

# ATUMUN SOMMERCAMP 2025

United Nations Human Rights Council

UNHRC



## Position Papers

### Safeguarding journalists

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# Welcome from the secretariat

Dear Delegates,

The following document is a collection of Position Papers for the countries represented in our ATUMUN conference on the topic of Safeguarding Journalists. We expect you to have read the Study Guide before reading yours and other's Position Papers. It is of great importance that you read the Position Paper for your respective country before the session begins, as this will serve as the very basis of the negotiations.

When reading your Position Paper, it is important to note the central view that your country represents. We highly recommend that you compliment your Position Paper with your own research. The Position Papers are kept short in order for you to make your own conclusions on top of the positions that the paper reveals.

In order for you to be able to have a fruitful debate, we highly recommend that you read other countries' Position Papers as well. By doing so, you will get a better understanding of the topic and the different perspectives that the countries represent.

Lastly, we would like to present an official thanks to all of the co-authors of these Position Papers; Arthur Greve Bendixen, Camilla Kristoffersen, Dicte Havmøller Møberg, Freja Grønnegaard, Jonas Faber Jacobsen, Natasha Singh, Simon Mosgaard Jørgensen & Signe Ottesen

If you have any questions, we would like to remind you that our inbox is open at [atumunsekretariat@gmail.com](mailto:atumunsekretariat@gmail.com), and if you need any help with your research, we would like to refer to Questions a resolution should answer, Further reading, and Bloc positions in the Study Guide.

Sincerely, your secretariat,

Dicte Havmøller Møberg, Lucca Dybtved Kjærgaard, Nicoline Meng Aagaard Andersen,  
& Simon Mosgaard Jørgensen

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# Republic of Albania

The Republic of Albania, henceforth known as Albania, is ranked 80th in the world wide 2025 Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders. The rating is founded by the threats against media independence and freedom of the press due to conflicts of interest between both the political and business world, flawed legal framework and partisan regulation. Acts of intimidation are also used by both politicians and organised criminals against journalists. Journalists critical of the government or the opposition also risk being discredited. Additionally they risk limited access to state-held information that is already hard to obtain. Certain types of journalists are more at risk. Those investigating crime or corruption are often more at risk of receiving threats. Female journalists are further at increased risk of harassment, especially online, and gender-based discrimination within news organisations, though progress in regards to discrimination has been seen. Self-censorship is widespread, even though media outlets have created a platform for ethical self-regulation in Albania.<sup>1</sup>

Albania has come under fire following the recent election in May 2025. Journalists covering the election experienced verbal abuse, physical aggression in addition to interference with their reporting. These incidents raise questions of concern regarding the state of press freedom and the free flow of information to the public.<sup>2</sup>

Albania is vying for an EU-membership and thus tries to follow EUs policies and directives. Though following these directives, that have been set forth, is a step in the right direction, some say there has been a lack of high-level political commitment on the topic.<sup>3</sup> Albania has been working to address the EUs and the Council of Europe's action regarding SLAPPs as part of the action on freedom of expression and of the media. To address this problem judicial training regarding SLAPPs has been held, in cooperation with the organisations, to train legal professionals, judges, lawyers and prosecutors. The training focused on advancing the safety of journalists and anti-SLAPP standards.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/albania>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.article19.org/resources/albania-investigate-attacks-against-journalists/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://albaniandailynews.com/news/the-sisyphean-climb-of-media-freedom-in-albania>

<sup>4</sup>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/-/safeguarding-media-freedom-addressing-slapps-through-judicial-training-in-albania>

# People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

In the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (henceforth Algeria), journalists and freedom of the press is increasingly under pressure. The media landscape is increasingly deteriorating due to the political climate since President Abdelmadjid Tebboune's election in December 2019. While the leading media are privately owned, control over these is still widely exerted by the state. In part due to this, Algeria is ranked 126 of 180 by Reporters Without Borders when it comes to freedom of the press.<sup>5</sup>

Article 54 in the Algerian constitution guarantees freedom of the press, but it also enforces that the spreading of information and opinions should be done with respect for "*the nation's religious, moral and cultural characteristics and values*". However, in 2020 an amendment banned the spread of "false news" and "hate speech" with the goal of harming "national security and order" or "state security and national unity". Breaking this law is punishable by one to three years in prison. This has often been used to prosecute and convict journalists leading to self-censorship if not outright censorship.<sup>6</sup>

Since 2019 many media outlets have shut down due to economic struggle. This is in part due to limited advertising income and in part due to government subsidies not being available to outlets not supporting the government. This is possible due to a law passed in 2023 further restricting freedom of the press. The law bans media outlets from receiving overseas funding. Furthermore, dual-citizens are banned from owning media corporations.<sup>7 8</sup>

The safety of journalists in Algeria is also at a low. This is partly due to the government punishing critical reporters. On top of this social media threats and hate campaigns are waged against critical journalists by pro-government trolls. At the same time, no mechanisms are in place to protect journalists being threatened or intimidated.<sup>9</sup>

Historically Algeria has had close ties to European countries such as France and Spain, due to colonisation and later trade relations. Thus naturally leading to aligning with the USA and other Western countries. However, in more recent years Algeria has aligned more and more with Russia and China, due to strained foreign relations and fallouts with the US, France, and Spain. With that said, Algeria has typically held a bilateral standpoint when it comes to foreign relations. Thus being a mediator between the Western world and everyone else. This is a role still held by Algerian diplomats, even with straining relations.<sup>10 11</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/algeria>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-64423937>

<sup>9</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/algeria>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.iiss.org/publications/strategic-comments/2025/03/algerias-quixotic-approach-to-foreign-policy/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/algerias-foreign-policy-facing-crossroads>

# Federative Republic of Brazil

The Federative Republic of Brazil, henceforth Brazil, represents several unusual perspectives and problems in regards to the protection of journalists. The Brazilian constitution guarantees freedom of expression and the press. Whilst there is a legal regime dictating the operations and ownership of broadcasting media, the written press has almost no legal regulations. Brazil is ranked 63rd of 180 countries on the Reporters sans frontières press freedom index and ranks much higher on the political indicator than the security and social indicators.<sup>12</sup> This succinctly describes many of the blessings and curses of the press in Brazil.

The presidency of Jair Bolsonaro involved severe and repeated attacks on the media and its legitimacy. The election of Luis Inacio Lula de Silva resulted in a resurgence of respect for the press from the government.<sup>13</sup>

The Lula government has also presided over several controversies regarding the press and free speech, notably the so-called Fake News Bill which caused substantial controversy regarding the possibility of the government to harshly prosecute spreaders of fake news, including social media and web companies. A further point of worry is the uncertainty of how exactly fake news would be determined.<sup>14</sup> However, the bill has still not passed, even though it has been in the legislative process for years. The bill has received much opposition from the tech companies it is supposed to regulate.<sup>15,16</sup> It has, however, also received praise for being a leader in tackling fake news which undoubtedly is a major issue in Brazil.<sup>17</sup> In a world where many people get their news through informal and unofficial sources,<sup>18</sup> Brazil is both a case study in the complications of, and a major advocate for strong regulation of these platforms.

Brazil also has certain issues with regards to the protection of journalists from non-state actors. In areas of Brazil where drug trafficking is common, journalists often fear for retaliation if they report truthfully on the matter.<sup>19</sup> In the favelas (slums or ghettos) many journalists act under conditions more alike those of war reporters in conflict torn areas, often at risk to their own lives.<sup>20</sup> In spite of this the country lacks an effective system to protect journalists.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/brazil>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/5/5/a-brazilian-ministry-of-truth-is-in-the-making>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/03/alphabet-google-fake-news-law>

<sup>16</sup>

<https://brazilreports.com/to-avoid-being-blocked-in-brazil-telegram-deletes-message-against-fake-news-bill-by-order-of-the-supreme-court/4760/>

<sup>17</sup>

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/democraciaabierta/brazil-crack-down-fake-news-disinformation-lula-restore-trust-internet/>

<sup>18</sup>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/09/17/more-americans-regularly-get-news-on-tiktok-especially-young-adults/>

<sup>19</sup>

<https://latamjournalismreview.org/articles/drug-trafficking-causes-journalists-to-self-censor-in-brazil-paraguay-border-towns/>

<sup>20</sup>

<https://institute.aljazeera.net/en/ajr/article/risking-their-lives-frontlines-journalists-brazil%E2%80%99s-favelas-struggle-recognition>

<sup>21</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/brazil>

## Republic of Chile

The Republic of Chile, henceforth Chile, relationship with the press and freedom of expression is still, in no small part, marred by the former dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet. The Chilean constitution guarantees freedom of expression but with a number of dictatorship-era limits and conditions.<sup>22</sup> The Law on Freedom of Opinion and Information and the Exercise of Journalism now regulates journalism after 11 long years in the legislative process. The law regulates who exactly is classified as a journalist and guarantees certain rights to journalists such as the anonymity of sources.<sup>23</sup>

In 2019 Chile was struck by a series of non-violent and violent protests collectively known as the Social outbursts. During this time journalism in Chile was especially strained and many journalists were under personal danger. This also involved physical attacks on media institutions and journalists accused of representing the establishment.<sup>24</sup> These events show the danger that journalists can be in when reporting on contentious issues in dangerous times. Chile has, more than most, countries experience with the threats political conflicts can present to journalists.

In response to these events, the Chilean chamber of deputies passed the Law Regulating the Protection of Journalists and Persons Working in Communications.<sup>25</sup> This law seeks to broaden the group of people who can receive the rights and protections offered to journalists to the more broad “*workers in the world of communications*” and also extends the rights by defining aggressions more broadly to also include non-physical attacks. It also requires agents of the state, such as police officers to receive training on these rules and how to enforce them. The law also explicitly covers social issues by defining aggressions against female journalists and LGBTQ+ journalists.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports98/chile/Chilerpt-04.htm>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.marcachile.cl/en/dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-la-historia-de-chile-y-sus-desafios/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://safetyofjournalists.org/index/country/chile>

<sup>25</sup>

<https://latamjournalismreview.org/articles/chilean-chamber-of-deputies-approves-bill-regulating-safety-of-journalists-communications-workers/>

# People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China, henceforth known as China, regards the safeguarding of journalists to be an affair of the sovereign state. The foreign minister of China has addressed China's commitment to the future and well-being of humanity and all nations. However, China firmly rejects actions that interfere with the internal affairs of other countries and thereby disregard national sovereignty, security and the safety of people's lives under the pretext of human rights. China also firmly rejects any action or rhetoric that aims to impose one's own models and preferences on others or politicise, exploit and weaponize human rights.<sup>26</sup>

The constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees “*freedom of speech [and] of the press*”. However, the biggest Chinese media groups are state owned and controlled by the Chinese authorities. If a journalist wishes to receive and renew their press card they must download the *Study Xi, Strengthen the Country* application that can collect their personal data.<sup>27</sup>

China welcomes foreign journalists, including those working for the Chinese media, to report and work in China in accordance with law and regulations. China protects the legitimate rights and interests of news reporters and editors in accordance with the Chinese law, however, journalists are also obligated to follow the Chinese law and regulations.<sup>28</sup> Journalists, whether foreign or national, who fail to abide by the law can face consequences such as imprisonment and being charged with “picking quarrels and provoking trouble”, a charge used by Chinese authorities to suppress journalists, writers and human rights defenders.<sup>29</sup> Journalists can also be silenced with charges such as “subversion” and “espionage”<sup>30</sup>. Due to the systematic imprisonment of journalists, China remains the top jailer of journalists and press freedom advocates. There have also been reported instances of harassment, interference and surveillance of journalists covering sensitive topics. Furthermore, there have also been instances of journalists mistreated, killed and tortured.<sup>31</sup> When it comes to press freedom China is rated 178 out of 180 countries on RSF World Press Freedom Index<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> [https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202502/25/content\\_WS67bd1bdac6d0868f4e8eff09.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202502/25/content_WS67bd1bdac6d0868f4e8eff09.html)

<sup>27</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/china>

<sup>28</sup> [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202405/t20240530\\_11346877.html?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202405/t20240530_11346877.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.article19.org/resources/china-release-journalist-and-human-rights-defender-zhang-zhan/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/china>

<sup>31</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/chinese-regime-s-fierce-repression-journalists-hidden-behind-day-celebration>

<sup>32</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/china>

# Czech Republic

The Czech Republic, henceforth Czechia, is a global leader in press freedom, safety and independence. Czechia is ranked 10th out of 180 on the Reporters Sans Frontières press freedom index, doing particularly well on the legislative and social indicators.<sup>33</sup> It is also notable that Czechia has improved their rating substantially in recent years moving from 40th in 2021.<sup>34</sup> This can in no small part be attributed to the change of prime minister from the highly controversial Andrej Babiš who, during his premiership, also was the indirect owner of a major Czech media conglomerate. Babiš sold the conglomerate in 2023 after a failed presidential campaign and a tightening of conflict of interest law.<sup>35</sup>

Czechia is also characterised by a rather prominent set of operationally independent state broadcasters, Česká televize (Czech Television) and Český rozhlas (Czech Radio). During the Babiš administration, their independence had come under substantial threat via attempts to unseat the director.<sup>36</sup> The current government moved to strengthen its independence and also substantially improved funding.<sup>37</sup> State broadcasters are a contentious topic in regards to media independence and Czechia has some experience with the problems that face them, as well as how to solve them.

Czechia is generally a very safe country for journalists, the vast majority of threats and abuse faced by journalists are confined to the online sphere and do not materialise as physical threats. Many journalists in Czechia report being severely overworked and facing stress and low pay.<sup>38</sup>

The Czech republic is also a member of the European Union and is currently led by a pro-european government, this places Czechia as part of a bloc very strongly in favour of the upholding and extension of press rights and safety.

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<sup>33</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country-czechia>

<sup>34</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/index?year=2021>

<sup>35</sup>

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/former-czech-pm-babis-exits-media-sector-sells-publishing-house/>

<sup>36</sup>

<https://www.mfrr.eu/czech-republic-independence-of-public-broadcasters-must-be-insulated-against-future-attacks/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://english.radio.cz/license-fees-czech-public-radio-and-television-set-increase-may-8849721>

<sup>38</sup> <https://safetyofjournalists.org/index/country/czech-republic>

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

With the current escalation of fights between the militant groups led by M23 and Congolese security forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, henceforth DR Congo<sup>39</sup>, it has become increasingly dangerous to be a journalist in DR Congo. While the occupation is dangerous there is still widespread media coverage and many journalists in DR Congo. According to RSF DR Congo ranks 133 of 180 countries when it comes to freedom of the press.<sup>40</sup>

The media landscape is shaped by the strong presence of politicians supporting or outright owning different media outlets. This leads to media outlets lacking independence and having a bias in their reporting. Furthermore, it is common for different local groups to exert pressure on the media outlets in their area, further leading to biased reporting.<sup>41</sup>

In April of 2023 the 1996 press law was revised to make a more modern and protective legal framework for journalism. The law makes it harder to qualify as a journalist and adds a clause of bad faith for the publication of false information and allegations that disturb public order. Furthermore, it guarantees access to non-classified information of public interest. However, it does explicitly abolish prison sentences for press offences.<sup>42</sup>

In the current political landscape of DR Congo, journalists operate under great insecurity. There have been reports of Arrests, assaults, threats, forced disappearances, licence suspensions, looting, and ransacking. At the same time Congolese security forces are implicated in much of the abuse while going completely unpunished. Between January 2024 and January 2025 25 community radio stations were forced to shut down and 50 attacks on newsrooms and journalists were documented in North Kivu. Further danger comes from the fact that discouraging the armed forces via media is punishable by death during the wartime.<sup>43</sup>

DR Congo is a country at war and has suspended foreign relations with Rwanda, who support the M23 militia. However, DR Congo is also rich in minerals, giving them a favourable position on the world market and diplomatic scene. While many mines were once owned by US companies, they have been sold off to China in the latter years furthering DR Congo's relations with China. Furthermore, China supports the Congolese government by supplying drones and weaponry.<sup>44</sup>

Since 2010 a UN peacekeeping force called MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) has been present in DR Congo. The goal has been to protect civilians, humanitarian personnel, and human rights defenders. Additionally it was to support the government in stabilisation and peace consolidation efforts. These peacekeeping forces have, however, according to DR Congo, been ineffective and the government has called for them to leave the country. A slow disengagement plan is now in effect, however the mandate of the security force is still in effect.<sup>45 46</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violence-democratic-republic-congo>

<sup>40</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/democratic-republic-congo>

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violence-democratic-republic-congo>

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/background>

## Republic of France

The Republic of France, henceforth referred to as France, strongly affirms that journalists must be equally protected as civilians under international humanitarian law. As co-chair of the Group of Friends for the Protection of Journalists, France regards access to information as critical to the public good and finds it imperative to uphold freedom of expression, and thereby the safety of journalists and media workers, as essential to the functioning of democratic societies.<sup>47</sup>

France's national commitment to these principles is exemplified by its response to the 2015 Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack, in which eight journalists were killed. Following the attack, then-President François Hollande emphasized that freedom of expression is central to the identity of the French Republic, stating: "*The Republic equals freedom of expression; the Republic equals culture, creation; it equals pluralism and democracy.*"<sup>48</sup> These democratic ideals have remained consistent, with France continuing to implement safety mechanisms through organizations such as CFI, a media development agency supported by the French government. CFI works to promote freedom of expression, belief, and information, while strengthening free and independent media and supporting civil society in countries where misinformation threatens stability.<sup>49</sup>

France has also taken significant initiative on the global stage to advance journalist safety and press freedom. It led to the adoption of the first UN General Assembly resolution on the safety of journalists in 2013, which established November 2 as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, in honor of two French reporters killed in Mali. France has also helped launch the Information and Democracy Partnership in 2018 to promote reliable news and counter disinformation. Furthermore, in the UN Security Council, France was instrumental in the adoption of Resolution 1738, the first resolution focused specifically on the protection of journalists in armed conflict.<sup>50</sup>

These actions reflect France's enduring commitment to defending press freedom and ensuring the safety of journalists in times of conflict, in line with international humanitarian law.

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<sup>47</sup> <https://onu.delegfrance.org/on-this-world-we-reiterate-our-steadfast-commitment-to-the-fundamental-right-of>

<sup>48</sup> <https://nz.ambafrance.org/Attack-against-the-magazine>

<sup>49</sup> <https://cfi.fr/en/background>

<sup>50</sup> <https://onu.delegfrance.org/protection-of-journalists-12205>

# Federal Republic of Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany, henceforth known as Germany, sees freedom of the press as one of the pillars for democracy.<sup>51</sup> Germany is rated 11 out of 180 on the World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders. The German media landscape is a mix of private and public broadcasters, with a tradition for criticising both the government and the opposition. The independence of public media is protected by law, though the reality of their neutrality has been brought up for debate in recent years. Economically the traditional media outlets have been struggling in recent years. At the same time large companies are utilising the use of SLAPP with the purpose of intimidating journalists.

In general Germany is a relatively safe place for journalists and reporters, though a rise in increasingly violent attacks on social media has been seen, especially targeting female journalists and racialized journalists who focus on gender or racism.<sup>52</sup> At the same time Germany does have spyware software at their disposal, something that can be understandable in cases of national security, but also raises questions of it being a violation of the fundamental rights of citizens.<sup>53</sup>

A national safety mechanism is currently implemented in Germany in regards to the safety and protection of journalists and media outlets.<sup>54</sup> The Hannah Arendt Initiative is a mechanism, with the initiative and funding from the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. The purpose of the Hannah Arendt Initiative is to protect and support media professionals and outlets in crisis regions, such as Afghanistan, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. This is done through different projects such as training measures, scholarships and exile centers abroad, as well as measures to protect those exiled in Germany. The program is committed to state neutrality, with a focus on independent juries and unbiased criterias in regards to funding.<sup>55</sup>

Germany overall works together with the rest of the European Union in an effort to strengthen the protection and supporting the independence of journalists.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> <https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/media-and-communication/guaranteed-freedom-press>

<sup>52</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/germany>

<sup>53</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/766244/EPRS\\_BRI\(2024\)766244\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/766244/EPRS_BRI(2024)766244_EN.pdf)

<sup>54</sup>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/safety-journalists/un-plan-action/national-safety-mechanisms/germany#hannah-arendt-initiative>

<sup>55</sup> <https://hannah-arendt-initiative.de/hannah-arendt-initiative-english/>

<sup>56</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/766244/EPRS\\_BRI\(2024\)766244\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/766244/EPRS_BRI(2024)766244_EN.pdf)

# Republic of Ghana

The Republic of Ghana, henceforth known as Ghana, is a country that affirms its commitment to keeping journalists safe and freedom of the press. Being one of the most democratic African countries, Ghana enjoys a vast media landscape that remains free from the domination of a single media outlet. Reporters Without Borders rates Ghana as 52nd on the Global Press Freedom Index<sup>57</sup>, ranking higher than the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, and Japan. This ranking is ensured by the freedom of press stated as a right in the 1992 Ghanaian Constitution, as well as the Right of Information Act from 2019<sup>58</sup>.

Despite the large amount of freedom of the press in Ghana, there have been cases of harassment and assault on journalists covering mining sites and the environment<sup>59</sup>. Where journalists covering other occasionally controversial topics are able to avoid physical altercations and harassment. The death of investigative reporter Ahmed Hussein-Suale exemplified how police brutality goes unpenalized, a problem which has only been growing larger since Hussein-Suale's death in 2019.

The harassment and assault on journalists is not the only sign of the weakening of press freedom. More and more news outlets are owned by members of the Ghanaian parliament which represent the governmental interest of control and regulation of the media. This causes a strain between governmental influence, private ownership, and editorial independence. Thus the press self-censors in order to avoid trouble with the government, which can lead to moral compromises in the press. With parliament members owning news outlets, the government can exploit ownership structures, enabling the publishing of articles with a specific political affiliation<sup>60</sup>. These structures undermine the independence and freedom of journalists and the press.

The Republic of Ghana often collaborates with other Commonwealth<sup>61</sup> member states.

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<sup>57</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/index>

<sup>58</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/ghana>

<sup>59</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/ghana-rsf-condemns-assault-three-environmental-journalists-reporting-mining-site>

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/23311886.2025.2483391>

<sup>61</sup> <https://thecommonwealth.org/our-member-countries>

## Republic of Iceland

The Republic of Iceland, henceforth known as Iceland, sees freedom of expression as a vital part of democracy. Iceland condemns all attacks on journalists and believes they must be legally protected. Both governments and civilians must work towards media freedom and journalists' safety<sup>62</sup>. Iceland is a country who believes in freedom of expression, however, rules have been implemented to fight against harassment. In Iceland, discriminatory slurs against other races, sexual orientations and religion<sup>63</sup>. Journalists are also protected from disclosing their sources in criminal cases. There are no legal systems preventing journalists from reporting on political and religious affairs. Therefore, they can generally write about anything as long as they do it without discrimination.

Journalists in Iceland are not immune to criminal charges, even if the crime is being committed as part of their job. However, no one has been sent to prison for vilification in Iceland over the last few decades. Iceland is a country with strong institutions and a legal system which protects journalists from physical attacks. However, Iceland is a small country with a relatively small population, which means they are close to one another. This creates high social pressure on journalists, making them vulnerable to verbal attacks. The public puts their image under scrutiny, questioning their integrity and independence. Furthermore, the smaller market increases the risk of job insecurity for Icelandic journalists<sup>64</sup>.

A study by the University of Iceland<sup>65</sup> reveals the increasing number of attacks on journalists poses a serious threat to democratic discourse. Not only that, but today populist politicians are more inclined to distort the truth and rely on emotional appeals to connect with voters, rather than basing their arguments on factual information. Distrust in the media and a lack of critical sources pose a significant threat to one's ability to distinguish fact from fiction. An issue Iceland takes seriously. Iceland has previously demonstrated a commitment to protecting foreign journalists, supporting their ability to report freely and truthfully. Safeguarding independent journalism from censorship and accusations of "fake news" remains a key priority for the country. However, achieving this goal is complicated by legal challenges, particularly when such efforts conflict with policies in the European Union and other nations.

Currently, Iceland is not a part of the European Union, but they often collaborate with European states.

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<sup>62</sup>

<https://www.government.is/diplomatic-missions/embassy-article/2021/12/09/Statement-by-Iceland-in-informal-exchange-of-views-on-media-freedom-and-safety-of-journalists/>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.refworld.org/reference/annualreport/freehou/2015/en/107271>

<sup>64</sup> <https://safetyofjournalists.org/index/country/iceland>

<sup>65</sup> <https://english.hi.is/news/distrust-and-attacks-journalists-rise>

# Japan

Japan takes pride in a constitution that explicitly protects the freedom of the press. In article 21 it is stated that the people of Japan has a right to free speech without censorship<sup>66</sup>. However, in 2016 an UN human rights expert raised concerns<sup>67</sup> regarding freedom of the press. One of these concerns being a state secrecy law passed in 2013. This law allows government officials to mark information as “Special secrets”. Some of these covered up secrets have been revealed to be things such as, secret dealings with the US and the introduction of nuclear weapons on Japanese soil. Many Japanese newspapers argue that this law goes against their democratic rights. Whistleblowers face 10 years of prison time and journalists reporting leaked information face 5 years<sup>68</sup>.

In 2024 the public, including journalists, were banned from coming close to defence facilities and infrastructure deemed to be of “interest of national security”. Moreover, the government and NGOs exerts pressure on journalists to self-censor content that could be sensitive. Examples of this could be cases concerning sexual harassment or corruption. Journalist also often get sued for their content<sup>69</sup>. All this combined leads to Japan ranking nr. 66 on the world press freedom index of 2025. Which is a slow improvement of former years. Where the position has jumped back and forth ranging from 73-61th place over the past 10 years<sup>70</sup>.

Other examples of Japan violating the guidelines of journalist protection and freedom of speech, is the Tokyo olympics. In 2021 leading up to the Tokyo Olympics, the president of the event stated that all international journalists would be required to wear a GPS-tracker. The reason for this being Covid-19 safety. However, the International Federation of Journalists said that this was a violation of journalists rights. Thus they urged the Olympics committee to find alternative ways of ensuring safety against Covid-19.

Internationally Japanese journalists have lost their lives in Myanmar, Syria, and Gaza. However, this has induced little to no response from Japan. When a journalist was held hostage in Syria, a video was released of the journalist saying the Japanese government didn’t care about him<sup>71</sup>. In another case, a journalist who died in Gaza got a memorial where just 50 people showed up.

Japan has diplomatic relations with the US, Europe, and parts of Asia. However, all of these relationships come with some restraints. These are due to Japan’s actions during World War 2 and it not yet being fully integrated in the Western world.<sup>72</sup>

Further reading:

<https://afe.easia.columbia.edu/japan/japanworkbook/fpdefense/foreign.htm>

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<sup>66</sup> [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/constitution\\_and\\_government\\_of\\_japan/constitution\\_e.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/constitution_and_government_of_japan/constitution_e.html)

<sup>67</sup>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2016/04/japan-un-rights-expert-warns-serious-threats-independence-press>

<sup>68</sup> <https://cpj.org/2014/11/japans-state-secrets-law-a-minefield-for-journalists/>

<sup>69</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/japan>

<sup>70</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/index?year=2025>

<sup>71</sup> <https://cpj.org/2016/03/hostage-video-shows-japanese-journalist-jumpei-yas/>

<sup>72</sup> <https://afe.easia.columbia.edu/japan/japanworkbook/fpdefense/foreign.htm>

# Republic of Kenya

The Republic of Kenya, henceforth referred to as Kenya, has undertaken several initiatives to ensure freedom of the press. The official Media Council of Kenya affirms that “*journalists are not just reporters, but vital architects of democracy.*”. The Council is adopting a proactive approach to empowering journalists, especially those reporting during crises, by providing resources and support to safeguard press freedom.<sup>73</sup> The National Mechanism for the Safety & Protection of Journalists in Kenya is a body composed of various stakeholders, including the government, security forces, and media representatives, among others. Its objectives include preventing violence against journalists, protecting them during times of distress, and prosecuting perpetrators. These measures aim to create a safe and secure environment for journalists and media practitioners in Kenya.<sup>74</sup>

The Constitution of Kenya includes several provisions that guarantee freedom of expression and the public’s right to information. Article 33 affirms every person’s right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information, artistic creativity, academic freedom, and scientific research. However, this right does not extend to propaganda for war, incitement to violence, hate speech, or advocacy of hatred based on discrimination or likely to cause harm. Individuals must also respect the rights and reputations of others when exercising this freedom.<sup>75</sup> Article 34 prohibits state interference, censorship, or penalties for opinions expressed through the media, while ensuring that broadcasting remains independent of political or commercial control. It further guarantees that state-owned media operates impartially and independently while establishing independent regulatory bodies to set and enforce media standards.<sup>76</sup> Article 35 states that all Kenyan citizens have the right to access information held by the State and non-government actors when required to exercise or protect any right or fundamental freedom. It also grants individuals the right to request correction or deletion of false or misleading information and obligates the state to publish and publicize important national information.<sup>77</sup>

Given that Kenyan law supports freedom of expression and recognizes the safeguarding of this freedom as vital to protecting democracy, Kenya maintains that these principles must also be upheld in conflict zones. Journalists must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law, as their role in publicizing accurate information is critical to maintaining transparency and accountability.

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<sup>73</sup> <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke/the-indispensable-role-of-journalists-in-safeguarding-democracy/>

<sup>74</sup>

<https://mediacouncil.or.ke/sites/default/files/downloads/Safety%20Mechanism%20for%20Journalists%2003.pdf>

<sup>75</sup>

<https://www.klrc.go.ke/index.php/constitution-of-kenya/112-chapter-four-the-bill-of-rights/part-2-rights-and-fundamental-freedoms/199-33-freedom-of-expression>

<sup>76</sup>

<https://www.klrc.go.ke/index.php/constitution-of-kenya/112-chapter-four-the-bill-of-rights/part-2-rights-and-fundamental-freedoms/200-34-freedom-of-the-media>

<sup>77</sup>

<https://www.klrc.go.ke/index.php/constitution-of-kenya/112-chapter-four-the-bill-of-rights/part-2-rights-and-fundamental-freedoms/201-35-access-to-information>

## United Mexican States

The United Mexican States, henceforth referred to as Mexico, has a big problem with protecting its journalists. Officially, freedom of the press is guaranteed by the Mexican constitution and a law regarding freedom of the press from 1917. However, in practice no one is preventing censorship imposed with threats or attacks. Another problem resulting in Mexico being one of the most dangerous and deadliest countries for journalists, comes from the newspaper industry being a monopoly and the telecom industry being a duopoly. This makes it very hard for independent organisations and journalists to get on the market. Furthermore, Mexico took a massive economic hit during Covid-19, thus a lot of journalists, especially those freelancing, have had to do other jobs. Lastly, between the government's crippling judicial system and organized crime, the physical safety of journalists is also at risk. Especially, if they cover sensitive political issues or crime. Since 2000, over 150 journalists have died and 28 have gone missing<sup>78</sup>.

In 2024 Reporters without borders stepped in and held the current president accountable for her campaign promises, on ending impunity for crimes against journalists. Specifically improving coordination with prosecutors and investigations to ensure that all deaths and disappearances of journalists are handled properly. Furthermore there were also mechanisms put into place to protect journalists. In 2024 600 journalists were protected do to this mechanism<sup>79</sup>. Mexico's rank on the world press freedom index slightly improved. However, they are still only ranked 124 out of 180 countries<sup>80</sup>.

There are currently two different Mexican states that have moved forward with proposals on how to further safeguard journalists. In Michoacán the initiative is led by local journalists. The main goal is to get hate speech against journalists included as an aggravating factor in discrimination crimes. It also proposes eliminating legal provisions used to persecute journalists, such as the crime of "attacks on honor", still in force in the state. In Puebla they have taken a completely different path, on paper seeking to protect journalists by requiring journalists to protect themselves and other journalists. The criticism on this proposal has been severe. Among other things it is criticised that the initiative is problematic because it's too disorganised and thus impossible to apply. It further includes an article stating journalists must refrain from invading private lives. Finally, there are also concerns as to what the government could and would deem truthful<sup>81</sup>.

Mexico is a founding and active member of several organisations, both global and regional, especially in Latin America. Despite this Mexico maintains an independent view, and is not shy of opposing decisions taken by the international forum. For example Mexico has opposed many of the US interventions in South America<sup>82</sup>.

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<sup>78</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/mexico>

<sup>79</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/rsf-mexico-get-authorities-give-new-pledges-end-impunity-crimes-against-journalists>

<sup>80</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/index?year=2025>

<sup>81</sup> <https://latamjournalismreview.org/articles/two-mexican-states-take-opposing-paths-on-journalist-protection/>

<sup>82</sup> [https://photius.com/countries/mexico/government/mexico\\_government\\_membership\\_in\\_intern~496.html](https://photius.com/countries/mexico/government/mexico_government_membership_in_intern~496.html)

## State of Qatar

The state of Qatar, henceforth known as Qatar, sees itself as a country of development and strength. Within the country of Qatar, there is critical media known for publishing articles challenging the political narrative. Furthermore, Qatar has a media platform, where members of society are able to discuss the struggles of their nation.<sup>83</sup>

However, Qatar deems that the media should be monitored and restricted to protect the members of their society from villainous narratives. The media (both local and foreign) should stay in public spaces. An example was seen when a Norwegian reporter was detained for trespassing in 2021. Despite them having the proper working credentials<sup>84</sup>. When the World Cup was held in Qatar in 2022, journalists published the harsh truth about reporting from Qatar. Finding migrant sources willing to describe the work environment was nearly impossible, and the state had a lack of transparency. Still, the critical media posted stories about the work environment surrounding the World Cup. These statements were condemned by Qatar. *“You need to be here. Reporting from far away using sources that can give you anecdotal evidence when you can't go see places or talk to people is always going to be a little risky. And of course, some of the reporting that has been done is just plain lazy,”* said Craig LaMay, Director of the Journalism and Strategic Communication Program at Northwestern University in Qatar.

Despite progress in the country, journalists in Qatar face significant issues when reporting the country's internal affairs and political state. The country criminalises spreading “fake news” online. However, the interpretation of “fake news” seems to be subjective to the Emir and his inner circle.<sup>85</sup> This contributes to journalists reporting on international affairs rather than risking sanctions and imprisonment.

Qatar takes an active stance in regards to their foreign politics. They donate money to fight poverty, climate change, etc. They are willing to partner with other nations to implement these initiatives, and act as a protector of the implementation of human rights both at home and abroad.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> <https://dohanews.co/press-freedom-in-qatar-where-does-it-stand/>

<sup>84</sup>

<https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/news/strict-media-laws-no-public-data-sources-risk-what-its-be-journalists-qatar>

<sup>85</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/qatar>

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.gco.gov.qa/en/media-centre/in-focus/qatar-and-the-un/>

# Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea, henceforth South Korea, is a country which respects media freedom and political differences. However, businesses and traditions can prevent journalists from reporting on certain issues. Furthermore, populist tendencies in the political landscape have fostered some hatred of journalists. South Korea, thus, only ranks as 61/180 on Reporters Without Borders index on press freedom.<sup>87</sup>

The media landscape in South Korea is rich. It is filled with many different actors, and is quite competitive. However, the competition is mainly between a couple powerful portals, which dominates the online news distribution. At the same time consumption of news has been falling, especially so for the younger generation. This fact is even true when taking social media into account. Even though social media consumption of news has increased, the total online (including social media) consumption has been falling.<sup>88</sup>

In terms of the legal framework of journalism in South Korea, the current legislation meets international standards on freedom of information. However, defamation can be punishable by up to seven years in prison, which can lead to self-censorship by the media. Furthermore, spreading sensitive information on North Korea can also result in prison sentences of up to seven years. In general political actors respect freedom of the press. Unfortunately, there is political polarisation in the media landscape, and politicians tend to favour media companies when they support them and their viewpoints.<sup>89</sup>

Generally, journalists can work in relative safety. There are, however, some problems with online harassment. About 30% of journalists indicate they have been victims of harassment in relation to their profession. Over 40% of the harassed journalists said they didn't receive adequate support, indicating a further need for legal support.<sup>90</sup>

South Korea has had a stable foreign policy amidst changing administrations. However, the current Republic of Korea was only established in 1987, and is still to this day at war with North Korea. Therefore, South Korea has valued its military allies highly, especially the US. With this said, the general working method for South Korean Diplomats has been through multilateralism, cooperation, soft power and public diplomacy, and trading.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/south-korea>

<sup>88</sup> <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/digital-news-report/2024/south-korea>

<sup>89</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/south-korea>

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> <https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/37082/chapter-abstract/371721695?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

## Romania

Romania is rated 55th by the Reporters Without Borders' Global Press Freedom Index as of 2025, falling from the 53rd place since 2024<sup>92</sup>. Being the highest rated country in Southeastern Europe, has a relatively pluralistic media landscape, and legislation that allows large amounts of freedom in the media. This freedom of the media is what the Romanian state wishes to be able to keep, however, there has been no new legislation introduced to protect or restrict the media since the abolishment of the communist government of The People's Republic of Romania in 1989<sup>93</sup>, a governmental decision which has been criticised often by the RSF and journalists working in the Romanian state.

Recently, the safety of journalists in Romania has become a bigger concern. Investigative journalist Emilia Sercan's private images were leaked to several adult websites, after she revealed the Romanian Prime Minister had plagiarised his PhD thesis. The evidence that Sercan gave the police in an attempt to shut down the sites was leaked in the following days, with several sites attempting to create a smear campaign to discredit Sercan and her work<sup>94</sup>. While Sercan attempted to take legal action, the Romanian Supreme Court originally closed the case without a prosecution, a ruling which was caused by errors and delays. This led to massive outbursts from other Romanian journalists and international organisations, such as the RSF, which caused the case to be reopened in 2024. While the reopening of the case has been the Romanian Government's attempt at rectifying an error committed by the judicial system, the case has left many journalists with a distrust and fear of the state.

While Romania attempts to uphold its principles of freedom when it comes to the press, the Romanian state has over time come to restrict its journalists more and more. Within the last decade, cases of harassment of journalists have gone up, and more media outlets are being purchased and owned by politicians in office. This is caused by the belief that the government is the best institution to control misinformation and polarisation of the country.<sup>95</sup>

As a member of the EU, Romania tends to work closely with other EU member states.

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<sup>92</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/index>

<sup>93</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/place/Romania/National-communism>

<sup>94</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/romania-rsf-and-its-partners-demand-renewed-investigation-crimes-against-journalist>

<sup>95</sup> <https://www.athensjournals.gr/law/2024-1-X-Y-Iancu1.pdf> D. Iancu, *Press Freedom in Romania*, published 2024

## Republic of South Africa

The republic of South Africa, henceforth South Africa, regards freedom of the press as a crucial part of ensuring a healthy democracy. Access to credible, factual, reliable and unbiased information, is key to keeping the public accurately informed. In South Africa media freedom is a constitutionally upheld right. *“Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes freedom of the press and other media”*.<sup>96</sup> South Africa is a leading country in Africa when it comes to press freedom with the rating of 27 out of 180 countries on RSF World Press Freedom Index.<sup>97</sup>

However, South Africa has not always been a leading country on press freedom. Many South Africans still remember the days of apartheid, where the media was controlled by the government and censorship laws were used to inhibit freedom of speech and to ban the media when it went against state agenda. South Africa has made major progress since 1994<sup>98</sup>, especially with the 1996 Constitution, which protects press freedom. There are, however, still apartheid-era and anti-terrorism laws being used to limit reporting on institutions viewed as being in the “national interest”. A new law provides penalties of up to 6 months in prison for spreading misinformation about the Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, there are still instances of journalists being verbally attacked, accused of racism or harassed by political leaders and activists. There are also cases of police violence against journalists and investigative reporters are surveyed by the police.<sup>99</sup> The attempts to intimidate and silence journalists tend to be targeting journalists who are publishing investigative stories relating to service delivery and corruption. Furthermore, there has been a rise in online attacks on female journalists by political party members and online trolls.<sup>100</sup>

There have been efforts to mitigate the risks mentioned above through intervention programmes by media bodies such as the South African National Editors Forum (SANEF). Notable victories in court regarding upholding media freedom<sup>101</sup> and legal reforms have also been reached. One such case is the 2024 abolition of the common law relating to the crime of defamation<sup>102</sup>. However, there are still growing concerns about the declining media freedom locally which intensifies in periods of intense political contestation.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> <https://www.gov.za/blog/30-years-press-freedom>

<sup>97</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/south-africa>

<sup>98</sup> <https://www.gov.za/blog/30-years-press-freedom>

<sup>99</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/south-africa>

<sup>100</sup> <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389703>

<sup>101</sup> <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389703>

<sup>102</sup>

<https://cpj.org/2024/04/cpj-welcomes-south-africas-abolition-of-criminal-defamation-calls-for-further-legal-reforms/>

<sup>103</sup> <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389703>

# Swiss Confederation

Media freedom is protected by Article 17 in the constitution of Swiss Confederation, henceforth known as Switzerland<sup>104</sup>. Switzerland is rated the 9th highest in the Reporters without Borders Press Freedom Index in 2025 and 2024. This position comes from the overall very safe and protective environment Switzerland fosters for reporters. There has in later years been criticism over the lack of non-public-service media, with the fall in popularity of print media. The issue of self-censorship has also been debated in recent years, especially in regards to topics such as gender and race.<sup>105</sup>

In 2023 Switzerland announced a national action plan regarding the safety of media professionals. The action plan was announced after a raise in hostility and hate speech against media professionals. The action plan contains four main focus points: 1) Improve the acknowledgement of the role of media professionals. 2) Improve the protection from threats and hate speech online. 3) Improve the protection of media professionals in the physical world. 4) Improve the knowledge regarding the misuse of SLAPPs against media professionals.<sup>106</sup> Studies into SLAPPs were also published by the Swiss Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM) in 2024.<sup>107</sup>

Switzerland announced in January 2025 a 95,000 CHF donation to UNESCO's Multi-Donor Programme on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists. This contribution builds on the original contribution made in 2018 and highlights Switzerland's commitment to democracy, freedom of the press, and the safety of journalists on a global scale. The efforts of this programme includes promoting freedom of expression, strengthening media and information literacy, as well as supporting the development of media.<sup>108</sup> Other donors include countries such as Iceland, France and Japan<sup>109</sup>

Further reading:

<https://rm.coe.int/switzerland-reply-en-attempts-to-silence-french-journalist-thomas-diet/1680b21008>

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<sup>104</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/switzerland-reply-en-attempts-to-silence-french-journalist-thomas-diet/1680b21008>

<sup>105</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/switzerland>

<sup>106</sup>

<https://www.bakom.admin.ch/bakom/de/home/elektronische-medien/medienpolitik/nationaleraktionsplan.html>

<sup>107</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/switzerland-reply-en-attempts-to-silence-french-journalist-thomas-diet/1680b21008>

<sup>108</sup>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/switzerland-announces-new-contribution-unescos-multi-donor-programme-freedom-expression-and-safety>

<sup>109</sup>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/multi-donor-programme-freedom-expression-and-safety-journalists/donors?hub=67098>

## Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam - henceforth Vietnam officially recognises the freedoms of speech, press, and association in its constitution, in practice however, things are a little different. The Vietnamese press law officially designates the role of the press as being a medium for: communication for social life, the voice of the Party (Communist Party of Vietnam) and the state, socio-political organizations, socio-politico-professional, social organizations, and socio-professional organizations and as a forum of the people.<sup>110</sup> It should be clear that the Vietnamese press serves two concurrent goals, as a public forum, and as a tool of the state. This obviously represents some challenge to independent and unbiased journalism.

Vietnam is ranked 173rd of 180 countries in the press-freedom index of Reporters sans frontières which is of course thoroughly deficient by the standards of press freedom in the western world.<sup>111</sup> However, it can also be argued that the media simply serves other public goods than in western countries. Instead of openness and freedom of information, the media provide stability and unity.

Vietnam has also on occasion conducted policy in a manner more aligned with western liberal ideals, in 2017 there was a campaign conducted to support the protection and safety of journalists in Vietnam by the Ministry of Information and Communications with the support of UNESCO and the Ministry of Public Security, the campaign focused on cooperation between journalists and the authorities in protecting them from threats of violence and ensure punishments for those who commit such.<sup>112</sup>

Vietnam has also taken a particularly strong stance in challenging the independence and impunity of social media. The government justified its policy in the need for government oversight to prevent fake news and fake advertising.<sup>113</sup> It has however also been criticised as giving the government almost complete control over these platforms and that it can be used to prevent criticism of the government and spy on its citizens.<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> <https://wipolex-res.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/vn/vn111en.html>

<sup>111</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/country/vietnam>

<sup>112</sup> <https://vietnam.un.org/en/7529-law-enforcement-and-media-agencies-promote-safety-journalists-viet-nam>

<sup>113</sup>

<https://vietnamnews.vn/politics-laws/1666829/viet-nam-to-stiffen-regulations-on-violating-social-network-platforms.html>

<sup>114</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/12/11/vietnam-repeal-harmful-internet-laws>