as director general by the board members.

Ethnic clashes in the southern region of Osh in June 2010 led to intimidation of domestic and foreign reporters and some temporary restrictions on print and broadcast media, though online media continued to function throughout the crisis. The Osh mayor forced the closure of an Uzbek-language newspaper and halted Uzbek-language television broadcasts, including rebroadcasts of programming from neighboring Uzbekistan. Research by the Committee to

Protect Journalists indicated that while the Uzbek-language media had covered rallies by ethnic Uzbeks, it had not orchestrated calls for violence. Nevertheless, regional authorities also ordered Osh TV and Mezon TV, independent stations with ethnic Uzbek owners, to stop broadcasting. Both stations suffered heavy damage by unidentified vandals shortly after the orders. Mezon did not return to the air. In the aftermath of the disturbances, Azimjon Askarov, a contributor to the regional news site *Voice of Freedom* who documented the violence on video, and Ulugbek Abdusalomov, editor of the independent weekly *Diydor*, were arrested in June on charges of extremism and inciting ethnic hatred. Askarov was also charged with complicity in the murder of a police officer and was reportedly tortured in custody. He was sentenced to life in prison despite appeals by local, regional, and international human rights advocates, who argued that he was targeted for retaliation because of his critical coverage of police abuses. Abdusalomov, who was ill with a heart condition, remained in detention at year's end.

Foreign reporters attempting to cover the unrest in April and June faced intimidation and lack of access to relevant officials and areas, particularly in the south. Several were pressured to leave Kyrgyzstan but chose not to publicize their cases in an effort to regain access. In October, friends and relatives of a murdered Kyrgyz policeman attacked a EurasiaNet reporter who was attempting to cover the trial of several Uzbeks accused of the murder.

Nearly 50 newspapers and magazines print regularly with varying degrees of freedom. Approximately 50 state-owned and private television and radio stations operate in the country, with two television stations, both state owned, broadcasting nationwide. The independent printing press run by the local nongovernmental organization Media Support Center (which Freedom House helped establish in 2003) surpassed the state-run printing house, Uchkun, as the country's leading newspaper publisher several years ago. State-owned media outlets benefit from government subsidies. However, the ability of authorities to use advertising to influence media content has receded as more private sources of advertising revenue become available.

Internet news sites such as Akipress.org, 24.kg, and Kloop.kg; blogging platforms such as LiveJournal and Twitter; and forums such as Diesel.kg provide lively alternative news sources for those with access—approximately 20 percent of the population in 2010. Internet access outside towns and cities remains limited. The Bakiyev regime blocked access to online media, particularly in the tense period before the revolution. In April, for example, police conducted a warrantless raid on Stan TV, a web-based television outlet that reported on the unrest. The outlet was accused of using illegal copies of Microsoft software, according to Reuters. When independent media reported on corruption and public protests over a sudden sharp increase in electricity prices, Bakiyev ordered the main telecommunications provider, Kyrgyztelekom, to block access to critical and independent regional websites such as Centrasia.ru and Fergananeews.com. The interim government that replaced Bakiyev restored access to these sites.

Laos

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 26

Political Environment: 33

Economic Environment: 26

Total Score: 85

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	81,NF	81,NF	83,NF	86,NF	84,NF

Laos remains one of the world’s most repressive countries for media freedom, despite the passage of new laws and increased investment in telecommunications infrastructure in recent years. Article 44 of the 1991 constitution guarantees freedom of the press, and the government has demonstrated a willingness to enact promising legislation related to expression and association. In collaboration with international donors, the country passed a new press law in 2008, but it had little practical effect on conditions for journalists. Under the criminal code, individuals may be jailed for up to one year for reporting news that “weakens the state” or importing a publication that is “contrary to national culture.” Defamation and misinformation are criminal offenses, carrying lengthy prison terms and even the possibility of execution. Due to high levels of censorship and self-censorship, legal cases against media personnel are extremely rare.

The country’s media remain under the tight control of the ruling Lao People’s Revolutionary Party (LPRP). Media personnel are appointed mostly from within the LPRP, and publications must be approved by the Ministry of Information and Culture. Journalists focus primarily on uncontroversial issues such as economic development projects. The opening of the Lao stock market in 2010 and efforts to join the World Trade Organization have prompted an increase in coverage of and trainings on business reporting. Physical attacks and extralegal intimidation aimed at journalists are rare, given the extensive legal controls already in place. Foreign journalists face significant barriers in establishing a permanent presence in the country, but are generally permitted to enter and travel internally to cover specific stories.

There are around a dozen regularly printed newspapers, all government affiliated. Newspaper circulation figures remain extremely low due to low literacy rates and an insufficient distribution infrastructure outside the capital, Vientiane. Almost all radio and television stations are government run. A few community radio programs have sprung up with the help of international development organizations, covering mostly local-interest stories. Foreign television and radio services, such as Voice of America and Radio Free Asia, broadcast in Laos without disruptions. A number of citizens watch Thai television and radio, and wealthier individuals have access to satellite television. China and Vietnam are providing increasingly large infrastructure investments and telecommunications training, raising concerns that Laos might emulate those countries’ media restrictions.

About 7 percent of the population used the internet regularly in 2010, and Lao-language content, though slow to appear, is growing. The state controls all internet-service providers, and there are some reports of sporadic government monitoring and blocking of web activity. However, the government’s technical ability to monitor the internet is limited.

Latvia

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6

Political Environment: 11

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 26

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	19,F	19,F	22,F	23,F	26,F

Latvia's constitution protects the freedoms of speech and the press, and the government generally upholds these rights in practice. Libel remains a criminal offense, though no journalists were imprisoned or fined during 2010. The Law on Freedom of Information provides detailed rules on access to public information. A new law on electronic mass media, adopted in 2010 after considerable parliamentary debate, holds that at least 65 percent of broadcast programming must be in the country's official language, Latvian. In a high-profile case, a Riga court ruled in February 2007 that the country's financial police had invaded the privacy of LTV journalist Ilze Jaunalksne by recording her telephone conversations and leaking the transcripts to the newspaper *Neatkarīga Rita Avīze*. The government appealed the verdict, and a final court decision in February 2010 awarded her approximately \$25,000 in damages. Jaunalksne had broken a story on government corruption in 2006, and *Neatkarīga Rita Avīze* was widely believed to be controlled by the powerful mayor of Ventspils, Aivars Lembergs, who has faced investigations for corruption.

Cases of harassment or intimidation of journalists occur occasionally. In April 2010, Grigorijs Nēmcovs, the publisher of the Russian-language newspaper *Million*, which is known for its investigations of government corruption, was shot dead at close range. He had faced threats and attacks in the past. In May, police searched the home of Ilze Nagla, a journalist with Latvian public television, and confiscated her computer. The television station had aired a story using leaked government documents about the excessive salaries of high-level state officials. Law enforcement officials denied that they were looking for the identity of the hacker who had extracted the documents and said they were merely trying to determine whether Nagla's computer contained data from the state revenue service. However, press freedom groups criticized the police for disregarding the protection of journalists' sources.

Latvian media are relatively diverse and competitive, offering a wide range of political viewpoints. The main national television stations include two public channels—LTV 1 and LTV 7—and the commercial channels LNT and TV3. A number of privately owned radio and television outlets operate on a regional basis. Russian-language programming for the country's large Russian-speaking population is available on traditional and cable television networks. The print media, which include a large number of both Latvian and Russian-language papers, are independent and privately owned. Foreign companies, including Scandinavian firms, own or control a considerable portion of Latvia's print and broadcast media. However, transparency of media ownership is not adequately protected by law, and information on owners of media companies, some of whom are widely believed to be affiliated with political or economic interests, is not easily accessible. In July 2009, the highly respected newspaper *Diena* was suddenly sold by Sweden's Bonnier media group to a foreign owner, though the true identity of the new owner remained a subject of dispute. Many editorial staff members, including *Diena*'s editor in chief, submitted their resignations in protest. In August 2010, a controlling interest in the paper was purchased by Viesturs Koziols, a close associate of Ainārs Šlesers, one of the country's leading business and political figures. In 2010, LNT and another television station, TV5, were purchased from U.S.-based News Corporation by Independent National Media. The latter is composed of LNT managers headed by Andrejs Ekis, the station's founder and an associate of another Latvian business magnate and politician, Andris Šķele.

Latvia's economy suffered due to the global financial crisis, causing a drop in newspaper and magazine subscriptions and a 40 percent decline in advertising revenues from the first six months in 2008 to the same period in 2009, according to TNS LT, the country's largest market research firm. However, as the economy showed signs of recovery in 2010, the advertising decline slowed to about 18 percent in the first half of the year, according to the international media agency network Carat. The government does not restrict access to the internet, which was used by an estimated 68 percent of the population in 2010, up from 45 percent in 2006.

Lebanon

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 18

Political Environment: 21

Economic Environment: 14

Total Score: 53

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	60,PF	59,PF	55,PF	56,PF	55,PF

Article 13 of Lebanon's constitution provides for freedom of expression and freedom of the press. Although the media rarely face direct interference from the government, political developments and hostilities with Israel in recent years have resulted in increased security risks and self-censorship among journalists.

Article 75 of the press law prohibits publishing news that "contradicts public ethics or is inimical to national or religious feelings or national duty," and violators face fines if found guilty. Journalists are also prohibited from insulting the head of state or foreign leaders, and those charged with press offenses may be prosecuted in a special publications court, though such cases are far less common than in neighboring countries. The penal code contains provisions related to media content and journalism, and prison terms are prescribed for some transgressions. Article 473, for instance, assigns up to a year in prison for blasphemy, though it is rarely invoked. The Ministry of Information grants publication licenses, but a moratorium imposed by the 1963 press law on the number of political publication licenses makes obtaining a new license difficult and expensive. The law also limits publication licenses to up to six days of publication per week, unless a separate license is obtained for the seventh day.

Lebanon's Audiovisual Media Law (No. 382 of 1994) imposes limits on the amount of political coverage in broadcast media, but there are several satellite news channels that violate the coverage requirements without repercussions. The law divides the broadcast media into two categories with different purposes and rights: Category One stations are allowed to broadcast news and political programming, while Category Two may not. Lebanon was the first Arab state to allow private radio and television stations to operate within its borders, and there is wide agreement that the country's media laws need to be updated. The Commission for the Modernization of Laws has begun reviewing legislation, and some draft bills have emerged. One of these, a technology bill, was opposed by press freedom groups in Lebanon, which successfully prevented it from coming to a vote in mid-2010 because of concerns about its restrictions on free speech, the potential for violations of privacy, and a lack of oversight of the regulatory body.

Meanwhile, Maharat Foundation, a local media freedom organization, submitted a draft press law to the parliament that was pending at year's end.

The Directorate of General Security (SG) is authorized to censor all foreign magazines, books, and films before they are distributed, as well as pornography and political or religious material that is deemed a threat to the national security of either Lebanon or Syria. Lebanese authorities have also used libel laws to keep journalists from criticizing officials. According to a report by the local press freedom organization SKeyes, there were 13 cases of threats or assaults against journalists in 2010, and more than 50 cases of libel lawsuits, censorship, and blocks on websites. In March, for example, the editor and the director of the Arabic literature magazine *Al-Adab* were each fined \$4,000 in a libel case filed by an adviser to former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein; the fines threatened the magazine with financial ruin. In August, *Al-Akhbar* reporter Hassan Alleik was detained and questioned without a lawyer about the sources for an article he wrote related to the 2005 assassination of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri. The same month, Ismael Sheikh Hassan was detained after an article he published critiqued public authorities and the army on the reconstruction of the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp, which had been destroyed during a 2007 army assault on an entrenched Islamist militant group. According to Maharat, Lebanese law specifies that journalists can only appear in courts, not in front of security officers, and that publication courts are the only ones authorized to call witnesses and defendants in press-related cases.

Journalists in Lebanon continue to face violence due to tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border. In August 2010, a journalist for *Al-Akhbar*, Assaf Abu Rahal, was killed by Israeli tank fire during a border skirmish with the Lebanese army near the village of Al-Adaysse. Ali Cheaib, a journalist for the militant group Hezbollah's Al-Manar television station, was wounded while also trying to cover the fighting. Impunity for past cases of murder remains the norm and contributes to some self-censorship among journalists.

Lebanon has a diverse, privatized media landscape that is free of state control. With 12 privately owned daily papers in three languages and more than 1,500 weekly and monthly periodicals, Lebanon accounts for about half of the periodicals produced in the Middle East region, according to media experts. There are nine television stations, two digital cable companies, and about 40 radio stations. Access to satellite television has grown substantially over the last decade. Despite this diversity, many media groups are affiliated with particular religious or political groups and reflect their sectarian interests. Most outlets are owned by politicians and influential families, and licenses are allocated to ensure that each confessional group is represented in the media sphere.

Roughly 26 percent of the population regularly accesses the internet, while nearly 25 percent of the population is on the social-networking site Facebook. The government did not restrict internet access in 2010, and there is no specific legislation in place regarding internet usage or publication. In March, blogger Khodor Salemech was detained for posting critical comments about the army and head of state, while in June, the SG detained four young men regarding Facebook comments about alleged electoral interference by the president. Their trial on defamation charges was still pending at the end of the year. In December, hackers attacked the website of *Al-Akhbar*, the only Lebanese newspaper to publish U.S. diplomatic documents about Arab countries that were released by the antisecrecy group WikiLeaks.

Lesotho

Status: Partly Free
Legal Environment: 14
Political Environment: 19
Economic Environment: 15
Total Score: 48

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	42,PF	42,PF	46,PF	48,PF	48,PF

The government generally respects freedoms of speech and the press. Although press freedom is not directly mentioned, the constitution guarantees the freedom of expression and informational exchange. However, multiple laws, including the Sedition Proclamation (No. 44 of 1938) and the Internal Security (General) Act of 1984 prohibit criticism of the government, provide penalties for seditious libel, and endanger reporters' ability to protect the confidentiality of their sources. In recent years, extremely high fines have been handed down by the courts in libel cases against publications and radio stations known for criticizing the government, forcing some to the verge of closure. While there were fewer defamation suits against journalists in 2010, the lingering threat of such cases led to a high level of self-censorship. The 1967 Official Secrets Act and the 2005 Public Service Act prohibit civil servants from disclosing information, limiting the transparency of government institutions and making it difficult for journalists to conduct investigations. In recent years, the government has improved its disclosure practices, but access to information remains impeded, and the process for requesting it is unclear.

After 13 years of discussions between the government and media professionals, a package of media reforms came close to passing in 2010, but in September the cabinet decided to refer the proposed policies back to the Ministry of Communications rather than send them to Parliament for approval. The reforms would depoliticize government-owned media outlets, eliminate "national security" statutes that allow government censorship, and move many slander and libel cases from the courts to an arbitration system.

There were no reports of attacks against journalists during 2010, but the deputy chairperson of the Lesotho chapter of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA-Lesotho) reported receiving a death threat. Moreover, in October, the leader of the country's main opposition party, Tom Thabane, threatened a reporter who asked him about a criminal case involving several of his relatives. The politician later apologized when contacted by MISA-Lesotho.

Several independent newspapers, none of them dailies, operate freely and routinely criticize the government, while state-owned print and broadcast media mostly reflect the views of the ruling party. Although Lesotho has a printing press, many local newspapers are printed in South Africa and transported into the country to avoid the high cost of printing domestically. Because of high distribution costs and low literacy rates, especially in rural areas, radio is the most popular news medium. There are eight private and two state-run radio stations, and many South African and other foreign broadcasts reach Lesotho. The country's only television station is state run. Media development is constrained by inadequate funding and resources. The private media are increasingly turning to private advertising to generate income, but many outlets, both print and broadcast, continue to rely heavily on government advertising, which allows the government to tacitly reward those that provide more favorable coverage. The government did

not restrict access to the internet in 2010, but due to a lack of infrastructure and high costs, the internet was accessed by just 3.9 percent of the population during the year.

Liberia

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 16

Political Environment: 22

Economic Environment: 21

Total Score: 59

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	64,NF	65,NF	65,NF	63,NF	61,NF

Status change explanation: Liberia improved from Not Free to Partly Free to reflect the passage of West Africa’s first freedom of information law and a decrease in physical attacks on journalists.

The 1986 constitution guarantees citizens the right of free expression but makes them “fully responsible for the abuse thereof,” a clause that has often led to complications in the application of the law. In 2010, Liberia enacted West Africa’s first freedom of information law. After a lengthy period of public consultation, the law was passed unanimously by both houses of the Legislature in July and September, and signed by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf soon thereafter. Journalists had already been able to access government information with relative ease in Liberia, but the new measure marked the first time the right was enshrined in law. Both journalists and the general public now have the right to access any public document, with exemptions for those related to national security.

Libel is still a criminal offense in Liberia, though only two new cases appeared in court during 2010. In February, the former agriculture minister filed a US\$2 million defamation suit against the newspaper *FrontPage Africa* over accusations linking him to a rubber-industry corruption scandal. The court had not yet heard the case at the end of the year. A series of libel cases stemming from the same scandal had been filed in 2009, primarily by Johnson-Sirleaf and her administration. Separately, in November 2010, the administration filed a US\$5 million libel suit against the *New Broom* newspaper, which had accused the president of accepting bribes. Fines sought and imposed in civil cases are often astronomical, leading to severe financial difficulties for journalists and their outlets, and encouraging self-censorship in the media. In February 2010, a court ordered the *New Democrat* newspaper to pay US\$900,000 in damages to the Consolidated Group in a civil defamation case. While the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) rated the *New Democrat* as the best newspaper in the country early in 2010, in August the union condemned the paper for unprofessional behavior after it published a nude photograph of supermodel Naomi Campbell during the trial of former president Charles Taylor, at which she testified.

Despite a notable number of death threats, the number of direct attacks against the press decreased in 2010. In 2009, there had been more attacks against the media than in other years since Johnson-Sirleaf’s election in 2005, including police-led assaults and unlawful detentions.

The incidents reported in 2010 were mostly directed at the *New Democrat*, including the harassment of a staff photographer who was covering the libel trial of his colleagues, and the repeated hacking of the paper's website, where the perpetrators posted threats. In April, the mayor of Monrovia ordered police to detain a reporter from the private radio station Love FM, but he was promptly released after the PUL complained to the Ministry of Information. Separately, a number of incidents suggested government intolerance of dissenting opinions. Most egregiously, four news editors with the state-run Liberia Broadcasting System were demoted to senior reporters after they proposed covering an opposition press conference.

The media sector includes both state-owned and private outlets. Although a dozen newspapers publish regularly, distribution is limited to the capital and literacy rates remain low, meaning most Liberians rely on radio broadcasts for news. There were 15 independent radio stations in Monrovia and 24 community radio stations outside the capital, as well as three television stations. There were no cases in 2010 of the government or other parties attempting to influence editorial content through the withholding of advertising. However, reporters commonly accept payment from individuals covered in their stories, and the placement of a story in a paper or radio show can often be bought and influenced by outside interests. Most media outlets are not self-sustaining and rely heavily on financial support from politicians or international donors. According to the Liberia Media Center, most newspapers are owned and operated by journalists, who are rarely trained in managing a business. Journalism training is also limited, with the Center for Media Studies and Peace-Building providing one of the only venues for training in journalism ethics.

Access to foreign broadcasts and the internet is not restricted by the government, though internet usage is limited to approximately 0.07 percent of the population due to cost, literacy, and infrastructural barriers.

Libya

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 29

Political Environment: 36

Economic Environment: 29

Total Score: 94

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	96,NF	96,NF	94,NF	94,NF	94,NF

Libyan media remained among the most tightly controlled in the world in 2010. While the law provides for freedoms of speech and the press within the confines of “the principles of the Revolution,” other legislation, including the 1972 Publication Act, contains provisions banning libel and slander and broadly restricts critical speech. In July 2010, three journalists were investigated for defamation because of their report on financial and administrative corruption. The government severely limits the rights of the media in practice, and journalists who violate the harsh press codes can be imprisoned or sentenced to death. As with other forms of abuse, Libyan security forces enjoy virtually complete impunity for acts of violence against journalists.

Those who criticize the government from outside the country may be arrested upon entering Libya. There have been several cases in recent years in which the authorities have harassed or imprisoned Libyans who denounced the government on websites based in Europe. However, no such incidents were reported in 2010. Secret police and informants are commonly used to root out dissident activities. Given the extreme controls imposed by the government, self-censorship is widespread in Libya. The press avoids publishing any material that could be deemed offensive or threatening, particularly to Islam, national security, territorial integrity, or the country's longtime leader, Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi.

Libya remains a threatening environment for journalists. In August 2010, Mohamed al-Sarīt of *Mal Wa Aamal* magazine was stabbed by four unidentified assailants, suffering serious injuries; he had previously written an article detailing poverty in the country, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. The regime pursues a strategy of continuous harassment and frequently summons journalists for questioning, often forcing them to travel long distances on short notice. There were multiple cases of arrest during the year. For example, four journalists were arrested in January, following their investigation of corruption in Libya's second city, Benghazi.

There is no independent press in Libya. The government owns and strictly controls nearly all print and broadcast media, including the official Jamahiriya News Agency (JANA). State media outlets function as government mouthpieces, and journalists censor their own work to avoid harassment. The General Press Institute owns three daily newspapers—*Al-Jamahiriya*, *Al-Shams*, and *Al-Fajr al-Jadeed*—while the government-supported Movement of Revolutionary Committees owns the fourth daily, *Al-Zahf al-Akhder*. A semi-independent media group, Al-Ghad, began operating in 2007. Founded by the leader's son, Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi, the group was allowed to launch the satellite television station Al-Libiya, two radio stations, and two daily newspapers at its inception. This quasi-liberalization proved short lived, however, as the group was nationalized in April 2009, possibly due to its relatively moderate reportage. Authorities continued to target Al-Ghad outlets in 2010. The government reportedly forced two of the group's newspapers, *Quryna* and *Oea*, to shut down from January to July because of critical coverage of the regime. Twenty journalists from the group's Libya Press news agency were arrested in November, apparently as a result of an ongoing power struggle between reformers and members of the conservative governing elite. The journalists were released within two days, but the head of the media group resigned over the incident, claiming that he was no longer able to protect his employees in the hostile environment. Libya Press shut down its Tripoli office in December, but planned to continue working from foreign capitals.

Although satellite television is accessible, the government occasionally blocks foreign programming. Popular pan-Arab satellite television stations such as Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya do not have local correspondents covering Libya. Few foreign publications have traditionally been available, though authorities are reportedly allowing a greater variety of international print media to appear on newsstands.

Internet penetration remains relatively low; about 14 percent of the population used the medium in 2010. Nevertheless, the government reportedly monitors internet communications, regularly blocks opposition websites based overseas, and began blocking the video-sharing site YouTube in 2010 after users posted videos of protests that had supposedly taken place in Libya. The country's only internet-service provider is government owned.

Liechtenstein

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 1

Political Environment: 5

Economic Environment: 8

Total Score: 14

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	13,F	14,F	14,F	14,F	14,F

Lithuania

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 5

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 8

Total Score: 22

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	18,F	18,F	18,F	18,F	21,F

Lithuania's constitution provides for freedoms of speech and the press, and those guarantees are respected by the government in practice. According to the criminal code, defamation is punishable by a fine or imprisonment, though no such penalties were imposed on journalists in 2010. The Law on the Provision of Information to the Public and the Law on the Right to Obtain Information from State and Local Government Institutions regulate access to public information. In June 2009, Lithuania was among 12 European countries that signed the Council of Europe's Convention on Access to Official Documents, which establishes the right to request information held by public authorities at no charge.

In July 2009, Parliament overrode a presidential veto and passed amendments to the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information. The changes limited or banned a wide range of public information considered harmful to young people, including materials regarded as promoting homosexual, bisexual, and polygamous relations. Following criticism by domestic and foreign human rights activists, in December 2009 Parliament revised the measure with somewhat less controversial language. The legislation, which came into effect in March 2010, still prohibits the promotion of bad hygiene, sexual intercourse, gambling, certain forms of hypnosis, and a number of other practices, but no prosecutions have been reported.

There were no reports of attacks or threats against journalists in 2010, and Lithuania's media freely criticize the government and express a wide variety of views. In addition to the public broadcast media, dozens of independent television and radio stations are available nationally, regionally, and locally, including the main commercial television stations LNK, TV1, and BTV. More than 300 privately owned newspapers—such as the dailies *Lietuvos Rytas*, *Vakaro Žinios*, and *Respublika*—publish in Lithuanian, Russian, and a few other languages.

Media ownership has undergone increased concentration over the last several years, with purchases of outlets by both domestic firms and foreign companies, mainly from Scandinavia. In 2009, the Lithuanian bank Snoras became the top shareholder in the country's largest media group, Lietuvos Rytas, which owns the newspaper of the same name.

The global financial crisis of late 2008 had a strong impact on the country's media market, with major media outlets cutting staff and salaries and a number of periodicals ceasing publication. According to the market research company TNS LT, Lithuania's advertising market dropped by nearly 40 percent in 2009. However, as the country's economy began to recover in 2010, the decline had slowed to about 12 percent in the first half of the year, according to the international media agency network Carat.

The government does not limit access to the internet, and the popularity of internet news portals continues to grow. The Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effects of Public Information explicitly applies to websites, but no enforcement has been reported. About 62 percent of Lithuanians used the internet in 2010, up from 35 percent in 2006.

Luxembourg

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 2

Political Environment: 3

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 12

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	11,F	12,F	12,F	12,F	12,F

Macedonia

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 12

Political Environment: 20

Economic Environment: 16

Total Score: 48

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	49,PF	45,PF	47,PF	47,PF	46,PF

Macedonia's constitution includes basic protections for freedoms of the press and expression, but government representatives do not uphold them consistently. Journalists remain subject to criminal and civil libel charges, though imprisonment has been eliminated as a punishment. Multiple libel cases against journalists were pending in 2010, and the large number of cases each year continues to encourage self-censorship. One reporter for the weekly *Forum* was briefly detained in September for failing to pay a fine of 500 euros (\$635) from a slander conviction that he said he was never informed of. A 2007 law on open access to public information reportedly

has not been fully implemented or enforced. Collection of the fees used to finance the Broadcasting Council, which regulates television and radio outlets, and Macedonian Radio and Television (MRTV), the public broadcaster, noticeably improved in 2010, but the need for sustainable, independent funding for the entities remained a problem. Enforcement of media regulations, including rules on ownership transparency, is weak, and the licensing process is subject to undue political and economic influence.

Most of the country's private media outlets are tied to political or business interests that influence their content, and state-owned media tend to support government positions. The government of Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and its media allies have shown growing hostility toward critical or opposition-oriented news outlets. In May 2010, television host Milenko Nedelkovski of Kanal 5, whose owner is the son of a government politician, publicly listed journalists he considered traitors and called for their "liquidation." The government failed to condemn the statements and took no action against Nedelkovski, and the host later filed a defamation suit against a columnist at the newspaper *Dnevnik* who rebutted his attacks. Kanal 5 fired eight staff members in July, ostensibly for financial reasons, but some of the dismissed workers accused the government of meddling in editorial matters at the station and engineering their ouster.

There have been occasional cases of physical harassment or intimidation of journalists and media outlets. In early November, the editor of the popular *Spic* daily complained that the progovernment paper *Vecer* had repeatedly accused him of wrongdoing and printed his home address, which he saw as a form of intimidation. Later in the month, police and financial inspectors raided the building that houses A1 TV, the country's leading television channel, which is critical of the government. Though they claimed to be investigating other companies registered at that address and controlled by A1 TV's owner, Velija Ramkovski, the police prevented journalists from leaving and entering and allegedly manhandled some staff during the incident. Ramkovski, who also apparently owns the daily newspapers *Spic*, *Vreme*, and *Koha e Re*, was arrested along with 13 associates in late December, and they remained in detention at year's end. The charges against them included money laundering and tax evasion.

Macedonia has a large number of media outlets for its population, including 5 private nationwide television broadcasters and the public MRTV, 57 local and regional television stations, 71 radio stations, and 11 daily newspapers, 7 of which publish in Macedonian and 4 that publish in Albanian. Outlets serving the ethnic Albanian minority remain largely separated from the main media market. Ownership is fairly concentrated, and rules against cross-ownership of broadcast and print outlets are not enforced. There is some foreign investment, with Germany's WAZ Media Group owning *Dnevnik* and two other important dailies, although WAZ announced in August its plans to leave the Southeastern European market. The government actively uses advertising to support loyal media outlets, and in August 2010 the former spokesperson for the National Health Fund released an open letter accusing the government of controlling the media through ad spending. Journalists face low salaries, poor job security and working conditions, and editorial pressure from owners.

Access to the internet is restricted only by cost and infrastructural obstacles, with around 52 percent of the population accessing the medium in 2010. However, a law that took effect in June 2010 allows the Interior Ministry to monitor internet and telephone communications on demand without a court order, raising objections from freedom of expression advocates who cited the country's recent history of improperly wiretapping journalists.

Madagascar

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 19

Political Environment: 30

Economic Environment: 15

Total Score: 64

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	49,PF	50,PF	48,PF	51,PF	61,NF

After a coup swept the former mayor of Antananarivo, Andry Nirina Rajoelina, to the presidency in March 2009, the ensuing dismissal of the parliament, a virtual suspension of the constitution, and the end of any semblance of judicial independence ushered in a dangerous and violent period for journalists and the media that has continued through the end of 2010.

With the breakdown of democracy and constitutional governance since 2009, the laws protecting freedom of the press have been routinely ignored or selectively applied by the High Authority of the Transition (HAT), Rajoelina's interim government. The increased corruption of the judiciary, and lack of a parliament or any independent media regulatory bodies, has allowed the HAT to rule by decree without checks and balances. Attempts to strengthen constitutional and legal protections for journalists and freedom of the press have been put on the back burner pending resolution of the political crisis. The November 17 constitutional referendum, which was approved by a 74 percent vote despite a boycott by the three opposition parties, was silent on the media. Despite attempts by several members of the media to formally draft a code of ethics, no such code exists, and the barely functional Association of Journalists lacks independence from political influence.

Censorship, harassment, and intimidation throughout the media sector remained widespread in 2010. During the year, the Rajoelina government closed several media outlets, many of them radio stations, for political reasons. The closings were often accompanied by violence. Several journalists were assaulted, arrested, and imprisoned. On May 15, government soldiers violently broke up a live broadcast at radio Frequence Plus in the capital, Antananarivo. Opposition politicians participating in the broadcast were assaulted, three members of the editorial staff suffered serious injuries, and large-scale destruction of the equipment forced the station's closing. On May 20, government soldiers closed Radio Fahazavana, a church-owned station that supported ousted President Marc Ravalomanana, on a variety of charges including "non-respect for journalistic ethics resulting in a threat to state security and incitement of violence and rebellion." Ten employees of the station, six of whom are journalists, were arrested and imprisoned until September 8, when they were conditionally released to await trial. Also on September 8, opposition station Radio Mahafaly in Antsirabé was ordered to cease broadcasting with no reason given for the suspension. In September and early October, the HAT ordered the closure of approximately 80 broadcasters, most of them radio stations. After an unsuccessful coup attempt by a group of military officers on November 17, several TV stations, including Ma-TV and TV Plus—which had broadcast statements by the leaders of the coup attempt—were threatened with suspension or closure if they were not more supportive of the transitional government. Government radio stations were not spared the violence. On August 27, Radio

Soatalily, an affiliate of government-owned Radio National Malgache (RNM) in Toliary, was ransacked by opposition protesters, and on September 7 another RNM station, Radio Varatraza in Antsiranana, was damaged when an attempt was made to burn down its transmitter.

Perhaps the only bright spot on Madagascar’s media landscape in 2010 was that no journalists were killed. In February 2009, prior to Ravalomanana’s overthrow, government security forces had shot and killed Ando Ratovonirina of privately owned Radio et Television Analamanga (RTA) at an opposition demonstration in the capital. That marked the first killing of a reporter in the course of his work in Madagascar since 1992. Due to the polarized and uncertain political climate, many journalists exercise self-censorship.

In 2010, there were approximately 250 radio stations and 39 television stations, though the government retains a monopoly on nationwide broadcasting. Thirteen private daily newspapers and many more that appear less frequently were published throughout the country, but the number fluctuated due to several closures and reopenings. Widespread poverty and illiteracy severely limit the penetration of TV, print media, and the internet, making radio by far the most important medium in the country. Major political figures own several of the private media outlets. Ravalomanana, for instance, owns the Malagasy Broadcasting System, which operates television and radio stations, and Rajoelina owns VIVA TV. The state-owned media include Television Malagasy and Malagasy National Radio.

While there were no reports that the government restricted internet usage or monitored e-mail, allegations of technical sabotage of websites from both political camps surfaced during the year. Given the extremely chaotic, violent, and restrictive media environment within the country, access to information from abroad via the internet took on added importance. However, the polarization that plagued the traditional media was also evident in cyberspace, and only about 1.7 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. Prospects for rapid expansion of the internet sector from these low levels improved greatly with the inauguration on November 16, 2009, of the submarine cable LION (Lower Indian Ocean Network), a fiber-optic network connecting Madagascar, Reunion, and Mauritius. The project, financed by a consortium made up of Orange Madagascar, Mauritius Telecom, and France Telecom S.A., would make it possible for Madagascar to access broadband internet for the first time. Broadband connection, however, was still unavailable at year’s end.

Malawi

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 18

Political Environment: 19

Economic Environment: 18

Total Score: 55

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	55,PF	53,PF	55,PF	56,PF	56,PF

The year saw both gains and setbacks for the media environment. While Malawi has strong constitutional guarantees for freedom of the press, the government continues to employ a strong hand in the operations of the media. Libel is not usually treated as a criminal offense, but

publishing “false information likely to cause public alarm” is. In December 2010, a court in Lilongwe freed an editor, Gabriel Kamlomo, who had been imprisoned on that charge since July 2009. The judge ruled that the story published by Kamlomo was balanced in its reporting and based on substantial evidence. This marked a significant judicial gain for the media.

Less positively, in November, the National Assembly approved an amended version of Section 46 of the Malawi Penal Code. The law previously allowed the minister of information to prohibit the importation of publications deemed “contrary to the public interest,” but as amended it would also allow the minister to ban the domestic publication of such materials. This law has the potential to severely hamper the free activities of the press. At the end of the year, it awaited the president’s signature. Although the constitution guarantees access to information, a draft bill to implement this right has been stalled in parliament since 2003.

The broadcast media are licensed by the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA), which is funded by the government and led by an executive director appointed by the president. During 2010, MACRA closed at least eight private radio stations that it deemed “pirate stations” operating without licenses in violation of national law. Operators of such stations can be subject to fines and up to 10 years’ imprisonment. Radio station owners and commentators argue that MACRA’s licensing process is slow and subject to political influence. In the past, MACRA has often harassed private radio stations critical of the government and temporarily taken them off the air. In October 2009, the Supreme Court of Appeal ordered MACRA to pay Joy Radio 13.8 million kwachas (about \$98,000) in compensation for shutting it down during the election period earlier that year. In July 2010, MACRA brought together parliament members and media managers in order to review the country’s Communication Act. MACRA representatives asserted that the original 1998 law does not address current trends in information communication. The revamping of the law marks an opportunity to provide for greater legal protections for the press, encourage the growth of privately held media outlets, and turn the state-owned Malawi Broadcasting Company (MBC) into a public broadcaster.

The government has a reputation for actively interfering with the operations of private print media outlets. In 2010, there were a number of government interventions meant to hinder or stop the activities of various outlets. In August, President Bingu wa Mutharika threatened to shut down newspapers that “tarnished” the government’s image. This came after the *Malawi News Daily* published a story that cited a South African Development Community (SADC) report that stated that more than a million Malawians would require food aid if extremely dry or drought-like conditions were experienced in the southern section of the country. In November, the government banned the publication of the weekly tabloid the *Weekend Times*. The government cited a colonial-era law that requires all printed publications to register with the National Archives and deposit a copy of each of their publications there. However, many newspapers are not registered with the archives, and the *Weekend Times*’ publisher had submitted the necessary paperwork for registration. The high court of Blantyre later granted an injunction allowing the *Weekend Times* to continue publishing while an investigation by the National Archives was conducted. Due to the threat of legal or regulatory action, many journalists practice self-censorship. There were no reports of physical attacks against journalists during the year.

Malawi’s print sector consists mainly of 10 independent newspapers, including 2 dailies and 4 weeklies. While numerous private stations with a diverse array of opinions do exist, government-controlled media outlets continue to dominate the broadcast media market in Malawi. Radio remains the primary source of information for most people, and the Malawi Broadcast Corporation (MBC) is the largest station and the only one with national reach. Most

privately owned stations are located in large urban centers in the south and do not broadcast to more rural sections of the country. Television Malawi (TVM), the state-controlled television station, continues to be the only domestic television network and has recently been merged with the MBC. Self-censorship is common, particularly at state-run outlets. State media also has substantial control over important information. For example, according to a letter from the Ministry of Information and Civic Education, only state media are allowed to cover live events involving people the government deems “VVIPs” (Very Very Important Persons). In February 2010, the Center for Human Rights and Rehabilitation, a local nongovernmental organization, condemned the government’s ban on placing official advertising in private media, which had been circulated in writing to some government departments. Advertising revenue, including government advertising, is critical to the survival of Malawi’s economically tenuous press.

There are no government restrictions on the internet, although only 2.26 percent of the population accessed the medium in 2010.

Malaysia

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 24

Political Environment: 23

Economic Environment: 17

Total Score: 64

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	65,NF	68,NF	65,NF	65,NF	64,NF

There were growing indications of attempts by Malaysia’s ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition to rein in the press in 2010, presumably in an effort to secure victory in the general elections that are widely anticipated to be held in early 2011. Many of these efforts were focused on internet media in particular, which continue to hold a unique position in an otherwise tightly controlled press landscape. Book bannings, harassment and intimidation of bloggers, show cause letters, the denial and cancelation of permits, interference with radio and television organizations, and a new draft bill to regulate online media all suggested that as the elections approach, BN is aiming to tighten its political control.

The Malaysian constitution guarantees freedom of expression under Article 10, but allows for a host of limitations to this right. The Sedition Act, the Internal Security Act (ISA), and harsh criminal defamation laws are used regularly to impose restrictions on the press and other critics, and all transgressions are punishable by several years in prison—in many cases without trial. While the most notorious incident of this in recent years was the 2008 detention and arrest of *Malaysia Today* news website founder Raja Petra Kamaruddin, politicians regularly call for the use of the ISA to control political opponents. Malaysia has no federal freedom of information legislation, and officials are reluctant to share controversial data with journalists for fear of being charged under the colonial-era Official Secrets Act.

The 1984 Printing Presses and Publications Act (PPPA) requires all publishers and printing firms to obtain an annual operations permit, and gives the prime minister the authority to revoke licenses at any time without judicial review. Show cause letters may also be issued by the

home minister, which require that newspapers either explain certain articles or face suspension or revocation of their permits. In February 2010, the *Star*'s managing editor, P. Gunasegaram, was issued a show cause letter for an article that criticized the caning of three women for "illicit sex" under Sharia (Islamic law). The *Star* issued an apology after several police reports accused the senior editor of "insulting Islam." Also in 2010, the license of opposition party Keadilan Rakyat's newspaper *Suara Keadilan* was not renewed, and show cause letters were likewise issued to two other opposition newspapers, the *Rocket* (owned by the Democratic Action Party) and *Harakah* (affiliated with the Islamic Party of Malaysia). Each of these licenses was eventually renewed. During the year, at least 25 books were banned, seized, or detained under the PPPA, including a number of books by political cartoonist Zulkiflee Anwar Haque, popularly known as Zunar. The cartoon compilations were published by online news organization *Malaysiakini* through its subsidiary Kinibooks. In August 2010, Zunar and *Malaysiakini* filed a legal challenge to the home ministry's ban. One month later, 66 copies of Zunar's books were seized from his office, and *Malaysiakini*'s premises were searched.

The 1988 Broadcasting Act allows the Information Ministry to decide who can own a broadcast station and what type of television service is suitable for the Malaysian public, leading to considerable self-censorship among broadcast journalists. In April 2010, Joshua Wong, the senior producer of television station ntv7, resigned, citing "unreasonable restrictions" on his program. In September, Jamaluddin Ibrahim, a radio deejay at Star RFM, was dismissed after the station received complaints about his interviews with a gay pastor and with opposition politician and Penang state chief minister Lim Guan Eng. Due to the influence of the government and Muslim pressure groups, the print media also practices self-censorship. Following the show cause letter being issued in February, the *Star* withheld Marina Mahathir's March column arguing that Sharia was man-made and should be open for debate.

Physical harassment and intimidation remained less of a danger in Malaysia than arbitrary arrest or threats of legal action. The ruling coalition continued to intimidate through investigations of editors, such as the October questioning of *Malaysiakini* chief editor Steven Gan over his news organization's reporting on a speech by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak at the 2010 annual meeting of Razak's United Malays National Organization (UMNO) party. There were no reports of extra-legal harassment of journalists during the year. Some foreign print media were censored or banned.

Although the media industry is predominantly privately owned, the majority of both print and broadcast outlets are controlled either by political parties in the ruling coalition or by businesses with political connections. Despite the ruling coalition's insistence that mainstream newspapers are impartial, the issues of ownership are another reason for journalists' self-censorship. The largest media conglomerate is Media Prima, which owns half of the Malay and English newspapers, as well as many television channels. As a result of a merger in 2006, Huaren Management, which is associated with the Malaysian Chinese Association party, monopolizes Chinese newspapers. With decreasing readership numbers and advertising revenue, some print media outlets publish sensationalist articles to boost sales and circulation.

The internet continued to be the one bright spot in the media landscape, as the country remained formally committed to a policy of refraining from censorship of the medium, as guaranteed in Section 3(3) of the Communications and Multimedia Act (CMA) and the Multimedia Bill of Guarantees. Malaysia, with around 55 percent of the population accessing the internet in 2010, hosts many websites and blogs that offer competing points of view. Although not all of these internet news organizations were politically independent—many had shadowy

affiliations with politicians from either the opposition or the ruling coalition—they nevertheless offered an array of political opinions that could not be found in the traditional media. The internet has also been a place to challenge corruption and government policies. In October 2010, a copy of a newly released book on Malaysia’s leaders was posted online after the Home Ministry banned the book’s print publication. Despite these developments, bloggers were still required to tread carefully, especially in light of their ongoing harassment and prosecution if they were known to the government. In September, Irwan Abdul Rahman, better known as Hassan Skodeng, was arrested and charged with allegedly publishing false information on his blog. Although he was later released on bail, if convicted he could be fined up to RM 5,000 (approximately \$1,600), jailed up to a year, or both. Social networking sites such as Facebook continued to flourish, and contained vigorous debates on political issues, such as the government’s proposed ban in January on the use of the word Allah by non-Muslims. Media observers were concerned, however, about an announcement from the Home Ministry that a new law would be introduced to govern sedition in cyberspace. Although this had not yet occurred by the end of 2010, advocacy groups such as the Centre for Independent Journalists viewed it as “a deliberate attempt to censor the internet.”

Maldives

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 17

Political Environment: 17

Economic Environment: 16

Total Score: 50

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	70,NF	68,NF	66,NF	56,PF	50,PF

Following significant gains in 2009, the level of media freedom in the Maldives remained steady in 2010, as some legal reforms stalled and journalists remained subject to occasional cases of attacks and harassment. The 2008 constitution protects freedom of expression, but also places restrictions on speech deemed “contrary to the tenets of Islam.” The overall legal framework protecting free expression remained weak, with many proposed media reform bills still awaiting passage. However, in a positive step, in November 2009 the parliament passed an amendment to the penal code that abolished criminal defamation. There were no reported defamation cases in 2010.

Legislation to transform the state broadcaster, the Maldives National Broadcasting Corporation (MNBC), into the Maldives Broadcasting Corporation, a public broadcaster, was passed in April 2010, but the government delayed implementing the handover. In August 2010, the Broadcasting Act was passed and ratified, establishing a commission to oversee the licensing and regulatory process. In November, the president submitted nominations for the new Maldives Broadcasting Commission to the parliament. A 2008 law called for the establishment of an independent Media Council, consisting of eight media workers and seven members of the public, tasked with developing a code of conduct for journalists and investigating complaints from the public against both print and broadcast outlets. While advocacy groups warned about the

potential for government influence (the minister of information nominates the public candidates) and noted that self-regulation was preferable to statutory regulation, they cautiously welcomed the formation of the council and an end to formal control over media content by the ministry. After a considerable delay, elections to the council were held in May 2010. The elections process was criticized for not being sufficiently transparent, and former members of political parties were nominated as candidates to the council. The Maldives Journalist Association (MJA), formed in 2009, regularly made statements regarding media freedom issues and journalists' rights during the year, accusing the government and political leaders of interference with the private media in a number of cases. An alternate group, the Maldives National Journalists' Association, was founded in 2010, reportedly in response to the perceived politicization of the MJA.

Greater media diversity has led to improved coverage of major political events and issues, such as the May 2009 parliamentary elections. Reforms at the state-run Television and Radio Maldives, which remain under the umbrella of the MNBC, have led to somewhat more balanced coverage by the state broadcaster as well, though the outlets still suffer from progovernment bias. The MJA alleged in July 2010 that the MNBC had given instructions for state media to avoid broadcasting opposition views. Investigative journalism remains hampered by the lack of an access to information law and a culture of secrecy at government departments. Journalists remain subject to some harassment; incidents in 2010 included an attack on the office of private television station VTV by unknown assailants in August and a police attack on journalists covering a political protest in October, as well as verbal attacks on journalists and specific media outlets by a number of high-ranking party officials, including Reeco Moosa Manik, leader of the Maldives Democratic Party. In March, a freelance journalist received repeated death threats from Islamist extremists, allegedly due to his writings. In late January, police ordered that DhiFM suspend its transmission, halting a live broadcast of an opposition demonstration; authorities later requested copies of the station's recordings, accusing it of incitement to violence.

Private print media have expanded, and the sector's coverage presents a fairly wide diversity of viewpoints. However, some publications are owned by allies of former president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom or other political actors, who exercise considerable control over content. The number of private radio stations has increased to at least six, while the country's first private television channels, DhiTV and VTV, began operating in 2008. Private outlets are authorized through individual agreements with the government rather than new broadcasting legislation, limiting their legal protections. Moreover, broadcasters remain subject to high annual licensing fees and must be relicensed every year. Most newspapers are not profitable and rely on financial backing from businessmen with strong political interests. Private media came under further financial pressure in September 2009, when the government began publishing its advertisements in the weekly official gazette instead of private media outlets. Such notices had been a major source of revenue for private publications, and following the decision at least one publication, the *Manas Daily*, was forced to close, while others faced financial hardship. In August 2010, the MJA criticized a delay in disbursing government subsidies for private media outlets, most of which were allocated for the development of private television stations.

The government generally did not interfere with the internet, which was accessed by about 28 percent of the population in 2010. Opposition websites remained unblocked and the number of web-based news outlets has greatly expanded, but the Ministry of Islamic Affairs (MIA) had announced in 2008 that Christian and anti-Islam websites would be blocked, arguing

that they could negatively affect belief in Islam, and a number of websites were blocked by the Telecommunication Authority at the MIA’s request during 2009.

Mali

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 8

Political Environment: 8

Economic Environment: 8

Total Score: 24

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	24,F	24,F	27,F	26,F	25,F

Mali’s constitution protects the right to free speech, and the country’s broadcast and print media have ranked among the freest in Africa in recent years. Severe criminal punishments for libel still exist under a 1993 law, and the accused face a presumption of guilt despite improvements to the law in 2000. However, no journalist has been prosecuted under this law since 2007. Mali has no legislation that guarantees the right to access information.

Mali is a particularly easy country in which to open a media outlet, as the government places few if any restrictions on the establishment of new radio stations or newspapers. The capacity of the government to regulate the media is also limited, as the two government bodies responsible for the media—the High Communications Council and the Committee for Equal Access to the State Media—lack the capacity to mediate press affairs due to insufficient funding. In a positive development, in December 2009 the government officially opened a new, partially government-funded “Maison de la Presse,” providing journalists with facilities from which to work and training in journalism skills and area specialization.

Unlike in 2008, there were almost no reports in either 2009 or 2010 of journalists being harassed in the course of their work, and the government generally upholds the country’s long-standing tradition of allowing a space for independent media to operate freely. The only reported incident in 2010 occurred in November, when Diakaridia Yossi, a journalist for the daily *L’Indépendant*, was detained and beaten while covering the police dispersal of a demonstration outside the Court of Appeals. Yossi apparently had been mistaken for a demonstrator, and after being released from custody he received an apology and 25,000 CFA francs (\$50) for medical expenses from the director of the National Police.

Mali boasts a diverse media environment, with some 300 FM radio stations operating throughout the country. Similarly, there are more than 50 privately run newspapers and magazines, though few aside from the state-owned *L’Essor* have a circulation in excess of 1,000. However, the overall quality of the media in Mali is limited by the lack of adequate journalism training—potentially an issue that will be ameliorated by the Maison de la Presse—and a high level of poverty, which leads many low-paid journalists to take bribes. While the government does not restrict access to either foreign media or to the internet, due to infrastructure limitations, Mali has one of the lowest internet penetration levels in West Africa, at only 2.7 percent.

Malta

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 22

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	18,F	17,F	20,F	22,F	22,F

Malta's constitution guarantees freedoms of speech and of the press, but it also restricts these rights under a variety of circumstances. Laws against "vilification" of, or "giving offense" to, the Roman Catholic Apostolic Religion, the country's official church, led to some restrictions on journalists. Defamation is a criminal offense, and the law guarantees the right to reply for perceived victims. Malta bases its laws on the European model but is one of only three European Union (EU) members not to have a freedom of information law. Though there is a website for Malta's freedom of information act, it clearly states that the act is not yet fully implemented, so requests cannot be submitted. Malta is a safe environment for journalists, with no reported cases of threats or physical harassment in 2010.

There is an active independent media in Malta that is free to express a variety of viewpoints, with at least five daily and two weekly newspapers publishing in both Maltese and English. Political parties, private investors, and the Catholic Church all have direct investments in broadcasting and print media, and these outlets openly express partisan views. The only national television broadcaster is TVM, though the island also has access to Italian television, which many Maltese watch. Several domestic radio stations are regulated through the Broadcasting Authority. The government does not block the internet, and it is regularly accessed by 63 percent of the population.

Marshall Islands

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 2

Political Environment: 6

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 17

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	15,F	17,F	17,F	17,F	17,F

Mauritania

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 17
Political Environment: 19
Economic Environment: 17
Total Score: 53

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	57,PF	55,PF	56,PF	58,PF	56,PF

Mauritania’s media environment continues to open up in spite of its history of military dictatorship and the August 2008 bloodless overthrow of the first democratically elected president by an army general, Mohammed Ould Abdel Aziz. Abdel Aziz subsequently ran in and won elections held in July 2009. Since then, his administration has passed a number of reforms to improve media freedom in the country.

Article 10 of Mauritania’s 1991 constitution guarantees the freedom of opinion, of thought, and of expression. Legal and regulatory reforms enacted in 2006 eliminated prepublication government approval for newspapers, established journalists’ legal right to protect sources, and created the High Authority for the Press and Audiovisual Sector (HAPA), whose board members are appointed by the president without representation from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and journalists. HAPA is also responsible for nominating the heads of public media organizations and the Mauritanian News Agency. Libel remains criminalized and journalists are often charged and sentenced to fines and imprisonment, although no cases were reported in 2010. Mauritania has no legislation guaranteeing access to information.

In July 2010, the parliament passed a bill, previously introduced in 2006 but shelved after the 2008 coup, to liberalize the broadcasting sector by opening it up to private operators, in an effort to end Mauritania’s status as the only West African country without a private radio or television station. The bill, which was not expected to take effect until 2011, will also insulate the state-owned media from government influence. However, there remains a need for simple, standard criteria for the registration of print media and the accreditation of journalists. Likewise, the inclusion of provisions for new media such as blogs and the lowering of license costs for broadcast frequencies are reforms that could further increase the number of actors and the quality of news production in the country.

Journalists sometimes face harassment and intimidation. A reporter for the privately owned Arabic daily *El-Hayat*, Mohammed Ould Abdel Latif, was detained for several hours in July while interviewing traders in Nouakchott. Latif was investigating police involvement in tax collection at the time. He was released without charge.

Though the Mauritanian media express a variety of views, journalists practice a degree of self-censorship in their coverage of issues such as the military, foreign diplomatic missions, corruption, and Sharia (Islamic law). There are 30 regularly published and privately owned newspapers, many of which tend toward sensationalism. The only two daily newspapers, *Horizons* (French-language) and *Chaab* (Arabic-language), are owned by the government, as are all broadcast media. A new public television station began broadcasting in October 2008 and devotes airtime to the country’s minority languages of Pular, Soninke, and Wolof. Mauritania now has two public television stations, two public radio channels, and two private, internet-only television stations. However, Radio France Internationale rebroadcasts locally, and Mauritians have access to international satellite television. HAPA provides state subsidies to several independent newspapers, and most papers have access to the state’s printing press. In September

2010, the Mauritanian Press Rally, an umbrella group of more than 20 private organizations, announced a press blackout to protest rising printing costs, a lack of government support, and the exclusion of the media from covering some news events, but the blackout did not occur.

Internet access is not restricted by the government, but its usage continues to stagnate at 3 percent of the population in 2010. Cellular telephone subscriptions are within the reach of more than 66 percent of the population. The impact of online media has grown in recent years. However, existing legislation does not address the legal void in relation to online journalism, as was evident in the 2009 arrest and sentencing of Hanevy Ould Dehah, editor of the news website *Taqadoumy*, on a trumped-up charge of “offending public decency.” Dehah was due to be released in December 2009 but was retried on the same charges for which he had already served a six-month sentence, and was handed a harsh two-year jail sentence in February 2010 for violating public decency, inciting revolt, and “criminal publication.” Fortunately, he was released along with 100 ordinary offenders as part of a presidential pardon in late February.

Mauritius

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 13

Total Score: 28

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	26,F	26,F	26,F	26,F	27,F

Mexico

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 17

Political Environment: 31

Economic Environment: 14

Total Score: 62

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	48,PF	48,PF	51,PF	55,PF	60,PF

Status change explanation: Mexico declined from Partly Free to Not Free due to the escalating drug wars, which have taken a heavy toll on journalists. Violence and intimidation by cartels has steadily increased in a climate of impunity, leading to heightened self-censorship by the profession as a whole, as well as the murders of more than 60 journalists over the past 10 years. During 2010, the nature of drug traffickers’ control over the news agenda expanded from censorship of media content to concerted attempts to place propaganda in certain media outlets. A range of techniques was employed, including forcing media outlets to print the traffickers’ press releases, as well as threatening and bribing journalists.

Freedom of expression in Mexico is established in Articles 6 and 7 of the constitution, but in 2010, the Mexican media remained besieged by a mixture of drug violence, public corruption, systematic impunity, and broadcast media monopolies that severely limited the range and accuracy of information available to citizens. Journalists have attempted to be more critical than they were during the 71-year rule of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) that ended in 2000, but conditions continued to deteriorate, with criminal defamation and insult laws in place and little reform to the broadcast sector, where ownership is monopolized by a few companies. These harsh conditions resulted from the convergence of elements such as the country's prominent position in the international narcotics trade, the use of the military to combat feuding criminal groups in major cities, and an inability to enact state reforms to enhance government accountability and the rule of law following the 2000 presidential election.

The federal criminal defamation law was eliminated in 2007, but civil insult laws remain intact, as do criminal defamation statutes in 17 states. In 2003, a freedom of information act was passed in Mexico, and a 2007 amendment to Article 6 of the constitution stated that all levels of government would be required to make their information public, but that information can be temporarily withheld if it is in the public interest to do so. Despite the presence of these laws, accessing information is a time-consuming and difficult process. There were few legal cases reported against journalists in 2010. One community radio journalist was sentenced to two years in prison for attempting to establish a local radio station. This case further demonstrates the need for a legal framework to regulate the community radio sector.

Impunity remains a problem in Mexico, with little progress in the prosecution of cases of murder and allegations of torture. Emblematic was the case of the 2008 murder of *El Diario de Juárez* crime reporter Armando Rodríguez Carreón, in which potential suspects were named but no concrete action was taken to arrest or charge them. President Felipe Calderón responded to renewed pressure from monitors at the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), and the Inter-American Press Association in ways that could bear fruit in the future but had little impact on 2010. After years of criticism by domestic press freedom monitors, Calderón appointed a new special prosecutor for crimes against journalists in the Attorney General's Office. The effectiveness of this enhanced office remains potentially constrained by an inability to claim jurisdiction in cases constitutionally mandated to local prosecution. This position was filled in July 2010, so whether the political will to solve cases is present is yet to be determined. The president also supported legislation to federalize the investigation of crimes against journalists, which would take prosecution away from state officials, who often seem to be more easily corrupted than their federal counterparts. The proposed legislation, which followed several failed attempts in recent years, advanced in Congress, but stalled at the end of the calendar year. The Interior Secretariat and quasi-governmental National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) also created a series of protections for at-risk journalists, but drew criticism for not including journalists in the creation or oversight of the mechanisms. The new measures' effectiveness remains to be seen, as journalists overcome distrust and make use of the safeguards. In Chihuahua state, two journalists fled to the United States in November, two months after the state government enacted local protection measures but failed to designate representatives to the committee charged with overseeing those protections.

Mexico continues to be among the least safe environments for journalists in the world, as a result of the growing influence of drug gangs and organized crime on the media. In 2010, 10

journalists were killed, with at least 3 murdered as a direct result of their work. Several others disappeared in suspicious circumstances or went into exile amid death threats. Overall, more than 30 journalists have been killed during Calderón's term, according to CPJ, and more than 60 have been killed since the PRI left office in 2000. Besides threats against individual journalists, 21 media outlets were threatened in 2010, including 13 that were attacked with a car bomb, grenades, and automatic gunfire. The states of Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, and Morelos were the most violent due to battles among drug gangs and between gangs and the military. A total of 139 attacks on journalists and 21 attacks on media outlets were reported in Mexico City and 11 of Mexico's 31 states. Drug gangs are believed to carry out the more violent attacks, but attacks from state security forces were reported far more frequently. Other prevalent sources of attacks and threats toward the media were government or former officials, private security groups, and sympathizers of political parties, student groups or unions.

For several years, reporters in large sections of Mexico have said they systematically censor news about drugs, public corruption, and police or military action out of fears for their safety. In 2010, this approach took a new turn with a move from self-censorship to direct engagement with their victimizers. In September, after an attack on two employees of the *El Diario* newspaper in which photographer Luís Carlos Santiago died, the publication printed a front page editorial imploring the drug cartels to clarify what they should and should not publish, in order to know exactly what the cartels are expecting and how to avoid lethal retribution. Also during 2010, drug dealers began issuing press releases and demanding that journalists report the stories as they desired. In Durango, rival drug gangs demanded sufficient media coverage of messages aimed at rivals or the state in return for the safe release of four journalists held as hostages. This was the first documented case of journalists being held for ransom. Another example of the strains on media control comes from Ciudad Victoria in Tamaulipas, where a criminal gang initiated a public relations scheme that published fear-inducing propaganda intended to portray the army in a negative way. The press releases regarding this case were published as official news. In another border city, Reynosa, 21 journalists told CPJ that drug gangs had infiltrated the government and the press, using bribery and mutual benefit that was commonplace under the PRI and still exists in some parts of the country. Because of the growing influence of drug cartels on the media, during three days of shootouts in Reynosa, residents turned to citizen journalists' anonymous reports on social networking websites Twitter and YouTube rather than the muzzled mass media. This is a growing trend, because the long-standing violence against traditional media workers has not spread to online journalists and bloggers.

The extension of drug traffickers' control of the media signaled a transition from imposed silence to control of the news agenda in a number of states. Because of this, self-censorship is also prevalent regarding sensitive topics such as threats to free press monitors, which in turn causes an underreporting of threats in several states where drug gangs violently dispute territory. The Center for Journalism and Public Ethics (CEPET) questioned whether false reports of press attacks were made to discredit state security forces and create aversion to the presence of police and military in conflict-riven areas of the country.

There are numerous privately owned newspapers, and diversity is fairly broad in the urban print media. However, in the broadcast sector, ownership is predominantly private but highly concentrated, and television news coverage is driven by particular corporate interests. A majority of the television stations in Mexico are affiliated with Televisa or TV Azteca, two family-owned corporations that combined own around 85 percent of the stations in Mexico and

are the only networks with national reach, while a dozen or so family-owned companies control radio. Concentration is also present in the phone industry with Telmex the dominant company, and is becoming an issue in the ownership of pay television services and internet service providers. These oligopolistic practices are criticized in Mexican civil society, but a lack of political will prevents politicians from taking on powerful media and telecommunications companies. Thus, there was no movement in the Mexican Congress or from regulatory bodies in the executive branch to legalize and support community broadcasters or to act on demands to diversify ownership of the broadcast spectrum. Advertising is occasionally used to influence editorial content, as is bribery and the granting of favors, particularly by local officials and political actors. There are continued reports of advertising being withheld from critical publications by federal and local authorities. Such practices occur particularly in the periods prior to elections and during the campaign periods themselves.

In 2010, 31 percent of the population accessed the internet, which was generally free of restrictions. While content is not limited, internet service is costly and the market is not well diversified due to poor infrastructure, which is where the lack of telecommunications competition has an impact. The government has acknowledged this issue, and in May 2010 the Department of Communications and Transportation invested 1.5 billion pesos (\$120 million) to expand internet service to different regions throughout Mexico. Proposals to open the industry to competition and strengthen noncommercial media remained stalled in part because politicians reportedly feared reprisals from large media corporations.

Micronesia

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 2

Political Environment: 8

Economic Environment: 11

Total Score: 21

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	20,F	20,F	21,F	21,F	21,F

Moldova

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 17

Political Environment: 19

Economic Environment: 19

Total Score: 55

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	65,NF	65,NF	66,NF	67,NF	65,NF

Status change explanation: Moldova improved from Not Free to Partly Free to reflect a range of policies enacted by the new ruling coalition, the reformist Alliance for European Integration, including laws providing increased protection for press freedom and journalists' rights, as well as reform of the regulatory framework. In addition, management at the state broadcaster was professionalized and new private broadcast media outlets opened, leading to less political control over content and greater media diversity.

Press freedom improved significantly in 2010 as the new ruling Alliance for European Integration (AEI) coalition of pro-Western parties approved important legal amendments, reigned in the police and security forces, and appointed professional managers to public media outlets. These changes significantly improved the safety of journalists following April 2009, when the then-ruling Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova (PCRM) under President Vladimir Voronin falsified parliamentary elections and violently cracked down on journalists and prodemocracy activists in a desperate effort to remain in office. The AEI won a second round of parliamentary elections in July 2009 and proceeded to implement some reforms, despite fierce opposition from the pro-Russian PCRM and active interference by the Russian government. Meanwhile, the country remained in a political deadlock throughout 2010 because the PCRM used its votes in the parliament to prevent the reformist coalition from nominating a president, as required by the constitution.

The AEI bloc in the parliament—under the leadership of Prime Minister Vladimir Filat and Acting President Mihai Ghimpu—worked with civil society media experts to draft and then approve a series of amendments strengthening legal protections for journalists. In April 2010, the parliament approved a Law on Freedom of Expression that strengthened the protection of sources, prohibited censorship, proclaimed the freedom to criticize state officials, and established the presumption of innocence in freedom of expression cases, the Chişinau-based Independent Journalism Center reported. In June, the parliament approved amendments to the Electoral Law that clarified the regulation of media coverage during election campaigns. Reporters obtained a greater amount of public information because more officials in Chişinau, the capital, were complying with the Access to Information Law, but compliance remained poor in smaller cities and towns, according to a study conducted by Access-Info, a local nongovernmental organization. Moldova had moved toward decriminalizing libel in 2004, and ended criminal defamation entirely by 2009. Prosecutors also pressed criminal charges against several police officers suspected of attacking journalists and protestors during the April 2009 protests. Media pluralism significantly expanded in response to the improved legal and political environment. For example, investors launched two new television stations, Jurnal TV and Publika TV; authorities negotiated the return of the Romanian television station TVR1 to the air after its license was improperly revoked in 2007; and four new radio stations were launched: Radio Sport, Publika FM, Prime FM, and Aquarelle FM.

State-sponsored intimidation of journalists and politicized defamation lawsuits against the media declined significantly in 2010. The cases that were filed reflected individual or institutional efforts to suppress news reporting, particularly by politicized judges or other government officials left over from the former PCRM government. On June 28, the Buiucani District Court in Chişinau acquitted a police officer, even though a prosecutor presented evidence that the officer had beaten up and taken two video cameras from journalist Oleg Brega when he was reporting on antigovernment protests in April 2009, the *StireaZilei* news website reported. In July, an official from the Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption

attacked Jurnalul TV reporter Victor Ciobanu as he was filming the Chişinău Court of Appeals, damaged his camera, and confiscated his memory stick with footage of the attack. The official was later convicted of physical assault and fined 100 lei (\$8).

In the separatist Transnistria region, media are highly restricted and politicized. Most local broadcast media are controlled by the Transnistrian authorities or by companies like Sheriff Enterprises that are linked to the separatist regime. Print media in Transnistria are required to register with the separatist Ministry of Information in Tiraspol, the region's capital, rather than the internationally recognized Moldovan government in Chişinău. Any critical information regarding the separatist authorities is promptly suppressed and the journalists responsible harassed. The Transnistrian State Security Ministry intensified harassment of the region's few remaining independent-minded journalists ahead of December 2010 elections for the separatist parliament and 2011 elections for the separatist presidency. In April, security officers arrested journalist Ernest Vardanian in Tiraspol because he refused to stop working for media outlets based in Chişinău—the newspaper *Puls*, the Romanian-language service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and the Russian Internet news agency Novy Region. Transnistrian authorities pressed charges of treason against Vardanian, confiscated his computer and notebooks, instructed his wife to not speak with the media, and appointed a defense lawyer who refused to speak to the media or with the journalist's wife. On December 16, the separatist Transnistrian Supreme Court sentenced Vardanian to 15 years in a high-security prison. Vardanian's arrest and imprisonment intensified pervasive self-censorship among Transnistrian journalists. The pro-Tiraspol Union of Transnistrian Journalists refused to assist Vardanian throughout his detention and trial, according to local press reports.

There is a mix of private and public print and broadcast media, but there is still a lack of transparency in ownership. The reformist government appointed new managers to the state broadcaster, Teleradio Moldova, which received high marks from the Chişinău-based Electronic Broadcasters Association (APEL) for its balanced news coverage during a September national referendum and November parliamentary election that maintained the political deadlock in the country's legislature. State media regulators also improved their professionalism and took more initiative to enforce regulations, but at times remained highly politicized. In October, the Broadcasting Coordinating Council failed to enforce media regulations requiring somewhat balanced election coverage by the blatantly pro-PCRM national television channel NIT. That same month, the council awarded 10 of 11 television frequencies to a single television station and 4 of 7 radio frequencies to a single radio station. Journalists expected broadcast media regulation to improve in 2011, when parliament is scheduled to appoint three new members to the Broadcasting Coordinating Council. The AEI also took steps to reduce government influence over some 40 state-owned national and regional newspapers, approving a plan to strengthen their editorial independence and privatize them in 2011, the Independent Press Association reported.

Although the underdeveloped telecommunications infrastructure and high fees for internet connections have resulted in limited usage, access is generally not restricted by the authorities, and approximately 40 percent of the population had access to the internet in 2010. The global economic crises and painful economic reforms imposed by the International Monetary Fund in October 2009 forced media outlets to become more efficient and intensified the rise of advertising revenue for websites and the decline of such revenue for print media. In the separatist Transnistria region, the public increasingly used social networking websites that enabled them to anonymously discuss politically sensitive issues with individuals from the government-controlled section of Moldova.

Monaco

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 3

Political Environment: 7

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 16

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	16,F	16,F	16,F	16,F	16,F

Mongolia

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 14

Political Environment: 13

Economic Environment: 12

Total Score: 39

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	34,PF	36,PF	38,PF	41,PF	39,PF

Freedoms of speech and of the press are protected by law in Mongolia, and the government generally respects these rights in practice. However, media freedom was compromised somewhat in 2010 due to ongoing legal harassment and financial difficulties faced by journalists. Censorship of public information is banned under the 1998 Media Freedom Law, but the 1995 state secrets law limits access to government information to a degree, as many archived historical records have been given classified status. There is no freedom of information legislation, and the government monitors media for compliance with antiviolence, antipornography, and antialcohol content restrictions.

Officials frequently file criminal and civil defamation suits in the wake of critical articles, with a quarter of journalists reportedly affected. In November 2010, criminal charges were filed against a reporter from *Zuuny Medee* newspaper over articles about human trafficking that accused a notable businessman of involvement in the buying of virgin teenagers. The case was pending at year's end. To avoid being sued for libel, many independent publications practice a degree of self-censorship. Although no direct government censorship exists, journalists complain of harassment and intimidation as well as pressure from the authorities to reveal confidential sources. In August 2010, authorities confiscated computers from the *Niigmiin Toli* newspaper that contained confidential information on the publication's sources. The authorities were acting in accordance with a court's decision in an attempt to identify a police officer who had leaked information to the media. The paper had been convicted in a separate defamation case in late 2009, a decision that was upheld in early 2010. According to a local media freedom nongovernmental organization, Globe International, there were no reports of assaults during the

year, but many journalists faced verbal threats or pressure against either themselves or their family members.

Although independent print media outlets are common and popular in cities, the main source of news in the vast countryside is the formerly state-owned Radio Mongolia. Under the Law on the Public Radio and Television passed in 2005, state-owned radio and television broadcasting outlets like Radio Mongolia are transforming into public service broadcasters, but progress has been slow. Both state-owned and public media still frequently experience political pressure, and most provincial media outlets continue to be controlled by local authorities. According to media watchdogs, journalists often seek payments to cover or fabricate stories. Mongolians have access to local, privately owned television stations, as well as to English-language broadcasts of the British Broadcasting Corporation and Voice of America on private FM stations, and, in Ulaanbaatar, to foreign television programming via cable and commercial satellite systems. Owing to widespread poverty in Mongolia, the internet has yet to serve as a significant source of information; only approximately 10 percent of the population used the internet in 2010.

Montenegro

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 11

Political Environment: 16

Economic Environment: 10

Total Score: 37

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	NA	37, PF	38, PF	37, PF	37, PF

Freedom of the press is guaranteed by the constitution and generally respected in practice in Montenegro. Libel remains criminalized and is often used to place pressure on the media, although less frequently than in the past, and it is punishable with high fines of up to €14,000 (\$18,500). In 2010, there were a number of libel cases brought against journalists who had covered connections between government officials and organized crime. On July 27, the legislature adopted a new Law on Electronic Media, which transferred the authority to issue broadcasting licenses from a government-controlled council to the legally independent Agency for Electronic Media. Members of the media report that access to public information is difficult due in part to discrepancies between the Information Secrecy Law, the Law on Protection of Personal Data, and the Law on Free Access to Information.

There were no reports of major incidents of violence against journalists in 2010, although five journalists from the daily *Vijesti* reported receiving threats by mail in September. Past incidents of threats and attacks against *Vijesti* and other papers often have not been adequately investigated. In August 2009, the mayor of Podgorica and his son allegedly attacked a deputy editor in chief and a photo reporter from *Vijesti* after the reporter photographed the mayor's illegally parked car. Pretrial proceedings in the closely watched case had yet to be completed by the end of 2010, although in January 2010 a court fined the mayor €400 (\$539) for insulting the

journalists during the incident. Despite these threats and attacks, self-censorship is reportedly not a major problem.

The media environment is diverse, and pluralism has been strengthening in recent years. Both broadcast and print media are active and sometimes play the role of political opposition in the absence of strong opposition parties. The print media consist of private newspapers and *Pobjeda*, a state-owned newspaper with national circulation. In 2002, parliamentary legislation required the government to sell off its majority stake in *Pobjeda*, but it has failed to do so and in 2010 increased its share of the company from 51 to 86 percent. While there are a high number of print media outlets in Montenegro—particularly for a small country—the overwhelming majority of the population receives its print news information from Belgrade-based publications, particularly the two dominant outlets, *Vijesti* and *Dan*. The public broadcaster is largely independent, but its capacity still needs to be strengthened. The members of the Radio and Television Council, which oversees the public broadcaster, are appointed by nongovernmental organizations and professional groups.

In addition to the national public broadcaster, there are 14 local public radio stations, 4 local public TV stations, 41 private radio stations, and 19 private TV stations. The financial sustainability of the media is weak, particularly the print media, and journalists are not highly paid. Combined with poor training and political and business influence, this often leads to biased coverage. Access to the internet is not restricted, and approximately 52 percent of the population had access in 2010.

Morocco

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 25

Political Environment: 25

Economic Environment: 18

Total Score: 68

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	61,NF	62,NF	64,NF	64,NF	66,NF

Press freedom in Morocco continued to deteriorate in 2010. Although the constitution guarantees freedom of expression, the press law prohibits criticism of the monarchy and Islam, and effectively bars coverage of taboo subjects, including the royal family and the government’s position on the status of Western Sahara. Libel remains a criminal offense that carries potentially exorbitant fines or prison terms, and legal cases are a primary method of repressing critical reporting, although the number of cases brought against journalists declined in 2010. In June 2010, the publisher of *Al-Michael* newspaper, Idriss Chahtan, was pardoned and released after serving approximately eight months of a year-long sentence for “publishing false information” in an article he wrote about the king’s possibly ailing health. Upon his release, Chahtan still had to contend with another politicized case, a defamation suit over an article in which he alleged that the military had used prostitutes to blackmail influential figures. Chahtan was ordered to pay 20,000 dirhams (\$2,370) to the plaintiff, the widow of a former military officer.

King Mohamed VI and his government wield considerable control over the editorial content of domestic broadcast media. Oversight includes the authority to appoint the heads of all public radio and television stations, and the president and all four board members of the High Authority for Audio-Visual Communication, which is responsible for issuing broadcast licenses and monitoring content to ensure compliance with licensing requirements. In June 2010 Radio Mars was suspended for 48 hours and fined after a guest claimed that he wanted to one day become president of Morocco. Authorities also temporarily suspended several print publications during the year.

Physical attacks on journalists are less common than legal actions, and although they do occur occasionally, there were no reported physical attacks in 2010. However, in June, two journalists known for their critical writings were subject to a warrantless police search and temporary arrest; one was also falsely charged with theft. Self-censorship remains widespread, as many journalists fear heavy fines, prison sentences, or extralegal intimidation and physical violence in retribution for their stories. Nevertheless, some journalists continue to push the boundaries and report on sensitive subjects such as the military, national security, religion, and sexuality.

Foreign publications are widely available in Morocco, but the foreign media are not immune from government repression. In November 2010, officials expelled 3 Spanish journalists and prevented 10 others from flying to Western Sahara to report on the conflict there. Arguing that Spanish media coverage of the conflict was biased against the Moroccan government, authorities also withdrew the accreditation of Luis de Vega, a Spanish news correspondent. The government also targeted the Qatari-based satellite network Al-Jazeera in 2010. Two Al-Jazeera journalists were denied accreditation renewal early in 2010 and, in October, the government accused Al-Jazeera of reporting with a biased view against the regime and damaging the country's image. Accreditation for all Al-Jazeera journalists working in Morocco was rescinded, effectively suspending all of the channel's reporting in the country.

According to the Moroccan constitution, the press in the Moroccan-occupied portion of Western Sahara is free, but this is not the case in practice. There is little in the way of independent Sahrawi media. Moroccan authorities are sensitive to any reporting that is not in line with the state's official position on Western Sahara, and they continue to expel or detain Sahrawi, Moroccan, and foreign reporters who write critically on the issue. Alternative viewpoints and resources such as online media or independent broadcasts from abroad are not easily accessible to the population.

There are 17 daily and 90 weekly publications in circulation, and it is estimated that more than 70 percent of these are privately owned. Broadcast media are still dominated by the state, and FM radio stations are largely prohibited from broadcasting programs of a political nature. However, residents can access critical reports through pan-Arab and other satellite television channels. The regime uses advertising and subsidies, as well as aggressive financial harassment, to repress critical media coverage. The regime was able to shut down the independent weekly *Le Journal Hebdomadaire* in 2010 by draining its financial resources. Officials successfully organized a complete advertising boycott of the paper—which had faced a range of persistent harassment for several years—and later crippled the publication further when its assets were seized after a court declared its parent company bankrupt.

Approximately 41 percent of the population regularly accessed the internet in 2010. There is no official legislation regulating internet content or access, but the government sporadically blocks certain websites and online tools, including Google Earth and the

LiveJournal blogging platform. The government monitors blogs and other websites and occasionally cracks down on those who produce critical content. This was the case for blogger Boubaker al-Yadib, who served six months in jail after posting photos of police brutality online.

Mozambique

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 13

Political Environment: 17

Economic Environment: 14

Total Score: 44

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	43,PF	40,PF	40,PF	41,PF	42,PF

Mozambique's 1990 constitution guarantees freedom of the press, and a 1991 press law explicitly protects journalists and grants them the right not to reveal their sources. Despite these protections, criminal libel and defamation laws deter journalists from acting freely. Defamation of the president is also illegal. Courts actively enforce libel and defamation laws. In June 2010, a court in the northern town of Nampula sentenced journalist Vasco da Gama, a former correspondent for the weekly *Magazine Independente*, to four months in jail converted to a fine on a charge of libel. Da Gama had written an article claiming that Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the opposition Renamo party, had married the Renamo deputy from the Nampula area, which Dhlakama and the deputy both disputed.

In September, the director of the local chapter of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) announced that all three political parties in parliament had agreed to debate a freedom of information bill based on a draft that MISA had presented to parliament in 2005. Journalists currently face difficulties accessing public information and official documents. According to MISA, radio broadcast outlets were subjected to overly bureaucratic and possibly politicized procedures to obtain operating licenses.

There were no reports of physical attacks against the press in 2010, although there were cases of threats and intimidation. On February 10 and on several other occasions, it was reported that journalists attempting to interview Dhlakama were harassed by members of the national police stationed outside his house. Salomao Moyana, editor of *Magazine Independente*, received a series of threatening text messages in May after he wrote an editorial critical of Dhlakama. Moyana's car was also vandalized outside his home. In March, a district police commander in Manica Province threatened the head of the local MISA chapter and other journalists for printing unflattering articles about him. Self-censorship by journalists is common, especially in rural areas outside the capital, Maputo.

Although progress has been made in the development of a strong and free press in Mozambique, the country continues to be dominated by state-controlled media outlets. Independent media are often underfunded and are generally found only in major cities. The state-run television station, TVM, continues to be the only domestic television channel with national reach and has by far the largest audience of any broadcasting station. News reporting from TVM is often biased in favor of the government and offers little opportunity for the political opposition

to voice opinions. Private channel Soico TV, Portuguese state television's African service RTP Africa, and Brazilian-owned TV Miramar also have wide audiences.

Radio continues to be a key source of information for the majority of Mozambicans. Compared to television, there is far more opportunity for private radio stations to open and operate. There are numerous private FM stations that generally operate in rural areas and broadcast to small audiences. Many community stations receive their funding from UNESCO. Despite the prevalence of privately owned radio stations, state-run Rádio Moçambique has the largest audience and is by far the most influential media outlet in the country. Rádio Moçambique generally receives 60 percent of its operating budget from the federal government. While the station is known for presenting critical political debates and policy issues on its broadcasts, it most frequently invites guests who are sympathetic to the government.

Newspapers and print media in general have a far smaller audience than both radio and television. This is due to high illiteracy rates, especially in rural areas, as well as poor distribution networks. Newspapers are read by an estimated 1 million of Mozambique's 21 million inhabitants. The government has a majority stake in *Noticias*, the most-read daily newspaper in the country, which rarely prints stories critical of the government. The largest source of advertising revenue for local media comes from government ministries and businesses under state control, and some journalists have accused the government and ruling party of allocating advertising according to political concerns.

Internet access is unrestricted, but penetration is extremely low. Only about 4 percent of the population has access to the internet, and most usage is confined to the major cities. A number of sites have posted criticisms of the government and remained untouched. However, there have been reports of government intelligence agents monitoring e-mails of the members of opposition political parties.

Namibia

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 9

Political Environment: 14

Economic Environment: 11

Total Score: 34

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	30,F	30,F	30,F	30,F	34,PF

The constitution guarantees freedom of the media, and Namibia's press has generally enjoyed a relatively open environment. However, constitutional provisions relating to the protection of national security, public order, and public morality provide legal mechanisms for restricting media freedoms, and there is no access to information law. Defamation is a criminal offense under common law. In November, the High Court dismissed an N\$3 million (US\$435,000) defamation case against the weekly tabloid *Informanté* launched by Oshakati police commissioner Nico Steenkamp. In addition, the ruling South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) party and government figures have also repeatedly called for the establishment of a media council to regulate the activities and operations of the media.

Government and party leaders at times issue harsh criticism and even threats against the independent press, usually in the wake of unflattering stories. In January 2010, investigative journalist John Grobler was violently attacked in a Windhoek bar by four men, including three prominent businessmen (and a son-in-law of former president Sam Nujoma) with close ties to SWAPO. Local journalists and press freedom organizations alleged that the attack was related to Grobler’s reporting for the *Namibian* on the awarding of state tenders and his work for the South Africa–based *Mail & Guardian* on vote-rigging in Namibia’s 2009 elections. In November, *Informanté* editor Max Hamata resigned after receiving threats and government pressure for publishing a story about Nujoma’s alleged ailing health.

Namibia features 4 daily and 5 weekly newspapers, as well as about a dozen monthly magazines, 25 radio stations, and 3 television stations. Private broadcasters and independent newspapers usually operate without official interference. The state-run Namibian Broadcast Corporation (NBC) is the dominant player in the broadcast sector, and has come under increasing political pressure in recent years. In 2009, a high-ranking director was dismissed amid allegations that he backed the opposition, and the NBC cancelled popular phone-in radio programs due to alleged insults against current president Hifikepunye Pohamba and Nujoma. In addition, opposition parties and press freedom organizations accused the NBC of heavily pro-SWAPO coverage during the 2009 election campaign. Since 2001, the government has banned ministries and departments from advertising in the *Namibian* or purchasing it with state funds.

Approximately 6.5 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. There are no restrictions on internet sites, and many publications and organizations have websites that are critical of the government. However, the 2009 Communication Act includes a clause that allows for the interception of e-mails, short messaging services (SMS), internet banking transactions, and telephone calls without a warrant.

Nauru

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 11

Economic Environment: 13

Total Score: 28

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	30,F	28,F	28,F	28,F	28,F

Nepal

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 16

Political Environment: 28

Economic Environment: 15

Total Score: 59

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	77,NF	58,NF	57,PF	57,PF	59,PF

The deterioration of law and order in Nepal perpetuated high levels of violence and intimidation toward journalists and media workers in 2010. However, conditions in recent years have represented an improvement over the period that ended in 2006, when massive street protests toppled the direct rule of King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and led to a peace accord with the Maoist rebels.

The interim constitution of Nepal, passed in 2007, guarantees freedom of the press and the right to freedom of opinion and expression. However, the constitution has been criticized for failing to fully meet international freedom of expression standards. According to the constitution, freedom of expression can be restricted in cases of defamation and incitement, as well as in the interest of promoting sovereignty, public decency or morality, and harmonious relations between different communities. Moreover, the government has done little to enforce the right to freedom of the press, as demonstrated by the high level of impunity for perpetrators of serious crimes against media workers. Although criminal defamation exists, it is rarely employed against journalists. While the 2007 Freedom of Information Act was generally welcomed by press freedom groups, it has been criticized for its requirements that applicants submit reasons for their requests and its lack of a public-interest override that would allow the disclosure of classified or private information. Critics have urged the government to make changes in the new constitution, due in 2011, such that press freedom is adequately protected and restrictions and limitations are in line with international requirements. The Nepal Press Council and the Federation of Nepali Journalists have a code of ethical conduct; however, the inability to enforce the code and a lack of support from media stakeholders create obstacles to ethical practices by all Nepali journalists.

Nepalese media were active and provided diverse views in 2010, but Nepal remains one of the world's most dangerous places for journalists and media workers. During the past year, a total of 107 incidents of press freedom violations related to covering the news were reported. Three media entrepreneurs were murdered in 2010: the chairperson of Spacetime Network, Jamim Shah; the publisher of *Janakpur Today*, Arun Kumar Singhaniya; and the chairperson of Community Radio Tulsipur, Devi Prasad Dhital. Additionally, there were reports of 16 attacks, 37 threats, and 4 torching incidents. Impunity for attacks and harassments remains high. Although some arrests were made in connection with Shah's murder in February, there have been no prosecutions. The perpetrators of the other two murders have not been apprehended. In addition, by year's end the government had yet to punish the murderers of journalists Dekendra Thapa, killed in June 2004; Birendra Shah, killed in 2007; and Uma Singh, killed in 2009. As a result, the level of self-censorship among journalists has risen in the past year.

Politicians, government employees, and police and security forces regularly threaten or attack critical journalists. In August 2010, a member of the Nepali Congress party, Mohan Basnet, threatened to kill several journalists for not supporting him during the party's district convention. In October, journalists were attacked while reporting a story on gambling and drinking during the festival of Dashain, while police officials protected the perpetrators. The journalists were further harassed by the police, and their equipment was confiscated. The southern Terai region remained a particularly hostile environment for journalists. Two political groups from this region—the Terai Janatantrik Party (Madesh) and the Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha—claimed responsibility for Singhaniya's murder in March. On April 18, activists of the

Hindu Yuva Sangh (HYS) torched copies of the leading Nepali national dailies *Kantipur* and *Annapurna Post* in the southern town of Birgunj. There were no reports that foreign media were banned or censored in 2010.

The government owns several of the major English-language and Nepali dailies, as well as the influential Radio Nepal and Nepal Television Corporation, the country's main television station. There are several hundred dailies and over 2,000 print publications, many which are based in central regions of Nepal, according to the Nepal Press Council. Because there are few barriers to market entry, radio remains a popular news medium. The development of "local" radio stations has become more common due to communities' fear that the dominance of Nepali in the media will supersede local cultures and languages. Nepali media faced increasing pressure from the Indian government and private sector in 2010, especially in light of constantly looming threats of advertising withdrawals. On May 27, Indian authorities withheld a reported 1,000 metric tonnes of newsprint imported by Nepal's Kantipur Publications from Canada and South Korea, which was being routed through India. Although the Indian embassy in Kathmandu described the move as "a routine administrative measure," the Indian government did not release any further details, nor did it deliver notice to the publication company about the investigations. The newsprint was released from the Indian city of Kolkata on June 25, but caused disruptions in the English-language publications of *Kantipur* and the *Kathmandu Post*. Kantipur Publications also allegedly came under pressure from Indian multinational companies when the companies withdrew all advertisements from Kantipur's newspapers, after allegations by the Indian embassy that the newspaper group was "adversely disposed towards Indian interests." Many workers in Nepal's news outlets do not receive professional training, are informally employed, and are paid well below prescribed minimum wages. In late November, a new committee was established under Nepal's Working Journalists' Act to review journalists' extremely low wages, as well as their lack of retirement benefits, medical coverage, and insurance.

There are some government restrictions on the internet, accessed by 6.78 percent of the population in 2010. In September, the Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) sent a letter to all internet service providers (ISPs), warning that it would take serious action against them if they did not fulfill conditions of operation, including the filtering of pornographic content and of any material that "incites racial and religious hatred and is against the national interest." On October 28, the *Nepali Times* reported that the NTA had written to all ISPs, ordering them to block dozens of websites it deemed objectionable. Although a majority of the websites on the list contained pornographic material, the websites for the U.S.-based online newspaper the *Huffington Post* and the scientific journal *Springer* were included. Online journalists and bloggers face occasional threats as well. On November 16, Shreedeeep Rayamajhi was attacked in central Kathmandu. A writer for CNN iReport and the U.S.-based nonprofit Institute of Field Research, Rayamajhi had been receiving e-mails suggesting threats on his life prior to the incident. Despite repeated complaints and requests for security, no action was taken by the police.

Netherlands

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 3

Political Environment: 7

Economic Environment: 4**Total Score: 14**

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	11,F	13,F	13,F	13,F	14,F

Freedom of expression is safeguarded under Article 7 of the Dutch constitution, with a free and independent media operating throughout the country. In 2009, a Dutch court ruled that the Associated Press should pay €1,000 (\$1,400) every time they published pictures of the royal family on vacation, with a maximum fine of €50,000 (\$70,250), but these rules are rarely enforced. The Netherlands lacks specific national legislation ensuring the rights of journalists to protect their sources; however, in a landmark decision in September 2010, the European Court of Human Rights unanimously ruled that media premises are exempt from police searches, and that police may not seize journalistic materials unless they obtain a warrant. The case that generated the ruling, *Sanoma Uitgevers v. the Netherlands*, arose after Tonie Broekhuijsen, the editor of *Autoweek*, was detained and forced to hand over photographs of a street race that was under investigation in 2002. In September, the case against cartoonist Gregorius Nekshot, who was arrested in 2008 for publishing anti-Muslim cartoons in 2005, was dropped. However, in August, a Dutch Muslim group was fined €2,500 (\$3,200) for publishing a cartoon that suggested the Holocaust had been exaggerated. The group claims that it printed the cartoon to point out the double standard in free speech in the Netherlands.

Journalists in the Netherlands practice self-censorship, particularly over sensitive issues such as immigration and religion; this has increased since the 2004 murder of the controversial filmmaker Theo van Gogh. In October 2010, the trial of Geert Wilders, a prominent politician charged in connection with making anti-Islam comments on the campaign trail, was postponed due to concerns over the judge's impartiality. The judge had met with a potential witness to try and convince him to testify against Wilders for inciting hatred against Muslims. Wilders's trial, which had begun in October 2009, had not resumed at year's end. Physical attacks or intimidation directed against journalists is rare.

Newspaper ownership is highly concentrated in the Netherlands, with three companies owning more than 90 percent of paid newspapers. In September 2010, the three public broadcasters—NPS, Teleac, and RVU—merged. Despite high ownership concentration, there are a variety of opinions expressed in the media. The state allocates public radio and television programming to political, religious, and social groups according to their membership. While every province has at least one public television channel, public broadcasting has faced stiff competition from commercial stations since such stations became legal in 1988. The Netherlands has faced similar financial difficulties as other European Union nations in the wake of the global economic crisis, with job cuts and loss of advertising revenues. The internet is not restricted by the government, and it was used by 91 percent of the population in 2010.

New Zealand**Status: Free****Legal Environment: 3****Political Environment: 6**

Economic Environment: 6**Total Score: 15**

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	13,F	13,F	13,F	14,F	14,F

Press freedom in New Zealand is guaranteed by convention and statute rather than constitutional right, and it is supplemented by freedom of information legislation passed in 1982. Sedition legislation was abolished in 2007. While the media is regarded as free and independent, concern was raised regarding a proposed law that has been criticized as likely to erode a long-established right of journalists to protect the confidentiality of sources. Tabled in Parliament in November 2010, the draft Search and Surveillance Bill would force the country's journalists to answer police questions or hand over documents such as media sources and notes if enacted in its present form. Breaches of the proposed law by journalists could mean penalties of up to one year in jail. Reports said the chairman of Parliament's Justice and Electoral Select Committee, Chester Borrows, acknowledged concerns about the impact of the bill on journalists, saying the draft legislation might warrant further consideration. The major journalists' union, a section of the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union (EPMU), made a plea for new police powers regarding search, seizure, and the disclosure of sources to be withdrawn from the proposed law. The bill was also severely criticized by the International Federation of Journalists. Until now only the country's Serious Fraud Office could force journalists to reveal their sources, with judges empowered to order a journalist to do so only in restricted circumstances. The bill grants this power to police in cases involving a substantial jail sentence.

There is growing concern about other Pacific governments exploiting New Zealand's broadcasting regulatory body to impose restrictions on the freedom of New Zealand media to report on the region's politics. During the year, for example, Samoa appealed to New Zealand's Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) twice in an attempt to diminish critical journalism. The first time, in March, the Samoan government achieved a ruling partially upholding a complaint against Television New Zealand's Pacific affairs correspondent Barbara Dreaver for her report on gun smuggling in Samoa. In November, the government threatened to take another complaint to the BSA against Television 3 current affairs presenter John Campbell for his report on the Samoan government's alleged misuse of tsunami relief money. Journalists are able to cover the news freely, and physical attacks or threats against the media are rare. There were no reports of harassment or assault against journalists during the year.

The country has two state-owned broadcasting corporations, Television New Zealand and Radio New Zealand; otherwise, print and broadcast media ownership is private. Four companies, all foreign-owned, control a substantial portion of the print media sector. Australia's John Fairfax Holdings owns almost 48 percent of New Zealand's daily newspaper circulation. The country's largest and most influential daily newspaper, the *New Zealand Herald*, and a string of smaller provincial and suburban newspapers are owned by the Australian Provincial Newspapers Group, while Australian Consolidated Press dominates New Zealand magazines. Television New Zealand faces increasing competition from the pay channel network Sky and its free-to-air channel, Prime. Another rival, TV3, part of the Mediaworks radio and television group, faced an economic downturn, and Māori Television continued to develop strongly with two channels, one a multilingual broadcaster in the indigenous Te Reo and English languages. Radio New Zealand International continues to have influence in the Pacific region as an independent public

broadcaster, in spite of a meager budget. There are no government restrictions on the internet, which was accessed by 83 percent of the population during the year.

Nicaragua

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 13

Political Environment: 19

Economic Environment: 15

Total Score: 47

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	44,PF	42,PF	43,PF	45,PF	47,PF

The constitution provides for freedom of the press, but in practice the government acts to restrict it. In 2010, the administration of President Daniel Ortega of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) continued to demonize the independent and opposition press, while favoring progovernment outlets. In an interview in late August with the Russian television channel RT, Ortega said he was waging a battle against the news media, and that “the enemy has it, and it is powerful.” However, he said he was pleased that it was “a tool that we also have at our disposal.”

Libel laws are used frequently against journalists and news outlets. Judges are often aligned with political parties, and some have barred journalists from covering certain stories. Cases of judicial intimidation have also been reported. Many journalists belong to pro- or anti-Sandinista professional associations. In March, the National Assembly considered and voted down a bill that would have required journalists to belong to a union affiliated with the ruling party.

A 2007 law established the right to access public information, but it contains exceptions for materials the government deems related to state security. Ortega’s administration is highly secretive, and he has given no press conferences since taking office in 2007, according to local reports. Journalists loyal to the ruling party receive preferential treatment, including exclusive access to press conferences and government events. For example, at the inauguration of former vice president Alfredo Gómez Urcuyo as a member of the National Assembly, officials of the Supreme Electoral Council prevented reporters with independent media outlets from covering the event.

There were few reports of physical attacks against journalists, but media organizations were subject to harassment by both government and private actors. In August 2010, photojournalist Sergio Cruz was attacked by five men while photographing an opposition mural on a public street. Cruz’s equipment and vehicle were destroyed in the attack, which civil society groups considered politically motivated. Members of the National Labor Front, a pro-Ortega organization, protested in front of the offices of the privately owned daily *La Prensa*, temporarily blocking distribution, after the paper rescinded the contracts of several distributors in August. In October, alleged pressure from groups affiliated with the ruling party forced a radio station in Juigalpa to cancel a daily program, “Face to Face with the News.”

The government also uses economic means to exert pressure on the media. It is known to steer official advertising toward state-owned and regime-friendly outlets. In January, according to *La Prensa*, the government tried to block the importation of paper used for printing newspapers. The government uses the Labor Ministry and the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute to intimidate privately owned companies through constant inspections and audits, according to the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA).

There are 10 Managua-based television stations as well as more than 100 radio stations, which serve as the population's main source of news. However, nearly 20 news radio stations were closed in Managua during 2010, according to IAPA. Print media are diverse, with several daily papers presenting progovernment and critical perspectives. Newspaper ownership is concentrated in the hands of various factions of the politically influential Chamorro family, while the prominent Sacasa family dominates the television industry. Mexican media mogul Angel Gonzalez, noted for his holdings in Guatemala and Costa Rica, also owns significant outlets in Nicaragua. Several media outlets are owned and controlled by Ortega's family and the FSLN. The government owns the official Radio Nicaragua. There is little transparency in ownership, and local reports indicate that the government may be secretly buying some news organizations. All allegations have been denied by the government. There are no government restrictions on the internet, which was used by approximately 10 percent of the population in 2010.

Niger

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 21

Political Environment: 21

Economic Environment: 17

Total Score: 59

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	56,PF	58,PF	63,NF	64,NF	68,NF

Status change explanation: Niger improved from Not Free to Partly Free following a regime change that toppled President Mamadou Tandja and brought a transitional military government to power. The new government created a new, more independent media regulatory body and reduced harassment of journalists, censorship, and official control over the media.

Media freedom, which had deteriorated in 2009 in the wake of an attempted power grab by Tandja—who aimed to extend his rule for a third term—dramatically improved in 2010 following a coup by a military junta in February. The new transitional military government, headed by Colonel Salou Djibo, wrote a new constitution designed to reduce the power of future presidents; the charter was supported by more than 90 percent of voters in an October referendum. Elections were scheduled for early 2011.

Article 23 of the Nigerien constitution guarantees every person the right to freedom of thought, opinion, and expression. Government control of media licensing, the requirement that journalists be accredited, and a biased judiciary remain in place and still limit media freedom and contribute to widespread self-censorship. A new media decree was issued in June 2010

stipulating that foreign journalists and media outlets seek clearance from the Ministry of Communication and pay large, nonrefundable fees prior to entering the country to work on films or documentaries, and, on completion, submit final versions of their work to the ministry. However, the decree was suspended in July following widespread protests. No legal cases were brought against journalists during the year, and in March Ali Soumana of *Le Courrier* was cleared of all charges from a 2009 case.

The media landscape witnessed a number of positive developments in support of freedom of expression under the new government. A series of new measures followed a government-hosted forum in late March on ways to improve the media climate. In June, a government decree decriminalized media offenses, leaving fines but not jail time in place as punishments for libel and publication of false information. Another result of the forum was the creation of an independent journalists' organization, the Niger Independent Monitoring Center for Media Ethics and Conduct (ONIMED), to self-regulate the industry by monitoring broadcasts and publications. Plaintiffs who bring complaints to the media self-regulatory body cannot also take legal action on those complaints, but, according to a report by Reporters Without Borders, complainants seem to trust the self-regulatory body and prefer it to the courts.

In April, veteran journalist Abdourahamane Ousmane was appointed to head the new official media regulatory body, the National Communication Observatory (ONC), which replaced Tandja's repressive High Council on Communication (CSC). Ousmane at the same time served as the chair of the Nigerien Reporters Network for Human Rights (RJDH); he was also a former editor in chief of a privately owned media group, *Alternative*. In June, the ONC authorized the reopening of the privately owned Sahara FM station, which had been closed in April 2008 by the Tandja administration for allegedly disseminating information likely to incite hatred and for undermining the morale of the country's military. In October, the ONC issued new licenses and license extensions for a number of private television stations and commercial and community radio stations.

Harassment of journalists continued to be reported in 2010. In September, Moussa Aksar, publisher of the privately owned newspaper *L'Evenement*, was arrested, detained, and released a day later by security personnel from Niger's intelligence service. Five days before, Aksar had made comments on a French television channel blaming security agents for lapses in the north of the country linked to the abduction of seven foreign nationals by terrorists.

Some 45 private newspapers compete with a state-run daily in the print media market and provide some criticism of the government. The state continues to dominate the broadcasting landscape, though there are 15 private radio stations that broadcast in French and local languages. Some stations air programming from foreign services like Voice of America and Deutsche Welle. Radio is the most widely accessible source of news. Three private television stations operate alongside two state-run stations. Restrictive press licensing legislation and a heavy tax on private media outlets continues to hinder the development of the private media sector. In September, the Niger Press Club appealed for an end to the practice of outside individuals and groups paying journalists "bonuses" for certain articles. Although the government does not restrict internet access, only 0.83 of the population accessed the medium in 2010.

Nigeria

Status: Partly Free
Legal Environment: 14
Political Environment: 21
Economic Environment: 17
Total Score: 52

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	54,PF	55,PF	53,PF	54,PF	54,PF

The 1999 constitution guarantees freedom of expression and of the press, but Nigeria’s vibrant and active press faced numerous attempts by state and nonstate actors to suppress political criticism and intimidate journalists into silence in 2010. The legislative branch of government, the conservative Sharia (Islamic law) courts, and to a lesser extent, the federal executive branch remained major obstacles to media freedom. On the positive side, Nigeria’s judiciary continued to assert its independence in 2010, including striking down the restrictive Nigerian Press Council Act.

Notwithstanding the backing of the federal courts regarding attempts to extend protections for a free press, the country’s Sharia courts, which operate in 12 northern states, demonstrate antagonism toward free expression, and Sharia statutes impose severe penalties for alleged press offenses. Libel is a criminal offense, and several journalists have been charged in recent years, although none in 2010. In an earlier legal victory for journalists, a federal appellate court ruled in June 2009 that then president Umaru Yar’Adua could not sue the private daily *Leadership* until his term ended. The president had filed the case against the publication over a 2008 article about his poor health. The president died in office from a heart ailment in early 2010. The secrecy about the president’s health sparked an intense public debate about what constituted public information. Under the current legal framework, access to official information remains restricted by laws such as the 1962 Official Secrets Act and the criminal code, which creates various press and speech offences, including sedition, criminal defamation, and publication of false news. During the course of the year, the National Assembly continued to block passage of a federal Freedom of Information Bill, which was first presented to the legislature in 1999; various iterations of the bill had since been blocked by either the National Assembly or former president Olusegun Obasanjo. In November 2010, Minister of State for Information and Communications Labaran Maku again called on the legislature to pass the bill in the interest of good governance, but no action had been taken by year’s end.

The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) is responsible for licensing broadcast media and upholding the broadcast code. Some critics say the commission’s processes are opaque and politically biased. In May 2009, the NBC suspended the license of a radio station in southwest Nigeria, Adaba 88.5 FM, for two weeks after it failed to pay a fine of 500,000 naira (\$3,350) for violations of the broadcast code. The station had been providing commentaries on regional political issues. In October 2010, President Goodluck Jonathan announced that the government was giving the NBC full authority to consider and issue licenses, including those for community radio, without obtaining final approval from the presidency, provided applications “have met all the conditions stipulated by law.” Despite the announcement, there has been no indication that an amendment to the law establishing the NBC and its charter is pending before the National Assembly to support the change in the commission’s mandate.

In 1992, the military government of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida created the Nigerian Press Council to regulate a wide swath of media policy, including ownership, registration, and journalistic practice; a 1998 amendment to the decree continued to prescribe fines and possible jail sentences for noncompliant journalists. The council had a board of 19 appointed members with few media representatives, as industry groups refused to cooperate in nominating members to the board. With the return to civilian rule in 1999, local media advocacy groups challenged the constitutionality of the repressive decree, and in July 2010, a Federal High Court nullified sections of the Nigerian Press Council Act as unconstitutional, rendering the act powerless. The federal justice in the case, A.M. Liman, called the law “a bulwark against the free expression of opinion, ideas and views whether by individual journalists or by the press,” concluding that the act was “a gross violation of the right guaranteed under Section 39 of the constitution.”

Nigeria is a dangerous place to practice journalism. Media workers suffered numerous attacks in 2010, including the murder of three journalists in two separate incidents on April 24. Edo Sule-Ubagwu, a court reporter for the daily newspaper the *Nation*, was gunned down in his home in a suburb of Lagos by unknown assailants. In Jos, a recurring site of sectarian violence, Nathan S. Dabat and Sunday Gyang Bwade, a deputy editor and reporter for the Protestant biweekly *Light Bearer*, were hacked to death by rioters on their way to an assignment. In another incident in April, four journalists who covered the dismissal of the head of the electoral commission received threats by text message that invoked the names of three Nigerian journalists whose murders remain unsolved. In a climate of worsening crime and personal security, four journalists and their driver were abducted in July in the southeastern city of Aba and held for ransom by kidnapers who demanded 250 million naira (about \$1.6 million). The five abductees were released a week later, with no ransom paid but 3 million naira (\$20,000) stolen from them. The police quickly arrested four people in connection with the kidnapping. Although the murders and threats were condemned by government ministers and there were calls for rapid police scrutiny of the cases, impunity remains the norm, with most cases remaining unsolved. Two major sources of attacks on journalists are political party activists and the police themselves, who regularly harass reporters as they attempt to cover the news.

There are more than 100 national and local publications, the most influential of which are privately owned. However, a number of state and local governments own print and broadcast media, as do individuals directly involved in politics. The print sector is generally vibrant and outspoken in its criticism of unpopular state policies. There are 15 major privately owned daily newspapers, one government-owned daily with national reach, and a number of other state-owned dailies that tend to be poorly produced and require large advertising subsidies. Radio tends to be the main source of information for Nigerians, while television is used mostly in urban areas and by the affluent. Private television stations must ensure that 60 percent of their programming is produced locally. The state’s history of monopolizing broadcast communications has prevented the development of community radio, although an advocacy movement begun in 2003 has resulted in signs of support from the government.

Licensing fees and taxes for broadcast media remain high, and many outlets experience financial difficulties, limiting their viability. The only two nationwide broadcast networks are state-owned: the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria and the Nigerian Television Authority. However, in February 2010 the NBC awarded the first private radio and television network license to Silverbird Communications, which had outbid two other private competitors for the licenses, paying 3.5 billion naira (about \$25 million) for the TV network license, and 1.5 billion

naira (about \$11 million) for the radio license. A 2004 NBC ban on the live broadcast of foreign programs, including news, on domestic stations remains in force. Nevertheless, foreign broadcasters, particularly the Voice of America and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), are important sources of news in the country.

Bribery and corruption remain problems in the media industry, particularly in the form of “brown envelopes,” or small cash gifts that sources give journalists. A 2009 survey of 184 media professionals in Lagos found that 61 percent of them habitually received brown envelopes while on reporting assignments. However, 74 percent of the respondents disagreed that the gifts led to biased coverage, perhaps because the practice is so common.

Approximately 29 percent of the population accessed the internet during the year. There were no reports that the government restricted access or monitored e-mail. Except for the case of the brief detention and passport seizure of U.S.-based blogger and scholar Okey Ndibe during a visit to Nigeria, there were no reported instances of harassment or arrest of local or expatriate bloggers in 2010, as had been the case in previous years. However, in March, a Sharia court in Kaduna ordered a human rights group, the Civil Rights Congress (CRC), to close its blog and stop hosting debates on the social networking sites Twitter and Facebook about the use of amputation to punish theft in Nigeria’s 12 northern states governed by Sharia law. The debates were prompted by the 10th anniversary of Nigeria’s first case of amputation under Sharia law. The CRC said it would appeal the ruling.

North Korea

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 30

Political Environment: 38

Economic Environment: 29

Total Score: 97

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	97,NF	97,NF	98,NF	98,NF	99,NF

North Korea remained the most repressive media environment in the world in 2010. The one-party regime owns all media, attempts to regulate all communication, and rigorously limits the ability of North Koreans to access information. Although the constitution theoretically guarantees freedom of speech, constitutional provisions calling for adherence to a “collective spirit” restrict all reporting that is not sanctioned by the government in practice. All journalists are members of the ruling party, and all media outlets are mouthpieces for the regime. Under the penal code, listening to foreign broadcasts and possessing dissident publications are “crimes against the state” that carry grave punishments, including hard labor, prison sentences, and the death penalty. In 2010 alone, over 1,000 people were arrested for possessing or watching foreign films and television programs that they had acquired on the black market through smugglers from China. However, citizens are allowed to watch foreign films that are selected by and broadcast through a state-owned station. In a rare turn of events in December, a state-owned station broadcast the British soccer film *Bend It Like Beckham*.

North Korean media portray all dissidents and foreign journalists as liars attempting to destabilize the government, and authorities sharply curtail the ability of foreign journalists to gather information by seizing their mobile telephones upon arrival, preventing them from talking to people on the street, and constantly monitoring their movements. In March 2009, two U.S. journalists, Euna Lee and Laura Ling, were arrested at the Chinese border and incarcerated in North Korea for committing “hostile acts,” and were sentenced in June to 12 years in a labor camp. They were freed in early August 2009 after former U.S. president Bill Clinton traveled to Pyongyang to negotiate their release. The dictatorial regime does on occasion invite the foreign press to cover events such as parades and festivals that shed a favorable light on the state. In October 2010, foreign correspondents were invited to the 65th anniversary of the ruling Korean Workers’ Party, during which Kim Jong Il formally presented his son Kim Jong Un as his successor.

In 2007, a Japanese journalist and several North Korean refugees launched *Rimjinkang*, the first newsmagazine to be based on independent reporting from inside the country. The reporting is conducted by specially trained North Koreans—most of them refugees along the country’s border with China—who have agreed to go back into North Korea and operate as undercover journalists using hidden cameras. Although reports from *Rimjinkang* are easily accessible for people outside North Korea, within the country, most citizens still rely primarily on state-owned broadcasting agencies for news.

North Korea made its first full connection to the internet in 2010 in time for the national anniversary. A group of 1,024 internet addresses had been reserved for North Korea but until recently had never been used. The first website to appear from among this group belonged to the country’s official news agency, the Korea Central News Agency. During the Workers’ Party’s anniversary celebrations, foreign correspondents were given access to a press room at the Koryo Hotel where they had full and unprecedented access to the internet. Typically, visitors are only able to make telephone calls or send e-mails through designated computers. New connections in North Korea, however, have little significance for average citizens. Internet access is still restricted to a handful of high-level officials who have received state approval, and to foreigners living in the capital, Pyongyang. For average citizens, web access is available only to a nationwide intranet that does not link to foreign sites. As personal computers are highly uncommon in homes, most access the intranet via terminals in libraries. There are currently no accurate statistics measuring the rate of internet penetration in the country.

Norway

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 3

Political Environment: 4

Economic Environment: 4

Total Score: 11

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	10,F	11,F	10,F	10,F	10,F

Freedoms of the press and of information are guaranteed under Article 100 of Norway’s

constitution. There are laws that prohibit hateful expression, but there were no reported cases of this during 2010. In 2008, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that a government ban on political commercials, designed to ensure equal access to the media for all candidates regardless of varying resources, violated the European Convention on Human Rights. The government in 2009 rejected the ruling, and said that political commercials would remain illegal, but attempted to address the ruling by strengthening the provision of greater access for small political parties on the public broadcaster NRK, as well as granting them access to another television channel, Frikanalen, to disseminate their views. In 2008, parliament approved a bill designed to protect editorial freedom in the media, meaning that owners could not reexamine an editor's decision regarding editorial operations.

In the wake of the 2005 controversy over the publishing of cartoons of the prophet Muhammad in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*, the government of Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg in 2009 proposed repealing the blasphemy law, but it is still on the books. In February 2010, Norway had a minor "cartoon crisis" when *Dagbladet*, a Norwegian newspaper, published a cartoon of Muhammad accompanying an article that was highly critical of anti-Muslim cartoons. Massive street protests by Muslims followed and the unrest continued for two weeks. In July, three Muslim immigrants were arrested for plans to bomb Norwegian sites as well as the Danish paper that published the original Muhammad cartoons.

The public broadcaster NRK is dominant in both radio and television, and is financed by a license fee, but there is considerable competition from private broadcasters. News is also provided by the private television channel TV2. Norway has one of the highest newspaper readerships in the world, and distributes more than 200 newspapers that express a diversity of opinions. Media concentration is a concern, with three main companies dominating the print media. Schibsted owns a majority of Media Norge, a media consortium of several of the country's largest papers, including *Bergens Tidende*, *Aftenposten*, *Stavanger Aftenblad*, and *Fædrelandsvennen*. Media Norge was formed in 2009 after a protracted struggle with the Media Authority due to concerns over its size. Competition is still strong, even though the financial downturn has hurt the advertising market. The internet is widely used in Norway, and it is accessed by more than 93 percent of the population. The government does not restrict use of the internet.

Oman

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 25

Political Environment: 27

Economic Environment: 19

Total Score: 71

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	70,NF	71,NF	71,NF	71,NF	71,NF

Oman's 1984 Press and Publications Law is one of the most restrictive statutes of its kind in the Arab world, and serves to create a highly censored and subdued media environment. Articles 29, 30, and 31 of the 1996 Basic Law guarantee freedom of expression and of the press; however,

these rights are abridged in practice. Libel is treated as a criminal offense, and journalists can be fined or imprisoned for voicing criticisms of the sultan or for printing material that leads to “public discord, violates the security of the state, or abuses a person’s dignity or rights.” The Telecommunications Act allows the authorities to prosecute individuals for any message, sent through any means of communication, which violates public order and morals. Journalists are required to obtain licenses to practice, and since 2005, they have been obliged to reapply each year as an employee of a specific media outlet, thus forbidding the practice of freelance journalism. Journalists may have their licenses revoked at any time for violating press laws. The government also retains the right to close down any media outlet at any time.

The Ministry of Information may legally censor any material regarded as politically, culturally, or sexually offensive in both domestic and foreign media, and they have blacklisted several authors and specific books deemed controversial. During the Muscat International Book Fair in March 2010, the government banned the distribution of 11 books by Omani authors. Information and news are widely available, and foreign broadcasts are often accessed via satellite in urban areas. However, there is a basic lack of coverage of local topics such as the economy, unemployment, and minority and migrant issues. Reporters have been jailed in the past for coverage of colleagues’ arrests, and self-censorship is widespread due to fears that critical news stories will result in prosecution.

In addition to the two major state-owned newspapers, the government owns four radio stations and two television stations. There are eight privately run newspapers currently operating in Oman. Private newspapers are able to sustain themselves largely on local and international advertising revenues rather than sales, and many no longer need to accept state subsidies. There is one privately owned satellite network, which refrains from broadcasting politically controversial content. Viewers have relatively unobstructed access to foreign broadcasts via satellite subscriptions.

About 63 percent of Oman’s population used the internet in 2010. Although internet usage is on the rise, Oman’s rate of internet penetration is still low compared to other Gulf countries. Attempts to extend internet service to areas outside the capital have had limited success, partly because of technical problems and high prices. Oman’s internet and telecommunications sector had been monopolized by the state-run Oman Telecommunications Company until 2008, when the government allowed a privately owned competitor, Nawras, to begin providing internet service. Despite the limited opening of the telecommunications sector, the government still exercises considerable control and censorship of the internet. The Internet Service Manual stipulates a lengthy list of prohibited content, including defamation of the ruling family and false data or rumors. The government routinely blocks websites deemed sexually offensive or politically controversial. In February 2010, Omantel blocked Community Queer, a website maintained by two gay Omanis, and in March, the blog Muscat Confidential—known for its critical commentary on local news—was temporarily blocked. Some bloggers have been able to use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to bypass censorship of internet service providers, but in August 2010, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) proposed a new law banning the use of VPNs. Under the proposed regulation, which had not yet been signed into law at year’s end, internet users who violate the VPN ban would be fined 500 Omani rials (\$1,290). Despite restrictions on internet usage, in recent years the authorities have shown greater tolerance for limited criticism of the government, particularly on several online discussion forums, the most popular of which are Farrq al-Harah and Al-Sabla. Private communications such as mobile telephone calls, e-mail, and exchanges in internet chat rooms are monitored.

Pakistan

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 18

Political Environment: 27

Economic Environment: 16

Total Score: 61

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	61,NF	63,NF	66,NF	62,NF	61,NF

Media freedoms in 2010 were hampered by attempts from certain key officials—particularly military and intelligence officials, as well as the higher judiciary—to silence critical reporting, and also by the high level of violence against journalists. The constitution and other legislation, such as the Official Secrets Act, authorize the government to curb freedom of speech on subjects including the constitution, the armed forces, the judiciary, and religion. Harsh blasphemy laws have occasionally been used to suppress the media. Under the 2004 Defamation Act, offenders can face minimum fines of 100,000 rupees (\$1,700) and prison sentences of up to five years; however, this legislation has not yet been used to convict journalists. In 2010, broadly defined contempt laws were increasingly used by the judiciary to curb reporting on particular cases or judges, with a number of print and television outlets threatened with judicial contempt charges during the year.

Broadcast media are regulated by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), which has occasionally used its power to halt broadcasts and shut media offices. Ordinances issued in late 2007 as part of the imposition of martial law that placed additional restrictions on both print and broadcast media—which had been routinely flouted under civilian rule—were formally nullified in April 2010 as part of parliament’s passage of the 18th Amendment. However, other PEMRA regulations, including a code of conduct and the 2009 PEMRA Rules, remain in force, and the government continued to engage in sporadic efforts to temporarily suspend certain broadcasts and programs. Recent proposals emanating from both the National Assembly and the Senate would introduce legislation restricting live coverage of violence or terrorist attacks. The proposals also contained broadly worded clauses that would ban broadcasts of any content considered “defamatory against the organs of the state.” The bills had not been approved at the year’s end. In November 2009, eight prominent broadcast media houses banded together to draft a voluntary code of conduct for depictions of violence, which was implemented in 2010 in an effort to imbue the rapidly growing sector with added professionalism and to stave off onerous official regulations.

Political actors, government officials, and military and intelligence officers allegedly continued to complain about critical coverage, and some attempted to exert control over media content through unofficial “guidance” to newspaper editors on placement of front-page stories and permissible topics of coverage. Fear of reprisals caused some journalists to refrain from being overly critical or to overstep unspoken boundaries, particularly concerning military or intelligence operations. Self-censorship also occurs with regard to coverage of sensitive social or religious issues, as well as certain militant groups and political parties.

The physical safety of journalists remains a key concern. Intimidation by intelligence agencies and the security forces—including physical attacks and arbitrary, incommunicado detention—continue to take place. Umar Cheema, an investigative reporter, was abducted by unknown men and subjected to intimidation and abuse for six hours in September, ostensibly in retaliation for articles he had written that criticized the government and military. In addition, Islamic fundamentalists, mercenaries hired by feudal landlords or local politicians, party activists, security forces, and police have been known to harass journalists and attack media offices. Lawyers attacked journalists attempting to cover judicial issues and the ongoing lawyers' protests on a number of occasions as well. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least eight journalists were killed while performing their work in 2010, making Pakistan the world's deadliest country for members of the press. While some of these reporters were deliberately targeted, others were killed or injured as they attempted to cover unfolding political events or military operations, or were among the victims of large-scale suicide bombings. Impunity is the norm for such crimes, with many murder cases from previous years remaining unsolved.

Conditions for reporters covering the ongoing conflict in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (formerly the North West Frontier Province) remain difficult, as a number of correspondents were detained, threatened, expelled, kidnapped, or otherwise prevented from working, either by the Taliban and local tribal groups or by the army and intelligence services. Journalists' ability to cover military operations in these areas is hampered because they can gain access only if they agree to become "embedded" with military units, which leads to any reporting being subject to potential censorship. A number of journalists in the Balochistan province were also targeted for their work during the year, including Abdul Hameed Hayatan, who was kidnapped in October and found dead a month later. Media remain much more tightly restricted in the FATA than elsewhere in Pakistan. Independent radio is allowed only with permission from the FATA secretariat, and no newspapers are published there. In Pakistani-administered Kashmir, publications need special permission from the regional government to operate, and proindependence publications are generally prohibited. Coverage of the restive Balochistan province remains difficult, with reporters facing pressure and harassment from both Balochi nationalists and the government.

A wide range of privately owned daily and weekly newspapers and magazines provide diverse and critical coverage of national affairs. The government continues to control Pakistan Television and Radio Pakistan, the only free-to-air broadcast outlets with a national reach; their staff receive directives from the Information Ministry and their coverage supports official viewpoints. Private radio stations operate in some major cities but are prohibited from broadcasting news programming. However, in a dramatic opening of the media landscape in recent years, several dozen private all-news cable and satellite television channels—such as GEO, ARY, Aaj, and Dawn, some of which broadcast from outside the country—have arisen to provide live domestic news coverage, commentary, and call-in talk shows, informing viewers and shaping public opinion on current events. International television and radio broadcasts are usually available, with the exception of news channels based in India. In April 2010, PEMRA directed a number of FM radio stations to stop carrying British Broadcasting Corporation news programs, claiming that the stations did not have the required licenses to do so. Provincial and national authorities have used advertising or other types of boycotts to put economic pressure on media outlets that do not heed unofficial directives. In October 2010, the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) announced a boycott of the Jang Group, owner of the Geo television station

and a number of newspapers, known for its increasingly antigovernment editorial line. Earlier in the year, Geo and ARY transmissions had been blocked, and PPP activists attacked cable operators' premises and destroyed copies of newspapers, after the channels had reported critically on President Asif Ali Zardari's handling of the August flooding crisis. In January 2010, the Jang Group filed a legal complaint alleging that the ban on official advertisements in its outlets was illegal. Both state and private interests—including the powerful intelligence agencies—reportedly pay for favorable press coverage, a practice exacerbated by the low salary levels of many journalists.

The internet is not widely used, with almost 17 percent of the population accessing the medium in 2010. However, blogs are growing in popularity and many traditional news outlets provide content over the internet. The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Ordinance, issued in November 2008, criminalized cyberterrorism—which was broadly defined as using or accessing a computer, network, or electronic device for the purposes of frightening, harming, or carrying out an act of violence against any segment of the population or the government—and provided for harsh penalties in cases resulting in a death. The e-mail accounts of some journalists are reportedly monitored. Access to some websites is periodically blocked, particularly those involving Balochi nationalist issues or other sensitive subjects. In 2010, the government moved to block “blasphemous” internet content on Facebook and other social networking sites, as well as on search engines or other content providers such as YouTube and Wikipedia—leading to a blanket shutdown of several websites in May, as well as approximately 12,000 specific URLs. However, the government refrained from cracking down on inflammatory content posted by Islamist groups.

Palau

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 1

Political Environment: 5

Economic Environment: 8

Total Score: 14

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	14,F	14,F	14,F	14,F	14,F

Panama

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 18

Political Environment: 17

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 44

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	43,PF	43,PF	44,PF	44,PF	44,PF

Freedom of the press is protected by law. However, the law allows the prosecution of journalists for vague charges related to exposing private information, and sets serious penalties for leaking government information to the press. Although there has been discussion about repeal, journalists are still subject to *desacato* (disrespect) laws that are meant to protect government officials from public criticism. Press freedoms were severely threatened by the judicial branch and institutions under the direct supervision of President Ricardo Martinelli, and the risks of legal repercussions and judicial intimidation encouraged self-censorship among Panamanian journalists.

Since 2008, libel and slander against high-ranking public officials have not been subject to penal sanctions, but they remain criminal offenses. In September 2010, the acting attorney general filed an opinion with the Supreme Court claiming that the 2008 reform had been unconstitutional. Meanwhile, press freedom advocates continued to push for full decriminalization of libel and slander. Cases occur regularly and often take years to move through the legal system. In April 2010, a court ruled against La Prensa Corporation, publisher of the daily *La Prensa*, in a libel case, requiring it to pay \$300,000 in moral damages to Argentina Barrera, a former prosecutor at the general prosecutors' office. In 2005, *La Prensa* had reported the news of Barrera's firing for supposed administrative faults, using official government press releases as sources. Seventy-year-old journalist Carlos Núñez López was jailed for almost a month in June 2010 because of a 2008 defamation conviction. The charges against him stemmed from a 2005 story in the now-defunct newspaper *La Crónica* about environmental damage in the province of Bocas del Toro. A landowner alleged that the article had damaged his reputation. A court in Panama City turned the prison term into a nominal fine and released Núñez on July 14 after 19 days in prison. In late September, a court convicted two television journalists, Sabrina Bacal and Justino González, of criminal defamation and banned them from professional work for one year. The case stemmed from a 2005 story, aired by the national broadcaster TVN Canal 2, alleging that Panamanian immigration officials took part in human trafficking. The appeals court also ordered them to pay a \$3,650 fine or be subjected to a one-year suspended prison term. Soon after the ruling was made public on October 4, Martinelli offered both reporters a full pardon, according to a government statement. Later that month, the Second Superior Court of Justice convicted journalist Rafael Antonio Ruiz of criminal libel for a story he published in *El Siglo* in 2005, which described a money laundering investigation against a member of the president's security team. Ruiz was sentenced to pay a \$1,000 fine to avoid 500 days of incarceration.

Despite the existence of transparency legislation, access to public information remains limited. In February, the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) condemned a bill in the parliament that would establish a government agency to oversee the "self-regulation" of the news media. The measure had been introduced by a member of parliament who had also called for an existing agreement among leading television networks governing programming and public criticism of the president to be extended to newspapers and radio stations.

No physical attacks on the media were reported in 2010, and journalists in Panama remain fairly safe compared with colleagues in neighboring countries. However, instances of harassment do occur occasionally. In May, the director of the daily newspaper *El Siglo* filed a complaint with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) claiming that the government had launched a campaign of harassment against the paper after it reported on the government's failure to collect the trash in poor Panama City neighborhoods. The IACHR was still investigating the matter at the end of the year. Paco Gómez Nadal, a Spanish journalist who

lives in Panama, was threatened to be stripped of his residency and deported because of his defense of Panama’s indigenous peoples, who had been protesting against mining exploration. Gómez Nadal was about to fly from Panama to Colombia in July when immigration officers held him for four hours and confiscated his passport and residence permit. With the help of media pressure, Gómez Nadal was finally able to leave the airport and go home. In August, journalists Santiago Cumbreira of the newspaper *Panamá America* and Álvaro Alvarado from TV Canal 13 were subpoenaed by the Prosecutors’ Office after alleging that the government had tapped their phones. Journalists have been detained briefly due to erroneous information obtained from “Pele Police,” a portable crime database used by the National Police. In October, a journalist with *La Prensa*, José Otero, was detained by agents of the National Police and held for three hours because the “Pele Police” device displayed a pending case for slander from 2001, in which he had been completely cleared. Otero was released after intervention by high government authorities.

All Panamanian media outlets are privately owned, with the exception of one state-owned television network and one radio station. There are about five daily papers, 100 radio stations, and several national television networks. Cross-ownership between print and broadcast media is prohibited. There were allegations that the government distributed official advertising according to partisan concerns. There are no government restrictions on the internet, which is accessed by nearly 43 percent of the population.

Papua New Guinea

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 11

Economic Environment: 10

Total Score: 25

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	29,F	30,F	28,F	26,F	24,F

News media in Papua New Guinea (PNG) remain among the most vital and independent in the South Pacific despite constant pressure from politicians. Under Section 46 of the constitution, freedom of speech, press, and information are guaranteed. Journalists can be sued for defamation in civil cases, but defamation is not a criminal offense. The independent PNG Media Council acts as buffer against government pressure by lobbying for media freedom, managing a complaints process, and undertaking media research. The council also has a well-developed code of ethics, which member journalists follow.

The government does not censor the media; however, there are complaints that some authorities employ pressure and intimidation in order to influence coverage. In December, the country’s main public broadcaster, the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), abruptly suspended its executive news director, Dorah Masseung, as a result of what was believed to be pressure from the authorities amid a national political crisis during which Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare had temporarily stood down to address charges of concealing his personal finances. After Maseung’s dismissal, the station’s management required that two recently

promoted members of the newsroom review all reports involving political or other sensitive issues in an attempt to control broadcast content. Several media freedom organizations appealed unsuccessfully to have Masseur reinstated. According to the *Post-Courier* newspaper, NBC managing director Memafu Kapera allegedly initiated these changes due to political pressure following the station's negative coverage of Somare. There were no reports of physical attacks or harassment of members of the press during the year.

Radio is an important source of news due to country's isolated settlements and low literacy rates. Competing with the NBC are the major commercial radio networks, NAU FM and Yumi FM, run by the partly Fiji-owned PNG FM Proprietary Limited. Both daily newspapers are foreign-owned. The *Post-Courier* is owned by the Australia-based News Limited subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. *The National*, which has a larger circulation than its older rival, is owned by the Malaysian timber company Rimbunan Hijau, which has major interests in local logging and trading industries. Papua New Guinea's main television station, EMTV, is owned by Fiji Television Limited. The government does not restrict access to the internet, but lack of infrastructure limits internet penetration in the country to 1.28 percent of the population.

Paraguay

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 19

Political Environment: 23

Economic Environment: 18

Total Score: 60

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	57,PF	60,PF	60,PF	59,PF	59,PF

The constitution and the law guarantee freedom of the press, and the government generally respects this right. The press freedom atmosphere in Paraguay in 2010 was dominated by the introduction, debate, and approval of several reforms to the Telecommunications Law, which have been heavily criticized by local and international press freedom groups. The changes for community radio stations include limiting their broadcasting power to 50 watts, prohibiting them from carrying advertising, and empowering the attorney general's office to sanction broadcast violations with punishments including jail time. The Organization of American States' Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression sent a letter to the legislature indicating that most of the reforms violated international standards of freedom of expression in that they "unduly restrict community media" and "establish disproportionate procedures and sanctions" for those outlets. President Fernando Lugo vetoed the bill in November, but an override by Congress was still possible at the end of year.

Paraguay is one of the few countries in the Americas that lacks legislation guaranteeing freedom of access to public information. A right to information bill failed to pass the Senate in 2006, but two courts of appeal have recognized the right and an ongoing Supreme Court case, *Vargas Telles v. City of San Lorenzo*, provides the first opportunity for the highest court to set a binding precedent on the matter.

Paraguayan journalists continued to be the target of persistent legal harassment by public officials and others. Almost all of those harassed were editors and reporters at *ABC Color*, one of the country's three major private dailies. There were at least eight instances of criminal defamation cases involving *ABC Color* staff in 2010, the most extreme of which was the ongoing case against reporters Mabel Rehnfeldt and Nacha Sánchez, who had published a series of articles uncovering alleged corrupt practices by President Juan Carlos Wasmosy's brother. President Wasmosy sued the pair for criminal defamation in 2004 and demanded \$10 million in damages. In May 2010, an appeals court rejected charges against *ABC Color* editor in chief Aldo Zuccolillo, who has been sued for criminal defamation more often than any other journalist in the entire hemisphere. The charges were brought by Hugo González Galeano, who had alleged that his honor was insulted after the paper published a photo showing him being arrested by police. In April, another judge declared a criminal defamation charge against Zuccolillo null and void after the plaintiff failed to show up in court. In June, Camilo Soares, Paraguay's minister of emergency preparedness, pressed charges against reporter Jorge Torres Romero, who had written articles denouncing alleged corruption by Soares. Although some cases end up being dismissed, a constant pattern of judicial harassment and abuse of the court system aimed at silencing the country's most influential media outlet continues to take a very heavy toll on the resources, finances, and morale of the *ABC Color* staff.

In addition to legal harassment, Paraguayan journalists continued to confront threats and physical attacks in 2010. The most salient case was that of radio and print reporter Gabriel Bustamante, who suffered three attempts on his life by the same individuals. Argentina's Argentine Association of Journalistic Organizations reported that Francisco and Valentín Vera, brothers of Isidro Vera, head of the charity division of an energy company, had been identified as the alleged attackers. On July 22, Francisco Vera showed up at Bustamante's home and told him, "I am here to kill you." Only the intervention of Bustamante's neighbors saved his life. The following day, the same suspect confronted Bustamante at his radio station and told him he was there "to finish the job." The journalist was able to escape. On July 24, Valentín Vera entered the home of one of Bustamante's neighbors by mistake and was later arrested. The attacks stemmed from Bustamante's reports alleging corruption on the part of Isidro Vera. Francisco Vera has been indicted and is a fugitive of justice. Separately, after radio host Rosendo Duarte in August announced on his show the details of a demonstration to protest against the lack of public safety, he received a threatening on-air phone call warning him to "watch his mouth, and his daughter and family," according to the Paraguay Journalists' Syndicate.

In Paraguay, most major newspapers, television stations, and radio stations are privately owned. The government owns and operates a public radio broadcaster, Radio Nacional del Paraguay. Ninety-eight percent of the radio spectrum is controlled by either private or state stations, despite attempts by community stations to gain a bigger presence. There are also a number of unlicensed stations, particularly in the sometimes unstable "tri-border area" where Paraguay borders both Brazil and Argentina. Distribution of official advertising is a major concern. *ABC Color* reported that in 2009, the government had purchased ads on 51 community radio stations, which are not allowed to air nongovernment commercials, and that only three of these stations are operating with the proper permits. The communications minister acknowledged government support for several broadcasters that were in the process of getting permits, and claimed that such advertising amounted to less than \$100 a month per station. Approximately 24 percent of the population used the internet in 2010, and there were no reports of government restrictions on access.

Peru

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 14

Political Environment: 18

Economic Environment: 11

Total Score: 43

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	39,PF	42,PF	44,PF	44,PF	44,PF

Freedom of the press is guaranteed by the 1993 constitution, but local and international media organizations continued to express concern about the harassment of reporters by both state and nonstate actors in 2010.

Politicians frequently react to criticism, particularly corruption allegations, by suing journalists, press outlets, and activists. Right-of-reply requirements are a contentious subject among journalists and lawmakers, as are privacy issues. In December 2010 the Constitutional Court restricted the dissemination of recorded telephone conversations. The ruling followed multiple incidents in 2009 and 2010 in which surreptitiously recorded conversations created scandal after being broadcasted on two different media outlets. Press watchdogs viewed the ruling as overly broad and a potential obstacle to coverage of subjects in the public interest. In June, a congressional commission passed a bill that would have criminalized the dissemination of pornographic content, but the bill was subsequently shelved. Defamation remains a criminal offense that can result in imprisonment, though journalists are rarely incarcerated for it. Nonetheless, 2010 was a busy year for defamation cases against journalists. Editor Alejandro Carrascal was convicted of defamation in January and sentenced to one year in prison, but a Supreme Court decision in June overruled this case and he was released. Journalist Oswaldo Pereyra was sentenced to one year's detention in June, but was released in July. Reporter Fernando Santo Rojas was also convicted of defamation and received a one-year suspended sentence in August.

Laws expanding access to public information were enacted in 2002 and 2003, and the willingness of many government agencies to provide information has grown. However, adherence to transparency norms remains inconsistent, particularly at the regional and local levels. There is no independent media regulatory body, and under the 2004 Radio and Television Law, broadcast licensing is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. In June 2009 the government rescinded the broadcast permit of Radio La Voz de Bagua. Technical reasons were cited, but officials also claimed that the station had instigated violence during its coverage of indigenous protests. Both the station and press watchdog groups complained of censorship and arbitrary application of the law. The station's license was restored in August 2010.

The hostile climate for the press is evidenced by numerous instances of physical attacks and verbal threats against media workers by local authorities, private actors, and the police. Topics like corruption, misuse of state resources, and drug trafficking are considered particularly dangerous to cover. No journalists were killed in 2010, but dozens were subject to threats,

intimidation, and assaults. Most of the several dozen episodes of assault in 2010 occurred at the local level, especially during campaigning for regional and local elections in October. In many cases of assault, the accused perpetrators were supporters of local politicians. In February, a Lima judge was captured in a photo pointing a gun at a photojournalist for the national newsweekly *Caretas*. In October, radio journalist Marco Bonifacio Sánchez's home in Cajamarca was burglarized. Sánchez, who had recently been convicted of libeling the mayor of Cajamarca, claimed the burglars were looking for documents and videos relating to his investigations of corruption in the local police force. Also in October, two National Police officers in the district of Túcume chased and assaulted Ana María Yesquén, a correspondent for Radio Programas del Perú, after she photographed them attacking another local journalist and damaging his equipment. High levels of social conflict sometimes create tension between the government and press outlets. There were also several cases linked to social conflict in which nonstate actors were accused of abuse of journalists, including an October incident in Cuzco in which a group of locals forced their way into Radio Espinar's facilities, violently attacked director Antonio Mollehuanca, and forced him to drink sewer water.

Impunity remained a problem during the year, as most cases of violence or harassment of journalists by public officials and private citizens went unpunished. In the most symbolic ongoing case, Luis Valdez, accused of masterminding the murder of radio journalist Alberto Rivera in 2004, was acquitted of the charges in February; appeals continued throughout the rest of the year. One positive development in November 2010 was the creation of a special jurisdiction within the judiciary to hear cases involving serious crimes against journalists. The move fulfilled promises made by President Alan Garcia and the head of the judiciary during an Inter-American Press Association visit to the country in May.

The government owns two television networks and one radio station, and operates the print news agency Andina. However, private outlets dominate the media industry, and the audience for state-run media is relatively small. In December 2009, President Alan Garcia's controversial pardon of former television station owner Jose E. Crousillat stirred speculation that the government was seeking to exert influence over broadcast media ownership. The pardon was subsequently revoked, but he remained at large throughout 2010. Radio is an important news medium, especially in the countryside, and many of the incidents of harassment, intimidation, and censorship by media owners are related to coverage of local issues on the radio. Several radio shows were canceled in 2010 after criticizing local authorities. The media corruption that was endemic during Alberto Fujimori's presidency in the 1990s continues to some extent, with journalists occasionally accepting bribes in exchange for slanted coverage, and owners using media outlets to promote their broader business interests.

The internet is not restricted by the government, and about 34 percent of the population has access. However, in October 2010, blogger Jose Alejandro Godoy was found guilty of defaming litigious businessman Jorge Mufarech, marking the first time a Peruvian blogger was convicted of defamation. Godoy received a three-year suspended sentence along with a large fine that, upon payment, would convert the sentence to probation. At year's end the case was under appeal.

Philippines

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 13
Political Environment: 22
Economic Environment: 11
Total Score: 46

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	40,PF	46,PF	45,PF	45,PF	48,PF

The constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression. There are no restrictive licensing requirements for newspapers or journalists, and few legal limitations such as privacy or obscenity laws. However, national security legislation introduced in 2007 could be used to limit journalists’ traditional rights and access to sources. Also that year, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Executive Order 608, creating the National Security Clearance System, which was designed to “protect and ensure the integrity and sanctity” of classified information against “enemies of the state.” The order, which came shortly before legislative elections, called on the heads of government agencies to implement a vaguely defined security-clearance procedure for obtaining certain information.

The country’s penal code makes libel a criminal offense punishable by a prison term and, in some cases, large fines. Defamation suits continue against those who criticize authorities. In March 2010, *Newsbreak* editor and investigative journalist Marites Vitug was charged with 13 counts of libel by a Supreme Court justice for an article she wrote in 2009. The mere threat of libel charges is often enough to hush criticism of officials and public figures. A longstanding effort to establish freedom of information legislation fell short again in the final weeks of the Arroyo administration, and press freedom groups are not optimistic about its passage in the near term, considering congressional efforts to tie the act with a right-of-reply law generally opposed by the media.

Although a censorship board has the power to edit or ban content for both television and film, government censorship does not typically affect political material. Both the private media and the country’s many publicly owned television and radio stations address numerous controversial topics, including alleged election fraud, ongoing counterinsurgency campaigns, and high-level corruption cases. Political and controversial developments, including the run-up to the 2010 elections, are covered widely by local and national media outlets. The regional watchdog nongovernmental organization Asian Network for Free Elections reported that the media enjoyed a great degree of freedom during the elections, with the exception of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), where journalists experienced greater constraints including attacks on media outlets. However, it also reported media bias that contributed to a somewhat unbalanced playing field that frequently favored wealthier candidates. Controversial developments in the trials relating to the 2009 Maguindanao massacre and investigations into an August 2010 hostage crisis were not off limits.

In 2010, the Committee to Protect Journalists ranked the Philippines third, after only Iraq and Somalia, in its impunity index tracking the worst records for resolving journalist murders. The Arroyo administration made some effort to address the issue, such as establishing in 2006 Task Force USIG, a special police unit, as well as the Melo Commission to Investigate Media and Activist Killings. However, local human rights groups disputed the official findings of the former, while the latter lacked any sort of enforcement capacity. In 2008, the Supreme Court granted the first writ of *amparo*, which ordered the protection of a journalist who was targeted in

a murder plot. The government and judiciary hoped the new tool would help alleviate the spike in extrajudicial and journalist killings; while a positive measure, it has proven limited in effect.

With the election of President Benigno Aquino in May 2010 came a strong pledge to end the killings and impunity. He asserted at his first state of the union that justice would be achieved and that half of the cases of extrajudicial killings were on their way to being resolved. Aquino met with press freedom groups in August with an eye toward measures such as strengthening witness protection programs and the investigative capacity of law enforcement bodies. While notable, the new president's political will remains challenged by the country's deeply entrenched legal constraints and culture of impunity. In a positive development, Muhammad Maulana, who in 2005 killed Edgar Amoro, was sentenced to life in prison in January 2010, bringing the country's total number of convictions to six. Amoro was a witness in the 2002 slaying of journalist Edgar Damalerio.

Nevertheless, violence and threats against journalists remain abundant, and in 2009 the country came to be considered the world's most deadly environment for the press. This was a result of the November 2009 election-related massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao province; 29 journalists and three media workers were among those killed. The Arroyo government's political ties with local clans and paramilitary groups complicated investigations into the crimes throughout early 2010, including the near release of members of the Ampatuan clan accused of abducting and killing the victims of the massacre. The charges of rebellion were dismissed, but the members of the clan remain in prison. The case has come to be seen as a litmus test for the country's judicial system. The Maguindanao trials began for 19 defendants in September 2010, including six members of the Ampatuan family. By year's end, a total of 47 suspects were in custody but not on trial, while another 130 suspects were believed to still be at large. Several instances of witness intimidation, as well as offers of bribes to victims' family members, were reported. In June, a former Ampatuan militia member who was a witness to the massacre was killed under unclear circumstances.

Aside from the Maguindanao developments, 2010 saw continued death threats, a number of assassination attempts, and journalist killings. Exposing local crime and corruption, or criticizing the government, army, or police, can prove lethal. Following the libel charges and release of her book on controversies surrounding the judiciary in March, Marites Vitug received a series of death threats. A spokesman for the Supreme Court dismissed them hastily. Three journalists were murdered in the final week of Arroyo's presidency in June in separate incidents in Northern Luzon (Joselito Agustin), and Southern Mindanao (Desiderio Camangyan and Nestor Bedolido). This brought the total number of journalists killed throughout her presidency to 137, according to the Manila-based Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR). Only five convictions resulted, leaving the country with a 90 percent impunity rate at the end of her term. Another death occurred in July, when radio reporter Miguel Belen was shot by gunmen on motorcycles in the central province of Bicol, though the motive remained unclear. According to CMFR, eight journalists were killed during the year. The crimes were often carried out by hired gunmen, and no mastermind of such a slaying has been held fully accountable. Journalists also confronted some harassment, including a few threats in the course of covering the 2010 elections, with greater prevalence in the ARMM. The intimidation of witnesses remains a critical obstacle to securing convictions. Furthermore, local police tend to hesitate before taking action against influential officials who are suspected of crimes against the press. Radio broadcasters outside major urban centers, known for sensational political reporting intended to attract high ratings, are the most common victims of media intimidation. Local political rivalries, corruption,

and family vendettas often make it difficult to identify the motives for and perpetrators of journalist murders.

Most print and internet-based media outlets are privately owned, and while the government owns some television and radio stations, they present a wide variety of views. While the private press boasts up approximately 500 newspaper titles, there has been a general trend toward concentration of ownership in television, with two broadcast networks controlled by wealthy families dominating audiences and advertising. Often criticized for lacking journalistic ethics, media outlets tend to reflect the political or economic orientations of their owners and patrons, and special interests reportedly employ bribes to elicit favorable coverage. News reports are often rooted in sensationalism and innuendo in order to boost circulation. The nature of advertising and the prevalence of “block timing”—buying airtime for political or partisan purposes—in radio broadcasting contribute to sensational reporting. The penchant for drama in the Philippines’ media reached new heights in August 2010, when the broadcast media came under harsh attack for airing live the 11-hour August 23 hostage-taking incident, in which eight tourists and the hostage taker himself were killed. The broadcasts allowed the hostage taker to watch police movements and his brother’s arrest in the incident. Both the Senate and a forum of media groups convened to investigate the media’s role in the incident. About 25 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010, and the government did not restrict access.

Poland

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 8

Political Environment: 10

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 25

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	21,F	22,F	24,F	24,F	24,F

Although the Polish constitution protects freedom of speech and of the press, libel and some forms of insult—including defamation of public officials or the state, and statements that offend religious beliefs—are criminal offenses punishable by fines and prison sentences. No amendments were made in 2010 to the so-called “blasphemy law.” However, a law passed in 2009 and implemented in June 2010 reduced the maximum sentence for defamation from three years’ imprisonment (for insulting the president) to one. Meanwhile, defamation cases brought by local politicians are reportedly on the rise, resulting in fines that can be ruinous to small newspapers. Small changes to Polish media laws and to the institutional framework of Polish public broadcasting in 2010 may increase the media’s political independence and objectivity in reporting in the year to come.

Cases regarding content violations, particularly those related to offending religious sensibilities, continue to occur. In January 2010, Poland’s Supreme Court ruled that a 500,000 zloty (\$150,000) fine imposed on Polstat TV was in line with Polish law. Polstat was fined in 2009 after a feminist activist invited on the *Kuba Wojewódzki Show* parodied a well-known presenter from the ultraconservative Catholic radio station Radio Maryja. The national

broadcasting council, known as KRRiTV, ruled that the broadcast had offended Christian sensibilities. In May, the Warsaw prosecutor's office charged pop star Dorota "Doda" Rabczewska with offending religious sensibilities for remarking in a 2009 television interview that she believed more in dinosaurs than she did in the Bible because "it is hard to believe in something written by people who drank too much wine and smoked herbal cigarettes."

KRRiTV, whose members are selected by the president, the Sejm, and the Senate, has the power to regulate programming, allocate subscription revenues to public media, distribute broadcasting frequencies and licenses, and impose financial penalties on broadcasters. Although KRRiTV members are required to suspend their membership in political parties, the council has always been a highly politicized body. In June 2010, the president-elect, the Sejm, and the Senate rejected KRRiTV's annual report, effectively ending the tenure of the existing council, which favored the Law and Justice Party (PiS), and making way for an entirely new council to be appointed in August.

At present, standards accepted by professional associations emphasize objectivity in reporting, but the culture of journalism in Poland remains highly partisan. Following the death of President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other passengers in an April 10 plane crash, government-owned Polish Television (TVP) aired a special segment chronicling the public's reaction to the tragedy. At least one of the anonymous mourners interviewed (and later recognized as a popular miniseries actor) suggested that the plane crash was not an accident at all, but a coup orchestrated by supporters of Prime Minister Donald Tusk. The Council for Media Ethics, which serves as an advisory body to the boards of TVP and national Polish Radio (PR), accused the segment's producers of violating the principles of objectivity, and of using the death of the President to promote a political agenda. However, it was not until after the June/July elections that it became possible to change the composition of TVP leadership, which had been firmly in the hands of Kaczynski's PiS since 2006. The presidential election campaign was accompanied by widespread criticism of the biased coverage provided by TVP. The Batory Foundation, an independent nongovernmental organization, found that while the airtime allotted to Civic Platform (PO) candidate Bronislaw Komorowski exceeded that given to any of his opponents, he was presented in negative ways during 46.7 percent of that time and in positive ways in 6.3 percent of the time, the rest being neutral. Meanwhile, PiS candidate Jaroslaw Kaczyński's coverage was only 2.7 percent negative and 35.9 percent positive.

TVP and its four channels remain a major source of information for most citizens. Substantial advertising revenues and a mandatory subscription fee collected from radio and television owners reinforce this dominant position. Polish print media and radio are predominantly private and highly diversified, and a number of national dailies have been launched in recent years. According to the European Journalism Centre, foreign owners, many of them German, control approximately 80 percent of the Polish media market. The only major domestic competitor is Agora SA, with an 18.3 percent share of total press market. Roughly 62 percent of the population had regular internet access in 2010, and it remains unrestricted by the government.

Portugal

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 5

Political Environment: 6
Economic Environment: 6
Total Score: 17

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	14,F	14,F	16,F	16,F	16,F

Freedom of the press is guaranteed by the constitution, and laws against insulting the government or the armed forces are rarely enforced. Some journalists argued that the 2007 revision of the federal Journalist Statute decreased the protection of confidential sources. This statute gives employers and clients the right to reuse journalists' work in any way 30 days following its first publication, gives journalists the right to remove the author's name from poorly edited publications, and gives journalists the right to reject modifications to their work. In 2010, the weekly Sol was fined €1.5 million (\$1.9 million) for defying a court injunction and publishing a story that included details of a wiretap of a government official. The story implicated Rui Pedro Soares, the Portuguese government's former representative on the board of the national telecommunications company Portugal Telecom, as well as Prime Minister José Sócrates and some of his associates in an attempt by Portugal Telecom to buy a controlling stake in TVI, a privately owned television station that is critical of the government. The transcripts of the wiretap allegedly show that Soares went to Madrid to negotiate the purchase, which fell through. Portugal passed an access to information law in 2003, which is in effect in addition to the 1993 Law of Access to Administrative Documents.

Cases of intimidation of journalists occur rarely, but in a minor case of harassment, Ricardo Rodrigues, the vice president of the Socialist Party, grabbed the microphones of two journalists who were interviewing him in the parliamentary library in May 2010. Rodrigues claimed psychological stress under questioning.

Portugal has six main national newspapers, four dailies and two weeklies. There are around 300 local and regional private radio stations; Radio Renascença, which is run by the Catholic Church, commands a wide listening audience. Commercial television has been making gains in recent years, providing serious competition for underfunded public broadcasting channels. As in many countries, the Portuguese media has felt the impact of the financial crisis, with advertising losses, downsizing of print circulation, and declining readership. The internet is unrestricted and about 51 percent of the population accessed it in 2010.

Qatar

Status: Not Free
Legal Environment: 20
Political Environment: 24
Economic Environment: 22
Total Score: 66

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	61,NF	63,NF	64,NF	65,NF	66,NF

While Qatar permits its flagship satellite television channel Al-Jazeera to air critical coverage of foreign countries and leaders, journalists are forbidden from criticizing the Qatari government, the ruling family, or Islam, and are subject to prosecution for such violations. Article 47 of the Qatari constitution “assures” freedom of expression “according to circumstances and conditions” proscribed by law. The 1979 Press and Publications Law is administered by the criminal courts and provides for jail sentences for libel or slander. In addition, broadly framed anti-terrorism legislation can also be used to restrict freedom of expression. The Advisory Council, Qatar’s appointed legislative body, began drafting a new press law, but the emir had yet to sign it. The government announced in 2010 that the same press law would be adopted by year’s end. The draft law circulated would liberalize press freedom by lifting provisions under which journalists could be jailed for defamation. It also would prohibit officials from questioning journalists without a court order, and permit journalists to keep their sources confidential unless ordered otherwise by a court. Multiple provisions would regulate online media. Despite the government’s promises, the law had not been adopted at year’s end.

All publications are subject to licensing by the government. The government, the Qatar Radio and Television Corporation, and customs officers are authorized to censor both domestic and foreign publications and broadcast media for religious, political, and sexual content prior to distribution. Disparity exists in the application of press legislation for Qatari and non-Qatari journalists, the latter of which represent the majority of media workers in the country. While local journalists often receive warnings and threats when pushing the limits of permissible coverage, noncitizens employed by Qatari media outlets risk facing harsher measures, including termination, deportation, and imprisonment. As a result, self-censorship is reportedly widespread. All foreign journalists working in the country must be accredited by the Qatar Foreign Information Agency and sponsored by a local institution or the Information Ministry. However, journalists in compliance with these rules can still be barred from entering the country. Five female journalists for Al-Jazeera, all foreign, resigned their posts in June 2010 after having been routinely criticized for wearing clothing deemed immodest. Although there were no reports of physical violence directed at members of the press during the year, journalists continue to face multiple forms of intimidation.

The Doha Center for Media Freedom (DCMF) opened in 2008 under the patronage of the emir’s wife and with the support of Reporters Without Borders (RSF), an international press freedom watchdog group. Its mission was to provide physical protection to journalists, including safe houses and bulletproof vests. Robert Menard, former RSF director, was appointed as director of DCMF. However, Menard wrote a public letter in February 2009 decrying Qatar’s oppressive media law and taking issue with the government’s refusal to extend visas for foreign journalists threatened in their own countries. In March, a reporter working for the DCMF was barred from leaving the country to attend a meeting abroad. In May 2009, Menard invited the controversial Danish editor, who in 2005 published a series of Mohammed cartoons in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*, to a conference in Doha celebrating World Press Freedom Day. This drew public condemnation from government officials and domestic media outlets, and the Advisory Council called for Menard’s dismissal. He and several staff members resigned in June 2010. RSF ended its relationship with the DCMF, and the latter remained largely inactive at year’s end.

Qatar has seven newspapers that publish in either Arabic or English, all of which are owned by either members of the ruling family or their business associates. The state owns and operates all broadcast media, and there are only two television networks in the country, Qatar TV

and Al-Jazeera. While Qatar TV broadcasts mostly official news and progovernment perspectives, Al-Jazeera focuses its coverage on international topics. As a government-subsidized channel, Al-Jazeera refrains from criticizing the Qatari authorities, providing only sparse and uncritical local news. Programming on local radio stations, on the other hand, is more accommodating to voices critical of government services and operations. The concentration of media ownership within the ruling family as well as the high financial costs and citizenship requirements to obtain media ownership licenses continue to hinder the expansion and freedom of the press.

Approximately 69 percent of the Qatari population used the internet in 2010, a major increase from 32 percent in 2007. Sixty-three percent of households have access to the internet. The government censors political, religious, and pornographic content through the sole, state-owned internet-service provider. Both high-speed and dial-up internet users are directed to a proxy server that maintains a list of banned websites and blocks material deemed inconsistent with the religious, cultural, political, and moral values of the country.

Romania

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 13

Political Environment: 15

Economic Environment: 14

Total Score: 42

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	44,PF	42,PF	44,PF	44,PF	43,PF

Press freedom is protected by the constitution and is generally respected by the government. The Constitutional Court struck down legislation that decriminalized libel in 2007, but the parliament failed to implement the ruling with a new law, and local judges had reportedly disagreed on whether libel remains a criminal offense until the Supreme Court ruled in favor of decriminalization in 2010. No major civil or criminal defamation cases were reported in 2010. Journalists regularly use Romania's freedom of information law to obtain public records, but bureaucratic obstacles and uneven enforcement have been reported. Appointments to the National Council of Broadcasting are politicized, resulting in ineffective regulation and biased decision-making.

The public television broadcaster, TVR, is headed by a former official of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), and staff members have complained of political control over editorial matters. Three of the five conglomerates that dominate the private media landscape are controlled by powerful Romanian businessmen—Sorin Ovidiu Vantu, Dan Voiculescu, and Dinu Patriciu—whose political and economic interests are reflected in their outlets' reporting. The other two leading media groups are linked to foreign firms: Ringier of Switzerland and the Bermuda-based Central European Media Enterprises (CME). In September 2010, Vantu was temporarily detained in connection with a Ponzi scheme that had collapsed in 2000, and he claimed that the case was motivated by his media group's attacks on President Traian Basescu, particularly during the presidential election in late 2009. Basescu's reelection campaign had

faced concerted opposition from many of the major news outlets, and he reportedly limited his contact with the press after winning reelection.

While no cases of serious violence against journalists were reported in 2010, some politicians displayed hostility toward critical outlets. In April, Prime Minister Emil Boc seized a microphone from a reporter with Vantu’s Realitatea television station and accused it and Voiculescu’s Antena 3 of skewed coverage. Boc’s Democratic Liberal Party subsequently instructed members not to participate in the stations’ programs. Separately, a study approved by the Supreme Council for National Defense in June identified lobbying and smear campaigns by large media groups as a threat to state institutions, prompting objections from press freedom advocates. Over the course of 2010, the European Court of Human Rights ruled against Romania in three decade-old cases involving journalists.

TVR holds roughly a fifth of the television market, and benefits from state financing as well as advertising revenue. The top private stations include CME’s Pro TV and Acasa TV, Voiculescu’s Antena 1, and Realitatea. The public broadcaster similarly competes with private networks in the radio sector, and the major Romanian and foreign conglomerates have considerable holdings in the print sector as well. A number of print outlets have closed since the economic downturn in late 2008, and many others survive on infusions of cash from their owners, who use them to advance political and business interests. Journalists have also suffered from the poor economic environment, and are susceptible to various forms of financial and editorial pressure.

Access to the internet is widely available, with no reports of government interference. Close to 40 percent of the population used the internet in 2010. However, online news outlets and blogs are still poorly developed, with most users obtaining news from the web versions of established newspapers and television stations.

Russia

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 24

Political Environment: 33

Economic Environment: 24

Total Score: 81

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	72,NF	75,NF	78,NF	80,NF	81,NF

Russian media freedom remained extremely poor in 2010, with the Kremlin relying on alternatively crude and sophisticated media management to distract the public from widespread government corruption, domestic terror attacks, and the country’s economic crisis. Most state and private media engaged in blatant propaganda that glorified the country’s national leaders and fostered an image of political pluralism—claiming that President Dmitry Medvedev was leading the process of Russian modernization while Prime Minister Vladimir Putin was working to maintain stability.

Although the constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press, officials used the country’s politicized and corrupt court system to harass and prosecute the few remaining

independent journalists who dared to criticize widespread abuses committed by authorities. Dozens of civil cases and hundreds of criminal cases against journalists were launched in 2010. In November, a court in the Moscow suburb of Khimki convicted Mikhail Beketov of criminally slandering Khimki mayor Vladimir Strelchenko when he said in a television interview that the mayor was behind a campaign of harassment against him. Beketov was brutally beaten in 2008 after his newspaper *Khimkinskaya Pravda* opposed the construction of the Khimki highway, a project critics said would cause significant environmental damage to a forest outside Moscow. In December, a city court in Khimki overturned the conviction against Beketov, who remains wheelchair-bound and unable to speak because of the 2008 attack.

Authorities have charged a number of government critics, including journalists and media outlets, with extremism. In April, the independent Moscow newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* received an official warning from the communications registration agency, Roskomnadzor, that an interview published in January with a neo-fascist leader contained “extremist” ideas. *Novaya Gazeta* challenged the warning in court because it faced potential closure if it received future warnings, but in October the Taganskaya Court in Moscow ruled in favor of Roskomnadzor. Authorities also continued to enact legal reforms that strengthened the country’s powerful, highly politicized police and Federal security Service (FSB). In July, President Medvedev signed legal amendments to the Law on the Federal Security Service, which authorized officials to detain anyone suspected of hindering the work of the FSB or its employees, as well as to issue warnings instructing individuals, organizations, or media outlets to cease any activities deemed to be potentially “extremist,” according to international press reports. One part of the law appeared to silence media criticism of authorities because it brands people who disagree with the government as extremist, stating that “Certain mass media outlets, including print and electronic, openly aid the formation of negative processes in the spiritual sphere, the affirmation of the cult of individualism and violence, and the mistrust in the ability of the state to defend its citizens, this practically involving the youth in extremist activities,” the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported. In September, Russian authorities lost one legal tool that enabled media harassment when Microsoft announced it was unilaterally issuing software licenses to all eligible media and non-profit organizations in Russia, according to international press reports. In previous years, regional authorities in Russia had selectively prosecuted independent media organizations for possessing pirated software on their computers in retaliation for criticizing the government or reporting on politically sensitive subjects.

Journalists remained unable to cover the news freely, particularly with regard to contentious topics like human rights abuses in the North Caucasus, government corruption, organized crime, police torture, the activities of opposition parties, and the country’s economic crisis. Throughout the year, prosecutors questioned journalists who published interviews with or articles by imprisoned oil tycoon and Kremlin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky, seeking to determine how they had received the articles or interviews from prison. In April 2010, police officers searched the Moscow offices of the independent news website *Novoye Vremya* seeking to identify the sources for a February article about corruption within an elite police unit, according to local press reports. That same month, two unidentified men attacked and brutally beat Arkady Lander, editor of the independent newspaper *Mestnaya* in the southern city of Sochi, after the newspaper criticized local authorities during a regional election held the previous month. In November, two unidentified men attacked Oleg Kashin, a popular blogger and journalist for the business newspaper *Kommersant*, outside his Moscow apartment and beat him savagely with metal rods, according to local and international press reports. The attack occurred

three months after the pro-Kremlin youth group Molodaya Gvardiya had publically called on its supporters to “punish” Kashin in retaliation for his reporting on the controversial Khimki highway project. Kashin was hospitalized and remained in a medically-induced coma for two weeks as he recovered from a broken skull, jaw, fingers, and leg. No one was arrested in the case by the end of the year.

Russia remained one of the most dangerous countries in the world for the media due to widespread lawlessness that allows politicians, security agents, and criminals to silence journalists with impunity. According to the nonprofit Glasnost Defense Foundation, 12 journalists died or were killed in 2010, though according to CPJ, none of those journalists were murdered in retaliation for their reporting. But authorities’ failure to investigate or solve the vast majority of crimes against journalists in previous years perpetuated an atmosphere of impunity. Suspects who are identified rarely receive serious punishments. In March, the Supreme Court in Russia’s southern republic of Ingushetia, in the Caucasus region, ordered a police officer recently convicted in the 2008 murder of Ingushetiya.ru news website editor, Magomed Yevloyev, to be released just as he was starting his two-year prison sentence in a low-security prison facility. In September, a CPJ delegation traveled to Moscow and met with officials from the Investigative Committee—a criminal investigation agency that answered to President Medvedev—in order to discuss impunity cases. Investigators reported they were pursuing suspects in the October 2006 murder of the Moscow-based *Novaya Gazeta* journalist Anna Politkovskaya and the July 2009 murder of Grozny-based human rights journalists Natalya Estemirova, but claimed there was no evidence linking the murders to Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov, a prime suspect in both cases. At the end of 2010, two neo-fascists suspected of committing the January 2009 murders of *Novaya Gazeta* journalist Anastasiya Baburova and human rights lawyer Stanislav Markelov were being held in prison and awaited trial in Moscow.

Authorities continued to exert significant influence on media outlets and news content through a vast state-owned media empire. The government owns, wholly or in part, two of the 14 national newspapers, more than 60 percent of the more than 45,000 registered local newspapers and periodicals, all six national television networks, and two national radio networks. This allowed the government to ensure that the media were filled with pro-Kremlin propaganda and to avoid coverage of rising unemployment, bank failures, declining industrial production, and the falling value of the ruble. Several media outlets providing high quality business reporting are the only small niche in the media that remains strong, the U.S.-based nonprofit group IREX reported. International radio and television broadcasting is generally restricted. Most private FM radio stations have been pressured to stop rebroadcasting news programs by the British Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and Voice of America, relegating those services to less accessible short- and medium-wave frequencies. Diversity continued to decline as private companies loyal to the Kremlin and regional authorities purchased media outlets, while most other media outlets remained dependent on state subsidies as well as government printing, distribution, and transmission facilities. The economic crisis also led to a decline in advertising revenue for the country’s few remaining independent media outlets, forcing some of them to tone down their news coverage so that they could accept advertising contracts from government agencies. Government-controlled television was the primary source of news for most Russians. Lively but cautious political debate was increasingly limited to glossy weekly magazines, news websites, and the news talk radio station Ekho Moskvy, outlets whose audience was mostly composed of urban, educated, and affluent Russians. Nevertheless,

internet access in rural areas has improved, as connections have reportedly been established at most of Russia’s schools.

Online media have developed rapidly, and an estimated 43 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. The internet remains relatively freer than other news media in Russia, with most websites remaining available and a wide range of views being expressed. However, the authorities have increasingly engaged in content removal and manipulation of online expression. Kremlin allies have purchased several independent online newspapers or created their own progovernment news websites, and they are reportedly cultivating a network of bloggers who are paid to produce pro-Kremlin propaganda. The FSB continued widespread monitoring of e-mail, blogs and online bulletin boards, and websites during 2010, while government officials harassed some news websites and bloggers. In July, a regional court in Ingushetia instructed area ISPs to block local access to the popular blogging website LiveJournal for over two weeks because prosecutors argued that one blog on the site contained “ideas of extremism and terrorism.” In November, police opened an investigation into the Russian-language version of Wikipedia, claiming it hosted unspecified “extremist” information. There is also a growing trend of individual citizens and whistle blowing civil servants using the internet to publicize government abuses and appeal to government officials for intervention, though in many cases they face aggressive state retribution for doing so.

Rwanda

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 26

Political Environment: 34

Economic Environment: 24

Total Score: 84

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	85,NF	84,NF	84,NF	85,NF	83,NF

Media freedom conditions deteriorated in Rwanda ahead of the 2010 presidential election, as authorities increasingly tried to restrict the dissemination of independent views. Article 34 of Rwanda’s constitution stipulates that “freedom of the press and freedom of information are recognized and guaranteed by the state,” but other clauses broadly define circumstances under which these rights can be restricted, and in practice the media remain under the tight control of the government. A 2009 media law established onerous new regulations and licensing procedures, and requires journalists to reveal their sources when the government demands such information in the course of criminal investigations and proceedings. In order to obtain a license to practice, journalists must now present educational qualifications and a police record detailing any prior criminal activity, and media companies must pay high licensing fees. The law also upheld criminal penalties for press offenses, including statements supporting or denying the country’s 1994 genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes. The vague language of the law similarly prohibits the publication of material that “shows contempt for the president” or “endangers public decency.” Deogratias Mushayidi, a publisher and former head of the Rwanda Journalists Association, was arrested in March in neighboring Burundi and handed over to

Rwandan authorities. Mushayidi is being tried before a Kigali court on charges of endangering state security, collaboration with terrorist groups, minimizing the genocide, genocide ideology, and divisionism.

Chapter 8 of the Rwandan penal code criminalizes defamation and provides for penalties of up to three years in prison, and journalists are frequently charged and convicted under the measure. In February 2010, a court found three journalists from the independent newspaper *Umuseso* guilty of defamation in a case relating to a 2009 article that alleged an extramarital relationship between the mayor of the capital city of Kigali and a cabinet minister. Charles Kabonero, the paper's former editor, was sentenced to one year in prison. Didas Gasana, who had replaced him as editor, and Richard Kayigamba, a reporter, received six months each. In addition, all three were fined one million Rwandan francs (\$1,800). Gasana later fled the country.

In 2009, the Media High Council (MHC) drafted freedom of information legislation, but at the end of 2010 it had yet to pass the cabinet and parliament. The MHC, set up under the 2009 media law to license journalists and media outlets, has been criticized for focusing more on policing the media than protecting press freedom. In April 2010, it suspended two of the main independent newspapers, *Umuwugizi* and *Umuseso*, for six months. This came four months after the country's information minister declared that the two papers' days "were numbered" after publishing articles critical of President Kagame. *Umuwugizi* has since launched an electronic version of its newspaper, but access to its website has been blocked inside Rwanda. A week before the August presidential elections, the MHC issued a communiqué listing 19 radio stations and 22 newspapers that had been recognized by the government as "fulfilling the publication or broadcasting conditions envisaged by the law of 12 August 2009 that regulates the media." Up to 30 media outlets were excluded for not fulfilling the publications or broadcasting conditions. Two days later, the MHC ordered the security forces to shut down the outlets that had not been approved, including the leading newspapers *Umuseso*, *Umuwugizi*, and *Umurabayo*, and the radio stations Voice of Africa Rwanda and Voice of America.

The presidential elections of 2010, the defections of senior military officers, and grenade attacks in Kigali all gave the government excuses to clamp down on the media. A journalist was killed for the first time since 1998, and several more fled the country. In June, Jean-Léonard Rugambage, a journalist with *Umuwugizi*, was shot dead outside his home in Kigali. Prior to his death, *Umuwugizi* had published an article based on information received by Rugambage alleging the involvement of senior Rwandan officials in the attempted murder of Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, a former Rwandan general currently in exile in South Africa. Two individuals were arrested for Rugambage's murder. The authorities allege that they confessed to killing Rugambage as revenge for a murder that Rugambage supposedly committed during the 1994 genocide. During the year, Jean Bosco Gasasira, editor of *Umuwugizi*, fled to neighboring Uganda, acting on a tip that Rwandan security forces planned to assassinate him. At the end of 2009, Gasasira had been convicted of defamation and invasion of privacy for an article detailing an alleged extramarital affair between the country's deputy prosecutor and the head of the National Council for Women. Although he was fined \$5,720, the prosecution called for a jail term and the closure of the media outlet. In July, another newspaper editor, Agnès Uwimana Nkusi of the *Umurabyo* newspaper, was arrested in connection with opinion articles her newspaper had published. Two journalists, Saidati Mukakibibi and Patrick Kambale of the same newspaper, were also arrested.

The Rwandan media is dominated by progovernment newspapers and radio stations. The state-owned radio and television outlets and the only English-language daily, the *New Times*, reach the largest audiences. There were a handful of privately owned periodicals in English, French, and Kinyarwanda that published intermittently, but state media predominated even in the vernacular print sector. No attempts have been made to transform the state radio and television outlets into editorially and financially independent public broadcasters, and both remained subservient to the ruling party. Although there were a dozen private radio stations, their geographic reach was limited, and they avoided any coverage that could be deemed critical of the regime. Government officials regularly appeared as guests in the private media, but opposition supporters were excluded. In July, copies of the first edition of the *Newsline*, an English-language newspaper produced by journalists in exile, were seized by Rwandan police at the Uganda-Rwanda border. Low pay for journalists, especially in the private media, can lead to corruption, and often journalists withhold damaging stories from publication in exchange for money and gifts. Many qualified journalists have left the profession for jobs that pay more, often in teaching or public relations. The work environment at media outlets is also made difficult by the high cost of training and the lack of modern equipment like computers and digital cameras.

Approximately 8 percent of the population accessed the internet during the year. The government, which was not previously known to filter internet content, blocked the *Umuwugizi* website in June 2010. Most online news content originating from within Rwanda was produced by state media, while critical bloggers and publishers were generally based abroad.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 20

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	21,F	20,F	19,F	19,F	20,F

St. Lucia

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 2

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 4

Total Score: 15

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	18,F	16,F	16,F	15,F	15,F

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 7

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 17

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	16,F	17,F	17,F	17,F	17,F

Samoa

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 7

Political Environment: 14

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 30

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	29,F	30,F	29,F	29,F	29,F

San Marino

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 6

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 17

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	17,F	17,F	17,F	17,F	17,F

Sao Tome and Principe

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 11

Economic Environment: 14

Total Score: 29

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
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Total Score, Status	29,F	29,F	28,F	28,F	28,F
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Saudi Arabia

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 28

Political Environment: 30

Economic Environment: 25

Total Score: 83

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	79,NF	82,NF	81,NF	82,NF	83,NF

The media environment in Saudi Arabia remained among the most repressive in the Arab world in 2010. The 1992 Basic Law does not provide for press freedom, and certain provisions of the law allow authorities to exercise broad powers to prevent any act that may lead to disunity or sedition. The 49 provisions of the 1963 Publishing and Printing Law govern the establishment of media outlets and the rights and responsibilities of journalists, and stipulate penalties for press violations, such as fines and imprisonment. According to the official media policy, the press should be a tool to educate the masses, propagate government views, and promote national unity. Avoiding criticism of the royal family, Islam, or religious authorities is an unwritten policy that is followed routinely. Media outlets in Saudi Arabia are administered by the Ministry of Culture and Information, which uses laws and royal decrees to restrict media freedom. Nevertheless, Saudi officials have allowed the media to express a moderate level of criticism of the government in recent years, and journalists continued to test the boundaries in 2010 by raising issues previously considered off-limits. For example, following devastating floods in Jeddah that killed 123 Saudis in November, many journalists openly criticized the government's handling of the crisis, and authorities showed an unusual degree of tolerance for dissenting views.

Journalists can be fined or imprisoned for publishing material deemed objectionable by the authorities, and self-censorship is widespread as a result. On May 17, the editor in chief of *Al-Watan*, Jamal Khashoggi, resigned under alleged pressure from government officials who objected to the newspaper's criticism of Saudi Arabia's conservative religious establishment. In late October, Fahd al-Jukhaidib, a correspondent for *Al-Jazira*, was sentenced to two months in prison and 50 lashes for allegedly "instigating protests" because of a 2008 article detailing citizens' struggles with frequent power outages in Qubba and a protest in front of the government-owned electric company. And in December, law professor and civil rights activist Mohammed Abdallah al-Abdulkarim was arrested and detained for an online article he wrote describing the political divisions within the royal family and King Abdullah's failing health. He remained imprisoned at year's end. Additionally, journalists may also be subject to extralegal intimidation or even death threats for publishing material that is perceived to be sexually offensive or insulting to Islam. In recent years, Saudi clerics have issued *fatwas* calling for the killing of journalists accused of apostasy. However, there were few cases of physical harassment or violence against journalists in 2010.

The Saudi government has been known to directly censor both local and international media, confiscating print runs and shutting down newspapers temporarily or permanently. All

journalists must register with the Ministry of Culture and Information, and foreign journalists face visa obstacles and restrictions on freedom of movement. Elections to the governing board of the Saudi Journalists Association are heavily influenced and controlled by the ministry. Female journalists in Saudi Arabia face multiple forms of gender discrimination such as lesser pay, discouragement from working as freelancers, and limitations requiring them to report solely on topics related to women, family, and children. The government also blacklists authors and specific books deemed politically controversial or sexually offensive. During the Riyadh International Book Fair on March 6, Saudi authorities confiscated all of the works by Abdellah al-Hamid, a well-known political activist and longtime critic of the royal family.

There are 10 daily newspapers in Saudi Arabia, and although all are privately owned, most owners are associated with either the government or members of the royal family. Members of the royal family also own two popular London-based dailies, *Asharq al-Aswat* and *Al-Hayat*, that serve a wider Arab audience. Broadcast media are also controlled by the government, which owns and operates all domestic television and radio stations. Satellite television has become widespread despite its illegal status and is an important source of foreign news; nevertheless, much of the satellite industry is controlled by Saudi investors and is respectful of local sensibilities.

Only 41 percent of Saudi residents used the internet in 2010, and the rate of internet penetration is relatively low compared to other Gulf countries. The Saudi government is one of the most restrictive censors of online material in the region. King Abdul-Aziz City for Science and Technology (KACST)—a government institution charged with developing and coordinating internet-related policies—is the sole gateway for Saudi users and manages the connections between the national and international internet, with all privately owned service providers linked to the main server at KACST. Through KACST, the government continues to block and filter websites deemed offensive, critical, or immoral. Updated lists of undesirable websites are continuously fed to the filters, and users attempting to access banned sites receive warnings and are told that their attempts are being recorded. E-mail and chat rooms are also reportedly monitored by the Saudi Telecommunications Company, and the government temporarily blocked BlackBerry smartphone users from accessing e-mail, instant messaging, and web browsing in August 2010. A 2001 cabinet resolution prohibits internet users from publishing or obtaining content that is “contrary to the state or its system” and a 2006 law criminalizes internet-based defamation. In September, the Ministry of Information proposed a new law that would require online newspapers, blogs, and forums to obtain licenses from the government in order to operate, but the regulations would not take effect until January 2011. Journalists and bloggers strongly condemned the proposed legislation, which would significantly increase the government’s oversight of online expression.

Given the restricted environment for print and broadcast media, there has been a significant rise in the number of Saudi blogs in recent years, totaling an estimated 5,000 in 2010. The Saudi government has increasingly responded by blocking select blogs and harassing bloggers. On May 15, the human rights activist and blogger Mekhlef al-Shammari was arrested for criticizing Saudi Arabia’s conservative religious establishment. The authorities also continued to block blogs, websites, and pages on the Twitter microblogging service that comment on political, social, religious, and human rights issues. On October 12, the government blocked the website Elaph after it published U.S. diplomatic cables obtained by WikiLeaks that were embarrassing to the Saudi royal family. On November 13, the social networking site

Facebook was blocked for a day after users published content that “crossed a line,” according to Saudi authorities.

Senegal

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 20

Political Environment: 20

Economic Environment: 14

Total Score: 54

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	44,PF	46,PF	49,PF	53,PF	57,PF

Senegal’s laws provide for press freedoms, but the government of President Abdoulaye Wade continued to limit these freedoms in practice. The government has occasionally employed provisions of the 1977 penal code—including Article 80, which criminalizes vaguely defined threats to national security—to harass, prosecute, fine, and incarcerate critical journalists. Article 8 of the 2001 constitution ostensibly protects freedom of expression and of the press. However, defamation, libel, and insult are criminal offenses, and such charges are frequently brought against journalists in order to block or punish critical reporting or commentary. In August 2010, Abdourahmane Diallo, editor of the daily *Express News*, was sentenced in absentia to six months in jail for defaming Wade’s chief of staff, Pape Samba Mboup. A warrant was issued for the journalist’s arrest, but he had not been detained by year’s end. In November, Abdou Latif Coulibaly, one of Senegal’s most prominent and critical journalists, and two journalists who work with him on his weekly newspaper, *La Gazette*, were fined 20 million CFA francs (roughly \$40,000) and given one-month suspended jail sentences in a libel case stemming from reports of alleged kickbacks in the allocation of a mobile phone license. Reporters Without Borders stated that the proceedings against Coulibaly raised concerns over judicial impartiality and represented an attempt to intimidate the local press corps. The threat of legal action, accompanied by aggressive official rhetoric against the press, has reportedly led to a rising level of self-censorship among some journalists. Still, many media outlets continue to publish and broadcast strident antigovernment views and reports. Following a seminar in December 2009, parliament and government officials agreed to form a committee to review a draft law on Access to Information in January, but little progress was made and there was still no law providing for freedom of information by year’s end.

Journalists face harassment and assaults while covering the news, much of which comes from the authorities. In July 2010, Najib Sagna, a reporter with the privately owned newspaper *Walf Grand Place*, was reportedly attacked by four assailants—including a relative of Madam Coumba Gaye, deputy minister of justice and human rights—in connection with a gossip article alleging that Gaye had had a son with another cabinet minister. In October, police “manhandled” a group of journalists and confiscated some of their equipment as they were attempting to cover a demonstration in the city of Pikine, according to the Media Foundation for West Africa. In June, plainclothes police reportedly raided the printing house of the Dakar-based daily newspaper *Le Populaire*, confiscating printing materials in an attempt to prevent the publication of a petition

demanding a probe into the alleged disappearance of funds paid to the government by a privately owned telecommunications group. The newspaper subsequently resumed publication. Separately, in November, one of four policemen charged with assaulting two sports journalists in 2008 was found guilty and given a one-month suspended sentence; this was viewed as a relatively positive development by media advocates.

Many private, independent print publications and three government-affiliated newspapers continue to publish regularly in the capital, though their distribution in rural areas is irregular at best. Radio is the most important source of news due to high illiteracy rates, and a number of community, private, and public radio stations operate across the country, with more than 80 radio frequencies allocated to date. Critics allege that Wade’s associates in politics, business, and the religious community receive preferential treatment in the allocation of frequencies and enforcement of broadcasting fees. The four private television channels that now operate carry mostly entertainment programming. The only national television station, state-owned Radio Television Senegal (RTS), generally favors the government in its news coverage. The executive staff members of RTS are all directly or indirectly selected by the president. The government has also been accused of selectively granting or withholding state subsidies to influence media outlets. Foreign satellite television and radio stations, including Radio France Internationale and the British Broadcasting Corporation, are available and unrestricted. Internet access is also unrestricted, and approximately 16 percent of the population accessed the medium in 2010.

Serbia

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 9

Political Environment: 15

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 33

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	40,PF	39,PF	39,PF	39,PF	35,PF

Freedom of the press is protected under Serbia’s constitution and legal system. The current government appears to be making obvious efforts to break the climate of impunity and improve access to public information. Despite legal protections, due to a highly politicized culture, the media operate in an unfriendly environment and continue to face physical and verbal attacks. For instance, while reporting on Kosovo has long been a complicated matter, in 2010 members of the media reporting on nationalism, extremism, football fan clubs, human rights issues, and gender and sexuality issues were also harassed. Libel remains a criminal offense but, since 2006, it has been punishable only by fines, not jail time.

There were a number of notable positive legal developments in 2010. In a defamation case against journalist Dragana Kocic and editor Timosenko Milosavljevic of the daily *Narodnih Novina*, the High Court in Nis ruled in August in favor of the defendants, after they were first sentenced to pay a fine for publishing quotes from official documents. Although the Court of First Instance in April rejected charges against six people accused of threatening B92 journalist Brankica Stankovic in late 2009 for her reporting on the activities of extremist football fan clubs,

the Higher Court of Appeal overruled the decision later in the year. Three of the six suspects were sentenced to prison terms of 3 to 16 months, in the authorities' first use of amendments to the Criminal Code from 2009 that specifically make endangering the work of a journalist a crime. The three suspects who were arrested in 2009 for their involvement in the 2008 car bombing that had killed the owner and director of the Zagreb weekly *Nacional* went on trial in April in Serbia. In another boost to media freedom, the Constitutional Court in July struck down a set of 2009 amendments to the Law on Public Information, which had sought to limit who could establish a media outlet.

The media governing body, the Republic Broadcasting Council, has undergone reform in recent years; in 2009, guidelines for appointing members of the board were adopted, and procedures for decision-making and allocating frequencies have become more transparent. All decisions of the body are now published on the internet. The agency has also opened several local offices in the country. In 2010, it agreed to reduce licensing fees, which were one of the region's highest. Media organizations are concerned about the adoption of the new Electronic Communications Law allowing the government to monitor and store citizens' electronic communications, which could be used to stifle investigative reporting.

Despite positive developments, the media in Serbia continue to face considerable political pressure, and government interference in editorial policies remains a concern. Journalists outside the capital often face direct pressure from local authorities. In April, local officials in Novi Pazar sought to terminate a contract with the local station TV Jedinstvo, under which the station was due to receive a monthly allowance for its coverage of the mayor and local administration, in order to influence its editorial policy. In February, authorities in the town of Pirot withdrew contractual support for the weekly *Pirotske Novine* after the newspapers published a critique of the mayor's financial activities. In August, the mayor of Zajecar prevented directors of companies and public institutions in his city from speaking to the media without his consent.

Physical attacks, in particular, were a concern in 2010. In July, a reporter for the weekly *Vreme* was attacked by two men with metal bars in Belgrade. The journalist, Teofil Pancic, believes the attack was linked to his work. The police identified his attackers as members of an extremist organization. The suspects were convicted in September and sentenced to three months in prison, although the law stipulates a minimum six-month imprisonment for violent assault. Pressure on journalists continues to come not only from extremist and fringe elements of society, but also from authorities. In February, Minister of Infrastructure Milutin Mrkonjic verbally and physically assaulted a *Kurir* journalist, Milan Ladjevic. In September, a *Blic* journalist was reportedly physically attacked by the driver for the mayor of Aleksandrovac. In February, Aleksandra Delic, a journalist for the daily *Vecernje Novosti*, reported that she was threatened by a Serbian Orthodox priest, who is a co-owner of the Serbian weekly *Glas Podrinja*, which Delic was investigating in her articles. There has been little progress in the investigations of the murders of journalists dating back several years, including the 1999 murder of Slavko Curuvija, and the attempted murder of a journalist in 2007.

The broadcast media are dominated by the public broadcaster RTS1, but print media are numerous and very diverse. They are mostly privately owned, although major broadcasters are still owned or controlled by the government, in spite of a law prohibiting state ownership. The economic environment remains a significant constraint in Serbia, particularly as the economy contracted in 2009, and then only modestly improved in 2010. The media are now more heavily dependent on advertising contracts and government subsidies. With the legal environment undergoing reform and the political situation an issue that the media have learned to deal with,

most local media report that economic pressures are the factor that most negatively affects media freedom in Serbia. Economic pressures include payment defaults, termination of cooperation and contracts, changes to business contracts, and financial inspections. The economic crisis has exacerbated self-censorship, with media organizations reporting a significant decrease in investigative journalism. The government has yet to adopt the Law on Media Concentration and the Law on Advertising.

In 2010, 41 percent of Serbians accessed the internet. Although the internet is unrestricted, a new Law on Electronic Communications adopted on June 29 requires telecommunications providers to keep records of the source and destination of all electronic communications for one year for potential government use.

[Note: This report does not reflect conditions in Kosovo, which is now covered separately.]

Seychelles

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 17

Political Environment: 20

Economic Environment: 19

Total Score: 56

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	60,PF	60,PF	59,PF	59,PF	58,PF

The media environment in Seychelles during the past decade has been characterized by government monopolization of radio and television, draconian libel laws that have been used liberally against opposition newspapers, occasional attacks against and harassment of media workers, and extensive self-censorship. While the legal framework that has supported this environment is largely still in place, recently there appears to have been some movement toward a somewhat freer media.

The constitution provides for freedom of speech but also restricts this right by protecting the reputation, rights, and privacy of citizens as well as the “interest of defense, public safety, public order, public morality, or public health.” It also grants the minister of information the power to prohibit the broadcast of any material deemed contradictory to “national interest.” Since the court of appeals in 2007 overturned a libel conviction against *Regar*, an opposition weekly, which forced it to close, the filing of libel charges and libel convictions have diminished. Nevertheless, civil libel suits can still be used against journalists. In July 2010, a cabinet minister filed a libel lawsuit against *Regar* for its publication of allegations of a conflict of interest in a land sale.

The state has a *de facto* monopoly over the widely consumed broadcast media (both radio and television), and private broadcasters have been slow to develop because of restrictive licensing fees of more than 800,000 rupees (\$60,000) per year. Following one opposition party’s efforts to raise enough money for a radio license, the National Assembly in 2006 passed an amendment to the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Act prohibiting politically affiliated groups from obtaining a license. In August 2009, a report by two independent consultants

commissioned by the president to critically examine the state of the media in the country was published. The report recommended the formation of a media council, media association, and joint consultation committee, as well as amending the libel laws. In late 2009, the Seychelles Media Association, a grouping of media professionals, was reconstituted after a 10-year absence, and in December 2010 the National Assembly approved the Seychelles Media Commission Act 2010, setting up an independent media arbitration body. No cases of attacks or harassment against journalists were reported in 2010.

There are two daily newspapers, the privately owned *Rising Sun* and the state-owned *Seychelles Nation*, which rarely publish stories critical of the government. Three weekly newspapers—*Regar*, the *People*, and *Le Nouveau Seychelles Weekly*—are affiliated with political parties. The nation’s two radio stations and the sole television station are all owned by the government and operated by the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC), which also relays foreign stations. Telecommunications companies must submit subscriber information to the government. Although the internet is available and unrestricted in the Seychelles, there have been reports of the government monitoring the e-mail, chat rooms, and blogs of the nearly 41 percent of the population with access in 2010.

Sierra Leone

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 15

Political Environment: 22

Economic Environment: 16

Total Score: 53

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	59,PF	56,PF	59,PF	56,PF	55,PF

Sierra Leone’s constitution guarantees freedoms of speech and of the press, but journalists remain subject to attacks and harassment by politicians who rarely face any consequences for their actions; also, media outlets continue to face difficult economic conditions. Self-censorship is rare, however, and although most Sierra Leonean journalists are poorly trained and ill-equipped, many show great bravery in the face of frequent dangers.

The Public Order Act of 1965 allows for prison terms of up to three years for criminal libel and up to one year for the separate crime of publishing false news. Criminal libel charges apply in some cases even when the defendant can prove the published information was true, and defendants charged with publication of false news must prove they took reasonable measures to verify the information’s accuracy. The constitutionality of the act was challenged in 2009 by the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), but the Supreme Court upheld it. In January 2010, legislator Ibrahim Bundu filed criminal libel charges against three activists from National Elections Watch who had written a report alleging that Bundu interfered with the result of a chieftaincy election in Northern Province and imposed as chief a candidate who had been disqualified from the election. The case was dismissed for lack of evidence after nine months.

Discussions on a Right to Access Information Bill to guarantee freedom of information in Sierra Leone have been ongoing for several years. In 2009, President Ernest Bai Koroma and

other government figures pledged their support for a draft law prepared by the Society for Democratic Initiatives, a local advocacy group, and largely endorsed by Article 19. In June 2010, after slightly weakening the draft law, Sierra Leone's cabinet passed the bill, and in November the parliament gave it a first reading and referred it to a committee. The passage of the bill was still pending at year's end.

The media in Sierra Leone are regulated by the Independent Media Commission (IMC), whose members are appointed by the president "acting on the advice of SLAJ and subject to the approval of parliament," according to the Independent Media Commission (Amendment) Act of 2006. The IMC provides an alternative to pressing charges under the Public Order Act; aggrieved parties can register complaints with the IMC, which affords them a hearing. If the IMC agrees that a complaint of libel, defamation, or falsehood is valid, it can request that the offending media outlet publish a retraction and an apology. If the outlet does not comply, after three reminders the IMC can levy a fine of 500,000 leones (about \$11). The IMC can also summon editors at its own discretion, as it did, for example, in August 2010, when it called in the heads of two newspapers to reprimand them for publishing ethnically inflammatory articles.

Journalists face threats, harassment, and assaults, especially from authorities, while covering the news. On February 27, 2010, 10 journalists covering the national conference of the opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) were attacked, beaten, and robbed of their recording devices and mobile phones in full view of several top SLPP leaders, who did nothing to stop the attack. According to SLAJ, the attackers later admitted their responsibility and agreed to pay the journalists' medical bills and replace the damaged items. In March, the deputy minister of labour, employment, and industrial relations, Moijue Kaikai, allegedly made threatening phone calls to radio journalist Melvin Rogers and Rogers's mother. Rogers had reported on local radio station Radio Democracy that Kaikai had illegally visited an area in the Bo District shortly before a local council by-election to campaign for the ruling All People's Congress (APC) candidate. Kaikai later repeated the threats against Rogers's life and job at a press conference on March 2. SLAJ and the Independent Radio Network (IRN) sent a letter of complaint to Koroma with a CD recording of Kaikai's death threat. According to the *Awareness Times*, Kaikai physically attacked Rogers with "hired thugs" on March 20 and again on April 10. In September, the Media Foundation of West Africa reported that Radio Democracy was suffering threats and harassment from unknown persons. After its rent was suddenly increased by a factor of four, it was evicted and forced to set up a temporary studio on the premises of another radio station, Sky Radio. Radio Democracy and the proprietor of Sky Radio then began receiving threats. In August, Arthwah Maddie, a court reporter for the newspaper *For Di People*, was detained at Pademba Road Prison for about four hours on the orders of a Freetown court magistrate. According to Maddie, the magistrate, Bankole Shyllon, was angered by a typographical error in an article that misstated the age of a young man accused of incest. In October, Kadijatu Savage, a journalist with the *Independent Observer*, was beaten and detained by police after photographing them attacking motor taxi riders.

Numerous independent newspapers circulate freely, and there are dozens of public and private radio and television outlets. The number of community radio stations has proliferated in recent years. However, all Sierra Leonean newspapers are written in English, a language only about a third of Sierra Leoneans speak. Many radio and television programs are also in English, although some are in local languages. Due to Sierra Leone's poverty, newspapers lack resources and advertising rates are among the lowest in the world. Also, the business management and structures of media outlets are not always entirely efficient. Many community radio stations are

not sustainable due to their dependence on foreign grants for operations and the difficulty of overcoming high operational costs such as providing electricity, especially in the rural areas. Few news sources can afford to station reporters outside Freetown, and printing presses and other materials are scarce and unreliable. Journalists' pay, in general, is very low, and many work without pay, leading them to take second jobs that can cause conflicts of interest. According to SLAJ president Umaru Fofana, business interests often attempt to influence the editorial content of newspapers. In June, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service and United Nations Radio were merged to create a public-service broadcaster, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation. The government does not restrict internet access, though only 0.8 percent of the population used the medium during the year, according to Internet World Stats.

Singapore

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 24

Political Environment: 23

Economic Environment: 21

Total Score: 68

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	66,NF	69,NF	69,NF	68,NF	68,NF

Media freedom in Singapore continued to be constrained in 2010, with the vast majority of print and broadcast journalists practicing self-censorship for fear of harsh defamation charges. The November 16 sentencing of British author Alan Shadrake on contempt of court charges for a book criticizing the nation's use of capital punishment seemed to substantiate claims that Singapore's government routinely uses the judiciary as a means of going after its critics.

Freedoms of speech and expression are guaranteed by Article 14 of the constitution, but there are restrictions on these rights. The Newspapers and Printing Presses Act (NPPA), the Defamation Act, and the Internal Security Act (ISA) also constrain press freedom, allowing the authorities to restrict the circulation of news deemed to incite violence; arouse racial or religious tensions; interfere in domestic politics; or threaten public order, national interest, or national security. The Sedition Act, in effect since the colonial period, outlaws seditious speech, the distribution of seditious materials, and acts with "seditious tendency." The media also face harsh punishments for perceived personal attacks on government officials. As suggested by the case of Shadrake, the Singapore judiciary lacks independence and systematically returns verdicts in the government's favor, further undermining press freedom in the city-state. The 2010 publication of Shadrake's book *Once a Jolly Hangman: Singapore Justice in the Dock*, which questioned the impartiality and independence of Singapore's courts in applying the death sentence, led to his arrest in July and a sentence of six weeks in prison with a 20,000 Singapore dollars (US\$15,400) fine for "scandalizing the court" in November. Authorities indicated in news reports that they were still considering additional criminal defamation charges at year's end.

Singapore's Parliament has been dominated by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) since 1959, and ruling party members are quick to use harsh civil and criminal defamation laws to silence and bankrupt political opponents and critical media outlets. Foreign media in

Singapore are also subject to such pressures and restrictive laws. For example, the New York Times Company, threatened by a lawsuit for an article by Philip Bowring called “All in the Family” that was published in the February 15 edition of the *International Herald Tribune*, was forced to apologize both to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and to his father, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore’s founding prime minister. In addition to the apology, the company was required to pay US\$114,000 in damages. Foreign media are required by the Ministry of Information, Communication, and the Arts to post bond and appoint a local legal representative if they wish to publish in Singapore.

Films, television programs, music, books, and magazines are sometimes censored; all films with a political purpose are banned unless sponsored by the government. In July, the government banned another film by Singaporean filmmaker and blogger Martyn See about prominent political prisoner Dr. Lim Hock Siew’s arrests and detention under the ISA in 1963. Unlike previous bans, when See’s films could still be viewed on the internet, the government’s Media Development Authority ordered See to remove all digital copies of the film uploaded on YouTube and his own blog. Journalists, in general, can cover the news freely and without harassment. Cases of physical attacks against members of the press are extremely rare, and none were reported in 2010.

Nearly all print and broadcast media outlets, internet service providers, and cable television services are either owned or controlled by the state or by companies with close ties to the PAP. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service is the only completely independent radio station available in the country. Satellite television is forbidden. A substantial variety of foreign newspapers and magazines are distributed uncensored, but the government is authorized to limit the circulation of print editions. Annual licensing requirements for all media outlets, including political and religious websites, have been used to inhibit criticism of the government.

The internet was accessed by 70 percent of the population in 2010. Internet use is widespread in Singapore, but the government attempts to restrict and control it by licensing internet service providers. Websites offering political or religious content are also required to register with the government’s Media Development Authority (MDA), thus making a website’s owners and editors criminally liable for any content that the government finds objectionable. Although the ruling party has been successful in curbing dissenting opinion among traditional print and broadcast media, the internet has proven more difficult to control, and new media continue to occupy a small but significant democratic space. While not commercially viable, bloggers and discussion groups nevertheless offer alternative views and a virtual channel for expressing dissent.

Slovakia

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 22

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
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Total Score, Status	20,F	20,F	22,F	23,F	23,F
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Press freedom in Slovakia is constitutionally guaranteed and generally respected, and independent media outlets freely disseminate diverse views. Defamation is not a criminal offense, though some other types of expression—such as Holocaust denial—can, and have been, sanctioned with criminal prosecutions. In the first half of 2010, Slovakia’s court system was flooded with civil defamation suits, primarily against media outlets. Financial damages awarded in such cases awarded are often exorbitant. In May 2010, the president of the Supreme Court, Stefan Harabin, sued Slovak Radio Express on behalf of the court for claiming that it had paid €32,700 (\$43,475) to renovate Harabin’s private bathroom. A case brought by then prime minister Robert Fico against the weekly publication *Plus 7 Dni* sought an apology and €33,000 (\$43,890) in damages for publishing allegedly false details of a conversation between Fico and Libya’s leader, Mu’ammar al-Qadhafi. The case was dismissed in November 2010.

Newspapers in 2009 and early 2010 also struggled with the repercussions of the 2008 Press Act, which places restrictions on content, grants powers of intervention to the state executive, and requires publishers to print responses to any “statement of fact that impinges on the honor, dignity, or privacy of a natural person, or the name or good reputation of a legal entity,” regardless of whether the statement in question is accurate. Work on a draft amendment to the Press Act began in the fall, but was still in preparation at year’s end. The amendment is expected to eliminate the “right of reply” for officials in cases where the disputed facts pertain to their public lives. In other respects, the law will not change significantly.

Slovakia’s decade-old Act on Free Access to Information allows anyone to demand information from state agencies and receive an answer within 10 days, with noncompliant officials subject to potential fines. A series of studies by the Citizen and Democracy Association in 2002 found that basic information was usually provided but more sensitive data was sometimes withheld.

Official pressure on public media outlets continued to be a concern. In the run-up to the 2010 parliamentary elections, Fico’s government continued to pressure Slovak Television (STV) to provide favorable coverage of official events. The June elections resulted in a new center-right governing coalition led by Iveta Radičová, who pledged to prioritize economic, social welfare, and media concerns. No physical attacks or harassment of journalists were reported during the year.

Most Slovak media outlets, including all major print outlets, are privately owned. Lack of transparency in media ownership remains a concern, as does inadequate enforcement of regulations on cross-ownership of media outlets. In late 2010, the parliament passed legislation over the president’s veto to merge public television and the financially weak Slovak Radio (SRo) to form a new public service provider, Radio and Television Slovakia (RTS). Though pressure from the government and judiciary seemed to be waning by the end of the year, Slovak media outlets face increasing financial pressures that are quite likely to affect their independence. In March 2010, Slovakia’s leading financial group, J&T, purchased the country’s second-most-popular daily newspaper, *Pravda*. Three years ago, the same company assumed control of TV Joj, Slovakia’s second-largest television network. Media analysts worry that the increased appetite of multinational financial giants like J&T or the Czech Republic’s PPF for media acquisitions will eventually result in protection from bad publicity for the publications’ new owners.

Electronic media are diverse and pluralistic. Slovaks enjoy growing access to the internet, which the government does not restrict; approximately 79 percent of the population had access in 2010.

Slovenia

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 8

Political Environment: 10

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 25

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	20,F	21,F	23,F	24,F	25,F

Slovenia’s constitution and legal system guarantee freedom of the press, and the media for the most part operates free of political interference. At times, however, press outlets are punished or threatened for reporting on controversies and corruption surrounding powerful political figures and parties.

Articles 170 and 171 of the Slovenian Criminal Code, on defamation and injurious accusation, have often been invoked against journalists who published damaging claims about political figures. Shortly before the 2008 elections, Finnish public broadcaster YLE aired a documentary accusing Prime Minister Janez Janša of receiving kickbacks from arms deals between Slovenia and Finnish defense contractor Patria. In response, the Slovenian Foreign Ministry sent two communiqués to the Finnish government protesting the documentary and demanding a clarification. In July 2009, Slovenian prosecutors charged Magnus Berglund, the Finnish journalist responsible for the documentary, with defamation under the aforementioned article 171, requesting a maximum six-month jail sentence. In January 2010, Janša—no longer prime minister but still head of the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS)—filed a €1.5 million (\$2.15 million) damage claim in a Slovenian district court against YLE, Berglund, and several other individuals for offensive allegations. However, Janša was charged in August with accepting bribes in the Patria case.

The Mass Media Act of 2006 established the “right of correction,” according to which anybody offended or insulted by information published by the media, even truthful information, can demand a “correction” published in the same space as the offending article. The government, as well as large companies, has utilized this law to demand that newspapers print “corrections” that may be longer than the original article to state their defense. These “corrections” hinder editorial independence and journalists’ freedom to publish critical articles. The Ministry for Culture is the main regulatory body of the print media and supervises the implementation of the Mass Media Act. The ministry also handles complaints against the media from the public. Electronic communications, as well as radio and television programs, are regulated by the Post and Electronic Communications Agency of the Republic of Slovenia. The agency’s responsibilities include monitoring the content of broadcasting programs and stimulating competition within the broadcasting industry. The Access to Information of Public Character Act was established in 2003 and ensures free access to information.

There are very few cases of threats and physical harassment against journalists, and journalists are generally able to cover the news freely. However, in October 2010, Jaka Elikan, a reporter for the Slovenian business daily *Finance*, reported that he had been threatened with death by Jure Jankovic, the son of the mayor of Ljubljana. Elikan had been investigating Electa, a company owned by the younger Jankovic.

The print media, including eight daily newspapers, reach 89 percent of the population, and the radio and television markets are saturated. There is only one local press agency, the Slovenian Press Agency (STA), which was independent when established in 1991 but is now owned by the prime minister’s office. Media concentration is high and ownership of media outlets changes often, making the market unstable and difficult to monitor. Newspapers critical of the government sometimes face difficulty securing advertisers, and there have been reports that self-censorship is common among journalists who want to avoid problems with their employers. In December 2010, a government-sponsored referendum on the state broadcaster, RTV Slovenia, was rejected by more than 72 percent of those who turned out in a national referendum. The government had argued that the proposal would reduce political interference with the broadcaster, but opposition parties argued that it would have the opposite effect, and that it would make it easier to ultimately privatize RTV. Approximately 70 percent of Slovenians had access to the internet in 2010, and there were no reports of government attempts to restrict internet access during the year.

Solomon Islands

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6

Political Environment: 12

Economic Environment: 11

Total Score: 29

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	30,F	30,F	30,F	30,F	29,F

Article 12 of the Solomon Islands’ constitution guarantees freedom of expression and information, and the government generally respects these rights. Defamation is a criminal offense and is used against the press by authorities. The *Island Sun* newspaper, which has contributed to a livelier media, faced a crippling legal bill for defamation of a former prime minister and state secretary. In a case that dragged on for almost three years, a High Court judge awarded a total of SI\$116,000 (US\$15,600) in damages and legal costs against the newspaper. Editor Priestley Habru vowed to pay the penalty and to carry on publishing. The newspaper had been sued by former prime minister David Derek Sikua and his secretary Jerry Manele over a 2008 news article, cartoon, and editorial about an alleged drunken escapade.

While the political and news media landscape has been fairly stable over the past year, particularly in comparison with earlier in the decade—and there is greater diversity—pressure from politicians trying to limit public debate is still a problem. This has been a major issue for some fledgling news media outlets that are attempting to contribute to a plurality of voices.

Journalists generally are able to cover the news freely without harassment. There were no reports of attacks against journalists during the year.

The long-established *Solomon Star* daily newspaper dominates the local print publishing industry ahead of three weeklies, the *Sun*, *Solomons Voice*, and *Solomon Times*. The Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation operates the national public station Radio Hapi Isles as well as Wantok FM and the provincial stations Radio Hapi Lagun and Radio Temotu. Paoa FM radio leads the commercial sector. A more recent arrival has been Television One, an innovative broadcaster that has provided a competitive and challenging edge to the media industry. There are no restrictions to internet access, but high costs and a lack of infrastructure limited internet penetration to 5 percent of the population in 2010.

Somalia

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 27

Political Environment: 35

Economic Environment: 22

Total Score: 84

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	83,NF	85,NF	84,NF	84,NF	84,NF

The media environment in Somalia varies significantly depending on region, with different conditions in chaotic southern Somalia, the semiautonomous Puntland region in the northeast, and the breakaway region of Somaliland in the northwest. In June 2010 Somaliland held a much-anticipated presidential election that was widely regarded to be free and fair; Ahmed Silanyo defeated the incumbent, President Dahir Riyale Kahin, and power was transferred peacefully. In the south, the president of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, tenuously held on to power. The TFG, which was backed by African Union (AU) peacekeepers, controlled only a small portion of southern Somalia, while the Islamist militant groups Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam continued to control large swathes of the south and most of the capital, Mogadishu.

Somalia's constitution provides for freedom of the press, but owing to the lawless conditions in much of the country, journalists continue to face restrictions on their reporting in practice. There is no freedom of information law to guarantee access to public information, and defamation is a criminal offense. A media bill approved by the Transitional Federal Assembly in late 2007 was criticized by press freedom groups for imposing vague and severe restrictions, including limits on images and speech; calls for media law reform by advocacy groups continued in 2010. However, given the TFG's inability to impose its authority over much of Somalia, the practical effects of the law remain unclear.

The struggle between the TFG, Hizbul Islam, and Al-Shabaab has dramatically affected the media environment in southern Somalia. Media outlets have aligned themselves with political factions as a means of survival, making neutral or objective reporting a rarity. Journalists working for international broadcasters such as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Voice of America (VOA) also face pressure from Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam. In

April 2010, Al-Shabaab banned local radios from retransmitting VOA or the BBC, accusing the stations of airing “Christian propaganda.” Frequent incidents of harassment, arbitrary arrest, and violence against journalists continue to encourage high levels of self-censorship. On the other side, concerns about safety also make those journalists that did interview rebel leaders reluctant to edit or interrupt interviews. Complaints from other regions, including Somaliland, suggested that Al-Shabaab was getting too much airtime and was not being adequately challenged by journalists on-air. Direct censorship also remained a problem, as both groups took over some stations and forced others to close, while demanding that those that were still on air cease broadcasting music. At least 14 radio stations in Mogadishu complied with Hizbul Islam’s April ban on the broadcast of music. However, radio stations faced being closed by the central government for their compliance. According to the local Somali Foreign Correspondents Association, two stations were temporarily taken off the air for not playing music until then information minister Dahir Mohamud Gelle reversed the order.

Numerous journalists have been killed in the capital, either for supporting the wrong political faction or as accidental casualties in armed clashes. Somalia remained one of the deadliest countries for journalists in 2010; according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), three journalists were killed—two in southern Somalia and one in Puntland—but many more were injured. In May, Radio Mogadishu journalist Sheikh Nur Mohamed Abkey was killed, allegedly for his affiliation with the state-owned radio station. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the murder. In a dramatic incident in June 2010, eight journalists were seriously wounded when a bomb went off at a press conference convened by Al-Shabaab. As fighting ensued, the director of the community station, Hurma Radio Barkhat Awale, was killed in the crossfire between Al-Shabaab and AU troops.

Despite the violence, dozens of radio stations aligned with particular factions continued to broadcast in Mogadishu and in other parts of the country. The TFG continued to support Radio Mogadishu, a new outlet with the objective of carrying government-sponsored news and information, as well as providing space for a variety of groups and individual Somalis to voice their opinions. This includes journalists from popular stations such as Horn Afrik and Radio Shabelle, which have found it challenging to operate under Al-Shabaab. In early 2010, a joint UN-AU radio station, Radio Bar Kulan, began broadcasting from Nairobi, Kenya’s capital. Similar to Radio Mogadishu, the new station is intended to offer a platform for voices that may be critical of the extremists and more sympathetic to the TFG and AU forces. The advertising sector is weak and advertising is often not enough to sustain media houses, leaving some to depend on financial support from politicians, thus compromising editorial independence. Some proprietors are able to fund their media houses with their own money. According to the local National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), journalists in all regions of Somalia receive low pay, and many also work either unpaid or without an employment contract. Many media outlets also prefer to hire cheaper, less-trained labor or relatives over more experienced journalists. Because there is an abundance of journalists, those who complain about low wages usually face threats of being replaced.

The status of press freedom was visibly better in Puntland, a self-declared semiautonomous region. The Puntland interim constitution provides for press freedom as long as journalists demonstrate “respect” for the law, but the region also recognizes the TFG. Despite the Puntland president’s stated commitment to greater openness, restrictions remained harsh, and coverage of political and security issues continued to be particularly dangerous for journalists. In August, Abdifatah Jama Mir, the director of Horseed Media FM, was arrested and held for 86

days for interviewing a “rebel leader.” Following this incident, Puntland banned journalists from interviewing rebel militants, citing security threats. In addition, the government accused VOA of fomenting instability in the region. In August, VOA journalist Nuh Muse Birjeb was banned from working in Puntland. That followed the release of his VOA colleague, Mohamed Yasin Isak, after being held for 17 days in early January 2010. Journalists also faced threats, attacks, and harassment from security forces, who usually enjoyed impunity for their actions. In February, a correspondent for Radio SIMBA, Ahmed Ibrahim Noor, was beaten by court guards in the high court in Bosaso town. In August, reporter Abudllahi Omar Gedi was stabbed and left to die after he left work at Radio Daljir in the Galkayo district of Puntland.

Somaliland, a region whose claims of independence have not been internationally recognized, enjoys more press freedom than the rest of the country. The Somaliland constitution guarantees freedoms of speech and of the press. In general, privately owned newspapers were aligned with political parties during the 2010 presidential election, as many journalists and papers were financially supported by the parties. The government media remained sympathetic to the incumbent, despite demands for more balanced reporting and greater access for the opposition. The new Somaliland government has been critical of some media and suspended broadcasts from Universal TV, a satellite broadcaster based in London and Djibouti. The Somaliland government has regularly accused the station of being biased and presenting a pro-Puntland perspective; this is particularly sensitive, as disputes along the border with Puntland have intensified in 2010. Defamation is not a criminal offense, and libel cases are settled through the clan system of arbitration. There is no access to information law in Somaliland, and public officials often do not divulge information unless it is favorable to the government. As in years past, several Somaliland journalists continued to face threatening text messages and harassment from Al-Shabaab. Fearing retaliation, some outlets refrained from openly reporting and condemning the activities of the group.

There are at least seven independent daily newspapers in Somaliland, one government daily, and two English-language newspapers. Most of these outlets are not economically sustainable and are heavily subsidized by the diaspora as well as by political parties and their interests. While the repeatedly postponed regional elections have led to the establishment of more newspapers, the delays have also caused greater polarization in the media. The Somaliland government has been reluctant to liberalize the airwaves, citing the potential of instigating clan violence, an argument that some Somalilanders support. The establishment of independent radio stations is banned, and government-owned Radio Hargeisa remains the only FM station, although the BBC is available in Hargeisa, the capital. Radio Horyaal circumvents the ban on private broadcasting by having its recorded programming transmitted on shortwave from a studio in Belgium. Due to the low literacy rate and the relatively high cost of newspapers, radio remains the most accessible and widespread medium for news. There is one government-owned television station, Somaliland National Television, and a number of Somali-language satellite stations are also accessible. The advertising sector is gradually growing but remains small. Nevertheless, advertising is the main source of revenue for many independent media outlets.

The Somali diaspora in Europe, North America, and the Gulf states have established a rich internet presence. Internet service is available in large cities in Somalia, and users enjoy a relatively fast and inexpensive connection. Nevertheless, owing to pervasive poverty and the internal displacement of many Somalis, access is limited. According to Internet World Stats, approximately 1.1 percent of the Somali population had internet access in 2010. Although there

were no reports of government restrictions on the internet, some factions reportedly monitored internet activity.

South Africa

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 9

Political Environment: 14

Economic Environment: 10

Total Score: 33

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	27,F	28,F	28,F	30,F	32,PF

Freedoms of expression and of the press are protected in the constitution and generally respected in practice, and South Africa has vibrant press freedom advocacy and journalists' organizations. However, several apartheid-era laws and a 2004 Law on Antiterrorism permit authorities to restrict information about the police, national defense forces, prisons, and mental institutions. In January 2010, an e.tv interview with two self-proclaimed criminals vowing to attack World Cup tourists saw both police and party officials attempt to use apartheid-era legislation to force e.tv journalists to reveal their sources (the criminals' identities). Subpoenas against the journalists were dropped following a mediated compromise between the government and the South African National Editors Forum. Libel is not criminalized in South Africa, but civil cases, sometimes involving large fines, continue to be brought against members of the press. In December 2010, President Jacob Zuma of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party announced a R5 million (\$700,000) lawsuit against *Sunday Times* cartoonist Jonathan Shapiro—also known as “Zapiro”—for defamation over a controversial 2008 political cartoon. The constitution protects the right of access to information, and the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2002 puts this practice into effect.

In recent years, additional restrictive legal instruments have been proposed, and in some cases, created. In 2009, the controversial Film and Publications Amendment Act was signed into law to protect against child pornography and hate speech. The legislation—which requires any publisher not recognized by the press ombudsman to submit a wide range of potentially “pornographic” or “violence-inciting” materials to a government board for approval—was widely criticized by press freedom advocates as a means of prepublication censorship. In March 2010, the government sent the Protection of Information Bill to parliament. This bill would allow government officials and agencies to classify any information deemed to be in the national interest. Additionally, the bill insists that journalists establish “public interest” to disclose such information and sets onerous penalties for its unauthorized publication, including up to 25 years in prison. As a result, it was widely condemned by both domestic and international press freedom advocates. Parliamentary debate on the legislation continued at year's end.

Government ministers and other political figures continued to display intolerance of media criticism in 2010, including the ANC's worrying revival of a proposed statutory media tribunal. The tribunal would replace the self-regulating Press Council and Press Ombudsman with a state-run body empowered to hear complaints against the press, hand out stiff

punishments for violating privacy and for defamation, and force the media to issue retractions and apologies. Despite widespread condemnation, the formal legislation for the tribunal was being considered by the ANC at year's end. In addition, recent years have seen a stark increase in the use of court interdictions and gag orders by both governmental and non-state actors. Since 2005, the independent weekly and online daily *Mail & Guardian* has received at least three gag orders to stop reporting on corruption scandals. In January, the new director of the National Prosecuting Authority, Menzi Simelani, mandated that prosecutors must secure prior approval before speaking to the press about investigations and cases.

The year 2010 also saw greater physical harassment of journalists by both political figures—particularly those associated with the ANC Youth League—and the police. In April, Youth League president Julius Malema forced British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) correspondent Jonah Fisher to leave a news conference after hurling insults at him. In August, *Sunday Times* reporter Mzilikazi wa Afrika was arrested for “fraud and defeating the ends of justice” over his alleged possession of a forged, unpublished resignation letter from Mpumalanga premier David Mabuza; wa Afrika had previously reported on corruption in the province, including articles involving national police chief Bheki Cele and Mabuza himself. While wa Afrika was soon released and his case thrown out by prosecutors, the reporter was repeatedly threatened by local Youth League leaders.

A number of private newspapers and magazines—including the *Mail & Guardian*, the *Cape Times*, and the *Sunday Times*—are sharply critical of the government, political parties, and other societal actors. The U.S. State Department notes that 46.4 percent of South Africans have access to print media. Though a variety of publications exist, their content tends to lack diversity as a result of a concentration of ownership among large media groups. The state-run South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) dominates broadcast media. While officially editorially independent, the SABC has come under fire for displaying a pro-ANC bias, for reflecting internal ANC rifts in its management struggles, and for practicing self-censorship. In April 2009, the SABC canceled a scheduled program on political satire that was inspired by the “Zapiro” controversy. After the *Mail & Guardian* posted a leaked copy of the program on its website, the SABC accused the paper of theft. In 2009, SABC internal auditors investigating the leak searched the offices of the broadcaster's investigative reporting unit and subjected staff to lie-detector tests. Also in 2009, the entire SABC board was dissolved by Parliament amid a R839 million (\$100 million) loss for the 2008–09 fiscal year and wide-ranging reports of financial mismanagement. In 2010, four members of the new 12-member board resigned over disagreements with SABC head and former minister for arts, culture, science, and technology Ben Ngubane.

For primarily socioeconomic reasons, most South Africans receive the news via radio outlets, the majority of which are controlled by the SABC. While the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) is involved in efforts to expand the number and broadcasting range of community radio stations, the process is slowed by lack of bandwidth and bureaucratic delays. The SABC's three stations claim most of the television market, but the country's two commercial television stations, e.tv and M-Net, are reaching growing proportions of the population. International broadcasts are unrestricted. According to governance watchdog Global Integrity, the government has threatened to withdraw advertising from newspapers that report on corruption and other scandals.

Internet access is unrestricted, although state monitoring of telecommunications systems is authorized, and 12.3 percent of the population had regular internet access during 2010.

However, access costs and language barriers remain prohibitive for many South Africans. More people can access the internet from their phones than from computers.

South Korea

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 9

Political Environment: 14

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 32

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	30,F	30,F	30,F	30,F	30,F

Status change explanation: South Korea declined from Free to Partly Free to reflect an increase in official censorship, particularly of online content, as well as the government’s attempt to influence media outlets’ news and information content. Over the past several years, an increasing number of online comments have been removed for expressing either pro–North Korean or anti–South Korean views. The current conservative government has also interfered in the management of major broadcast media, with allies of President Lee Myung-bak receiving senior posts at large media companies over the objections of journalists.

Freedom of the press is guaranteed under South Korean law and is generally respected in practice. However, despite having had one of the freest media environments in Asia, since the inauguration of President Lee Myung-bak in 2008 South Korea has experienced a noticeable decline in freedom of expression for both journalists and the general public. Though the government censors films for sex and violence, censorship of the media is against the law. However, Article 7 of the 1948 National Security Law allows imprisonment for praising or expressing sympathy for North Korea. As political tensions with neighboring North Korea have intensified—leading in several cases to armed engagement and skirmishes—officials appear to have become more concerned about the expression of pro–North Korean sentiments, particularly online. In 2010, more than 20 people were booked for making pro–North Korean comments, while over 40,000 pro–North Korean online posts were deleted by operators after pressure from police, more than 100 times the number of deletions five years ago. The government has also blocked access to 13 social networking accounts owned by the North Korean government. Interacting with North Korea’s new Twitter account can lead to up to three years in jail.

Defamation remains a criminal offense, and charges are occasionally threatened or brought against those journalists who express critical views. In June 2009, four producers and a writer for the television program “PD Notebook” were indicted on defamation charges for a 2008 report on U.S. beef imports that sparked weeks of protests; the accused faced five-year prison sentences, but were exonerated in January 2010. A Broadcasting Act passed in 2009, which allows investment by conglomerates and newspaper companies in the broadcasting sector, raised fears that media diversity could be compromised through increased cross-ownership.

The government has also been accused of seeking to extend its influence over several state-controlled broadcast media companies. Since Lee’s inauguration, former presidential aides

and advisers have been appointed to key positions at a number of major media companies over the objections of journalists who have sought to maintain those broadcasters' editorial independence. Under the Lee administration, approximately 160 journalists have been penalized for writing critical reports about government policies, as well as for their roles in advocating for press freedom since 2008. At the end of 2010, eight journalists remained dismissed from their positions at the YTN station and the public Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) network for their participation in similar acts. The Seoul District Court ruled in November 2009 that the dismissals were an abuse of management's disciplinary discretion. The court ordered YTN to reinstate six of its employees, but the station has failed to comply.

Otherwise, South Korea has a vibrant and diverse media, with numerous cable, terrestrial, and satellite television stations and more than 100 daily newspapers in Korean and English. Many newspapers are controlled by larger industrial conglomerates and also depend on large corporations for their advertising revenue. There are both public and private radio and television stations, including an American Forces Network for the U.S. military. The public Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) and MBC networks maintain the highest viewership. According to Reporters Without Borders, following the March 2010 torpedoing of a South Korean warship, allegedly by North Korea, the South Korean government resumed the dissemination of propagandistic messages via radio.

Approximately 84 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010, and a significant number of young people get their news exclusively from online sources. South Korean online media are especially vigorous and innovative. For example, an interactive internet news site called OhMyNews, launched in 2000, allows citizens to submit their own news articles for immediate publication on the site. Aside from pro-North Korean content, the internet is generally unrestricted by regulators, but the government requires all website operators to indicate whether their sites might be harmful to youth. In a unique case in 2009, a blogger, Park Dae-sung, who went by the alias "Minerva," was arrested on the charges of spreading online rumors that the prosecution claimed led to dollar hoarding, prompting the government to inject \$2 billion to stabilize the currency market. The prosecution had sought an 18-month prison term, but Park was acquitted by the Seoul Central District Court.

Spain

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 13

Economic Environment: 6

Total Score: 23

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	21,F	22,F	23,F	24,F	24,F

Freedom of expression is guaranteed in Section 20 of the constitution, and press freedom is generally respected in practice. Threats to press freedom include defamation suits against journalists and economic challenges faced by the news industry, but Spain generally remains a

free and robust media environment. Spain does not have any freedom of information legislation; although a law was drafted in 2010, it had not been passed at year's end.

Several positive legal events took place in 2010. On June 2, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that a sentence for libel handed down to former *Diario 16* newspaper editor Jose Luis Gutierrez by a Spanish court was in violation of freedom of expression and of the press. The case arose in 1997 when the Moroccan Royal Crown sued Gutierrez for a story he had written two years earlier alleging that a truck found carrying large amounts of hashish belonged to then Moroccan King Hassan II. In April 2010, a Spanish court acquitted five journalists affiliated with the shuttered daily *Euskaldunon Egunkaria* who were accused of having ties to the Basque separatist group Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA). The paper's offices had been closed for seven years while the Spanish civil guards tried to find evidence tying the journalists to the radical separatist group. *Egunkaria* is Spain's only Basque-language daily.

There were no reported cases of harassment or attacks against journalists, although prior threats made by ETA have not been rescinded publically. An outlawed political wing of the ETA, Batasuna, called for peace in 2010, but journalists who have been past targets of the group's violent attacks continued to hire bodyguards for protection. In September 2010, Spain welcomed 15 Cuban journalists who were freed after seven years incarceration by the Cuban government.

Spain has a free and diverse press, including both public and private print and broadcast media outlets. Radio Television Espanola runs public radio and television, and several regional and local stations operate throughout Spain. Newspapers are still present in Spain, but several have been downsized in response to the lagging economy. In response to the 2008 financial crisis, in 2009 the Spanish government relaxed media ownership rules, allowing a single entity to own a stake in more than one major broadcaster. However, safeguards include a mandate for at least three distinct broadcasting companies, and a ban on the mergers of the two leading companies. During the first quarter of 2009, advertising income for the Spanish press dropped by one-third; further, more than 3,000 journalists were reported to have been laid off in 2008 alone. In July 2010, press associations and journalists drafted the Madrid Declaration to present to the European Union to demand better financial safeguards for media workers.

There are no government restrictions on the internet in Spain, and 67 percent of the population had access to the medium in 2010. Authorities do monitor websites that publish hate speech and advocate anti-Semitism. For example, three members of a Nazi right wing group were arrested in November 2010 because they spread Nazi ideology through the internet. Controversial legislation called the Sinde Bill was rejected by parliament on December 21, 2010. The bill would have allowed a government commission to inform the national courts of, and subsequently shut down, websites that offer free downloads of copyrighted material.

Sri Lanka

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 23

Political Environment: 30

Economic Environment: 18

Total Score: 71

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2009
Total Score, Status	58,PF	63,NF	67,NF	70,NF	72,NF

Despite the end of the government’s long-running war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel group in May 2009, media freedom remained restricted in Sri Lanka, with journalists subject to myriad forms of legal harassment and physical intimidation. Although the constitution provides for freedom of expression, it and other laws and regulations place significant legal limits on the exercise of this right. The 1979 Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) contains extremely broad restrictions on freedom of expression, such as a prohibition on bringing the government into contempt. The decades-old Official Secrets Act bans reporting on classified information, and those convicted of gathering secret information can be sentenced to up to 14 years in prison. Although no journalist has ever been charged under the law, it is used to threaten them. Journalists are also occasionally threatened with contempt of court charges or questioned regarding their sources. During the year, legal harassment of the *Sunday Leader* continued, with the newspaper facing several defamation and contempt of court charges worth millions of dollars in cases filed by the defense secretary. Several sets of lawyers representing the paper have withdrawn after being intimidated, while another was vilified on the Defense Ministry website. The cases had not been resolved by year’s end. The 1973 Press Council Act, which prohibits disclosure of certain fiscal, defense, and security information, had not been enforced in more than a decade, in keeping with an unwritten agreement between the government and media groups. However, in 2009 the government stated that it was bringing the law back into force. It allows for the imposition of punitive measures, including prison terms, for offenses including publication of internal government communications or cabinet decisions, matters affecting national security, and economic issues that could influence price increases or food shortages.

In 2006, unofficial prepublication censorship on issues of “national security and defense” was imposed by the government’s new Media Center for National Security, which assumed the authority to disseminate all information related to these issues to the media and public. Emergency regulations reintroduced in 2005—and extended by Parliament on a monthly basis since then—allow the government to bar the publication, distribution, performance, or airing of any print or broadcast material deemed likely to cause public disorder. The regulations have been used a number of times to arrest and detain journalists, sometimes for months, without charge. Senior journalist J.S. Tissainayagam, who was sentenced to a 20-year prison term under the PTA in September 2009, received a presidential pardon in June 2010 and was able to leave the country.

There is no enforceable right to information in the constitution or separate legislation. In fact, the Establishments Code, the formal administrative code governing civil servants, actively discourages access to information even on public-interest grounds. Broadcast licensing decisions sometimes appear to be arbitrary and politically influenced. New licensing rules announced in October 2008 barred ownership of broadcast outlets by individuals who have formal political affiliations, and banned content deemed to be “detrimental to national security,” with license suspensions for violators. Following criticism of the new regulations from local groups, the government decided to delay their implementation, and they made no further progress in 2009. In July 2010, authorities announced plans to create a Media Development Authority with sweeping powers to regulate the sector under the guise of promoting media ethics and training. Local press freedom advocacy groups, such as the Free Media Movement, have faced smears and accusations, and its staff operates under considerable threat.

Journalists throughout Sri Lanka, particularly those who cover human rights or military issues, face regular intimidation and pressure from government officials at all levels. Official rhetoric is markedly hostile toward critical or “unpatriotic” journalists and media outlets, with prominent leaders, including Defense Secretary Gothabaya Rajapaksa, often making statements that equate any form of criticism with treason. State-controlled media and the Defense Ministry website have been used to smear and threaten individual journalists and other activists. As a result, levels of self-censorship have risen considerably, with many journalists unwilling to engage in reporting that is critical of the government or Rajapaksa family, as well as issues concerning the end of the war and potential war crimes violations. Some of the bans on physical access by reporters to the war zones and the internment camps continued in 2010, and British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reporters were denied entry to cover hearings related to the civil war in September.

The level of threats and harassment against local journalists and media outlets remained high in 2010. In addition to verbal and physical attacks from official sources, journalists and press advocacy groups perceived as supportive of Tamil interests have drawn the ire of Sinhalese nationalist vigilante groups. On a number of occasions, reporters attempting to cover sensitive news stories were roughed up by police during the course of their duties. While Tamil journalists no longer face the level of threat from the LTTE that they did during the war, they generally refrain from strident criticism of the government, military, or progovernment Tamil political factions. A number of journalists received death threats in 2010, while others were subject to attempted or actual kidnapping and assaults. Around the time of the January presidential election, access to news websites was blocked, the *Lanka* newspaper was shut down, several journalists were detained and questioned, and state media employees were harassed. Prageeth Eknaligoda, a reporter and cartoonist at the pro-opposition *Lanka eNews* website, disappeared and remained missing at year’s end. Officials stalled on investigating the case. Gamini Pushpakumara was dismissed from his position at the state-run Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) television station in January, following his attempts to protest imbalanced coverage of the presidential candidates and elections; after he fled into exile, his wife continued to receive threats against his life. Armed attackers firebombed the premises of the private Siyatha radio station, whose owner had supported former general Sarath Fonseka in the presidential election, in July, damaging broadcast equipment and injuring staff. Earlier, the media group’s newspaper had been prevented from covering events and had had official advertising withdrawn, forcing it to shut down. The offices of Sirasa TV, the country’s largest private broadcaster, were attacked by a stone-throwing mob in March; the attackers had arrived on a bus, suggesting a pre-planned assault. Previous cases of attacks on or murders of journalists—including that of Lasantha Wickrematunga, editor of the *Sunday Leader*, who was killed in January 2009—have not been adequately investigated or prosecuted, leading to a climate of complete impunity. Dozens of journalists and media freedom activists have fled into exile in the past several years, leaving the sector devoid of a number of its most senior practitioners.

A shrinking number of privately owned newspapers and broadcasters continue to scrutinize government policies and provide diverse views, but most do not engage in overt criticism or investigative reporting. Media outlets have also become extremely polarized, shrinking the space for balanced coverage. A high level of political tension during 2010 due to the presidential and parliamentary elections ensured that biased coverage remained pronounced, and outlets perceived to favor opposition candidates or parties faced harassment. In violation of a Supreme Court order, coverage by state-owned outlets overwhelmingly favored the incumbent,

President Mahinda Rajapaksa, prior to the January election. In recent years, ownership has also become more consolidated, with many private outlets now owned by government officials or their close associates. The Colombo-based Free Media Movement has noted that state-run media—including Sri Lanka’s largest newspaper chain, two major television stations, and a radio station—are heavily influenced by the government, citing cases of pressure on editors, several unwarranted dismissals of high-level staff, and biased coverage. Business and political interests exercise some control over content through selective advertising and bribery. The gradual reopening of the key A9 highway to the north of the island during 2009 helped to ease production difficulties for northern newspapers, which had been hampered by shortages of newsprint and other key supplies during the war’s final phases. However, those publishing opposition print media, such as Chandana Sirimalwatte, editor of the weekly *Lanka*, have faced difficulty in having their publications printed and distributed.

Access to the internet and to foreign media has occasionally been restricted. BBC radio programs had been intermittently jammed by the state-owned Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) in 2008 and 2009, but resumed being relayed by the SLBC in April 2010 in both Sinhala and Tamil following an agreement between the two broadcasters. On a number of occasions during the year, issues of the *Economist* magazine that contained articles on Sri Lanka were impounded at customs and their distribution was delayed. Approximately 12 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010, with many residents deterred by the high costs involved, although mobile-telephone usage continued to grow exponentially. Positively, web-based media and blogs have taken on a growing role in the overall media environment, with outlets such as Groundviews and Vikalpa providing news and a range of commentary, even on sensitive stories and events that are otherwise barely covered by the mainstream media. The government has taken some steps to censor the internet, blocking access to a number of news websites. While the majority of the blocks were temporarily put in place around key events such as the January 2010 presidential election, some, such as the bans on the *Lanka eNews* and *TamilNet* websites, remain permanent. In 2010, several news websites that provide content via SMS were forced to self-censor after Dialog, the main telephone operator, refused to relay reports critical of the government through this medium. In addition, staff at *Lanka eNews* faced threats and harassment, with editor Sandaruwan Senadheera going into exile during the year. Many journalists assume that their phone and online communications are monitored.

Sudan

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 26

Political Environment: 30

Economic Environment: 22

Total Score: 78

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	85,NF	81,NF	78,NF	78,NF	76,NF

Press freedom in Sudan deteriorated in 2010, especially after the April elections; these were the first elections held since 1986. Prior censorship, initially lifted by presidential decree in

September 2009, was reinstated in practice only weeks after voting day. President Omar al-Bashir received more than 68 percent of the vote in the election, but rather than leading to a relaxation of the constraints on the press, there was a clear tightening of the space in which the private media operate. Journalists were arrested and tortured, documents were confiscated, and papers were closed for days. The situation also became more challenging for journalists in the South, which typically has had a more liberal media environment. As Southern Sudan prepared for the January 2011 referendum on its independence, journalists there were harassed and restrictions were imposed on covering issues such as ethnic violence and corruption.

Article 29 of the 2005 Interim National Constitution, adopted in connection with that year's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the government—led by Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP)—and the South's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), nominally protected freedom of the press and citizen expression. The CPA created a new space for journalists to express their voice and reduced the common practice of censoring newspapers prior to publication. Another step toward greater freedom of the press was taken in June 2009, when the government replaced the highly restrictive Press and Printed Press Materials Law. However, media freedom organizations have criticized the new law for falling short of international standards. It states that “no restrictions will be placed on freedom of the press except on issues pertaining to safeguarding national security and public order and health,” and contains loosely defined provisions related to the encouragement of ethnic and religious disturbances and incitement of violence. The law also gives the National Press and Publication Council the authority to shut down newspapers for three days without a court order. However, some of the most criticized components of earlier drafts—including fines of more than \$20,000 for violators of the law—were removed from the final version.

Defamation is a criminal offense in both Northern and Southern Sudan. There is no freedom of information law, and access to public information is difficult. The Ministry of Information manages the broadcasting licensing process in Sudan, with help from the Ministry of Telecommunications and Postal Services in Southern Sudan. The licensing process is highly politicized in the North, where progovernment stations have an easier time acquiring a license. The process is fairer in the South, but at times may fall victim to prejudice from tribal sentiments. The National Press Council regulates the journalism profession and the entry into the field in Northern Sudan. Journalists in the North are required to pass a test prior to receiving accreditation and a license. However, entry into the profession is relatively free in the South.

During the run-up to the elections in April 2010, the Sudanese saw slight relaxations of censorship and restrictions to the media. In September 2009, following internal pressure from media owners and unions and the increasing presence of international organizations ahead of the national elections, Bashir eliminated the previously common practice of censorship of newspapers by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS). According to International Media Support, the tone of the election coverage was in general neutral or positive, although during the final month of the campaign it did become more aggressive. Cases of hate speech and inflammatory language were registered. The media in the North tended to privilege the NCP, while the media in the South were biased toward the SPLM, both in terms of the amount of time allocated to the party and the positive tone of the coverage.

After the results of the election were announced, an emboldened government, especially in the North, started applying harsher measures toward its critics. As a result, journalists were often censored, harassed, intimidated, and even tortured by authorities and government agents. Just weeks after the elections, NISS visits to newspapers resumed in an effort to impose pre-

publication censorship. In May 2010, four journalists of the newspaper *Rai al-Shaab*, owned by Hassan al-Turabi, a one-time ally of Bashir, were arrested for reporting that Iranian forces were in Sudan to assist insurgents in Africa and the Middle East. The journalists' lawyers reported that their clients had been tortured in prison. Three of the four journalists were later convicted of "undermining the constitutional system" and sentenced to prison terms ranging from two to five years. In April, the newspapers *Ajras al-Huriya* and *Al-Midan* were visited by NISS and as a result, copies of the papers were confiscated and journalists were prohibited from publishing some of the stories they had been working on. In other newspapers, self-censorship continued to be a common practice. Issues such as the crisis in Darfur, the work of the International Criminal Court, Sudan's poor human rights record, and the corruption of state officials remained absent from the pages of the main media outlets. Foreign journalists in Sudan have occasionally experienced difficulties in their reporting and are generally viewed with suspicion by the authorities. In addition to normally denying visas or permits to visit areas such as Darfur, in the past the Sudanese government had expelled foreign correspondents from the country. There were no reports of extralegal harassments or murders against journalists during the year. However, the turbulent political situation—especially after the Justice and Equality Movement, the strongest rebel group in Darfur, ended peace talks in May—continued to create a dangerous environment for journalists to cover the news in Darfur.

Although still better than in the northern part of Sudan, press freedom conditions in the South also deteriorated in 2010. Security forces and members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army—the SPLM's military wing—attempted to censor and influence content in the South. In the run-up to the 2011 referendum on Southern Sudan's independence, SPLM members started putting greater pressure on journalists, in an attempt to prevent them from reporting cases of ethnic violence and corruption scandals among government officials. In March, two radio stations in the southern state of Central Equatoria were raided as a result of their moderate criticism of some SPLM figures. The UN-sponsored Miraya FM was also accused of being biased and supporting an external agenda that was not benefiting the people of Sudan.

There are several private daily and weekly newspapers that cover local and national news, but most operate in the North. Experts have argued that there is little difference between private and state-run media, as all are subject to serious government intrusion, ranging from interference in management to censorship of content. Newspapers are generally too expensive for most Sudanese. The government runs one Arabic and one English-language newspaper. The state dominates the broadcast media, which are the main source of information for much of Sudan's population. Television programming continues to be formally censored, and radio content must reflect the government's views. In the aftermath of the elections, the operations of the popular international broadcasters have been obstructed by the Sudanese government. In August, the government suspended the British Broadcasting Corporation's license to rebroadcast locally in the north of the country. Radio France Internationale's Arabic Service had similar problems when its license to rebroadcast was revoked in October. Ownership of media houses, in general, is not transparent. There are no laws requiring the release of ownership information. Moreover, many owners refrain from acknowledging ownership in order to evade tax codes and avoid possible attacks. Journalists receive low pay, and many freelance journalists do not earn enough to cover the cost of living. Some analysts believe this has partially led to corruption within the media where journalists, as well as editors, sell stories to politicians. The advertising market is strong in the North, but almost nonexistent in the South. In the North, state-owned media receive subsidies from the government. Independent media do not receive public

subsidies, but do receive secret financial support if their coverage is deemed friendly to the government. In addition, authorities reportedly put pressure on advertisers, prohibiting them from placing ads in newspapers that are deemed critical of the government.

Internet penetration in Sudan is relatively high for sub-Saharan Africa. According to Internet World Stats' most recent statistics, 9.3 percent of the population accessed the medium as of 2009. The government is believed to monitor the internet, including e-mail and correspondence. It also blocks websites, especially those with explicit sexual content, ostensibly to preserve ethical standards. Only a few days after the beginning of the April voting, the website Sudan Vote Monitor was blocked in Sudan. The website had been launched by a civil society organization and used the Ushahidi platform along with other tools to report irregularities in the voting process and in the counting of the ballots.

Suriname

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 12

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 23

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	23,F	22,F	23,F	23,F	23,F

The government of Suriname generally respects freedom of expression and of the press, as provided for in the country's constitution. Libel is a criminal offense and can be punished with either fines or prison time; however, no cases against journalists were noted in 2010.

Little investigative journalism takes place, and some journalists practice self-censorship on certain issues, particularly drug trafficking and the human rights abuses that took place under the Desi Bouterse dictatorship in the 1980s. In 2010, Bouterse was democratically elected president of Suriname. Although he continues to face charges for the murders of five journalists in 1982, legal proceedings are suspended for the duration of his presidency. Many fear his new position will lead to heightened self-censorship by journalists.

Occasional instances of threats and harassment directed at journalists continue to occur. In 2009, the Suriname correspondent for Reporters Without Borders received telephone threats after his reports on the unexplained disappearance of 90 kg of cocaine from a police station after its seizure. Although he had been in touch with the attorney general, he did not receive protection from authorities. In June 2010, the editor in chief of the monthly publication *Parbode*, Armand Snijders, was attacked by unknown assailants and was warned to stop writing "trash." Although an investigation was launched, no arrests were made. This had been the fourth physical attack on Snijders linked to his work as a journalist.

Suriname has a diverse media, with numerous newspaper publications. The two daily newspapers, *De Ware Tijd* and *De West*, are both privately owned, published in either Dutch or English, and maintain independent websites. Suriname has 24 radio stations, including the government-owned Stichting Radio Omroep Suriname (SRS). The stations reach approximately 300,000 radios. Two state-owned television stations and one privately owned station broadcast to

approximately 63,000 televisions. According to the Association of Surinamese Journalists (SVJ), low salaries and poor training are leading to unprofessional conduct and are hurting the profession. The country has two internet service providers, and there are no restrictions on access. Approximately 32 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010.

Swaziland

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 24

Political Environment: 27

Economic Environment: 25

Total Score: 76

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	77,NF	76,NF	76,NF	76,NF	76,NF

Swaziland’s absolute monarchy continued to exert strict control over the media in 2010. King Mswati III has the power to suspend the constitutional rights to freedom of expression and the press at his discretion, and these rights are severely restricted in practice, especially with respect to speech on political issues or the royal family. Of six media bills proposed along with a new constitution in 2007—including a Public Broadcasting Corporation Bill, a general Broadcasting Bill, and an Information and Privacy Bill—none have been enacted by year’s end, while only the press-regulating Media Commission Bill has been opened to parliamentary debate. According to the African Media Barometer, there are approximately 30 laws that restrict media freedom in Swaziland, including a number of harsh defamation laws and a Suppression of Terrorism Act that the government has threatened to apply to critical journalists. Positively, in recent years the courts have dismissed a number of defamation penalties and overturned attempts to limit media coverage of political or culturally sensitive issues. Swaziland does not have a freedom of information law, and access to government information is difficult.

In 2009, two new publications were introduced but were quickly threatened with closure for failing to register with the government, a procedure that requires the purchase of a \$100 bond. There is no independent regulator of the Swazi broadcasting sector, and licenses for both radio and television are controlled by the respective state broadcasting authorities. Four radio license applications approved in 2008 were disqualified by the Swaziland Radio Regulator in 2009 for failing to meet all 12 of the regulator’s evaluation criteria.

The government routinely warns against negative news coverage, and journalists are subject to harassment and assault by both state and nonstate actors. As a result, the Swazi media is marked by a high level of both official and self-censorship on political and royal matters. In January, the government banned the privately owned *Times of Swaziland* from running a column by Mario Masuku, leader of the banned opposition People’s United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO) party; Masuku was the third *Times* columnist forced from its pages by government pressure in recent years. Also in January, Manqoba Nxumalo, journalist for *Times of Swaziland*, was attacked by churchgoers while covering a church service. In July, a prince closely aligned with Mswati urged journalists to “bury” stories that painted the country in an unfavorable light and stated that journalists who write critical comments about the country should “die.” In

September, police confiscated the camera of Nxumalo while he was covering a meeting of the Swaziland Democracy Forum in Manzini and briefly detained him. The following month, Swazi prime minister Barnabas Sibussio Dlamini issued a statement through the state-owned *Swazi Observer* announcing his intention to require columnists to seek state permission before criticizing the government. The prime minister also accused critical journalists of being paid by foreigners to tarnish the country's image.

The country's two newspapers—the independent *Times of Swaziland* and the state-run *Swazi Observer*—are consumed almost exclusively in urban areas. Despite restrictions on political reporting, both newspapers do criticize government corruption and inefficiency. The Swaziland Television Authority dominates the airwaves and generally favors the government in its coverage. There is one government-owned radio station (controlled by Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications) and one independent radio station, Voice of the Church, which focuses on religious programming. Advertisers, including the government, regularly dissuade negative coverage by employing financial pressure, a major force in Swaziland's relatively small economy. Due to low pay and insufficient journalist training, the quality of reporting is at times affected. Many journalists have left the industry to work for the government or in the private sector. However, despite the low pay, journalists and media houses are not prone to being bribed; there have been cases of public rejections of corruption and bribery by journalists. Swazis with sufficient funds can freely purchase and use satellite dishes to receive signals from both independent South African and international news media. The government does not restrict internet-based media, but few Swazis can afford access; only 8 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010.

Sweden

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 2

Political Environment: 5

Economic Environment: 4

Total Score: 11

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	10,F	11,F	11,F	11,F	10,F

Freedom of the press declined in Sweden in 2010, with a rise in political censorship and a terrorist attack. Sweden has strong legal protections for press freedom under the Freedom of the Press Law dating back to 1766, as well as the Fundamental Law of Freedom of Expression from 1991, although these laws criminalize expression considered to be hate speech and prohibit threats or expressions of contempt directed against a group or member of a group. Journalists' sources are protected by law, as is access to information for all citizens. However, there is considerable self-censorship among journalists, especially on issues relating to immigration.

During the 2010 election, the private broadcaster TV4 refused to show a video for the nationalist party, the Sweden Democrats. The journalist who had produced the video was later released from a freelance agreement with the public television station Sveriges Television (SVT). SVT also excluded the party from a final debate on the station, because it was not yet

represented in parliament (it was, however, after the election). Tensions continue between the media and Muslim groups in Scandinavia, stemming from the 2005 Danish cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad. In March 2010, a plot was uncovered in Ireland to murder the Swedish artist Lars Vilks, who in 2007 drew Muhammad as a dog. In May, Vilks was attacked by a mob at a presentation at Uppsala University and was rescued by police. A few days later arsonists attacked his house. In December 2010, a would-be suicide bomber succeeded in killing only himself in central Stockholm. He cited Vilks's drawings as a reason for the attack. Sweden has recently taken steps to outlaw fictional child pornography. In July 2010, a Swedish translator of Japanese *manga* comics was charged with possession of child pornography and may face a large fine. His case was still pending at year's end.

Public broadcasting has a strong presence in Sweden, consisting of SVT and Sveriges Radio. Public television and radio are funded through a license fee, but television has considerable competition from private stations, the main competitor to SVT being TV4. Private broadcasting ownership is highly concentrated under the media companies Bonnier and the Modern Times Group. The government offers subsidies to newspapers in order to encourage competition, and media content in immigrant languages is also supported by the state. Sweden is among the top consumers of newspapers in the world, with about 75 percent of the population reading a newspaper every day. Even while threatened by dwindling advertising, the newspaper market is very diverse, with many local and regional papers. Access to the internet is unrestricted by the government, and the medium was used by 90 percent of the population in 2010.

Switzerland

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 5

Political Environment: 3

Economic Environment: 5

Total Score: 13

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	11,F	12,F	13,F	13,F	13,F

Freedom of the press is guaranteed under Article 16 of the Swiss Federal Constitution, while Article 93/4 explicitly guarantees freedom of the written press. The penal code prohibits racial hatred or discrimination. In September 2010, a ruling against the Turkish Workers' Party was upheld, after it was convicted in 2007 of denying the Armenian genocide. The law does not explicitly prohibit anti-Semitic speech or Holocaust denial, but there have been convictions for such forms of expression, though none were reported in 2010. In 2009, a report showed that the transparency law that went into effect in 2006 has only been used around 550 times, and it was determined that most media outlets and other interested groups were not aware of its existence. There are also numerous exceptions to the law, including banking information.

Swiss broadcast media are dominated by the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SRG SSR), which must broadcast content in each of Switzerland's four official languages—French, German, Italian, and Romansch. Because of the linguistic divisions, most private stations are limited to local or regional broadcasts. Foreign TV channels accounted for 60 percent of

viewership in 2008. The printed press is highly concentrated. According to the European Journalism Centre, media concentration forces single newspaper titles to merge or shut down. The internet was accessed by approximately 84 percent of the population in 2010. In September 2010, a Swiss court ruled that IP addresses are personal information, and that companies that survey person-to-person file sharing to curb copyright infringement no longer have the right to do so.

Syria

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 29

Political Environment: 34

Economic Environment: 21

Total Score: 84

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	84,NF	83,NF	83,NF	83,NF	83,NF

Although Article 38 of Syria’s constitution provides for freedoms of speech and of the press, these rights are severely restricted in practice. The 1963 State of Emergency law is still in place, and it allows authorities to arrest journalists under ambiguous charges of threatening “national security,” which in effect renders the constitution null. The 2001 Press Law allows for broad state control over all print media and forbids reporting on topics that are deemed sensitive by the government, such as issues of “national security” or “national unity,” as well as the publication of “inaccurate” information. Individuals found guilty of violating the Press Law face one to three years in prison and fines ranging from 500,000 to 1 million Syrian pounds (\$10,000 to \$20,000). The law also stipulates that the prime minister grants licenses to journalists, which can be rejected for reasons concerning the public interest. Under Articles 9 and 10, the Ministry of Information must approve all foreign publications. The ministry also has the power to ban these publications if they challenge “national sovereignty and security or offend public morality.” In July 2010, for example, Syria closed down the bureau of the Italian news agency ANSA in Damascus following its attempt to cover the arrests of civil society representatives.

Both domestic and foreign journalists cover news by abiding by the “red lines,” restrictions on coverage that include no criticism of the president, his family, or security services, and no discussion of issues such as the Kurdish minority or the minority Alawite sect, to which the president’s family belongs and whose members dominate the government. Any criticism of the government can lead to lawsuits, fines, harassment, and dismissals. However, ambiguity remains about what is permissible to cover, causing widespread self-censorship among journalists.

Journalists face frequent harassment, including banishment from the country, neglected accreditation requests, and extralegal intimidation through arrest, detention, and torture. Ali Abdallah, a freelance journalist, was due for release on June 2010 after he was given a 30-month sentence for writing an article critical of a religious sect. However, a military court brought new charges against Abdallah in December, and he was still being held in prison at year’s end. Two

journalists, Bassam Ali and Suhaila Ismail, were also still in custody and will face military court trial for investigative reports they wrote on corruption in 2005 and 2006.

The government and the ruling Ba'ath Party own most newspaper publishing houses and heavily control the media. The Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Culture and National Guidance censor domestic and foreign news, and have banned all Kurdish-language publications. Television and radio broadcasting is, in general, controlled by the state, and the few private outlets that exist do not cover news or political issues. Though the government opened up space to allow privately owned print media in 2001, owners of most private outlets have close ties to the regime, including outlets such as *Al-Watan*, *Al-Iqtisad*, and *Al-Khabar*. While they may be allowed to push boundaries on entertainment and culture, only the government controls and disseminates domestic and foreign political news and analysis, especially through TV networks and FM radio. Although the government does not pre-approve content that publications and television produce, these outlets continue to practice self-censorship for fear of being shut down or their employees being arrested. Satellite television is widely available.

Approximately 21 percent of Syrians accessed the internet in 2010. Critical journalists have increasingly used the medium to voice their dissent. However, the government has stepped up its online censorship and monitoring, as well as harassment of critical bloggers. For example, a 19-year-old blogger, Tal al-Mallohi, was detained throughout 2010 after being accused of spying for the U.S. Her blog included poems about Palestinian rights, though it is unclear if the arrest was in connection to the blog. Blogger Kamal Cheikhou ben Hussein was also arrested and detained during the year. By the end of 2010, around 200 websites were banned in Syria, including restricted access to the blog-hosting platform Blogger.com, the microblogging service Twitter, and the social networking site Facebook. Despite the ban, citizens are able to access these sites in internet cafes, but owners need to report the national ID number of the users and the sites they surf.

In 2005, the Press Law was amended to apply to electronic publications, requiring editors of electronic media to be at least 25 years old, Syrian nationals and current residents of Syria, and not employees of a foreign government. In late 2010, the Syrian government approved a new internet law that would allow authorities to enter offices of online journalists and bloggers, seize materials, and prosecute bloggers in a criminal court. In addition, the proposed law would require journalists to submit their writing for review. If the law passes the parliament, it would significantly curtail the freedom of expression the internet currently allows.

Taiwan

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 7

Political Environment: 9

Economic Environment: 9

Total Score: 25

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	20,F	20,F	20,F	23,F	24,F

Taiwan's media environment is one of the freest in Asia, with a vigorous and diverse press that reports aggressively on government policies and alleged official wrongdoing. But some journalists voiced fears that press freedom was backsliding in 2010. A growing trend of marketing disguised as news reports, a proposed legal amendment that would limit descriptions of crime and violence in the media, and licensing obstacles all contributed to these concerns.

The constitution provides for freedoms of speech and of the press, and the government and independent courts generally respect these rights in practice. In November 2010, the legislature considered amendments to the Children and Youth Welfare Act that would forbid descriptions or images of crime, drug use, violence, bloodshed, or lewdness, according to local news reports. Violating the law would result in fines as high as NT\$500,000 (US\$17,000). Journalists and press freedom advocates raised concerns that the proposed legislation could be interpreted to limit a broad range of legitimate reporting. At year's end, the draft was awaiting a second reading by the legislature.

Print media are free of state control, and following reforms in recent years, broadcast media are no longer subject to licensing and programming reviews by the Government Information Office (GIO). Media coverage is often critical of the government, though politically polarized; most media outlets are sympathetic to one of the two major parties. In November 2010, the media faced criticism for partisan news coverage. At a campaign rally on the day before municipal elections, a gunman shot and injured Sean Lien, son of Lien Chan, the former leader of the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) party. Television stations that tend to favor the opposition Democratic Progressive Party were rebuked for burying the news, while KMT-friendly stations were accused of violating election laws by tying the incident to campaign coverage, according to local news reports.

Some critics questioned the fairness of the broadcast licensing process. The National Communications Commission (NCC), which is tasked with awarding licenses, came under fire for setting roadblocks in the path of several media ventures. The commission repeatedly denied requests by Next Media, the parent company of leading news publications in Hong Kong and Taiwan, to launch a cable television station. The company is perhaps best known worldwide for producing sensational computer animations of news events and celebrity mishaps, which are posted on the website of the *Apple Daily* newspaper. In rejecting the application, the NCC cited its doubts that the proposed station, Next TV, would "fulfill the social responsibility" expected of a broadcaster, an explanation that commentators described as subjective and open to broad interpretation. In late December, the NCC invalidated the license of another broadcaster, Era TV, charging that it had failed to distinguish advertising from programming content. The decision drew a complaint from Taiwanese legislators, who said that the punishment was disproportionate and arbitrary, according to local news reports. Other channels had committed similar violations without penalty, the legislators said.

Media owners can exercise considerable sway over the editorial content of their outlets. As commercial ties between Taiwan and mainland China deepened in 2010 with the signing of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, press freedom advocates raised concerns that media owners and some journalists were whitewashing news about China to protect their financial interests. Critics perceived Beijing's influence in a column that ran on June 4 in the *Want Daily* newspaper. The column, which commemorated historical events on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, failed to mention the military crackdown on protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on that date in 1989. China Times Group, the parent company of *Want Daily*, is owned by Tsai Eng-meng, a businessman with significant commercial interests in mainland China.

Physical violence against journalists is rare, and both local and foreign reporters are generally able to cover the news freely.

Taiwan has over 360 privately owned newspapers and numerous radio stations. Satellite television is broadcast on 143 channels. Legislation approved in 2003 barred the government and political party officials from holding positions in broadcast media companies, and required government entities and political parties to divest themselves of all broadcasting assets. Disputes continue to plague the Public Television Service (PTS). In 2009, the legislature attempted to require government approval of PTS programming and increased the number of directors on the PTS board. The GIO immediately appointed eight new directors, but in January 2010 an injunction requested by the incumbent board chairman prevented them from taking office. After the GIO obtained another injunction three months later, preventing the chairman and six other sitting directors from exercising their duties, the remaining six directors dismissed the president and executive vice president of PTS in September. Their removal sparked concerns about government interference and the PTS’s political neutrality.

The issue of “embedded marketing”—advertising cloaked as news—came to the fore in December 2010, when veteran *China Times* journalist Dennis Huang resigned, reportedly to protest the proliferation of positive coverage purchased by both businesses and government entities. His resignation led to a public campaign to end the practice, which has increased sharply in recent years, according to press freedom watchdogs. Prime Minister Wu Den-yih pledged to address the issue, and at year’s end legislators from both major parties were considering restrictions on purchases of news space by government entities.

The government refrains from restricting the internet, which is accessed by 71.5 percent of the population. But cyberattacks in 2010 on at least three foreign journalists based in Taiwan raised new security concerns about reporters whose work relates to mainland China. The three were among an unknown number of reporters and activists who found in March that their Yahoo e-mail accounts had been compromised, according to international news reports. The source of the attack was unclear, but the breaches were similar to recent attacks on the U.S.-based search-engine giant Google that led that company to announce a partial withdrawal from the mainland Chinese market in early 2010.

Tajikistan

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 25

Political Environment: 28

Economic Environment: 25

Total Score: 78

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	76,NF	76,NF	77,NF	78,NF	78,NF

Freedom of speech is guaranteed by the constitution, but independent journalism has been marginalized under President Emomali Rahmon, and the media situation remained poor in 2010. Government authorities selectively implement laws meant to protect journalists, such as a ban on censorship. Libel and criticism of the president are criminal offenses that carry prison terms of

up to five years. In January 2010, three judges filed a defamation suit against the independent weeklies *Farazh*, *Ozodagon*, and *Asia-Plus*, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. The complaint sought 5.5 million somoni (\$1.2 million) in damages from each for their coverage of a press conference at which a local lawyer denounced the recent convictions of his clients. The case was pending at year's end, and was condemned by Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) representative on freedom of the media. In November, journalist Makhmadyusuf Ismoilov of the weekly *Nuri Zindagi*, a frequent critic of the government, was arrested in the Sogd region. According to the National Association of Independent Media of Tajikistan, he was charged with two criminal counts, defamation and insult through the media, and faced up to two and a half years in prison if convicted.

There is no freedom of information legislation, and steps have been taken to restrict journalists' access to official information, as well as their participation in press conferences and other official events. The Committee on Television and Radio manages the state-owned broadcasters and regulates licenses for private broadcast stations. Independent media claim that the licensing process is lengthy and excessively complicated. The Community Council for Mass Media, a group of independent and state representatives established in 2009 to improve journalism and media ethics, was unable to adequately defend independent media from state pressure.

Violence against journalists has declined significantly in recent years, but journalists who criticize authorities or expose government corruption continue to report threats and intimidation, particularly when out covering the news. In September 2010, journalists trying to photograph the aftermath of a terrorist attack in Khujand were briefly detained and had their images confiscated. No assaults or killings of journalists were reported during the year.

Although there are over 200 registered newspapers, many of them are privately owned, and none are published daily. The broadcast sector is dominated by state-controlled national television stations that praise Rahmon and deny coverage to independent or opposition points of view. Severe electricity shortages limit access to broadcast media, while government control over distribution limits the reach of print media. In addition, widespread poverty, a small advertising market, and the concentration of wealth in the hands of political leaders and their associates hamper the emergence of genuinely independent media outlets. Control over printing facilities is also used as a tool of restricting media freedom. In October 2010, *Farazh*, *Ozodagon*, and several other newspapers were forced to stop publishing after a series of printing houses refused to print them, apparently under pressure from the government, which controls the major presses and the supply of newsprint. At the end of the month, the U.S., German, British, and French governments voiced their concern to the Tajik Foreign Ministry. In November, the Islamist opposition party refused to publish the papers at its printing house, saying it feared retaliation from the government. Most of the papers soon resumed publishing, but *Farazh* was printed only sporadically for the rest of the year. Although some international media outlets are allowed to operate in the country, several foreign television and radio stations have been denied terrestrial broadcast licenses and reach the country via satellite. Reporters for international media are not invited to official events and press conferences.

Internet penetration in Tajikistan is about 11.6 percent, and the authorities have imposed restrictions on access. The government has long blocked websites, and in 2010 Tajik internet-service providers rendered the sites of five foreign and domestic news outlets inaccessible for a time under orders from the Transport and Communications Ministry. Criminal libel and defamation laws apply to internet publications. However, *Asia-Plus*, an independent news site

(affiliated with the print weekly) that is popular throughout Central Asia, resisted repeated instances of pressure, including the blocking of its website and a punitive lawsuit, and continued to provide strong coverage of June unrest in neighboring Kyrgyzstan as well as a crackdown on militants within Tajikistan.

Tanzania

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 17

Political Environment: 16

Economic Environment: 15

Total Score: 48

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	50,PF	51,PF	48,PF	50,PF	50,PF

Although the constitution of Tanzania provides for freedom of speech, several other laws limit the ability of the media to effectively function, and press freedom was tested in 2010 as a result of the October elections. The National Security Act allows the government to control the dissemination of information to the public, and publicly insulting the government is criminalized under the country's libel legislation, which places the burden of proof on the defendant. The Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) settles many defamation suits, but arbitrary verdicts and excessive fines have continued, forcing media outlets to close in some cases. The private weekly *MwanaHalisi*, which had faced bankruptcy in 2009 after a court ordered it and two associated printing companies to pay approximately \$2.2 million in damages, had the verdict overturned on appeal in 2010. Many public officials face legal restrictions on providing information to the media. Progress on enacting freedom of information legislation has been slow, with continued consultations on a draft held during 2010.

Authorities are empowered to register or ban newspapers under the 1976 Newspaper Registration Act "in the interest of peace and good order." In 2009, the editor of *MwanaHalisi*, which had been closed in 2008, took the government to court, charging that the law was unconstitutional. The case was still pending at the end of 2010. In January 2010, two other newspapers were punished for allegedly violating journalism ethics: *Leo Tena* was shut down for publishing pornography, while the investigative weekly *Kulikoni* was suspended for 90 days because of a report about the army that allegedly compromised national security without first obtaining approval from the MCT. In October, the government threatened to either ban or deregister the *MwanaHalisi* and *Mwananchi* newspapers for publishing allegedly inciting material, although specific examples were not referenced. The threat was condemned by local press freedom watchdog groups. Separately, the minister of information suspended the registration of any new newspapers in the months preceding the October elections.

The 1993 Broadcasting Services Act provides for state regulation of electronic media and allows the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA), a nominally independent body, to shut stations at will. Radio station Saut FM was shuttered in August 2010 on dubious technical grounds. There is concern that the TCRA is not entirely independent because its board

chairman and director general are both appointed by the president. Media freedom advocacy groups are generally able to operate freely.

Official pressure on the media rose prior to the October 2010 elections. For example, Sethi Kamuhanda, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Information, toured media offices and threatened to close outlets that portrayed the government in a bad light. In addition, a new law restricted access to information “regarding expenses to be incurred by political parties and their candidates,” making it more difficult for media outlets to subject campaign funding to public scrutiny. Although serious violence against members of the press is rare, there were reports of journalists being harassed throughout the year. Some journalists, particularly at outlets owned or controlled by the state, practice self-censorship.

Conditions in the semiautonomous Zanzibar archipelago remain more restrictive than on the mainland. There are indications that the Zanzibar government is interested in reform, as the MCT has a branch on the islands, new press clubs are operating, and an editors’ forum was created in 2009. However, Zanzibar officials continue to monitor the content of both public and private radio and television broadcasts. *Zanzibar Wiki Hii* is the region’s only private weekly, though it generally avoids critical coverage of the leadership, as implicating Zanzibar lawmakers in criminal activities can result in a minimum fine of approximately \$200 or three years’ imprisonment. The government publishes the region’s only daily paper, *Zanzibar Leo*. Television Zanzibar is under government control, as is the radio station Sauti ya Tanzania-Zanzibar. Small private radio stations and newspapers often have close connections to ruling party politicians. Residents can receive private broadcasts from the mainland, and opposition politicians have access to the state media outlets. Journalists must be licensed and obtain permits to cover developments related to police work and the prison system. There were reports of Zanzibar journalists being harassed and threatened. In February 2010, *Business Times* journalist Heri Shaaban was threatened at a district court when he tried to photograph a soldier being charged for assault. In September, a journalist from the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation was beaten by a mob after it ended broadcasting of a speech by an opposition party candidate. In October, reporter Frederick Katulanda was beaten by ruling party supporters.

There are numerous media outlets throughout Tanzania, including dozens of daily and weekly newspapers, more than 50 radio stations, and 15 television stations. Media ownership, albeit transparent, is concentrated in the hands of a few proprietors. Only four radio stations have a national reach—state-run Radio Tanzania and privately owned Radio One, Radio Free Africa, and Radio Uhuru—and all are viewed as sympathetic to the ruling party. However, in recent years the public broadcaster has reportedly demonstrated more balanced views, according to the 2010 African Media Barometer. Foreign media content is freely available, but only 5 percent of the population has access to television due to high costs. The government reportedly continues to withhold advertising from critical newspapers and those that favor the opposition. Private firms that are keen to remain on good terms with the government allegedly follow suit, making it difficult for critical media outlets to remain financially viable. The influence advertising clients have over editorial content and media houses’ dependence on advertising revenue exacerbate this problem.

Only 11 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. Although there were no explicit government restrictions on the medium, there were reports that officials monitored internet content and activity.

Thailand

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 19

Political Environment: 28

Economic Environment: 15

Total Score: 62

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	50,PF	59,PF	56,PF	57,PF	58,PF

Status change explanation: Thailand declined from Partly Free to Not Free due to the use of restrictive new legislation such as the Computer Crimes Act to punish online expression, a continued increase in investigation and prosecution of lèse-majesté cases, and periodic clashes between political factions that made reporting more difficult as journalists were caught in the cross fire and media outlets were censored.

Thailand's press freedom environment worsened in 2010 as the government and military expanded their efforts to rein in electronic media including satellite television, community radio, and internet-based news platforms. The authorities intensified their high-profile prosecutions of online editors under the country's lèse-majesté laws and the controversial Computer Crimes Act (CCA), use of the Emergency Decree to maintain ad hoc control over mainstream and community media, large-scale shutdowns of websites, and physical and psychological harassment of journalists in an environment that fostered greater intolerance and contempt for the press. Much of the pressure on media stems from the ongoing political contest between the red-shirted United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) and the yellow-shirted supporters of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD). In addition, political tensions and succession concerns have mounted as the king's health continues to decline, leading to extreme sensitivity on this topic.

The 2007 constitution restored and extended the 1997 constitution's freedom of expression guarantees, replacing an interim charter imposed by the military government that failed to explicitly protect freedom of expression. The legislature also replaced the 1941 Printing and Publishing Act in 2007, but various pieces of legislation enacted by the military government remain a threat to press freedom. The 2007 Internal Security Act grants the government sweeping powers in the event of vaguely defined security threats, including the detention of suspects for 30 days without charge. Thailand's legal environment in 2010 was also defined by the 2005 Emergency Decree, increasingly abused lèse-majesté laws, and a more determined application of the 2007 Computer Crimes Act (CCA), which resulted in greater restrictions of online expression during the year. Political tension and violence led to the declaration of a broad state of emergency in April that allowed authorities to restrict political meetings, engage in unfettered censorship, and detain suspects without charge in over 24 provinces and cities, including Bangkok. The state of emergency remained in force in many parts of Thailand, including the capital, until late December 2010, when it was lifted in all but the country's four Muslim-majority and conflict-ridden provinces in the south.

Thailand's lèse-majesté laws assign penalties of up to 15 years in prison for criticism of the king, the royal family, or Buddhism. Complaints can be brought by one citizen against

another, and authorities are required to investigate such allegations, which have increased in recent years alongside the government's use of the law to stifle dissent. In 2010, the government created an online crime agency to pursue violators and to investigate complaints. The penal code's punishments for defamation are harsh, and charges continued to be brought against journalists during the year. For example, criminal defamation charges were filed against online journalist Frank G. Anderson for his criticism of lèse-majesté cases against others. However, he mounted a countersuit, arguing that his accusers had made false allegations and exaggerated the seriousness of his supposed offense. Access to information is guaranteed "unless the disclosure of such information shall affect the security of state, public safety, interests of other persons which shall be protected or personal data of other persons as provided by law."

Media coverage has become so sensitive that in July 2010, a well-meaning public service video aimed at encouraging peace, tolerance, and healing between red-shirt and yellow-shirt sympathizers was pulled by television stations after some government officials expressed concern that it could be misinterpreted and used to reopen political wounds. Separately, in a replay of episodes from 2009, editions of the *Economist* were voluntarily kept from shelves by the magazine's local distributor because of its coverage of the Thai crisis, including the role and health of the monarch. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) withdrew its entire bureau at the height of the government's crackdown on red-shirt protests just before it broadcast, in Australia, a potentially sensitive and somewhat sensationalist program on the kingdom's crown prince. There is a climate of growing self-censorship in Thailand, especially on the increasingly popular platforms of blogs and social media. Though self-censorship on topics involving the monarchy remains the rule in traditional media, newspapers provide a diversity of news and opinion, and even feisty commentary and analysis of Thailand's political crisis.

Foreign and local journalists with a full spectrum of sympathies and political affiliations came under attack in 2010 as a result of the year's violent political protests. Independent journalists and media groups that were or were perceived to be sympathetic to either side risked mob attacks, physical threats, legal intimidation, and generally being caught in the cross fire of the rival partisan camps. Two journalists were among the dozens of people injured when the prime minister ordered security forces to disperse a three-month red-shirt occupation of a major intersection in downtown Bangkok. Exacerbating these problems, some satellite television outlets and community radio stations aired incendiary rhetoric and dared the government and protesters to silence them. The authorities did shut down some media outlets and thousands of websites. According to the Campaign for Popular Media Reform, the state used the Emergency Decree to suspend at least 47 provincial community radio stations that were deemed threats to national security between April and August. The military also shut down a cable television channel that openly supported the exiled former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

The mainstream print media remain robust. Large conglomerates and prominent families, some with political ties, own the majority of outlets. While print media are privately owned, radio and television remain under the direct or indirect control of the state, or of formerly state-affiliated private businesses. Many radio stations were closed after the 2006 coup, though hundreds of officially registered stations continue to broadcast throughout the country. Government control of the broadcast media increased in 2007 when the Public Relations Department took over Thailand's only independent television station, iTV. Officials claimed that the station, previously run by one of Thaksin's former companies, had illegally changed its operating concession with the prime minister's office and owed crippling fines. A new public broadcaster, the Thai Public Broadcasting Corporation, was established in January 2008. The

2008 Broadcasting Act governs the licensing of radio and television in three categories—public, private, and community media. Thousands of Thailand’s community radio stations continue to operate outside of the law due to the government’s failure to establish a regulatory and licensing commission as required by the act.

The internet is accessed by approximately 21 percent of the Thai population. Government censorship of the internet has been in place since 2003, largely to prevent the circulation of pornography and illegal products. However, since the 2006 coup, internet censorship has increasingly been used against potentially disruptive political messages and sites that are considered a threat to national security, including those of Muslim separatist groups. As in past years, Thais in 2010 took their heated debates to the internet and social-networking sites, where the government and military in turn undertook a more focused effort to control commentary and information it deemed incendiary, divisive, and subversive. Many opposition websites were blocked in 2010 under the Emergency Decree. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) blocked at least 2,200 websites between April and June 2010. The sites were generally pornographic or insulting to Thailand’s monarchy, though some were independent news sites, such as Prachatai.org. The Thai Netizens’ Network cited sources indicating that the number of blocked websites could have been as high as 10,000.

An engineer convicted of lèse-majesté violations in 2009, after the police linked his home computer to insulting posts on the internet, received a royal pardon in 2010. However, other cases aimed at punishing online expression proceeded during the year. The controversial CCA assigns prison terms of up to five years for the online publication of forged or false content that endangers individuals, the public, or national security, as well as for the use of proxy servers to access restricted material. The legislation was first invoked against a blogger in 2007, and has increasingly been used to apply lèse-majesté laws to the internet. The editor of the Prachatai news website, Chiranuch Premchaiporn, was charged under the CCA in March 2010 for refusing to remove critical comments from the site. Premchaiporn, more popularly known as “Jiew,” was arrested twice during the year and could face up to 50 years in prison if found guilty on all counts. Prachatai.org has been harassed by the police and burdened by the CCA’s requirement that websites monitor and take responsibility for user comments; as a result, the news site has removed its discussion forums.

Togo

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 23

Political Environment: 28

Economic Environment: 22

Total Score: 73

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	78,NF	74,NF	74,NF	72,NF	74,NF

Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are legally guaranteed in Togo, but these rights are often ignored by the government. Pervasive impunity for crimes against journalists has created a tense and illiberal media environment that persisted during the 2010 presidential election.

While imprisonment for defamation was abolished in August 2004 through an amendment to the Press and Communications Law, journalists can still receive a criminal fine of up to 5 million CFA francs (\$10,000) under Article 104 of the media code or Article 58 of the penal code. Such severe punishment for libel has typically been infrequent, but 2010 featured a startling increase in the number of libel cases and convictions, particularly those concerning President Faure Gnassingbé and his family. In August, a court in Lomé suspended the independent Benin-based newspaper *Tribune d'Afrique* and imposed a \$4,000 fine for an article accusing the president's brother of drug trafficking. Also in August, the president himself charged three separate papers—*La Lanterne*, *L'Indépendant Express*, and *Liberté*—with defamation in articles on topics as diverse as the economy, corruption, and human right abuses. While the president quickly dropped the suits, likely due to international pressure, they indicated his willingness to crack down on journalists who report critically on his administration.

The High Authority of Broadcasting and Communications (HAAC) is another tool with which the government has been known to intimidate the press. Originally intended as an independent body that would protect the media and ensure ethical standards, the HAAC now serves almost exclusively as the government's censorship arm. In October 2009, the parliament passed a law allowing the HAAC to impose sanctions, seize equipment, ban publications, and withdraw press cards.

During the 2010 presidential election, the state did not ban media coverage as it had done in 2005, but critical coverage was less of a concern for Gnassingbé than in 2005 due to the disorganization of the opposition, among other factors. The incumbent's campaign benefited from control of the state broadcaster, which is the most widely accessible media outlet in the country and was staunchly pro-Gnassingbé in its election coverage. Foreign journalists have been able to operate freely throughout the country in recent years. However, in the lead-up to the 2010 election, a number of journalists from French media outlets were denied press accreditation until election day, preventing them from fully covering the event.

Journalists in Togo have frequently operated in fear of violent attacks and harassment for their reporting, and many censor themselves as a result. According to the Union of Independent Journalists in Togo (UJIT), there was an increase in the number of journalists harassed during the year surrounding the election. In August 2010, UJIT issued a statement to the government demanding protection for its members, a number of whom had recently been threatened with violence.

Despite the rapid growth of private media since the late 1990s, the government still owns the only national television station, as well as several radio stations. The size of the private media sector is impressive for a relatively small country, with 86 functioning radio stations, 3 daily newspapers, 60 other publications released on a semiregular basis, and nine private television stations. However, many of these outlets suffer from precarious finances and a low degree of professionalism, as no formal journalism training is available in the country. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the government withholds advertising from outlets like *Tribune d'Afrique* that report critically, and it was particularly selective about where it advertised during an election year.

Some 5.4 percent of the population was able to access the internet in 2010, a relatively high penetration rate by regional standards. In an improvement over the 2005 presidential election, access to the internet was unrestricted throughout 2010, with no reported cases of content blocking.

Tonga

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 11

Political Environment: 10

Economic Environment: 10

Total Score: 31

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	32,PF	31,PF	31,PF	32,PF	32,PF

Freedom of the press is guaranteed under the constitution. Journalists found guilty of libel and defamation are usually punished with fines. Former prime minister Fred Sevele filed a defamation case against the prodemocracy newspaper *Kele'a* in a New Zealand court over articles written in April and May 2010 regarding a commission of inquiry into the deadly sinking of the ferry *Princess Ashika*. In July the kingdom's information and communications minister announced tentative plans for the government to regulate the print media as it already did the broadcast media, but the proposal did not materialize by year's end.

Tonga held elections under new rules in November 2010, with the parliament rather than the king empowered to choose the prime minister. The election campaign reflected a more robust and open news media climate than in the past. Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva of the Democratic Party, a former broadcaster and publisher of the *Kele'a* newspaper, was discussed as a possible prime minister. However, although the Democratic Party emerged as the single strongest political force, independent lawmakers joined with the legislature's noble members to ensure that the more conservative Siale 'Ataongo Kaho (Lord Tu'ivakanō) won the premiership. Most political figures, including Pohiva, pledged to adopt a more open and more cooperative approach to the news media. However, despite increased media access to cover the elections, restrictions on coverage of parliamentary debates remained in place in 2010. Media outlets also exercised self-censorship when writing articles about prominent individuals. There were no reports of attacks or cases of physical harassment against journalists during the year.

The kingdom's media landscape has matured and strengthened in recent years. A longtime publishing foe of the monarchy, Kalafi Moala, returned from exile to head his independent newspaper *Taimi 'o Tonga* in Nuku'alofa and take on a government contract to revive the *Tongan Chronicle* as a weekly English-language newspaper. Moala also had a television interest and established the Taimi Media Network website. The independent monthly magazine and news website *Matangi Tonga* is also an important media provider and book publisher. The state-owned Tongan Broadcasting Corporation owns one AM and two FM radio stations and the free-to-air station Television Tonga. The government does not restrict access to the internet, which was used by 12 percent of the population during 2010.

Trinidad and Tobago

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6
Political Environment: 11
Economic Environment: 7
Total Score: 24

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	26,F	24,F	23,F	23,F	23,F

Freedom of the press is enshrined in the constitution, and the new government that took power following elections in May 2010 continued to respect it. While freedom of information legislation is in place, the government has been criticized for gradually narrowing the categories of public information that are accessible under the law. A new national broadcasting code has been drafted and is under consideration by the parliament following two years of consultation between the government, the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), media houses, and civil society. In March 2010, on the occasion of the submission of the code to the parliament, TATT chairman Winston Parmesar urged journalists to respect the delicate balance between freedom of expression for the media and the individual rights of citizens. In July, Minister of Public Administration Rudrawatee Ramgoolam said that there would be further discussions on the precise wording and practical implementation of the code.

In November, the Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago (MATT) wrote to the new prime minister, Kamla Persad Bissessar, to protest the dismissal of television talk-show host Fazeer Mohammed at the state-owned Caribbean New Media Group (CNMG). Mohammed was dismissed less than a week after he interviewed Foreign Affairs Minister Surujrattan Rambachan and argued with him over remarks by the prime minister regarding aid to Caribbean countries affected by Hurricane Tomás. The CNMG insisted that Mohammed’s dismissal was the result of cost-cutting measures, but the MATT condemned it as an attack on the freedom of the press.

There was further controversy in November when the prime minister announced that the Special Intelligence Agency (SIA) had been tapping the telephones and intercepting the e-mail of politicians, judges, trade unionists, and journalists for the past 15 years. The MATT declared that it viewed such practices as a “dangerous infringement” on the rights of journalists to effectively and efficiently perform their duties with the freedom enshrined in the constitution. However, the association welcomed the prime minister’s assurance that the illegal conduct had been stopped, and that legislation governing wiretapping would be forthcoming. Journalists can cover the news freely, and there were no reports of attacks or harassment against the press during the year.

There are three daily newspapers—*Trinidad and Tobago Express*, *Newsday*, and the *Trinidad Guardian*—and three political weeklies, all of which are privately owned. Four television stations are in operation, including the state-owned CNMG. There are about a dozen radio stations, including three operated by CNMG. Due to the high literacy rate in the country, print media are an important source of news. There were no government restrictions on the internet, which was accessed by 48.5 percent of the population in 2010.

Tunisia

Status: Not Free
Legal Environment: 27

Political Environment: 33
Economic Environment: 25
Total Score: 85

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	83,NF	83,NF	81,NF	82,NF	85,NF

Tunisia’s press code and constitution offer ill-defined protections for freedom of the press, and the government does not respect them in practice. The press code criminalizes libel and defamation, and violations can result in imprisonment and fines, with offensive statements about the president carrying prison sentences of up to five years. Journalists may also legally be punished for disturbing public order. In June 2010, the authorities passed a penal code amendment that increased penalties for “contacts with agents of a foreign power or a foreign organization with a view to inciting them to harm the vital interests” of Tunisia, including the country’s economic interests. The amendment was an apparent attempt to halt the efforts of human rights activists and journalists who were lobbying the European Union to block an upgrade in the status of its relations with Tunisia until the Tunisian government improved its human rights record. Under the vaguely worded legislation, communication with international powers that the government considers contrary to Tunisian interests can result in prison terms of five to twelve years.

Newspapers do not need licenses to operate, though the government requires that print outlets obtain copyright registration annually from the Ministry of Information. Broadcast media are regulated by the Tunisian Frequencies Agency, which tightly controls the allocation of licenses and frequencies. Tunisia does not have a freedom of information law.

Government censorship and legal harassment of media outlets is routine. In January 2010, television correspondent Fahem Boukadous was sentenced to four years in prison for his 2008 coverage of violent labor demonstrations. Boukadous’s trial lasted only 10 minutes, and he was convicted of “belonging to a criminal association” and “spreading materials likely to harm public order.” His family expressed concern over prison authorities’ failure to treat Boukadous’s increasingly severe asthma attacks, and Boukadous himself protested this mistreatment with a hunger strike. Separately, in July, the government restricted an issue of the *Economist* because of an article that was critical of Tunisia’s human rights record. The government also continued to target the opposition Arabic-language weekly *Al-Mawkif*. In September, managing editor Ahmed Nejb Chebbi alleged that government pressure on the publication’s printer resulted in production delays for an issue that included multiple critical stories on the government.

Journalists who oppose the government face harassment, physical assault, arbitrary surveillance, dismissal from employment, and imprisonment. In March 2010, police prevented journalists from covering a Human Rights Watch press conference on political prisoners in Tunisia. In April, online journalist Zuhair Makhoulf was beaten by the police, apparently to deter him from attending a dinner for journalists held by a prominent French lawyer. In a positive development, Taoufik Ben Brik, a journalist who was critical of the government, was released from prison in April, though he faced harassment and threats later in the year. In December, Mouldi Zouabi of Radio Kalima and Ammar Amroussia of the newspaper *El-Badil* were arrested in response to their coverage of riots in the city of Sidi Bouzid.

Interrogation and detention of members of the media remain commonplace, and the government has refused to renew journalists’ passports on occasion. Since President Zine el-

Abidine Ben Ali came to power in 1987, more than 100 Tunisian journalists have been forced into exile, according to the National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT). The authorities monitor foreign media, denying accreditation to critical journalists, and foreign publications or reporters can be seized or expelled if they offend the government. The government also requires foreign journalists to have written permission to record video in public. Self-censorship among journalists is common. Due to harassment and the fear of arrest, journalists hesitate to report on sensitive political topics and generally wait for official accounts from the government's Tunis Afrique Presse agency before issuing their own coverage.

Ninety percent of domestic newspapers in Tunisia are privately owned and editorially independent, but they are still subject to pressure from the government. There are eight major dailies, including two owned by the government and two owned by the ruling party. *Al-Mawkif*, the private opposition weekly, lacks state support and advertising revenue, and its journalists are frequently denied access to government information and facilities. The Tunisia External Communication Agency allocates support to progovernment newspapers. Many foreign satellite television stations can be viewed in Tunisia, though the government has been known to block transmissions from time to time.

Approximately 37 percent of Tunisians used the internet in 2010. Internet cafés are state run and operate under police surveillance; customers must register their names and other personal information before accessing the internet. Social-networking and video-sharing sites, including Daily Motion, YouTube, and Facebook, are routinely blocked by the government. Similarly, the Tunisia Monitoring Group of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) reported in June that at least 30 websites covering news, politics, and human rights issues were blocked within Tunisia. The government continued to block access to the independent news website *Kalima* and investigate its founder, Sihem Bensedrine, for broadcast violations supposedly committed by the site's radio section. In July, the government blocked the website Fadaa Jadal Democracy, an online forum for democratic debates, before it had been officially launched. The government also blocked, without explanation, the website of the Tunisian Observatory for Union Rights in October, just hours after it launched. The government reportedly monitors internet telephony and e-mail communications. Punishments for online dissidents are similar to those for print and broadcast journalists who publish information that the government deems objectionable. Journalists who have turned to internet media frequently face police surveillance and other forms of intimidation for expressing critical views.

Turkey

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 22

Political Environment: 21

Economic Environment: 11

Total Score: 54

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	48,PF	49,PF	51,PF	50,PF	51,PF

The government, led by the Justice and Development Party (AKP), continued to crack down on unfavorable press coverage in 2010. A politicized case against one of the country's major media companies, the Doğan Group, for purported tax evasion worth \$3.4 billion continued in 2010. The conglomerate achieved mixed results in a series of court rulings during the year, and pledged to pursue further appeals. The Doğan Group has consistently reported on the ruling party's shortcomings and its involvement in an Islamic charity scandal in 2008.

Constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press and expression are undermined by other provisions, and in practice they are only partially upheld. Despite some minor amendments in 2008, the restrictive 2005 penal code continued to overshadow positive reforms that had been implemented as part of the country's bid for European Union (EU) membership, including a 2004 Press Law that replaced prison sentences with fines for media violations. Defamation remains a criminal offense that can result in fines or prison terms. A total of 104 journalists were tried in 2010 for alleged offenses related to freedom of expression. According to the Independent Communication Network (BIA) 2010 Media Monitoring Report, 30 journalists remained in prison at year's end.

Article 301 of the penal code provides for prison terms of six months to two years for "denigration of the Turkish nation." The Justice Ministry rejected 342 of the 352 complaints under Article 301 that it received in 2010, allowing only 10 to proceed. Article 301 has previously been used to punish journalists for stating that genocide was committed against the Armenians in 1915, discussing the division of Cyprus, or writing critically about the security forces. Amendments to the article in 2008 were largely cosmetic, substituting "Turkish nation" for "Turkishness" and "State of the Turkish Republic" for "Turkish Republic," and reducing the maximum prison sentence from three years to two. Nationalist lawyers' groups such as the Great Lawyers' Union, accused by many human rights groups of leading the push for prosecutions, continued to file insult suits throughout the year. The owner and editor of *Gerger Firat*, Hacı Boğatekin, received a five-year prison sentence in March 2010 for insulting state prosecutors; he had written articles alleging that Turkey faced a more serious threat from conservative religious movements than from the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) militant group. Very few prosecutions under Article 301 end in convictions, but the trials are time-consuming and expensive. Article 216 of the penal code, which covers "inflaming hatred and hostility among peoples," is also used against journalists who write about the Kurdish population or are deemed to have denigrated the armed forces.

Amendments to the Antiterrorism Law (TMY) passed in 2006 allow journalists to be imprisoned for up to three years for disseminating the statements and propaganda of terrorist organizations. The law raised concerns about arbitrary prosecutions, since members of the pro-Kurdish press are sometimes accused of collaborating with the PKK, a designated terrorist organization. Nearly 150 people were prosecuted under the TMY in 2010, six times as many as in 2009. Most had been covering subjects related to the Kurdish minority and the PKK. In 2010, the pro-Kurdish daily newspaper *Özgür Gündem* had more than 500 cases filed against it under the TMY. The government has banned the Diyarbakır-based newspaper *Azadiya Welat* a total of eight times, and several of its journalists are serving prison sentences under the TMY for spreading propaganda. In February 2010, *Azadiya Welat* editor Ozan Kılınç was sentenced to 21 years in prison for printing 12 editions of the paper that contained references to the PKK. The following editor in chief, Vedat Kurşun, received a 166-year prison sentence in May for disseminating PKK propaganda. The paper's editorial manager, Emine Demir, received a 138-year prison sentence at the end of December for articles she published in 2008 and 2009 that

were also purportedly propaganda for the PKK. Separately, a well-known journalist for *Express* received a 15-month prison term in June for his coverage of PKK opinions on the Turkish government, but he remained free at year's end pending appeals. The editor of *Express* was also fined some \$10,000 in connection with the report. The Court of Cassation ruled in October that Turkish novelist and Noble Prize winner Orhan Pamuk could legally be sued for comments on the Kurds and Armenians that he made to a Swiss magazine in 2005. In August, an American journalist for the Inter Press Service (IPS) agency was deported for spreading PKK propaganda through reports on the Turkish army's bombing of Kurdish settlements in northern Iraq. Under the TMY in 2010, a total of 33 people were sentenced to more than 365 years in prison and received fines of up to \$35,000.

The trial of 153 suspected supporters of the Democratic Confederation of Kurdistan (KCK), a wing of the PKK, began in October 2010. The suspects, who included several Turkish journalists, were charged with undermining the state and assisting an illegal organization, and more than 100 had remained in detention without charge for over a year. If convicted, the suspects faced between 15 years and life in prison. Separately, in January the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) issued two rulings that ordered the government to pay \$55,000 to journalists whose freedom of expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights had been violated. The rulings were related to the government's suspension of five newspapers in 2005 and fines issued against the magazine *Yeni Dünya İçin Çağrı* in 2001 for articles criticizing abuse within Turkey's prison system.

The Supreme Council of Radio and Television, whose members are elected by the parliament, has the authority to sanction broadcasters if they are not in compliance with the law or its expansive broadcasting principles. The council is frequently subject to political pressure. Print outlets can also be closed if they violate laws restricting media freedom, and a number of closures occurred during the year. For example, *Azadiya Welat* was shut down three times in 2010 alone.

Investigations surrounding an alleged plot to overthrow the government, referred to as Ergenekon, were ongoing in 2010. According to a European Union progress report released in November, 4,091 investigations have been launched against journalists for violating state secrets through their reporting on the Ergenekon case. Several of those journalists, arrested in 2008, continued to be held without charge at the end of 2010. Six journalists were being prosecuted for alleged involvement in the plot. As of August 2010, at least 47 journalists remained in detention pending trial. The Ergenekon case and the trial related to the KCK have further compelled editors and journalists to practice self-censorship to avoid legal repercussions. Doğan Group employees have reported engaging in self-censorship so as not to add to their company's existing legal trouble.

Threats against and harassment of the press remained much more common than acts of violence. Journalists are rarely killed, and their work is not regularly compromised by the fear of physical attacks, though instability in the southeastern part of the country does infringe on journalists' freedom to work. Several journalists received death threats in 2010 by telephone and e-mail, while a number of others were physically threatened or attacked. In June, the owner of the local Manavgat newspaper *Türkbeleni Mehmet Ali Ünal* was shot at outside his office, though no injuries were reported. In July, three Kurdish journalists—two working for Diha news agency and another with Doğan Group and the local weekly *Midyat Habur*—were injured while reporting on pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) protests in Istanbul and in the southeastern province of Mardin. The ECHR ruled in September that the Turkish government

had failed to respond to ultranationalist hostility toward Hrant Dink, editor in chief of the Armenian-Turkish weekly *Agos*, prior to his 2007 assassination. The court also stated that the security forces had known about the plot, yet had done nothing to thwart it. The government was ordered to pay Dink's family \$135,000 in compensation. Prior to his murder, Dink had twice been prosecuted under Article 301 for insulting Turkishness. The state had yet to convict anyone for the murder at year's end, and continued to face criticism for failing to investigate alleged involvement by high-level security agents and civil servants. No journalists were murdered in 2010. In late December, police raided the offices of the magazine *Yürüyüş* in a purported effort to arrest an alleged member of the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party (DHKP), a designated terrorist organization. The offices were seriously damaged during the raid, and the magazine's editor and several other staff members were detained. The Contemporary Lawyers' Association (CHD) condemned the operation, claiming that the alleged DHKP member had no affiliation with the magazine. The government had suspended the magazine for a month in April for allegedly spreading propaganda for an outlawed organization.

Turkey's broadcast media are well developed, with hundreds of private television channels, including on cable and satellite platforms, as well as more than 1,000 commercial radio stations. State television and radio outlets provide limited broadcasting in minority languages, now including several local radio and television stations that broadcast in Kurdish. The introduction of Kurdish-language programming marks a major step forward for freedom of expression, though critics say that the broadcasts are too restricted and quality is poor. An Armenian-language radio outlet, Nor Radio, began broadcasting over the internet in January 2009. Several hundred private newspapers operate across the country in a very competitive print sector. Media ownership is highly concentrated, with a few dominant holding companies that subtly pressure editors and journalists to refrain from coverage that could harm their broader business interests. This can include avoiding criticism of the government or potential advertisers. The quality of Turkish media is poor, with an emphasis on columns and opinion articles rather than pure news, but independent domestic and foreign print media are able to provide diverse views, including criticism of the government and its policies. In 2010, the government reportedly seized a total of 21 newspaper issues, 32 magazine issues, and 10 books.

An estimated 36.8 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. The video-sharing website YouTube was blocked beginning in May 2008 for airing videos that were deemed insulting to the founder of the Turkish republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The ban was finally lifted in November 2010 after the videos were removed. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) representative on freedom of the media, Dunja Mijatović, reported in June 2010 that more than 5,000 websites had been blocked over the past two years. Law No. 5651 on the internet allows prosecutors to block sites that offend "Turkishness," attack Atatürk, or carry content that "incites suicide, pedophilia, drug abuse, obscenity, or prostitution." In June, the government ordered the blocking of 44 internet-protocol (IP) addresses, including that of Google Maps.

Turkmenistan

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 30

Political Environment: 37

Economic Environment: 29

Total Score: 96

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	96,NF	96,NF	96,NF	96,NF	95,NF

President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov's government increased already near-total control over the media in 2010, despite nominal constitutional protections for press freedom and freedom of expression as well as frequent pledges to modernize broadcast and print media and increase internet availability. Though libel remains a criminal offense, the law is rarely invoked given the intensity of self-censorship and the extreme scarcity of independent and critical reporting. In September 2010, the president called on the Ministry of National Security to step up its war on extremists and anyone who defamed the state.

Both local and exiled journalists face a range of extralegal threats and harassment. In 2010, Reporters Without Borders reported that the health of two imprisoned journalists, Sapardurdy Khadjiyev and Annakurban Amanklychev, was in jeopardy, and relatives were reportedly not permitted to visit them. They were arrested in 2006 with their colleague, Ogulsapar Muradova, who died several months later as a result of severe beatings in prison. The International Committee of the Red Cross has been denied access to Khadjiyev and Amanklychev, whose family members are all being held within the country. The authorities also harassed local correspondents working for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) during 2010. Allamourad Rakhimov, a Canadian citizen and Prague-based RFE/RL broadcaster, was deported when he attempted to travel to his native Turkmenistan in May 2010. Other reporters for foreign outlets continued to encounter insurmountable obstacles to accreditation, forcing them to work unofficially if at all. Farid Tuhbatullin, head of the Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights and editor of the leading exile news site, Chrono-tm.org, received several death threats in October after he gave an interview to the satellite television channel K+. He was first put under police protection and then forced to move from his home in Austria. Foreign correspondents were often forced to work without accreditation and faced surveillance and severe restrictions on their activities.

The government retained an absolute monopoly on national media in 2010, directly controlling not only all domestic outlets, but also the printing presses, broadcasting facilities, and other infrastructure on which they depended. President Berdymukhamedov repeatedly warned, reprimanded, or fired broadcast executives, usually on the grounds that they had failed to portray his propagandistic "New Revival" campaigns with sufficient enthusiasm, or due to technical problems during coverage of state events. While prior censorship is extensive in broadcast media, some television shows still managed to draw presidential harangues for airing music videos that were deemed inappropriate. In September, the president announced with much fanfare the opening of the first privately published magazine, *Rysgal*. The periodical was in fact published by the state-controlled Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, and it did not stray from the pro-presidential line. The authorities maintained a ban on almost all foreign newspapers and periodical subscriptions, notably including Russian newspapers, and confiscated publications and computer discs from travelers. Despite an absence of independent domestic media, many citizens had some access to international media through satellite dishes. In 2002 and 2007, the authorities ordered the removal of satellite dishes, but they were forced to back down in the face

of popular resistance and international condemnation. Access remains limited due to cost barriers, however.

Continued government restrictions and high costs kept the internet penetration rate extremely low in 2010, with only 2.2 percent of the population using the medium. The government controlled the dominant internet-service provider, TurkmenTeleCom, and restricted access to critical sites including regional news sources located outside Turkmenistan, opposition websites operated by Turkmens living abroad, the video-sharing site YouTube, and foreign outlets like the British Broadcasting Corporation. The website Chrono-tm.org suffered cyberattacks in October 2010 while it attempted to cover Turkmenistan’s efforts to block exiled dissidents from speaking at the human rights review meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In December, the government suddenly shut off mobile-telephone service for 2.4 million people—or 80 percent of the country’s users—amid a dispute with MobileTeleSystems (MTS), a Russian provider, depriving many Turkmens of mobile internet access. Most were not accommodated by Altyn Asyr, the sole state provider, which had previously served only 300,000 people.

Tuvalu

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 3

Political Environment: 11

Economic Environment: 12

Total Score: 26

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	26,F	26,F	26,F	26,F	26,F

Uganda

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 19

Political Environment: 21

Economic Environment: 14

Total Score: 54

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	52,PF	54,PF	53,PF	53,PF	54,PF

Although the country’s constitution provides for freedom of expression and press freedom, several laws negate these guarantees, and the government continues to crack down on critical journalists and media houses using both subtle and blatant methods. However, in what lawyers and media groups described as a milestone in the enforcement of media freedom, in August 2010 Uganda’s Constitutional Court unanimously ruled that sections of the penal code on sedition,

which forbid journalists from publishing criticism of the government, were unconstitutional. The decision stemmed from a petition by Andrew Mwenda, managing editor of the *Independent*, and the East African Media Institute; Mwenda had been among a handful of journalists facing sedition charges. The court upheld other provisions of the penal code that criminalize publications promoting sectarianism. Clauses of the Antiterrorism Act of 2002 have also been used against journalists, especially those who cover security issues. Application of these laws and regulations is often arbitrary or selective, and the threat of legal action is used regularly to intimidate journalists.

In 2010, the government passed several laws that fundamentally threaten free expression and media freedom through potentially restricting content and access to information as well as contributing to an environment of self-censorship, including the Regulation of Interception of Communications Act. In addition, the proposed Press and Journalist Amendment Bill 2010 would enable manipulation of licensing and registration, although the amendments had not been brought before parliament by year's end. Uganda is among a handful of African countries with a freedom of information law, but the 2005 Access to Information Act exists only on paper, as no implementing mechanisms had been put into place by year's end, and the government still denies requests for information. Furthermore, Parliament has not followed up on the law's requirement that each ministry submit annual reports on the status of implementation. Other laws related to national security and confidentiality impede open access to information in practice. The Press and Journalist Act 2000 requires journalists to register with the government-affiliated National Institute of Journalists of Uganda (NIJU) and obtain a license from the Media Council, which has been criticized for lacking independence. Journalists must also meet certain standards, including the possession of a university degree, to be full members of NIJU. Although journalists are supposed to renew their licenses annually, this provision is frequently overlooked in practice.

The regulatory structure is not always transparent and grants broad discretionary powers to the regulator. The Electronic Media Act created the Broadcasting Council, which can grant or withhold licenses based on an opaque set of conditions, and confiscate transmission equipment without a hearing or other forms of due process. The regulator is also susceptible to influence and manipulation by the executive. Authorities have continued to interfere in private radio broadcasting, temporarily shutting down some stations in recent years. The Central Broadcasting Service (CBS), one of four stations closed down by the Broadcasting Council in September 2009 in response to an official directive, was reopened in October 2010. The three other stations—Ssuubi FM, Radio Two, and the Roman Catholic Church's Radio Sapientia—had reopened much sooner. The four outlets had been accused of promoting sectarianism and inciting violence that led to riots in Kampala. While they returned to the air, there were reports that the owners engaged in self-censorship to avoid renewed conflict with the Broadcasting Council and the government. Despite some nascent efforts, such as the formation of the Independent Media Council of Uganda, self-regulation by the media sector is lacking, providing the government with a rationale for imposing statutory controls.

Journalists face harassment, occasional violence, and various obstacles while attempting to cover the news. Many past cases of attacks or abductions aimed at journalists remain unresolved. In September 2010, journalists Paul Kiggundu and Dickson Ssentongo were killed in separate incidents in connection with their work, and Arthur Kintu of the *New Vision* was beaten by an elected official as he covered a ruling party conference. Eight journalists were assaulted or abducted by ruling party officials and supporters while covering opposition candidates during the year, according to the Committee to Project Journalists. Government officials and security agents

in the countryside regularly intimidate journalists and attempt to influence media content by forbidding certain guests to appear on live radio programs.

There are more than two dozen daily and weekly newspapers and more than 150 private radio stations. Uganda’s leading daily newspaper, the government-owned *New Vision*, shows some editorial independence. Other print outlets such as the *Monitor*, the *Observer*, and the *Independent* are generally critical of the government and offer a range of opposition views. Radio remains the most widely accessed news source. In recent years, the number of community stations has grown across the country, including in the north, where the threat of reprisals by the Lord’s Resistance Army rebel group continues to fuel self-censorship. The Uganda Broadcasting Corporation, the country’s public broadcaster, remains subservient to the interests of the ruling party and the government. A number of radio stations in Uganda are owned by ruling party politicians who discourage publication of news that is deemed critical of the government. During the election campaigns that began in late 2010, they denied opposition politicians access to their stations. Campaign coverage by the public broadcaster and the *New Vision* was biased in favor of the incumbent president and the ruling party.

Media owners are somewhat complicit in the erosion of press freedom in Uganda. To safeguard their investments, they reportedly comply with government requests, including onerous instructions as to which journalists they may employ. The sustainability of newspapers is compromised by declining circulation rates, which leave outlets more dependent on advertising. Threatened or actual advertising boycotts by corporations and the government, which are especially problematic for smaller media outlets, limit media diversity and pluralism.

There is unrestricted access to foreign news sources, and domestic outlets draw on and reference these sources in their own reporting. Internet penetration grew to nearly 12.5 percent of the population in 2010, and access is not officially restricted.

Ukraine

Status: Partly Free

Legal Environment: 16

Political Environment: 20

Economic Environment: 20

Total Score: 56

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	53,PF	53,PF	53,PF	55,PF	53,PF

Press freedom declined in 2010 after the pro-Russian opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich was narrowly elected president in February over former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Violent attacks, increased political pressure, and legal changes steadily eroded some of the independence journalists had gained following the Orange Revolution, a popular anti-corruption revolt in 2004-05 that thwarted electoral fraud by Yanukovich and secured the presidency for Viktor Yushchenko. After his election in 2010, Yanukovich strengthened ties with Moscow and curtailed reforms required for European integration, while prosecutors launched a series of politicized criminal investigations against Tymoshenko and her political allies. In July, Yanukovich reduced the authority of the Supreme Court when he ignored changes proposed by

the Council of Europe and signed an unrevised Law on the Judicial System and Status of Judges, Human Rights Watch reported. Public complaints about corruption and abuses committed by regional prosecutors, police, and mayors also increased during the year.

The constitution and legal framework generally provide for media freedom and is one of the most progressive in Eastern Europe, but respect for these laws has diminished since the Orange Revolution. In October, the Prosecutor General's Office in Kyiv summoned Alyona Pritula, editor-in-chief of the popular news website *Ukrainska Pravda*, to identify the source of a government decree her website had published, even though the press law only authorizes courts to request journalists' sources. Criminal libel was eliminated in 2001, and in February 2009 the Supreme Court instructed judges to follow the practices of the Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights, which granted lower levels of protection from criticism to public officials and clearly distinguished between value judgments and factual information. Nonetheless, officials continued to use civil libel lawsuits filed in the country's politicized court system in an effort to deter critical news reporting. In October, the Podolsky District Court in Kyiv found Channel 5 journalist Olga Snitsarchuk guilty of libel for describing parliamentarian Yury But as a political "black sheep" in a news report and ordered her to pay him 20,000 Hryvnas (\$2,500) in damages.

Freedom of information legislation has yet to be formally adopted, and requests for official information are often ignored, particularly at the local level. In July, the Emergency Situations Ministry improperly denied a request filed the previous month by the Kyiv-based Media Law Institute inquiring which media organizations the ministry financed. In November, the parliament adopted a draft Law on Access to Information, which includes a broad definition of public information as well as a "legal responsibility of holders of information who fail to publish." The law was pending at the end of the year.

The country's politicized state media remained unreformed and continued to serve the interests of senior politicians and the state bureaucracy, where secrecy and corruption remained widespread. During the presidential election, state television UT1 and the state-owned newspaper *Uryadoviy Kuryer* both favored Tymoshenko, the incumbent, while many private channels owned by oligarchs favored Yanukovich, the Vienna-based Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) reported. In September, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov announced at a youth conference that he had prohibited state television channels from broadcasting humorous videos about politicians. The politicization of media increased under the Yanukovich administration, which appointed media tycoon Valery Khoroshkovsky—owner of the popular television channel Inter—to head the country's National Security Service (SBU) and serve as a member of the Higher Council of Justice, which appoints judges. In May, journalists from two television channels, STB and 1+1, issued letters criticizing station management for introducing new editorial policies that restricted critical news reporting of Yanukovich and his government's policies. In June, the Kyiv district court stripped new broadcasting frequencies from two rivals of Inter, Channel 5 and TVi, which had not adopted editorial policies favorable to the Yanukovich administration. The court said the frequencies had been improperly granted in January under the previous government. Channel 5 was able to continue broadcasting on its old frequencies, but the ruling sparked criticism that the Yanukovich administration was using Khoroshkovsky's judicial influence to curtail independent news reporting.

A steady stream of threats, harassment, and attacks against the media continued in 2010 as the country's weak and politicized criminal justice system failed to protect journalists from regional politicians, businessmen, and criminal groups. The Kyiv-based Institute for Mass Information reported that more than two dozen journalists were violently beaten that year.

Prosecutors and police regularly failed to take action against suspects identified in past attacks, leading to a culture of impunity and a return of more serious attacks against journalists that had not been seen in recent years. In March, two unidentified men brutally assaulted Vasyl Demyaniv, editor of the independent newspaper *Kolomyisky Vestnik*, in the western city of Kolomyia. Demyaniv was hospitalized with a broken knee and a fractured skull. The attack occurred several days after city officials sued the newspaper to have it evicted from a municipal building after it had criticized city officials. In April, SBU officers followed *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* reporter Konrad Schuller during a trip to Kyiv and later harassed two of the sources he had met with, according to the news website *Ukrainska Pravda*. In August, the editor of the weekly newspaper *Novyi Stil* in the eastern city of Kharkiv, Vasyl Klymentyev, disappeared several days after he refused a bribe to suppress a story about bribe-taking and the lavish homes owned by a local deputy prosecutor, a tax chief, and several SBU officials. *Novyi Stil* deputy editor Petro Matvienko criticized the police for conducting an incomplete investigation, and no progress in the case was reported at the end of the year, according to local and international press reports.

Separately, while Yanukovych had pledged to aggressively defend press freedom upon taking office, his government made limited progress in solving the 2000 abduction and murder of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze. In September, on the tenth anniversary of Gongadze's murder, prosecutors claimed that the late Interior Minister Yuri Kravchenko had ordered his abduction and murder on his own initiative, according to local and international press reports. The announcement sparked accusations from journalists, press freedom advocates, and Gongadze's family that the Yanukovych administration was protecting former president Leonid Kuchma by ignoring credible evidence that the former president had ordered the murder.

With hundreds of state and private television and radio stations and numerous print outlets, Ukraine's media sector is very diverse compared to other former Soviet republics, but it also faces challenges. Many major outlets are owned by regional business magnates with close ties to the government, while others are dependent on state subsidies, encouraging widespread self-censorship and slanted news coverage in favor of specific economic or political interests. The global economic crisis led to a decline in advertising revenue that made media outlets, particularly newspapers, even more financially dependent on politicized owners, the U.S.-based nonprofit group IREX reported. Hidden political advertising is widespread in the media and weakened the public credibility of journalists, particularly during the presidential election at the start of the year, according to the OSCE. The quantity of stories commissioned by business and political figures reportedly doubled during the presidential election, according to IREX. Officials from the Central Election Commission and the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council failed to enforce provisions of the Law on Radio and TV Broadcasting that explicitly banned hidden political advertising during election campaigns. Transparency of media ownership remains poor, as businessmen and politicians often prefer to hide their influence over news programs. Ukraine's print distribution system is problematic and dependent on the national postal service. Some of these deficiencies were compounded by the country's deep economic recession, which led to a decline in the value of the country's currency and an increase in unemployment and inflation.

The government does not restrict access to foreign outlets or to the internet, which is used by around 23 percent of the population. Although internet publications are not required to register with the authorities, the government retains the ability to monitor websites and e-mail. Under Khoroshkovsky's leadership, the SBU increased its monitoring of government criticism

on the internet. In July, SBU officers in Kyiv summoned blogger Oleg Shinkarenko to be questioned about postings critical of Yanukovich, and insisted that he make a written statement promising to stop criticizing the president, according to local and international press reports. In December, two SBU officers in Kyiv summoned Kirill Baranov, deputy editor of the news website Frazz, to their headquarters to be questioned about his work at the website. News websites that were critical of the government faced occasional hacking attacks. In August, the website of the independent Channel 5 television sustained a denial-of-service (DoS) attack. In November, hackers entered the website of the Simferopol-based Center for Journalistic Investigation and deleted the site’s analysis of local elections held in October, the Information Press Center reported.

United Arab Emirates

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 24

Political Environment: 24

Economic Environment: 23

Total Score: 71

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	65,NF	68,NF	68,NF	69,NF	71,NF

Despite high-profile government attempts to lure international media outlets to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, restrictive legal provisions and widespread censorship, especially online, continued to constrain press freedom in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2010. While the constitution provides for freedom of speech and freedom of the press, the government uses its judicial and executive powers to restrict those rights in practice. UAE Federal Law No. 15 of 1980 for Printed Matter and Publications regulates all aspects of the media and is considered one of the most restrictive press laws in the Arab world. It authorizes the state to censor both domestic and foreign publications prior to distribution, and prohibits criticism of the government, rulers and ruling families, and friendly foreign governments; infractions can result in fines and prison sentences. Journalists can also be prosecuted under the penal code.

The Federal National Council (FNC) in early 2009 adopted a draft “regulation of media activities” bill that would replace the 1980 press code, though it has not yet been passed into law. The proposed legislation would impose fines of more than \$1 million for disparaging the head of state or his officials, and fines of several thousand dollars for publishing “misleading” articles “in a manner that harms the country’s reputation, foreign relations or obligations or defaces its national identity” or that “harms the country’s national economy.” Expectation that the draft law will soon be enacted has prompted journalists to engage in even greater self-censorship and led to firings. The National Media Council (NMC), which was created in 2006, is responsible for licensing all publications and issuing press credentials to editors. Members of the council are all appointed by the president.

Defamation is a criminal offense. Mark Townsend, a freelance journalist and former business editor of the English-language *Khaleej Times*, remained in legal limbo without his passport in 2010 because of criminal defamation charges filed against him in August 2009. He

was charged under Article 373 of the penal code for allegedly posting critical articles about the *Khaleej Times*, in which the government holds a 30 percent stake, and faces a maximum sentence of two years in prison and a fine of up to 20,000 dirhams (\$5,400). Separately, in June 2010, a court dismissed two libel cases against the newspaper *7DAYS*. Particular editions of a number of foreign publications were confiscated during the year, including the pan-Arab daily *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, whose October 26 edition was seized because of an article about competition between Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Extreme forms of self-censorship are widely practiced, particularly regarding issues such as local politics, culture, religion, or any other subject the government deems politically or culturally sensitive. The Dubai Media Free Zone (DMFZ), an area in which foreign media outlets produce print and broadcast material intended for foreign audiences, is the only arena in which the press operates with relative freedom. It is now home to bureaus of important media outlets such as Cable News Network, the British Broadcasting Corporation, and Agence France-Presse. Broadcast media outlets based in the DMFZ are regulated by the Technology and Media Free Zone Authority, but they are also subject to the 1980 press law and the penal code. All free zones must obtain approval from the NMC before licensing any print or broadcast activities.

Although there were no reported physical attacks against journalists in 2010, reporters in the UAE suffered multiple forms of intimidation and harassment. Emirati journalists often face warnings and threats if they push the limits of permissible media coverage. However, noncitizen journalists account for the overwhelming majority of those working in the UAE, and they face harsher measures, including dismissal and deportation.

There are about a dozen newspapers printed in Arabic and English, as well as several radio stations and terrestrial television stations. Most media outlets are either government owned or have close government affiliations. The Arab Media Group and Dubai Media Incorporated operate as the Dubai government's media arm, publishing several newspapers and operating television and radio stations. Privately owned newspapers such as the Arabic daily *Al-Khaleej* and its sister paper, the English-language *Gulf Today*, are heavily influenced by the government. Almost all Arabic-language broadcast media that target the domestic audience are state owned and provide only the official view on local issues. However, satellite television service is widespread and provides uncensored access to international broadcasts.

Most major papers receive government subsidies and rely predominantly on the official Emirates News Agency (WAM) for content and guidance on whether or how to cover sensitive local news. Several publishers have opposed free dailies such as *7DAYS*, arguing that they violate a legal provision requiring papers to print their price on the front page. In February 2010, editors in chief of several papers adopted an initiative to expand the number of local citizens in the workplace, despite concerns that the process, known as Emiratization, was leading to arbitrary dismissal and insecurity among non-Emirati staff. According to one estimate, only about 10 percent of working journalists in 2010 were native Emiratis. The NMC-supported Journalist Association allocated 1 million dirhams (\$270,000) to training and developing Emiratis' capacity in the field.

About 78 percent of the UAE population had regular access to the internet in 2010. The 2006 Information and Privacy Cybercrime Law criminalizes the use of the internet to commit a range of offenses—including violating political, social, and religious norms—and subjects perpetrators to prison terms and fines. There are two internet-service providers, Etisalat and Du, both of which are owned and operated by state corporations. Online censorship is extensive, although the government claims it only censors pornographic sites. Both high-speed and dial-up

users find themselves directed to a proxy server that maintains a list of banned websites and blocks material deemed inconsistent with the “religious, cultural, political, and moral values of the country.” The OpenNet Initiative reported a marked increase in the number of political sites blocked since 2007 and categorized social filtering in 2010 as “pervasive.” The online forum Montada AlHewar continued to be blocked, and in November 2010 the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information reported that the local news site Localnewsuae.com had been blocked. An Egyptian opposition website, Save Egypt Front, was blocked in April despite the fact that it contained no information related to the UAE. In a positive sign, however, bans on Israeli domains (.il) and on the photo-sharing site Flickr were lifted in 2010.

Despite the restrictions, a majority of news consumers in Dubai relied on the internet, including blogs and news forums, to obtain information, according to the Dubai Press Club’s *Arab Media Outlook 2009–2013*. The country has an extremely high mobile-telephone penetration rate, making such devices one of the most popular ways to receive news content. The news forum Al-Rams, for example, has 600,000 unique visitors per month and delivers news to 9,000 subscribers via the BlackBerry mobile device. In July, authorities notified Canada’s Research In Motion, the maker of BlackBerry, that they would suspend service in the UAE unless the company granted them access to encrypted messages, a move that could allow government surveillance of journalists and news services.

United Kingdom

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6

Political Environment: 8

Economic Environment: 5

Total Score: 19

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	19,F	19,F	18,F	19,F	19,F

With a history of aggressive reporting and an editorially independent public broadcaster, the United Kingdom maintained its open media environment in 2010. The laws provide for freedom of the press, and the government generally respects this right in practice. Antiquated legal provisions that criminalized blasphemy and blasphemous libel were abolished in 2008. However, several laws that weaken press freedom remain in place. Under legislation from the 1980s, journalists deemed to have information that is vital to a police investigation can be forced to give evidence at trial. A 2006 law criminalized incitement of religious hatred or violence, but no journalists were charged under this law during 2010. In the aftermath of July 2005 terrorist bombings on London’s mass transit system, the government passed the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Certain provisions of the law, which took effect in 2006, criminalize speech that is considered to encourage terrorism, even in the absence of a direct, proven link to a terrorist act. The coalition government that took power in May 2010 pledged to correct several of the country’s press freedom shortcomings, partly through the introduction of protections against abuse of the terrorism legislation.

The right to information is not constitutionally guaranteed, and while a 2000 Freedom of Information Act came into force in 2005, it contains broad exceptions. Nevertheless, a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) correspondent used the act to obtain the minutes from a 1986 cabinet meeting in October 2010. The new coalition government discussed reforms during the year that would make national and local public spending and crime statistics available to the public, and provide public access to parliamentary debates and bills through substantial petition.

English libel laws heavily favor the plaintiff, placing the burden of proof on the defendant. As a result, the country has become an increasingly popular destination for “libel tourism,” in which foreign plaintiffs bring libel actions against foreign defendants in English courts. A campaign led by the free speech organizations Sense About Science, English PEN, and Index on Censorship launched a libel reform petition in Parliament in December 2009, resulting in increased attention to the issue, and the new coalition’s program for government in 2010 promised to correct the libel laws. In a landmark ruling in April, the Court of Appeal found that a 2008 article by science writer Simon Singh, in which he questioned the usefulness of chiropractic treatment, was a statement of opinion and therefore eligible for a “fair comment” defense against the British Chiropractic Association’s libel suit. The association subsequently decided not to pursue an appeal, but Singh had already spent approximately £200,000 (\$320,000) on the case. In a December 2010 poll, 32 percent of editors in the medical and scientific fields reported that their publications had been threatened with libel suits. Some 38 percent of these editors said they had decided against publishing articles for fear of libel actions.

An Oxford University study released in 2008 found that libel cases in England and Wales cost approximately 140 percent more than the average of other European countries. In February 2010, a parliamentary committee suggested reforms that would shift liability to a media outlet’s corporate owner, rather than the journalist or media outlet in question. In March, expatriate Russian businessman Boris Berezovsky won a libel case against a Russian state-owned television channel in a London court over a 2007 program that accused Berezovsky of involvement in the 2006 murder of former Russian intelligence officer Alexander Litvinenko. Berezovsky received approximately \$225,000 in damages from the outlet. The law firm Reynolds Porter Chamberlain reported that there was a 15 percent increase in the number of libel suits between 2008 and 2009.

Physical attacks on the media are rare, and only one was reported in 2010. A journalist for the *Independent* was attacked in London in May while reporting on suspected voting fraud, having found that an unusual number of voters were registered to the same address. He was beaten by several teenagers after revealing that he worked for the *Independent*. Journalists covering sensitive political issues regularly face intimidation in Northern Ireland. Investigations into the 2001 murder of journalist Martin O’Hagan had led to the arrest of four suspects in 2008, but the charges were withdrawn in July 2010 due to the lack of a credible witness to the crime. It is believed that O’Hagan was killed for his investigations into cooperation among Northern Ireland police, military intelligence officials, illegal armed groups, and drug gangs. In August, freelance journalist Eamonn MacDermott’s mobile telephone was confiscated by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). His phone records had also been accessed by the PSNI. He claimed that the probe was related to a call he received from the Real IRA terrorist group following a bomb attack in 2009.

The United Kingdom has a strong tradition of public broadcasting, and the BBC, though publicly funded, is editorially independent. Ownership of private media outlets is concentrated in the hands of a few large companies, including U.S.-based News Corporation, and many of the national newspapers remain aligned with political parties. Few commercial news radio stations

exist, and the handful in operation are reportedly struggling financially. There are several independent television news channels, including ITV and British Sky Broadcasting.

About 85 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010. Authorities may monitor e-mail and other internet communications without judicial permission in the name of national security and “well-being.” However, surveillance must be approved by the home secretary, and there are departments in place to handle public complaints of abuse. To bring the country into compliance with European Union policy, a 2009 law requires internet-service providers to retain usage records for one year. In November 2010, a London police officer requested the domain provider, without a court order, to close the Fitwatch website—which is focused on calling attention to police abuse and intimidation—as well as to suspend its internet protocol (IP) addresses and domain name for 12 months. The site was up and running again two days later, using a server hosted outside the United Kingdom.

United States

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 4

Political Environment: 8

Economic Environment: 5

Total Score: 17

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	16,F	16,F	17,F	18,F	18,F

The release of thousands of classified U.S. government documents by the antisecrecy group WikiLeaks in 2010 triggered major debates over the ability of democracies to take legal action against those responsible for leaked information, and against media that publish such information. Also during the year, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed two measures designed to advance global press freedom: a law that requires the State Department to publish an annual report on violations of press freedom around the world, and legislation aimed at combating the phenomenon known as “libel tourism.”

The United States has one of the world’s strongest systems of legal protection for freedom of the press. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides the core guarantee of press freedom and freedom of speech. While those rights have come under pressure at various times in the country’s history, the independent court system has repeatedly issued rulings that protect and expand the right of journalists to be free of state control. The courts have also given the press broad protection from libel and defamation suits that involve commentary on public figures, though libel remains a criminal offense in a number of states. In 2010, Obama signed a law that protects journalists, writers, and publishers from defamation judgments in countries where the relevant laws are improperly weighted toward plaintiffs. The measure was meant to shield authors from the phenomenon known as libel tourism, in which plaintiffs, often wealthy rulers or business magnates, choose to file libel suits in the most favorable foreign jurisdictions. The U.S. government has shown increasing interest in global press freedom in recent years. In May, Obama signed into law the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act, named for a *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was murdered in Pakistan in 2003. The law requires the State Department

to expand its reporting on press freedom issues around the world and to submit an annual report on the state of media freedom to Congress.

The United States adopted the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in 1966. While the administration of President George W. Bush had a somewhat restrictive attitude toward the release of classified documents, the Obama administration announced a more expansive interpretation of the law in March 2009, when Attorney General Eric Holder declared that records should be released to the public unless doing so would violate another law or cause foreseeable harm to protected interests, including personal privacy and national security. Critics have complained that approximately half of federal government agencies have yet to comply with Obama's executive order. In 2008, Bloomberg News filed a suit against the Federal Reserve after it refused to disclose its records of emergency funds directed to the country's banks during that year's financial crisis. A federal district court ruled in favor of Bloomberg News, and an appellate court affirmed the decision in August 2010. The Obama administration dropped its plan to appeal to the Supreme Court and opted to comply with the decision, but the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department continued to delay the full disclosure of the records at year's end, according to Bloomberg News. In a separate case in May, Defense Department officials barred four journalists from covering military commission proceedings against terrorism suspects in Guantánamo Bay after they published the name of a military employee that had been released previously. The department reinstated their privileges two months later after requiring that they admit to having violated military procedures. The Defense Department issued new guidelines in September to improve transparency regarding the Guantánamo Bay military trials.

An exception to judicial support for press freedom involves demands by prosecutors for information gathered by reporters, including material from confidential sources. Several journalists have gone to jail for contempt of court in recent years rather than hand over material, and others were spared jail time only because the underlying cases ended in settlements. Legislation that would grant journalists a qualified right not to reveal news sources in federal cases passed the House of Representatives in April 2009 but failed to win passage in the Senate. The bill would have allowed journalists to withhold information except in cases where their testimony would be critical to the outcome of a trial, in cases of potential terrorism, or when the information would fulfill a "compelling public interest." At least 37 states already have laws protecting journalists' sources, but enactment of a federal law is regarded as unlikely in the wake of the furor over WikiLeaks.

In April 2010, WikiLeaks posted a military video showing a 2007 attack by U.S. forces in Iraq that resulted in the deaths of two journalists. Over the subsequent months, in successive waves of releases channeled through several major newspapers in the United States and Europe, the group disclosed over 75,000 documents about the war in Afghanistan, over 400,000 documents related to the Iraq war, and a large number of classified U.S. diplomatic cables. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, an Australian, came under intense criticism from various American political figures, and there were demands that he be apprehended and tried in U.S. court. The Justice Department indicated that it was considering a criminal case, though at year's end no concrete steps had been taken against Assange. Meanwhile, a U.S. soldier, Bradley Manning, was arrested on charges of having provided the documents to WikiLeaks. He faced the prospect of a military trial on multiple charges.

Media coverage of political affairs is aggressive and increasingly partisan. The press itself is frequently a source of controversy, with conservatives and liberals alike accusing the media of bias. The appearance of enhanced polarization is driven to some degree by the growing

influence of all-news cable television channels and blogs, many of which are aggressively partisan. The growing popularity of the Fox television network, which has an overtly conservative orientation, has also played an important role in media polarization. Nonetheless, most U.S. newspapers make a serious effort to keep a wall of separation between news reporting, commentary, and editorials. Ironically, the trend toward fewer family-owned newspapers and more newspapers under corporate control has contributed to a less partisan, if blander, editorial tone.

The United States occasionally refuses entry to foreign journalists on grounds of involvement with terrorism. In 2010, Colombian journalist Hollman Morris was initially denied a visa to study at Harvard University. The State Department reversed its decision after the visa denial drew protests from press freedom organizations. There were few physical attacks on journalists during 2010. However, Molly Norris, a political cartoonist for the *Seattle Weekly*, was forced to go into hiding after receiving threats in response to satirical drawings lampooning a cable network's decision not to air a program that tested the Islamic prohibition on images of the prophet Muhammad.

The media in the United States are overwhelmingly under private ownership. Nevertheless, National Public Radio (NPR) and television's Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), which are funded by a combination of government allocations and private contributions, enjoy substantial audiences. Public broadcasting is periodically criticized by Republican legislators for an alleged liberal bias, and there have been efforts to eliminate or greatly reduce government funding for NPR and PBS. Meanwhile, the internationally popular satellite television network Al-Jazeera English (AJE), based in Qatar, has found few cable television companies willing to offer the channel to the U.S. viewers. Media analysts have speculated that cable companies fear losing more subscribers than they would gain by adding AJE, which suffers from a lingering political stigma dating to the Bush administration. By law, radio and television airwaves are considered public property and are leased to private stations, which determine content. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is charged with administering licenses and reviewing content to ensure that it complies with federal limits on indecent or offensive material. On several occasions, the FCC has issued fines against radio and television outlets for what the commission deemed to be acts of indecency.

Traditional media, including print and broadcast outlets, have suffered financially from the increasing popularity of the internet as a news medium. The newspaper industry in the United States is undergoing a period of profound decline and readjustment. There are an estimated 1,400 daily newspapers geared primarily toward local readerships, but even the largest and most prestigious papers have faced falling circulations and advertising revenues and been forced to cut staff over the past decade. This process was accelerated by the economic downturn that began in late 2008. Traditional broadcast television networks, the primary means of news dissemination in the country, have also suffered major audience declines in recent years, leading to significant reductions in staff and coverage.

Media ownership concentration is an ongoing concern in the United States. The problem has intensified in recent years following the purchase of media entities by large corporations with no previous experience in journalism. The FCC regularly considers policies that would ease restrictions on a single corporation's ownership of both television stations and newspapers in a single local market, and in recent years the trend in FCC rulings has been toward a loosening of such restrictions.

The decline in coverage offered by traditional media has been only partly offset by the mushroom growth of cable television and internet journalism. In 2010, for the first time, Americans who identified their primary source of news as the internet outnumbered those who relied most on newspapers. Approximately 79 percent of Americans used the internet in 2010. The number and influence of websites and blogs have grown rapidly over the past decade, and more recently, social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook have gained prominence as a means of testing and mobilizing public opinion on political and policy issues.

Uruguay

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 8

Political Environment: 10

Economic Environment: 7

Total Score: 25

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	28,F	30,F	30,F	26,F	25,F

The 1967 constitution provides for press freedom and freedom of expression, and the government generally respects these rights. The 2009 Actual Malice Law decriminalized defamation. In July 2010, the Appeals Court overturned a defamation sentence for the first time in accordance with this law. However, in August, a public prosecutor called for journalist Álvaro Alfonso to be sentenced to two years in prison for libel associated with his book *Secrets of the Communist Party*, which would be inconsistent with the Actual Malice Law. A law on access to public information was passed in 2008, but retrieving certain information, such as the salaries of officials and audits of government departments, may remain difficult at times. Press advocates criticized a decision by the Access to Public Information Unit—tasked with enforcing the law—to merely “suggest” that the Supreme Court allow public access to court documents, which it currently protects from public scrutiny.

The media in Uruguay are vibrant, and journalists generally do not practice self-censorship. However, reports about the 1972–85 military dictatorship still sometimes prompt reprisals. Political polarization in the country is muted by regional standards. Although President José Mugica, a former leftist guerrilla, has criticized the press on certain occasions, he has taken no systematic steps to favor left-leaning outlets or rein in criticism from more conservative news sources. Journalists generally can cover the news freely. There were no reported cases of extralegal harassment or attacks against journalists during 2010.

The press is privately owned and boasts more than 100 daily and weekly newspapers. The broadcast sector is mostly private, with the exceptions of the state-owned television station and radio outlet. There is no evidence that state advertising is used to systematically reward progovernment media, as was the practice prior to 2005, though sporadic complaints from conservative newspaper owners continued until the end of former president Tabaré Vázquez’s term in March 2010. In December, President Mugica indicated that he would shelve months of work by a technical commission of policy experts from government, civil society, and the private sector who had proposed further reforms concerning private media ownership. The

recommendations included the addition of anticoncentration requirements to decisions about granting frequency concessions; greater balance in public, private, and community media; and the creation of an independent oversight agency and audience ombudsman. There were no government restrictions on the internet, which was accessed by 43 percent of the population during the year.

Uzbekistan

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 30

Political Environment: 37

Economic Environment: 27

Total Score: 94

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	90,NF	91,NF	92,NF	93,NF	92,NF

The government of President Islam Karimov showed no respect for nominal constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press in 2010, but after international criticism, the sentences of some journalists facing jail time were annulled or converted to fines. Criticism of the president is a crime punishable by up to five years in prison, and individuals can also be prosecuted under the loosely defined charge of “defamation of the Uzbek people.” In January, prosecutors summoned a number of journalists to warn them of criminal penalties if they continued their critical reporting. Umida Akhmedova was sentenced for insulting the Uzbek people through her documentaries and photographs depicting Uzbek village life, which were part of a project supported by the Swiss embassy in Tashkent. Voice of America correspondent Abdumalik Boboyev and Vladimir Berezovsky, a correspondent for *Parlamentskaya Gazeta* and editor of the Russian-language news site Vesti.uz, were sentenced on similar charges. All three were tried and convicted based on analysis of their work by the official Center for Media Monitoring, part of the Uzbek Agency for Communications. After international protests, Akhmedova and Berezovsky were amnestied, and Boboyev was fined \$11,000 rather than jailed; his sentence was confirmed upon appeal.

Widespread self-censorship is a serious problem, as journalists fear reprisal in the form of harassment, loss of employment, or jail time. Revelations in August 2010 by two newscasters from the state-controlled Yoshlar TV, Saodat Omonova and Malokhat Eshonkulova, provided a rare glimpse into the practice of prior censorship. The journalists told human rights activists and foreign diplomats that the state prescreened programs, censored reports that were critical of officials, and ordered reporters to use information from the government’s news agency.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, six journalists remained behind bars for political reasons as of December 1, 2010, including Dzhamshid Karimov, the president’s own nephew, who has been held in a psychiatric hospital since 2006, and Dilmorad Sayid, a journalist sentenced in 2009 to 12 and a half years in prison on false charges related to reporting on local corruption. Sayid is ill with tuberculosis and was denied leave to attend the funeral of his wife and child, who died in a car accident on their way to visit him in late 2009. His sentence was upheld on appeal in 2010.

While an estimated 1,100 media outlets operate in Uzbekistan, the government controls most national dailies and television stations, as well as the publishing houses and printing presses that handle the majority of the country’s print media. A few private printing presses produce independent publications that avoid politically sensitive topics and have a very limited circulation. Virtually all local media are linked either directly or indirectly to the state, and the National Security Service actively manipulates reports to present a carefully constructed image of the country, with occasional forays into limited criticism of local corruption. In 2010, state-controlled media provided minimal coverage of major international events such as the overthrow of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev in neighboring Kyrgyzstan in April, violent clashes between ethnic Uzbeks and Kyrgyz in Kyrgyzstan in June, and the release of classified U.S. diplomatic cables by the antisecrecy organization WikiLeaks at year’s end that portrayed Karimov and his daughters in an unflattering light. The government does not permit the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), or Voice of America to broadcast from within Uzbekistan. According to the independent online publication Fergananeews.com, the foreign press corps has shrunk from 88 journalists before the 2005 Andijon massacre—in which government troops fired on demonstrators, reportedly killing hundreds and straining Uzbekistan’s relations with democratic countries—to 33 today. Even some of those who have been accredited by the government have left the country.

Although an estimated 20 percent of the Uzbek population used the internet in 2010, many users access the medium in institutional and public settings where state controls and the possibility of surveillance cripple their ability to obtain independent perspectives on events inside the country. Users report that the government routinely blocks the websites of RFE/RL, the BBC’s Uzbek service, EurasiaNet, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and various Uzbek- and Russian-language human rights, opposition, and religious sites. While social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and LiveJournal could be reached during the year, there were reports that some groups and accounts within those sites were blocked.

Vanuatu

Status: Free

Legal Environment: 6

Political Environment: 11

Economic Environment: 8

Total Score: 25

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	25,F	24,F	23,F	23,F	23,F

Venezuela

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 27

Political Environment: 29

Economic Environment: 20

Total Score: 76

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	72,NF	74,NF	74,NF	73,NF	75,NF

The gradual erosion of press freedom in Venezuela continued in 2010. The media landscape featured political intimidation by government officials and state-owned media in their opinion programs, laws restricting the exercise of basic human rights, systematic judicial and administrative harassment of opposition outlets, economic threats against independent media, and physical attacks against journalists amid a worsening climate of common criminality.

While freedoms of speech and the press are constitutionally guaranteed, the legal environment is characterized by standing threats of arbitrary detention, charges, fines, and sentences, as well as license manipulation and other administrative harassment aimed at opposition media, primarily broadcast stations and daily newspapers. Defamation is a criminal offense; when directed specifically at the president, it can result in a prison term of up to 30 months. In June 2010, columnist Francisco “Pancho” Pérez was convicted of slander and insulting a public official in a case brought by the mayor of Valencia. He was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison as well as a ban on practicing journalism for the same period and a fine of 94,000 bolivars (\$22,000). Pérez was paroled under a policy affecting convicts with prison sentences of less than five years. Late in the year, after international observers criticized the use of criminal rather than civil remedies for defamation, an appellate court annulled Pérez’s conviction.

A revised Law of Social Responsibility in Radio, Television, and Electronic Media (RESORTE) that took effect in December 2010 contains vaguely worded restrictions on media freedom and extends existing controls on broadcast media to the internet. The legislation bans messages that “incite or promote hatred,” “foment citizens’ anxiety or alter public order,” “disrespect authorities,” “encourage assassination,” or “constitute war propaganda.” It also retains poorly defined prohibitions on messages “that promote, defend, or incite breaches of public order” or “are contrary to the security of the nation.” The revised law empowers the Venezuelan National Telecommunications Commission (CONATEL) to manage digital services and impose—with considerable discretion—significant fines and service suspensions, potentially disrupting internet access and content.

The print media have also come under growing pressure. In August 2010, after the newspapers *El Nacional* and *Tal Cual* published photographs documenting piles of corpses in a Caracas morgue due to the rampant crime in the capital, a court tasked with protecting minors banned the publication of violent images in all print media for 30 days. The order was soon narrowed to the two newspapers in question, and their editors reportedly remained under investigation.

The Reform to the Organic Law for Telecommunications, which took effect in late December, establishes telecommunications as a “public interest service,” granting CONATEL additional powers to regulate the industry and suspend or revoke licenses when it deems certain content to be antithetical to the national interest or security. The reform initially contained a provision to force owners to renew or apply for licenses for their radio or television stations in person. This would have presented a serious obstacle to Guillermo Zuloaga, the owner of the opposition-oriented television station Globovisión, who had gone into exile earlier in the year. However, the controversial amendment was ultimately removed.

CONATEL's broadly applied licensing powers remain one of the greatest threats to opposition broadcasters. In January 2010, the commission revoked the licenses of two radio stations, Tropical FM in Miranda State and Rivas FM in Barinas State, continuing a pattern of closures from the previous year. A television station, TVS of Maracay, was also taken off the air that month, and in March the radio outlet Victoria FM had its transmission power reduced by almost 90 percent. More importantly, the opposition-oriented cable television station RCTV, which had been forced out of terrestrial broadcasting in 2007, was suspended in January 2010 and remained off the air at year's end. Other stations removed from the airwaves during the year included Ritmo Son, Momentum, América TV, American Network, and TV Chile. All television channels, including cable channels, are legally required to carry certain government broadcasts, mostly presidential speeches, known as *cadena*s.

While the killing of journalists is relatively rare in Venezuela, harassment and intimidation occur frequently. No journalists were killed in 2010 as a direct result of their work, although two—Wilmer Ferrer of the daily *Panorama*, and Israel Márquez of *Diario 2001*—were murdered by street criminals. A total of 113 cases of harassment against journalists were reported in 2010 by the Inter American Press Association (IAPA). Zuloaga, the owner of Globovisión, was accused of vilifying the Venezuelan head of state, among other offenses, during a mid-2010 meeting of the IAPA. After facing a string of subpoenas, imputations of conspiracy and usury, arrests, travel restrictions, and illegal searches of his residence, Zuloaga went into exile to avoid apparently imminent incarceration. In a positive development, Rafael Segundo Pérez, a former Carabobo police sergeant involved in the 2009 murder of reporter Orel Sambrano, was convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison in May 2010.

Venezuela's leading newspapers are privately owned, though dependence on government advertising encourages the papers to avoid critical coverage or politically sensitive topics. Mass media investment and usage remain a top priority for the government, which relies on some 244 radio stations and 36 television channels, as well as print and internet-based news outlets, to disseminate its messages. Although some private broadcasters are openly aligned with the opposition, a greater number self-censor to avoid shutdowns or other reprisals by the authorities. Issues of concern include price increases of newsprint, repeated tax auditing of specific media organizations, and advertising pressures. The government has expropriated or used state enterprises to weaken companies that advertise in opposition media. Newspapers struggle to stay in business because of the hostile economic environment. By contrast, community media are booming across the country—with notable government support—amid increased participation by segments of the population that until recently did not have any access to the dominant private media outlets. However, community stations lack sufficient autonomy to decide on content and activities. International support for community media through nongovernmental organizations has been discouraged by the authorities.

Over nine million citizens in Venezuela, or 35.6 percent of the population, have access to the internet, and usage has increased over the past decade. Venezuelan authorities do not engage in systematic filtering or large-scale arrests of bloggers, but President Hugo Chávez declared in March 2010 that the internet should not be a free forum where citizens can say and do whatever they want. Also that month, a trial court in Táchira State sentenced journalist Gustavo Azócar to two and a half years in prison on dubious fraud charges related to an advertising contract between the state lottery and Radio Noticias, but the judge granted Azócar an immediate parole. He had initially been arrested for violating a pretrial gag order by posting information about his

case on his blog, though it was widely understood that he had been targeted because of his political commentary on local officials.

Vietnam

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 28

Political Environment: 33

Economic Environment: 22

Total Score: 83

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	79,NF	77,NF	82,NF	83,NF	82,NF

As it prepared for Communist Party elections in January 2011, the Vietnamese government increased restrictions on journalists throughout 2010. Attacks on internet dissidents intensified, with bloggers who addressed politically sensitive issues facing arrest or physical harassment. Vietnam now imprisons the second-largest number of bloggers in the world, with at least 16 behind bars by year's end.

Although the 1992 constitution recognizes freedom of expression, the criminal code contains vaguely worded prohibitions against speech that is critical of government officials or that threatens national security. The propaganda and training departments of the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) control all media and set press guidelines. A 1999 law requires journalists to pay damages to individuals or groups that are found to have been harmed by press articles, even if the article's assertions are accurate. The CPV levies charges under defamation laws or the commonly used Article 88 of the criminal code, which prohibits the dissemination of "antigovernment propaganda," in response to articles it deems threatening. Reacting to increasingly vibrant reporting by both the traditional and internet-based news media, the government issued a decree in 2006 that defined over 2,000 additional violations of the law in the areas of culture and information, with a particular focus on protecting "national security." The judiciary is not independent, and many trials related to free expression last only a few hours. Courts frequently use dubious allegations unrelated to press freedom to silence opposition views. In February 2010, democracy activist Trần Khải Thanh Thủy was charged with assault after reporting that police had vandalized her home. Authorities continued to detain Nguyễn Hoàng Hải, who blogs under the name Điều Cày, at year's end, though he completed a two-year sentence on trumped-up tax charges in October. International press freedom organizations also question the veracity of extortion charges brought against independent editor Phan Hà Bình.

The CPV generally views the media as a tool for the dissemination of party and state policy. Criticism of government leaders, advocacy for political reforms or the creation of a multiparty democracy, discussion of national security issues, human rights, religious freedom, environmental issues, and border disputes with China are the topics most commonly targeted for official censorship or retribution. Journalists are sometimes permitted to report official corruption at the local level, as it serves the interests of the CPV's national anticorruption platform. Foreign reporters are often required to remain in the capital, Hanoi, and face

disciplinary action from the propaganda department for covering politically sensitive topics. International periodicals, though widely available, are sometimes censored.

Police occasionally use physical violence and threats against opposition-oriented media personnel. Numerous reports of law enforcement officers raiding homes and confiscating computers surfaced throughout 2010, including in the cases of well-known bloggers Hà Sĩ Phu and Tạ Phong Tần. In April, police physically assaulted internet activist Lu Thị Thu Trang of the prodemocracy group Block 8406 in front of her young son.

Almost all print media outlets are owned by or are under the control of the CPV, government organs, or the army. Several of these newspapers—including *Thanh Niên*, *Người Lao Động*, and *Tuổi Trẻ* (owned by the Youth Union of the CPV)—have attempted to become financially self-sustaining. They, along with the popular online news site VietnamNet, also have a fair degree of editorial independence, though ultimately they are still subject to the CPV. Several underground publications have been launched in recent years, including *Tự Do Ngôn Luận*, whose editor, Nguyễn Văn Lý, was released in 2010 after serving three years in prison, and *Tổ Quốc*, which continues to circulate despite harassment of staff members. Radio is controlled by the government-run Voice of Vietnam or other state entities. The broadcasts of international stations such as Radio Free Asia are periodically jammed. State-owned Vietnam Television (VTV) is the only national television provider, although cable services do carry some foreign channels. Vietnam launched its first telecommunications satellite in 2008, indicating that access to television, telephone service, and the internet may increase in rural areas in the coming years. Many homes and local businesses in urban areas have satellite dishes, in some cases allowing them to access foreign programming.

Rising internet penetration has posed problems for the CPV, which seeks to promote new technology as well as restrict online criticism. Approximately 28 percent of the population accessed the internet in 2010, with the vast majority utilizing internet cafés and other public providers. Website operators continue to use internet-service providers (ISPs) that are either publicly or semipublicly owned like Vietnam Data Communications, which is controlled by the state-owned Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications Group and serves nearly a third of all internet users. ISPs are required by law to block access to websites that are considered politically unacceptable. These are mainly Vietnamese-language sites, including those of oppositional advocacy groups based overseas; foreign news sites remain generally accessible, though the British Broadcasting Corporation's Vietnamese-language service was repeatedly blocked during 2010.

The internet remains both the most accessible space for disseminating opposition views and the main target for government crackdowns. In 2008, the Ministry of Information and Communications formed an agency to monitor the internet and blogosphere. In April 2010, the government introduced the latest in a series of restrictions on public internet usage, requiring internet café owners to install software that records the personal information and browsing activities of users. The government continues to shut down blogs, including the popular sites *Blogosin* and *Bauxite Vietnam* in February 2010. Though the government has denied using cyberattacks to monitor and prevent dissident activity, malicious programs attached to downloadable Vietnamese-language software most frequently targets politically sensitive websites. In March, experts from the U.S. companies Google and McAfee reported that distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, which overwhelm servers and websites with traffic, had been used to censor dissidents.

Conditions for cyberactivists and online journalists continue to deteriorate. Bloggers are frequent targets for arbitrary detention, interrogation, and arrest. Five bloggers were imprisoned in 2010, a dramatic increase from just one in 2009. After a high-profile trial in January, three cyberdissidents were convicted under Article 79 of the criminal code for supposed national security violations, with sentences ranging from 5 to 16 years in prison. In August, blogger Phạm Minh Hoàng was arrested and held for six weeks for public statements on bauxite-mining issues, then charged with 30 counts of terrorism and intent to overthrow the government. By year’s end he was still being held without access to lawyers or his family. In October, authorities arrested bloggers Phan Thanh Hải, for blogging about mining and Chinese border issues, and Lê Nguyễn Hương Trà, for accusing a senior security minister of corruption.

Yemen

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 27

Political Environment: 33

Economic Environment: 23

Total Score: 83

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	81,NF	80,NF	78,NF	79,NF	80,NF

Threatened by sectarian rebels in the north, a political protest movement in the south (the Southern Movement), and increased activity by the terrorist network Al-Qaeda within its borders, the embattled Yemeni government has engaged in a massive crackdown on the media since early 2009. As a result, journalists in 2010 faced the worst legal and administrative restrictions in decades.

While the rights to freedom of expression and a free press are guaranteed under Article 41 of the constitution, the government continued to use the restrictive 1990 Press and Publications Law to prosecute journalists and violate the rights of the media in 2010. Article 103 of the 1990 law prohibits journalists from criticizing the head of state or publishing material that undermines public morality, prejudices the dignity of individuals by smears and defamation, or distorts the image of Yemeni, Arab, or Islamic heritage. Under Article 104, anyone violating the media law may be punished with fines or up to one year in prison. In a positive step, in November 2010, the cabinet approved additions to the media law that would eliminate imprisonment as a punishment for libel, allow the establishment of media outlets without a license, and legalize and grant funding to the journalists’ union. The amendments had not been adopted by the parliament at year’s end.

Two specialized courts exist for the prosecution of media offenses, despite a constitutional prohibition against creating “exceptional courts...under any conditions.” In 2004, the Specialized Criminal Court—established in 1999 to hear cases related to crimes such as terrorism and piracy—widened its jurisdiction to include “crimes against state security and serious economic and social crimes,” which allowed for the prosecution of journalists. More recently, the Specialized Press and Publications Court was created in May 2009. Its judges may choose to enforce the press law, the penal code, and any other laws as it sees fit. The prosecutor

general, appointed by the executive branch, refers cases to this court at his discretion. The press court has handled more than 100 cases since its creation. Together, the specialized courts are used to silence Yemen's few remaining independent media outlets while legitimizing the actions of those who harass and attack journalists. Journalists who report on politically sensitive topics such as the Southern Movement, corruption, Al-Qaeda cells in Yemen, and the ongoing civil conflict in the northern Saada area are especially vulnerable to harassment.

The number of journalists prosecuted under terrorism charges rather than the press law has also increased in recent years. Muhammad al-Maqaleh, editor of an opposition party website, was abducted by security forces in September 2009. He was held incommunicado and subjected to torture and mock executions until January 2010, at which time he was able to contact his family. He faced charges in both the Specialized Criminal Court and the Press and Publications Court, likely related to his website's reporting on 87 civilian deaths caused by military strikes in Saada. However, his case, like many others, was "discontinued" in May when the president inexplicably issued a pardon of all journalists. The pardon apparently applied even to those who had not yet been convicted, but it was unclear whether the charges were truly dropped, and al-Maqaleh and others remained unsure of their legal status. In the most prominent case of 2010, journalist Abdul Ilah Haider Shaea was abducted and interrogated by government agents in July and arrested by security forces in his home in August. He was held incommunicado and subjected to torture while in custody. As a reporter for the Saba news agency, he regularly covered Al-Qaeda and terrorism, achieving international notoriety for his 2009 interview with Al-Qaeda ideologue Anwar al-Awlaki. At his first hearing before the Specialized Criminal Court in September, he was charged with planning to carry out terrorist acts, providing media support to Al-Qaeda, and conspiring to overthrow the government. Prosecutors accused him of being al-Awlaki's media adviser. His lawyers boycotted the trial on the grounds that it was unconstitutional, and Shaea remained in custody at year's end.

Under the media law, licensing is required both to establish a print media outlet and to practice journalism. The government tightly controls licensing for newspapers and magazines. Outlets must apply annually for license renewals, which requires proof of 700,000 riyals (\$3,200) in operating capital, an editor in chief with at least eight years of experience, and the names of three future employees. Preferential treatment is given to progovernment publications, with opposition-oriented media facing undue bureaucratic obstacles in their licensing efforts. Newspaper licenses may be revoked at any time. According to the Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights, the government closed or pressured at least 20 newspapers in 2009, including both progovernment and opposition-aligned publications. In May of that year, the government suspended production of eight independent newspapers—*Al-Nida*, *Al-Shari'*, *Al-Masdar*, *Al-Watani*, *Al-Diyar*, *Al-Ayyam*, *Al-Ahali*, and *Al-Mustaqilla*. One of these, *Al-Ayyam*, is among Yemen's oldest and most influential publications, and has faced sustained pressure from the authorities. In January 2010, when sympathetic journalists from other publications organized a sit-in at *Al-Ayyam*'s headquarters, the government turned machine guns and grenades on the protesters. Editor in chief Hisham Bashraheel and his two sons were arrested and held for several months before being released. Charges of "forming an armed gang," stemming from the January siege, were pending before the Specialized Criminal Court against 24 of *Al-Ayyam*'s employees, including Bashraheel and his sons, at year's end. Bashraheel and others also faced charges before the Specialized Press and Publications Court.

Despite the government's denials, official censorship does occur. Self-censorship among journalists and media owners, perpetuated by a climate of fear and intimidation, is also pervasive

and extreme. The government seems to support a general environment of impunity for crimes against the press, failing to conduct serious investigations or even denounce attacks in many cases. In February 2010, journalist Muhammad al-Rabou'e, a reporter for the monthly publication *Al-Qahira*, was murdered in his Bani Qais home. The suspects, five members of the same family who had been arrested in December 2009 for assaulting the same journalist, allegedly shot him in retaliation for articles he wrote on their criminal activities. They were arrested, but a conviction in the case had not been reported by year's end.

Foreign media outlets and journalists are also subject to scrutiny for covering politically sensitive topics. At least three U.S. journalists were deported in 2010, while representatives of more than 50 international outlets were prohibited from entering the country.

Government control over print and broadcast media is strong. The local press freedom organization Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC) reported in early 2010 that the government controlled 30 newspapers; another 162 were independent, 59 were linked to political parties, and 50 were associated with civil society organizations. WJWC further reported that the government controlled 22 magazines, while only 6 were independent, 4 were affiliated with political parties, and 33 were run by civil society organizations. The government maintained its complete monopoly on broadcast media in 2010 through the Yemen General Corporation for Radio and Television, with 4 television channels and 2 national and 10 regional radio channels. The government exerts editorial influence over broadcast media by selecting items that are to be covered during newscasts. Yemenis remain heavily reliant on state-run television and radio programs for news. For those who can afford it, satellite television provides access to international news and entertainment programs. The government's far-reaching regulation of the creation, maintenance, publication, and distribution of print media, combined with the violent crackdown on individual journalists, has reduced the number of functioning independent media outlets that meet professional journalistic standards. Most publications are very poorly funded due to heavy restrictions on advertising revenue and a lack of independent financing. The Ministry of Information exerts influence over the print media in part by controlling nearly all printing presses and manipulating advertising subsidies. In December 2009, Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Mujur issued a ban on publishing state advertisements in independent media outlets, and private entities fear being branded as traitorous if they advertise in such outlets. Sales- and subscription-based revenue is minimal given the country's economic situation; 47 percent of Yemenis live on less than \$2 per day, and 70 percent of the population lived in rural areas as recently as 2007. Low salaries leave many journalists susceptible to bribes.

While only 11 percent of the population used the internet in 2010, given the economic obstacles (rolling blackouts, lack of access to computers, lack of access to internet connectivity), this amounted to a roughly 2,700 percent growth in the number of users since 2000. The state owns the country's two internet-service providers, TeleYemen and YemenNet, and the government carries out extensive blocking and filtering of the internet within the country. Websites with religious, "immoral," or opposition political content are blocked most frequently. This online censorship is not as widespread or as sophisticated as in some neighboring Arab countries. However, a draft law currently under consideration would require "media services provided by mobile phones and internet" to obtain a license for a fee of 9.6 to 40.2 million riyals (\$40,000 to \$167,000), which would deter private media in practice while giving the impression that it was liberalizing the media ownership structure.

Zambia

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 19

Political Environment: 23

Economic Environment: 19

Total Score: 61

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Score, Status	64,NF	64,NF	64,NF	65,NF	64,NF

Despite improvements in the diversity of the media landscape over the past several years, independent media in Zambia continued to face legal harassment, physical intimidation, and the threat of statutory regulation in 2010. Freedom of speech is guaranteed in the constitution, but the relevant language can be broadly interpreted. Such guarantees were not explicitly included in a new draft constitution that was under debate during the year. Criminal libel laws, laws prohibiting sedition and obscenity, and provisions in the penal code such as the Official Secrets Act and the State Security Act remain in effect and are sometimes used against journalists. The government has stalled on passing freedom of information legislation as well as proposed reforms to the broadcasting sector. In June 2010, Fred M'membe, editor in chief and owner of the *Post*, the country's leading independent newspaper, was found guilty of contempt of court and sentenced to four months in prison with hard labor. The case against M'membe was related to the *Post's* publication of an article—written by U.S.-based Zambian lawyer and academic Muna Ndulo—about the trial of the paper's news editor, Chansa Kabwela, who faced obscenity charges in 2009 over her reporting on a health workers' strike; Kabwela's charges were ultimately dismissed. After spending several days in jail, M'membe was released on bail pending an appeal.

The issue of media regulation remains contentious. In April 2010, the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Act was passed, allowing the information minister to appoint the ZNBC board without first receiving nominations from an appointments committee. However, the selections must be ratified by the parliament. The 2002 Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) Act was modified in July, granting the minister similar powers of direct appointment for the IBA. New boards had not been appointed at either the ZNBC or the IBA by year's end, raising concerns that the government intended to tightly control the licensing process and adding to confusion about which body was responsible for granting broadcast licenses. No new license requests for broadcast outlets to start or expand operations had been granted by year's end. In November, officials threatened to revoke the license of Radio Lyambai following allegations that the station intended to invite an opposition leader to discuss a controversial political issue; since 2007, the station has been banned from broadcasting live call-in radio shows.

Amid ongoing official threats to introduce statutory regulation of media practices, a consortium of groups within the industry made progress on self-regulation in 2010, agreeing in February to establish a Zambia Media Council (ZAMEC) and drafting a code of ethics that the proposed council would enforce. However, the launch of ZAMEC was repeatedly postponed for the remainder of the year due to a lack of official support for the process—which would limit the participation of public media in the self-regulatory mechanism—and ongoing attempts to

reconcile the media industry’s insistence on self-regulation and the government’s support for statutory regulation.

Physical harassment of Zambian journalists occurs regularly and often involves politicians or party activists. In January 2010, there were two instances of groups forcing their way into a broadcast station. In one case, members of the opposition Patriotic Front party stormed the Mazabuka community radio station and demanded that a live program be halted. Despite the invasion, the program was aired in its entirety. In November, supporters of the opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) attacked and threatened to kill *Post* assistant news editor George Chella, allegedly in retaliation for his coverage of the party. Chella was at the party’s offices in Lusaka to cover a press conference by UPND lawmakers. Also in November, Chris Chalwe, youth chairperson of the ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD), was sentenced to one year in prison with hard labor in connection with an attack on journalists from the *Times of Zambia* and the *Post* at Lusaka International Airport in July 2009.

The government controls the *Zambia Daily Mail* and the *Times of Zambia*, both of which are widely circulated. Content is reviewed prior to publication, and many journalists practice self-censorship. Several privately owned newspapers—of which the *Post* has the widest circulation and is the only daily—provide opposition views and criticism of the government, but face frequent retaliation for their reporting. The government-owned ZNBC is the primary broadcast outlet covering domestic news. Its reporting remains heavily biased in favor of the government and against the opposition. The majority of journalists in Zambia are still employed by public media outlets. However, a growing number of private radio stations, including dozens of community radio stations, and four television stations broadcast alongside state-owned outlets, and international services are not restricted. Some local private stations, including Radio Phoenix and SkyFM, carry call-in shows on which diverse and critical viewpoints are freely expressed. Radio remains the medium of choice in most of the country because of its relatively low cost of access, but many stations face financial difficulties due to their dependence on sponsored programming and a small advertising market. The costs of newsprint and ink (including high import duties and taxes), printing, and distribution remain very high, hampering print outlets’ ability to increase their readership. Reception of both state and private television signals throughout the country remains poor. Advertising is sometimes used as a tool by the government to influence media content and coverage.

The government does not restrict internet access, though costs are prohibitive; only 6.7 percent of the population used the medium in 2010. In November, a judge issued an arrest warrant for the editor of the investigative news website *Zambian Watchdog*, accusing him of contempt of court for publishing articles concerning an ongoing murder case.

Zimbabwe

Status: Not Free

Legal Environment: 25

Political Environment: 29

Economic Environment: 27

Total Score: 81

Survey Edition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
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Total Score, Status	90,NF	89,NF	89,NF	88,NF	84,NF
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Despite several positive developments in the media sector in 2010, press freedom in Zimbabwe remained tightly restricted. Promised reforms to liberalize the legal and regulatory environment after years of authoritarian abuse were stalled by President Robert Mugabe’s Zimbabwe African National Union–Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party, which was still entrenched in the executive branch and exercised control over the nominally inclusive government of national unity formed in 2009. Legal and physical harassment of journalists, which increased toward the end of the year as the country prepared for possible early elections in 2011, also remained a concern.

Even with constitutional provisions for freedom of expression, a draconian legal framework continues to inhibit the activities of journalists and media outlets. The 2002 Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) required all journalists and media companies to register, and gave the information minister sweeping powers to decide which publications could operate legally and who is able to work as a journalist. Unlicensed journalists can face criminal charges and a sentence of up to two years in prison. In addition, the Official Secrets Act, the Public Order and Security Act (POSA), and the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act severely limit what journalists may publish and mandate harsh penalties—including long prison sentences—for violators. Authorities continued to exploit these laws to harass and punish journalists in 2010, relying less on AIPPA and POSA and more on the Criminal Law Act. In December, First Lady Grace Mugabe brought a US\$15 million libel suit against the *Standard* newspaper for an article quoting part of a leaked U.S. diplomatic cable about her. Several weeks earlier, the paper’s editor, Nevanji Madanhire, had been arrested and charged with breaching a section of the Criminal Law Act that deals with revealing state secrets; Nqobani Ndlovu, a journalist with the same publication who wrote the article in question, faced similar charges. The Bulawayo bureau chief of *NewsDay* was also briefly detained in connection with the case. In November, police issued an arrest warrant for the London-based editor of the *Zimbabwean* newspaper in connection with a 2008 article. In October, members of ZANU-PF introduced the General Law Amendment Bill, which would hamper journalists’ ability to access government information, including judicial decisions and public records, and require permission from authorities before the publication of government documents.

The 2008 power-sharing agreement between ZANU-PF and the two factions of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), the longtime opposition party, mandated the creation of a new, independent Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) to replace the state-controlled Media and Information Commission (MIC), which formerly was in charge of licensing publications and journalists. After delays in 2009, the ZMC was finally formed in February 2010; the inclusion of several well-respected industry representatives as commissioners raised hopes that the new body would be somewhat more independent than its predecessor. In a positive step, in May the ZMC proceeded to license five new publications, including the *Daily News*, Zimbabwe’s only independent daily until it was shuttered in 2003, and the new private daily *NewsDay*. The latter commenced publication within weeks, the *Daily News* restarted its operations but had not begun printing, and the other three licensees had yet to begin operations by the end of the year. By contrast, broadcasting licenses continue to be consistently denied to independent radio stations, despite calls by a parliamentary committee for liberalization. In 2009, former MIC head and Mugabe ally Tafataona Mahoso was appointed chairman of the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ), which is responsible for granting radio and television licenses.

Journalists faced verbal intimidation, physical attacks, arbitrary arrest and detention, interception of communications, and financial pressure at the hands of the police, government officials, and supporters of the ruling party during the year. Many were harassed while attempting to cover news events or sensitive political issues such as the constitutional reform process or the ongoing investigation into abuses at diamond mines. Andrison Shadreck Manyere, a freelance photojournalist, suffered repeated instances of harassment in 2010. Freelance journalist Stanley Kwenda briefly fled the country after receiving death threats in January. Professional and media-monitoring organizations such as the Zimbabwe Union of Journalists, the Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe, and the local chapter of the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) are also subject to official harassment. Faced with legal restrictions as well as the threat of extralegal intimidation, many journalists practice self-censorship.

Foreign journalists can encounter restrictions on residing full-time in the country and are sometimes denied visas to file stories from Zimbabwe, though an outright ban on two major international news organizations, the British Broadcasting Corporation and the U.S.-based Cable News Network, was lifted in 2009. Locally based correspondents for foreign publications, particularly those whose reporting has portrayed the regime in an unfavorable light, have been refused accreditation or threatened with lawsuits and deportation. In May 2010, the government significantly lowered the accreditation fees for foreign journalists, foreign outlets, and local reporters working for foreign outlets. During the past several years, dozens of Zimbabwean journalists have fled the country, mostly to South Africa and Britain; according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Zimbabwe has one of the largest numbers of exiled journalists in the world.

The government, through the Mass Media Trust holding company, controls the two main daily newspapers, the *Chronicle* and the *Herald*. After undergoing a modest shift toward more politically balanced coverage in 2009, state media returned to slavishly supporting Mugabe and ZANU-PF while attacking the MDC in 2010, amid increased jockeying for power ahead of possible elections in 2011. The private Alpha Media Holdings group publishes a number of the country's independent papers, including *NewsDay*, the *Standard*, and the *Zimbabwe Independent*, though many of their journalists practice extensive self-censorship, particularly regarding stories on corruption or factional fighting within ZANU-PF. The *Zimbabwean* is produced in South Africa for the Zimbabwean market, and some foreign newspapers, most of them also from South Africa, are available. Distributors of the *Zimbabwean* were arrested in February 2010 and briefly faced legal charges despite the fact that they have no control over the paper's content. Newspapers typically have poor distribution networks outside urban areas, and they have been buffeted by soaring prices for newsprint. According to MISA's African Media Barometer, state-run companies do not advertise in private papers, and state-run media outlets do not accept advertising from companies thought to be aligned with the opposition. Owing to poor economic conditions and salaries that do not keep pace with inflation, journalistic corruption and cash incentives for coverage have become rampant.

The state-controlled Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) runs all broadcast media, which are subject to overt political interference and censorship. ZBC coverage, particularly before and during elections, overwhelmingly favors ZANU-PF. In 2009, retired military and intelligence officers loyal to Mugabe were appointed to the boards of state-owned newspapers, the ZBC, and the NewZiana news agency. The Broadcasting Services Act bans foreign funding and investment in this capital-intensive sector, making it very difficult for private players to enter the market. Radio broadcasts are currently the predominant source of

information in rural areas. However, access to broadcast media in such areas is hampered by deteriorating equipment and a lack of transmission sites. According to MISA, only 30 percent of the country enjoys radio and television reception, but the government has reached an agreement with China to help upgrade transmission infrastructure. Meanwhile, officials have used Chinese technology to jam the signals of increasingly popular foreign-based radio stations that broadcast into Zimbabwe, including SW Radio Africa, a station run by exiled Zimbabwean journalists in London; the Voice of America's Studio 7 service; and the Voice of the People. After a lull in 2009, such signal jamming appeared to occur more regularly in 2010. In December, nongovernmental organizations reported that authorities were raiding homes in rural areas and confiscating the shortwave radios used to access these broadcasts. Although satellite television services that provide international news programming remain largely uncensored, their cost places them out of reach for most of the population.

Access to the internet is limited by the high costs at internet cafés and service disruptions caused by frequent power outages. Nonetheless, Zimbabwe has a relatively high rate of internet penetration for Africa, at 11.5 percent of the population. Online newspapers, news portals, and blogs run by Zimbabweans living abroad are popular among those with internet access. The 2007 Interception of Communications Act allows officials to intercept telephonic and electronic communications and to monitor content to prevent a "serious offense" or a "threat to national security." According to CPJ, journalists and opposition activists are regularly subject to such surveillance.