

# The Internet in Flux

Leonard R. Sussman

The trends in freedom of the Internet are mixed. Perhaps surprisingly, many traditionally authoritative countries now permit relatively unrestricted use of the Internet by citizens, while several of the most democratic states attempt to impose restrictions on the Internet in the name of protecting national security and public decency. And some countries seek international agreement to block certain cross-border news flows on the Web.

The faint opening of the Web in otherwise closed societies is presently limited to small percentages of the population. Yet users number tens of thousands in each country. In the past, in similarly censorious countries—the Soviet Union and Communist-run Eastern Central Europe—when new communication technologies permitted the elites to interact inside and outside their countries, the collapse of authoritarian systems followed.

New attempts to regulate cyberspace by democracies challenge their free press traditions and their national commitment to unrestricted communication. Opposition in the democracies to such restrictions may, however, limit the dangers to new regulation of the Web.

It is reasonable to expect that the Internet will eventually help open most closed societies. Regulation of the Internet undercuts the almost anarchistic qualities of cyberspace. Indeed, many countries still regulate citizens' access to the Web, monitor and imprison users for "sedition," or pass laws to control Internet content. Even democratic countries regulate some part of cyberspace. But now, with 99 percent of countries online (an estimated 407 million users), even some highly censorious countries permit more freedom on the Web than in their newspapers, radio, or television. That factor, rather than the almost universal aim to influence Web content, provides the basis for an optimistic assessment.

A turning point in electronic censorship may have come last year when the number of online users more than doubled from an estimated 201 million in 1999. To be fair, only 6.7 percent of the world's population presently uses the Web, or one-third more than in 1999. That substantial growth occurred in predominantly industrialized countries. The United States has 154 million users, more than Africa (3.11 million), Asia (105), the Middle East (2.4), and Latin America (16.45) combined. Europe has 113.14 million people online and Canada 13.28 million.

This first assessment of the degree of freedom on the Internet is based on fewer countries than regularly are judged in the Freedom House survey of press freedom (see table, p. 41). Based on an examination of each country's Internet penetration, regulatory environment and intent, and cost of Internet access, we categorized countries as Most Restrictive, Moderately Restrictive, or Least Restrictive. Because adequate data on Internet practices were not available for 55 nations, we examine 131 countries instead of the full 187. Those not judged here are included in our traditional survey of print and broadcast media under the categories of Free, Partly Free, and Not Free.

Even at this early stage in assessing freedom on the Web, in some nations there is significant negative correlation between censorship of print and broadcast media and policies regarding the Internet. After excluding 29.5 percent of countries for which data are not available, 58 countries (31 percent of all) are Least Restrictive of the Internet. This compares with 72 countries (39 percent of all) regarded as having Free print and broadcast media. The least restrictive nations provide liberal access to the Web, and little if any content control.

Fifty-five countries have Moderately Restrictive Web policies. This 29.5 percent of the countries relates to 28 percent of the countries regarded as having Partly Free print and broadcast news media. Moderate restriction includes political as well as economic limitation on access to the Web and legal or administrative restrictions on content with punishment for violations.

Eighteen countries, or 10 percent of the sample, are Most Restrictive. In the survey of print and broadcast media, however, 33 percent of the countries are regarded as being highly restrictive. Most Restrictive countries may permit only the state-run Internet service provider (ISP) to carry citizens' messages. Even if a private ISP operates, it may be under state surveillance. Citizens are subjected to fines, harassment, imprisonment, or worse for dissenting from official policies or for messages deemed seditious.

The optimism for the future sounded in this first survey of Web freedom stems from the variance between the print and broadcast rating of a country and this assessment of its practices with regard to the Internet. One country, Oman, with Not Free print and broadcast media, is considered Least Restrictive of the Internet. Twelve other countries with Not Free print and broadcast media—Belarus,

Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe—are Moderately Restrictive of the Web. Malaysia in February banned reporters from an online newspaper from attending or covering all government activities.

In all these countries the percentage of the population online is minimal, ranging from .1 percent in Belarus to 6.4 percent in Lebanon. In most places, too, the cost of Internet access or becoming computer literate in English (presently the *lingua franca*) limits use to government bureaucrats, academics, or businessmen. Even in the otherwise highly restrictive societies of China and the Middle East, however, cybercafes catering to the public at large are multiplying rapidly.

Some eight countries whose print and broadcast media are rated Partly Free nevertheless have Least Restrictive Web access: Antigua, Armenia, Brazil, Croatia, Jordan, Macedonia, Madagascar, and Peru. These countries have an average two percent of their people, mostly the elites, online. Excluding Brazil, with 9.84 million users, the other seven countries have an average 93,000 users.

In countries with Not Free and Partly Free news media, relatively free access to the Internet is a decided boon to opinion-framers of the society, limited though their numbers are at the moment. Even that limited openness reflects the threat to oppressive rulers from the daily enlargement and pervasiveness of the Internet.

Particularly for leaders in China and several Middle Eastern countries, the Internet presents a significant dilemma. They recognize the opportunities on the Web for economic development, international trade, and scientific and cultural advances. Yet regimes based on highly centralized political and economic control fear the uncertainties inherent in permitting diverse expression, pluralist information, and the democratization of ideas that can lead to democratic governance.

China operates three ISPs with 22 million users. New Chinese laws require Internet companies to secure licenses and to be held responsible for “illegal” content carried on their systems. They must keep records of users and their messages. Many Chinese circumvent the official ISPs by tapping into mirror sites in free countries. For sending or receiving messages critical of Beijing or of Communist policy, however, a Chinese Web surfer can face harassment or up to 10 years in prison. Last June, the founder of the first human rights Web site in China, Huang Qi, was accused of “subverting state power.” His last message:

“Thank you all, thanks to everyone devoted to democracy of China. They [the police] are here now, so long.”

Huang was among seven Chinese cyberdissidents arrested in recent years. This March, a two-year jail sentence was given Jiang Shiu for criticizing the Communist Party on the Web. As with print journalists in China or other oppressive countries, harassment, arrest or even physical attack on a few journalists encourages self-censorship by many more. The Internet, however, is more difficult to control. Risking a domestic crackdown, a clever hacker can access electronic messages emanating from distant political and geographic centers. That limited opening is the price paid by autocrats for the astonishing wealth of information and economic potential available to the nation on the Internet. That tradeoff is the heart of the dilemma for central controllers moving reluctantly into cyberspace.

China’s President Jiang Zemin acknowledges that “the melding of the traditional economy and information technology will provide the engine for the development of the economy and society in the 21st Century.” But Jiang would hedge his bets by calling for an “international Internet pact” to assure the “safe management of information.” Twenty-one countries of the Council of Europe have completed the first international treaty on cybercrime. While it would tackle universally acknowledged crime on the Web, it would not provide the nation-by-nation regulation of content that would satisfy Zemin. The Council of Europe, however, raised substantial questions concerning personal privacy and governmental interference with technological innovation and business practices.

Such pockets of regulatory control exist even in democratic countries. Britain last year gave the police broad power to read online messages. The United States requires schools and libraries using federal funds for Internet access to install software to block material harmful to children. The French government ordered Yahoo!, the U.S.-based commercial search engine, to ban Nazi memorabilia or face a daily fine of \$13,000. Clearly, a system as open as the Web requires re-examination of property rights, privacy, and authorship on the Internet. But such concerns are vastly different from the abuse of such factors by censorious governments such as China demanding centralized control of all information on the Web. Yet, the technology used in a democratic country to bar pornography can be employed by authoritarian regimes to block the society’s free flow of information on diverse subjects.

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Indeed, the American technology, managerial expertise, and, ultimately, the national magnanimity that freed the Internet for use by the whole world, is the product of a free society and a free market. That reality obviously worries authoritarian rulers and, inside democracies, those who want a quick fix for problems created by diversity and unrestricted freedom.

A World Summit on Information Society, scheduled for 2003 by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and other UN agencies, will seek to promote universal access to all information on the Internet. The ITU, the oldest global body in the UN system, has worked in the past on the technical aspects of international communication. Now, it will seek a common vision for the free flow of information, freedom of expression, and protection of both privacy and human dignity.

Achieving an international consensus on these subjects will not be easy. Two years hence, it is likely that nearly one billion people—one in every six persons alive—may have access to the Web. E-commerce may drive a large segment of the growth. The immediate question, then, is how the expanding Internet will accommodate the cultures and the financial and intellectual interests of societies brought suddenly onto the world stage.

That is the particular concern today of Middle Eastern leaders, whose yearning for economic gain through the Internet is tempered by threats they perceive to their cultural and religious traditions, as well as to their national stability. Bahrain reflects this split objective. The government wants the country to become the telecommunications hub of the Gulf yet it suppresses information critical of the ruling Al Khalifa family. Access to the Internet is relatively widespread. Six percent of the population (37,500 users) is online. A public cybercafe functions. Yet surveillance is pervasive and Web sites have been blocked.

In Iran, the increased freedom enjoyed by print media following the election of reformist president Mohammad Khatami in 1997 ended in 2000 with a hardline backlash that shut down most moderate newspapers. However, in January 2001, for the first time ever, a group of students set up an interactive Web site to support a protest against the detention of political prisoners. The Amir Kabir University's Web site *Akunews* said it will allow the wider public to demonstrate its support for the student protest via e-mail and the chat room.

Jordan represents those countries that maintain pressure on their newspapers, radio, and television—listed in our survey as being Partly Free—but with a markedly

free Internet. Citizens obtain information from the Internet that is denied them in the print and broadcast media. Indeed, the government promotes the use of the Web with relatively few restrictions. Some foreign newspapers banned in Jordan may be accessed on the Web. An online debate about the role of women may be found on the Jordan-based Internet portal *Arabia.com*. About two percent of the population uses the Web.

In Morocco, Internet users comprise only 0.4 percent of the population. The high cost of the Web in this low-income country is a major deterrent. The government does not restrict access or censor content on the Internet. The government does, however, restrict print and broadcast news media. They are regarded as Partly Free.

A country highly repressive with regard to expression—Saudi Arabia—nevertheless only moderately restricts the Internet. The Saudi government recently worked to triple the number of Internet subscribers to 300,000 (1.4 percent of the population). Access costs have been slashed. Much of the new infrastructure accommodates a vast increase in business and banking activity on the Web. A firewall created by the government nevertheless can block content from any site not officially approved. All ISPs in the kingdom are state controlled to prevent the dissemination of “inappropriate information.”

Syria, which also highly censors print and broadcast news, only moderately restricts the Internet for its 30,000 users (0.12 percent of the population). By mid-2001, Syria expects to have 100,000 people online. Their content will be monitored to bar access to pornographic or Israel-related sites. The move to place more citizens online is prompted by the fact that Syrians can readily connect with the freer servers in Lebanon (at the risk of a fine, if caught). It is likely that the move to expand Internet access is influenced by the new president Bashar Al Assad who, before his father's death, headed the Syrian Computer Society.

The most wired country in the Arab world is the United Arab Emirates. Seventeen percent of its people (400,000 users) are online. While the UAE's print and broadcast media are listed as Not Free, the Internet is moderately restricted. Individual users are not monitored as they are in some neighboring countries, though the potential for wider censorship on the Web is present. Users do not access the Internet directly but tap into a proxy server maintained by the state telecommunications monopoly. The proxy can refuse access to Web sites that are banned by the government, or if the site then monitored

by the proxy reveals objectionable information. These moderate restrictions allow more freedom, nevertheless with clear limitations, than is permitted in the print or broadcast media.

Greater freedom on the Internet than in the traditional news media is revealed not only in some Middle Eastern countries but in Asia, Europe, and Latin America as well. Antigua, Macedonia, Madagascar, and Peru have Partly Free print and broadcast media but are Least Restrictive of the Web. Some countries whose traditional media are Not Free—Belarus, Croatia, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Oman—are far less restrictive of the Internet. The high cost of access to cyberspace in these countries, which have generally very low personal incomes, restricts usage of the Web to individuals with political and economic clout. One may assume, however, that several hundred thousand users who presently navigate the Web in such countries—whatever their current privileged status—will one day seek more diverse channels of information and the capability to interact freely with other surfers.

The implosion of the Soviet Union resulted partly from similar freeing of computers and automated telephones which defied censors. Fearful rulers, whether in the Soviet Kremlin or in the most democratic states, are not yet certain how the seeming anarchy of the Web will affect the power of governance or the security of state or culture. Russian President Vladimir Putin directed all ISPs to channel messages through the security forces for potential monitoring—a chilling prospect in a country not fully relieved of seven decades of repression.

With a similar motive but using traditionally less draconian practices, the British government began in 2000 to regulate cyberspace. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act gives the police broad access to e-mail and other online communications. The British government began building a system to monitor all online activities. The system would require Internet providers such as America Online to hardwire links directly to it.

A critic of regulation linked this British action with U.S. insistence that libraries receiving federal funds for Internet access must install hardware to block material harmful to children. The U.S. Supreme Court, on First Amendment grounds, had earlier declared unconstitutional a mandated blocking of Web sites considered pornographic. Yet Internet filters applied by citizens are deeply flawed. Filtering mechanisms are often unclear in their definitions of pornographic or other “inappropriate” words and subjects, and thus mistakenly ban useful information. The Federal Bureau of Investigation continues to develop the “Carnivore” system to track criminal activity on the Internet. Carnivore can sift through all communication on an ISP and extract the e-mail and contacts of tens of thousands of users, including innocent communicators. In 2000, concluded one critic, democratic governments started to regulate cyberspace in earnest.

More threatening in the future, perhaps, would be the demand of e-commerce to place permanent digital codes on a computer to provide instant details of the user’s age, sex, and other credentials. This would speed business but extract loss of anonymity for all messages passing through that computer. Web sites, of course, can block a computer’s entry for many reasons.

The Internet in 2001, clearly, is in flux. The original concept of the Web as limitless—for accessing, for privacy, and most forms of freedom—is as illusory as every other form of absolute liberty in human society. Yet there is the first glimmer of how significant new freedoms can be achieved on the Internet for the four billion people who have virtually no freedom of expression without the Internet. They rely only on centrally controlled print and broadcast media. The hopeful sign is the small opening to the Web being forged in countries with no history of communication as free as the Internet.

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# Press Freedom 2001

**Kristen Guida**

The year 2000 saw substantial progress for press freedom, with a higher number of countries, 72, rated Free than at any time in the past decade. The number of countries rated Not Free, 62, is the lowest since 1997. Fifty-three countries are rated Partly Free in the current survey.

Significant improvements during 2000 outweighed significant declines; seven countries (Croatia, Ghana, Pakistan, Peru, Samoa, Suriname, and Yugoslavia) moved up in category to Free or Partly Free, while only one (Central African Republic) moved down in category, to Not Free.

Countries enjoying notably improved press freedom at the end of 2000 represented diverse regions of the world. What most of them had in common, however, were recent changes in regime, in some cases effected at least in part by the work of independent journalists, that brought about governments with greater respect for civil liberties.

In Peru, investigative print and radio journalists braved severe intimidation, including death threats, surveillance, smear campaigns, physical attacks, and arbitrary prosecution to report on government and military corruption and human rights abuses under the regime of Alberto Fujimori. Using their control over the judiciary, government authorities all but eradicated independent television, and most major newspapers, radio, and television were either directly or indirectly controlled by Fujimori's intelligence chief, Vladimiro Montesinos, by 2000. But the independent press persevered, and when Fujimori announced his candidacy for a third presidential term despite a constitutional prohibition, the press brought international condemnation upon him by publishing allegations of irregularities in his registration as a candidate in the April election. In September, the independent Canal N cable television station aired a video showing Montesinos bribing an opposition congressman. Fujimori's downfall in November led to an immediate reduction in harassment against journalists and the re-establishment of independent television.

Independent journalists were also instrumental in bringing about the overthrow of Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic in October. Despite repeated prosecution, police raids, confiscation of their equipment, and prohibitive fines, outlets such as Studio B television, Radio Index, Radio B92, and a number of independent newspapers publicized government corruption and military abuses of human rights,

and covered nationwide student protests against the regime following September 2000 presidential elections. The state harassment of independent journalists dramatically decreased with Milosevic's resignation in October. International human rights groups now look to the government of Vojislav Kostunica to support the proper reforms to ensure that media are allowed to function without fear of reprisal.

In Suriname and Croatia, journalists benefited from the transfer of power to new governments that promised to tackle corruption and end abuses of power. In Samoa, the two-year-old government of Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi continued to improve the climate for independent media, which suffered harassment and crippling lawsuits under former prime minister Tofilau Eti Alesana. Pakistani newspapers continued to be among the most outspoken in South Asia despite sometimes violent attacks from Islamic fundamentalists and others opposed to media coverage of drug trafficking and prostitution. Harassment by authorities, however, declined as General Pervez Musharraf took a less heavy-handed approach to the press than his predecessor, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Only one country registered a significant decline by year's end. Central African Republic saw an erosion of press freedom characterized by a rash of arrests and prosecution of newspaper reporters investigating official corruption and apparent misconduct. The incidents were enough to push the country's rating slightly into the Not Free category.

## Regional Trends

In Africa, 15 countries improved within their categories, while nine declined. Twenty-seven countries of 53 remained unchanged in 2000. Bright spots included Botswana (already rated Free), where two private radio stations began broadcasting in 1999, and the first national television station, run by the state, opened in 2000. In Mali, also rated Free, legislation reduced penalties for libel in July. However, Cote d'Ivoire saw an escalation of harassment, beating, and detention of journalists, while Seychelles passed a broadcasting bill that allows officials to ban the broadcast of "objectionable" information.

Four Asian countries improved within category,

while seven declined. In Sri Lanka, new emergency regulations increased the power of authorities to censor and crack down on controversial reporting in all media. In Indonesia, however, independent media were increasingly assertive in their coverage of political issues and corruption. Twelve of Asia's 25 countries remained unchanged.

Western Europe continued to boast the highest number of Free countries. Twenty of its 21 countries are Free, while one, Turkey, is Partly Free. Five countries, Finland, France, Ireland, Malta, and the United Kingdom, slightly improved, while four, Austria, Cyprus, the Netherlands, and Spain, slightly declined. Britain's implementation of the Human Rights Act and its passage of freedom of information legislation warranted a slight upgrade. In Spain, journalists in the Basque region came under violent attack by ETA separatists; one newspaper reporter was murdered there. Twelve Western European countries maintained their previous scores.

Latin America registered not only two significant upgrades, but slight improvements in seven countries as well (Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico). Guatemala's government suspended the Telecommunications Law in May after an OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression recommended an investigation into the "possible existence of a real monopoly on television stations open to public access" and urged a number of reforms of the sector. Mexico's new government dismantled the PRI domination of television and pledged to encourage media independence by ending the PRI practice of buying favorable coverage. Three Latin American countries, Colombia, Haiti, and Uruguay, declined within category. Right wing paramilitaries, leftist guerrillas, and organized criminals created a dangerous climate for Colombian journalists, eleven of whom were killed in 2000. There was no change in the status of 21 Latin American countries.

In the Middle East, one country, Israel, has Free media, while two, Jordan and Kuwait, have Partly Free media. The remaining eleven countries' media are Not Free. Syria saw a slight improvement in 2000 as the government of new president Bashar al-Assad demonstrated greater tolerance of criticism. However, Syria remains well within the Not Free category. Six countries (Iran, Iraq, Jordan, the Israeli-occupied territories/Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen) saw modest declines in their status. The outbreak of violence between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers in the fall took its toll on journalists, who suffered serious abuses from both sides in the conflict. In Iran, the

brief opening for print media that came with the 1997 election of President Mohammad Khatami ended with a hardline crackdown following February 2000 parliamentary elections.

Of the 27 countries of Eastern Europe and the NIS, the media in nine are Free; in eleven, Partly Free; and in seven, Not Free. In addition to the significant upgrades of Croatia and Yugoslavia, six countries (Bosnia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Tajikistan) registered slight improvements in press freedom. Bosnia adopted a freedom of information law drafted by the OSCE, and Bulgaria amended its penal code, making it more difficult for officials to sue journalists for libel. However, nine countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) slightly declined. In Azerbaijan, notably, a new mass media law prohibits broadly-defined insults to honor and dignity and reporting that contradicts the national interest.

Russia and Ukraine remain just short of the Not Free category. Independent media in Russia faced an onslaught of harassment, including prosecution, threats, and physical assaults, particularly for reporting on corruption or the war in Chechnya. In a notable case, the owner of the leading independent media group, Media-MOST, was arrested on embezzlement charges in connection with a government anticorruption drive. Most observers called the arrest an attempt to silence one of the few independent media groups critical of the Russian government and the war in Chechnya. In Ukraine, the government of Leonid Kuchma has led an increasingly severe campaign against the media. Opposition newspapers have been harassed or suspended, and television broadcasts have been censored. Evidence that could implicate Kuchma and senior government officials in the brutal murder of journalist Hryhoriy Gongadze was particularly alarming.

The Pacific region has nine countries with Free media and three with Partly Free media. Fiji, Micronesia, and Vanuatu saw slight upgrades in 2000. In Vanuatu, the two-decade long broadcasting monopoly of Telecommunications Vanuatu Limited ended with a telecommunications law in June, and a new bilingual newspaper was launched in November. Fiji's media received credit for their vigorous coverage during the 2000 political crisis despite financial difficulties and attacks by the forces of rebel leader George Speight. Four countries (Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands) were downgraded slightly.

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The media in both North American countries, the United States and Canada, remained Free but declined slightly. In the United States, mergers and buyouts by telecom giants continue to result in concentrated owner-

ship, while newspapers find it increasingly difficult to compete with electronic media. In Canada, two court decisions against media outlets and several attacks on journalists caused concern.

Kristen Guida, a Freedom House staff researcher, conducted the analyses of print and broadcast media for this report. She holds a graduate degree in International Politics from New York University.

Kathleen Cronin-Furman served as a research intern for this study.

This report also reflects the findings of the 2000-2001 Freedom House study *Freedom in the World: The Annual Survey of Political Rights and Civil Liberties*, coordinated by Adrian Karatnycky and produced by the research team of Martin Edwin Andersen, Gordon Bardos, Michael Goldfarb, Charles Graybow, Kristen Guida, Edward McMahon, Aili Piano, Arch Puddington, Amanda Schnetzer, Cindy Shiner, Anny Wong, and Kendra Zaharescu.

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## Regional Assessment of Press Freedom by Countries

	Free	Partly Free	Not Free	# Countries
Africa	6	17	30	53
Asia	7	5	13	25
Europe, Western	20	1	0	21
Europe, East/NIS	9	11	7	27
Latin America/ Caribbean	18	14	1	33
Middle East	1	2	11	14
North America	2	0	0	2
Pacific	9	3	0	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>187</b>

## Changes 1999 - 2000

	Category Changes		Within Category		Unchanged
	improved	declined	improved	declined	
Africa	1	1	15	9	27
Asia	1	0	4	7	12
Europe, Western	0	0	5	4	12
Europe, East/NIS	2	0	6	9	10
Latin America/ Caribbean	2	0	7	3	21
Middle East	0	0	1	6	7
North America	0	0	0	2	0
Pacific	1	0	3	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>93</b>
% of total (187) countries	4%	.5%	22%	23.5%	50%

## Press Freedom by Population

	By Country	By Population (millions)
Free	72 (39%)	1,269 (21%)
Partly Free	53 (28%)	2,600 (43%)
Not Free	62 (33%)	2,189 (36%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187 (100%)</b>	<b>6,058 (100%)</b>

Changes in Average Score:  
1995-2001

1995	48.33 (partly free)
1996	45.78 (partly free)
1997	46.04 (partly free)
1998	46.29 (partly free)
1999	49.04 (partly free)
2000	47.01 (partly free)
2001	46.05 (partly free)



## Press Freedom by Category

### Free 1-15

Australia  
Austria  
Bahamas  
Belgium  
Canada  
Denmark  
Finland  
Germany  
Iceland  
Jamaica  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Marshall Islands  
Nauru  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
St. Lucia  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United States

### Free 16-30

Barbados  
Belize  
Benin  
Bolivia  
Botswana  
Bulgaria  
Chile  
Costa Rica  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
East Timor  
Estonia  
France  
Greece  
Grenada  
Guyana  
Hungary  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Japan  
Kiribati  
Korea, S

Latvia  
Lithuania  
Mali  
Mauritius  
Micronesia  
Mongolia  
Panama  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
St. Kitts and Nevis  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
Samoa  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Solomon Islands  
South Africa  
Spain  
Suriname  
Taiwan  
Thailand  
Trinidad and Tobago  
United Kingdom  
Uruguay

### Partly Free 31-45

Argentina  
Brazil  
Burkina Faso  
Cape Verde  
Comoros  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Fiji  
Honduras  
India  
Macedonia  
Madagascar  
Namibia  
Nicaragua  
Romania  
Senegal  
Tonga  
Uganda  
Vanuatu  
Venezuela

### Partly Free 46-60

Albania  
Antigua and Barbuda  
Armenia  
Bangladesh  
Bosnia  
Colombia  
Croatia  
Gabon  
Georgia  
Ghana  
Guatemala  
Guinea-Bissau  
Haiti  
Indonesia  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Lesotho  
Malawi  
Mexico  
Moldova  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Nepal  
Nigeria  
Pakistan  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Russia  
Seychelles  
Tanzania  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
Yugoslavia

### Not Free 61-75

Algeria  
Bahrain  
Brunei  
Cambodia  
Cameroon  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Congo (Brazzaville)  
Djibouti  
Egypt  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
The Gambia  
Guinea  
Iran  
Israeli-administered territories/  
Palestinian Authority  
Kazakhstan  
Kenya  
Kyrgyz Republic  
Laos  
Lebanon  
Liberia  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Mauritania  
Niger  
Oman  
Qatar  
Rwanda  
Sierra Leone  
Singapore  
Sri Lanka  
Syria  
Togo  
Tunisia  
Yemen  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

### Not Free 76-100

Afghanistan  
Angola  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Bhutan  
Burma  
Burundi  
China  
Congo (Kinshasa)  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Cuba  
Equatorial Guinea  
Iraq  
Korea, N  
Libya  
Saudi Arabia  
Somalia  
Sudan  
Swaziland  
Tajikistan  
Turkmenistan  
United Arab Emirates  
Uzbekistan  
Vietnam

## METHODOLOGY

This survey of 187 countries expands a process conducted since 1979 by Freedom House. The findings are widely used by governments, academics, and the news media in many countries. The degree to which each country permits the free flow of information determines the classification of its media as “Free,” “Partly Free,” or “Not Free.” The criteria for such judgements and the arithmetic scheme for displaying the judgements are described below. Assigning numerical points facilitates judgement. 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:** As with *Freedom in the World* (the annual Freedom House survey of political rights and civil liberties), 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 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights instructs: *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.* (Article 19)

The operative word for this survey 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 free exchange of diverse views, while some 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.

**The method:** Our first concern is the structure of the news-delivery system: the laws and administrative decisions and their influence on the content of news media. Second, we evaluate the degree of political influence over the content of news media. Political power, even in the most democratic nations, seeks to manage the news. Democratic systems, however, create checks and balances to minimize state domination of the news media. Third, we examine economic influences on media content, including pressure on media from market competition in the private sector and related dependence on funding from political or economic interests. Finally, we rate the intensity of repression faced by journalists in a particular country, including instances of physical attack, censorship, arrest, and other harassment. Broadcast and print media are assessed separately.

**The numbers:** The first three categories (laws, political, and economic influences) are scored from 0 to 15. The lower the number, the more free the media. The fourth category (degree of violations) is scored from 0 to 5. These violations play a part in shaping the environment in which the media operate. Though we view violence and other forms of repression against journalists as forms of political pressure, we add a discretionary 0 to 5 points to a country’s score to reflect the frequency and severity of violations.

**Sources:** Our data come from correspondents overseas, staff travel, international visitors, the findings of human rights (including press freedom) organizations, specialists in geographic and geopolitical areas, the reports of governments (including the U.S. State Department), and a variety of domestic and international news media.

**Press responsibility:** This survey does not assess the degree to which the press in any country serves responsibly, reflecting a high ethical standard. The issue of “press responsibility” is often raised to defend governmental control of the press. Indeed, a truly irresponsible press does a disservice to its public and diminishes its own credibility. This fact is reflected in the degree of freedom in the flow of information.

### LEGEND

**A** = Laws and regulations that influence media *content*;  
scale: broadcast, 0-15; print, 0-15

**C** = Economic influences over media *content*; scale:  
broadcast, 0-15; print, 0-15

**B** = Political pressures and controls on media *content*;  
scale: broadcast, 0-15; print, 0-15

**D** = Repressive actions (killing journalists, physical  
violence, censorship, self-censorship, arrests, etc.); scale:  
broadcast, 0-5; print, 0-5

**RATING:** free: 0-30; partly free: 31-60; not free: 61-100

### KEY TO THE CHART

	A	B	C	D	Rating
Broadcast	00	00	00	00	00
Print	00	00	00	00	F(ree)

# COUNTRY RATINGS

## Press Freedom Worldwide

### May 3, 2001

↑ and ↓ indicate ratings changes within category. ▲ and ▼ indicate category changes.

↓ **Afghanistan** The Taliban continues to maintain tight control over the country's broadcast and print media. In August 2000, strict regulations on the actions of foreign journalists were introduced. Photographs have been outlawed and television eliminated. Afghans are banned from accessing the Internet, however, the Taliban maintains a website promoting recognition of its regime worldwide. The programming of the nation's one radio station is limited to religious broadcasts and official propaganda. The print press, encompassing no more than 10 publications nationwide, is entirely under government control. There are almost no Afghan journalists remaining in the country. In 2000 foreign correspondents continued to attempt to cover Afghanistan, but were frequently treated as spies and arrested.

15	15	15	0	95
15	15	15	5	NF

▲ **Albania** Libel and defamation are criminal offenses. "Incitement to hatred" carries penalties of up to five years' imprisonment. A 1998 law on electronic media prohibits political parties, religious organizations, or state bodies from operating private radio or television stations and limits ownership in any national broadcaster to 40 percent. A new press law was being drafted at year's end. All broadcast media are private except Albania Radio and Television, which is considered excessively pro-government. There are more than 75 private television and 30 private radio stations, and Albanians have access to foreign broadcasting via satellite. Albanian media are considered to be prone to excessive sensationalism and irresponsibility. Also, most media outlets are linked to political or business groups, which compromises their reporting. Their limited resources make them susceptible to corruption and influence from political and business interests. A number of journalists were attacked by police while covering public events, according to Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

8	12	6	1	56
8	11	10	0	PF

↑ **Algeria** Emergency law gives the government broad powers to restrict reporting that it perceives as a threat to the state or to public order. At least a dozen other articles of law mandate prison sentences for violations by journalists. The government monopoly on printing presses, newsprint imports, and advertising has left the media vulnerable to political pressure. However, attempts to create private printers are under way. Radio and television are government-controlled and present pro-government views. The independent print media (more than 30 dailies, according to Reporters Sans Frontieres) criticized the government more freely than in previous years, and also provided a forum for the views of Islamist parties, which do not have their own publications. In February, two journalists were ordered to pay symbolic fines in a defamation suit filed by a retired army general. In March, a French freelance photographer was arrested with no explanation and briefly detained. An independent reporter was arrested en route to Tunisia in August, and *Al-Watan's* bureau chief in Annaba was the target of an apparent assassination attempt in December.

15	15	10	0	74
13	7	12	2	NF

▲ **Angola** Criminal defamation is punishable by imprisonment. A ban on war coverage instituted in 1999 remained in effect during 2000. Legislation proposed in September would provide for lengthy prison terms for publishing, reproducing, or distributing material deemed insulting to the president and for quoting foreign reports that insult Angolan officials. It also grants authorities the right to seize or ban publications at will, and prohibits disclosure of "state or military secrets," subversion, "false news," and offending public morals. Private media include five weekly publications and five radio stations, including the Catholic Radio Ecclesia. These media reported critically on government policies and poor socioeconomic conditions without interference. Several journalists faced severe harassment. Andre Mussamo, who was detained in December 1999, was accused of revealing state secrets, fired from his job at state radio, and held for more than three months. He was acquitted in June. Rafael Marques was convicted in March of defaming President dos Santos in a 1999 article in *Agora*. His trial was characterized by serious irregularities. Marques was barred from leaving the country in December. Voice of America journalists in Luanda reported assaults and threats, and a Radio Ecclesia editor was kidnapped in July. He later escaped, and his colleague Isamas Soares faced several instances of official harassment. However, such incidents diminished by year's end.

15	13	7	5	80
15	13	7	5	NF

▲ **Antigua and Barbuda** Broadcast media are entirely controlled by the family of Prime Minister Bird, and opposition parties receive limited access and coverage. The owners of the first private radio station won a four-year court battle in November and the station is

expected to begin broadcasting soon. Active print media offer a range of views, but are sometimes the targets of defamation suits and attacks.

15	15	1	0	46
3	9	3	0	PF

↑**Argentina** A bill introduced in 2000 would eliminate criminal penalties for defamation, but it stalled in congress when several senators were implicated by journalists in corruption scandals and withdrew their support. Print media are privately owned and publish freely. Private broadcasting operates without interference. Journalists, who faced routine beatings, kidnappings, and death threats under Menem, saw their situation improve under De la Rúa. Violent attacks against journalists abated. In 2000, several people, including police officers, were sentenced in connection with the 1997 murder of a photojournalist, reportedly committed at the instigation of a Menem associate and business leader. However, in September the supreme court rejected an appeal by journalist Eduardo Kimel, who was sentenced to a one-year suspended sentence and fined in 1999 for publishing, in a book about the 1976 massacre of five religious workers during the military regime, that the judge in the case did not investigate the crime properly. Several journalists were harassed and threatened in 2000. In February, a defamation ruling against a television journalist was upheld in an appeals court.

6	6	3	1	33
4	7	5	1	PF

↓**Armenia** A civil code adopted in 1999 replaced punishments for libel, including publication of a retraction or compensation for damages, with harsher sentences of up to three years in prison. Freedom of speech can be restricted in the interests of state and public security, order, health, and morality, and the rights and reputations of others. Journalists often exercise self-censorship when covering security agencies. Direct threats and intimidation by government officials are not common, but the authorities have other, mostly economic, means to restrict freedom of speech. Print media in Armenia are, for the most part, unprofitable and financially dependent on sponsors and/or patrons who are often intent on promoting their own political or economic interests. Broadcast media are more financially viable because of larger audiences. As of late 1998, there were more than 900 media outlets officially registered with the Armenian justice ministry. But very few of those outlets—some 150 newspapers and magazines, more than 30 national and local TV stations, and six FM stations—are regularly active. One journalist was badly beaten in June by interior ministry officials, allegedly for his report on the investigation into the 1999 parliament attack.

8	8	6	0	59
8	13	13	2	PF

**Australia** Press freedom is respected and has been upheld in high court cases, although there is no bill of rights. The Australian Press Council is the independent, self-regulatory body of the print media. It consists of 21 members, representing publishers, journalists, and members of the public, and is funded by the print media industry. It sets ethical standards for the press, serves as a forum for complaints about the press, and publishes briefs about press freedom issues. The government regulates foreign buyouts of news media. Concentration of ownership of major newspapers, cross-ownership of media, and foreign ownership reflect substantial economic power. In February, riot police assaulted journalists covering a labor demonstration.

1	1	1	0	10
1	1	5	0	F

↓**Austria** Legal restrictions on the broadcast or publication of information deemed detrimental to morality or national security are rarely invoked. Strict libel laws have been used with increasing frequency in recent months, particularly by right-wing politicians. A journalist with *Oberversterreichische Nachrichten* was fired in February; he had written critically of the new right-wing coalition which came to power that month. State-owned broadcasting continues to dominate television and radio viewership, although there are 36 commercial and 9 community radio stations. Television remains a government monopoly.

3	2	0	0	14
4	3	2	0	F

↓**Azerbaijan** Media are regulated by the Ministry of Press and Information and the Ministry of Communications. Censorship was officially outlawed in 1998, but the Law on Mass Media, signed in February 2000, prohibits coverage that “insults the honour and dignity of the state and the Azerbaijani people” or that “is contrary to the national interest.” The worsening economy has had a similarly detrimental effect on the independent press. Much of the media relies on advertising revenue, which has been scarce this year. Harassment continues to be a problem for the independent media as offices are closed, equipment confiscated, and journalists threatened and assaulted.

12	13	6	5	76
12	13	12	3	NF

**Bahamas** Strict libel laws exist but are generally not used to restrict the media. Three daily and several weekly private newspapers express a variety of views on public issues, as do the government-run radio station and four private radio broadcasters. Opposition politicians claim that state-run television does not accord them the same coverage as that given to the ruling party.

1	2	1	0	7
1	1	1	0	F

**Bahrain** Freedom of speech and of the press is sharply limited. Privately-owned newspapers refrain from criticizing the ruling family, while radio and television are government-owned and broadcast only official views. However, media report relatively freely on economic, commercial, and international issues. Despite an official ban, an estimated six percent of Bahraini homes have access to satellite broadcasting. One journalist from *The Economist* was imprisoned in November with no official explanation. He was released after nine days.

15	15	7	0	75
13	14	10	1	NF

**Bangladesh** Constitutional guarantees of press freedom are subject to “reasonable restrictions” in the interest of security, foreign relations, public order, decency, and morality. Libel, defamation, sedition, and incitement to violence are criminal offenses punishable by incarceration. Journalists censor themselves, and the government may influence coverage through government-sponsored advertising and allocation of newsprint. Broadcast media are state-controlled and give the opposition little coverage. Journalists face pressure from organized crime groups, political parties, the government, and Islamic fundamentalists. In an effort to cover up their abuses of protesters, police occasionally beat journalists covering demonstrations. Incidents of violence against journalists and criminal charges against independent media by government ministers increased during 2000. A reporter who was murdered in July in Jessore had been exposing the illegal activities of a local organized crime ring, and was the third journalist to be murdered in western Bangladesh since August 1998.

13	12	7	0	60
7	9	7	5	PF

**Barbados** Freedom of the press is unrestricted. Although the single television station is government owned, it presents a range of political viewpoints as do both private and government owned radio stations and the two major independent newspapers.

1	6	3	0	16
1	2	3	0	F

**Belarus** State media are subordinated to the president, whose administration controls decisions on content and the appointment of senior editors. Independent electronic media do not exist. The Law on Press and Other Media prohibits media coverage of any association not registered with the state and severely limits the media’s ability to criticize public officials. The State Press Committee can issue warnings to publishers for unauthorized activities such as changing a publication’s title or distributing copies abroad. It can also shut down publications without court orders. The opposition has little or no access to state media. Harassment and censorship of independent print media are routine. Raids on newspaper offices are frequent. Cases of harassment abounded in 2000. Many journalists have been arrested, and one photojournalist has been missing since July.

13	14	5	5	80
13	14	11	5	NF

**Belgium** Restrictions on libel, slander, violence, and the promotion of racial or ethnic discrimination are not abused to limit press freedom. A 1999 law denies state funding to political parties that promote discrimination. Autonomous public boards govern state television and radio to ensure linguistically pluralistic content. The state has permitted and licensed independent radio stations since 1985.

1	2	0	1	9
1	2	2	0	F

**Belize** The constitution provides for “reasonable” restrictions on press freedom in the interest of defense, public safety, public order, morality, or health. Libel laws also constrain journalists. Belize has seven privately owned newspapers, three of which are subsidized by major political parties. There is no daily press. The mostly English-language press is free to publish a variety of political viewpoints, including those critical of the government, and there are Spanish-language media. Fourteen private television stations and a range of commercial radio stations openly criticize the government. There is an independent board to oversee operations of the government-owned outlets.

4	4	5	0	25
2	5	5	0	F

**Benin** Harsh laws prohibiting libel, sedition, and incitement are not generally used to restrict journalists. Most broadcast media are state-owned, but grant access to opposition and government critics. Independent radio and television began operating in 1997 under a liberalized broadcasting law. A variety of independent newspapers, including at least a dozen dailies, criticizes both government and opposition leaders and policies. One journalist was arrested following the publication of an editorial criticizing a court decision to dismiss drug trafficking charges against a government official. He was released after five days.

9	5	4	0	30
3	3	5	1	F

**Bhutan** Authorities restrict freedom of expression and prohibit criticism of the king in the media. The state-owned weekly *Kuensel* is

Bhutan's sole regular publication, and radio and television are completely state-controlled. All media offer only pro-regime views. Authorities began operating a public-access Internet server in 1999, although the cost may be prohibitive for most Bhutanese. Satellite television reception is illegal, although in practice it is generally tolerated.

15	15	10	0	76
14	14	8	0	NF

**Bolivia** The penal code punishes slander and defamation of public officials with up to three years' imprisonment. The press and broadcast media are mainly privately-owned, but the military temporarily occupied three radio stations during a state of emergency in April. Journalists covering corruption occasionally face verbal intimidation by government officials, arbitrary detention by police, and violent attacks. Several media outlets reported threats and one reporter was shot following his investigative reporting on corruption and narcotics trafficking.

4	3	2	0	22
4	3	2	4	F

↑**Bosnia-Herzegovina** The situation for the press in Bosnia improved minimally in 2000. A freedom of information law drafted by the OSCE was adopted in October. Independent media appeared for the first time in Croat-populated areas, where previously the media scene was dominated by pro-HDZ publications and/or publications from Croatia proper. Nevertheless, the press remains subject to various forms of harassment. The ruling parties wield influence by refusing to allow state-owned companies to advertise in the independent media. A survey of journalists carried out in 2000 showed that 62 percent of those surveyed had personally experienced intimidation and interference with their work. In June, financial police raided the offices of the Sarajevo daily newspaper *Dnevni Avaz*. High-ranking SDA officials blamed the paper, which had been aligned with the SDA but recently took a more critical approach, for the SDA's poor showing in the April municipal elections.

8	10	8	1	54
8	7	10	2	PF

↑**Botswana** Libel laws are civil laws, not criminal, and are not abused to restrict the media. A 1998 broadcast law allowed for private broadcasting through the issuance of licenses. Two private radio stations began broadcasting in 1999. The government opened the first national television station in July 2000. Its editorial independence has yet to be assessed. Opposition figures and government critics receive limited coverage on state-run broadcasting, but the press in many towns and cities covers a wide spectrum of views. Four journalists were detained briefly in June while covering Africa Refugee Day at a refugee camp. The government does not restrict Internet access, which is available through four Internet service providers (ISPs), three of which are private.

5	5	2	1	27
4	4	5	1	F

↑**Brazil** A 1967 press law prescribes prison terms for libel, but this provision is rarely enforced. A 1999 law would penalize prosecutors, judges, and government attorneys for leaking information to the press about ongoing cases. The press is privately owned, and newspapers have played a central role in exposing official corruption. There are dozens of daily newspapers and numerous other publications throughout the country. In recent years TV Globo's near monopoly on the broadcast media has been challenged by its rival, Sistema Brasileiro de Televisão (STB). A federal judge ordered the closure of 2,000 community radio stations in Sao Paulo in January because the stations allegedly interfered with airplane flights. A number of journalists reported incidents of intimidation, including assaults and death threats. In the Rmo Branco electoral zone, media were prohibited from reporting on municipal elections by a local judge.

4	4	6	0	31
4	6	5	2	PF

**Brunei** Although there are no legal restrictions on press freedom, the government prohibits the dissemination of information deemed offensive to public morals, safety, health, or security. All local media are owned either by the government or by the sultan's family and steer clear of political and religious issues. Some 28 satellite channels are available via two networks.

14	15	5	0	74
14	15	11	0	NF

↑**Bulgaria** In January, parliament amended the penal code, which had imposed criminal sanctions for libel, "attacking the honor and dignity" of individuals, and "insulting the authority of the state." The move forced government officials to file their own libel charges rather than have state prosecutors act on their behalf. According to CPJ, journalists faced fewer libel suits because government officials now have to pay for their own lawyers. The changes also replaced the penalty of imprisonment with heavy fines. President Stoyanov vetoed the fine provisions. A freedom of information law was enacted in June, but criticized for allowing for arbitrary denials of information. According to the U.S. State Department, the number of television outlets that broadcast news and public affairs has more than doubled from 54 in 1999 to 124 in 2000, and the number of radio stations reached 123. In April the Government awarded a license for the first national private television channel to the Balkan News Corporation, a company owned by Rupert Murdoch. The state telecommunications commission turned down a Christian radio station's application for a license. There were several instances of physical attacks on journalists in 2000.

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4	5	4	1	26
3	3	5	1	F

↑**Burkina Faso** The constitution and the 1990 Information Code protect freedom of the press, but journalists censor themselves with regard to government criticism. The Superior Council of Information (CSI) regulates broadcast media. CSI regulations that came into effect in 1999 hold radio stations responsible for call-in programs that threaten public order or the rights of a third party. Call-in programs were suspended in April 2000, and one radio station was temporarily closed. However, at least 50 private radio stations, a private television station, and numerous independent newspapers and magazines function with little governmental interference. Some are highly critical of the government.

10	7	3	1	39
5	6	7	0	PF

**Burma** The State Peace and Development Council exercises absolute control over domestic print and broadcast media through legal restrictions and active repression. Reporters Sans Frontieres reported in January that authorities had released a journalist held since 1996 after participating in an opposition rally, but that 12 other journalists remained in prison. In July, three contributors to the Thailand-based opposition monthly *MoJo* were arrested for collecting and distributing dissident news. In December, an opposition journalist was sentenced to 21 years in prison for violating emergency laws.

15	15	15	5	100
15	15	15	5	N

↑**Burundi** A press law mandates prepublication censorship of newspapers. Journalists practice self-censorship and face harassment and detention at the hands of authorities. The government owns the only regularly published newspaper and the major radio and television stations. Opposition media publish sporadically. Citizens have access to Voice of America, the BBC, and Radio France Internationale. The Hutu extremist radio broadcasts sporadically and has a limited listening range. The editor and a journalist of a private newsletter were detained for a week in September.

13	14	8	0	80
13	13	15	4	NF

**Cambodia** The 1995 press law and the constitution place vague restrictions on the publication of information related to national security and stability or which insults authorities. Only ten newspapers and magazines publish regularly. Members of the government or their close associates own almost all of the six Khmer-language television stations and 14 Khmer-language radio stations. The information ministry has denied repeated requests from opposition leader Sam Rainsy for a license to operate a radio station. However, the private press continued to be vigorous, and harassment and threats against journalists occurred less frequently than in previous years. The information ministry suspended in 2000 at least two publications, one of them twice, for 30-day periods for allegedly defaming the king and undermining national security.

12	13	4	1	61
8	10	10	3	NF

↑**Cameroon** Libel, defamation, “abuse,” contempt, and dissemination of false news are punishable under the penal code by prison terms and fines. Formal censorship ended in 1997. In April 2000, a government decree sets out conditions and procedures for establishing private broadcasting. However, license allocation will be handled by authorities. Print media, though abundant, reach only a small percentage of the population. At least three journalists were sentenced to prison terms for defamation in 2000. Others were abused, harassed, or intimidated.

13	10	7	1	71
11	13	12	4	NF

↓**Canada** A Nova Scotia supreme court in March 2000 barred the *Canadian Press* from printing articles about an official report on a boat collision that killed a fisherman. In November, the superior court in Toronto ruled against eight media outlets that challenged the police seizure of news film of an anti-poverty protest at the Ontario legislature. Media concentration has become a more urgent issue recently, as a media group sought to acquire ten French dailies in Quebec. In a February study, 45 percent of journalists reported that they censored themselves “occasionally or often” due to fear of reprisals from media owners. Photographers were doused with pepper spray by police while covering a protest against the OAS. Two Canadian Sikh journalists were intimidated after reporting on misconduct by Sikh temple committees. Three journalists were detained in Montreal in May while covering a demonstration and charged with “disturbing the public order.” Charges were later dropped. A journalist with *Le Journal* in Montreal was shot in September after threats related to his crime reporting.

1	2	2	0	15
2	2	5	1	F

**Cape Verde** Constitutional prohibitions on defamation and insulting personal honor and criminal libel laws have not been used to restrict the media. There are three independent newspapers, one state-owned newspaper, one state-owned television station, two foreign-owned

television stations, six independent radio stations, and one state-owned station. Journalists are generally free to criticize the government, but practice self-censorship. Internet access is unrestricted except for technical limitations; there is one private ISP.

5	5	5	0	32
5	7	5	0	PF

▼**Central African Republic** President Patasse dissolved the High Broadcast Council in August 2000 with no explanation. Libel laws are civil rather than criminal laws. One government-owned newspaper was published sporadically in 2000, while eight private papers published regularly. Private radio broadcasting is totally foreign-owned, while the government monopolizes television broadcasting. CPJ expressed concern over a deterioration in press freedom characterized by an increase in prosecutions of journalists covering sensitive issues. Two journalists were arrested in May for insulting the head of state and inciting hatred. An editor was arrested in August for defamation, and another journalist was detained in December for covering a banned opposition meeting.

12	12	5	0	61
9	10	11	2	NF

**Chad** Criminal libel is punishable by prison sentences and fines. Private newspapers that criticize the government circulate freely in the capital, but have little impact among the rural, poor, and largely illiterate population. The only television station is government-owned, and licensing fees for commercial radio are prohibitively high. Internet access is unrestricted, but the price and the quality of service discourage users. A journalist was sentenced to a suspended prison term and fined for “insult” in December. Two publishers were charged with defamation in late December.

14	14	8	0	72
10	10	15	1	NF

**Chile** A 1958 security law penalizes sedition and defamation of military personnel. A 1996 privacy law prohibits infringement on the private and public lives of individuals and their families. Neither of these laws is widely used to restrain the press. The national television system is state-owned but self-financing and editorially independent. Radio stations are both public and private. Scores of publications present all viewpoints. The supreme court banned the free daily *Metro* in February because of financial damage incurred by other dailies. A journalist was sentenced to prison for defaming a judge.

4	5	3	0	27
5	5	4	1	F

**China** Criticism of senior officials and opinions that challenge Communist Party rule are prohibited. The state security law prohibits reporting on state secrets. Broadcast media are government-owned, and the establishment of publications is strictly regulated. Editors may be suspended and subject to “rectification.” However, the government continued to permit private media to report on local government inefficiency, official corruption, and other problems that Beijing itself seeks to alleviate. The issuance of new permits for publishing houses and magazines is on hold. Dozens of newspapers were shut down in 2000, including 27 in January, for “fabricating stories” or printing “political errors.” Two journalists were arrested and three fired during August for publishing unapproved articles, talking to foreign journalists, or broadcasting footage of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. According to RSF, some 20 clandestine publications appear sporadically in Tibet, where media is otherwise totally controlled by Chinese authorities. Following extensive coverage of Taiwan’s elections in the Hong Kong media, a government official in April warned Hong Kong media against advocating the independence of Taiwan. Internet access is increasing rapidly. The government has issued restrictions on Internet content and trained special police to monitor use, but enforcement is weak and sophisticated users can circumvent information blocks easily. Websites were shut down, Internet cafes closed, and people were arrested for disseminating prohibited content.

15	14	7	2	80
15	14	8	5	NF

↓**Colombia** The media are generally free of legal restrictions, but the penal code and anticorruption law prohibit the publication of certain information related to criminal investigations. Professional licensing requirements were abolished in 1998. Journalists are frequently the victims of violence by right wing paramilitaries, leftist guerrillas, and organized criminals because of their investigations of corruption and drug trafficking. Eleven journalists were killed in 2000, while 13 left the country after receiving death threats. At least 15 were kidnapped, and numerous others were the victims of physical attacks. Despite the atmosphere of intimidation, the media provide a wide range of political views. Colombia’s economic problems and the high concentration of media ownership led to heavy reliance on fewer advertisers, including the government, and thus to some self-censorship with regard to these sponsors.

8	10	5	5	60
8	9	10	5	PF

↑**Comoros** There are no legal provisions for press freedom. However, two independent newspapers publish regularly alongside the semiofficial weekly *al-Watwan*. Other independent papers publish sporadically because of limited resources. An opposition radio station ended the government monopoly on national radio in 1999. At least ten regional and local stations exist, some of which criticize the government openly. Three journalists were arrested in 2000, one for his coverage of municipal elections, which included reporting on weak



voter turnout and Comoros's deteriorating economic situation.

6	7	6	0	38
3	5	9	2	PF

↑**Congo (Brazzaville)** A 1995 law penalizes defamation of senior officials, requires journalists to "show loyalty to the government," and permits seizure of private printers during emergencies. The 1996 press law punishes libel, slander, and inciting ethnic violence with prison terms and fines. Broadcasting is a state monopoly, while about 10 private newspapers appear weekly. Newspapers criticize the government and give space to detained or exiled opposition figures. However, they have little influence outside the major cities. A newspaper correspondent was arrested in July after reporting on disputes between police services.

15	15	5	0	71
12	9	14	1	NF

↑**Congo, Democratic Republic (Kinshasa)** A 1996 press law codified restrictions against libel and requires journalists to reveal sources. Criminal libel laws also exist, but are not widely used. Prepublication censorship still occurs, but there is no formal mechanism for it. Two radio stations are state-owned and allow no access to opposition. Another four private stations broadcast in the Kinshasa area. Eight television stations, including two state-controlled and two religious, broadcast in the capital. At least 20 journalists were arrested during the year, and many others were physically abused. Officials seized newspapers and printing equipment, and harassed foreign journalists. There are two ISPs in Congo, but technical problems and high costs prevent widespread use.

13	14	9	5	83
10	12	15	5	NF

**Costa Rica** The penal code prescribes up to three years in prison for libel and defamation, but is not widely used to restrict journalists. A 1996 law ensures the right of reply for individuals criticized in media reports. Six major privately owned dailies serve a society that is 90 percent literate. At least 20 private television stations and 80 private radio stations provide an influential forum for public debate.

2	2	4	0	16
3	2	3	0	F

↓**Cote d'Ivoire** A 1991 law prohibits insulting the state, members of the government, foreign officials, and the reputation of the country. Criminal libel is punishable by up to two years' imprisonment. Private radio, including 43 community radio stations, has limited influence, as the only national broadcasting is government-owned. There are two government-owned television stations. Seventeen private daily newspapers and dozens of other private publications criticize government policy, but exercise self-censorship. Press freedom deteriorated during 2000 with the harassment, beating, and detention of journalists. In February, soldiers raided the independent *Le Jeune Democrat* and *Le National*. *Le National* was raided again in March and its journalists threatened. In April, soldiers detained and tortured a reporter with *Le Jeune Democrat*. Soldiers detained and beat Joachim Beugré of the private daily *Le Jour* in September. He and his publisher were reportedly interrogated by Gueï, who pressed them to reveal their sources for an article about his parentage. Radio Nostalgie was closed during the military mutiny in July. 12 domestic ISPs are privately owned and offer unrestricted, but expensive, access to the Internet.

13	13	8	2	77
13	13	10	5	NF

▲**Croatia** Croatia's new leadership has removed Tudjman loyalists from senior positions at Croatia Radio and Television (HRT) and has vowed to foster an environment in which independent media can flourish. Legislation to transform HRT into an independent public service corporation was pending before parliament at year's end. The constitutional court struck down legal provisions for "urgent" defamation prosecutions and for criminal defamation cases against journalists who criticize senior officials. However, the penal code maintains prohibitions on the publication of "state secrets." A network of independent local television stations competes with state television, but HRT maintains an overwhelming advantage over independent broadcasting. Reports of harassment, threats, surveillance, censorship, libel suits, and physical assaults on journalists abated during 2000. However, some 900 libel cases from previous years remain before Croatian courts.

10	8	2	1	50
8	9	11	1	PF

**Cuba** Antigovernment propaganda and insulting officials are punishable by up to three years in prison. The constitution prohibits private ownership of electronic media. A 1999 law penalizes subversion and undermining national security. A handful of independent journalists face severe repression, including jail terms, kidnapping, travel bans, harassment of family and friends, and assault. Foreign journalists are routinely denied visas. Internet access is highly controlled; very few people use it.

15	15	14	2	94
14	14	15	5	NF

↓**Cyprus** Freedom of the press is respected in law and in practice. Independent and party newspapers flourish in both areas. Private television and radio compete with government-owned broadcasting in the south, while Turkish Cypriot authorities monopolize broadcast-

ing in the north. However, each side can receive the other's programs. The Turkish Cypriot newspaper *Avrupa* faced charges of insulting the security forces, while four of its journalists were arrested. The paper had questioned the Turkish military presence on the island.

2	5	2	0	18
2	3	3	1	F

↓**Czech Republic** A Freedom of Information Act took effect in January 2000. In November President Havel signed an amendment to the penal code that imposes prison terms on those who deny the Holocaust and the Communist genocide, and outlaws the incitement of hatred based on race, religion, class, or nationality. In February the lower house of parliament approved a press bill, excluding a provision for the right of reply of individuals who feel they have been insulted in media reports. A variety of private newspapers, magazines, and journals publish without interference. There are three national television stations, one public and two private, and more than 61 private radio stations in addition to Czech Public Radio. The leading television channel, Nova, is privately-owned. Government interference with the media has increased over the last year, most notably with regard to public television. In December, journalists at Czech Television (CT) protested the appointment of Jiri Hodac to head the state-run broadcaster. The journalists, who accused Hodac of maintaining close ties to the center-right Civic Democrats, took over the CT newsroom, broadcast their own programs, and called the appointment a politically-motivated challenge to their independence. Hodac responded by firing 20 staffers and suspending all broadcasts. The conflict was unresolved at year's end.

3	5	3	1	24
3	4	3	2	F

**Denmark** Danish media reflect a wide variety of political opinions and are frequently critical of the government. The state finances radio and television broadcasting, but state-owned television companies have independent editorial boards. Independent radio stations are permitted but tightly regulated.

1	1	4	0	9
1	1	1	0	F

**Djibouti** Slander and the dissemination of false information are prohibited. The main newspaper, a biweekly, is government-owned, while several opposition weekly and monthly papers practice self-censorship. Broadcasting is a government monopoly, but BBC programming is available. The government banned the import of two Somali newspapers in April. The sole domestic ISP is government-owned.

15	11	9	0	63
7	10	7	4	NF

**Dominica** Free expression is protected in law and in practice. Television and radio, both public and private, are open to a variety of views. Two private newspapers and political party journals express a range of views without government interference.

1	4	2	0	16
1	4	4	0	F

**Dominican Republic** Public and private print and broadcast media are free to express a wide range of political views, though some journalists censor themselves to protect the economic or political interests of media owners.

4	6	6	0	30
2	4	8	0	F

**East Timor\*** The transitional UN administration provides for freedom of the press as stipulated in UN covenants. However, the media infrastructure in East Timor was largely destroyed in pro-Indonesia militia violence following the independence referendum. There are four radio stations, two daily newspapers, and eight other publications, according to the Alliance of Independent Journalists in Jakarta. All have appeared since 1999. One foreign reporter was arrested in September for insulting the president of the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CRNT), an umbrella group of pro-independence parties.

3	3	4	0	21
3	3	5	0	F

↑**Ecuador** Laws against libel and slander do not seriously restrict reporting. The government uses a law allowing it free space or broadcast time to require television and radio to air government-produced programs. Journalists censor themselves with regard to sensitive topics such as the military and the interests of media owners. Newspapers, radio, and television are privately-owned with the exception of one government-owned national radio station.

7	6	5	0	40
7	7	8	0	PF

**Egypt** The press law, the publications law, the penal code, and libel laws restrict press freedom. Criticism of the president, the government, and foreign heads of state may result in fines or imprisonment. The government owns stock in the three major daily newspapers, and the

\*East Timor has been added to the survey this year as a separate country.

president appoints their editors in chief. The government monopolizes printing and distribution of newspapers. Opposition parties publish newspapers with government subsidies. The information ministry owns and operates all broadcast media. The government announced in January that it would allow the establishment of private joint stock companies for satellite broadcasting, and reserve the right to censor content. Anti-American, anti-Israeli and antisemitic content is routinely published and broadcast with either the acquiescence or the encouragement of the government. Three journalists from the opposition *Al-Shaab* and five from *Al-Ahrar* were sentenced to prison in April for libel. *Al-Shaab* was closed for four months because of alleged divisions within the leadership of the paper's parent Labor Party. A satirist was charged in July with threatening national security for writing a public service announcement urging Egyptians to vote. Egypt has some 250,000 Internet users in a population of 66 million, of which nearly half are illiterate.

10	14	9	0	69
11	10	10	5	NF

↑**El Salvador** The 1999 criminal code allows judges to close court proceedings if public exposure might prejudice a case. The Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) criticized the absence of legal provisions for the protection of sources. The private media include five daily newspapers, 150 radio stations, and twelve television stations. There are also several VHF stations and about 20 cable channels. Some self-censorship occurs, and some television stations complain that government advertising favors pro-government media.

4	7	7	0	37
5	7	7	0	PF

↓**Equatorial Guinea** The 1992 press law authorizes prepublication censorship, but the practice has stopped. A few small independent newspapers publish occasionally but exercise self-censorship, and all journalists must be registered. Mild criticism of infrastructure and public institutions is allowed, but nothing disparaging about the president or security forces is tolerated. Some underground pamphlets appear irregularly. Few foreign publications are available. The government-owned Radio Malabo receives faces competition from Radio France International. All broadcasting is owned by the government or government allies.

14	13	8	0	79
14	15	15	0	NF

**Eritrea** A 1997 press law allows only qualified freedom of expression, subject to the official interpretation of "the objective reality of Eritrea." Libel laws are used to intimidate journalists, and a 1996 proclamation forbids the local reprinting of articles from banned publications. Broadcast media are state-controlled, as are three newspapers. Private newspapers began publishing in 1997; nine currently operate. Four papers were closed in 2000 when their staff was called for military service. Internet access became available in November.

15	14	4	0	68
13	13	9	0	NF

**Estonia** Despite the criminalization of libel, the government by and large does not interfere with the media. The press is free and for the most part privately owned. There are three national private television stations that broadcast both Estonian- and Russian-language programs. More than 30 radio stations are privately operated, and dozens of independent national and regional newspapers offer diverse viewpoints. The primary issue facing the press is financial difficulty due to lack of advertising revenue.

2	3	2	0	20
3	3	7	0	F

↓**Ethiopia** A 1992 law guarantees freedom of the press but also forbids publishing articles that are defamatory, threaten the safety of the state, agitate for war, or incite ethnic conflict. Journalists may be jailed for publishing secret court records. Broadcast media remain under close scrutiny by officials. There are dozens of independent private newspapers, but the government has a near-monopoly on printing. Arrest and intimidation of the independent print media have led to significant self-censorship. Some 24 journalists were on bail facing trial at year's end. Another 27 were abroad in self-imposed exile. A sharp rise in newsprint costs beginning in August threatened the survival of both public and private newspapers.

10	8	7	0	64
10	13	12	4	NF

↑**Fiji** The Public Order Act prohibits incitement of racial hatred. The Newspaper Registration Act requires registration of all newspapers. The Press Correction Act allows the information minister to order a newspaper to publish corrections for the prior publication of information seen as false or distorted. Private media vigorously report on official corruption and misconduct, but journalists practice some self-censorship. In 1999, the Chaudhry government restricted official advertising to the *Daily Post*, thus disadvantaging the *Fiji Times*, whose news coverage the government had repeatedly criticized. Forces under the control of rebel leader George Speight were responsible for numerous attacks on journalists during the attempted coup in May and June. Independent media continued to report freely during the political crisis, but suffered financial difficulties. The government began court proceedings against a number of journalists. However, a high court judge dismissed in April a defamation action by an assistant minister against Fiji One, the lone non-cable television station, and three

of its journalists.

6	7	5	2	44
8	5	9	2	PF

↑**Finland** A wide variety of newspapers are privately owned, some by political parties or their affiliates. Finland is also ranked among the highest in the world in terms of Internet users per capita.

1	4	3	0	14
1	2	3	0	F

↑**France** The government's financial support of journalism and the registration of journalists have raised concerns about media independence. In May 2000, a new press law banned photographs showing suspects in handcuffs and scenes that may jeopardize a victim's dignity. In accordance with French anti-hate laws, the government banned Internet auctions of Nazi memorabilia in May. Prime Minister Jospin also called for greater Internet controls to combat computer crime and online sabotage.

1	6	3	0	21
1	4	6	0	F

**Gabon** The communication code specifies the rights and responsibilities of journalists. Libel may be considered a criminal or civil offense at the discretion of the government. The only daily newspaper is state-owned, while about 10 private papers publish irregularly because of financial difficulties. Financial constraints also hampered the work of the dozen private radio stations. Two journalists were fined in May for defaming a ministry official. Two ISPs exist in Gabon, one state-owned and one private. Access is relatively affordable in urban centers.

10	10	10	0	55
7	7	10	1	PF

**The Gambia** The law requires all private newspapers to post a \$6,500 bond, which is meant to ensure payment of penalties incurred because of sedition, blasphemy, or libel. Private media practice self-censorship. There are government and private radio stations, but private stations broadcast news supplied by the state radio. Independent journalists continued to face harassment, arrest, and prosecution. *The Independent* has been the particular target of officials since it began publication in 1999.

14	12	7	1	70
12	13	10	1	NF

↓**Georgia** The press law prohibits publishing "false" information and "malevolently using freedom of the press." Libel laws deter investigative journalism. The civil code and other laws prohibit insulting the honor and dignity of an individual. The administrative code provides for freedom of information, but officials reportedly fail to cooperate with requests for information. About 200 independent newspapers operate, and many criticize officials. However, economic difficulties limit the circulation of most newspapers, particularly outside the capital. Independent newspapers and television stations face harassment by the authorities. Akaki Gogichaishvili, host of the television program *Sixty Minutes* on the independent Rustavi-2 station, claimed that he received a death threat in May from Georgia's deputy prosecutor-general after a report on corruption in the state-funded Georgian Writers' Union. Journalists were also attacked by rebels in neighboring Chechnya. In December, armed guerillas from Chechnya seized a reporter and two cameramen from Rustavi 2 television and accused them of working for Russian intelligence. Other journalists were beaten, sued, threatened, and attacked for their reporting.

7	10	8	3	53
7	7	10	1	PF

**Germany** The German press and broadcast media are free and independent, offering pluralistic views. However, Nazi propaganda and statements endorsing Nazism are illegal. Germany has exceeded other countries' practices in its attempts to police the Internet by blocking access to obscene, violent, or "dangerous" material. The government has brought charges against service providers and individual users. After a series of racist attacks during the summer of 2000, state and federal officials agreed to crack down on neo-Nazi Internet sites. In December, the German supreme court ruled that individuals outside Germany who post Nazi propaganda aimed at Internet users inside Germany could be prosecuted under German law. However, it is unlikely that the ruling can be enforced in practice.

3	2	1	0	13
3	2	2	0	F

▲**Ghana** Criminal libel laws punish reporting considered harmful to the reputation of the state with up to 10 years' imprisonment. This law is used widely to restrict and intimidate journalists; there were more than 100 libel suits before the courts at year's end. A February supreme court ruling prohibited the president from appointing chief executives to the state-owned media. Robust independent print media have limited influence beyond the capital, and the government pressures businesses into denying advertising revenue to some independent papers. Dozens of private radio stations air a wide range of views throughout the country. The editor of *The Independent* faced ongoing harassment by authorities during 2000. A media critic on state television was arrested in November for alleged libel against President Rawlings. Chris FM, a rural private radio station, was temporarily closed in November following allegations that a parliamentary candidate

had used the station to broadcast inflammatory statements against political rivals of the NDC. Three ISPs operate in Ghana.

7	9	6	1	55
12	7	9	4	PF

**Greece** The penal code contains provisions that are frequently used to harass journalists. The public prosecutor may press charges against publishers and can seize publications deemed offensive to the president or to religious beliefs. Another law bans “unwarranted” publicity for terrorists, including their proclamations following attacks. The ministry of press and mass media has final authority over licensing of broadcast media. In 2000, there were reports of Turkish journalists being arrested, and Macedonian journalists were denied entry at the borders of Greece. One journalist was assaulted after participating in an antiracist group meeting with the local Roma (Gypsy) community.

5	5	1	1	30
5	5	3	5	F

**Grenada** Newspapers, including four weeklies, are independent and freely criticize the government. Television is both private and public, and the main radio station is part of the GBC, a statutory body not directly controlled by the government. Since the 1995 elections, a number of new radio and television stations, not one of which is aligned with the ruling NNP, received licenses to operate.

2	4	5	0	20
2	1	6	0	F

**↑Guatemala** The government suspended the Telecommunications Law in May following a damning report on the state of free expression by an OAS rapporteur. The law governed the allocation of radio frequencies, and was seen as biased against community and indigenous broadcasting efforts. In August, the government introduced freedom of information legislation, but the bill was held up in congress at year’s end. All four national television stations are owned by a Mexican citizen and demonstrate a severe pro-government bias. Independent newspapers regularly report on corruption, drug trafficking, and clandestine intelligence networks. One journalist was killed in April, apparently shot by a security guard during street demonstrations.

7	10	6	1	49
6	9	7	3	PF

**Guinea** Slander and defamation are criminal offenses, and there are legal prohibitions on sedition, insulting the president, inciting violence or hatred, and disturbing the peace. Penalties include imprisonment. Foreign journalists have been banned for “harming the country’s image.” More than a dozen independent newspapers publish either weekly or irregularly and are critical of the government. High printing costs severely restrict independent publishing. All domestic broadcast media are state-owned. Three ISPs provide unrestricted Internet access, although poor infrastructure and high cost inhibit use.

15	15	6	0	71
12	10	10	3	NF

**Guinea-Bissau** Press freedom is constitutionally guaranteed, but journalists practice self-censorship. Several private radio stations and community radio stations have begun broadcasting since the end of the war. Few private newspapers publish, and the lack of vibrant independent media may be due more to financial constraints than to government interference. Two state television journalists were detained for two days after state television aired statements by a prominent human rights defender who had criticized the political situation in the country and accused the prime minister of corruption. The editor in chief of the national radio station RDN was fired after reporting on the difficulties faced by journalists in the country.

5	14	10	0	56
5	10	12	0	PF

**Guyana** The constitution protects freedom of the press. A variety of private newspapers provide a wide range of views. The only radio station is state-owned, and the government has either denied or failed to respond to requests for frequencies by private parties. Twelve independent television stations operate alongside the government station.

3	7	2	0	22
2	3	5	0	F

**↓Haiti** Constitutional guarantees of free expression are generally respected. A 1997 law names the state as the sole owner and proprietor of all telecommunications media, and thus the state maintains the right to repossess stations at will. Journalists censor themselves to avoid retaliation from sponsors and the politically influential. Independent print media flourish, but have limited influence in a country with 20 percent literacy. Some 200 private radio stations operate. Two journalists were killed in 2000, while others were attacked and received death threats.

10	13	6	5	59
7	7	10	1	PF

**↑Honduras** Laws that prohibit defamation and require journalists to reveal sources are not widely abused to stifle press freedom. Investigative journalism suffers because of self-censorship regarding powerful media owners, while the U.S. State Department reported

that journalists received payments to investigate or suppress particular stories. Most media are privately-owned and provide the full spectrum of views. In May, a journalist was injured in an assassination attempt following his coverage of labor, health, and immigration issues. Other journalists suffered threats and harassment.

5	10	4	1	45
6	8	10	1	PF

↑**Hungary** Parliament extended the lustration law to the media in 2000, and the constitutional court ruled on three freedom of speech cases. It upheld a ban on displaying authoritarian symbols such as swastikas and the hammer and sickle, ruled in favor of a prohibition on the desecration of national symbols, and struck down a ban on speech that could incite public panic. A 1996 media law requires equal representation of ruling and opposition parties on the boards overseeing state television and radio. Critics charge that the current government has manipulated the law by approving boards composed solely of its supporters. The issue was highlighted in 2000, when opposition parties failed to make new appointments to two boards. The government drew criticism from press freedom advocates when it again confirmed boards with only its supporters. Pro-government newspapers receive preference in advertising from state-owned companies and better access to government sources.

4	6	2	1	28
4	6	4	1	F

↑**Iceland** Constitutional guarantees of press freedom are respected. A wide range of publications includes both independent and party-affiliated newspapers. An autonomous board of directors oversees the Icelandic State Broadcasting Service, which operates a number of transmitting and relay stations. Television is both public and private. Iceland has the highest Internet penetration rate in the world; more than 80 percent of the population has access from home.

1	1	3	0	12
1	1	5	0	F

↑**India** The Official Secrets Act, the penal code, and the Newspapers Incitements to Offenses Act of 1971 (in effect in Kashmir and Jammu) allow the government to restrict the press. A freedom of information bill was before parliament at year's end. The London-based Article 19 expressed concern that the bill fails to provide for an independent review of refusals to grant access to information, and exempts key intelligence and security organizations. Broadcasting is significantly government-controlled; AM radio is a state monopoly, while private FM radio station ownership was legalized in 2000. However, FM licenses authorize only entertainment and educational content. Independent newspapers face political pressure and intimidation, as well as physical attack. Significant violence in the northeast leads to self-censorship, while the government cracks down on information deemed antinational or potentially inciting violence. Three journalists were killed in 2000.

7	9	3	2	42
3	5	8	5	PF

↑**Indonesia** A press law enacted in 1999 prohibits censorship, but also requires journalists to adhere to the "religious and moral norms of the public." Journalists in violation may be fined. The law also established a press council to create and enforce a code of ethics. Members are nominated by journalists and press companies and confirmed by the president. Independent print and broadcast media flourished, providing aggressive reporting on political issues, corruption, and unrest, but generally presented the government view on East and West Timor. Foreign broadcasting is widely available. Foreign journalists need special permission to travel to Aceh and Irian Jaya. The Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) in Jakarta reported 52 cases of physical attacks against journalists and media facilities, and 66 cases of other types of pressure or harassment. The AJI also reported that 75 percent of media outlets do not provide "a good standard" of welfare for their journalists.

8	5	6	3	47
7	5	10	3	PF

↓**Iran** In April, the outgoing Majlis amended the press law to ban criticism of the constitution and foreign funding for publications, and to extend responsibility for press violations to writers as well as editors and publishers. In July, editors were ordered by the government to refrain from publishing cartoons that might harm the dignity of politicians. Following the 1997 election of President Khatami, the reformist press flourished with political commentary, advocacy of free and independent civil society, and investigative journalism. After the overwhelming victory of reform candidates in February 2000 elections, however, hardliners launched a campaign against the press, shutting down some 30 papers and arresting journalists, editors, and cartoonists. Among those was Mohammad-Reza Khatami, brother of the Iranian president, who was charged with libel and defamation by a special press court for articles appearing in *Mosharekat*, the newspaper he edits. Broadcast media remain a state monopoly, and express only pro-regime views.

15	15	4	0	72
13	12	8	5	NF

↓**Iraq** Under a 1986 law, insulting the president or high government officials is punishable by death. The 1968 Press Act prohibits the dissemination of information detrimental to the president, the Revolutionary Command Council, or the Baath party. Uday Hussein heads the Iraqi Union of Journalists, and has allegedly dismissed hundreds of members for failing to praise Saddam sufficiently. Foreign

broadcasting is frequently jammed, while satellite dishes, modems, and fax machines are banned. According to the U.S. State Department, the government opened five Internet cafes during 2000, where people can access information ministry-sanctioned websites.

15	15	15	5	100
15	15	15	5	NF

**↑Ireland** The 1961 Defamation Act places the burden of proof on media accused of libel to prove the truth of their allegations. The 1963 Official Secrets Act prohibits the disclosure of sensitive government information. The 1960 Broadcasting Act allows officials to ban the broadcast of material deemed likely to incite crime or undermine the authority of the state. Print and broadcast media report aggressively on all manner of political and social issues, and no incidents of violence have been reported since Veronica Guerin was murdered in 1996 for her investigations into drug-related crime.

3	2	2	0	18
3	3	5	0	F

**Israel** Press reports on security matters are subject to a military censor, though the scope of permissible reporting is expanding. Censorship decisions may be appealed. Arabic-language publications are censored more frequently than are Hebrew-language ones. Praising violence is prohibited under the Counterterrorism Ordinance. In November, the Israeli supreme court lowered the standard by which public speech or publications can be deemed inciteful and harmful to the “values of public order,” including “social cohesion.” Previously, only public statements found to be threatening to the foundations of democratic rule were considered seditious. The ruling followed the 1999 legalization of pirate radio stations run by settlers and religious activists who in the past had been accused of inciting hatred. Two journalists covering demonstrations at the Lebanese border were shot by Israeli troops responding to rock-throwing at a border fence. An Italian journalist was attacked in Jaffa by Arab Israelis, and an Israeli camera crew was attacked by Israelis in Tel Aviv during clashes in October related to the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian violence. The Israeli press office revoked the accreditation of an Italian journalist, apparently because he was seen as sympathetic to the Palestinian Authority. An Israeli television reporter was detained twice at the Erez checkpoint for violating a ban on entry to the occupied territories.

4	4	2	1	30
7	6	2	4	F

**↓Israeli Occupied Territories and Palestinian Authority** Chairman Arafat has yet to ratify a 1996 law passed by the Palestinian legislature that guarantees freedom of expression. Under a 1995 Palestinian press law, journalists may be fined and jailed and newspapers closed for publishing “secret information” on Palestinian security forces or news that might harm national unity or incite violence. However, another press law, also signed in 1995, stipulates that Palestinian intelligence services may not interrogate, detain, or arrest journalists because of their work. Still, authorities pressure media outlets to provide favorable coverage of Arafat and the PNA. Arbitrary arrests, threats, and physical abuse of journalists critical of the PNA are routine. Newspapers are subject to Israeli censorship on security matters, though such control has eased since 1993. Israeli authorities prohibit expressions of support for Hamas and other groups that call for the destruction of Israel. Official Palestinian radio and television are government mouthpieces. Palestinian authorities closed broadcasting stations and arrested journalists on several occasions during 2000. Palestinian journalists also suffered attacks from Jewish settlers. Israeli troops shelled Al-Quds Educational Television in November. Both sides in the year-end resumption of violence committed serious abuses against journalists. According to the International Press Institute, 64 violations, mostly shootings, were carried out by Israeli authorities and seven, mostly physical attacks, by Jewish settlers. Another 12 violations, including beatings, detentions, and broadcasting bans, were carried out by Palestinian authorities, paramilitaries, and civilians.

12	13	2	5	70
10	13	10	5	NF

**Italy** A February 2000 law on political advertising requires broadcasters to give political adversaries equal time, bans paid political ads on national television, and requires public broadcasters to give all parties free television time at certain hours. The concentration of ownership of the major private media in the hands of three powerful groups leads to concerns over media independence. The Agnelli Group, media magnate and politician Silvio Berlusconi, and L'Espresso-La Repubblica control the major media outlets. However, private media are generally free of government control. One journalist from *Il Messaggero* was assaulted by police while covering a demonstration against the visit of Austrian far-right politician Jorg Haider to Rome in December. A television anchor and two assistant news directors at RAI resigned in September after the station broadcast graphic images in a report on child pornography. The broadcast created a political uproar as Italian prosecutors launched a massive crackdown on video, print, and Internet child pornography.

1	7	6	0	27
1	5	6	1	F

**Jamaica** Constitutional guarantees of press freedom are respected. The major print and broadcast media are privately owned and report freely. Foreign programming is available via satellite.

1	2	2	0	11
1	2	3	0	F

**↓Japan** The press is independent, but not always outspoken. Exclusive private press clubs provide major media outlets with access to top politicians and bureaucrats. In return, journalists often practice self-censorship regarding the financial conditions of troubled companies and

banks and other sensitive issues. The press rarely covers organized crime.

1	5	5	0	23
1	6	5	0	F

↓**Jordan** The penal code, 1998/99 Press and Publications Law, the State Security Law, the Law for Protecting State Secrets and Documents, and the Contempt of Court law all contain provisions that may be used to restrict press freedom. Journalists are required by law to be members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA). They may be expelled from the JPA for breaching its governing code, which prohibits journalists from holding additional jobs outside the profession and from receiving funding from foreign sources. Nidal Mansour, the chief editor of *Al-Hadath* and head of the Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists, was expelled from the JPA in September 2000 for violating both of these provisions, but a court ruling in December froze the JPA decision pending a final court order. *Al-Hadath* was then banned from publication until it appointed a new editor. Broadcasting is state-owned and operated, as is Petra, the Jordanian news agency. However, the government began talks with media representatives in June about privatizing the sector. The government owns large shares of the popular *Al-Ra'i* and *Al-Dustour* newspapers. Affluent Jordanians have access to foreign broadcasting via satellite. Prior censorship of foreign publications was lifted in 1999. Jordan inaugurated its first Internet-based community radio station, AmmanNet, in October.

13	12	4	0	60
10	9	8	4	PF

↓**Kazakhstan** The media law prohibits “undermining state security” and advocating “class, social, race, national, or religious superiority.” Owners, editors, distributors, and journalists may be held responsible for violations. The law also requires all media to register with the government, with no appeals process if registration is denied. A 1998 law on national security allows for the suspension of media that undermine national security. A 1999 state secrets law established a list of prohibited topics. Criticism of the president and his family is prohibited, and self-censorship on other issues is widespread. The government controls or otherwise influences most newspapers and printing, distribution, and broadcast transmission facilities. President Nazarbayev’s eldest daughter controls several television companies, radio stations, and newspapers. The government has repeatedly harassed or shut down many independent media outlets. During 2000, several newspapers were forced to close or faced politically-motivated libel charges. In 1999 the government required all Internet service providers to route their lines through a state registration system, allowing the state to establish control over the country’s access to the Internet.

13	13	8	3	70
13	10	8	2	NF

**Kenya** President Moi has decreed that it is a crime to insult him, and sedition laws have been employed in efforts to silence criticism. The Official Secrets Act, the penal code, and criminal libel laws also restrict press freedom. A law proposed in 2000 would require a publishing firm to execute a \$12,800 publishing bond in order to operate. The country’s few private radio and television stations are either pro-Moi or carefully apolitical. In September, Moi threatened to ban private radio stations from broadcasting in Kenya’s indigenous languages because such broadcasting allegedly promotes “tribalism and disunity.” Private print media remain vibrant, but under serious threat. Numerous journalists were attacked, arrested, charged, and intimidated during the year. There are about 20 ISPs in Kenya operating without government interference, but the price and quality of service are deterrents to many.

10	15	7	1	70
10	12	10	5	NF

↓**Kiribati** The sole radio station is state-owned; attempts to establish a private station have been blocked by the government. However, radio and the state newspaper offer diverse views, while Protestant and Catholic churches publish newsletters and other periodicals. A new independent newspaper, the *New Star*, was launched in May 2000 to compete with the government’s *Te Uekera*. The government refused accreditation to Michael Field, an AFP journalist, for a Pacific summit in October. Field had been expelled in 1999 for an article critical about conditions in Tarawa.

6	4	1	0	22
3	4	3	1	F

**Korea, North** Information is tightly controlled in North Korea. Citizens may be sent for “corrective labor” or executed for criticizing the regime or Kim Jong Il. Few foreign journalists are accredited, and foreign broadcasting is prohibited to all but the political elite. A South Korean journalist was expelled in June for writing “offending articles.” His newspaper was threatened on North Korean state radio in July.

15	15	15	5	100
15	15	15	5	NF

**Korea, South** Press groups say that politicians and businesses use libel laws to punish journalists for articles that are critical but factually accurate. Journalists also censor themselves with regard to the business interests of media owners. However, print and broadcast media present vigorous, independent coverage.

2	7	2	0	27
3	7	5	1	F



**Kuwait** The Printing and Publications Law and the penal code restrict freedom of expression, and although prepublication censorship was abolished in 1992, journalists practice self-censorship. Criticism of the emir or of relations with other states, material deemed offensive to religion, incitement to violence, hatred, or dissent, and news that “affects the value of the national currency” are punishable by imprisonment and/or fines. The government announced plans in September to amend press laws to reduce penalties against journalists and to make it more difficult for authorities to shut down newspapers. Enforcement of restrictions is arbitrary. Newspapers are privately owned and frequently criticize government policies and officials. Broadcasting is completely state-owned. Citizens have access to foreign programs through satellite dishes, which are widely available. A photographer was assaulted by a parliamentarian in January.

13	14	0	0	48
8	8	4	1	PF

**Kyrgyz Republic** The 1992 law on the mass media prohibits the disclosure of government and commercial secrets; promoting war, violence, or ethnic intolerance; desecration of national norms, ethics, and symbols; pornography; and insulting the honor and dignity of a person. All media must be registered, and libel is a criminal offense. CPJ reported widespread intimidation of the media, including threats, tax audits, and lawsuits, prior to the October presidential election. There are some 40 to 50 independent local and national newspapers and magazines. There are also independent television and radio broadcasts for several hours per day. The state’s printing house, Uchkun, is the only newspaper publisher in the country. In 2000 it shut down three newspapers by refusing to print them.

10	10	3	2	61
10	12	11	3	NF

**Laos** Constitutional provisions for a free press are limited by the penal code, which prohibits slandering or “weakening” the state and inciting disorder. All media are state-owned and reflect government views. Two Australian journalists were arrested in March while trying to film the aftermath of a bombing in Vientiane. Citizens can receive foreign broadcasting via satellite with minimal restriction. Domestic ISPs are state-controlled, and the government has placed strict regulations on Internet use.

13	13	6	1	69
13	13	10	0	NF

**Latvia** The Law on the Media requires that at least 51 percent of television broadcasts be of European origin, 40 percent of that in the Latvian language. However, these provisions are not always implemented. Foreign investment may not exceed 20 percent of the capital in electronic media organizations. Private television and radio stations broadcast in both Latvian and Russian, and newspapers publish a wide range of political viewpoints. However, many media outlets routinely report rumors and accusations as fact without benefit of hard evidence.

2	5	4	0	24
2	4	6	1	F

**Lebanon** The law prohibits offending the dignity of the head of state or foreign leaders, crimes which are prosecuted in a special publications court. A security agreement between Lebanon and Syria prohibits the publication of information deemed harmful to the security of either state. Journalists practice self-censorship while print and broadcast media are subject to state censors. Since a crackdown on broadcasting closed hundreds of radio and television stations beginning in 1996, the government has licensed only five television stations, three of which are owned by government figures; six radio stations that may carry news; and 20 stations that may carry only entertainment. The appropriation of frequencies is a slow and highly politicized process. Print media are independent of the government, though their content often reflects the opinions of the various local and foreign groups that finance them. Several papers disappeared from newsstands following the death of Hafez al-Assad, and one journalist had her passport nullified after she reported critically on the UN-Lebanon dispute over the Lebanese-Israeli border. One journalist was killed when his car was hit by an Israeli missile.

12	12	7	0	61
9	10	10	1	NF

**Lesotho** Constitutional provisions for press freedom are generally respected, and several independent newspapers, including Christian publications and four English-language weeklies, freely criticize the government. There are four private radio stations but no local private television. The state-controlled print and broadcast media reflect only government views. Journalists suffer some harassment; a private radio station was harassed in May over its coverage of an antigovernment strike. A weekly news magazine faced possible closure after its assets were taken for public auction following a defamation ruling against it.

10	10	7	0	52
7	6	10	2	PF

**Liberia** Some print journalists face severe harassment by authorities, but they continue to criticize the government at their own risk. The government dominates the broadcast media, and most independent stations offer religious programming. In March authorities closed Star Radio and Radio Veritas, which is run by the Roman Catholic Church. Star Radio, which was run by the Swiss Hironde Foundation, had not reopened by year’s end, while Radio Veritas had resumed broadcasting news. Four journalists from Britain’s Channel Four television

who were in Liberia filming a documentary were detained and charged with espionage after authorities searched their hotel rooms and discovered a prepared script, which the journalists had said was used to raise funds to report their story. They were released after a week, following the intervention of Western diplomats.

10	10	10	3	68
10	8	15	2	NF

**Libya** Vague laws allow for arbitrary interpretation of any form of speech as illegal. All media are state-owned and controlled, but some criticism of the government and its policies occurs. Foreign programming is censored, but satellite television and Internet access are reportedly widely available in Tripoli. Foreign journalists report fewer restrictions on their movement and less interference from officials recently. However, in August, international journalists covering the release negotiated by Libya of European hostages taken by Muslim militants in the Philippines were barred from the handover ceremony.

15	15	15	0	90
15	15	15	0	NF

**Lithuania** In 1999, parliament amended the law on media to eliminate the compensation ceiling for libel and slander. Critics of the law argue that it could encourage frivolous lawsuits and jeopardize press freedom and investigative reporting. There is a wide variety of privately owned newspapers, while several independent and state-run television and radio stations broadcast throughout the country.

2	1	4	0	20
3	6	4	0	F

**Luxembourg** Freedom of the press is protected by law and in practice. However, an 1869 press law requiring journalists to reveal sources is expected to be reformed. Citizens have access to all manner of media, as well as to foreign broadcasting.

1	2	2	0	10
1	2	2	0	F

↓**Macedonia** A new draft law on public information introduced in May would transform ethical standards for journalists into legal obligations and require local journalists to obtain government-issued press accreditation. According to press freedom groups, the law does not adequately provide for access to information. In May, an Albanian vice-director of the country's most important television station, Macedonia Television (MTV), resigned because of the station's alleged anti-Albanian politics. MTV has also been criticized for coverage that favors the ruling coalition over opposition parties. In July, the staff of an Albanian-language newspaper critical of the ruling coalition claimed that the government pressured a local publishing company to stop printing the paper. Experts on Macedonia's media believe that one of the major problems facing the media is the lack of professionalism and proper journalistic training.

10	9	5	1	44
4	9	5	1	PF

**Madagascar** Although the government was accused of seeking to influence the election of the head of the Malagasy journalists' association in March, the press enjoys considerable freedom. Several daily and weekly newspapers publish material sharply critical of the government and other parties and politicians. In addition to state radio and television, at least ten private radio stations are now broadcasting, and rebroadcasts of Radio France International are available throughout the country. However, private media have a more limited range than state media.

4	7	2	0	32
4	8	7	0	PF

**Malawi** The government has used libel laws and laws against "inciting mutiny" and threatening public safety to harass journalists. One journalist was threatened in July by ruling UDF party members, another was threatened and had his film taken by police after photographing clashes during independence ceremonies, and a journalist was interrogated in December over a story involving official corruption. However, some two dozen newspapers reflect a wide range of views. State broadcasting dominates the market with progovernment programming, although there are several private and community radio stations.

12	10	8	0	52
7	6	7	2	PF

**Malaysia** The 1987 Printing Presses and Publications Act (PPPA) prohibits the publication of "malicious" news, permits the government to ban "subversive" publications, requires newspapers to renew their licenses annually, and prohibits publications from challenging these restrictions in court. The Sedition Act and the Internal Security Act also restrict criticism of government policies. In May, a court convicted and fined the printer of *Harakah* for sedition over an article in which the jailed Anwar accused Mahathir of conspiracy. Having pleaded not guilty in the same case, *Harakah's* editor was on trial for sedition at year's end. In March, authorities used the PPPA to withdraw the publishing license of the pro-opposition *Detik* magazine, and to restrict *Harakah* to two editions per month from twice-weekly. Most major newspapers and private broadcasting are owned by individuals and companies close to the government. State-run Radio Television Malaysia is the major broadcaster and mainly offers pro-government views.

10	14	5	1	70
11	13	11	5	NF

**Maldives** The penal code bans speech that could “arouse people against the government.” A 1968 law prohibits insulting Islam, threatening national security, and libel. Authorities may close newspapers and sanction journalists for articles containing allegedly unfounded criticism of the government, and editors are responsible for the content of published material. In this climate, journalists practice self-censorship. Most major media are owned by the government or its allies, although they do criticize the government at times. Foreign broadcasting is available.

15	13	0	0	65
14	14	9	0	NF

↑**Mali** Legislation in July 2000 reduced penalties for libel, replacing jail terms with fines. There are more than 100 private newspapers and journals, including six dailies. The government controls the only television station and one of more than 100 radio stations, but all present diverse views. The editor of the private newspaper *La Nation* was convicted of defaming Mali’s armed forces minister in November 2000 and ordered to pay a fine. Eight ISPs provide unfettered Internet access.

7	3	1	0	22
5	2	3	1	F

↑**Malta** The constitution provides for freedom of the press. In addition to several Maltese-language newspapers, a few English-language weeklies are published. There are six television stations, a commercial cable network, and 19 radio stations, according to the U.S. State Department. Malta’s two main political parties own television and radio stations and newspapers that promote their political views. Italian television and radio are popular. Malta has one of the lowest rates of Internet usage in Europe, with four percent of the population online.

3	3	1	0	14
3	2	2	0	F

**Marshall Islands** Constitutional guarantees of press freedom are respected. A privately owned weekly newspaper publishes in both English and the Marshallese language. The government’s *Marshall Islands Gazette*, a monthly, contains official news and avoids political coverage. A state-owned radio station offers pluralistic views. A cable television company shows U.S. programs and occasionally covers local events.

2	2	0	0	8
1	1	2	0	F

**Mauritania** Under the press law, publishers must submit copies of newspapers to the interior and justice ministries, who may block publication of material deemed offensive to Islam or threatening to national security, before distribution. About 20 privately owned newspapers publish on a regular basis. All publications must be officially registered. The state owns the only two daily newspapers and monopolizes nearly all broadcast media. Authorities seized at least seven independent weekly newspapers during 2000, according to RSF.

12	13	2	0	67
10	12	14	4	NF

**Mauritius** Strict libel laws are rarely abused to harass journalists. More than a dozen private newspapers offer pluralistic views, while the government has a monopoly on broadcasting. In August, the national assembly passed legislation paving the way for private ownership and creating an independent broadcasting authority to regulate and license all broadcasting. However, the new authority will be composed of representatives of several government ministries and will be chaired by an appointee of the prime minister. The authority had not been set up by year’s end. Foreign broadcasting is available.

5	2	0	0	17
4	4	2	0	F

↑**Mexico** In 2000, new president Vicente Fox pledged to end the PRI practice of buying favorable stories and to respect the media’s independence. Mexico’s newspaper industry has been considered one of Latin America’s least independent and most openly corrupt. A handful of daily newspapers and weeklies are the exceptions. Until Fox’s victory, the PRI dominated television, by far the country’s most influential medium. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported that coverage favored the PRI. Violent attacks against journalists are common, with reporters investigating police issues, narcotics trafficking, and public corruption at particular risk. Three such journalists were killed in 2000, according to the International Press Institute (IPI).

6	9	3	3	46
4	8	8	5	PF

↑**Micronesia** Press freedom is constitutionally guaranteed and generally respected. A new biweekly newspaper was launched in November in Pohnpei. The national government and the four states publish newsletters, and each controls a radio station. One religious group operates a radio station. Internet access is freely available, providing an important forum for debate.

2	7	4	0	22
1	5	3	0	F

↓**Moldova** The constitution, the penal code, and press laws prohibit defamation and insulting the state. There is no freedom of information legislation, but a law has been drafted. Article 19 noted with concern that it provides broad exemptions, is confusing, and lacks important safeguards. In 2000, the constitutional court upheld a civil code provision that imposes stiff fines and demands speedy retractions from journalists found guilty of libel. More than 800 libel suits have been filed in Moldova since 1991. Also, an appeals court upheld an order to revoke the licenses of eight radio and television stations that air considerable Russian-language programming. The court found the stations in violation of a legal requirement that 65 percent of their broadcasts be in Romanian. Amid sharp criticism of the court's decision, parliament amended the law so that it only applies to programs produced domestically. Also in 2000, parliament amended the electoral code so that foreign-owned media may not carry election advertisements. The U.S. State Department noted that private ownership of media outlets is increasing, but most private media represent the political, commercial, or foreign interests from which they receive subsidies.

12	9	7	1	59
13	7	9	1	PF

↑**Mongolia** A 1999 law banned censorship of public information and required the government to privatize state-owned print media to transform the state broadcasting into a public broadcasting service headed by an independent board of governors. The actual privatization process has proceeded slowly. In libel and slander cases, the burden of proof is placed on the defendant. Mongolia has scores of private newspapers representing diverse viewpoints, although only about a dozen appear regularly. Radio is a key source of information in the countryside, and the one independent radio station reaches most areas. There are at least two private television services, each with limited reach. Foreign satellite and cable broadcasts are also available.

6	6	0	0	28
5	3	8	0	F

↓**Morocco** The press code allows confiscation and censorship of publications for libel, offensive reporting, or national security violations. The law also prohibits criticism of the monarchy, Islam, and Moroccan claims to Western Sahara. Broadcast media are mostly government-controlled, and those that are not practice self-censorship. Foreign broadcasting is available via satellite. Violations against the press increased sharply in 2000. At least ten newspapers were banned or censored for coverage of Western Sahara and other controversial reporting. Three managers of 2M Television were sacked in April for broadcasting part of an interview with a Polisario official. In October, three France 3 journalists were placed under house arrest and reporters with Qatari Al-Jazeera television were banned from working. In November, authorities expelled the AFP bureau chief in Rabat. Three leading independent weeklies were closed in December for printing a letter allegedly implicating the prime minister in a plot to kill King Hassan. Although local and foreign media had their film confiscated while trying to cover clashes between police and human rights activists in December, Islamists posted video footage and photographs of the riots on the Internet. The government does not restrict Internet access, although the cost is prohibitive to most Moroccans.

11	6	0	1	53
11	10	10	4	PF

**Mozambique** The criminal defamation law and the 1991 press law may be used to restrict reporting, but the press law has not been tested in court despite considerable media criticism of the president. The independent media have enjoyed moderate growth, but publications in Maputo have little influence in the largely illiterate rural population. The state controls nearly all broadcast media and owns or influences all of the largest newspapers. There are more than a dozen licensed private radio and television stations, which also exercise some degree of self-censorship. The opposition receives inadequate coverage in government media, especially in national radio and television. The editor of an independent daily was shot to death apparently because of his reporting on corruption and organized crime.

8	10	5	0	48
7	7	8	3	PF

**Namibia** Constitutional guarantees of press freedom are usually respected in practice. Private radio stations and critical independent newspapers mostly operate without official interference, but reporters for state-run media have been subjected to indirect and direct pressure to avoid reporting on controversial topics. There are at least five private radio stations and one private television station. The state-run Namibia Broadcasting Corporation presents views critical of the government. A magazine office was burned in July after articles published on gay issues, and a broadcasting crew was barred from a press conference in April. Internet access is available without government restriction.

3	10	1	1	34
3	12	3	1	PF

↓**Nauru** Radio Australia and the BBC are carried on the state-run Radio Nauru, the only radio station. State-run Nauru TV is the only television station, aside from a private sports network. According to the U.S. State Department, police raided Nauru TV in May and confiscated a video of the presidential vote in parliament. The director of media, an Australian national, left the country soon afterward.

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There is no independent news publication.

1	5	2	1	13
1	2	1	0	F

↑**Nepal** The Press and Publications Act bans reporting that is disrespectful to the king, undermines national security or public order, or promotes animosity along religious or caste lines. There are hundreds of independent newspapers, which have limited influence because of a 38 percent national literacy rate. The government owns the only television station. There are several private radio stations, and two private cable networks serve the Kathmandu Valley. In recent years, authorities have detained several journalists on charges of having links to the Maoist guerrillas, or for reporting allegations of police abuses and corruption.

12	10	3	0	57
10	8	11	3	PF

↓**The Netherlands** Free speech is guaranteed, with the exception of promoting racism or incitement to racism. The press is free and independent. All Dutch newspapers cooperate in the administration of the independent Netherlands News Agency. Radio and television broadcasters operate autonomously under the supervision and regulation of the state and offer pluralistic views. In September, the Dutch media protested the prosecution of a journalist who had refused to reveal his sources.

3	2	1	0	15
3	2	3	1	F

**New Zealand** New Zealand does not guarantee access to information. Print and broadcast media express diverse views, and independent broadcasters share time with state-owned radio and television.

2	1	1	0	8
1	2	1	0	F

**Nicaragua** Several legal provisions that might potentially be used to punish inaccurate or irresponsible reporting are not used to harass journalists. In December the legislature passed a law requiring journalists to belong to unions. Free expression groups urged President Alemán to veto the law. Public and private print and broadcast media present a wide variety of views, including hardline and moderate Sandinista as well as pro- and anti-government positions.

6	6	8	0	40
5	5	10	0	PF

**Niger** Legal prohibitions on libel, undermining the morale of the armed forces, and publishing false information are occasionally used to restrict press freedom. The National Communications Oversight Group was created in 1999 to provide for independence of the media and ethics in journalism. A government newspaper and at least a dozen private publications circulate, some of them are loosely affiliated with political parties. There are at least six private radio stations, some of which broadcast in local languages. In November three journalists were convicted of publishing false news. The publisher was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment and fined. Technical difficulties impede Internet access, although the government does not restrict it.

9	11	9	0	62
9	12	11	1	NF

↓**Nigeria** The Abubakar government relaxed many of its predecessors' draconian press laws in 1999, but enacted Decree 60, which created the Nigerian Press Council to enforce professional ethics. The decree effectively made council members government employees, gave the council the power to sanction journalists for ethical misconduct and to suspend journalists' licenses, and required annual registration of publications. The council has not begun to operate in practice, but journalists denounced the decree as unconstitutional, calling it a severe impediment to press freedom. State support through various subsidies and advertising revenue compromises media independence. Sharia (Islamic law) in effect in some states restricts expression and encourages self-censorship by banning anti-Islamic news and allowing for punishment, including caning, of journalists who publish "offensive" reports. The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) reported in December that Nigeria has 127 broadcasting stations, including 32 Nigerian Television Authority stations, while 69 new stations are scheduled to be opened in the first two months of 2001. There are two national state-owned newspapers, while several states own dailies or weeklies. Five major independent dailies and several evening papers and tabloids also publish. Fifty-one state radio stations and six private stations operate as well. There were numerous cases of attacks, harassment, threats, raids, and seizures on journalists and their offices during 2000.

8	5	8	5	55
8	6	10	5	PF

**Norway** Freedom of the press is constitutionally guaranteed, and many newspapers are subsidized by the state in order to promote political pluralism. The majority of newspapers are privately owned and openly partisan. Norway has one of the highest rates of Internet users per capita in the world.

1	0	1	0	5
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2 0 1 0 F

**Oman** Criticism of the sultan is prohibited, although authorities do tolerate criticism of government officials and policies. The 1984 Press and Publication Law provides for censorship of all domestic and imported publications. However, journalists generally censor themselves. Radio and television are state-controlled and offer only official views. Satellite dishes are widely available, giving citizens access to foreign broadcasts including Al-Jazeera, a popular Qatar-based television channel that provides lively political debate and uncensored interviews with regional opposition activists. Uncensored Internet access is available to citizens and foreigners; there were reportedly 50,000 Omanis online as of March 2000.

15 13 0 0 71  
15 13 15 0 NF

**▲Pakistan** The constitution and a series of colonial and postcolonial laws authorize the government to curb freedom of speech on subjects including the constitution, the armed forces, the judiciary, and religion. Governments have rarely used these provisions against the mainly private print media. A seriously flawed draft freedom of information law was announced in August, but not enacted by year's end. While journalists practiced self-censorship, Pakistan continued to have some of the most outspoken newspapers in South Asia. Nearly all electronic media are state-owned, and coverage favors the government. The Musharraf regime generally did not harass the press. However, Islamic fundamentalists and thugs hired by feudal landlords continued to harass journalists and occasionally to attack newspaper offices. A reporter for the Urdu-language daily *Ummat* was killed in May in the southern province of Sindh after publishing stories on drug trafficking and prostitution in the region. Another *Ummat* reporter was shot in July by unidentified gunmen in Hyderabad. In September, according to CPJ, soldiers raided the Dawn Newspaper Group, ostensibly to inspect the company's electrical usage. The company's journalists called the inspection a punitive raid.

9 13 1 0 57  
6 9 14 5 PF

**Panama** Law number 55 of 1999 gave the interior ministry power to censor media and close newspapers. The administrative code, the penal code, and other laws punish vaguely-defined insults and defamation with prison terms. Several journalists were prosecuted in 2000 under such provisions. In July, President Moscoso signed a law that sharply restricts public access to information. However, independent news and commentary appear on scores of radio and television stations as well as in numerous daily and weekly publications.

7 2 4 0 30  
8 2 7 0 F

**↓Papua New Guinea** Constitutional guarantees of press freedom are respected in practice. Two English-language dailies and two weeklies, as well as an independent television station and two government-owned radio networks provide a variety of opinions and aggressive reporting on controversial issues. A private radio network, NAU-FM in Port Moresby, is expanding to other areas of the country. Unionists attacked journalists covering a union protest in November, injuring at least one. The Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) expressed alarm at increasing attacks against media workers.

5 3 6 1 29  
5 4 5 0 F

**Paraguay** Free expression may be hampered by the criminal code and other vague laws that mandate "responsible" behavior by journalists and media owners. Media independence is also compromised by close relationships between media and political parties, factions, and business interests. At year's end, the Senate was discussing a bill that would improve access to information, though free expression advocates were concerned over the bill's exemptions. According to CPJ, the granting of radio frequencies is highly politicized. Journalists investigating corruption or covering strikes and protests are often the victims of intimidation and violent attacks by security forces. Following vice-presidential elections in August, several newspapers and radio and television stations were jammed, threatened, or attacked, and at least one reporter was assaulted.

8 10 8 2 51  
7 8 6 2 PF

**▲Peru** The campaign of repression against independent media, characterized by abductions, death threats, libel suits, withholding of advertising, police harassment, arbitrary detention, physical assault, and imprisonment on charges of "apology for terrorism," dramatically abated with the end of the Fujimori regime in November. The media were instrumental in bringing about the president's decline by publishing allegations of irregularities in Fujimori's registration as a candidate in the April presidential election. In September, the independent Canal N cable channel broadcast a video showing Fujimori's intelligence chief, Vladimiro Montesinos, bribing an opposition congressman. According to the U.S. State Department, there are some 20 daily newspapers, 7 television stations, 65 radio stations, and 3 news channels on 2 commercial cable systems in the Lima area alone. The government owns one daily, one television network, and two radio stations, all with limited audiences. Exiled TV executive Baruch Ivcher returned in December to reclaim his station, Frecuencia Latina-Canal 2, which was taken from him in 1997 following investigative reporting on misconduct by Montesinos. CPJ reported that newspapers with links to the intelligence service now face difficulties, and many that formerly attacked journalists and opposition figures have changed their editorial lines.

10	8	5	3	54
10	7	8	3	PF

**Philippines** Constitutional guarantees of press freedom are generally respected by authorities, and independent media vigorously investigate and report on controversial issues such as official misconduct. However, CPJ calls the Philippines one of the most dangerous places to practice journalism; some 35 journalists have been killed there since 1986. On November 17, a radio commentator who often criticized local politicians was shot and killed in Mindanao. In May, a correspondent for the Manila radio station was killed when guerrillas ambushed the boat convoy in which he was traveling. In November, the host of a local radio program was killed in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur. Muslim secessionists kidnapped 16 journalists, most of them working for foreign news agencies and attempting to cover a hostage crisis on the island of Jolo in June and July. Most of them were released after payment of ransom.

3	7	3	2	30
3	5	4	3	F

**Poland** Constitutional guarantees for press freedom are respected. Journalists object to a libel law that imposes strict penalties for slandering public officials. They also oppose the growing number of related lawsuits. Poland enjoys a wide diversity of media: approximately 5,000 periodicals, 200 radio stations, and 9 television networks. This includes 4 public radio stations and 2 public television channels. President Kwasniewski won a legal suit in 2000 that forced the newspaper *Zycie* to issue a formal apology for claiming he had associated with a Russian spy in 1997. The case sparked a debate about journalists' burden of proof in reporting the news. During the 2000 presidential campaign, several candidates accused Polish Public Television (TVP) of favoring President Kwasniewski in its coverage. In response, Andrzej Kwiatkowski, the head of TVP's election coverage and a former Kwasniewski advisor, agreed to step down.

4	3	2	0	19
3	3	4	0	F

**Portugal** Although the law forbids insults directed at the government or the armed forces and statements intended to undermine the rule of law, the state has never prosecuted journalists under this provision. In September, the European Court of Human Rights found in favor of a former editor who had written a highly critical article about a local politician in 1993. The politician sued the editor for "abuse of freedom of the press," and despite an acquittal in criminal court, two higher courts found in favor of the politician.

5	2	2	0	17
4	2	2	0	F

**Qatar** Media in Qatar have been virtually free of government interference since the lifting of censorship in 1995, but self-censorship is still pervasive because of real or imagined social and political pressures. State-run media generally avoid taboo subjects such as Islam and the royal family, but recently have criticized state funding of the royal family. The satellite television channel Al-Jazeera operates freely. Owned and operated by a member of the ruling family, the all-news channel presents interviews with dissidents and exiles throughout the region, lively debates that include opposition views and commentary on human rights issues and religion. In 2000, the government announced plans to launch an "e-government" to make some public services available via the Internet. Qatar reportedly has some 45,000 Internet users.

7	13	10	0	62
8	14	10	0	NF

**Romania** The constitution prohibits "defamation of the country" and "offense to authority." The penal code provides for jail terms for libel, slander, or disseminating false information that affects Romania's international relations and national security. In October, the Romanian Audiovisual Council, the regulatory body for broadcast media, lifted its ban on the use of Hungarian symbols and the use of languages other than Romanian in electronic media. At year's end, parliament was debating a draft law on state secrets. While there are numerous independent media, economic troubles frequently lead to owner subsidies, which adversely affects editorial independence. In 2000, dozens of journalists investigating corruption faced libel suits.

6	7	7	1	44
4	7	8	4	PF

**Russia** The press minister announced in June that he intended to enforce a law requiring that all print media be licensed. In September, the government adopted a doctrine on information security restricting the flow of certain information. Journalists are subject to libel and defamation charges under the 1992 Law on Mass Media and the 1991 Law on the Protection of Citizens' Honor, Dignity, and Business Reputation. During the last several years, powerful businessmen have acquired control of or funded many large media outlets, which in turn enjoyed connections to important political figures. The leading independent media empire, Media-MOST, and its owner, Vladimir Gusinsky, became the target of tax raids and arrests on embezzlement charges in 2000 that President Putin claimed were part of his anticorruption campaign. Press freedom groups denounced the moves against Media-MOST as a politically motivated attempt to silence one of the few independent media groups critical of the Russian government and the war in Chechnya. Journalists criticizing the Putin administration have been the subject of harsh scrutiny, arrests, and prosecution. Numerous journalists were harassed and assaulted in 2000, mostly for their reports on corruption. A *Novaya Gazeta* journalist died after two months in a coma following a brutal attack. Other

attacks against *Novaya Gazeta* journalists included death threats and beatings. In July, the director of the independent radio station Vesna was shot and killed in apparent retaliation for the station's investigations of corruption in the Smolensk region. Vladivostok journalist Irina Grebneva was briefly imprisoned in July on charges stemming from her reports on local corruption. Additionally, state officials have increased pressure on broadcast media to cancel programs that criticize officials. Government-media relations have been further complicated by the war in Chechnya. The military continued to impose severe restrictions on journalists' access to the Chechen war zone, issuing accreditation primarily to those seen as loyal to the government. In April two newspapers received warnings from the media ministry after publishing interviews with Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov. Andrei Babitsky, a Russian journalist covering Chechnya for RFE/RL, disappeared in Grozny in January. After weeks of international pressure, Russian officials admitted that Babitsky was being held by the Russian military. He was released in Dagestan on February 25. The government has begun monitoring Internet use for security reasons.

7	10	8	5	60
7	8	10	5	PF

**Rwanda** Journalists may be prosecuted for libel and for failing to reveal sources. Self-censorship is widely practiced for fear of reprisal by officials. In June, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda sentenced a Belgian-born journalist to two 12-year concurrent prison terms for broadcasting incitement to genocide during 1994. Three of his colleagues went on trial in October charged with genocide, conspiracy, and crimes against humanity. There are several private newspapers, but no daily. The only national broadcasting is state-owned, while BBC and Deutsche Welle broadcasts are also available.

14	15	7	0	72
11	13	12	0	NF

**St. Kitts and Nevis** Television and radio on St. Kitts are government-owned, although managed by a Trinidadian company, and there are some restrictions on opposition access to them. Prime Minister Douglas has pledged to privatize the St. Kitts media. Each major political party publishes a weekly or fortnightly newspaper. Opposition publications freely criticize the government, and international media are available.

7	3	0	0	18
5	1	2	0	F

**St. Lucia** The media carry a wide spectrum of views and are largely independent. There are five privately owned newspapers, two privately held radio stations, and one partially government-funded radio station, as well as two privately owned television stations.

3	3	0	0	13
3	2	2	0	F

**St. Vincent & the Grenadines** The press is independent, with two privately owned independent weeklies, the *Vincentian* and the *News*, and several smaller, partisan papers. The opposition has charged the *Vincentian* with government favoritism. The only television station is privately owned and free from government interference. Satellite dishes and cable are available to those who can afford them. The radio station is government-owned, and call-in programs are prohibited. Equal access to radio is mandated during electoral campaigns, but the ruling party takes inordinate advantage of state control over programming.

3	5	0	0	16
3	3	2	0	F

**▲Samoa** In August the supreme court ruled that opposition members should be allowed free access to government media. The Newspapers and Printers Act and the Defamation Act require journalists to reveal their sources when sued for defamation, but these provisions have not been invoked. CPJ noted a positive trend in press freedom in 2000, as the new government appeared to end the practice of pressuring media, particularly the *Samoa Observer*, which had been the target of numerous lawsuits, and Radio Polynesia, which was suspended in 1999. There are two English-language and several Samoan-language newspapers; the government owns a radio station and the only television station; and there are two private radio stations. Internet use is expanding without government interference.

2	3	5	0	21
2	3	6	0	F

**↑Sao Tome & Principe** Constitutional guarantees of press freedom are respected in practice. Two state-run and six independent newspapers publish sporadically. Broadcasting is state-operated. International broadcasting is available. Parties distribute materials criticising the government and each other without interference. High costs and poor infrastructure are the only impediments to Internet access.

7	4	0	0	25
5	4	5	0	F

**↓Saudi Arabia** Criticism of the government, Islam, and the ruling family is prohibited. The government owns all domestic broadcast media and closely monitors privately owned but publicly subsidized print media. The information minister must approve and may remove all editors in chief. The entry of foreign journalists into the kingdom is tightly restricted, and foreign media are heavily censored



where possible. The government outlawed the private ownership of satellite dishes in 1994. Internet access was made available in 1999 with filters to block information deemed pornographic, offensive to Islam, or a threat to state security. According to Human Rights Watch, there are currently about 30 Internet service providers in Saudi Arabia, with some 100,000 subscribers. Authorities shut down a women-only Internet café in April for reasons of “public morality.” In August, police blocked access to clubs hosted by the search engine Yahoo! because of pornographic and political content.

15	15	15	1	92
15	15	15	1	NF

↓**Senegal** Legal prohibitions on “discrediting” the state, disseminating “false” news, and inciting disorder are occasionally used to hinder press freedom, and also contribute to self-censorship. Lawsuits were brought against the publishers of at least two newspapers under these provisions in 2000, but the president withdrew the suits in August. Two other journalists were facing trial for undermining public security at year’s end. However, a wide variety of independent and foreign publications are available, and six private radio stations broadcast throughout the country. International broadcasts are available. The state controls television broadcasting. There are at least 10 ISPs in Senegal, and Internet access is restricted only by cost.

8	4	3	0	34
5	3	9	2	PF

↓**Seychelles** Laws prohibit violating the reputation, rights, and privacy of others; and threats to public safety, morality, or health. The Broadcasting and Telecommunications Bill, passed in February, allows the minister of information technology to ban the broadcast of any information that is “objectionable” or undermines the national interest. This law was not used during 2000 to prosecute journalists. The government owns all broadcast media and the only daily newspaper. Licensing fees for private broadcast media are prohibitively high. The only significant opposition newspaper, a weekly, has been sued by the government repeatedly.

13	10	3	0	51
8	10	6	1	PF

↑**Sierra Leone** A 1999 bill that would empower a media council to suspend or revoke publication licenses and impose fines was still pending at year’s end. CPJ called Sierra Leone the most dangerous African country for journalists, with 15 murdered since 1997, including three in 2000. Reporters are intimidated not only by the security forces, but also by the country’s various armed factions. CPJ also reported that local reporters are known to accept money or political patronage in return for pro-RUF or pro-government coverage. Several government and private radio and television stations operate. The UN also began broadcasting information on humanitarian and peace issues during the year. Dozens of newspapers are printed in Freetown, but most are of poor quality, appear sporadically, and carry sensational or undocumented stories. Newspapers openly criticize the government and armed factions.

13	13	5	2	75
12	12	13	5	NF

↓**Singapore** The Internal Security Act allows the government to restrict publications that incite violence or disobedience to the law, arouse tensions among social groups, or threaten national security, national interests, or public order. Strict defamation and press laws also restrict the press and encourage self-censorship. Most journalists work for media that are linked to the government. The privately held Singapore Press Holdings (SPH), which owns all general circulation newspapers, has close ties to the ruling People’s Action Party; by law, the government approves the owners of key “management shares” in SPH. In addition, the government-affiliated Singapore International Media PTE, Ltd., operates all four free television stations and ten of Singapore’s 15 domestic radio stations. Four of the remaining five stations are operated by government-affiliated organizations. Domestic news coverage strongly favors the PAP. Government-linked companies provide the three ISPs and the cable television service. The government subjects all media, including the Internet, to censorship.

13	10	7	0	68
13	10	15	0	NF

↑**Slovakia** In June 2000, President Schuster signed a freedom of information law designed to increase government transparency and reduce corruption. The law takes effect in 2001. The penal code prohibits defamation. In December, the pro-HZDS newspaper *Slovenska Republika* folded. After the HZDS defeat in 1998, the paper encountered difficulty attracting advertising revenue and could not overcome its debts. A newspaper editor was sentenced in March to four months’ imprisonment for defaming the state.

5	3	4	0	26
6	3	4	1	F

↑**Slovenia** Constitutional provisions for press freedom are respected. Insulting public officials, however, is prohibited by law. There are four major daily and several weekly newspapers. The major print media are supported through private investment and advertising, while the national broadcaster, RTV Slovenia, receives government subsidies. Seven local television channels are available, four of which are independent private stations. Numerous foreign broadcasts and publications are available. All major towns have radio stations and cable television. The majority of print and electronic media are privately owned. State broadcaster Slovenia Radio-Television (RTV) has three radio stations and two television networks.

4	5	3	0	21
2	3	4	0	F

↓**Solomon Islands** Constitutional provisions for free expression are generally respected. In September, the government announced plans to restrict local media coverage of the country's ethnic conflict. No formal restrictions were imposed, but the government repeatedly urged the media to be "sensitive" about reporting on ethnic tensions. The country's three private newspapers vigorously criticize government policies, but have limited circulation outside the towns. There is a private FM radio station, but the state-owned radio service is the most important source of information and generally offers diverse viewpoints. In mid-1998, an Australian television channel began broadcasting to the Solomon Islands. CPJ reported that the Solomon Islands became more dangerous for local journalists covering armed ethnic conflict in 2000, and several reporters went into hiding after militants threatened them with physical violence.

3	7	1	0	22
2	5	3	1	F

↑**Somalia** The lack of a functioning central government and a national constitution means that legal protection of press freedom is negligible. Most of the independent newspapers or newsletters that circulate in Mogadishu are linked to one faction or another, as are the few private broadcasters that began operating during 2000. There are two private daily papers, one government daily, and an independent English-language weekly in Somaliland. However, most Somalis obtain information from foreign broadcasting. One journalist was killed in January while reporting in a Mogadishu market. Several journalists were detained for controversial reporting during the year.

14	15	13	1	86
13	15	13	2	NF

↑**South Africa** Laws allowing the government to restrict reporting on the police, national defense forces, prisons, and mental institutions remain in effect, as do laws that may compel journalists to reveal sources. However, these laws are not generally used to restrict the media. A long-awaited freedom of information law was passed in January. Concerns about possible infringements on the freedom of the press arose early in 2000, when the Human Rights Commission issued subpoenas to the editors of a number of leading publications to appear before an investigation into racism in the media. After considerable criticism, the commission issued "invitations" to the editors instead of legally binding subpoenas. The commission's report concluded that the South African media was a "racist institution," but did not recommend new laws to regulate independent media. The national police commissioner announced in June that the government would withhold information on crime from the public because of problems related to verification and methods of gathering statistics, and an anticorruption unit issued a similar blackout on the progress of special investigations. An array of newspapers and magazines publish analysis and opinion sharply critical of the government, political parties, and other societal actors, but concentration of ownership was a concern. Radio broadcasting has been dramatically liberalized, with scores of small community radio stations now operating. The state-owned South African Broadcasting Corporation is today far more independent than during apartheid, but still suffers from self-censorship. Several journalists and media offices suffered harassment during the year.

5	6	3	0	23
2	3	3	1	F

↓**Spain** Constitutional provisions for press freedom are guaranteed. The press has been particularly influential in setting the political agenda in recent years, with national daily newspapers such as *El Mundo*, *ABC*, and *El Pais* covering corruption and other issues. A new conservative daily, *La Razon*, was launched in 1998. In addition to the state-controlled television station, which has been accused of pro-government bias, there are three independent commercial television stations. Journalists came under attack during 2000 by the Basque separatist ETA. A Spanish journalist for *El Mundo* was murdered outside his home in Basque country, and several journalists, their families, and homes were the targets of bomb attacks. RSF reported that conditions for journalists in Basque country had become "unbearable," and a number of journalists have left the region or have resorted to publishing without bylines.

4	4	2	1	20
1	2	4	2	F

↓**Sri Lanka** New emergency regulations introduced by the government in May empowered authorities to arrest journalists, ban the sale and distribution of newspapers, close printing presses, and exercise prior censorship on all media. The regulations superseded more limited censorship regulations imposed in 1998 that had only applied to war-related coverage. Using its new powers, the government censored war-related articles and shut down the sole Tamil-language newspaper in Jaffna City and a printing plant that had published the pro-opposition *Sunday Leader*. The government temporarily lifted much of the media censorship in advance of the October elections but continued to censor most war coverage. In addition to placing broad legal restrictions on the press, the Kumaratunga administration has filed criminal defamation charges against several editors, one of whom received a two-year suspended sentence in September over a 1995 article criticizing Kumaratunga's first year in office. In addition, security forces have occasionally harassed and assaulted journalists, particularly Tamils. Authorities also continued to bar journalists from traveling to the war zone. While private newspapers, magazines, radio, and television stations criticize officials and government policies, journalists practice some self-censorship. The government controls the largest newspaper chain, two major television stations, and a radio station. Political coverage in the state-owned media favors the ruling party. Unidentified gunmen killed a freelance reporter for the BBC in October.

11	13	7	5	74
11	13	9	5	NF

**Sudan** The government has gradually eased press restrictions since 1997, but journalists practice self-censorship to avoid harassment, arrest, and closure of publications. There are reportedly nine daily newspapers and a wide variety of Arabic- and English-language publications. All of these are subject to censorship. Penalties apply to journalists who allegedly harm the nation or economy or violate national security. A press law provision adopted in 1999 imposes penalties for “professional errors.” Five journalists from the independent *As-Sahafa* daily were arrested in March for the publication of a series of articles by opponents of the regime. Editions of four dailies in Khartoum were seized for carrying statements by Hassan al-Turabi and his aides in May. In August, one journalist was fined for defamation and one arrested for criticizing the government’s handling of corruption cases. Independent journalist Mohammad Taha was apparently the victim of an assassination attempt in September after writing an article that allegedly defamed al-Turabi. The National Press Council prohibited the media from covering the attack. Broadcast media are government controlled and present only NC views. Despite restrictions on ownership of satellite dishes, citizens use them to access a variety of foreign media.

15	15	7	0	85
15	15	13	5	NF

▲**Suriname** Constitutional guarantees of press freedom are generally respected. CPJ noted a reduction in the climate of fear for journalists and improvements in political coverage by the end of 2000 under a new government. However, CPJ also reported a pervasive lack of investigative journalism. The two daily newspapers, five television stations, and most radio stations are privately owned. Two television stations and two radio stations are publicly owned. International broadcasting is available via cable, and Internet access is unrestricted. The daily *De West* was firebombed in April, and a journalist critical of former military strongman Bourtesse was attacked in July by Bourtesse supporters.

6	3	4	0	28
4	4	6	1	F

**Swaziland** Legislation prohibits criticism of the monarchy. The constitutional commission has broad authority to prosecute people who “belittle” or “insult” it. Self-censorship is widespread. The government monopolizes broadcast media, but broadcast and print media from South Africa are available. The government in February closed the state-owned Swazi Observer media group, which includes the daily *Swazi Observer*, the *Weekend Observer*, and the weekly *Intsatseli* following a series of reports that criticized the police. Two South African journalists, of the South African daily *The Sowetan*, were expelled in November after trying to attend the court hearing of Mario Masuku, the leader of the banned People’s United Democratic Movement.

15	15	0	0	77
15	14	13	5	NF

**Sweden** Press freedom is guaranteed. Most print media are privately owned. The government subsidizes daily newspapers regardless of their political or ethnic affiliation. The Swedish Broadcasting Corporation and the Swedish Television Company broadcast weekly radio and television programs in several immigrant languages. In recent years, new satellite- and ground-based commercial television and radio stations also operate. Internet penetration rates in Sweden are among the highest in the world, with more than half the population online.

2	1	2	0	10
2	1	2	0	F

**Switzerland** The penal code criminalizes racist or anti-Semitic expression, whether in public speech or in printed material. The postal administration employs license fees and advertising to fund the broadcast media, but broadcasters enjoy full editorial autonomy. Many private radio and television stations also operate. Foreign broadcasting is available. Privately owned daily, weekly, and monthly publications are available in each of the most common languages, and all are free of government control.

2	1	1	0	8
2	1	1	0	F

↑**Syria** Emergency law allows for broad interpretation of “illegal” expression and prohibits information that is “false” or that contradicts the “goals of the revolution.” Criticism of the Baath Party, the military, the legitimacy of the regime, and the president are also sharply restricted. However, it appeared that critical voices met with greater tolerance under the new president. Journalists, among others, put forward demands for political reform and the release of political prisoners. Critiques of the Syrian economy also appeared in state-run newspapers after the death of Hafez al-Assad. Notably, no one was punished for speaking out on these issues. All media remain owned and operated by the government and the Baath Party. Satellite dishes are illegal, although they are increasingly tolerated. Despite these apparent gains, Syrian journalist Nizar Nayyuf remained in a Damascus prison during the year. According to RSF, Nayyuf is in extremely grave condition and close to death. His jailers, who have demanded he recant his past statements regarding Syria’s human rights record, have repeatedly tortured him. Government ministries, some businesses, universities, and hospitals are connected to the Internet, although on government-controlled servers. While private access is not sanctioned, some private homes are believed to be connected to the Internet via Lebanese service providers. Access is still prohibitively expensive for most Syrians.

15	15	7	0	71
15	12	7	0	NF

↓**Taiwan** Laws prohibit advocacy of formal independence from China and communism, and police can censor or ban publications considered seditious or treasonous. Criminal penalties for libel, defamation, and insult remain on the books. These provisions, however, are not generally enforced to restrict journalists. The Publications Law, which had allowed authorities to seize or ban publications containing seditious, treasonous, or sacrilegious material, was abolished in 1999, making Taiwan one of the freest media environments in Asia. Most major broadcasters have political ties, but some 100 cable television stations are available. The government is considering applications for the allocation of about 65 radio frequencies. The press is free, varied, and vibrant. In October, authorities raided the offices of one newspaper and the homes of two of its editors in an attempt to find the source of a leaked government document.

4	5	4	0	22
1	3	4	1	F

↑**Tajikistan** The penal code provides for prison terms for defamation of the president or of individuals. No journalists were prosecuted in 2000 for this offense. Independent journalists are threatened with removal of their accreditation, denial of access to state printing facilities, violence, and the closure of media outlets. Consequently, self-censorship is widespread. Many independent newspapers are linked to political parties, and others avoid serious news coverage. One state-run television network limits access to opposition views, and there are 36 private stations, many of which operate sporadically and few of which are independent. No independent radio stations have yet received operating licenses. In May 2000, the director of state broadcasting was killed, apparently in connection with his work. In May a state radio journalist was kidnapped and conscripted into the army following his reporting on the living conditions of soldiers. Other journalists were assaulted by military officials. In June, Tajikistan's first Internet café opened in Dushanbe.

13	13	14	5	79
10	11	13	0	NF

**Tanzania** The National Security Act, the Official Secrets Act, and the Restricted Areas Act may be used to restrict reporting on political activities. The 1976 Newspaper Registration Act requires newspapers to register with the government and allows authorities to close papers. Private radio and television stations began receiving licenses at the beginning of 1994, but they are not allowed to cover more than 25 percent of the country's territory, according to the 1993 Broadcasting Act. There are nine daily newspapers and dozens of other papers and periodicals, some of which are linked to political parties. Even government-owned papers criticize officials and policies. Several journalists were arrested following October elections in Zanzibar. In February, the government threatened to close newspapers that published stories or cartoons that defamed the president or were deemed seditious. An editor was interrogated in February for publishing an allegedly seditious story. Officials harassed several other journalists during the year.

11	8	2	0	49
10	8	6	4	PF

↑**Thailand** Press freedom may be restricted in the interests of national security, public order, public morals, and the rights of others. Laws prohibit criticism of the royal family, incitement to unrest, and insulting Buddhism. CPJ noted that Thai journalists are increasingly aggressive in their investigation and reporting of official corruption and misconduct, though not without occasional consequences. In April, the editor of a newspaper was shot in an attempted murder following his critical reporting on local government. The home of the crime editor of another paper was bombed in August. Military-controlled companies continue to own nearly all the country's radio and television stations despite promises to reform the sector. However, broadcasters present diverse viewpoints. One cable network operates autonomously.

7	6	2	0	29
5	3	5	1	F

↑**Togo** In January parliament adopted a press code which provides for prison sentences with no parole, fines, and the destruction of copies of publications for insulting the head of state and other violations. In August, another new law required all journalists to have journalism degrees despite the fact that there are no journalism programs offering degrees in the country. According to the U.S. State Department, about 16 private newspapers publish regularly, and the only daily is state-owned. Print media tend to be highly politicized, but do criticize the government. Two government-owned radio stations operate alongside some 20 private ones, two of which are linked to the ruling party. The only television station is state-owned. The issues of several newspapers were seized during 2000 for controversial reports, and one journalist was jailed for three months for incorrectly reporting that the president's daughter had been killed in a car accident. 15 ISPs provide unrestricted Internet access to those who can afford it.

15	14	3	0	72
12	13	10	5	NF

**Tonga** Defamation laws are used to restrict journalists. Criticism of the king, his family, and the government is not well tolerated. Michael Field, a correspondent for Agence France Presse, has been denied entry into Tonga since 1993, when he wrote about Tonga's pro-democracy movement and allegations of government financial mismanagement. The government weekly *Tonga Chronicle* carries some

opposition views. There are several private newspapers, including the *Times of Tonga, Kele'a*, and an outspoken Roman Catholic Church newsletter. Political coverage on the state-owned Radio Tonga favors the government, and the state owns the country's two television stations.

8	8	0	0	36
6	7	7	0	PF

**Trinidad and Tobago** Constitutional guarantees of press freedom are generally respected in practice. However, a restrictive journalistic code of conduct floated by the government in 1997 has reportedly led to instances in which reporters and other press workers were physically attacked. The press is privately owned and vigorous and offers pluralistic views. Prime Minister Panday reiterated his refusal to sign the Inter-American Press Association's Chapultepec Declaration on press freedom until it addressed media dissemination of "lies, half-truths and innuendoes." The broadcast media are both private and public. In 2000, a high court ordered Panday to pay newspaper publisher Ken Gordon, an Afro-Trinidadian, \$120,000 for defamation, after calling him a "pseudo-racist."

6	6	2	0	28
4	4	6	0	F

**Tunisia** The press code prohibits subversion and defamation, both broadly defined, under threat of fines and confiscation. The government uses newsprint subsidies and control over public advertising revenues to limit dissent and encourage self-censorship. Prepublication submission requirements allow authorities to seize publications at will. Foreign publications are censored. Domestic broadcasting is government controlled and presents only pro-government views. As two new ad hoc committees set up to suggest press law reforms began meeting in May, Ben Ali met with private newspaper publishers and told them to "be critical as long as what you are saying is true." Authorities charged journalist Taoufik Ben Brik in April with publishing false information and offending public institutions and confiscated his passport. The journalist began a 42-day hunger strike in April in the offices of the Aloes publishing house. Authorities seized the publishing house and assaulted reporters and rights activists who went to Ben Brik's home to visit him. In May, the charges against him were dropped and he was allowed to travel, but his brother was jailed for abusing a security official. In November, the journalist was detained at the Tunis airport after arriving from Paris. Riad Ben Fadhel, a journalist who criticized the government's handling of Ben Brik's case, was the target of an assassination attempt in May. A French weekly faced repeated distribution delays over controversial articles.

15	15	0	5	79
13	14	12	5	NF

**Turkey** Press freedom in Turkey is limited by the criminal code, which forbids insulting state officials and incitement to racial or ethnic hatred. The Anti-Terror Law prohibits separatist propaganda. The military, Kurds, and political Islam are highly sensitive subjects that frequently earn journalists criminal penalties. Following unrest in Turkish prisons in December, the Supreme Board of Radio and Television (RTUK) imposed restrictions on broadcast media, and a state security court ruled to ban the publication or broadcast of "statements from illegal organizations or information liable to incite hatred, hostility, or crimes." At least three newspapers faced charges or investigation under the measure by year's end. By June, at least 13 publications, most of them pro-Kurdish, were banned in the southeast. RSF reported that dozens of radio and television stations were suspended during 2000. Journalists continued to face arrest, prosecution, attacks, and harassment.

11	11	3	0	58
11	9	8	5	PF

↓**Turkmenistan** The government controls all broadcast media and funds all print media, and does not allow criticism of the government or the president. Newspapers are subject to prepublication censorship. Access to foreign media is severely restricted; in August officials banned an RFE/RL journalist from working in Turkmenistan. The government revoked the licenses of all Internet service providers in May, leaving only the state-owned Turkmentelekom to provide Internet access.

15	15	13	3	89
15	15	13	0	NF

**Uganda** The Army Statute prohibits military personnel from giving information to journalists. Other laws, including the penal code, prohibit sedition and publishing false or alarming news. The Press and Media Law of 1995 requires journalists to be licensed and to hold university degrees. These laws are used on occasion to harass journalists. In May, the government ordered private radio operators to pay an annual licensing fee of approximately \$3200. Journalists denounced the move as a threat to the existence of independent radio. The government controls the major daily newspaper and radio station, as well as one television station. There are some 19 private radio stations. Satellite broadcasting is available. Independent media are frequently highly critical of the government and offer a wide range of opinion. Unrestricted Internet access is available in major cities, but is prohibitively expensive for most Ugandans.

10	7	4	1	40
8	4	5	1	PF

**Ukraine** The government frequently disregards constitutional provisions for a free press, particularly during election campaigns. There are 8,300 print publications registered with the state; 673 publications are state-owned. There are also 516 television and radio companies; the state owns 133 broadcasters. The OSCE has reported that editorial independence is difficult to maintain, because state-

owned media depend on government support and private media are largely controlled by financial and political clans. The state also exercises influence through its control of printing presses and paper supplies. RSF reported at least twenty attacks and threats against journalists in 2000. The brutal murder of journalist Hryhoriy Gongadze was particularly alarming when evidence was presented that could implicate President Kuchma and other senior government officials.

10	10	5	3	60
8	9	10	5	PF

**United Arab Emirates** Federal Law 15 of 1988 requires that all publications be licensed by the information ministry and contains a list of taboo subjects. Journalists censor themselves when reporting on government policy, the ruling families, national security, religion, and relations with neighboring states. Foreign publications are censored. Broadcast media are government-owned and present only government views. Satellite dishes are widely owned and provide foreign broadcasting without censorship. The UAE is the most Internet-connected country in the Arab world, with some 400,000 users by March 2000.

15	15	6	0	76
15	15	10	0	NF

**United Kingdom** Though uncensored and mostly private, the British press is subject to strict libel and obscenity laws. Print media are privately owned and independent, though many of the national daily newspapers are aligned with political parties. The new Human Rights Act provides a statutory right to free expression in Britain for the first time, although the European Convention makes exceptions in the interest of public safety, health, morals, and the reputations and rights of others. Parliament passed freedom of information legislation in 2000, granting access to a wide range of information previously denied, including police data. The law, which is expected to come into force in 2002, has been sharply criticized by rights groups for excluding information regarding national security, defense, international resolutions, individual or public safety, commercial interests, and law enforcement. The BBC runs about half the electronic media in the country. It is funded by the government but is editorially independent. In October, the government announced its intention to strip the BBC governors of their regulatory authority after the governors decided to change the time of the main nightly news broadcast, prompting a dispute with the culture secretary. Currently, the BBC is regulated by its government-appointed governors, while commercial broadcasters are regulated by an independent commission. BBC regulation will reportedly be handled by a separate authority responsible for the entire broadcasting industry. In October, new regulations gave employers the right to monitor staff phone calls, e-mail, and Internet activity without consent. In July, measures were introduced to allow authorities to intercept e-mail and other electronic communication without a warrant for reasons of national security, prevention of crime, and national "well-being."

3	3	3	0	17
2	2	4	0	F

**United States** Domestic radio and television are commercial functions under the loose supervision of the Federal Communications Commission. Public broadcasting is partly funded by the government, but increasingly supported by private grants. The government assumes no editorial control over public broadcasting, and the FCC has loosened content requirements for the licensing of private radio and television. The deregulatory telecommunications act of 1996 continued to encourage mergers and buyouts by telecom giants, creating still larger communications conglomerates. Newspapers face increasingly stiff competition from electronic media, which are gaining larger shares of audiences and advertising. Network news suffers as cable and other electronic media gain viewership. A contractual dispute between Time Warner and Walt Disney Company led to a 39-hour blackout of ABC stations (owned by Disney) in some 3.5 million homes in May. During the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) raid on the home of the relatives of Elian Gonzalez in April, the NBC crew assigned to supply footage to all the networks was assaulted by INS officials. In February, the editor of the *Sacramento Valley Mirror* was jailed for five days for refusing to reveal his sources in a report about a police officer charged with stealing a revolver.

1	2	3	1	15
1	2	4	1	F

**Uruguay** A 1989 law calls for up to two years' imprisonment for "false news" that disturbs the peace or that is detrimental to the economy, or for insulting the state or its powers. The press law and the criminal code punish defamation and slander with prison terms. A 1996 freedom of information bill is under consideration. Print media are susceptible to pressure from the government, which is the largest advertiser. The Inter-American Press Association has accused the government of discrimination in its placement of advertising. Five daily newspapers and nine major weeklies operate in Uruguay, as do 150 radio stations, 25 television stations, and 250 cable stations. One journalist was killed in February by a former local official seeking reelection. The journalist had criticized the politician.

7	4	4	0	30
5	4	5	1	F

**Uzbekistan** An independent press is virtually nonexistent. All but two newspapers are government-owned and need approval from the Committee for the Control of State Secrets before publishing news articles. The two private newspapers contain mostly advertisements and do not cover news. Pressures on privately owned broadcast media have increased. Stations that covered religion or politics have been closed, blacklisted, and prevented from obtaining licenses. The government is currently attempting to insure that all Internet service is routed through government servers. Journalists remain in prison for defamation and links to the opposition.

15	15	10	2	84
15	15	10	2	NF

↑**Vanuatu** In June 2000, enactment of the Freedom Telecommunications Law ended the two-decade long broadcasting monopoly of Telecommunications Vanuatu Limited, and a new bilingual paper, the *Port Vila Press*, was launched in November. Nonetheless, the government owns most of the country's media, including a television station serving the capital, two radio stations, and the *Vanuatu Weekly* newspaper, so that its voice is the most prominent. In April 1999, the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation decided to allow pay television to commence service.

7	9	5	0	37
6	5	5	0	PF

**Venezuela** A 1994 law requires journalists to have journalism degrees and to be members of the National College of Journalists. A telecommunications law enacted in June 2000 empowers the president to suspend broadcasting in conformity with the constitution when he judges it to be in the interests of the nation. In April, the governor of Apure state issued a decree requiring "true information." Criminal defamation laws are sometimes used to harass journalists. Print and electronic media are editorially independent, though the directors of state television and radio are appointed by the president. Several journalists were physically or verbally assaulted during the year, while President Chavez has fostered an adversarial relationship with the media through repeated verbal attacks against them. A criminal defamation suit against *La Razon* was pending at year's end, and the paper's editor was in hiding after spending a week under house arrest for failure to appear in court to answer libel charges brought by a businessman and friend of Chavez.

7	7	3	1	34
4	4	7	1	PF

↓**Vietnam** A 1999 press law provides for monetary damages to be paid by journalists to individuals or organizations harmed by reporting, regardless of whether the facts of the report are true. The constitution and the criminal code contain broad antidefamation and national security provisions used to intimidate journalists. The media are state-owned. The government has shut down newspapers for violating the narrow limits on permissible reporting and has restricted entry of many Western and regional newspapers that are critical of the regime. Human Rights Watch issued a detailed report in May on Vietnam's harassment, arrest, isolation, and imprisonment of its critics. RSF named Vietnam among the 20 countries that it lists as "enemies of the Internet." The only ISP is state-owned and controlled, and connection fees are kept prohibitively high. The government attempts to block access to sites operated by opposition groups abroad and to monitor use, but many students and others gain Internet access through universities and the numerous cyber cafes in the country.

15	15	5	0	80
15	15	10	5	NF

↓**Yemen** A press law requires that newspapers reapply annually for licenses and that they show continuing evidence of about \$5,000 in operating capital. It also prohibits insulting the state, cabinet, or parliament, as well as the publication of information that is "false" or threatens public order. The press is allowed a certain degree of freedom to criticize government officials and policies, yet the government restricts this freedom through legal harassment, detention, and prosecution. In February, a Sanaa court ordered the 30-day suspension of the opposition weekly *Al-Wahdawi* and placed a permanent ban on one of its contributors after the publication of an article seen as detrimental to Yemeni-Saudi relations. The editor of *Al-Ayyam* was charged with publishing false information and "insulting public institutions" in an interview with a Muslim cleric. Saif Haderi, editor of *Al-Choumou*, was suspended from the profession for ten months and fined in August for allegedly slandering the education minister. The weekly *Al-Rai al-Aam* was the target of a bombing in February. Broadcast media are government owned and present only government views—a significant limitation on access to information, given Yemen's 60 percent illiteracy rate.

15	14	3	0	69
12	12	9	4	NF

▲**Yugoslavia** Milosevic's resignation in October effectively ended the state's intense campaign of repression against independent media, although problems remained. In December, the constitutional court ruled that most of the Public Information Act was unconstitutional. However, criminal defamation laws remain. Under Milosevic, independent media were denied broadcasting frequencies and faced seizures of their offices and equipment. According to the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM), more than 140 radio and television stations were banned in Serbia under Milosevic, and fines totaling more than \$625,000 (37.5 million dinars) were imposed on independent media under the Public Information Act. Studio B and Radio B2-92 were shut down. However, dozens of independent radio and television stations continued to operate. When Kostunica came to power, one of the first visible effects of the change in regime was a dramatic overhaul of the broadcast media. In December, the telecommunications ministry announced that it would return confiscated radio and television equipment. Radio B92 returned to the air, and TV B92, the first independent television station in seven years, began broadcasting. Journalist Miroslav Filipovic of the independent daily *Danas*, Agence France-Presse, and the London-based Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) was released from prison in October. He had been arrested in May on charges of espionage and disseminating false information after writing a series of articles for IWPR on atrocities committed by the Yugoslav Army in Kosovo and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. CPJ reported that state media failed to exercise independence under the new regime. Radio-

Television Serbia (RTS), which had loyally promoted the Milosevic government, merely became a proponent of Kostunica and the Democratic Opposition of Serbia. Some independent journalists faced harassment after the change in regime. In November, a Hungarian journalist was beaten, interrogated, and threatened by police. Also in November, three plainclothes police officers detained the assistant editor of the *Nedeljni Telegraph* and interrogated him for 2 hours about the sources of an article he had written about Milosevic's alleged attempts to crack down on prodemocracy protesters. The new government also attempted to install loyalist officials on the managing boards of state-run media.

8	7	7	3	56
10	9	9	3	PF

**Zambia** Criminal libel, sedition, state security laws, and a host of other legal restrictions are used to harass and prosecute journalists, while officials openly encourage self-censorship through libel actions. In June, the government dissolved the boards of all state-owned media companies, according to the *Times of Zambia*. Journalists welcomed the move and urged the government to reorganize the management of state-owned media. Many private newspapers criticize the government without interference. However, security forces maintain surveillance of independent media and frequently arrest journalists. In one case, 12 journalists were charged with espionage after writing about Zambia's lack of military preparedness. Most were released, but *The Post* editor-in-chief Fred M'membe was accused of breaching the State Security Act. In December, M'membe was acquitted by a high court judge. In early 2000 the minister of information accused the independent media of "abuse of press freedom and other fundamental freedoms." He said that government was considering recently submitted proposals for media law reform, including the establishment of an "autonomous" independent broadcasting authority to regulate all broadcasting. The government owns the only television station. In addition to the state-controlled radio station, there are three church-related stations and one private commercial station. Government media follow the government line. Journalists faced censorship, physical assaults by police, threats, and arson attacks during 2000.

7	13	5	0	62
12	10	10	5	NF

↓**Zimbabwe** Parliament approved the Posts and Telecommunications Bill in March. The bill establishes a regulatory board with powers over broadcasting and Internet service, grants the government power to monitor communications on national security or law and order grounds, and provides for fines and imprisonment for distributing information that violates state security. President Mugabe had not signed the bill at year's end. He did sign the Public Order and Security bill, which superseded a 1960 law that restricted information "likely to cause fear, alarm, or despondency." The new law recognizes basic guarantees of press freedom. Several major daily newspapers belong to a holding company heavily influenced by the ruling party. Their coverage strongly favors the government. Major independent newspapers include one daily, three weeklies, and three monthlies. They criticized the government and reported increasingly on official corruption, but also practiced self-censorship. The government controls all domestic radio through the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC). Domestic television is either owned or effectively controlled by the state. CPJ recorded numerous violations against journalists and media institutions in 2000, including legal action, harassment, bombings, threats, and physical attacks.

12	10	3	0	69
11	15	13	5	NF

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## FREEDOM ON THE INTERNET

Country	Number of ISPs	Number of Users	% Population	Rating
Albania	2	n/a	n/a	Moderately
Algeria	1	20,000	.06	Most
Angola	2	12,000	.11	Most
Antigua	n/a	2,000	5.5	Least
Argentina	217	900,000	2.44	Moderately
Armenia	3	30,000	.9	Least
Australia	709	8.42m	43.94	Least
Austria	35	3m	36.9	Least
Azerbaijan	2	8,000	.10	Most
Bahamas	3	15,000	5.09	Least
Bahrain	3	37,500	5.96	Most
Barbados	3	6,000	2.19	Least
Belarus	1	10,000	.1	Moderately
Belgium	51	2.7m	26.4	Least
Belize	n/a	12,000	4.82	Least
Benin	n/a	10,000	.16	Moderately
Bolivia	5	35,000	.43	Moderately
Botswana	2	12,000	.76	Moderately
Brazil	197	9.84m	5.7	Least
Bulgaria	20	20,000	2.57	Least
Canada	750	13.3m	42.8	Least
Chile	26	625,000	4.12	Least
China	3	16.9m	1.34	Most
Colombia	13	600,000	1.51	Moderately
Congo, D.R.	1	500	.02	Most
Costa Rica	2	150,000	4.04	Least
Croatia	4	100,000	2.14	Least
Cuba	1	60,000	.54	Most
Cyprus	5	80,000	10.55	Least
Czech Republic	35	35,000	3.4	Least
Denmark	12	2.58m	48.37	Least
Dominica	n/a	2,000	2.8	Least
Dominican Republic	1	25,000	3.5	Least
Ecuador	8	20,000	.15	Moderately
Egypt	31	440,000	.65	Moderately
El Salvador	1	40,000	.65	Moderately
Estonia	6	309,000	21.59	Least
Ethiopia	1	7,200	.01	Most
Fiji	2	7,500	.90	Moderately
Finland	36	2.27m	43.93	Least
France	128	9m	15.26	Least
Georgia	5	20,000	.4	Moderately
Germany	625	20.1m	24.28	Least
Ghana	2	20,000	.2	Moderately
Greece	23	1.33m	12.42	Least
Grenada	1	2,000	2.24	Least
Guatemala	7	65,000	.51	Moderately
Hong Kong (China)	49	3.46m	6.38	Least
Hungary	13	650,000	6.38	Least
Iceland	14	144,000	52.1	Least
India	3	4.5m	.45	Moderately
Indonesia	24	410,000	.18	Moderately
Iran	1	100,000	.5	Moderately
Ireland	14	1.04m	27.5	Least
Israel	23	1m	17.12	Least
Italy	219	13.42	23.29	Least
Jamaica	6	600,000	2.26	Least
Japan	357	38.64	30.53	Least
Jordan	8	87,500	1.92	Least
Kazakhstan	83	70,000	.42	Most
Kenya	47	45,000	.16	Most
Korea, South	11	16.4m	34.55	Moderately
Kuwait	2	100,000	5.02	Moderately
Kyrgyz Republic	n/a	10,000	.21	Moderately
Laos	n/a	2,000	.04	Most
Latvia	11	234,000	9.73	Least
Lebanon	19	227,500	6.39	Moderately
Lesotho	1	1,000	.08	Moderately
Luxembourg	13	95,000	21.72	Least
Macedonia	6	30,000	1.47	Least
Madagascar	3	8,000	.05	Least
Malawi	8	10,000	.10	Moderately
Malaysia	8	1.5m	6.88	Moderately
Maldives	n/a	2,000	.06	Moderately
Mali	n/a	2,000	.06	Moderately
Malta	4	40,000	10.21	Least
Mexico	167	2.5m	2.49	Moderately
Moldova	2	36,000	.60	Moderately
Mongolia	n/a	3,000	.11	Moderately
Morocco	27	120,000	.4	Moderately
Mozambique	1	15,000	.08	Moderately
Namibia	4	9,000	.55	Moderately
Nepal	n/a	190,000	.9	Moderately
Netherlands	70	7.28m	45.82	Least
New Zealand	60	1.49m	39.03	Least
Nigeria	5	100,000	.08	Moderately
Norway	21	2.36m	52.6	Least
Oman	1	50,000	2.04	Least
Pakistan	26	1.2m	.85	Moderately
Panama	3	45,000	1.6	Moderately
Papua New Guinea	2	2,000	.04	Moderately
Paraguay	4	20,000	.36	Moderately
Peru	15	400,000	1.5	Least
Philippines	93	50,000	.62	Least
Poland	161	2.8m	7.25	Least
Portugal	20	700,000	6.97	Least
Qatar	n/a	45,000	6.22	Moderately
Romania	30	600,000	2.68	Least
Russia	83	219m	1.8	Most
Saudi Arabia	6	300,000	1.4	Moderately
Senegal	1	30,000	.30	Moderately
Serbia (Yugoslavia)	6	80,000	.07	Moderately
Sierra Leone	n/a	2,000	.04	Most
Singapore	8	1.85m	44.58	Moderately
Slovakia	15	700,000	12.94	Least
Slovenia	6	460,000	23	Least
South Africa	58	1.8m	4.19	Least
Spain	49	5.49m	13.72	Least
Sri Lanka	4	65,000	.34	Moderately
Sudan	1	10,000	.03	Most
Suriname	1	10,000	2.32	Most
Swaziland	2	3,000	.28	Most
Sweden	29	5m	56.36	Least
Switzerland	115	2.4m	33.05	Least
Syria	n/a	30,000	.12	Moderately
Taiwan	15	6.4m	28.84	Least
Tajikistan	15	2,000	.03	Most
Thailand	12	1m	1.65	Moderately
Trinidad and Tobago	5	30,000	2.55	Least
Tunisia	4	110,000	1.16	Most
Turkey	24	2m	3.05	Moderately
Turkmenistan	1	2,000	.04	Most
Ukraine	35	500,000	.1	Moderately
United Arab Emirates	1	400,000	17.06	Moderately
United Kingdom	364	19.98m	33.58	Least
United States of America	7,600	153.84m	55.83	Least
Uruguay	5	300,000	11	Least
Uzbekistan	1	7,500	.03	Moderately
Venezuela	11	400,000	1.7	Moderately
Vietnam	5	100,000	.13	Moderately
Zimbabwe	10	30,000	.27	Moderately

### **Other Freedom House publications on press freedom issues**

*Press Freedom Worldwide 1994: Good News and Bad*

*Press Freedom Worldwide 1995: The Press: Pressed and Oppressed*

*Press Freedom 1996: The Journalist as Pariah*

*Press Freedom 1997: Law Epidemic*

*Press Freedom 1998: Global Warning: Press Controls Fuel the Asian Debacle*

*Press Freedom 1999: News of the Century*

*Censor Dot Gov: The Internet and Press Freedom 2000*

Annual January-February numbers of *Freedom at Issue* (1977-1989)

Annual January-February numbers of *Freedom Review* (1990-1998)

Essays in annual Freedom House yearbooks, *Freedom in the World*, 1980-1999

### **Books**

*Big Story: How the American Press and Television Reported and Interpreted the Crisis of Tet 1968 in Vietnam and Washington*, by Peter Braestrup, 1977, 1978, 1983, 1994

*Mass News Media and the Third World Challenge*, by Leonard R. Sussman, 1977

*To License a Journalist? A Landmark Decision in the Schmidt Case: The Opinion of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights*, 1986

*Glossary for International Communication: Warning of a Bloodless Dialect*, by Leonard R. Sussman 1986

*Power, the Press and the Technology of Freedom: The Coming Age of ISDN*, by Leonard R. Sussman  
1990

**The poster-size *Map of Press Freedom 2001*, in color, 20" x 28 1/2", is available on request from the Freedom House offices in New York and Washington, DC. The map in color is also accessible on the Internet with the full text of this study and other related material. See [www/freedomhouse.org](http://www/freedomhouse.org).**

## **What is Freedom House?**

For nearly 60 years, Freedom House has been a vital force for freedom worldwide.

Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the Democratic president, and Wendell L. Willkie, Roosevelt's Republican presidential opponent, were among the founders of Freedom House. The organization has vigorously and continuously opposed authoritarianism by fighting for policies and conducting programs to defend, secure, and expand the borders of freedom.

In 1941, when Western democracies—and the very concept of democracy—were under siege, Freedom House became a lively participant in the historic struggles of the twentieth century.

Indeed, the conflicts in which Freedom House has been engaged tell much of that century's history. The organization has fought on the side of freedom in struggles that can be evoked by simple words and phrases: the Marshall Plan, the Truman Doctrine, NATO, Hungarian Freedom Fighters, the Berlin Wall, the Prague Spring, apartheid in South Africa, the March on Washington, Vietnam, the boat people, Solidarity, Afghanistan, CSCE, Central America, the "No" vote in Chile, Tiananmen Square, the collapse of communism, and the democratic transition taking place in the former Communist bloc.

Today, Freedom House continues to serve as freedom's advocate through an array of U.S. and foreign-based research, education, and training initiatives that promote human rights, democratic governance, free market economics, rule of law, free news media, and American leadership in international affairs.

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