



Freedom House Frequency Questionnaire

July 29-August 15, 2020
398 Respondents

Q.2 In the following survey we will ask you for your opinions, primarily about the country where you have the most, and most current, expertise about democracy and/or human rights issues.

We will refer to that as "your main country of focus." If you have focused on or worked in multiple countries, please select the country for which you have the MOST and MOST CURRENT experience related to democracy and/or human rights issues. In answering questions about "your main country of focus" in the survey you should only refer to that one country.

Which country do you have the most and most current expertise about issues related to democracy and/or human rights - the country that you consider "your main country of focus"?

	Total
Asia.....	37
Europe.....	27
Africa.....	21
South America.....	8
North America.....	7
Oceania	-
(ref:CONTINENT)	

Q.3 Overall, is the condition of democracy and human rights in your main country of focus today mostly strong or weak?

	Total
Very strong.....	2
Somewhat strong.....	14
Somewhat weak.....	35
Very weak.....	49
Not sure	0
Total Strong.....	16
Total Weak.....	84
Strong - Weak.....	-68
(ref:DEMOCY)	

Q.4 Overall, is the economy in your main country of focus today mostly strong or weak?

	Total
Very strong.....	2
Somewhat strong.....	8
Somewhat weak.....	40
Very weak.....	50
Not sure	1
Total Strong	10
Total Weak	89
Strong - Weak	-79
(ref:ECON)	

Q.5 Overall, since early this year, when the coronavirus breakout began, has the condition of democracy and human rights in your main country of focus become stronger, weaker, or stayed about the same?

	Total
Much stronger.....	-
Somewhat stronger.....	3
About the same.....	22
Somewhat weaker.....	37
Much weaker	37
Not sure	1
Total Stronger.....	3
Total Weaker	75
Stronger - Weaker	-72
(ref:DEMYEAR)	

Q.6 Overall, since early this year, when the coronavirus breakout began, has the condition of the economy in your main country of focus become stronger, weaker, or stayed about the same?

	Total
Much stronger.....	1
Somewhat stronger.....	0
About the same.....	3
Somewhat weaker.....	35
Much weaker	60
Not sure	0
Total Stronger.....	1
Total Weaker	95
Stronger - Weaker	-94
(ref:ECONYEAR)	

Q.7 In your main country of focus, over recent months, has the coronavirus outbreak been the top story in the news, or just one of the major stories in the news?

	Total
Top story	42
One of the major stories	55
Neither	3
Not sure	0
Total Not Top.....	58
(ref:COVNEWS)	

Q.8 (OPEN END) In your own words, what have been the biggest changes for democracy and human rights in your main country of focus since the coronavirus outbreak began. They can be positive or negative changes or both.

(see verbatims)

(ref:COVCHNG)

Q.9 (OPEN END) In terms of democracy and human rights, what is the most inspiring or encouraging thing you have seen in your main country of focus since the coronavirus outbreak began?

(see verbatims)

(ref:COVENC)

Q.10 (OPEN END) In terms of democracy and human rights, what is the most disturbing thing you have seen in your main country of focus since the coronavirus outbreak began?

(see verbatims)

(ref:COVDIST)

Q.11 Understanding that you may work on specific issues listed below, in your opinion, which THREE of the following have been most affected by COVID-19 in your main country of focus over the past few months?

	Total
Lack of government transparency and information about coronavirus	37
Corruption and money in politics	31
Lack of protection for minorities and vulnerable populations	29
Government abuse of power	27
Limits to free movement.....	25
Disinformation and conspiracy theories	25
Restrictions on freedom of assembly.....	22
Restrictions on freedoms of speech.....	21
Abuse by the police	19
Press restrictions.....	11
Partisan polarization	11
Problems of electoral freedom and fairness	10
Abuse or unfair treatment by the judicial system	10
Restrictions and unequal rights for women and girls.....	9
Government monitoring and violations of privacy.....	8
Other, please.....	4
None of the above	0
Not sure	1
(ref:CONCERNS)	

Q.12 Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job each of the following is doing in your main country of focus.

	Strng App	Smwt App	Smwt Disap	Strng Disap	DK Ref	Total App	Total Disap	App - Disap
12 National government's handling of the coronavirus outbreak	7	26	28	37	1	34	65	-31
13 Local government's handling of the coronavirus outbreak	7	29	34	25	5	36	59	-22
14 National government's job on democracy and human rights.....	3	14	25	57	2	17	81	-64
15 National government's handling of the economy.....	2	17	26	53	2	19	78	-59
16 National health departments and ministries.....	10	30	32	26	1	40	59	-18
17 Local health departments.....	10	39	28	18	6	48	46	2
18 Civil society organizations	35	51	10	2	3	86	11	75
19 Religious organizations..... (ref:GOVBATT)	7	25	22	24	21	33	46	-13

Q.20 (OPEN END) Are there any non-governmental organizations that have been particularly helpful in dealing with the coronavirus outbreak in your main country of focus? Please list up to three organizations that you think have been the most helpful.

(see *verbatim*s)

(ref:NONGOV)

Q.21 Below are some pairs of statements. For each pair, please choose which statement comes closer to your own point of view, even if neither statement is exactly right.

	1st Stmt Much	1st Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Much	Both	Neither	DK/Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
21 I expect that over the medium term, say the next 3 to 5 years, the coronavirus outbreak's impact on democracy and human rights in my main country of focus will be mostly positive or neutral.										
I expect that over the medium term, say the next 3 to 5 years, the coronavirus outbreak's impact on democracy and human rights in my main country of focus will be mostly negative.....	9	14	30	33	6	4	4	23	64	-40
22 I expect that over the medium term, say the next 3 to 5 years, my main country of focus will cooperate more or the same with other countries as a result of the coronavirus										
I expect that over the medium term, say the next 3 to 5 years, my main country of focus will cooperate less with other countries as a result of the coronavirus.	28	30	16	15	2	4	6	58	31	27

	1st Stmt Much	1st Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Smwt	2nd Stmt Much	Both	Neither	DK/Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
23 The main governing party in my main country of focus is likely in a stronger political position now than they were before the coronavirus crisis.										
The main governing party in my main country of focus is likely in a weaker political position now than they were before the coronavirus crisis.	15	12	24	33	2	12	3	27	57	-30
24 Overall, the coronavirus outbreak has been a setback for democracy and human rights in my main country of focus.										
Overall, the coronavirus outbreak has not negatively affected democracy and human rights in my main country of focus.	47	27	10	7	3	5	2	75	17	58
25 Overall, since early this year, when the coronavirus breakout began, democracy and human rights has become stronger globally.										
Overall, since early this year, when the coronavirus breakout began, democracy and human rights has become weaker globally.....	7	7	34	46	2	3	3	13	80	-67
(ref:PAIRS)										

Q.26 Below is a list of actions your main country of focus may have taken in response to the coronavirus outbreak. For each, please indicate whether it is your impression that it has happened in your main country of focus specifically as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

	Yes	No	Not Sure
26 Moved election date	21	66	13
27 Cancelled elections.....	6	80	14
28 Cancelled national meetings of the national legislature	39	46	15
29 Changed election rules that make voting more difficult	14	67	19
30 Alternative ways to vote to minimize infection risk	12	69	19
31 Physical or digital surveillance to enforce curfews or quarantines	61	26	13
32 New or increased restrictions on ethnic or religious minorities.....	25	57	18
33 New or increased government restrictions on free speech and criticism of the government.....	59	34	7
34 New or increased restrictions on protests	69	24	6
35 New or increased restrictions on large gatherings which have restricted political rallies.....	73	21	6
36 New or increased restrictions on the news media	46	44	11
37 Curfews	66	25	10
38 Police violence against citizens.....	53	35	12
39 Phone app or other digital tool required to gain access to certain commercial spaces or public services.....	41	44	15
40 Proliferation of disinformation from the government.....	52	33	15
41 Unjustified jailing of citizens.....	47	41	12
42 National leader declared emergency powers..... (ref:COVBATT)	50	42	8

Q.43 (OPEN END) What have been the main changes, if any, to government surveillance either digital or physical in your main country of focus in order to enforce curfews or quarantines related to the coronavirus outbreak?

If no changes on this issue, please write "none."

(see verbatims)

(ref:SURVEIL)

Q.44 (OPEN END) What have been the main changes, if any, to freedom of the press in your main country of focus as a result of the coronavirus outbreak?

If no changes on this issue, please write "none."

(see verbatims)

(ref:FREEPRES)

Q.45 (OPEN END) What have been the main changes, if any, to the ways ethnic or religious minorities are treated in your main country of focus as a result of the coronavirus outbreak?

If no changes on this issue, please write "none."

(see verbatims)

(ref:MINORITY)

Q.46 (OPEN END) What have been the main changes to election rules and processes in your main country of focus, if any, as a result of the coronavirus outbreak?

If no changes on this issue, please write "none."

(see verbatims)

(ref:ELCTPRO)

Q.47 In your main country of focus, has a significant protest taken place since coronavirus restrictions were implemented?

	Total
Yes.....	56
No.....	39
Not sure	4
(ref:PROTESTS)	

Q.48 Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, have there been more, less, or a similar number of protests in your main country of focus compared to the year before the coronavirus. If protests were not common over the past few years, please say so.

	Total
More	12
Similar amount.....	19
Less	52
Protests not common over past few years.....	12
Not sure	4
More - Less	-40
(ref:AVGPROT)	

Q.49 (OPEN END) What are the ways - either positive or negative - that the coronavirus outbreak has directly affected your own work on democracy and human rights in your main country of focus? Please use several sentences to explain your answer.

(see verbatims)

(ref:PERSWRK)

Q.50 (OPEN END) Thinking specifically of your work or the work of your organization in your main country of focus, what new needs have been created during the outbreak of the coronavirus? Please use several sentences to explain your answer.

(see verbatims)

(ref:NEWNEEDS)

Q.51 (OPEN END) What are the most important things the international community, including international NGOs, could be doing right now to help support democracy and human rights in your main country of focus? Please use several sentences to explain your answer.

(see verbatims)

(ref:INTLAID)

Q.52 Overall, do you trust or distrust information from your main country of focus's media related to the coronavirus?

	Total
Completely trust.....	7
Somewhat trust.....	48
Somewhat distrust	31
Completely distrust	11
Not sure	2
Total Trust	56
Total Distrust	42
Trust - Distrust.....	13

(ref:MEDINFO)

Q.53 Overall, do you trust or distrust information from your main country of focus's national government related to the coronavirus?

	Total
Completely trust.....	6
Somewhat trust.....	31
Somewhat distrust	37
Completely distrust	25
Not sure	1
Total Trust	37
Total Distrust	62
Trust - Distrust.....	-25

(ref:GOVINFO)

Q.54 Overall, do you trust or distrust information from your main country of focus's local government related to the coronavirus?

	Total
Completely trust.....	6
Somewhat trust.....	37
Somewhat distrust	32
Completely distrust	21
Not sure	4
Total Trust	43
Total Distrust	53
Trust - Distrust.....	-11
(ref:LOCNEWS)	

Q.55 And now just a few questions for statistical purposes. In what year were you born?

	Total
18 - 24	1
25 - 29	4
30 - 34	20
35 - 39	19
40 - 44	17
45 - 49	13
50 - 54	10
55 - 59	8
60 - 64	5
65 and over	3
(No answer).....	1
(ref:AGE)	

Q.56 What is your gender?

	Total
Male	60
Female.....	37
Transgender, male to female	1
Transgender, female to male	0
Intersex	-
Gender Non-Conforming.....	1
Other	1
Decline to answer.....	1
Total Male	60
Total Female	38
(ref:GENDER)	

Q.57 What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	Total
No formal education	-
Incomplete primary.....	-
Complete primary/incomplete secondary	-
Complete secondary/incomplete tertiary	3
University graduate.....	49
Post-graduate school	47
Decline to answer.....	1
(ref:EDUC)	

Q.58 How many years have you been working on democracy and human rights issues?

	Total
5 years or less.....	8
6-10 years.....	24
11-15 years	22
16-20 years	23
21-25 years	7
26-30 years	8
More than 30 years.....	7
Not Sure	0
10 or less	32
11-20.....	45
More than 20.....	23
(ref:YEARS)	

Q.59 How many years have you been working on democracy and human rights issues in your main country of focus?

	Total
5 years or less.....	10
6-10 years.....	27
11-15 years	23
16-20 years	22
21-25 years	6
26-30 years	7
More than 30 years.....	5
Not Sure	0
10 or less	37
11-20.....	44
More than 20.....	19
(ref:CTRYRS)	

Q.60 What is your profession?

	Total
Civil society activist	54
Journalist.....	15
Academic.....	11
Private sector	4
Government employee	1
Political party employee.....	-
Other.....	14
Decline to answer.....	1
(ref:PROF)	

Q.61 Do you mostly concentrate on democracy and human rights in your main country of focus, or is your focus more regional/global?

	Total
In my main country of focus.....	51
Regional/global	15
Both.....	34
Not sure	0
Total Main Country.....	84
Total Regional/Global	49
(ref:GEOFOC)	

Q.62 What is the main aspect of democracy and human rights you focus on in your work? Please select all that apply.

	Total
Freedom of speech	52
Governance.....	42
Women's rights and empowerment	39
Media reliability and disinformation	37
Justice and judicial systems.....	37
Minority rights and empowerment.....	35
Elections.....	34
Youth rights and empowerment	33
Research.....	31
Corruption.....	31
Peace and conflict resolution	29
Government surveillance	25
Political parties and campaigns	21
Terrorism and political violence	17
Economic stability or opportunity.....	16
Religious freedoms.....	16
Technical solutions to democracy	15
Labor rights	15
Climate change and the environment.....	14
Immigration.....	11
Other.....	14
Decline to answer.....	1
(ref:DEMFOC)	

Please select your preferred language for the questionnaire.

	Total
English	53
Arabic	15
Russian	14
Spanish.....	11
French	6
Portuguese	1
(ref:LANGUAGE)	