



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

General Report of the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Speech and the Press

This sixth edition of the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Expression and of the Press in the Americas registers a dramatic deterioration in the conditions of these communication rights in the hemisphere: the global average fell to 47.10 points, the lowest level recorded in the six editions of the barometer.

This worsening situation is compounded by the most pronounced decline in press freedom among the 23 nations analyzed this time, with the inclusion of Haiti. Although the United States only moved down one notch, from nations with Low Restrictions to countries with Restrictions, it dropped from fourth to eleventh place.

It is also alarming that eight nations are in the High Restriction zone: Ecuador, Bolivia, Honduras, Peru, Mexico, Haiti, Cuba and El Salvador; and that two are in the red zone considered to have No Freedom of Expression: Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Twelve nations rose, with no significant changes; ten, meanwhile, fell, some with declines that reiterate the systematic deterioration experienced. 195 judges from 23 countries participated in this year's measurement.

Below is a summary describing the results for the 23 countries, corresponding to this sixth edition of the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Expression and of the Press of the Inter-American Press Association, developed in partnership with researchers from the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, in Caracas, Venezuela.



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Country	Dominican Republic
General Index	82.17
2025 Clasification	With Freedom of Expression
Score Variation	It rose 4.92 points
Position Variation	It moved up 1 place, ending up in 1st place
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MILD INFLUENCE)

The Dominican Republic achieved first place in this edition of the Chapultepec Index, with 82.17 points, making it the only country in the "**With Freedom of Expression**" category. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizens*, it scored 26.40/30. In *Realm B: State Action Against Violence and Impunity Against Journalists and Media*, it reached 27.57/40, its lowest score, placing it in the "Low Restriction" category. In *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 28.20/30.

Regarding the impact of different environments on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the **Executive Branch** exerts the greatest influence, followed by the Legislative Branch (Low Influence). The highest score (1.20/10) was obtained in the Executive Branch for Realm A.

Despite maintaining one of the freest environments for journalism in the Americas, this stability is precarious and threatened by factors that limit the full exercise of fundamental freedoms. The Dominican Republic is experiencing a critical period for freedom of expression and of the press, characterized by a "silent gag order" that combines the economic fragility of the media, the discretionary use of state advertising as a tool of control, and the tensions generated by new legislative proposals, such as the INACOM bill. Although the country is internationally recognized for its media openness, it faces significant internal challenges, including the migration of advertising investment to global platforms, which compromises editorial independence and exposes media outlets to political and commercial pressures. The recent proposal to create the National Institute of Communication (INACOM) raises risks of censorship, while President Abinader's discourse on press freedom is overshadowed by mechanisms of economic pressure. In response to these concerns, journalists have protested against the increasing barriers to information. A key event for the international validation of the Dominican Republic's environment was the signing of the "Salta II Declaration" during the 81st General Assembly of the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) in Punta Cana, from October 16 to 19, 2025.



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Country	Chile
General Index	77.22
2025 Clasification	Low Restriction
Score Variation	It dropped 2.42 puntos
Position Variation	It dropped one place. From 1st place it fell to 2nd.
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MILD INFLUENCE)

Chile scored 77.22 out of 100, placing it in the **Low Restriction** category, second in the Index, a drop of one position compared to the previous result. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, it scored 25.00/30. In *Realm B: State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*, it scored 26.80/40, and in *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 25.43/30.

Regarding the impact of different environments on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the **Executive Branch** has the greatest overall influence, followed by the Legislative Branch. It is noteworthy that in *Realm B: State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*, no influence from any of the branches was reflected.

During the period from November 2, 2024, to November 1, 2025, freedom of expression and of the press in Chile underwent a transition from physical aggression to judicial harassment and institutional pressure on journalism. Although there is no direct state censorship, the most significant threats stem from the prosecution of sources and media concentration, which particularly affect investigative journalism. Despite this, the administration of President Gabriel Boric actively defended freedom of expression, participating in international forums and enacting Law 21.710, which establishes May 12 as Freedom of Information Day. However, the severe concentration of media ownership limits pluralism and makes journalistic employment precarious. This situation is further complicated by a level of public distrust in the veracity of information, demonstrating that the erosion of freedom of information occurs not only through physical repression but also through the economic strangulation faced by the media and judicial intimidation of sources.



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Country	Canada
General Index	74.48
2025 Clasification	Low Restriction
Score Variation	It dropped 1.30 points
Position Variation	It remained in 3rd place
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MILD INFLUENCE)

Canada scored 74.48 out of 100 in this exercise, placing it 3rd in this edition, in the **Low Restriction** category. It maintained the same position as the previous edition. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, it scored 23.63/30. In *Realm B: State Action Against Violence and Impunity Against Journalists and Media*, it achieved 25.36/40, and in *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 25.50/30, the highest score in relation to the position of each indicator, placing it in the With Freedom of Expression category.

Regarding the impact of different environments on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the **Executive Branch** has the greatest overall influence, followed by the Legislative Branch. However, overall **influence is low**. Notably, in *Realm B: State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*, no influence of different environments was recorded on this indicator.

Between November 2, 2024, and November 1, 2025, an analysis of freedom of expression and of the press in Canada reveals a democracy in transformation, marked by a growing conflict between state regulation of the digital space and the protection of independent journalism. Although Canada continues to be considered a "free" country with high scores on international indices, this stability masks worrying deteriorations in media operations and the safety of journalists. The arrival of Mark Carney as Prime Minister in March 2025 introduced a "Canada First" approach, which, while seeking to defend national sovereignty, has limited access to critical perspectives and increased the centralization of public discourse. Furthermore, recent laws have pressured digital platforms to fund local media outlets, while violence against journalists has increased, creating a climate of insecurity. The combination of an economic crisis in the media, legislation that exacerbates the information blackout, and a judicial system that is beginning to criminalize digital protests paints a picture of critical vulnerability for freedom of expression in the country.





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November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Brazil
General Index	72,14
2025 Clasification	Low Restriction
Score Variation	It rose 5.59 points
Position Variation	It moved up to the 4th position
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Legislative (LOW INFLUENCE)

Brazil, with 72.14 points, ranks 4th in the Chapultepec 2025 Index, placing it in the **Low Restriction** category. This represents an improvement over its 5th position in the previous edition. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, it scored 23.06/30. In *Realm B: State Action Against Violence and Impunity Against Journalists and Media*, it achieved 24.08/40, and in *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 25.00/30, the highest score in relation to the position of each indicator, placing it in the Free Expression category.

Regarding the impact of public authorities on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the **Legislative Branch** has the greatest overall influence, followed by the Judicial Branch. However, overall influence is low. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, the highest score (2.21/10) was obtained within the Legislative Branch. Despite this, all results indicate a **low influence**.

Between November 2, 2024, and November 1, 2025, freedom of expression and of the press in Brazil underwent a significant institutional reconfiguration after years of hostility from the Executive branch. Although the country has improved its position in international rankings thanks to more respectful rhetoric from President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, critical vulnerabilities persist, such as the extreme economic concentration of media ownership and the creation of "news deserts" in rural areas, where a lack of oversight allows political and criminal actors to operate with impunity. Despite a more favorable legislative environment, where key issues for press independence are debated, the safety of journalists remains alarming, as they face threats that have become more subtle and sophisticated. In short, Brazil has overcome an acute crisis but is still struggling to achieve full stability in the area of freedom of expression.





Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Uruguay
General Index	68.78
2025 Clasification	Low restriction
Score Variation	It rose 2.35 points
Position Variation	It moved up to the 5th position
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Legislative (MILD INFLUENCE)

Uruguay moved up one place compared to the previous edition of the Chapultepec Index, ranking 5th with 68.78, in the **Low Restriction** category. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, it scored 23.80/30. In *Realm B: State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*, it reached 22.78/40, its lowest score, placing it in the Restriction category. In *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 22.20/30.

Regarding the impact of different branches on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the greatest influence is exerted by the **Legislative Branch**, followed by the Executive Branch (Low Influence). The highest score obtained (1.00/10) is in the Executive Branch for Realm C; however, this influence is still low.

Despite the absence of lethal violence, Uruguay faces a decline in journalistic practice due to stigmatizing rhetoric from public authorities, administrative opacity, and media concentration under new regulatory frameworks. This context is particularly relevant during the presidential transition between Luis Lacalle Pou and Yamandú Orsi, who took office on March 1, 2025, and suspended the implementation of his predecessor's Media Law to assess its legality. Government communication has taken a critical turn, revealing an increase in the use of police summonses and defamation lawsuits as tools to harass journalists. Furthermore, strategic lawsuits against public participation have proliferated, affecting editorial independence and jeopardizing Uruguay's historical reputation as a bastion of press freedom in Latin America. Although the country enjoys strong democratic institutions, the period from November 2024 to November 2025 has revealed worrying cracks in its information ecosystem.



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November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Jamaica
General Index	67.80
2025 Clasification	Low Restriction
Score Variation	It rose 2.16 points
Position Variation	It moved up to the 6th position
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MILD INFLUENCE)

Jamaica ranks 6th in this edition of the Index, with 67.80 points out of 100. Located in the **Low Restriction** category, it moved up one place from its 2024 position (65.64). In *Real A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, it scored 18.75/30. In *Realm B: State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*, it achieved 26.06/40, and in *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 23.00/30. All these results placed it in the Low Restriction category for their respective indicators.

Regarding the impact of public authorities on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the **Executive Branch** has the greatest overall influence, followed by the Legislative Branch. However, overall **influence is low**, with the exception of Realm C: Media and Journalism Control, where influence was moderate, achieving the highest score in the table.

During the period from November 2, 2024, to November 1, 2025, freedom of expression and of the press in Jamaica faced some strain. Although democratic institutions are strong, there are growing concerns about public transparency and legal security for journalists, exacerbated by the influence of criminal groups that create zones of silence. Furthermore, indirect state control has been observed through government advertising, and the use of the Data Protection Act 2020 has been criticized as a way to inhibit accountability. In this context, while individual freedom of expression remains robust, the government, through its executive branch, has strengthened its control over the official narrative, while the legislature has failed to modernize critical tools for citizen transparency.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Panama
General Index	63.42
2025 Clasification	Low Restriction
Score Variation	It rose 1.69 points
Position Variation	It moved up to the 7 th position
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MILD INFLUENCE)

Panama scored 63.42 points, ranking 7th in the Index and placing it in the **Low Restriction** category, up one position from the previous result. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, it obtained 18.10/30. In *Realm B: State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*, it scored 22.92/40, the lowest score in the Low Restriction category. In *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 22.40/30.

Regarding the impact of different environments on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the greatest influence is exerted by the **Executive Branch**, followed by the Legislative Branch. The least influence across the *Realm is in B: State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*, and is exerted by the Executive and Legislative branches.

In Panama, during the period from November 2024 to November 2025, the government employed tactics of economic coercion, such as the selective allocation of state advertising, and cultivated a hostile rhetoric toward critical media outlets. Simultaneously, the legislature pushed through reforms that criminalize dissent, increasing penalties for defamation, while the judicial system was used to financially harass investigative media through multimillion-dollar lawsuits and the seizure of assets. Although Panama does not face a crisis as severe as those in other countries in the region, press freedom is suffering a silent but persistent erosion, with a landscape that reflects democratic fragility under institutional siege. Executive press conferences have demonstrated a confrontational and discriminatory approach toward independent journalists, reinforcing a climate of self-censorship and fear that undermines the vitality of public debate.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Argentina
General Index	53.02
2025 Clasification	With Restriction
Score Variation	It rose 1.84 points
Position Variation	It went up to the 8 th position
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (STRONG INFLUENCE)

Argentina has maintained a relatively stable position in the "**Restricted**" category since the second edition of the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Expression and the Press, after experiencing a sharp drop of 24 points (from 77.20 to 53.20 points) between 2020 and 2021, during a pandemic that prompted communication shifts in Mauricio Macri's administration. With the arrival of Javier Milei's government in 2023, other factors have kept levels in the middle range, including stigmatization of the press and the closure of state media outlets, such as Télam, in 2024. In this, the sixth edition, Argentina rose slightly, by 1.84 points, reaching 53.02 points, climbing three places in the ranking, from 11th to 8th. This latter increase is largely attributable to the descent of some nations into the "Highly Restricted" category.

The *Informed and Free Citizenship Realm* was the worst evaluated by the judges, obtaining 13.73 points out of a theoretical maximum of 30; the *State' Actions Against Violence and Impunity Against Journalists and Media Realm* was almost at the average level, with 19.11 points out of a possible 40; while in the *Media and Journalism Control Realm*, the measure was 20.18 points out of a theoretical maximum of 30. The **Executive Branch** is considered to have the greatest influence on situations adverse to freedom of expression and of the press, with a moderate impact on average, although strong in terms of the *Informed and Free Citizenship Realm*.

The government has employed stigmatization and digital attacks to undermine the critical press. Journalism has been viewed as an ideological adversary, in actions that have not only remained confined to microphone disputes but have escalated to physical assaults against the press. Several NGOs have reported a significant increase in attacks against the press at public demonstrations. During a pensioners' protest in Buenos Aires on March 12, 2025, photojournalist Pablo Grillo was seriously injured when he was struck by a tear gas canister fired by law enforcement officers. On the same day, approximately 20 attacks against press workers were documented. The officers involved were not sanctioned.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Paraguay
General Index	51.09
2025 Clasification	With restrictions
Score Variation	Dropped 5.71 points
Position Variation	It remained in 9th place.
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MILD INFLUENCE)

Paraguay scored 51.09 points, ranking 9th in the Index and placing it in the "**Restricted**" category, maintaining the same position as the previous edition. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, it scored 9.29/30, its lowest score, placing it in the "Highly Restricted" category. In *Realm B: State Action Against Violence and Impunity Against Journalists and Media*, it scored 20.09/40, and in *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 21.71/30, placing it in the "Lowly Restricted" category.

Regarding the impact of different environments on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the greatest influence is exerted by the **Executive Branch**, followed by the Legislative Branch. The least influence across the realms is in *Realm C: Media and Journalism Control*, and is exerted by all three environments.

In Paraguay, between November 2, 2024, and November 1, 2025, freedom of expression and of the press suffered a setback characterized by hostile government rhetoric and a system of institutional control that seeks to silence citizen oversight. During the first two years of Santiago Peña's administration, censorship mechanisms became more sophisticated, evolving from scattered physical violence to systematic judicial harassment that limits editorial independence. Official rhetoric shifted from an initial openness to confrontation with non-aligned media outlets, accusing them of generating distrust in public administration. Self-censorship intensified, especially in media outlets that depend on state advertising. Although the president promotes a pro-democratic discourse and aims to attract investment internationally, domestically hostility toward journalists has intensified, with direct verbal attacks and a judicial system that often ignores violence and permits legal harassment. This context has turned journalistic work into a high-risk exercise, both physically, financially and legally, creating an adverse environment for press freedom.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Costa Rica
General Index	50.29
2025 Clasification	With restrictions
Score Variation	Dropped 4.95 points
Position Variation	It remained in 10th place
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MODERATE INFLUENCE)

Costa Rica scored 50.29 points, placing it in the "**Restricted**" category, in 10th place. This ranking is the same as the previous year. In *Realm A: Informed Citizens and Freedom of Expression*, it obtained 11.06/30, the lowest score, placing this indicator in the "Highly Restricted" category. In *Realm B: State Action Against Violence and Impunity Against Journalists and Media*, it scored 23.12/40, and in *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 16.11/30, placing these two indicators in the "Restricted" category.

It is observed that, regarding the impact of different environments on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the **Executive Branch** has the greatest overall influence, followed by the Legislative Branch. The score in *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizens*, at 6.59 out of 10, stands out, reflecting a strong influence of this environment. Overall, the influence of the three environments ranges from low (Judicial) to moderate (Executive and Legislative).

Between November 2, 2024, and November 1, 2025, freedom of expression and of the press in Costa Rica faced structural erosion driven by the Executive Branch, which used stigmatizing language and exerted economic pressure through state advertising and a controversial auction of broadcast frequencies. During this period, under the administration of Rodrigo Chaves Robles, a communication strategy that delegitimized the media, portraying them as enemies of the people's interests, intensified. The government's aggressive rhetoric included derogatory terms used against journalists and critical media outlets, affecting the economic sustainability of the latter and the psychological well-being of media professionals. Furthermore, there was a trend toward restricting state advertising for media outlets with critical editorial lines, while favoring platforms aligned with the Executive Branch. Polarization in the Legislative Branch also contributed to a tense environment surrounding freedom of expression and of the press.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	United States of America
General Index	45.87
2025 Clasificación	With restrictions
Score Variation	Dropped 22.65 points
Position Variation	Dropped to the 11th position
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (STRONG INFLUENCE)

During 2025, under Donald Trump's second term, institutional actions in the United States regarding freedom of expression and of the press experienced a significant decline. The United States fell from the "Low Restriction" category to the "**With Restriction**" category. It dropped from fourth to eleventh place, registering 45.87 points out of a theoretical maximum of 100, its lowest level since the creation of the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Expression and of the Press. In terms of points, this represents a loss of 22.65.

In the *Realm Informed and Free Citizenship*, the United States received its worst score, obtaining only 12 out of 30 points. The judges found that during the period there was poor government action against disinformation, as well as government actions aimed at limiting free expression and access to information, aspects that make up this category. Regarding the *Government's Actions Against Violence Against Media and Journalists Realm*, it achieved 17.54 out of a possible 40; while in the *Media and Journalism Control Realm*, it obtained 16.33 out of 30 points, the only one above the average level.

Even though journalistic practice in the United States remains protected by the Constitution and laws, last year's events saw the erosion of safeguards, such as the repeal of the Garland Rule, which prohibited the use of legal means to compel journalists to disclose their leak records. Attacks during coverage of procedures undertaken by federal immigration agents have also raised concerns about journalistic freedoms. It is estimated that 170 attacks against journalists were recorded in the United States in 2025. There has also been a stigmatization of critical journalism spaces by President Trump himself and prominent spokespeople in his administration. Furthermore, funding for spaces in public service media was cut, and offices dedicated to diversity were closed. Key events include the dismissal of more than 500 *Voice of America* employees, an executive order issued in March 2025, which placed the affected journalists at risk of deportation.





Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Colombia
General Index	45.37
2025 Clasification	With restrictions
Score Variation	It rose 5.03 (From 40.34 to 45.37)
Position Variation	It went up to the 12 th position
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MODERATE)

Despite a two-position change in the Chapultepec Index—a rise of 5 points and two places, from 14th to 12th—Colombia has still not experienced significant improvement, remaining in the **"With Restriction"** category with 45.37 points in the 2025 measurement. It remains far from the ninth position it reached in the 2020 and 2022 editions. Judges attribute the greatest institutional impact on press freedom to the Executive branch, with a "moderate" influence from the administration of Gustavo Petro.

In the *Realm Informed and Free Citizenship*, which evaluates measures that guarantee the free flow of information, the ability of citizens to express themselves, and the State's efforts to prevent disinformation, it obtained 12.83 points out of a maximum of 30. In the *Realm State Actions against Violence against Journalists and Media*, it obtained its worst rating: 13.37 points out of a possible 40; both contrast with what it obtained in the *Realm Control of Media and Journalism*, in which it was above the average level of the category, with 19.17 points out of a possible 30.

The main enemy of free journalism and the work of journalists in Colombia continues to be the presence of irregular armed groups. Journalists face an atomization of the conflict with the emergence of new dissident organizations from the FARC and the ELN. In January 2025, journalists Diómedes Farid Manrique and Oscar Gómez Agudelo were murdered by hired killers. The State's inability to prevent these deaths, as well as the impunity surrounding these crimes, also impacts the barometer. In July 2025, journalist Gustavo Chicangana Álvarez survived an assassination attempt. During this period, on a positive note, the Supreme Court of Justice recognized that crimes against journalists must be investigated as attacks on democracy. Additionally, there were two rulings, T-230 and T-149, that guaranteed press access to public buildings and to the online profiles of public officials. However, judicial harassment, through criminal complaints, has also been used to silence critical voices.





Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Guatemala
General Index	45.20
2025 Clasification	Restricted
Score Variation	It rose 11.21 points
Position Variation	It moved up to the 13 th position
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Judicial (MODERATE INFLUENCE)

Guatemala scored 45.20 out of 100, ranking 13th in the Index and placing it in the "**Restricted**" category, a jump of four places from the previous result. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, it scored 11.28/30. In *Realm B: State Action Against Violence and Impunity Against Journalists and Media*, it scored 11.14/40, and in *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 22.78/30; placing the first two realms in the "High Restricted" category and Realm C in the "Low Restricted" category.

Regarding the impact of different environments on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the greatest influence is exerted by the **Judicial Branch**, followed by the Legislative Branch. The least influence across the realms is in *Realm C: Media and Journalism Control*, and is exerted by the Executive Branch.

During the period from November 2024 to November 2025, Guatemala faced a severe press freedom crisis, marked by a troubling contradiction between the rhetoric of political openness from President Bernardo Arévalo's government and the hostility of the judicial system. This environment was characterized by "judicial terrorism," where the Public Prosecutor's Office and the courts arbitrarily used criminal laws to silence critical voices, leading many journalists to self-censorship or exile. Despite the Executive's symbolic efforts to protect journalistic work, the institutional environment remains dominated by networks of impunity and mechanisms of criminalization. The situation is even more alarming in rural and border areas, where physical attacks and hate crimes are common, as evidenced by the murder of journalist Ismael Alonzo González and the disappearance of Milton René Polanco Orellana. Furthermore, legislative initiatives such as Initiative 6347, which seeks to implement a Cybersecurity Law, directly threaten freedom of expression. In this context, freedom of expression in Guatemala is in a critical state, depending more on the resilience of independent media and international pressure than on state guarantees.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Ecuador
General Index	38.42
2025 Clasification	High restriction
Score Variation	It dropped 7.62 points
Position Variation	It went down to position 14 th
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MODERATE INFLUENCE)

Ecuador experienced a decline in press and expression freedom during the period analyzed, amidst a climate that presents challenges on two fronts: the actions of organized crime, for which there has been no punishment, and censorship imposed through administrative mechanisms and repression by the State. A drop of 7.62 points places Ecuador in the **High Restriction** category, with 38.42 points, falling from 12th to 14th place, its lowest level since the first edition of the Chapultepec Press and Expression Freedom Index in 2020. Violence against journalists increased in the country.

The *Realm State's Action Against Violence and Impunity Against Journalists and Media* was the worst evaluated, with 10.06 points out of a possible 40; in the *Realm Informed and Free Expression Citizenship*, it obtained 10.06 points out of a theoretical maximum of 30; while in the *Realm Media and Journalism Control*, a structure that still allows the financial sustainability of the media left the nation with a rating of 19 points out of 30.

A moderate influence from all three branches of government is observed in incidents detrimental to freedom of expression and of the press, but the **Executive branch** is seen as having the greatest impact in these situations, especially in the *Realm of Informed and Free Citizenship*, where it appears to have a “Strong” influence. Lethal violence claimed the lives of four Ecuadorian journalists during this period, leaving the profession vulnerable due to the lack of adequate protection mechanisms for journalists.

The ELN in Colombia is also among the irregular groups that threaten journalists in that nation, sometimes forcing them into exile. In the first half of the year alone, the organization “Periodismo sin Cadenas” (Journalism Without Chains) documented nearly 290 attacks against journalists. Furthermore, the restrictive apparatus had a particularly strong impact on the Ecuadorian indigenous community. One extremely serious case was that of Kichwa journalist Edison Muenala – Atuk Wayra, of APAK TV, who was shot in the shoulder while broadcasting live footage of security forces repressing an indigenous community. A positive development for freedom of expression came with ruling 2032-20-JP/25, which prohibited the arbitrary blocking of social media users by government institutions.





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Country	Bolivia
General Index	37.12
2025 Clasification	High Restriction
Score Variation	It rose 4.56 points
Position Variation	It rose to position 15 th
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (STRONG INFLUENCE)

With 37.12 points out of a theoretical maximum of 100, Bolivia registered a slight increase in the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Expression and of the Press, although this does not signify a change in the category in which it has been classified since the last measurement: **High Restriction**. Under the government of Luis Arce, the sustainability of the media has suffered from discrimination in advertising guidelines, tax audits and penalties—as retaliation for criticism—and the stigmatizing language used against the independent press, which is sometimes attacked in the streets by government supporters acting with impunity.

In the *Realm Informed and Free Expression Citizenship*, it obtained only 7.94 out of a theoretical maximum of 30; in the *Realm State Actions Against Violence against Media and Journalists*, it reached 14.68 out of 40 possible points; in the *Realm Media and Journalism Control*, it also obtained a score below the average level, of 14.50 out of a theoretical maximum of 30.

According to the judges, the **Executive Branch** has the greatest influence on situations adverse to freedom of expression and of the press, to the degree of STRONG INFLUENCE. The Legislative branch has shelved some bills, such as the Law on Access to Public Information, and has studied a bill to provide protection mechanisms for journalists, which has been criticized by journalistic associations for establishing controls over media professionals. Meanwhile, the Judicial branch has been at the service of complaints against journalists for publications contrary to local authorities or groups with economic power. The cases of Yolanda Barrientos in Sucre and Roberto Puma in Tarija stand out in this regard. In 2025, the suspension of the trial and subsequent conditional release of those involved in the case known as "Las Londras," a 2021 incident in which journalists were kidnapped and tortured, brought impunity in these cases to the forefront. Investigative journalists have reported being victims of cyberbullying through the creation of fake accounts that launch smear campaigns and threats. The economic vulnerability of journalists also leads to self-censorship.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Honduras
General Index	35.64
2025 Clasification	High Restriction
Score Variation	Dropped 4.21 points
Position Variation	Dropped to position 16th
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Ejecutivo (INFLUENCIA MODERADA)

Honduras remains among the nations with **High Restrictions** in the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Expression and the Press, a position it has held since its decline in 2023. This drop occurred after Xiomara Castro de Zelaya's administration began and amidst a political crisis in the Honduran Congress. In this sixth edition of the barometer, the last under this administration, Honduras fell one position to the 16th place, with a score of 35.64 points. This is the lowest score Honduras has achieved in the six editions of this measurement.

The judges assigned Honduras, in the *Informed and Free Expression Citizenship Realm*, 11.33 points out of a theoretical maximum of 30; in the *State Action Dimension against Violence and Impunity against Media and Journalists*, only 8.53 points out of 40; while in the *Realm Media and Journalism Control* it slightly exceeded the central level, with 15.78 out of a theoretical maximum of 30. The branch that was most linked to situations adverse to freedom of expression and of the press was the **Executive Branch**, with a Moderate influence, followed very closely by the Legislative.

The worsening situation for freedom of expression in Honduras occurred, during the period analyzed, within the context of an electoral process that involved a diverse pattern of attacks against the press, including the murders of two journalists: Juan López in December 2024 and Javier Antonio Hércules Salinas in June 2025. Hércules Salinas was under a state protection mechanism that proved ineffective. In January 2025, the Colón Journalists and Media Workers Association reported that several professionals had been falsely linked to criminal groups. At least 64 non-lethal attacks against journalists were documented between January 1 and June 4, 2025 alone.

During that period, high-ranking military officials described journalists as "hitmen of the truth," accusing them of having links to organized crime.





Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Peru
General Index	35.54
2025 Clasification	High restriction
Score Variation	It dropped 0.62 points
Position Variation	It dropped from 16th to 17th.
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MODERATE INFLUENCE)

Peru scored 35.54 points, ranking 17th in the Index and placing it in the **High Restriction** category. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, it scored 8/30, its lowest score, which also places it in the High Restriction category. In *Realm B: State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*, it scored 10.68/40, and in *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 16.86/30.

Regarding the impact of different environments on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the **Executive Branch** has the greatest influence, followed by the Legislative Branch. The Judicial Branch has the least influence across all realms.

During the period from November 2024 to November 2025, Peru experienced a collapse of democratic guarantees, becoming the most regressive period for press freedom this century. This year witnessed systemic hostility toward journalism, characterized by a legislative offensive and the use of the judicial system to persecute critical voices, culminating in the murders of journalists, especially those investigating corruption and illegal economies. Laws passed by Congress, amidst multiple prosecutorial investigations, seek to criminalize journalistic practice and have created an environment of impunity. The proposed "Gag Law" aims to penalize the dissemination of private communications that reveal acts of corruption. Under the government of Dina Boluarte, the relationship with independent media deteriorated, with strategies including blocking access to public information and stigmatizing journalists. This context reveals a deliberate design to silence citizen oversight in an environment of growing corruption and authoritarianism.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Mexico
General Index	34.9
2025 Clasification	High Restriction
Score Variation	Dropped -8.60 (from 43.50 to 34.90)
Position Variation	Dropped 5 positions (from 13th to 18th)
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (MODERATE INFLUENCE)

The ineffectiveness of protection mechanisms for journalists persists in Mexico, one of the world's most dangerous countries for reporters, with nine homicides perpetrated by organized crime, amidst a climate in which officials have been involved in attacks and harassment. With 34.9 points out of a theoretical maximum of 100, it ranked 18th in the barometer, dropping five positions compared to the previous measurement—the lowest score since the first edition of the Chapultepec Index in 2020.

With a state that does not directly commit the murders but has failed to guarantee the safety of journalists, nine journalists were killed in Mexico during the period under analysis. The scores for the *Realm of State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media* remain critically low: 6.93 out of a possible 40 points. Additionally, restrictive practices against citizen expression resulted in the *Realm of Informed and Free Citizenship* receiving only 8.91 points out of a theoretical maximum of 30. Regulatory performance regarding Social Communication remained above average in the *Realm of Media and Journalism Control*, with 19.06 points out of a theoretical maximum of 30, which refers to the sustainability of the independent press.

The executive branch was most frequently singled out as a participant in situations detrimental to freedom of expression, although the legislative branch followed closely behind, both considered to have “moderate” influence. While President Claudia Sheinbaum has expressed opposition to censorship, her administration has strengthened controls on media access to public information and on the telecommunications sector. Meanwhile, governors, mayors, and other officials have resorted to civil lawsuits to try to silence criticism. One of the new arguments against journalists is the alleged commission of gender-based violence; a prime example was the complaint filed by the governor of Campeche, Layda Sansores, against journalist Jorge Luis González Valdez. In that case, a judge ordered the closure of the newspaper *Tribuna* for two years and prohibited González Valdez from practicing journalism for the same period.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Haiti
General Index	29.02
2025 Clasification	High Restriction
Score Variation	This is their first inclusion in the ICH
Position Variation	It is located in the 19th position
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (STRONG INFLUENCE)

Haiti's inclusion in the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Expression and the Press placed the nation in 19th position, with a score of 29.02 points, positioning it in the **High Restriction** category, the fourth worst score in the index. The severe political, economic, and security crisis gripping the country, coupled with a state powerless to combat crime, highlights impunity for crimes against the population and the press as a major aggravating factor in the eyes of judges. While the authorities are not the primary aggressors against the media, they are the ones who have failed to establish limits on organized crime.

Haiti obtained only 4.94 points out of a possible 30 in *Realm A, Informed and Free Citizenship*; 10.24 points out of 40 in *Realm B, State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*; and 13.84 points in the *Realm Media Control*, out of a theoretical maximum of 30. The Presidential Transitional Council was unable to maintain the nation's stability, and the power of armed gang violence spread from the capital, Port-au-Prince, to some peripheral regions, such as Artibonite and the Central Department.

Notable incidents during this period include the attempted murder of journalist Wandy Charles and his family in November 2024; and the murder of journalists Markenzy Nathoux and Jimmy Jean at the State University Hospital of Haiti on Christmas Eve. Seven other journalists were injured in the incident, which occurred while they were covering the reopening of the hospital after months of closure by criminal gangs. The attack was attributed to the Vivre Ensemble coalition, led by Jimmy Cherisier, alias Barbecue.

Another incident took place between March 12 and 16, when the Viv Ansanm coalition set fire to and looted at least three radio and television stations in Port-au-Prince: Radio Télévision Caraïbes (RTVC), Mélodie FM and Télé Pluriel.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Cuba
General Index	26.72
2025 Clasificación	High Restriction
Score Variation	Moved up 9.78 (from 16.94 to 26.72)
Position Variation	It remains in position 20
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (STRONG INFLUENCE)

Cuba presents a strengthened dictatorship that has normalized situations adverse to freedom of expression, refining the environment of restriction to the point of almost completely eliminating citizen protests. Even when protests do occur, they face new obstacles due to prior repression within an institutional framework. Cuba appears in the **"High Restriction"** category, with only 26.72 points out of a possible 100. Although its score improves by almost 10 points compared to last year's measurement, it remains in twentieth position in the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Expression and of the Press.

Realm A, Informed and Free Citizenship, received the worst score, with 1.63 points out of a possible 30, placing it second to last in this category among the 23 countries included in the analysis, only ahead of Venezuela, both of which lack freedom of expression in this area. In *Realm B, State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*, Cuba exhibits a high level of restriction, with 15.86 points out of a possible 40. This is associated with a shift in the state's authoritarian approach: from a dictatorship characterized by improvised reactivity to social protest, to one with legalistic and institutionalized censorship, using instruments such as the Social Communication Law, which came into effect in October 2024, shortly before the start of the analyzed period, but whose effects continued throughout it.

Cuba also obtained a precarious score of 9.22 out of a possible 30 points in the *Realm Media Control*, placing it third worst in this category. The Executive Branch is the entity most involved in situations detrimental to freedom of expression and of the press, wielding significant influence, and a very strong influence in the *Realm Informed and Free Citizenship*. The state has labeled independent journalism as "mercenary," considering social communication a public good and using the courts to persecute dissenting voices. Permanent surveillance operations outside journalists' homes to prevent them from leaving to report—a kind of de facto house arrest—have been a constant throughout 2025.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	El Salvador
General Index	24.49
2025 Clasification	High Restriction
Score Variation	Dropped 7,04 points
Position Variation	Dropped to the 21 st position
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (STRONG INFLUENCE)

El Salvador has been gradually regressing in terms of communication rights since the second edition of the Chapultepec Press Freedom Index. This time, it obtained an overall score of 24.49 points out of a possible 100, keeping it in the **"High Restriction"** category, ahead of only Nicaragua and Venezuela, and for the first time below Cuba. It dropped two positions to third-to-last place. It scored only 5.45 points out of a theoretical maximum of 30 in the *Realm Informed and Free Expression*; and 4.17 points out of 40 in the Realms of *State's Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*, both Realms falling into the "No Freedom of Expression" category. Its best performance, with 14.86 points out of a maximum of 30, was in the *Realm Media Control*, where it was considered "Restricted."

According to the sample surveyed for the Chapultepec Index, the **Executive Branch** is the most involved in situations detrimental to freedom of expression, with a strong average influence on such actions. The state of emergency, declared by President Nayib Bukele's administration, has remained in effect for three consecutive years. The Foreign Agents Law was identified as a tool of structural harassment against funding for independent journalistic initiatives.

To silence critical voices, state authorities have employed strategies such as judicial persecution, financial strangulation, and direct attacks on journalists. Between May and July 2025 alone, 180 attacks against media professionals were recorded, according to the Salvadoran Journalists Association. The Salvadoran Armed Forces (FAES) were accused of arbitrarily detaining journalists in May 2025. Furthermore, the intimidating atmosphere created by agents of the Riot Control Unit (UMO) has persisted. It is estimated that at least 47 journalists have fled the country during Nayib Bukele's administration.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Nicaragua
General Index	18.22
2025 Clasification	Without Freedom of Expression
Score Variation	It rose 11.71 points
Position Variation	It remained in 22nd place
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (STRONG INFLUENCE)

Nicaragua scored only 18.22 points, ranking 22nd in the Index and placing it in the "**No Freedom of Expression**" category. In *Realm A: Informed and Free Citizenship*, it obtained 2.33/30, the lowest score. In *Realm B: State Action Against Violence and Impunity Against Journalists and Media*, it scored 9.22/40, and in *Realm C: Control of Media and Journalism*, it scored 6.67/30. These last two realms fall within the "High Restriction" category.

Regarding the impact of different environments on situations unfavorable to freedom of expression, the **Executive Branch** exerts the greatest influence, followed by the Judicial Branch (Strong Influence in both cases). Notably, in Realm A, the influence of these branches is Very Strong, with 7.93 out of 10 points in the Legislative Branch and 7.67 in the Judicial Branch.

Between 2024 and 2025, Nicaragua transitioned to a totalitarian model under the Ortega-Murillo regime, which systematically eliminated independent journalism and democratic guarantees. Through a radical constitutional reform, censorship was institutionalized, and the persecution of critics intensified, including the deprivation of nationality. The passage of Law No. 1234 in February 2025 marked the end of the republican era, consolidating absolute power with unlimited authority over the lives of Nicaraguans. The digital environment has been subjected to severe restrictions and blocking, while violence against journalists has evolved into psychological repression. Many journalists live under extreme surveillance, and those who still operate in the country do so clandestinely, using digital tools to stay afloat. By the end of this period, freedom of expression in Nicaragua had reached its most critical level since 1979, a result of a combination of state terrorism and an oppressive legal framework.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

Country	Venezuela
General Index	7.02
2025 Clasification	No freedom of expression
Score variation	Moved up 0.51 points
Position Variation	It remains in the last position (23)
Branch of the State with the most influence in situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press	Executive (VERY STRONG INFLUENCE)

During the analysis period, the systemic deterioration in freedom of expression and of the press in Venezuela, amid restrictive, repressive, and disinformation practices, kept this nation in last place in the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Expression and of the Press, with the inclusion of Haiti, in 23rd place. It obtained only 7.02 points out of a possible 100, with a negligible increase of 0.51 points, possibly due to a decrease in the figures of direct violence, after 2024 registered a very high incidence in the post-electoral scenario, with more than 2,000 people detained.

Following the election, 25 journalists were arrested by authorities on different dates, gradually, for various reasons. Similarly, arbitrary arrests were made of individuals, including public officials, for disseminating messages against the regime. The media blackout was clearly reflected in the assessments of the judges interviewed: 0.82 points out of a theoretical maximum of 30 in the *Realm Informed and Free Expression Citizenship*; a mere 2.02 points in the *Realm State Action against Violence and Impunity against Journalists and Media*; and 4.18—the lowest of all the nations—in the *Realm Media and Journalism Control*.

The branch most closely linked to situations unfavorable to freedom of expression and of the press was the **Executive Branch**, with a “Very Strong” influence. The other two branches, the Legislative and Judicial branches, were rated as having a “Strong” influence. The Legislative and Judicial branches are aligned with the Executive's directives to maintain a structured gag order responsible for the closure of more than 400 radio stations, the near disappearance of critical print media, the exile of journalists, and the decline of protests. Self-censorship became a normalized practice in the media that still operate, and state-affiliated stations became platforms for reinforcing official propaganda. An example of this situation was the absolute silence in the country's media regarding the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to opposition leader María Corina Machado. The only two journalists who mentioned it on the radio, anchors at Unión Radio, were excluded from their programs due to pressure from the Executive.





Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

In October 2024, prior to the period under review, Edwin Santos, a radio announcer at Fe y Alegría and a political activist in Apure state, in southern Venezuela, was detained by agents of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) and later found dead. The political party Voluntad Popular, to which he belonged, denounced the incident as a murder, while authorities maintained that his death was the result of a traffic accident.



Period of Measurement
November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025

The Big Picture

This is one of the worst years for journalism in the region, marked by murders, arbitrary arrests, exile, and rampant impunity in countries such as Mexico, Honduras, Ecuador, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia, Cuba, and Venezuela. The deterioration in these nations is not ideologically discriminatory, and therefore, press and expression freedoms across the continent have not benefited from either of the poles of political radicalization that have characterized the region in recent years.

Authoritarian presidential systems have set the standard in the worst-performing nations. Judges in the vast majority of these countries attribute the environment most closely linked to adverse conditions for freedom of expression and of the press to the respective executive branches.

There are patterns in the methods used to silence journalists in some of the nations analyzed, regardless of ideology: the use of state power to criminalize independent journalism, stigmatizing language that may be accompanied by pressure from shock groups that attack the press under the cloak of impunity, oversight and financial strangulation of private media outlets that are inconvenient to the official line, laws that demonize expression contrary to the interests of those in power, and inefficient protection mechanisms that allow criminal and irregular groups to attack the lives of journalists without any corrective measures.

The best atmospheres for citizen expression and independent journalism were recorded in nations such as the Dominican Republic, the only one above 80 points out of 100 of the Chapultepec Index, followed by Chile, Canada, Brazil, Uruguay and Jamaica, which are around 70 points, in the Low Restriction range.

2026 is shaping up to be a year of significant political transformations, particularly in countries like Chile and Honduras that have recently held elections, and in the wake of recent US actions in Venezuela. Expectations remain high regarding the civil rights climate across much of the region, along with some doubts about the press's ability to influence the changes necessary for its own sustainability in nations burdened by economic crises, such as the one currently being experienced in Bolivia. Dilemmas, challenges, and new opportunities are anticipated in the next barometer.