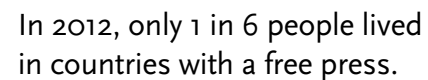


- ➔ Intensified efforts to block new media
- ➔ Media openings in West Africa and Asia
- ➔ Press crackdown in Mali and Guinea-Bissau
- ➔ Economic crisis weakens press freedom in EU



GREECE PARTLY FREE

Press Freedom Score **41**



**HEIGHTENED ECONOMIC,
LEGAL, AND POLITICAL
PRESSURE ON THE PRESS**

Greece's score dropped from 30 to 41 points and its status fell from Free to Partly Free due to closures of, or cutbacks at, numerous print and broadcast outlets; a related reduction in media diversity and effective reporting about the country's political and economic situation; and heightened legal and physical harassment of journalists.



A riot policeman punches Greek photojournalist Tatiana Bolari during a demonstration in Athens' Syntagma (Constitution) square on October 5, 2011. (REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis)

ISRAEL PARTLY FREE

Press Freedom Score **31**



FINANCIAL PRESSURE, POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN THE PRESS

In **Israel**, the score fell from 30 to 31, and the status declined from Free to Partly Free, to reflect the indictment of journalist Uri Blau for possession of state secrets, the first time this law had been used against the press in several decades, as well as instances of politicized interference with the content of Israeli Broadcasting Authority radio programs and concerning the license renewal of Channel 10. In addition, the economic impact on media sustainability posed by *Israel Hayom*, a free newspaper and now the largest-circulation daily, led to financial pressures on other dailies and the collapse and buyout of the daily *Maariv* in 2012.



Haaretz journalist Uri Blau speaks to the media at the end of a court hearing in Tel Aviv on July 24, 2012. Blau was convicted of possession of classified army documents, and according to a deal he signed with the State of Israel that was approved by the court, the journalist would serve four months of community service work. (OREN ZIV/AFP/GettyImages)

MALI PARTLY FREE

Press Freedom Score **46**



ARBITRARY ARREST OF JOURNALISTS, PRESS RESTRICTIONS

Mali, traditionally one of Africa's top performers, suffered the index's largest single-year decline in a decade, falling from 24 to 46 points and from Free to Partly Free due to repression of the media in the south as a result of the March military coup, and the near-complete suppression of press freedom in the north, which was seized by Islamist militants. Violations in the south included a temporary suspension of the constitution, arbitrary arrests of journalists, the takeover of the state broadcaster, and restrictions on reporting on the coup. In the north, militants closed or took over nearly all outlets and imposed a crude form of Islamic law. Harassment and attacks on journalists were prevalent in both sections of the country.



Malian journalists take to the streets of Bamako on July 17, 2012 during a day of 'Dead Press' to protest recent attacks against journalists by armed men believed to be linked to the former junta. No private newspapers were printed and private radio stations did not broadcast for the day as part of the protest, which was organized by local press groups with the support of Reporters Without Borders. (HABIBOU KOUYATE/AFP/GettyImages)

MALAWI

PARTLY FREE

Press Freedom Score **53**



**RESTRICTIVE LAW
REPEALED, HARASSMENT
AND VIOLENCE REDUCED**

Malawi's score improved from 60 to 53 as the country experienced a reversal of a downward slide when new president Joyce Banda took office in April. Banda repealed a restrictive media law and fostered a climate that led to a reduction in instances of official censorship and government intimidation, harassment, and violence against journalists.



Peaceful demonstrations against President Mingu wa Mutharika and the DPP-majority government. In Blantyre, Malawi.
(Travis Lupick)

ECUADOR NOT FREE

Press Freedom Score **61**



**STATE INTERFERENCE,
HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT
FOR THE PRESS**

Ecuador's score dropped from 58 to 61, and its status declined from Partly Free to Not Free, due to government-sponsored regulations that severely restricted the press's ability to report on politics ahead of the February 2013 presidential election, as well as President Rafael Correa's directive to withdraw government advertising from privately owned media that are critical of the government, and a general reduction in political and investigative reporting due to an increasingly hostile environment for the press created by the Correa government.



Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa (R) attends a news conference after a court session in Quito, January 24, 2012. Correa sued editorial page editor Emilio Palacio and the owners of the newspaper *El Universo* for libel. (REUTERS/Guillermo Granja)

EGYPT NOT FREE

Press Freedom Score **62**



**VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION,
STATE INTERFERENCE**



In **Egypt**, the score declined from 57 to 62, and the status declined from Partly Free to Not Free, as a result of increasing violence against and harassment of journalists, and the adoption of a new constitution in December that, while enshrining the right to freedom of the press, allows for limitations based on social, cultural, and political grounds. In addition, the judiciary has ruled against journalists in several cases, and the Egyptian media have become much more polarized since President Mohamed Morsi's election in June.

Supporters of television presenter Tawfiq Okasha, who is also the owner of Egyptian television channel Al-Faraeen, shout slogans against Egypt's President Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood during Okasha's trial in Cairo on October 3, 2012. Okasha was sent to a criminal court on accusations of inciting people to kill Morsi and insulting him. The prosecutor ordered that the channel be taken off air. Okasha had said in one of his talk shows that Morsi and his group "deserve to get killed." The words on the sign on left read: "Freedom of the press and opinion and pen." (REUTERS/Amr Abdallah Dalsh)

THAILAND NOT FREE

Press Freedom Score **62**



RESTRICTION OF FREE SPEECH



Thailand moved from 60 to 62 points, and fell from Partly Free to Not Free, due to a continuing trend of aggressive enforcement of lèse-majesté laws, which restrict speech deemed offensive to the monarchy. Court decisions in 2012 found that the existing laws do not contradict the constitution's provisions for freedom of expression, and that third-party hosts may be held liable for online lèse-majesté violations. Harsh penalties continued to be handed down during the year, and even convictions coupled with relatively lenient sentences threatened to encourage self-censorship.

Chiranuch Premchaiporn, director of Prachatai news website, arrives at a court hearing for her verdict in a computer crime case in Bangkok, April 30, 2012. Chiranuch was accused of failing to delete anti-monarchy postings that were deemed offensive under Thailand's strict lese-majeste laws fast enough on Prachatai's webboard. (REUTERS/Sukree Sukplang)

BURMA NOT FREE

Press Freedom Score **72**



RELEASE OF IMPRISONED JOURNALISTS, CENSORSHIP DECLINE

Impressive gains were recorded in **Burma**, which improved from 85 to 72 points due to the release of imprisoned bloggers and journalists, an end to official prepublication censorship and dissolution of the censorship body, a reduction in violence against journalists, improved access for the foreign media, and greater access to foreign radio broadcasts and the internet. However, restrictions remained on ethnic minority journalists and coverage of ethnic violence in Rakhine State.



A journalist wearing a T-shirt reading 'Stop killing press' as he waits outside a court for a ruling on a defamation case against *The Voice Weekly* in Yangon. The chief editor and publisher of *The Voice Weekly* were charged with defamation on September 20 for reporting a graft probe into a government ministry. (Soe Than WIN/AFP/GettyImages)

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

NOT FREE

Press Freedom Score **61**



**DECLINE IN LEGAL
RESTRICTIONS,
OPENING OF AIRWAVES**

Côte d'Ivoire's score improved from 70 to 61 due to the generally less restrictive legal and political environment for the press under the new government of Alassane Ouattara, including a decrease in harassment and attacks on foreign and local journalists, more space for critical reporting, and the opening up of radio and television airwaves to private broadcasters.



The front page of a newspaper, featuring the arrest of Ivorian political leader Charles Ble Goudé, is seen in Abidjan on January 18, 2013. (REUTERS/Thierry Gouegnon)

AFGHANISTAN NOT FREE

Press Freedom Score **67**



**NEW PRIVATE OUTLETS,
MORE INDEPENDENT
REPORTING**

In **Afghanistan** a continuing decrease in violence against journalists, the opening of a number of new private media outlets that are free to criticize the government, and a decline in official censorship and prosecutions of journalists caused the score to improve from 74 to 67.



A man buys *Ensaf* newspaper at a kiosk in Kabul on May 22, 2012. (REUTERS/Mohammad Ismail)