



## Update

### Global press freedom snapshots

Both exciting and depressing stories (for world press freedom advocates) continue to emerge. Many still debate whether freedom is gaining or losing ground.

- **Cuba's digital newspaper:** Cuba has a notorious reputation for restricting free speech. In response, dissident blogger Yoani Sanchez launched [Cuba's first digital newspaper](#) in 2014. The Cuban government still [blocks the newspaper](#).
- **#SOSVenezuela:** When protests broke out in Venezuela to oppose the government of President Nicolas Maduro, [citizens took to social media](#). When Maduro made moves to suppress freedom of speech, including [kicking out Colombian news station NTN 24](#), citizens depended on social media to be their news. University of Miami student Arianne Alcorta produced a [documentary on the crisis in Venezuela](#) all the way from Miami by gathering content from social media.
- **Journalist arrests:** At a time when [freedom advocates hail activite citizen participation in the press](#), the world remains dangerous for journalists. An Egyptian court sentenced [three Al Jazeera journalists to prison](#) on charges of reporting false news and aiding the Muslim Brotherhood. Al Jazeera insists there is no evidence to support the charges against them.
- **Kidnapped in Donetsk:** Vice News reporter Simon Ostrovsky [was kidnapped by pro-Russian separatists](#) in April 2014 in the eastern Ukrainian town of Slavyansk. According to the Guardian, the [separatists kidnapped the reporter for spying](#), which Ostrovsky denies. After he was released he said his captors beat him but not to the extent that would lead to lasting physical damage.
- **Fake reporters, real fury:** In 2014, funnymen Seth Rogen and James Franco will star in [The Interview](#), a film about two journalists who enter North Korea to assassinate Kim Jong Un. The dictator responded by calling the film ["an act of war."](#)