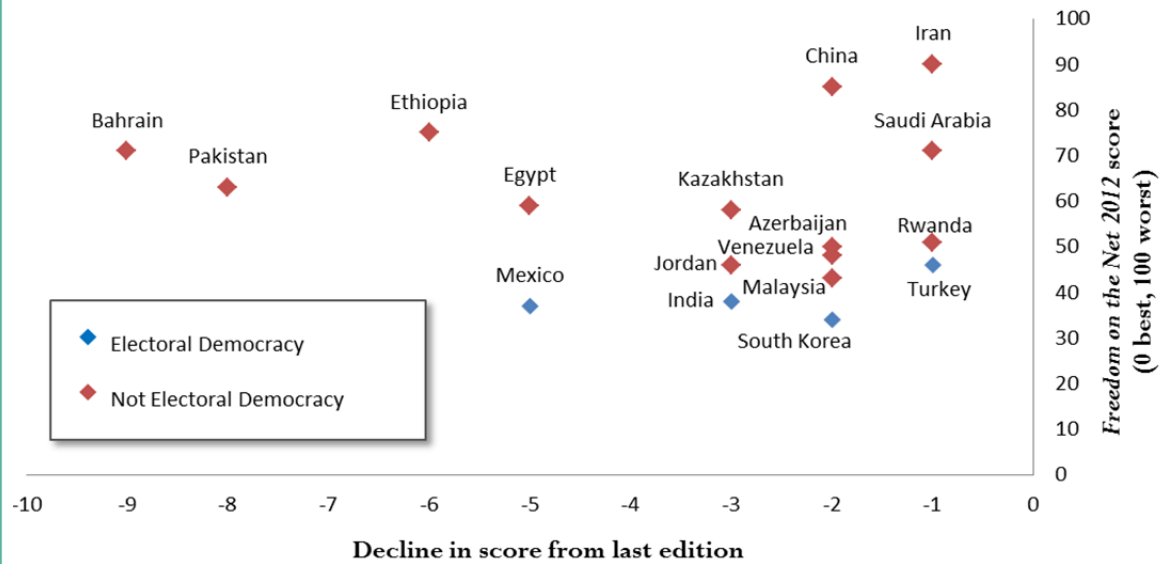


INTERNET FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY



Of the 17 countries that experienced numerical declines since the 2011 edition of *Freedom on the Net*, only four are designated as electoral democracies by Freedom House's flagship publication *Freedom in the World*. Another three countries included for the first time in *Freedom on the Net 2012* showed a negative trajectory since January 2011: Sri Lanka, Syria, and Uzbekistan. None of the three are electoral democracies.