

FREEDOM ON THE NET 2012: GLOBAL SCORES

Freedom on the Net aims to measure each country's level of internet and digital media freedom. Each country receives a numerical score from 0 (the most free) to 100 (the least free), which serves as the basis for an internet freedom status designation of Free (0-30 points), Partly Free (31-60 points), or Not Free (61-100 points).

Ratings are determined through an examination of three broad categories: Obstacles to Access, Limits on Content, and Violation of User Rights.

- A. Obstacles to Access:** assesses infrastructural and economic barriers to access; governmental efforts to block specific applications or technologies; and legal, regulatory and ownership control over internet and mobile phone access providers.
- B. Limits on Content:** examines filtering and blocking of websites; other forms of censorship and self-censorship; manipulation of content; the diversity of online news media; and usage of digital media for social and political activism.
- C. Violations of User Rights:** measures legal protections and restrictions on online activity; surveillance; privacy; and repercussions for online activity, such as legal prosecution, imprisonment, physical attacks, or other forms of harassment.

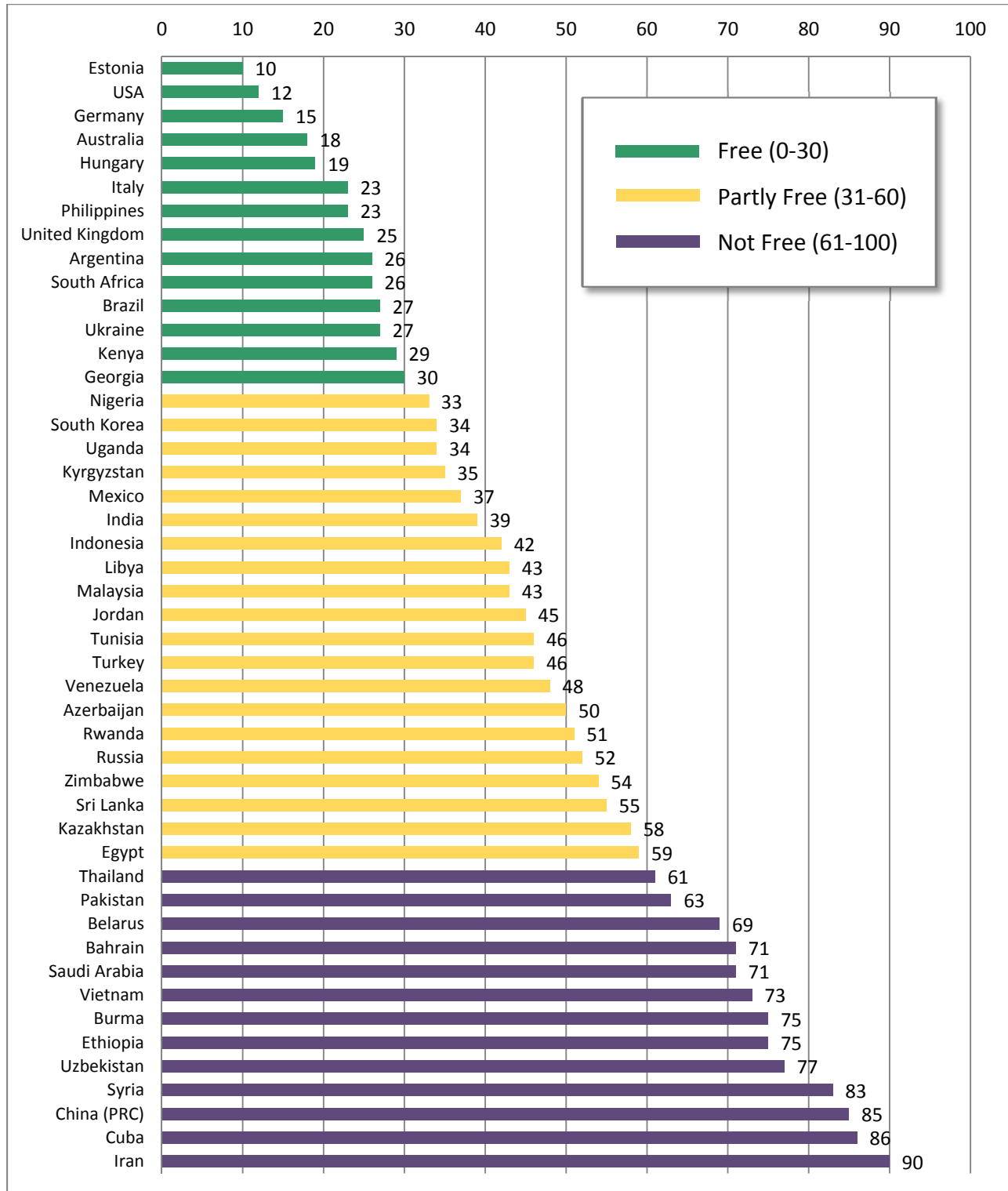
COUNTRY	FREEDOM ON THE NET STATUS 2012	FREEDOM ON THE NET TOTAL 0-100 Points	A. SUBTOTAL: OBSTACLES TO ACCESS 0-25 Points	B. SUBTOTAL: LIMITS ON CONTENT 0-35 Points	C. SUBTOTAL: VIOLATIONS OF USER RIGHTS 0-40 Points
Estonia	Free	10	2	3	5
USA	Free	12	4	1	7
Germany	Free	15	4	3	8
Australia	Free	18	2	6	10
Hungary	Free	19	5	6	8
Italy	Free	23	4	7	12
Philippines	Free	23	10	5	8

COUNTRY	<i>FREEDOM ON THE NET STATUS</i>	<i>FREEDOM ON THE NET TOTAL 0-100 Points</i>	A SUBTOTAL: OBSTACLES TO ACCESS 0-25 Points	B SUBTOTAL: LIMITS ON CONTENT 0-35 Points	C SUBTOTAL: VIOLATIONS OF USER RIGHTS 0-40 Points
United Kingdom	Free	25	1	8	16
Argentina	Free	26	9	9	8
South Africa	Free	26	8	8	10
Brazil	Free	27	7	6	14
Ukraine	Free	27	7	8	12
Kenya	Free	29	10	7	12
Georgia	Free	30	9	10	11
Nigeria	Partly Free	33	12	9	12
South Korea	Partly Free	34	3	12	19
Uganda	Partly Free	34	11	8	15
Kyrgyzstan	Partly Free	35	13	10	12
Mexico	Partly Free	37	11	11	15
India	Partly Free	39	13	9	17
Indonesia	Partly Free	42	11	11	20
Libya	Partly Free	43	18	9	16
Malaysia	Partly Free	43	10	14	19
Jordan	Partly Free	45	13	12	20
Tunisia	Partly Free	46	14	12	20
Turkey	Partly Free	46	12	17	17
Venezuela	Partly Free	48	15	14	19

COUNTRY	<i>FREEDOM ON THE NET STATUS</i>	<i>FREEDOM ON THE NET TOTAL 0-100 Points</i>	A. SUBTOTAL: OBSTACLES TO ACCESS 0-25 Points	B. SUBTOTAL: LIMITS ON CONTENT 0-35 Points	C. SUBTOTAL: VIOLATIONS OF USER RIGHTS 0-40 Points
Azerbaijan	Partly Free	50	13	16	21
Rwanda	Partly Free	51	13	19	19
Russia	Partly Free	52	11	18	23
Zimbabwe	Partly Free	54	17	14	23
Sri Lanka	Partly Free	55	16	18	21
Kazakhstan	Partly Free	58	15	23	20
Egypt	Partly Free	59	14	12	33
Thailand	Not Free	61	11	21	29
Pakistan	Not Free	63	19	18	26
Belarus	Not Free	69	16	23	30
Bahrain	Not Free	71	12	25	34
Saudi Arabia	Not Free	71	14	26	31
Vietnam	Not Free	73	16	26	31
Burma	Not Free	75	22	23	30
Ethiopia	Not Free	75	22	27	26
Uzbekistan	Not Free	77	19	28	30
Syria	Not Free	83	23	25	35
China	Not Free	85	18	29	38
Cuba	Not Free	86	24	29	33
Iran	Not Free	90	21	32	37

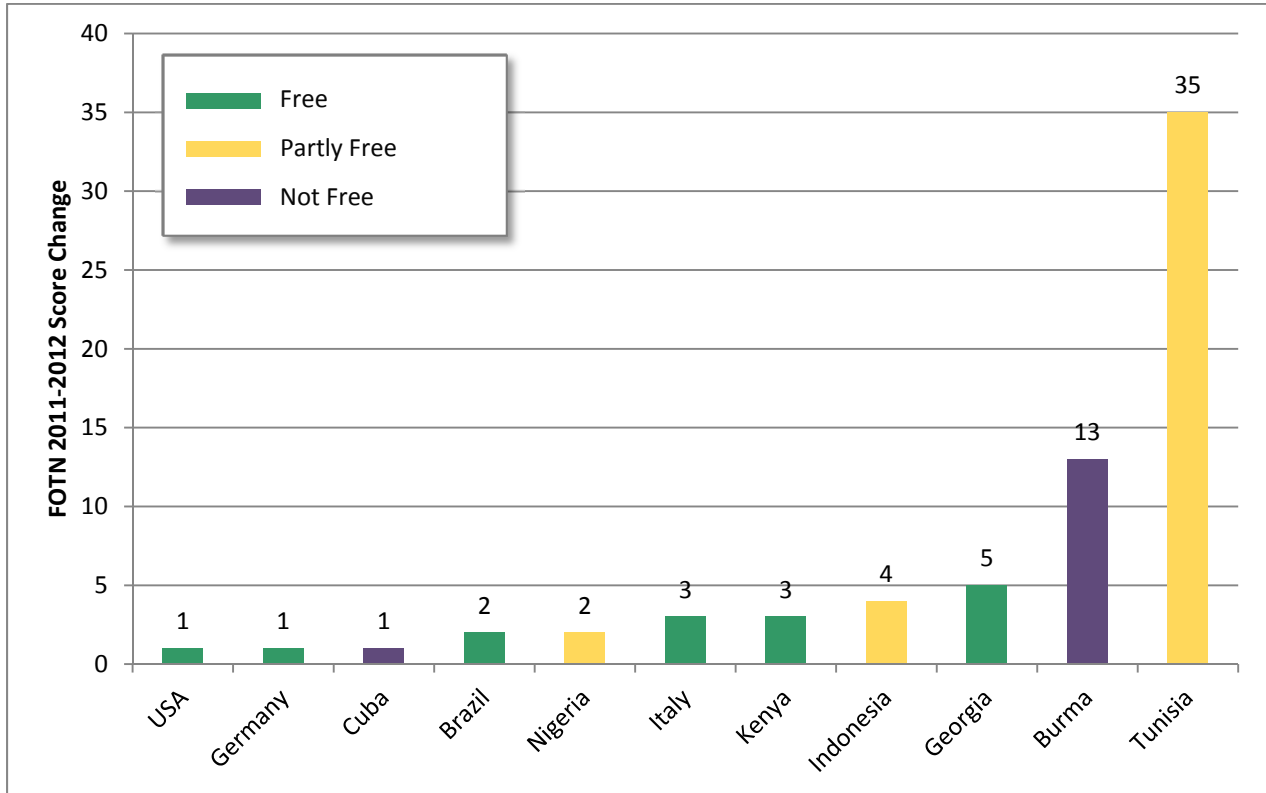
FREEDOM ON THE NET 2012: GLOBAL GRAPHS

47 COUNTRY SCORE COMPARISON (0 = Most Free, 100 = Least Free)



SCORE CHANGES: *FREEDOM ON THE NET* 2011 vs. 2012

SCORE IMPROVEMENTS

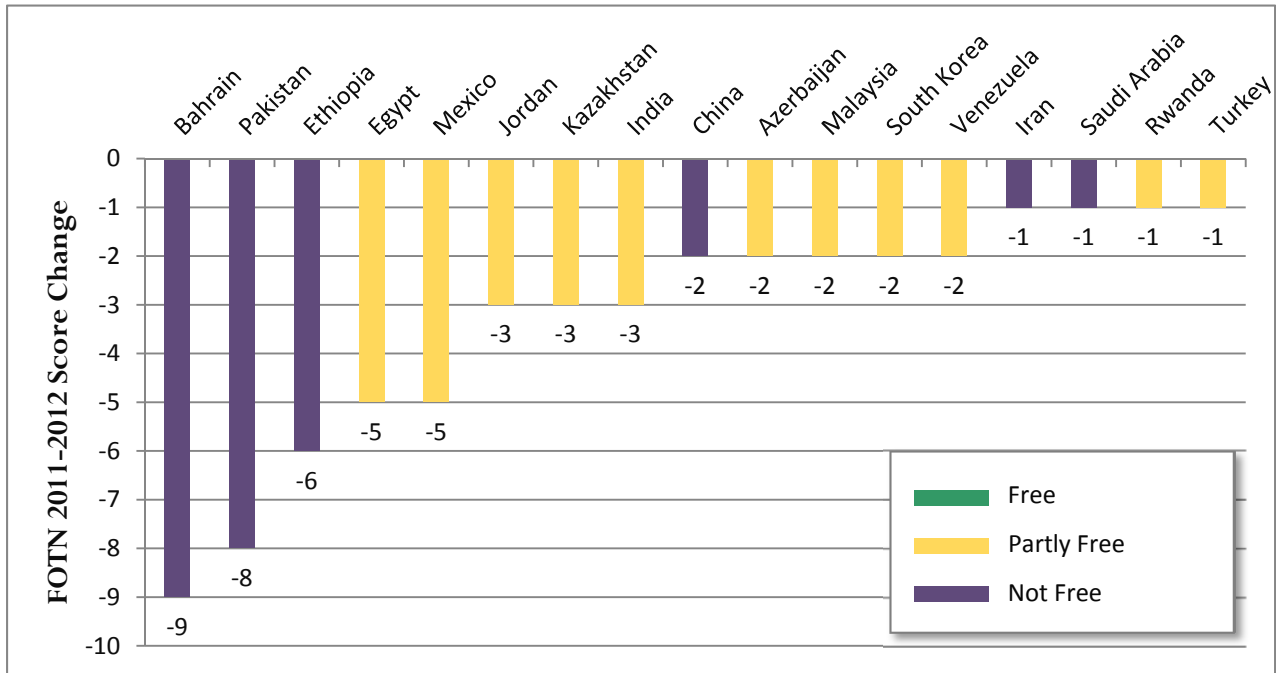


COUNTRY	FOTN 2011	FOTN 2012	TRAJECTORY
USA	13	12	Slight ↑
Germany	16	15	Slight ↑
Cuba	87	86	Slight ↑
Brazil	29	27	Slight ↑
Nigeria	35	33	Slight ↑
Italy	26	23	Notable ↑

COUNTRY	FOTN 2011	FOTN 2012	TRAJECTORY
Kenya	32	29	Notable ↑
Indonesia	46	42	Notable ↑
Georgia	35	30	Significant ↑
Burma	88	75	Significant ↑
Tunisia	81	46	Significant ↑

*A Freedom on the Net score decline represents a positive trajectory (↑) for internet freedom.

SCORE DECLINES



COUNTRY	FOTN 2011	FOTN 2012	TRAJECTORY
Bahrain	62	71	Significant ↓
Pakistan	55	63	Significant ↓
Ethiopia	69	75	Significant ↓
Egypt	54	59	Significant ↓
Mexico	32	37	Significant ↓
Jordan	42	45	Notable ↓
Kazakhstan	55	58	Notable ↓
India	36	39	Notable ↓
China	83	85	Slight ↓

COUNTRY	FOTN 2011	FOTN 2012	TRAJECTORY
Azerbaijan	48	50	Slight ↓
Malaysia	41	43	Slight ↓
South Korea	32	34	Slight ↓
Venezuela	46	48	Slight ↓
Iran	89	90	Slight ↓
Saudi Arabia	70	71	Slight ↓
Rwanda	50	51	Slight ↓
Turkey	45	46	Slight ↓

*A Freedom on the Net score increase represents a negative trajectory (↓) for internet freedom.

NO OVERALL SCORE CHANGE: CATEGORY TRAJECTORIES

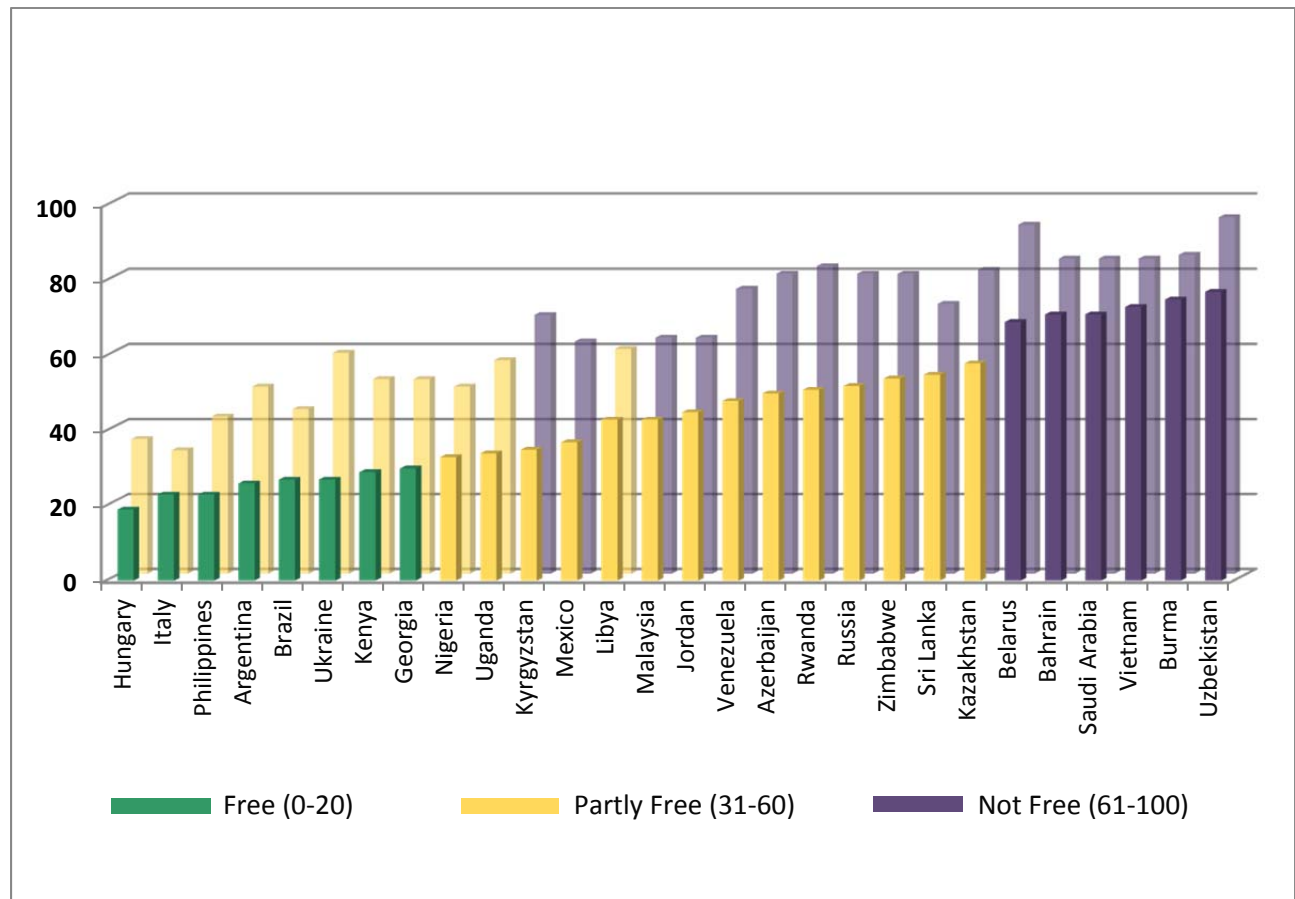
Eight countries assessed in *Freedom on the Net 2012* registered no overall score change from the previous edition. However, a closer look at the score changes within the survey’s three broad categories reveals how internet freedom restrictions have evolved in nuanced and dynamic ways. Notably, the gains many of the countries listed below made in the “Obstacles to Access” category—which reflect the rise of internet and mobile phone penetration or decreased regulatory obstacles—were offset by increases in limits placed on content or violations of user rights.

COUNTRY	FOTN 2011	FOTN 2012	A. OBSTACLES TO ACCESS TRAJECTORY	B. LIMITS ON CONTENT TRAJECTORY	C. VIOLATIONS OF USER RIGHTS TRAJECTORY
Australia	18	18	Slight ↑	No change	Slight ↓
Belarus	69	69	Notable ↑	No change	Notable ↓
Estonia	10	10	No change	Slight ↓	Slight ↑
Russia	52	52	Slight ↑	Slight ↓	No change
South Africa	26	26	Slight ↓	Slight ↑	No change
Thailand	61	61	Slight ↑	Slight ↑	Notable ↓
Vietnam	73	73	No change	Slight ↓	Slight ↑
Zimbabwe	54	54	Slight ↓	Slight ↑	No change

COUNTRIES AT RISK: INTERNET FREEDOM VS. PRESS FREEDOM

Among the 47 countries covered in this study, one notable contingent of states were those where the internet remains a relatively unobstructed domain of free expression when compared to a more repressive or dangerous environment for traditional media. This difference is evident from the comparison between a country’s score on Freedom House’s *Freedom on the Net 2012* assessment and its score on the *Freedom of the Press 2012* study.

The figure below is a graphical representation of this phenomenon, focusing on the 28 countries in this edition where the gap between their performance on the two surveys is 10 points or greater. This difference reflects the potential pressures in both the short and long term on the space for online expression. Among the 28 are six of the seven states identified as “countries at risk”: Malaysia, Russia, Sri Lanka, Libya, Azerbaijan, and Rwanda.

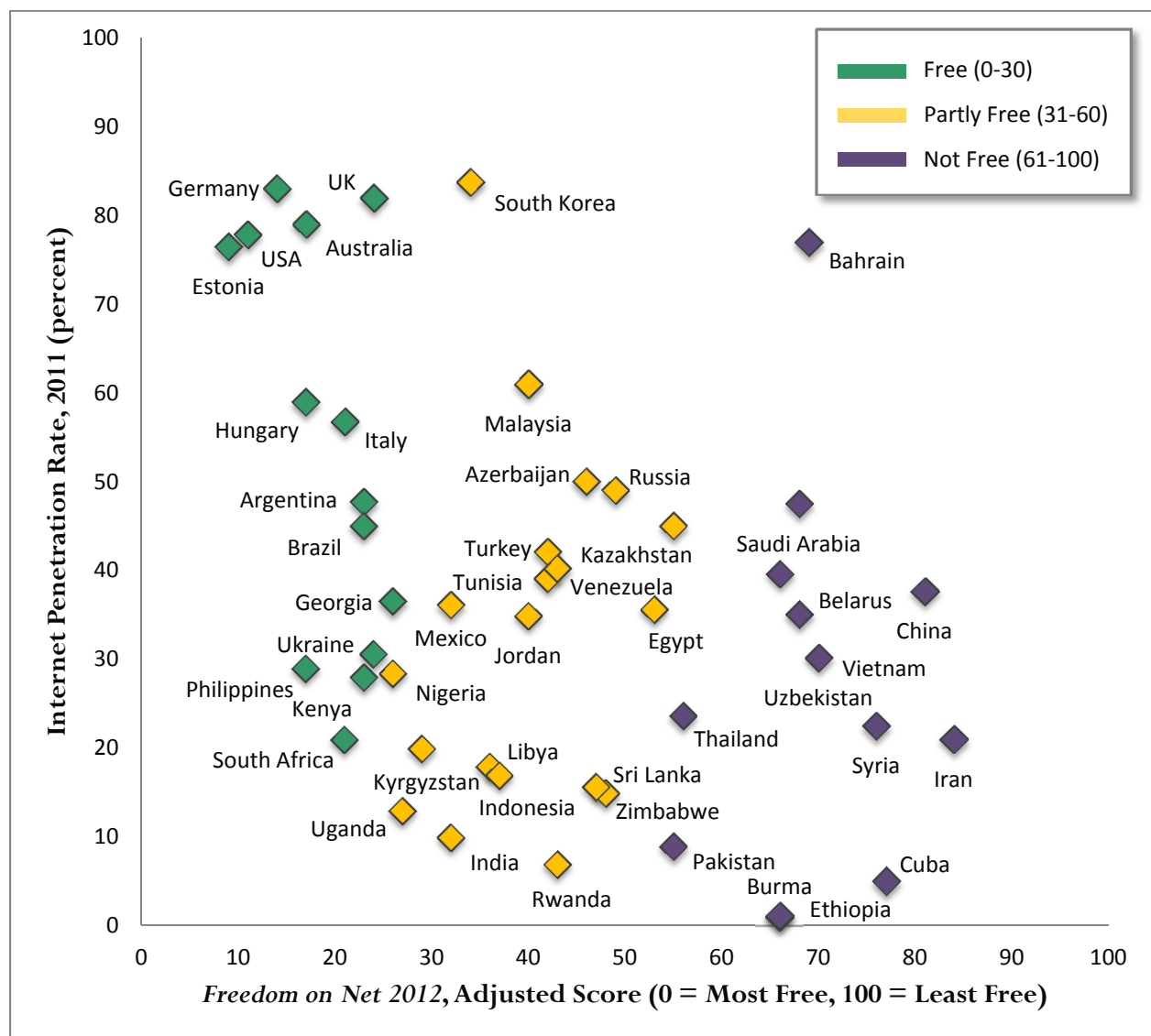


* The front-row bar reflects a country's *Freedom on the Net 2012* score; the back-row bar reflects the country's score on Freedom House’s *Freedom of the Press 2012* index, which primarily assesses television, radio, and print media.

INTERNET FREEDOM VS. INTERNET PENETRATION

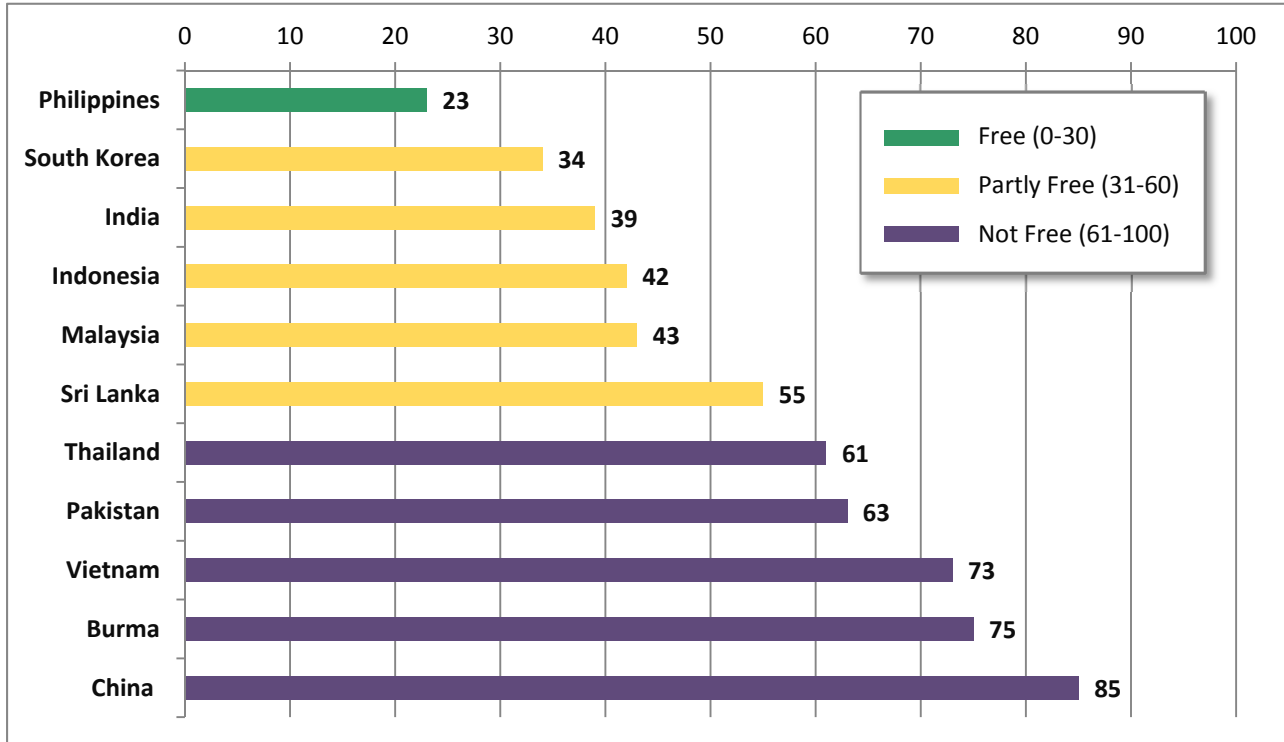
The figure below depicts the relationship between internet penetration rates and the level of digital media freedom as assessed by the *Freedom on the Net 2012* study. Each point is plotted to reflect its level of internet penetration as noted in the report, as well as its performance in the survey. To minimize possible overlap among variables, the scores have been adjusted to exclude performance on the first two questions of the *Freedom on the Net* methodology, which assess the degree of internet access in a given society.

Of note is a potential trajectory for the Partly Free countries in the middle, which may move towards greater repression (the high-tech, Not Free countries on the middle right) or better protection of free expression (the mid-penetration, Free countries on the left) as digital media access rates increase.

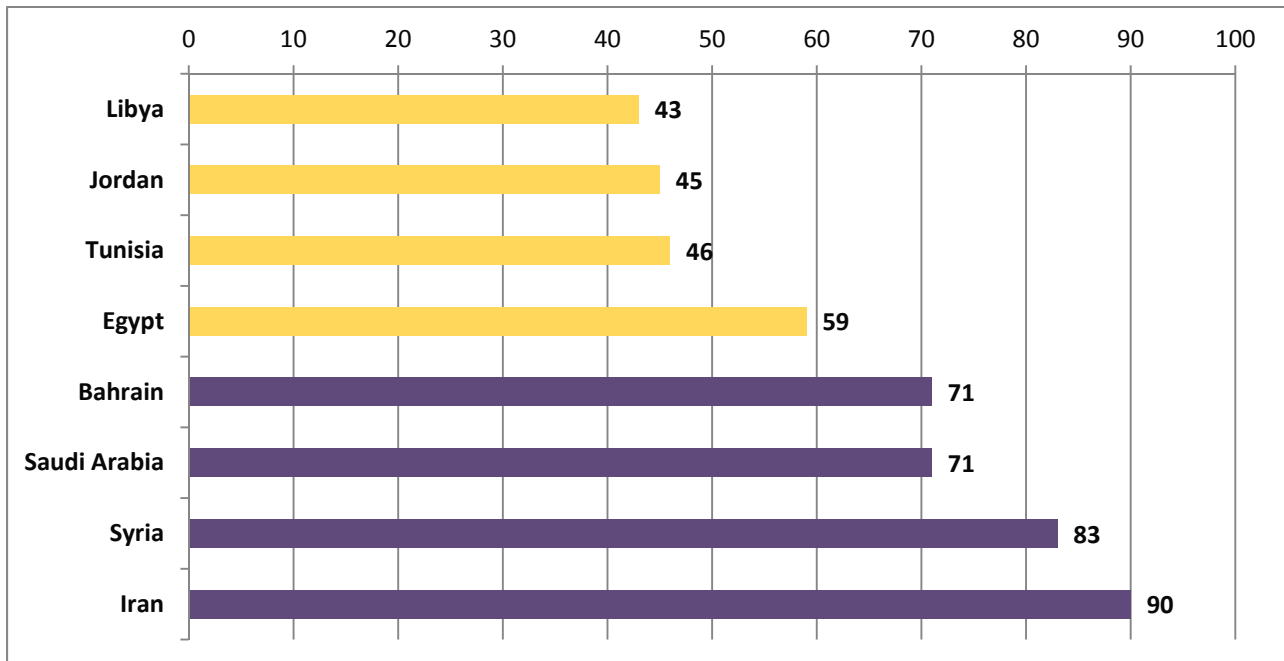


REGIONAL GRAPHS

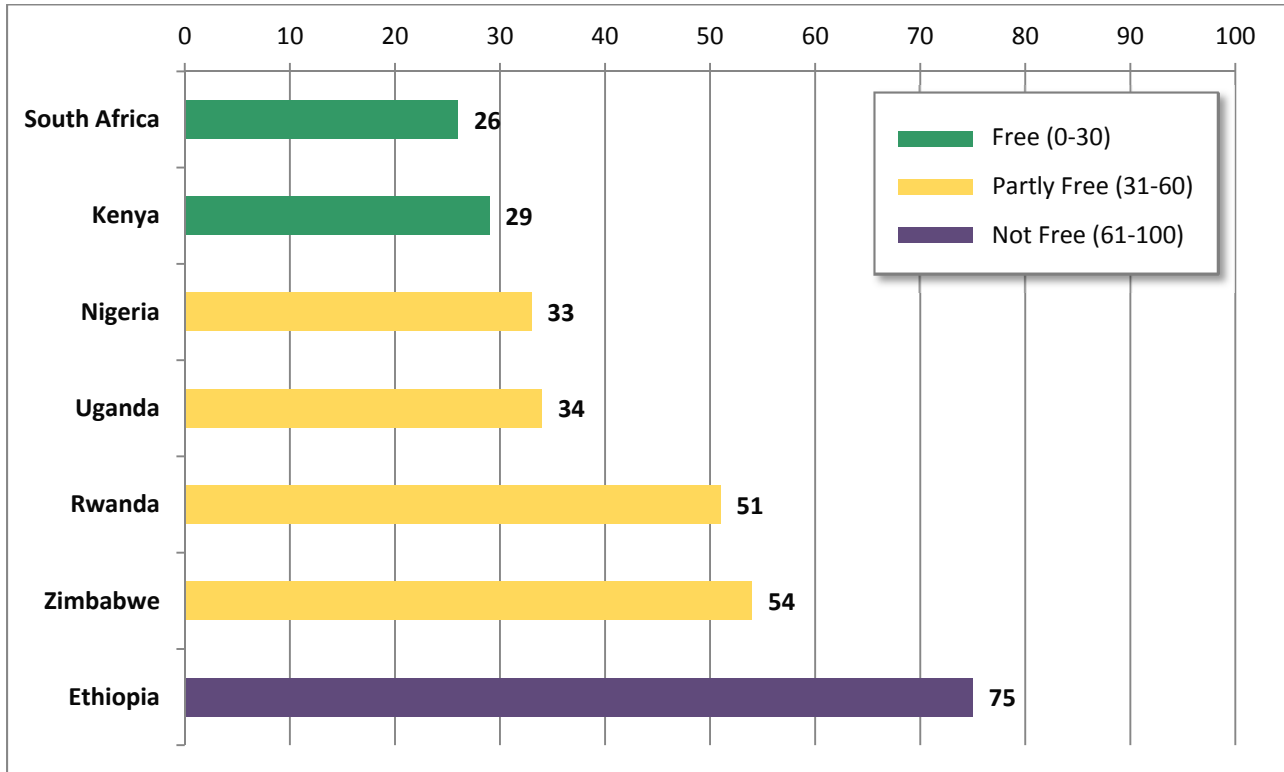
ASIA (0 = Most Free, 100 = Least Free)



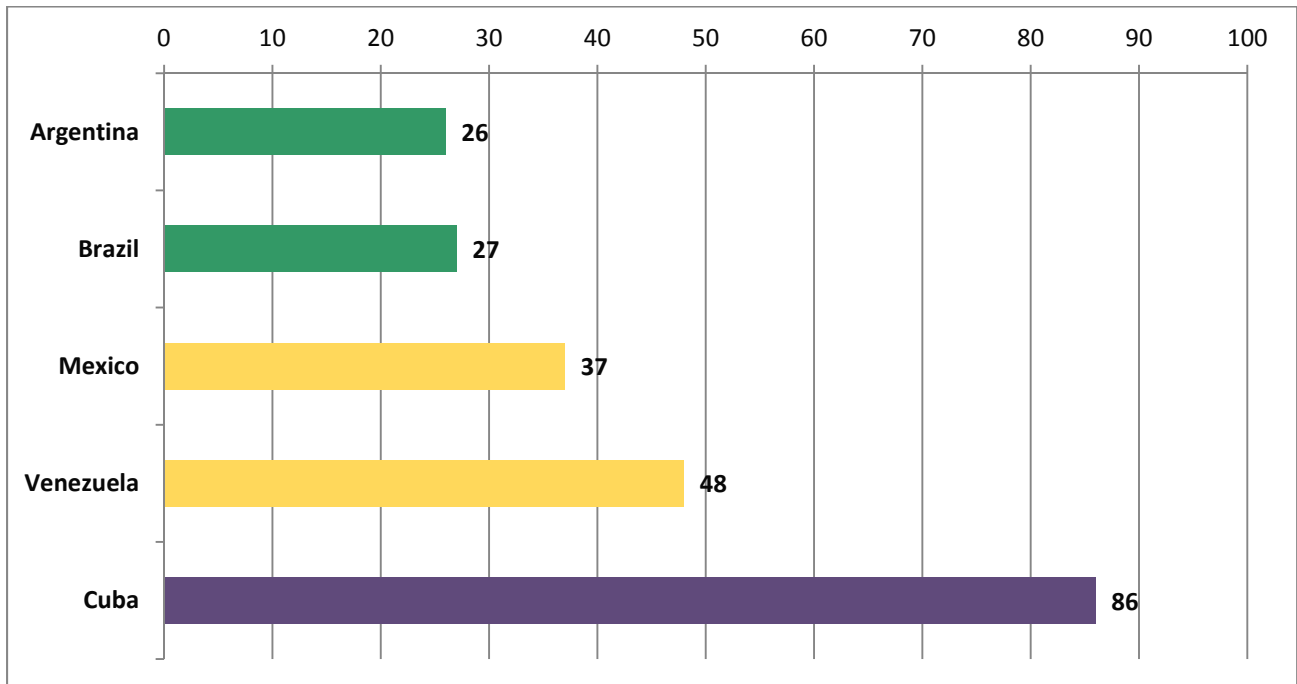
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA (0 = Most Free, 100 = Least Free)



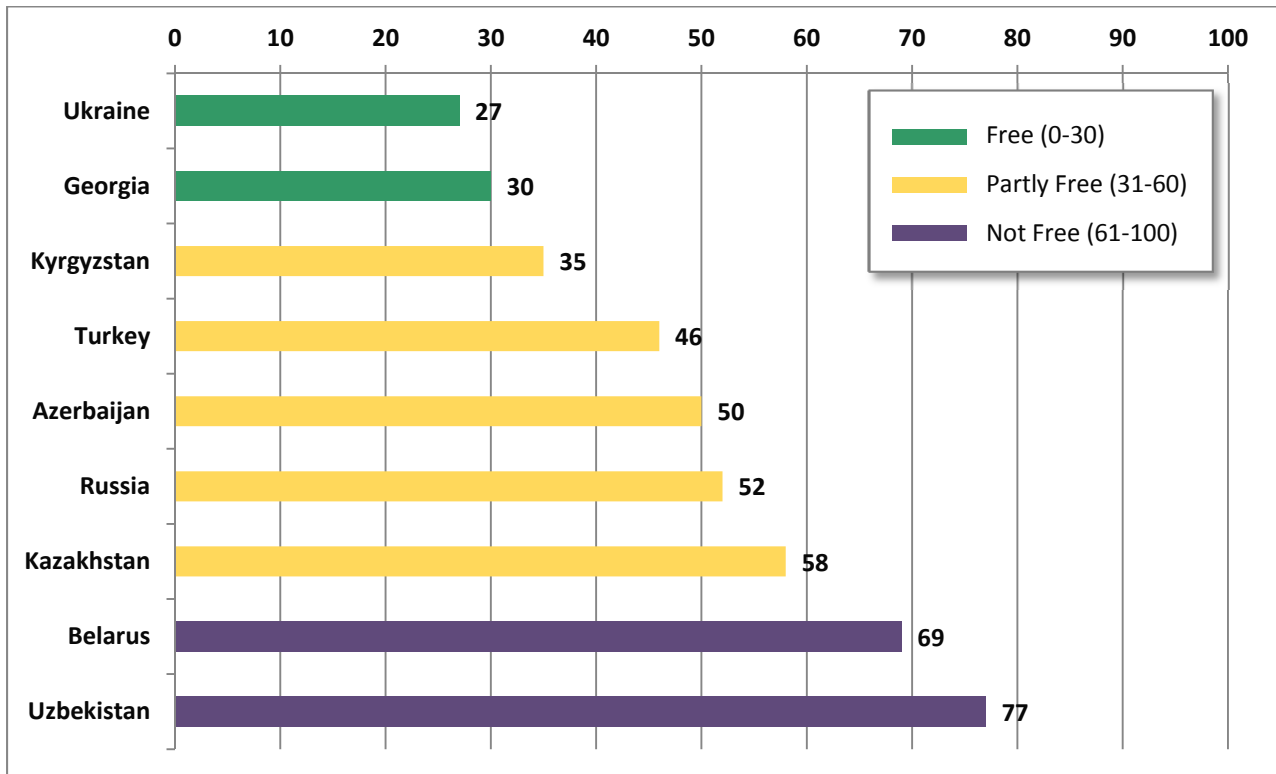
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (0 = Most Free, 100 = Least Free)



LATIN AMERICA (0 = Most Free, 100 = Least Free)



EURASIA (0 = Most Free, 100 = Least Free)



EUROPE & OTHERS (0 = Most Free, 100 = Least Free)

