



WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2013

**REPORTERS
WITHOUT BORDERS**
FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

2013 PRESS FREEDOM INDEX



DASHED HOPES FOLLOW SPRING

Reporters Without Borders launches media freedom “indicator”

After the “Arab springs” and other protest movements that prompted many rises and falls in last year’s index, the 2013 Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index marks a return to a more usual configuration.

The ranking of most countries is no longer attributable to dramatic political developments. This year’s index is a better reflection of the attitudes and intentions of governments towards media freedom in the medium or long term.

The same three European countries that headed the index last year hold the top three positions again this year. For the third year running, **Finland** has distinguished itself as the country that most respects media freedom. It is followed by the **Netherlands** and **Norway**.

Although many criteria are considered, ranging from legislation to violence against journalists, democratic countries occupy the top of the index while dictatorial countries occupy the last three positions. Again it is the same three as last year – **Turkmenistan**, **North Korea** and **Eritrea**.

“The Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders does not take direct account of the kind of political system but it is clear that democracies provide better protection for the freedom to produce and circulate accurate news and information than countries where human rights are flouted,” Reporters Without Borders secretary-general Christophe Deloire said.

“In dictatorships, news providers and their families are exposed to ruthless reprisals, while in democracies news providers have to cope with the media’s economic crises and conflicts of interest. While their situation is not always comparable, we should pay tribute to all those who resist pressure whether it is aggressively focused or diffuse.”

Coinciding with the release of its 2013 Press Freedom Index, Reporters Without Borders is for the first time publishing an annual global “indicator” of worldwide media freedom.

This new analytic tool measures the overall level of freedom of information in the world and the performance of the world’s governments in their entirety as regards this key freedom

In view of the emergence of new technologies and the interdependence of governments and peoples, the freedom to produce and circulate news and information needs to be evaluated at the planetary as well as national level. Today, in 2013, the media freedom “indicator” stands at 3395, a point of reference for the years to come¹.

The indicator can also be broken down by region and, by means of weighting based on the population of each region, can be used to produce a score from zero to 100 in which zero represents total respect for media freedom.

This produces a score of 17.5 for Europe², 30.0 for the Americas, 34.3 for Africa, 42.2 for Asia-Pacific and 45.3 for the former Soviet republics. Despite the Arab springs, the Middle East and North Africa region comes last with 48.5.

The high number of journalists and netizens killed in the course of their work in 2012 (the

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org

1. The method of compiling the press freedom index has changed slightly and the range of criteria has been expanded in order to better evaluate all the factors that determine the level of freedom of information in a country. The indicator is the sum of the scores of all the countries in the press freedom index. Like individual country scores, the higher the figure, the worse the situation. The lower the figure, the better (see “How we compiled the 2013 Press Freedom Index”).

2. The region consists of the European Union, Norway, Switzerland and the Balkans.



deadliest year ever registered by Reporters Without Borders in its annual roundup), naturally had an a significant impact on the ranking of the countries where these murders took place, above all **Somalia** (175th, -11), **Syria** (176th, 0), **Mexico** (153rd, -4) and **Pakistan** (159th, -8).

From top to bottom

The Nordic countries have again demonstrated their ability to maintain an optimal environment for news providers. **Finland** (1st, 0), **Netherlands** (2nd, +1) and **Norway** (3rd, -2) have held on to the first three places. **Canada** (20th, -10) only just avoided dropping out of the top 20. **Andorra** (5th) and **Liechtenstein** (7th) have entered the index for the first time just behind the three leaders.

At the other end of the index, the same three countries as ever – **Turkmenistan**, **North Korea** and **Eritrea** – occupy the last three places in the index. Kim Jong-un's arrival at the head of the Hermit Kingdom has not in any way changed the regime's absolute control of news and information. **Eritrea** (179th, 0), which was recently shaken by a brief mutiny by soldiers at the information ministry, continues to be a vast open prison for its people and lets journalists die in detention. Despite its reformist discourse, the Turkmen regime has not yielded an inch of its totalitarian control of the media.

For the second year running, the bottom three countries are immediately preceded by **Syria** (176th, 0), where a deadly information war is being waged, and **Somalia** (175th, -11), which has had a deadly year for journalists. **Iran** (174th, +1), **China** (173rd, +1), **Vietnam** (unchanged at 172nd), **Cuba** (171st, -4), **Sudan** (170th, 0) and **Yemen** (169th, +2) complete the list of the ten countries that respect media freedom least. Not content with imprisoning journalists and netizens, Iran also harasses the relatives of journalists, including the relatives of those who are abroad.

Big rises...

Malawi (75th, +71) registered the biggest leap in the index, almost returning to the position it held

before the excesses at the end of the Mutharika administration. **Côte d'Ivoire** (96th, +63), which is emerging from the post-electoral crisis between the supporters of Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara, has also soared, attaining its best position since 2003.

Burma (151st, +18) continued the ascent begun in last year's index. Previously, it had been in the bottom 15 every year since 2002 but now, thanks to the Burmese spring's unprecedented reforms, it has reached its best-ever position. **Afghanistan** (128th, +22) also registered a significant rise thanks to the fact that no journalists are in prison. It is nonetheless facing many challenges, especially with the withdrawal of foreign troops.

...and big falls

Mali (99th, -74) registered the biggest fall in the index as a result of all the turmoil in 2012. The military coup in Bamako on 22 March and the north's takeover by armed Islamists and Tuareg separatists exposed the media in the north to censorship and violence. **Tanzania** (70th, -36) sank more than 30 places because, in the space of four months, a journalist was killed while covering a demonstration and another was murdered.

Buffeted by social and economic protests, the **Sultanate of Oman** (141st) sank 24 places, the biggest fall in the Middle East and North Africa in 2012. Some 50 netizens and bloggers were prosecuted on lèse majesté or cyber-crime charges in 2012. No fewer than 28 were convicted in December alone, in trials that trampled on defence rights.

Journalists in **Israel** (112th, -20) enjoy real freedom of expression despite the existence of military censorship but the country fell in the index because of the Israeli military's targeting of journalists in the Palestinian Territories.

In Asia, **Japan** (53rd, -31) has been affected by a lack of transparency and almost zero respect for access to information on subjects directly or indirectly related to Fukushima. This sharp fall should sound an alarm. **Malaysia** (145th, -23) has fallen to its lowest-ever position because access to information is becoming more and

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



more limited. The same situation prevails in **Cambodia** (143rd, -26), where authoritarianism and censorship are on the increase. **Macedonia** (116th, -22) has also fallen more than 20 places following the arbitrary withdrawal of media licences and deterioration in the environment for journalists.

Varied impact of major protest movements

Last year's index was marked by the Arab spring's major news developments and the heavy price paid by those covering the protest movements. A range of scenarios has been seen in 2012, including countries such as **Tunisia**, **Egypt** and **Libya**, where regime change has taken place, countries such as **Syria** and **Bahrain** where uprisings and the resulting repression are still ongoing, and countries such as **Morocco**, **Algeria**, **Oman**, **Jordan** and **Saudi Arabia**, where the authorities have used promises and compromise to defuse calls for political and/or social and economic change.

Some of the new governments spawned by these protests movements have turned on the journalists and netizens who covered these movements' demands and aspirations for more freedom. What with legal voids, arbitrary appointments of state media chiefs, physical attacks, trials and a lack of transparency, **Tunisia** (138th, -4) and **Egypt** (158th, +8) have remained at a deplorable level in the index and have highlighted the stumbling blocks that **Libya** (131st, +23) should avoid in order to maintain its transition to a free press.

The deadliest country for journalists in 2012 was **Syria** (176th, 0), where journalists and netizens are the victims of an information war waged by both the Assad regime, which stops at nothing in order to crack down and impose a news blackout, and by opposition factions that are increasingly intolerant of dissent. In **Bahrain** (165th, +8) the repression let up slightly, while in **Yemen** (169th, +2) the prospects continue to be disturbing despite a change of government. **Oman** (141st, -24) fell sharply because of a wave of arrests of netizens.

Other countries hit by protests saw changes for the better and worse. **Vietnam** (172nd, 0) failed to recover the six places it lost in the previous index. The world's second biggest prison for netizens, it has remained in the bottom ten. **Uganda** (104th, +35) has recovered a more appropriate position although it has not gone back to where it was before cracking down on protests in 2011.

Azerbaijan (156th, +6) and **Belarus** (157th, +11) both fell last year after using violence to suppress opposition demonstrations and this year they just moved back towards their appalling former positions. **Chile** (60th, +20) is beginning to recover after plummeting 33 places to 80th in last year's index.

Political instability puts journalists in the eye of the storm

Political instability often has a divisive effect on the media and makes it very difficult to produce independently-reported news and information. In such situations, threats and physical attacks on journalists and staff purges are common. **Maldives** (103rd, -30) fell sharply after the president's removal in an alleged coup, followed by threats and attacks on journalists regarded as his supporters. In **Paraguay** (91st, -11), the president's removal in a parliamentary "coup" on 22 June 2012 had a big impact on state-owned broadcasting, with a wave of arbitrary dismissals against a backdrop of unfair frequency allocation.

Guinea-Bissau (92nd, -17) fell sharply because the army overthrew the government between the first and second rounds of a presidential election and imposed military censorship on the media. In **Mali** (99th, -74), a military coup fuelled tension, many journalists were physically attacked in the capital and the army now controls the state-owned media. This index does not reflect the January 2013 turmoil in the **Central African Republic** (65th, -3) but its impact on media freedom is already a source of extreme concern.

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



“Regional models” found wanting

In almost all parts of the world, influential countries that are regarded as “regional models” have fallen in the index. **Brazil** (108th, -9), South America’s economic engine, continued last year’s fall because five journalists were killed in 2012 and because of persistent problems affecting media pluralism.

In Asia, **India** (140th, -9) is at its lowest since 2002 because of increasing impunity for violence against journalists and because Internet censorship continues to grow. **China** (173rd, +1) shows no sign of improving. Its prisons still hold many journalists and netizens, while increasingly unpopular Internet censorship continues to be a major obstacle to access to information.

In Eastern Europe, **Russia** (148th, -6) has fallen again because, since Vladimir Putin’s return to the presidency, repression has been stepped up in response to an unprecedented wave of opposition protests. The country also continues to be marked by the unacceptable failure to punish all those who have murdered or attacked journalists. The political importance of **Turkey** (154th, -6) has grown even more because of the armed conflict in neighbouring Syria but it has again fallen in the index. It is currently the world’s biggest prison for journalists, especially those who express views critical of the authorities on the Kurdish issue.

There is no comparison with **South Africa** (52nd, -10), where freedom of information is a reality. It still has a respectable ranking but it has been slipping steadily in the index and, for the first

time, is no longer in the top 50. Investigative journalism is threatened by the Protection of State Information Bill.

Democracies that stall or go into reverse

The situation is unchanged for much of the European Union. Sixteen of its members are still in the top 30. But the European model is unravelling. The bad legislation seen in 2011 continued, especially in **Italy** (57th, +4), where defamation has yet to be decriminalized and state agencies make dangerous use of gag laws. **Hungary** (56th, -16) is still paying the price of its repressive legislative reforms, which had a major impact on the way journalists work. But **Greece**’s dramatic fall (84th, -14) is even more disturbing. The social and professional environment for its journalists, who are exposed to public condemnation and violence from both extremist groups and the police, is disastrous.

Japan (53rd, -31) plummeted because of censorship of nuclear industry coverage and its failure to reform the “kisha club” system. This is an alarming fall for a country that usually has a good ranking. **Argentina** (54th, -7) fell amid growing tension between the government and certain privately-owned media about a new law regulating the broadcast media.

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org

AFRICA



EAST AFRICA STAGNATES NEAR BOTTOM OF THE INDEX, MALI NOSEDIVES

East Africa: journalists' graveyard

In **Somalia** (175th, -11) 18 journalists were killed, caught up in bomb attacks or the direct targets of murder, making 2012 the deadliest in history for the country's media. The Horn of Africa state was the second most dangerous country in the world for those working in news and information, behind Syria. In **Eritrea** (in last place in the index for the sixth successive year), no journalists were killed but some were left to die, which amounts to the same thing. With at least 30 behind bars, it is Africa's biggest prison for journalists. Of 11 incarcerated since 2001, 7 have died as a result of prison conditions or have killed themselves. Since the independent media were abolished more than 10 years ago, there are no independent Eritrean news outlets, other than outside the country, and terror prevails.

East Africa is also a region of censorship and crackdowns. Omar al-Bashir's **Sudan**, where more newspapers were seized and the arrests of journalists continued during the summer, is stuck firmly in 170th place, in the bottom 10 of the index. **Djibouti** (167th, -8), which also has no independent media, detained a correspondent of the foreign-based news site *La Voix de Djibouti*. Despite the release of two Swedish journalists arrested in 2011, **Ethiopia** (137th) fell ten places because of its repressive application of the 2009 anti-terrorist law and the continued detention of several local journalists.

Political unrest in Mali and the Central African Republic

Mali (99th, -74), which was long presented as the continent's star performer in democracy and press freedom, was prey to the political events that overtook it during the year. The military coup in Bamako on 22 March and the seizure of the north of the country by Touareg separatists and Islamic fundamentalists exposed news organizations to censorship and abuses. Many northern radio stations stopped broadcasting, while in the capital several Malian and foreign journalists were assaulted. All these occurred before the external military intervention in January 2013.

The **Central African Republic** was ranked 65th in 2012. Events after the outbreak of the Seleka rebellion at the very end of the year (radio stations ransacked, one journalist killed) were not taken into consideration in this index, thus preventing the country from falling more than 50 places. These will be included in the 2014 version. In **Guinea-Bissau** (92nd, -17) a media blackout and military censorship that followed the coup on 12 April explain that country's drop.

Africa's predatory censors

Yahya Jammeh, King Mswati III, Paul Kagame, and Teodoro Obiang Nguema, together with other heads of state such as Issaias Afewerki (**Eritrea**) and Ismael Omar Guelleh (**Djibouti**) are members of an exclusive club of authoritarian African leaders, some eccentric others stern, who hold their countries in an

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Africa

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org

iron grasp and keep a firm grip on news and information. Their countries, respectively **Gambia** (152nd), **Swaziland** (155th), **Rwanda** (161st) and **Equatorial Guinea** (166th), are all among the bottom 30 in the index. Media pluralism has been whittled away and criticism of the head of state discouraged.

The biggest losses

Chad, which fell 18 places to 121st, saw journalists harassed and roughed up, the publication of the newspaper *N'Djamena Bi-Hebdo* temporarily halted and its publisher sentenced to a suspended prison term, and a highly repressive bill kept under wraps. The slow but sure progress that followed the formation of a national unity government in **Zimbabwe** (133rd, -16) in 2009 and the granting of publication licences to several independent newspapers appeared to have stalled. Violence and arrests of journalists still niggle and if elections go ahead as planned in 2013, the atmosphere for the media promises to be tense. Relatively high placed in 2011-2012, **South Sudan** (124th) fell 12 places after the murder of a columnist – the first killing of its kind in the new country – as news organizations and journalists awaited the approval of three new laws on the media.

Despite the holding of a national media conference in **Cameroon** (120th, -23), the future of the sector remains both uncertain and worrying. In the upper reaches of the index, **Niger** (43rd) nonetheless fell 14 places as a result of the irresponsibility of a few journalists who succumbed to the temptation to abuse the freedom that they enjoyed. Within the space of four months in **Tanzania** (70th, -36), one journalist was killed while he was covering a demonstration and another was found dead, a clear victim of murder. **Burundi** (132nd) fell only two places but remains a low position. Summonses of journalists declined but the case of Hassan Ruvakuki, given a life sentence reduced to three years on appeal, has created an atmosphere of fear among the media.

Return to normality

After a dreadful year in 2011, marked by the dictatorial behaviour of the late President

Bingu Wa Mutharika, a violent crackdown on demonstrations and the murder of the blogger Robert Chasowa, **Malawi** (75th) recorded the biggest jump in the entire index, up 71 places, close to the position it held in 2010. Similarly, **Côte d'Ivoire** rose 63 places to 96th despite persistent problems. It had plummeted in the previous index because of a post-election crisis and the murders of a journalist and another media worker, as well as the civil conflict that broke out in Abidjan in April. **Uganda** (104th) was up 35 places thanks to a better year, but things were far from satisfactory as far as the media were concerned. The year ended with President Yoweri Museveni making open threats to several radio stations.

Promising gains

For **Senegal** (59th, +16), 2012 was a year of hope. The presidential election took place in a peaceful atmosphere for the media, despite a few regrettable assaults on journalists, and President Macky Sall, who had declared himself willing to decriminalize press offences, took office. Much remains to be proved in 2013, as was illustrated by the prison sentence handed down on a journalist in December.

In **Liberia** (97th, +13), the presidential election in November 2011 had been tainted by the closure of several media outlets and attacks on journalists. In 2012, the atmosphere improved greatly. In the summer, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became the second African head of state, after Mahamadou Issoufou of **Niger**, to sign the Declaration of Table Mountain, thereby undertaking to promote media freedom. **Namibia** (19th), **Cape Verde** (25th) and **Ghana** (30th) maintained their record as the highest ranked African countries.

THE AMERICAS



VIOLENCE, POLARIZATION STILL OBSTRUCT REPORTING IN AMERICAS

Deceptive progress, ups and downs in south

Just as the emergence of major protest movements (and ensuing crackdowns) had a big impact on the rankings of certain countries in 2011, so a decline in the protests has logically also had an impact a year later.

Chile, for example, rose 20 places to 60th in the index after the previous year's student protests abated in 2012. Crackdowns were concentrated in the Aysén region, which saw big protests in the first quarter. But Chile's improvement must be put in perspective. Its media landscape is skewed, community broadcast media are criminalized, especially in the Mapuche region, and journalists have run into difficulties when trying to investigate the 1973-90 military dictatorship.

For similar reasons, the **United States** rose 15 places to 32nd, recovering a ranking more appropriate to the "country of the First Amendment." Its previous year's fall was due to the fact that the crackdown on the Occupy Wall Street movement did not spare reporters in the field.

Canada, on the other hand, fell 10 positions to 20th, losing its status as the western hemisphere's leader to **Jamaica** (13th). This was due to obstruction of journalists during the so-called "Maple Spring" student movement and to continuing threats to the confidentiality of journalists' sources and Internet users' personal data, in particular, from the C-30 bill on cyber-crime.

The clearest new trends are to be seen in the south. **Brazil** fell again, this time 9 places to 108th, after falling 41 places in 2011. Its media landscape is also badly distorted. Heavily dependent on the political authorities at the state level, the regional media are exposed to attacks, physical violence against their person-

nel, and court censorship orders, which also target the blogosphere. These problems were exacerbated by violence during the campaign for the October 2012 municipal elections.

Media wars and coup precipitate falls

Paraguay fell 11 places to 91st following President Fernando Lugo's June 2012 removal in an "institutional coup d'état," which had an almost immediate impact on the news media. A full-blown purge of employees in state-owned media created by the Lugo administration was accompanied by frequent programme censorship. The few community radio stations with broadcast frequencies were also scared of losing them.

Despite a high level of physical violence against journalists, **Peru** rose 10 places to 105th, now topping **Brazil**, itself one place above **Bolivia** (109th), where several media were the targets of spectacular arson or dynamite attacks and both national and local polarization are having an impact. **Ecuador** fell 15th places to 119th after a year of extreme tension between the government and leading privately-owned media. This left it two places below **Venezuela**, where several media were closed arbitrarily, a journalist was killed and more than 170 cases of violence were reported in a "media war" climate.

Although on a less dramatic scale, polarization is becoming a concern in **Argentina**, which slipped a few places to 54th amid growing tension between the government and certain privately-owned media, above all the Clarín group, which is resisting full implementation of the 2009 Ley de Medios, a law regulating the broadcast

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



The Americas

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org

media. On the other bank of the River Plate, **Uruguay** continued its climb, this time to 27th position, within 10 places of **Costa Rica**, still Latin America's leader at 18th.

There has been little change in the marked contrasts that were seen in Central America in 2011. A lack of pluralism, intermittent tension with the political authorities, harassment and self-censorship are the main reasons for the scant change in **Nicaragua** (78th), **Guatemala** (95th) and **Panama** (111th), where attacks on journalists tripled in the space of a year, local unions said.

On the other hand, **El Salvador** owes its enviable 38th place to government efforts to combat violence crime, even if journalists and media often complain about the lack of access to state-held information. The **Dominican Republic** rose 15 places to 80th because of a decline in violence against journalists and legal proceedings that threaten freedom of information. But it is still far behind its neighbour **Haiti** (49th), where the situation is still largely unchanged although some journalists have accused President Michel Martelly of hostility towards them.

Caribbean turmoil, same countries at the bottom

Political tension and judicial harassment account for the ranking of other countries in the Guyanas and Caribbean. **Trinidad and Tobago** (44th) still has not stopped its illegal monitoring of journalists' phone calls and attempts to identify their sources, although it promised to stop in 2010. In **Surinam** (down nine places to 31th), the often stormy relations between President Desi Bouterse and many journalists are unlikely to improve after the passage of an amnesty law for the murders of around 15 government opponents, including five journalists, three decades

ago when Bouterse was Surinam's dictator. He returned to power through the polls in 2010.

The seven-member **Organization of East Caribbean States** fell eight places to 34th because of often direct pressure from the political authorities on news media and the failure to move ahead with the decriminalization of defamation. Similar pressure was reported in **Guyana** (69th), whose ranking continues to suffer from the state's monopoly of radio broadcasting.

In the bottom third, **Honduras** was 127th because two journalists were killed in direct connection with their work and because the status quo imposed by the June 2009 coup remains unchanged. There has never been any let-up in the persecution of opposition media and community radio stations, or in the criminalization of human rights activists and grassroots movements that provide information about such sensitive issues as land disputes, police abuses and minority rights.

Although hopes have been raised by the latest negotiations between the government and FARC guerrillas, **Colombia** (129th) still has its paramilitaries-turned-drug traffickers, who are the enemies of all those involved in the provision of news and information. Another journalist was killed in 2012 although there was a slight decrease in the number of physical attacks.

With six journalists killed, **Mexico** (153rd) has maintained its status as the hemisphere's most dangerous country for the media. Violence and censorship were particularly noticeable during the controversial July 2012 elections, which restored the presidency to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). **Cuba**, the hemisphere's only country to tolerate no independent media (or with few exceptions), got the region's lowest ranking – 171st. The past year has seen a renewed crackdown on dissent and the island now has two journalists in prison, one of them a state media employee.

ASIA-PACIFIC AREA



BURMESE SPRING AN EXCEPTION TO DECLINE IN FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN ASIA

Only three Asian countries are in the top 25 percent of the table, while 15 countries are among the bottom 45 places. Unsurprisingly, one-party authoritarian governments figure more than ever among the predators of press freedom and languish at the bottom end of the table.

Burma's paper revolution

Burma went through dramatic changes in 2012 and moved up to 151th place, a rise of 18 places, jumping ahead of its usual bedfellows in the media repression stakes. There are no longer any journalists or cyber dissidents in the jails of the old military dictatorship. Legislative reform has only just begun but the steps already taken by the government in favour of the media, such as an end to prior censorship and the permitted return of media organizations from exile, are significant steps towards genuine freedom of information.

China, Vietnam, Laos, North Korea: no signs of improvement

North Korea (178th), **China** (173rd), **Vietnam** (172nd) and **Laos** (168th), all ruled by authoritarian parties, still refuse to grant their citizens the freedom to be informed. The control of news and information is a key issue for these government, which are horrified at the prospect of being open to criticism. **North Korea's** leader Kim Jong-un, who succeeded his father Kim Jong-il on 30 December 2011, appears to rule in concert with the military junta.

In **Vietnam** and **China**, those involved in online news and information, such as bloggers and netizens, are forced to deal with increasingly harsh repression. Many Tibetan monks have been convicted or abducted for having sent information abroad about the disastrous state of human rights in **Tibet**. Commercial news outlets and foreign media organizations are still censored regularly by the propaganda department. Faced with the growing power of social networks and their ability to muster support, the authorities have redoubled their efforts to hone their capability to track "sensitive" content and delete it immediately from the Web. In less than a year, Vietnamese courts have sentenced 12 bloggers and cyber-dissidents to jail terms of up to 13 years, making the country the world's second biggest prison for netizens, after **China**.

General decline in freedom of information in South Asia

The Indian subcontinent was the Asian region that saw the sharpest deterioration in the climate for those involved in news and information in 2012. In the **Maldives**, which crashed to 103rd place (-30), the events that led to the resignation of President Mohammed Nasheed in February led to violence and threats against journalists in state television and private media outlets regarded as pro-Nasheed by the coup leaders.

Attacks on press freedom have increased since then. Many journalists have been arrested, assaulted and threatened during anti-government protests. On June 5, the freelance journalist and blogger Ismail "Hilath" Rasheed narrowly survived the first attempted murder of

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Asia-Pacific area

a journalist in the archipelago.

Four journalists were killed in **India** and **Bangladesh** in 2012, which fell to 140th and 144th respectively in the index. In India, the “world’s biggest democracy”, the authorities insist on censoring the Web and imposing more and more taboos, while violence against journalists goes unpunished and the regions of Kashmir and Chhattisgarh become increasingly isolated. **Bangladesh** is not far behind. Its journalists are frequently targets of police violence. When they are not acting as aggressors, the security forces stand by passively while enemies of the media enjoy impunity and are rarely brought to justice. The killers of the journalists **Sagar Sarowar** and **Meherun Runi**, and those behind the double murder, remained at large and the investigation was cynically entrusted to the Rapid Action Battalion where it remains bogged down.

The ability of journalists to work freely in **Pakistan** (159th, -8) and **Nepal** (118th, -12) continued to worsen in the absence of any government policy to protect media workers. Despite having a diverse and lively media, Pakistan remains one of the world’s most dangerous countries for reporters.

Japan resorts to press restrictions

Japan, demoted from 22nd to 53rd place, recorded the biggest drop of any Asian country. The reason was the ban imposed by the authorities on independent coverage of any topic related directly or indirectly to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Several freelance journalists who complained that public debate was being stifled were subjected to censorship, police intimidation and judicial harassment.

The continued existence of the discriminatory system of “kisha clubs”, exclusive press clubs which restrict access to information to their own members, is a key element that could prevent the country from moving up the index significantly in the near future.

Afghanistan: genuine but fragile improvement

Afghanistan (128th, +22) has a considerably better rating than in previous years, although violence against journalists did not disappear completely and the government neglected to tackle the issue of impunity. No journalists were killed in 2012 and arrests of media workers declined. The withdrawal of some foreign troops from the international coalition and deteriorating conditions in neighbouring **Pakistan** meant these improvements were precarious.

Cambodia and Malaysia: drift towards authoritarianism

Conditions for the media are critical in **Cambodia**, which fell 26 places to 146th in the index, its lowest ever position. Since 2011, news organizations, in particular independent local and foreign radio stations, have been subjected to a policy of censorship orchestrated by an increasingly ruthless information ministry. On 1 October 2012, **Mam Sonando**, the owner of an independent radio station, was sentenced to 20 years’ imprisonment for insurrection and inciting others to take up arms against the state. The decline in freedom of information also involved deadly attacks and death threats aimed at journalists who exposed government corruption and illegal activities harmful to the environment.

Malaysia (145th) also presented a sorry record, falling 23 places to a position below the one it had in 2002. Despite an all-out battle by rights activists and online media outlets, a campaign of repression by the government, illustrated by the crackdown on the “Bersih 3.0” protest in April, and repeated censorship efforts, continue to undermine basic freedoms, in particular the right to information.

Papua-New Guinea and Fiji: threats against journalists greeted with indifference

Threats to the media should not be taken lightly in these two Pacific archipelagos. In **Papua-**

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Asia-Pacific area

New Guinea (41st, -6), the security forces are regularly involved in attacks on journalists. In **Fiji** (107th), despite a 10-place rise explained in part by the decline of other countries in this section of the index, news organizations are threatened under the Media Industry Development Decree with exorbitant fines, or even imprisonment, as in the case of a recently convicted editor of the *Fiji Times*.

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org

EUROPE AND EX-URSS



STAGNATION IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Outside the European Union, freedom of information is in a state of collapse. Within its borders, Hungary and Greece have slumped. The Balkans remain rooted in the repressive practices of the past.

The status quo was maintained in many of the countries in the European Union. Sixteen were listed among the top 30. At first sight, this was encouraging, but it concealed the slow erosion of the European model as a result of inconsistencies and worrying developments among the other 11 countries, some of which fell below 80th place.

The legislative haemorrhage that began in 2011 continued unabated in 2012, notably in Italy where the decriminalization of defamation has not yet been achieved and where institutions make dangerous use of “gagging laws”. The effects of stagnating advertising and budget cuts, which constantly undermine the business model, are also starting to be felt. **France** (up one to 37) has marked time pending progress on the good intentions voiced by the new government.

Hungary (56th, -16) is still paying the price of repressive legislation that has had a palpable effect on how journalism is practised. However, more worrying is the fall of **Greece** (84th, -14), whose journalists operate in a disastrous social and professional atmosphere. Exposed to popular anger and continually facing violence on the part of both extremists and the police, reporters and photojournalists must now cope with the ultra-violent neo-Nazi activists of the Golden Dawn party. The country has moved closer to **Bulgaria** (87th, -7), whose promises of reform came to nothing and where the Internet ceased to be a safe place for freelance journalists.

For **Croatia** (64th, +4), due to join the EU in June this year, and **Serbia** (63rd, +17) the picture is mixed. Legislative reforms have brought an improvement, but it should not be forgotten that there are still many obstacles to overcome and old habits that are harmful to independent journalism still linger. **Albania** (102nd, -6), **Montenegro** (113rd, -6), and especially **Macedonia** (116th, -22) bring up the rear of the index for the Balkans with the same sorry record: judicial harassment based on often inappropriate legislation, the lack of access to public data, physical and psychological violence against those who work in news and information, official and private advertising markets used as a tool, the grey economy's hold over vital parts of the media. All are obstacles to the right to report the news and people's right to know it. Following the dangerous examples of **Hungary** and **Italy**, the Macedonian parliament is preparing to “legalize censorship”, continually blowing hot and cold towards a profession that is often out on its own.

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Europe and ex-URSS

Race to the bottom by Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Bad models for the region

Despite a varied and lively media, **Turkey** (154th, -6) lies in an unworthy position as the regional model which it aspires to be. In the name of the fight against terrorism, democratic **Turkey** is today the world's biggest prison for journalists. The state's paranoia about security, which has a tendency to see every criticism as a plot hatched by a variety of illegal organizations, intensified even more during a year marked by rising tension over the Kurdish question. Will the announcement of reform of the anti-terrorist laws, promised many times but always rejected, and the resumption of talks between the authorities and rebels of the Kurdish PKK, lead to a genuine change in approach?

Russia (148th, -6) set a tone of increased repression in the former Soviet Union in 2012. Opposition protests on an unprecedented scale showed civil society to be more vocal than ever. The state responded with a wholesale crackdown: re-criminalization of defamation, tighter control of the Internet, making foreign funding of human rights organizations a crime. This marked start of a new era in relations between the state and society that presents huge challenges for freedom of information.

Just as it assumed the rotating chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) **Ukraine** (126th, -10) set the worst record for the media since the Orange Revolution in 2004. The chronically high level of violence towards journalists hit a new peak, while impunity remained total. Such an unhealthy atmosphere served only to increase the vulnerability of independent news outlets to ever-stronger pressure.

Kazakhstan (160th, -6) reached a turning point in 2012. President Nursultan Nazarbayev's government, forging ahead with its policies of repression, moved closer to the ultra-authoritarian model of its neighbours in **Uzbekistan** and **Turkmenistan**. The year saw assassina-

tion attempts, arrests and intimidation aimed at independent journalists, ending with the outright closure of the main national opposition news organizations.

Tajikistan (123rd, -1), struggling to catch up with its neighbours in the cyber censorship stakes, recruited an army of "volunteers" to monitor the Internet and blocked independent news sites as well as Facebook with increasing frequency.

Azerbaijan and Belarus: return to the status quo

The rise of **Azerbaijan** (156th, +6) and **Belarus** (157th, +11) offers little cause for celebration. It represents a return to the status quo before 2011's violent crackdowns on protest demonstrations. Dozens of journalists were arrested and beaten up, pushing the two dictatorships towards the bottom of the index. But the horizon is still obscured by the shadows cast by the huge egos of Alexander Lukashenko and Ilham Aliyev. Independent journalists and netizens remain at great risk in carrying out their duty of keeping the public informed. In **Azerbaijan**, the noose tightened around what remained of the opposition media and several journalists languished behind bars without trial in appalling conditions. The year 2013 began with fresh arrests and widespread violence, which point to a further downward slide in the next index.

Bottom of the list: Turkmenis- tan and Uzbekistan remain a nightmare for journalists

In **Uzbekistan** (164th, -7) and **Turkmenistan** (177th, 0), there is little change from one year to the next. The sinister dictatorship of Uzbek President Islam Karimov refined its control of the Internet, maintained a stranglehold on the media and kept a dozen journalists in prison in appalling conditions. The official proclamation of a multi-party system and freedom of expression brought no changes whatsoever to the totalitarian rule in **Turkmenistan** which, as in previous years, rubbed shoulders with **North Korea** and **Eritrea** in the world index.

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Europe and ex-URSS

Leading group dispersed but face common challenges

Despite their wide dispersal in this edition of the index, **Moldova** (55th, -2), **Armenia** (74th, +3), **Georgia** (100th, +4) and **Kyrgyzstan** (106th, +2) have a number of things in common. These countries enjoy broad media pluralism and a low level of state censorship, but they still face important challenges concerning media independence and the working environment of journalists. The latter are often in the firing line in highly polarized societies and treated as easy prey by a variety of pressure groups.

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA



2012 – YEAR TWO OF THE NEW ARAB WORLD

“Arab spring” uprisings caused a lot of movements in the Press Freedom Index in 2011 and the situation was still very mixed in 2012, with countries where governments have fallen, countries where they still survive but are facing uprisings, and countries where, by dint of compromises and promises, they have managed to assuage the demands for change.

Syria and Bahrain at the bottom of the index

Syria is ranked 176th in the index, fourth from last. Of all the ranked countries, it is the one that saw the most attacks on freedom of information. Journalists are targeted by all the parties to the conflict – the regular army and the various opposition factions – who are waging an information war.

Bahrain (165th) rose eight places, after limited improvement. The government crackdown continued in 2012 but was slightly less violent than the previous year, when the country plunged 29 places. In all, Bahrain has fallen 66 places in the space of four years and is now in the bottom 20.

Fertile revolutions for freedom of information?

After the fall of dictators, the promises of media pluralism and independence are not always sufficiently translated into action.

Libya (131st, +23) rose more than 20 places. This jump was due to the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi’s 42-year regime and its positive

impact on freedom of information. Libya’s ranking the year before was affected by all the violations in 2011, when Gaddafi was still clinging to power. The improvements nonetheless need to be confirmed by the inclusion of freedom of information in the constitution and the adoption of laws guaranteeing this freedom and providing real protection for journalists and safeguards for media pluralism and independence.

Two years after Ben Ali’s fall, **Tunisia** (138th) slipped four places, after jumping more than 30 places in 2011. Why? Because there was an increase in attacks on journalists in the first quarter of 2012 and because the authorities have maintained a judicial void by delaying the implementation of decree-laws regulating the media. This allowed them to arbitrarily appoint people to run the state-owned media. Furthermore, politicians often refer to journalists and news media with contempt or even hate.

Egypt (158th) rose eight places, two years after Hosni Mubarak’s departure. This was a slight improvement on 2011, when violence against media personnel caused the country to plummet 39 places from 127th. Journalists and netizens continue to be the targets of physical attacks, arrests and trials and one was fatally injured in December. Shortly after winning elections, the Muslim Brotherhood appointed new executives and editors to run the state newspapers, which had a major impact on their editorial policies. The constitution adopted at the end of 2012 contains vaguely-worded provisions that clearly threaten freedoms. News media can still be closed or seized on the orders of a judge.

Yemen (171st, +2) continued to languish in the bottom ten. There have been no legislative changes in the year since Abd Rab Mansour Hadi took over as president. Journalists are still exposed to physical attacks, prosecution and even jail sentences. A bill on privately-owned

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Middle East and North Africa

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org

broadcasts and electronic media with a number of draconian provisions, which was submitted to parliament in 2012, has not been totally abandoned.

Countries «spared» by Arab springs rein in news providers

Buffeted by social and economic protests, the **Sultanate of Oman** (141st) sank 24 places, the biggest fall in the Middle East and North Africa in 2012. Some 50 netizens and bloggers were prosecuted on lèse-majesté or cyber-crime charges in 2012. No fewer than 28 were convicted in December alone, in trials that trampled on defence rights. The authorities gave promises in response to demands for political, social and economic change but did not carry them out.

A repressive royal decree in September was one of the reasons why **Jordan** (134th, -6) fell. The decree changed the press law and drastically restricted freedom of information, especially for online media, brushing aside all the reform promises that the government gave at the height of the popular unrest in 2011. Journalists are being tried before military courts, especially when they criticize the royal family.

Algeria (125th, -3) fell a few places because journalists were the targets of both physical attacks and judicial proceedings, and because of an increase in economic pressure on independent media. More than a year after parliament passed a law that is supposed to abolish the state's broadcasting monopoly, there are still no privately-owned TV stations because a regulatory authority, an essential prior condition, has still not been created. So, for the time being, the new law is nothing but window dressing.

The ranking of **Morocco** (136th, +2) is stable. Media reform was announced after Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane took office in November 2011 but his government is dragging its feet on the promised changes, especially decriminalization of media offences. Decisions on such matters as the granting and withdrawal of accreditation are often arbitrary and lacking in transparency.

Palestine (146th) is still in the bottom quarter but it rose eight places. An improvement in relations between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas has had a positive impact on freedom of information and the working environment for journalists.

Iraq (150th) rose two places, but this followed a fall of 22 places last year. The security situation for journalists continues to be very worrying, with three killed in connection with their work in 2012 and seven killed in 2011. Journalists are constantly obstructed.

There were only slight changes in the rankings of **Saudi Arabia** (163rd, -5), **Kuwait** (77th, +1) and the **United Arab Emirates** (114th, -2).

Lebanon (101st) fell eight places, after its media became more polarized by neighbouring Syria's civil war. Its journalists are exposed to arbitrary detention and mistreatment.

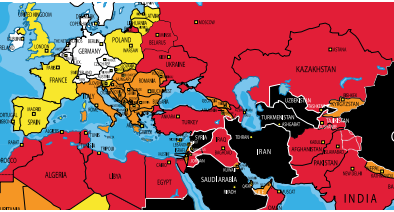
The 20-place fall of **Israel** (112nd) is due to the actions of the Israel Defence Forces in the Palestinian Territories – actions that used to be given a separate ranking in the index under the label of "Israel extraterritorial". During Operation "Pillar of Defence" in November 2012, IDF deliberately targeted journalists and buildings housing media that are affiliated to Hamas or support it. And the arbitrary arrest and detention of Palestinian journalists is still commonplace. Israeli journalists meanwhile enjoy real freedom of expression but military censorship continues to be a structural problem.

Relatives held hostage in Iran

Somalia's fall in the index due to the many deaths of journalists there in 2012 allowed **Iran** (174th) to rise one place. Its print and broadcast media and news websites are all controlled by the Ministry of Intelligence and the Revolutionary Guards. The authorities have internationalized their repression by making hostages out of the relatives of Iranian journalists who work abroad or in Iran for foreign news media. The Islamic Republic is one of the world's five biggest prisons for news and information providers.

2013 PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

HOW WE COMPILED THE 2013 PRESS FREEDOM INDEX



The press freedom index that Reporters Without Borders publishes every year measures the level of freedom of information in nearly 180 countries. It reflects the degree of freedom that journalists, news organizations and netizens enjoy in each country, and the efforts made by the authorities to respect and ensure respect for this freedom.

It is based partly on a questionnaire that is sent to our partner organizations (18 freedom of expression NGOs located in all five continents), to our network of 150 correspondents, and to journalists, researchers, jurists and human rights activists.

The 179 countries ranked in this year's index are those for which Reporters Without Borders received completed questionnaires from various sources. Some countries were not included because of a lack of reliable, confirmed data.

This year, there has been a major change in the method used to compile the index, including the use of a new questionnaire. Quantitative questions about the number of violations of different kinds are now handled by our staff. They include the number of journalists, media assistants and netizens who were jailed or killed in the connection with their activities, the number of journalists abducted, the number that fled into exile, the number of physical attacks and arrests, and the number of media censored. In the event of a military occupation of one or more territories, any violations by representatives of the occupying force are treated as violations of the right to information in foreign territory and are incorporated into the score of the occupying force's country.

The rest of the questionnaire, which is sent to outside experts and members of the RWB network, concentrates on issues that are hard to quantify such as the degree to which news providers censor themselves, government interference in editorial content, or the transparency of government decision-making. Legislation and its effectiveness are the subject of more detailed questions. Questions have been added or expanded, for example, questions about concentration of media ownership and favouritism in the allocation of subsidies or state advertising. Similarly, discrimination

in access to journalism and journalism training is also included.

A score and a position are assigned to each country in the final ranking. They are complementary indicators that together assess the state of press freedom. In order to make the index more informative and make it easier to compare different years, scores will henceforth range from 0 to 100, with 0 being the best possible score and 100 the worst.

The index reflects the situation during a specific period. This year's index is based solely on events between the start of December 2011 and the end of November 2012. It does not look at human rights violations in general, just violations of freedom of information.

The index should in no way be taken as an indication of the quality of the media in the countries concerned.

How we score countries

The questions consider six general criteria. Using a system of weighting for each possible response, countries are given a score of between 0 and 100 for each of the six overall criteria. These scores are then used as indicators in calculating each country's final score.

Pluralism

[indicator Plu]

Measures the degree to which opinions are represented in the media

Media independence

[indicator Ind]

Measures the degree to which the media are able to function independently of the authorities

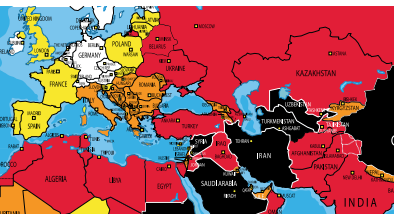
Environment and self-censorship

[indicator EnA]

Analyses the environment in which journalists work

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Legislative framework

[indicator CaL]

Analyses the quality of the legislative framework and measures its effectiveness

Transparency

[indicator Tra]

Measures the transparency of the institutions and procedures that affect the production of news and information

Infrastructure

[indicator Inf]

Measures the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information

Reporters Without Borders meanwhile calculates a score of between 0 and 100 reflecting the level of violence against journalists during the period considered. The score is based on the monitoring carried out by RWB's own staff.

The overall score, the one that determines a country's ranking, is calculated on the basis of these seven scores in a three-step process. A first score (SCOA) is calculated on the basis of the questionnaire alone, using the following weighting:

A second score uses the first score but incorporates the violence score, giving it a weight of 20%:

$$SCOA = \frac{1}{3} \cdot Plu + \frac{1}{6} \cdot (Ind + EnA + CaL) + \frac{1}{12} \cdot (Tra + Inf)$$

The final score is determined as follows:

$$SCOB = \frac{1}{5} \cdot Exa + \frac{4}{15} \cdot Plu + \frac{2}{15} \cdot (Ind + EnA + CaL) + \frac{1}{15} \cdot (Tra + Inf)$$

The violence score (scoreExa) is calculated according to the following formula:

$$ScoreFinal = \max(SCOA, SCOB)$$

The longer a journalist, netizen or media assistant is imprisoned, the more this imprisonment penalizes the country concerned. The weighting coefficient has the following values, based on the length of imprisonment in years : *i* **Coeff_i**

$$scoreExa = 10 * \log(90 * Mor + Coeff_i * Emp_i + 10 * Enl + 5 * Med + 3 * Exi + Arr + Agr + noteHT)^1$$

<i>i</i>	1-	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10+
Coeff_i	10	20	35	60	80	85	87	88	89	89,5	$\lim_{\infty} Coeff_i = 90$

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org

1. **Mor** : number of dead, **Emp_i** : number of imprisoned since *i* years, **Enl** : number of kidnapped, **Med** : number of media attacked and ransacked, **Exi** : number who have fled the country, **Arr** : number of arrests, **Agr** : number of physical attacks, **noteHT**: score on respect for freedom of information in foreign territory.



2013 WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

Rank	Country	Note	Differential
1	Finland	6,38	0 (1)
2	Netherlands	6,48	+1 (3)
3	Norway	6,52	-2 (1)
4	Luxembourg	6,68	+2 (6)
5	Andorra	6,82	-
6	Denmark	7,08	+4 (10)
7	Liechtenstein	7,35	-
8	New Zealand	8,38	+5 (13)
9	Iceland	8,49	-3 (6)
10	Sweden	9,23	+2 (12)
11	Estonia	9,26	-8 (3)
12	Austria	9,40	-7 (5)
13	Jamaica	9,88	+3 (16)
14	Switzerland	9,94	-6 (8)
15	Ireland	10,06	0 (15)
16	Czech Republic	10,17	-2 (14)
17	Germany	10,24	-1 (16)
18	Costa Rica	12,08	+1 (19)
19	Namibia	12,50	+1 (20)
20	Canada	12,69	-10 (10)
21	Belgium	12,94	-1 (20)
22	Poland	13,11	+2 (24)
23	Slovakia	13,25	+2 (25)
24	Cyprus	13,83	-8 (16)
25	Cape Verde	14,33	-16 (9)
26	Australia	15,24	+4 (30)
27	Uruguay	15,92	+5 (32)
28	Portugal	16,75	+5 (33)
29	United Kingdom	16,89	-1 (28)
30	Ghana	17,27	+11 (41)
31	Surinam	18,19	-9 (22)
32	United States	18,22	+15 (47)
33	Lithuania	18,24	-3 (30)
34	OECS	19,72	-9 (25)
35	Slovenia	20,49	+1 (36)
36	Spain	20,50	+3 (39)

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Rank	Country	Note	Differencial
37	France	21,60	+1 (38)
38	El Salvador	22,86	-1 (37)
39	Latvia	22,89	+11 (50)
40	Botswana	22,91	+2 (42)
41	Papua New Guinea	22,97	-6 (35)
42	Romania	23,05	+5 (47)
43	Niger	23,08	-14 (29)
44	Trinidad and Tobago	23,12	+6 (50)
45	Malta	23,30	+13 (58)
46	Burkina Faso	23,70	+22 (68)
47	Taiwan	23,82	-2 (45)
48	Samoa	23,84	+6 (54)
49	Haiti	24,09	+3 (52)
50	South Korea	24,48	-6 (44)
51	Comoros	24,52	-6 (45)
52	South Africa	24,56	-10 (42)
53	Japan	25,17	-31 (22)
54	Argentina	25,67	-7 (47)
55	Moldova	26,01	-2 (53)
56	Hungary	26,09	-16 (40)
57	Italy	26,11	+4 (61)
58	Hong Kong	26,16	-4 (54)
59	Senegal	26,19	+16 (75)
60	Chile	26,24	+20 (80)
61	Sierra Leone	26,35	+2 (63)
62	Mauritius	26,47	-8 (54)
63	Serbia	26,59	+17 (80)
64	Croatia	26,61	+4 (68)
65	Central African Republic	26,61	-3 (62)
66	Tonga	26,70	-3 (63)
67	Mauritania	26,76	0 (67)
68	Bosnia and Herzegovina	26,86	-10 (58)
69	Guyana	27,08	-11 (58)
70	Tanzania	27,34	-36 (34)
71	Kenya	27,80	+13 (84)
72	Zambia	27,93	+14 (86)
73	Mozambique	28,01	-7 (66)
74	Armenia	28,04	+3 (77)
75	Malawi	28,18	+71 (146)
76	Republic of the Congo	28,20	+14 (90)
77	Kuwait	28,28	+1 (78)
78	Nicaragua	28,31	-6 (72)
79	Benin	28,33	+12 (91)
80	Dominican Republic	28,34	+15 (95)

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Rank	Country	Note	Differential
81	Lesotho	28,36	-18 (63)
82	Bhutan	28,42	-12 (70)
83	Togo	28,45	-4 (79)
84	Greece	28,46	-14 (70)
85	Kosovo	28,47	+1 (86)
86	Guinea	28,49	0 (86)
87	Bulgaria	28,58	-7 (80)
88	Madagascar	28,62	-4 (84)
89	Gabon	28,69	+12 (101)
90	East Timor	28,72	-4 (86)
91	Paraguay	28,78	-11 (80)
92	Guinea-Bissau	28,94	-17 (75)
93	Seychelles	29,19	-20 (73)
94	Northern Cyprus	29,34	+8 (102)
95	Guatemala	29,39	+2 (97)
96	Ivory Coast	29,77	+63 (159)
97	Liberia	29,89	+13 (110)
98	Mongolia	29,93	+2 (100)
99	Mali	30,03	-74 (25)
100	Georgia	30,09	+4 (104)
101	Lebanon	30,15	-8 (93)
102	Albania	30,88	-6 (96)
103	Maldives	31,10	-30 (73)
104	Uganda	31,69	+35 (139)
105	Peru	31,87	+10 (115)
106	Kyrgyzstan	32,20	+2 (108)
107	Fiji	32,69	+10 (117)
108	Brazil	32,75	-9 (99)
109	Bolivia	32,80	-1 (108)
110	Qatar	32,86	+4 (114)
111	Panama	32,95	+2 (113)
112	Israel	32,97	-20 (92)
113	Montenegro	32,97	-6 (107)
114	United Arab Emirates	33,49	-2 (112)
115	Nigeria	34,11	+11 (126)
116	Republic of Macedonia	34,27	-22 (94)
117	Venezuela	34,44	0 (117)
118	Nepal	34,61	-12 (106)
119	Ecuador	34,69	-15 (104)
120	Cameroon	34,78	-23 (97)
121	Chad	34,87	-18 (103)
122	Brunei	35,45	+3 (125)
123	Tajikistan	35,71	-1 (122)
124	South Sudan	36,20	-13 (111)
125	Algeria	36,54	-3 (122)

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Rank	Country	Note	Differencial
126	Ukraine	36,79	-10 (116)
127	Honduras	36,92	+8 (135)
128	Afghanistan	37,36	+22 (150)
129	Colombia	37,48	+14 (143)
130	Angola	37,80	+2 (132)
131	Libya	37,86	+23 (154)
132	Burundi	38,02	-2 (130)
133	Zimbabwe	38,12	-16 (117)
134	Jordan	38,47	-6 (128)
135	Thailand	38,60	+2 (137)
136	Morocco	39,04	+2 (138)
137	Ethiopia	39,57	-10 (127)
138	Tunisia	39,93	-4 (134)
139	Indonesia	41,05	+7 (146)
140	India	41,22	-9 (131)
141	Oman	41,51	-24 (117)
142	DR Congo	41,66	+3 (145)
143	Cambodia	41,81	-26 (117)
144	Bangladesh	42,01	-15 (129)
145	Malaysia	42,73	-23 (122)
146	Palestine	43,09	+7 (153)
147	Philippines	43,11	-7 (140)
148	Russia	43,42	-6 (142)
149	Singapore	43,43	-14 (135)
150	Iraq	44,67	+2 (152)
151	Burma	44,71	+18 (169)
152	Gambia	45,09	-11 (141)
153	Mexico	45,30	-4 (149)
154	Turkey	46,56	-6 (148)
155	Swaziland	46,76	-11 (144)
156	Azerbaijan	47,73	+6 (162)
157	Belarus	48,35	+11 (168)
158	Egypt	48,66	+8 (166)
159	Pakistan	51,31	-8 (151)
160	Kazakhstan	55,08	-6 (154)
161	Rwanda	55,46	-5 (156)
162	Sri Lanka	56,59	+1 (163)
163	Saudi Arabia	56,88	-5 (158)
164	Uzbekistan	60,39	-7 (157)
165	Bahrain	62,75	+8 (173)
166	Equatorial Guinea	67,20	-5 (161)
167	Djibouti	67,40	-8 (159)
168	Laos	67,99	-3 (165)
169	Yemen	69,22	+2 (171)
170	Sudan	70,06	0 (170)

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

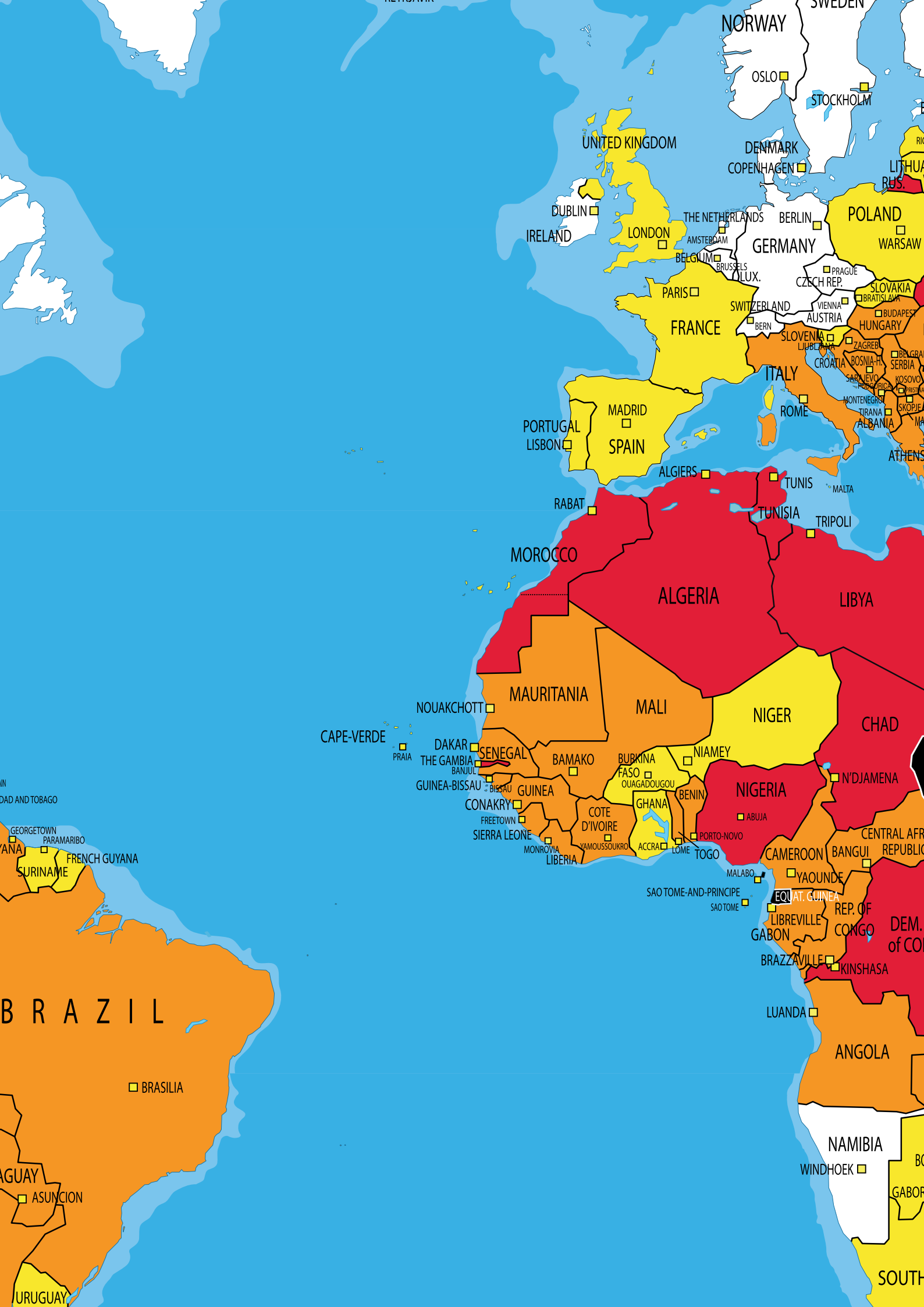
47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



Rank	Country	Note	Differencial
171	Cuba	71,64	-4 (167)
172	Vietnam	71,78	0 (172)
173	China	73,07	+1 (174)
174	Iran	73,40	+1 (175)
175	Somalia	73,59	-11 (164)
176	Syria	78,53	0 (176)
177	Turkmenistan	79,14	0 (177)
178	North Korea	83,90	0 (178)
179	Eritrea	84,83	0 (179)

Reporters Without Borders promotes and defends the freedom to be informed and to inform others throughout the world. Based in Paris, it has ten international offices (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Stockholm, Tunis, Vienna and Washington DC) and more than 150 correspondents in all five continents.

47, rue Vivienne
75002 Paris,
Tel. : 33 1 44 83 84 56
Fax : 33 1 45 23 11 51
presse@rsf.org
Read more :
www.rsf.org



NORWAY

OSLO

STOCKHOLM

UNITED KINGDOM

DUBLIN

LONDON

DENMARK
COPENHAGEN

THE NETHERLANDS
AMSTERDAM

GERMANY
BERLIN

PARIS

FRANCE

PORTUGAL
LISBON

MADRID

SPAIN

ITALY
ROME

ALGIERS

RABAT

MOROCCO

ALGERIA

LIBYA

NIGER

MAURITANIA

MALI

CHAD

NOUAKCHOTT

DAKAR

SENEGAL

THE GAMBIA
BANJUL

GUINEA-BISSAU
BISSAU

GUINEA

CONAKRY

SIERRA LEONE
MONROVIA

LIBERIA

BAMAKO

BURKINA FASO
OUAGADOUGOU

GHANA

COTE D'IVOIRE
YAMOUSSOUKRO

BENIN

ACCRA

NIAMEY

NIGERIA

ABUJA

PORTO-NOVO

TOGO

LOME

MALABO

SAO TOME-AND-PRINCE
SAO TOME

LIBREVILLE

GABON

BRAZZAVILLE

LUANDA

ANGOLA

REP. OF CONGO

KINSHASA

DEM. of CONGO

NAMIBIA

WINDHOEK

GABON

SOUTH AFRICA

BRAZIL

BRASILIA

ARGENTINA

ASUNCION

URUGUAY

SOUTH AFRICA