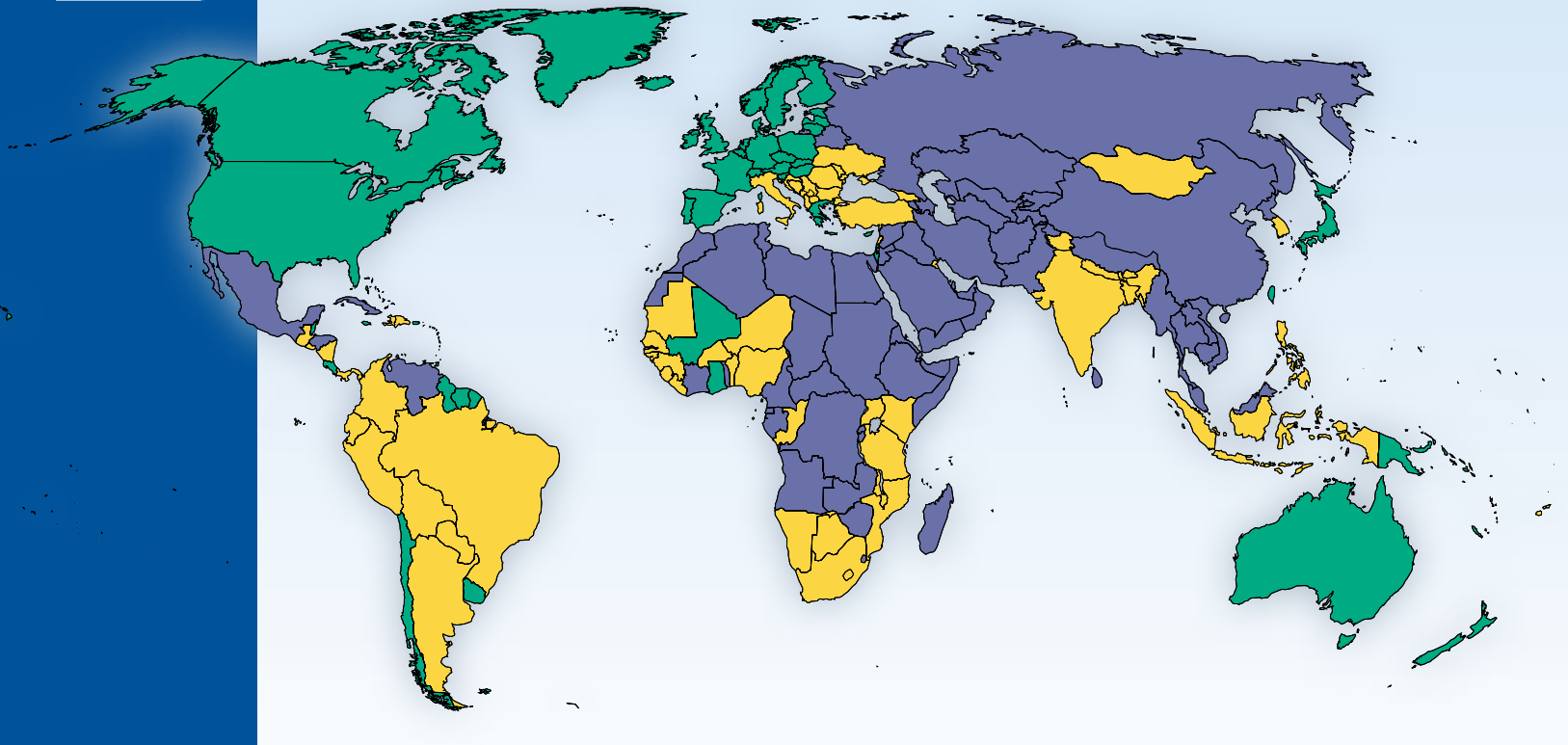




Freedom of the Press 2011



SIGNS OF CHANGE AMID REPRESSION

**SELECTED DATA FROM FREEDOM HOUSE'S
ANNUAL PRESS FREEDOM INDEX**



PRESS FREEDOM IN 2010: SIGNS OF CHANGE AMID REPRESSION

by 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

In 2010, only 1 in 6 people lived in countries with a Free press.

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.

What the Index Measures

The *Freedom of the Press* index assesses the degree of print, broadcast, and internet freedom in every country in the world, analyzing the events and developments of each calendar year. Ratings are determined through an examination of three broad categories: the legal environment in which media operate; political influences on reporting and access to information; and economic pressures on content and the dissemination of news.

Under the **legal** category, the index assesses the laws and regulations that could influence media content as well as the extent to which the government uses these tools to restrict the media's ability to function.

The **political** category encompasses a variety of issues, including editorial pressure by the government or other actors, censorship and self-censorship, the ability of reporters to cover the news, and the extralegal intimidation of and violence against journalists.

Finally, under the **economic** category, the index examines issues such as the structure, transparency, and concentration of media ownership; costs of production and distribution; and the impact of advertising, subsidies, and bribery on content.

Ratings reflect not just government actions and policies, but the behavior of the press itself in testing boundaries, even in more restrictive environments, as well as the impact of nonstate actors. Each country receives a numerical rating from 0 (the most free) to 100 (the least free), which serves as the basis for a press-freedom status designation of Free, Partly Free, or Not Free.

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 [see Graph 1]. 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.



Graph 1

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). [see map on page 33] 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. [see graph on page 32] In the past year, this disparity has all but disappeared.

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.

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.

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.



Graph 2

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

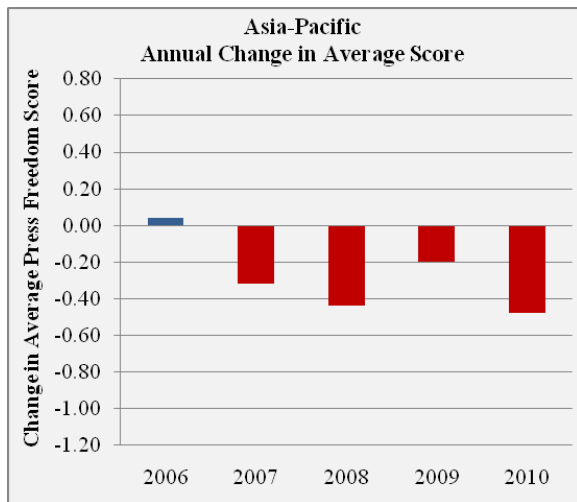
rise in negative rhetoric and actions against news outlets by the administration of President Rafael Correa. Pressures on the media included a growing number of criminal defamation suits, raids and shutdowns of broadcast outlets, government advertising boycotts, and official attempts to influence the 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.



Graph 3

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

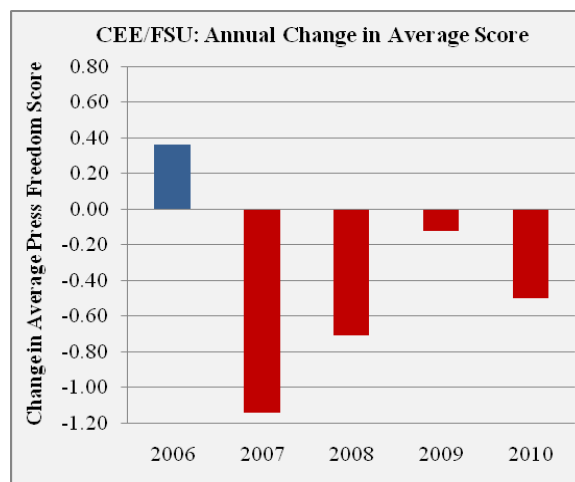
increasing reports of corruption among journalists. There was also an uptick in physical violence and harassment directed at the media by local authorities and nonstate actors, and worsening civil strife in Kashmir affected journalists' ability to cover the news safely and effectively. **Cambodia's** 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.



Graph 4

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

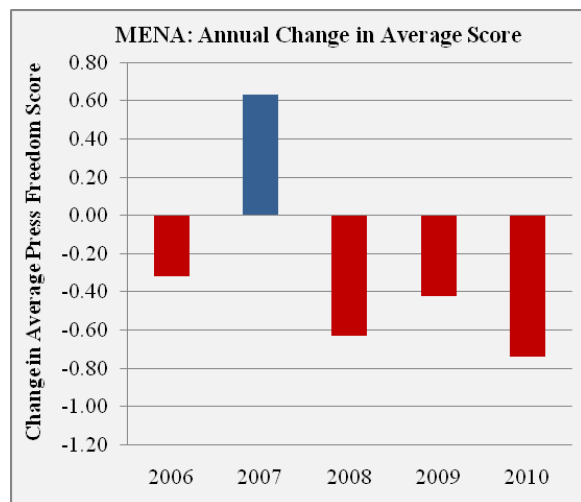
freedom, falling from 53 to 56 points. After pro-Russian opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich took office as president in February, broadcast frequencies were withdrawn from critical outlets and extralegal harassment of journalists increased, leading to greater self-censorship.

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.



Graph 5

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.

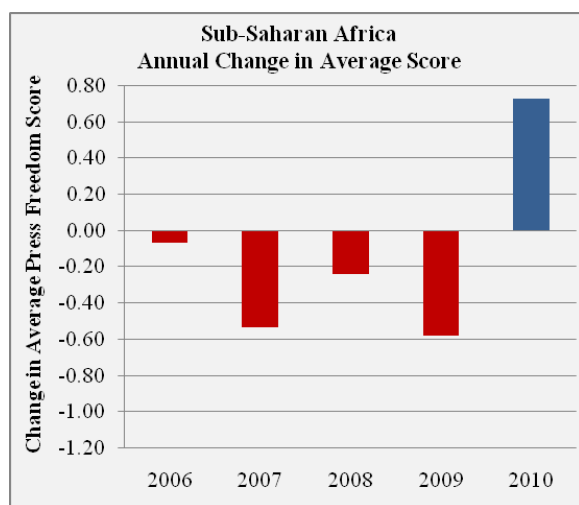
After a considerable shrinking of the space for free expression in the wake of a disputed presidential election in 2009, **Iran** suffered further backsliding in 2010. Its score moved from 89 to 91 due to the government's imposition of additional blocks on the internet and satellite television, and its 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.



Graph 6

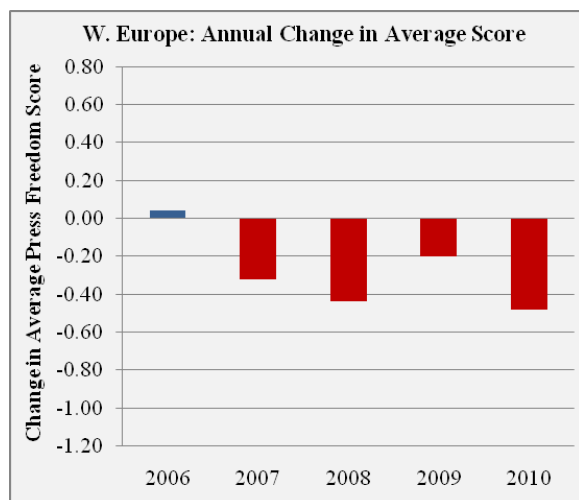
Significant score improvements that fell short of status upgrades were plentiful in sub-Saharan Africa. In **Kenya**, the adoption of a new constitution with additional protections for media freedom, combined with a lack of legal cases against journalists, improved the score from 57 to 54 for 2010. A 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.



Graph 7

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.

Karin Deutsch Karlekar, a senior researcher at Freedom House, served as managing editor of Freedom of the Press 2011. Overall guidance for the project was provided by Arch Puddington, director of research, and Christopher Walker, director of studies. Extensive research, editorial, analytical, and administrative assistance was provided by Sam Feldman, as well as by Eliza B. Young, Tyler Roylance, Eva Hoier Greene, Darren Kwong, Valerie Popper, and Jennifer Hetrick. We would also like to thank our consultant writers and advisers and other members of the survey team for their contributions.

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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

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS 2011

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

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS 2011

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

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

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

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

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

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

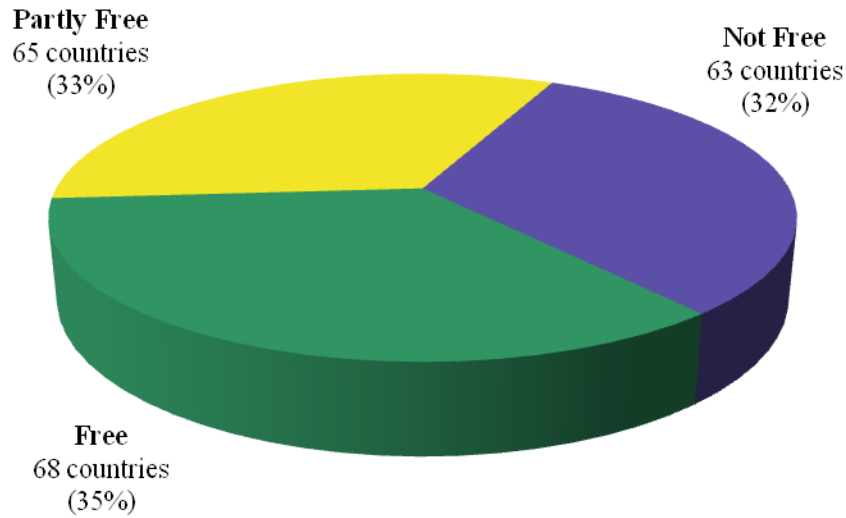
WESTERN EUROPE

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

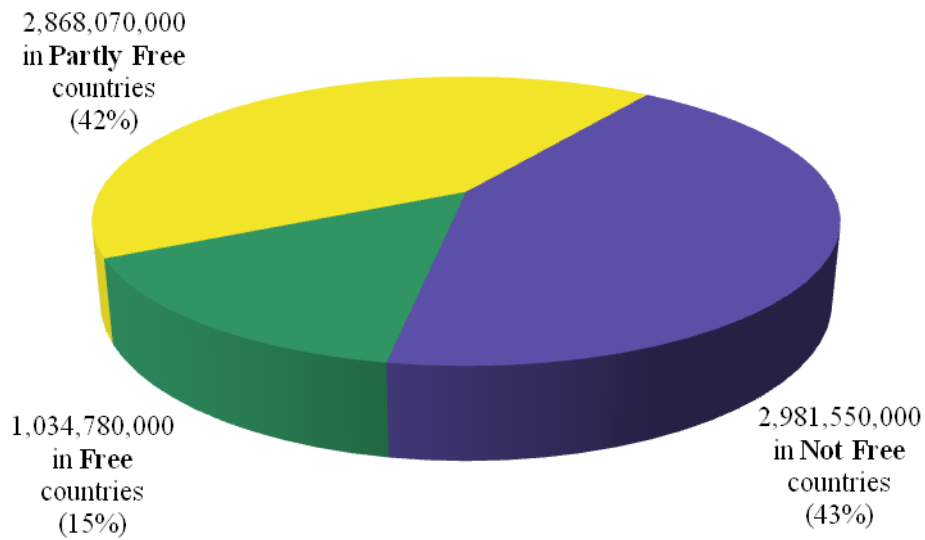
Status	Number of Countries	Percentage of Total
Free	23	92
Partly Free	2	8
Not Free	0	0
TOTAL	25	100

Global Data

Status Breakdown by Country



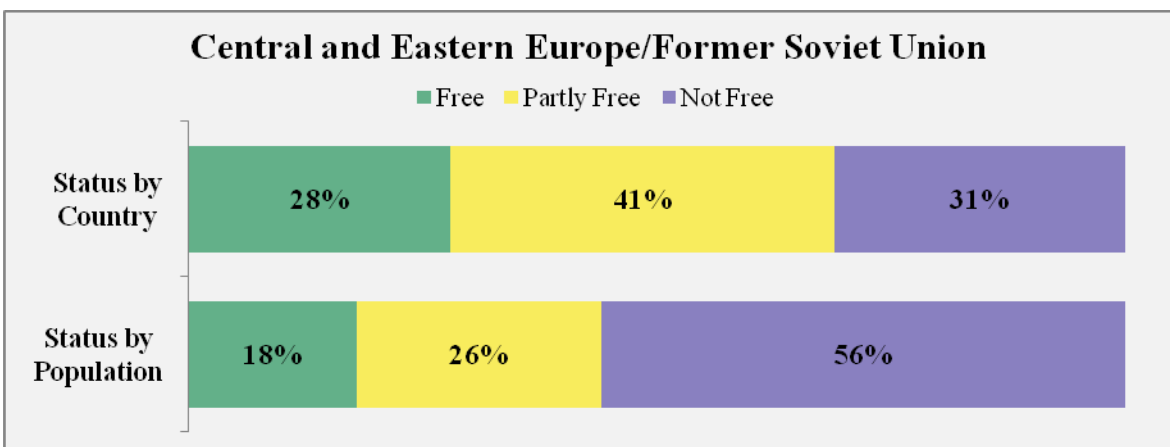
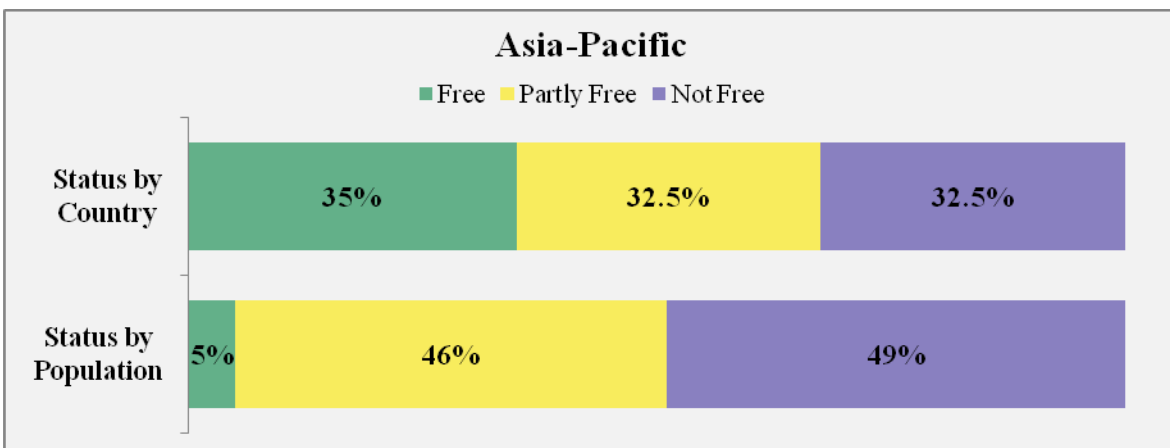
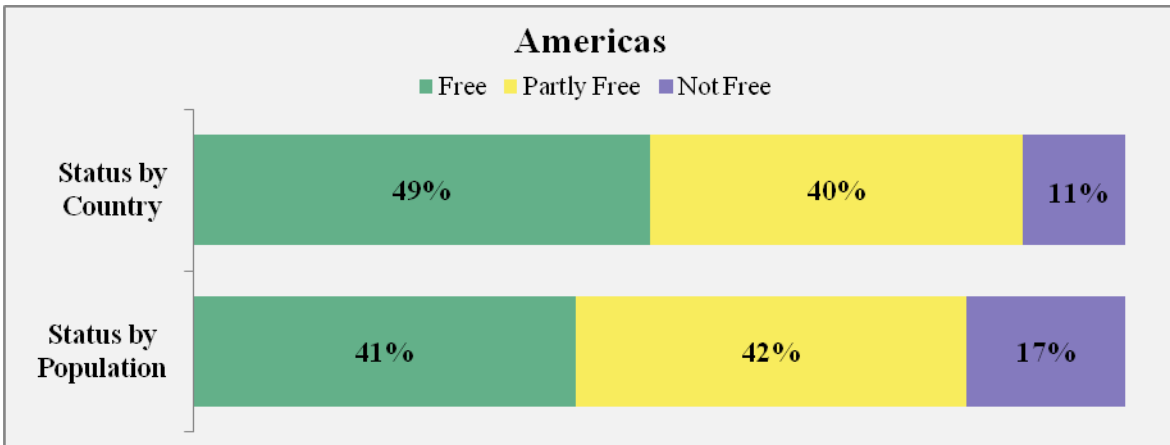
Status Breakdown by Population

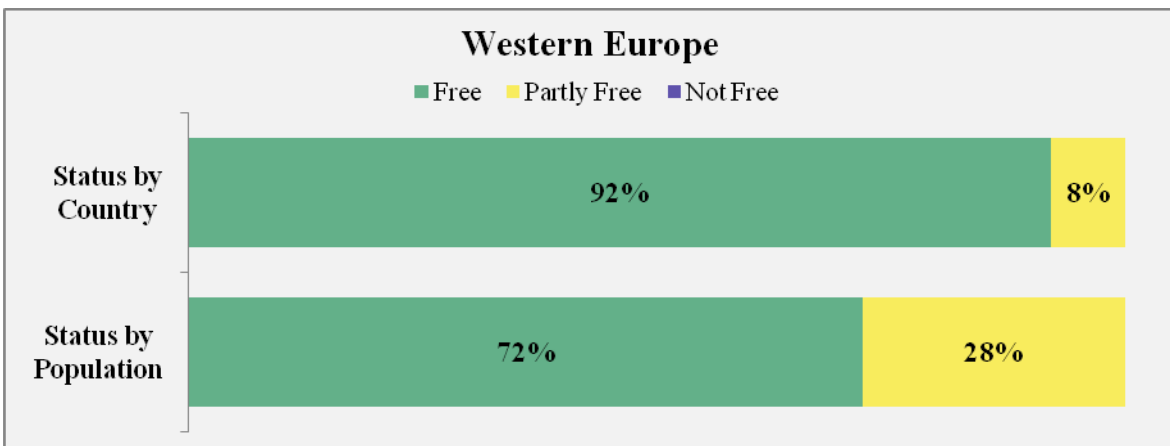
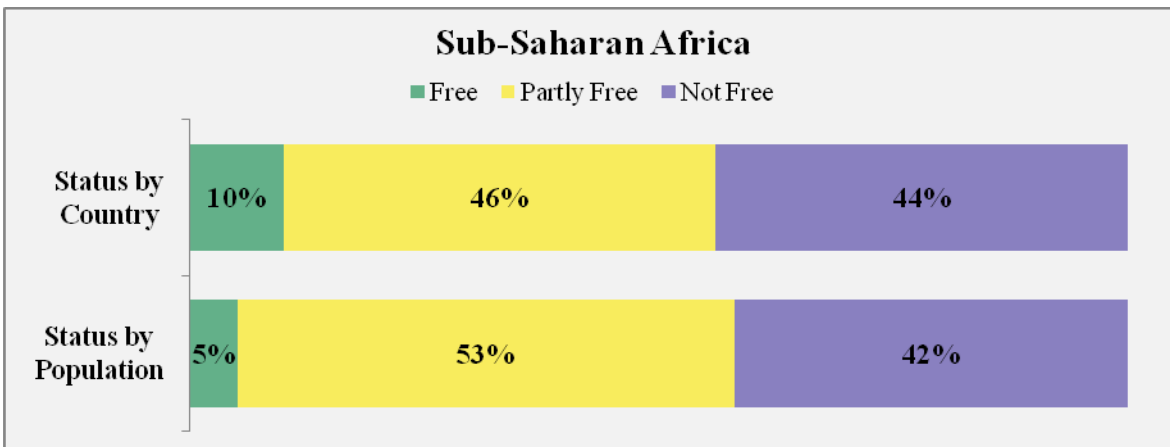
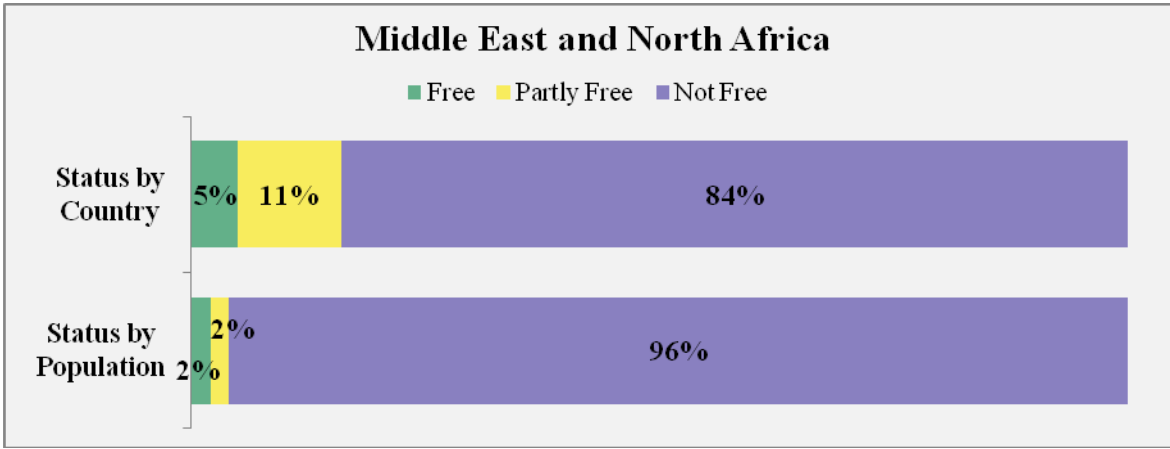


Global Trends in Press Freedom

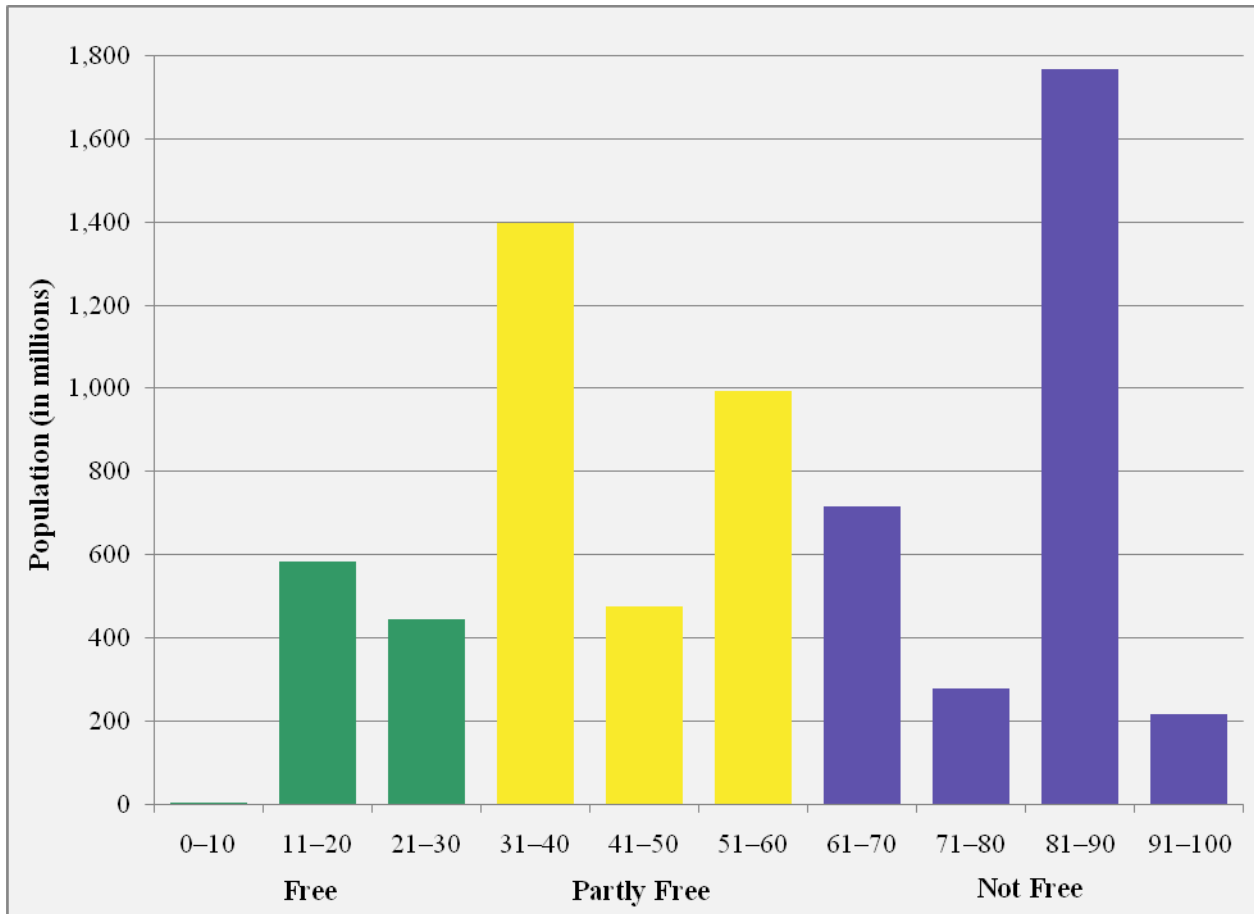
Year Under Review	Free Countries		Partly Free Countries		Not Free Countries	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2010	68	35	65	33	63	32
2000	72	39	53	28	62	33
1990	61	39	34	22	62	39
1980	37	24	31	20	86	56

Regional Data





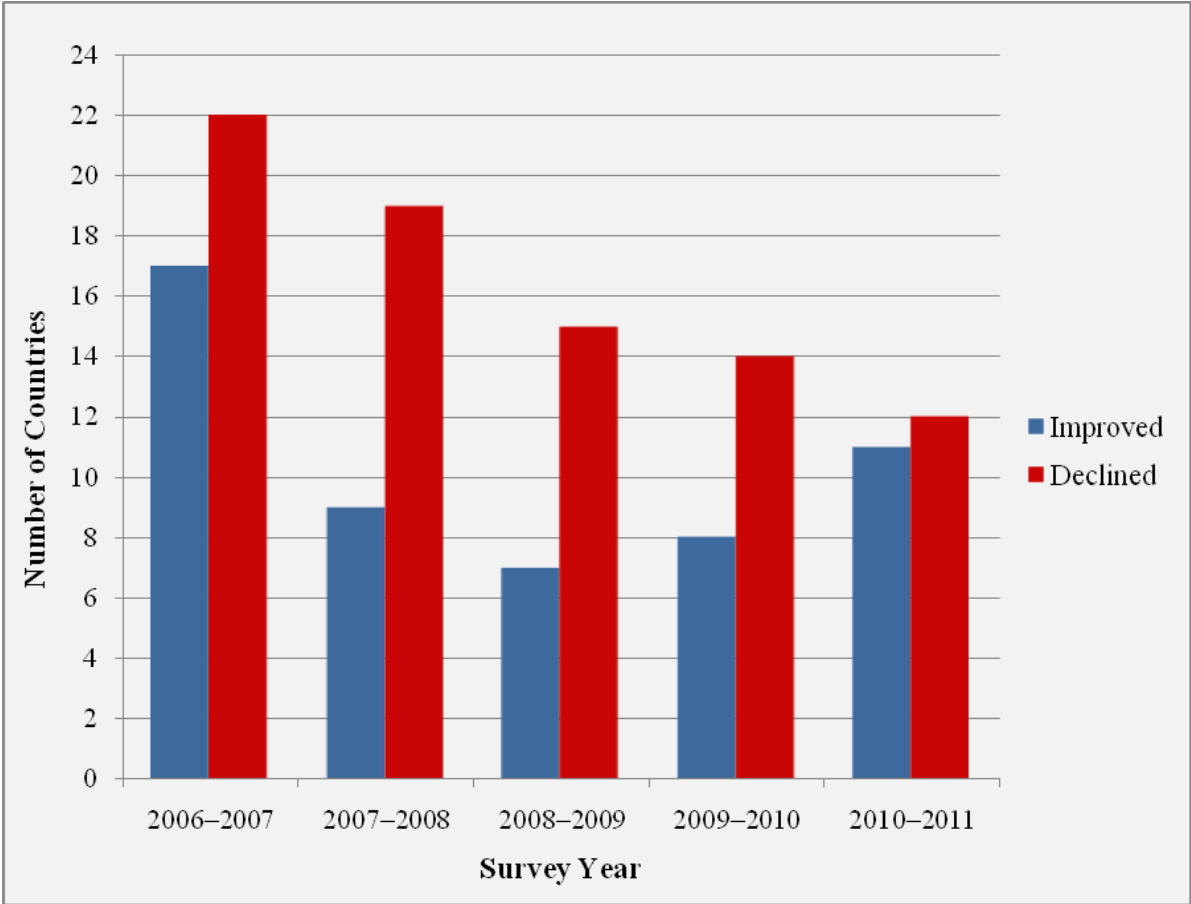
World Population in 2010 According to Total Press Freedom Score



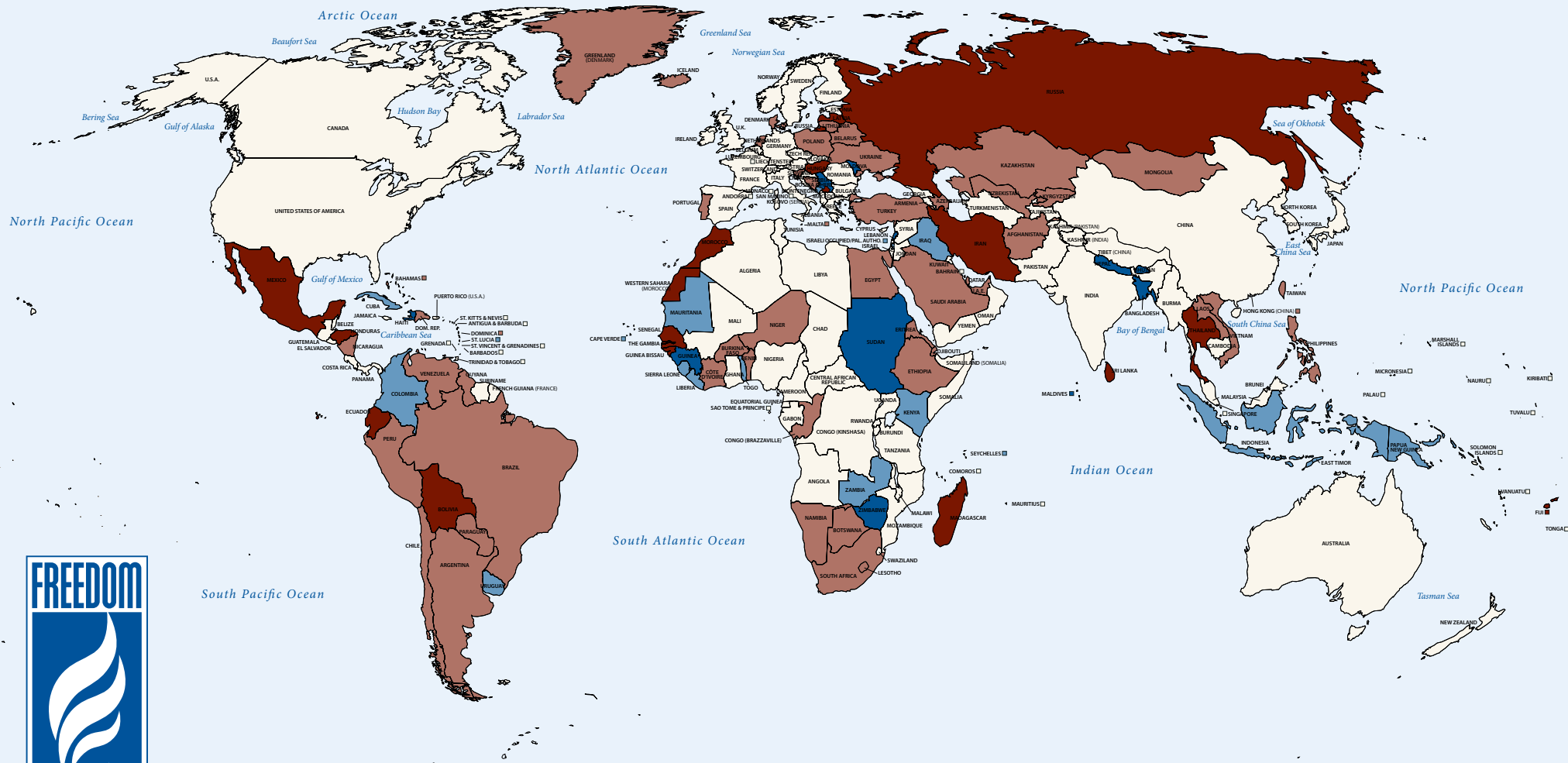
Key to Press Freedom Scoring and Status Designation

Total Score	Country Status
0-30	Free
31-60	Partly Free
61-100	Not Free

Countries with a Net Annual Change of 3 or More Points



Freedom of the Press 2006–2011



Net Change in Total Score, 2006–2011

- 7+ point improvement
- 3-6 point improvement
- 0-2 point improvement or decline
- 7+ point decline
- 3-6 point decline



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 2011

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)
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)
3. Are there penalties for libeling officials or the state and are they enforced? (0–3 points)
4. Is the judiciary independent and do courts judge cases concerning the media impartially? (0–3 points)
5. Is freedom of information legislation in place, and are journalists able to make use of it? (0–2 points)
6. Can individuals or business entities legally establish and operate private media outlets without undue interference? (0–4 points)
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)
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)

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)
2. Is access to official or unofficial sources generally controlled? (0–2 points)
3. Is there official or unofficial censorship? (0–4 points)
4. Do journalists practice self-censorship? (0–4 points)
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)
6. Are both local and foreign journalists able to cover the news freely in terms of harassment and physical access? (0–6 points)
7. Are journalists, bloggers, or media outlets subject to extralegal intimidation or physical violence by state authorities or any other actor? (0–10 points)

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)
2. Is media ownership transparent, thus allowing consumers to judge the impartiality of the news? (0–3 points)
3. Is media ownership highly concentrated, and does it influence diversity of content? (0–3 points)
4. Are there restrictions on the means of news production and distribution? (0–4 points)
5. Are there high costs associated with the establishment and operation of media outlets? (0–4 points)
6. Do the state or other actors try to control the media through allocation of advertising or subsidies? (0–3 points)
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)
8. Does the overall economic situation negatively impact media outlets' financial sustainability? (0–4 points)

Note: 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. A complete list of the indicators used to make the assessments can be found online at www.freedomhouse.org.



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