



SELECTED DATA FROM *FREEDOM IN THE WORLD*, FREEDOM HOUSE'S ANNUAL GLOBAL SURVEY OF
POLITICAL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

BELARUS–BURMA–CHAD–CHINA–CUBA–EQUATORIAL GUINEA–ERITREA–LAOS–LIBYA
NORTH KOREA–SAUDI ARABIA–SOMALIA–SUDAN–SYRIA–TURKMENISTAN–UZBEKISTAN–ZIMBABWE
TIBET (CHINA)–SOUTH OSSETIA (GEORGIA)–WESTERN SAHARA (MOROCCO)–CHECHNYA (RUSSIA)

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Overview

Freedom House has prepared this overview report as a companion to our annual survey on the state of global political rights and civil liberties, *Freedom in the World*. We are publishing this report to assist policymakers, human rights organizations, democracy advocates, and others who are working to advance freedom around the world. We also hope that the report will be useful to the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The reports are excerpted from *Freedom in the World 2009*, which surveys the state of freedom in 193 countries and 16 select territories. The ratings and accompanying essays are based on events from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. The 17 countries and 4 territories profiled in this report are drawn from the total of 42 countries and 9 territories that are considered to be Not Free and whose citizens endure systematic and pervasive human rights violations.

Included in this report are eight countries judged to have the worst human rights records: **Burma, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan**. Also included are two territories, **Chechnya** and **Tibet**, whose inhabitants suffer intense repression. These states and territories received the Freedom House survey's lowest ratings: 7 for political rights and 7 for civil liberties (based on a 1 to 7 scale, with 1 representing the most free and 7 the least free). Within these entities, state control over daily life is pervasive and wide-ranging, independent organizations and political opposition are banned or suppressed, and fear of retribution for independent thought and action is part of daily life.

The report also includes nine additional countries near the bottom of Freedom House's list of the most repressive: **Belarus, Chad, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Laos, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Zimbabwe**. The two territories of **South Ossetia** and **Western Sahara** are also included in this group. These countries and territories—all of which received ratings 7 for political rights and 6 for civil liberties—offer very limited scope for private discussion while severely suppressing opposition political activity, impeding independent organizing, and censoring or punishing criticism of the state.

Massive human rights violations take place in nearly every part of the world. This year's roster of the "worst of the worst" includes countries from the Americas, the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, and East Asia; they represent a wide array of cultures and levels of economic development. This report focuses on states and territories that have seen some of the world's most severe repression and most systematic and brutal violations of human dignity. It seeks to focus the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Council on

states and territories that deserve investigation and condemnation for their widespread violations.

The fundamental violations of rights presented in this report are all the more alarming because they stand in sharp contrast to the significant expansion of human liberty over the last three decades. In that period, dozens of states have shed tyranny and embraced democratic rule and respect for basic civil liberties. There has also been growing public

Freedom in the World 2009
WORST OF THE WORST

Of the 42 countries designated as Not Free, eight have been given the survey's lowest possible rating of 7 for both political rights and civil liberties. Among the eight worst-rated countries, one, North Korea, is a one-party Marxist-Leninist regime. Two, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, are Central Asian countries ruled by dictators with roots in the Soviet period. Libya is an Arab country under the sway of a secular dictatorship, while Sudan is under a leadership that has elements both of radical Islamism and of a typical military junta. The remaining worst-rated states are Burma, a tightly controlled military dictatorship; Equatorial Guinea, a highly repressive regime with one of the worst human rights records in Africa; and Somalia, a failed state.

There are two worst-rated territories: Tibet, under Chinese jurisdiction, and Chechnya, where a repressive pro-Kremlin regime continues to struggle with a guerrilla insurgency.

An additional 11 countries and territories received scores that were slightly above the worst-ranked countries, and received ratings of 6,7 or 7,6 for political rights and civil liberties: Belarus, Chad, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Laos, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Zimbabwe, South Ossetia, and Western Sahara.

support around the world for the values of liberal democracy including multiparty elections, the rule of law, freedom of association, freedom of speech, the rights of minorities, and other fundamental, universally valid human rights. According to our global survey *Freedom in the World*, (whose findings can be accessed online at www.freedomhouse.org) at the beginning of 2009, of the 193 countries in the world, 89 (46 percent) are Free and can be said to respect a broad array of basic human rights and political freedoms. An additional 62 (32 percent) are Partly Free, with some abridgments of basic rights and weak enforcement of the rule of law. In all, some 3 billion people—46 percent of the world's population—live in Free states in which a broad array of political rights are protected.

There is also growing evidence that most countries that have made measured and sustainable progress in long-term economic development are also states that respect democratic practices. This should hardly be surprising as competitive, multiparty democracy provides for the rotation of power, government transparency,

independent civic monitoring, and free media. These in turn promote improved governance and impede massive corruption and cronyism, conditions that are prevalent in settings where political power is not subject to civic and political checks and balances.

The expansion of democratic governance over the last several decades has important implications for the United Nations and other international organizations. Today, states that respect basic freedoms and the rule of law have greater potential than ever before to positively influence global and regional institutions. But they can only achieve that potential within international bodies by working cooperatively and cohesively on issues of democracy and human rights. Nowhere is the need for international democratic cooperation more essential than at the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Although democracy has scored impressive gains in recent times, we have also begun to experience a new drive to prevent the further spread of democracy and, where possible, roll back some of the achievements that have already been registered. A number of the countries featured in this report are prominent in this effort. The strategy of those involved in this campaign to roll back democracy has many facets: dismantling independent media, marginalizing the political opposition, and preventing independent think tanks and NGOs from obtaining necessary resources. In addition, many of the world's worst violators of human rights and democratic standards have joined in loose coalitions at the United Nations to deflect attention from their records of repression. The failure of the United Nations to effectively address human rights problems played an important role in the decision to replace the old Commission on Human Rights with the new Human Rights Council. The Council is functioning under a set of procedures that will hopefully enable that body to deal with the core human rights problems in the world. We offer this report in the hope that it will assist the democratic world in pressing the case for freedom at the United Nations and in other forums.

Jennifer Windsor
Executive Director, Freedom House
March 2009

Worst of the Worst 2009:

The World's Most Repressive Societies

Independent Countries

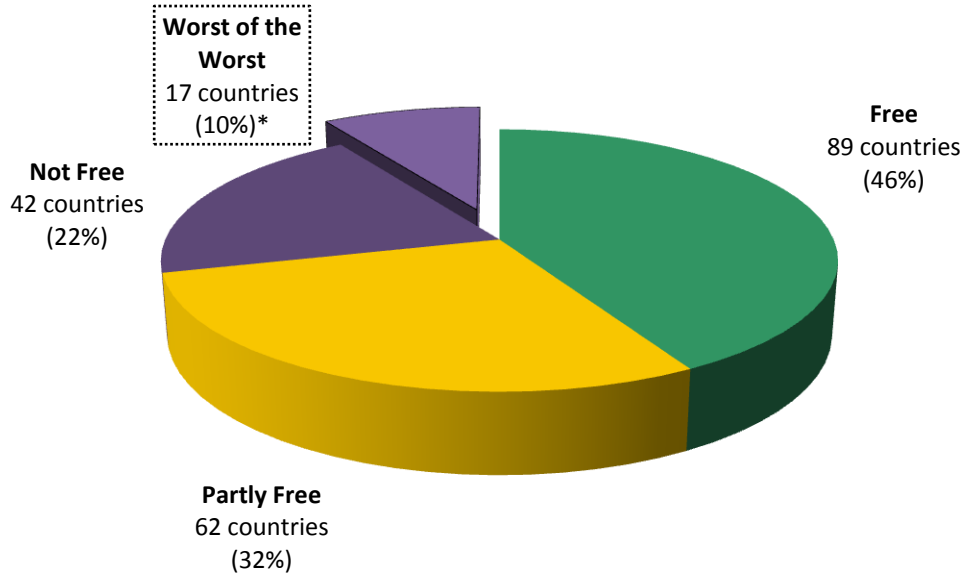
Country	PR	CL	Combined Average Rating	Freedom Status
Burma	7	7	7	Not Free
Equatorial Guinea	7	7 ▼	7	Not Free
Libya	7	7	7	Not Free
North Korea	7	7	7	Not Free
Somalia	7	7	7	Not Free
Sudan	7	7	7	Not Free
Turkmenistan	7	7	7	Not Free
Uzbekistan	7	7	7	Not Free
Belarus	7	6	6.5	Not Free
Chad	7	6	6.5	Not Free
China	7	6	6.5	Not Free
Cuba	7	6 ▲	6.5	Not Free
Eritrea	7	6	6.5	Not Free
Laos	7	6	6.5	Not Free
Saudi Arabia	7	6	6.5	Not Free
Syria	7	6	6.5	Not Free
Zimbabwe	7	6	6.5	Not Free

Related and Disputed Territories

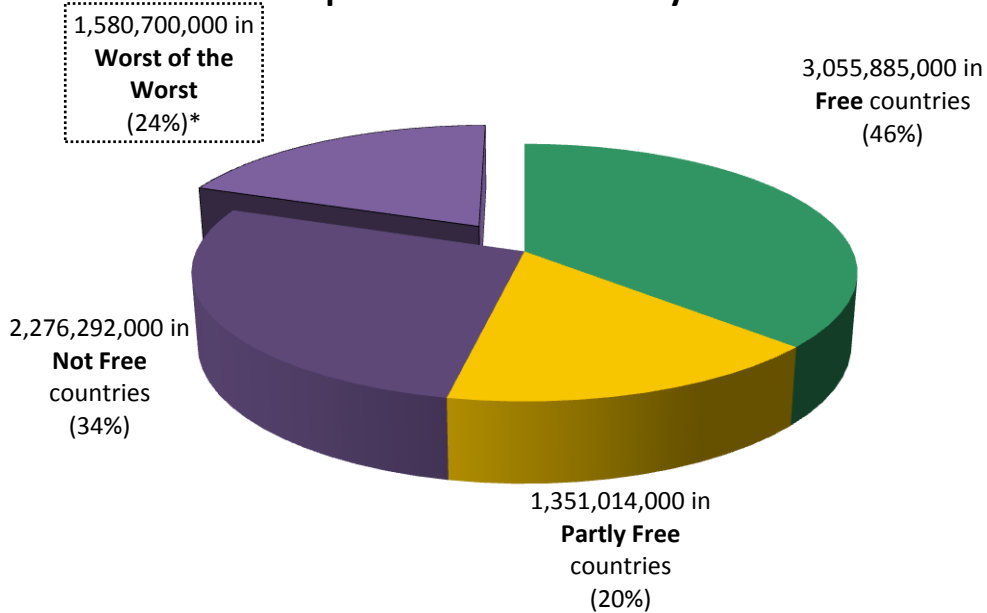
Territory (Country)	PR	CL	Combined Average Rating	Freedom Status
Tibet (China)	7	7	7	Not Free
Chechnya (Russia)	7	7	7	Not Free
South Ossetia (Georgia)	7	6	6.5	Not Free
Western Sahara (Morocco)	7	6	6.5	Not Free

Freedom in the World 2009: Global Data

Country Breakdown by Status



Population Breakdown by Status



*Of the 193 countries evaluated by Freedom House in the *Freedom in the World 2009* survey, 42 are Not Free. Of the 42 Not Free countries, 17 qualify as world's most repressive societies with average combined political rights and civil liberties ratings of 6.5 or 7. These countries comprise 10% of the world's nations and 24% of the world's population.

Freedom in the World 2009: Table of Independent Countries

Country	PR	CL	Trend Arrow	Freedom Status
Afghanistan	5	6 ▼		Not Free ▼
Albania*	3	3		Partly Free
Algeria	6	5		Not Free
Andorra*	1	1		Free
Angola	6	5	↑	Not Free
Antigua and Barbuda*	2	2		Free
Argentina*	2	2		Free
Armenia	6 ▼	4		Partly Free
Australia*	1	1		Free
Austria*	1	1		Free
Azerbaijan	6	5	↓	Not Free
Bahamas*	1	1		Free
Bahrain	5	5	↓	Partly Free
Bangladesh*	4 ▲	4		Partly Free
Barbados*	1	1		Free
Belarus	7	6		Not Free
Belgium*	1	1		Free
Belize*	1	2		Free
Benin*	2	2		Free
Bhutan	4 ▲	5		Partly Free ▲
Bolivia*	3	3		Partly Free
Bosnia-Herzegovina*	4	3		Partly Free
Botswana*	2	2		Free
Brazil*	2	2		Free
Brunei	6	5		Not Free
Bulgaria*	2 ▼	2		Free
Burkina Faso	5	3		Partly Free
Burma	7	7	↓	Not Free
Burundi*	4	5	↓	Partly Free
Cambodia	6	5		Not Free
Cameroon	6	6	↓	Not Free
Canada*	1	1		Free
Cape Verde*	1	1		Free
Central African Republic	5	5		Partly Free
Chad	7	6		Not Free
Chile*	1	1		Free
China	7	6		Not Free
Colombia*	3	4 ▼		Partly Free
Comoros*	3 ▲	4		Partly Free
Congo (Brazzaville)	6	5		Not Free

Country	PR	CL	Trend Arrow	Freedom Status
Congo (Brazzaville)	6	5		Not Free
Congo (Kinshasa)	6 ▼	6		Not Free
Costa Rica*	1	1		Free
Cote d'Ivoire	6 ▲	5		Not Free
Croatia*	2	2		Free
Cuba	7	6 ▲		Not Free
Cyprus*	1	1		Free
Czech Republic*	1	1		Free
Denmark*	1	1		Free
Djibouti	5	5		Partly Free
Dominica*	1	1		Free
Dominican Republic*	2	2		Free
East Timor*	3	4		Partly Free
Ecuador*	3	3		Partly Free
Egypt	6	5		Not Free
El Salvador*	2	3		Free
Equatorial Guinea	7	7 ▼		Not Free
Eritrea	7	6		Not Free
Estonia*	1	1		Free
Ethiopia	5	5		Partly Free
Fiji	6	4	↓	Partly Free
Finland*	1	1		Free
France*	1	1		Free
Gabon	6	4	↓	Partly Free
The Gambia	5	4	↓	Partly Free
Georgia	4	4	↓	Partly Free
Germany*	1	1		Free
Ghana*	1	2		Free
Greece*	1	2	↓	Free
Grenada*	1	2		Free
Guatemala*	3	4		Partly Free
Guinea	7 ▼	5		Not Free
Guinea-Bissau*	4	4		Partly Free
Guyana*	2	3		Free
Haiti*	4	5		Partly Free
Honduras*	3	3		Partly Free
Hungary*	1	1		Free
Iceland*	1	1		Free
India*	2	3		Free
Indonesia*	2	3		Free
Iran	6	6	↓	Not Free
Iraq	6	6	↑	Not Free

Country	PR	CL	Trend Arrow	Freedom Status
Ireland*	1	1		Free
Israel*	1	2		Free
Italy*	1	2 ▼		Free
Jamaica*	2	3		Free
Japan*	1	2		Free
Jordan	5	5 ▼		Partly Free
Kazakhstan	6	5		Not Free
Kenya	4	3		Partly Free
Kiribati*	1	1		Free
Kuwait	4	4		Partly Free
Kyrgyzstan	5	4	↓	Partly Free
Laos	7	6		Not Free
Latvia*	2	1		Free
Lebanon	5	4		Partly Free
Lesotho*	2	3		Free
Liberia*	3	4		Partly Free
Libya	7	7		Not Free
Liechtenstein*	1	1		Free
Lithuania*	1	1		Free
Luxembourg*	1	1		Free
Macedonia*	3	3	↓	Partly Free
Madagascar*	4	3		Partly Free
Malawi*	4	4		Partly Free
Malaysia	4	4	↑	Partly Free
Maldives	4 ▲	4 ▲		Partly Free ▲
Mali*	2	3		Free
Malta*	1	1		Free
Marshall Islands*	1	1		Free
Mauritania	6 ▼	5 ▼		Not Free ▼
Mauritius*	1	2		Free
Mexico*	2	3	↓	Free
Micronesia*	1	1		Free
Moldova*	4 ▼	4		Partly Free
Monaco*	2	1		Free
Mongolia*	2	2		Free
Montenegro*	3	3		Partly Free
Morocco	5	4		Partly Free
Mozambique*	3	3		Partly Free
Namibia*	2	2	↓	Free
Nauru*	1	1		Free
Nepal	4 ▲	4		Partly Free
Netherlands*	1	1		Free

Country	PR	CL	Trend Arrow	Freedom Status
New Zealand*	1	1		Free
Nicaragua*	4 ▼	3		Partly Free
Niger*	3	4		Partly Free
Nigeria	5 ▼	4		Partly Free
North Korea	7	7		Not Free
Norway*	1	1		Free
Oman	6	5		Not Free
Pakistan	4 ▲	5		Partly Free ▲
Palau*	1	1		Free
Panama*	1	2		Free
Papua New Guinea*	4 ▼	3		Partly Free
Paraguay*	3	3	↑	Partly Free
Peru*	2	3		Free
Philippines	4	3		Partly Free
Poland*	1	1		Free
Portugal*	1	1		Free
Qatar	6	5		Not Free
Romania*	2	2		Free
Russia	6	5	↓	Not Free
Rwanda	6	5		Not Free
Saint Kitts and Nevis*	1	1		Free
Saint Lucia*	1	1		Free
Saint Vincent and Grenadines*	2	1		Free
Samoa*	2	2		Free
San Marino*	1	1		Free
Sao Tome and Principe*	2	2		Free
Saudi Arabia	7	6		Not Free
Senegal*	3 ▼	3		Partly Free ▼
Serbia*	3	2		Free
Seychelles*	3	3		Partly Free
Sierra Leone*	3	3		Partly Free
Singapore	5	4	↓	Partly Free
Slovakia*	1	1		Free
Slovenia*	1	1		Free
Solomon Islands	4	3		Partly Free
Somalia	7	7		Not Free
South Africa*	2	2		Free
South Korea*	1	2		Free
Spain*	1	1		Free
Sri Lanka*	4	4		Partly Free
Sudan	7	7		Not Free
Suriname*	2	2		Free

Country	PR	CL	Trend Arrow	Freedom Status
Swaziland	7	5		Not Free
Sweden*	1	1		Free
Switzerland*	1	1		Free
Syria	7	6		Not Free
Taiwan*	2	1		Free
Tajikistan	6	5		Not Free
Tanzania	4	3		Partly Free
Thailand	5▲	4		Partly Free
Togo	5	5		Partly Free
Tonga	5	3		Partly Free
Trinidad and Tobago*	2	2		Free
Tunisia	7	5		Not Free
Turkey*	3	3		Partly Free
Turkmenistan	7	7		Not Free
Tuvalu*	1	1		Free
Uganda	5	4		Partly Free
Ukraine*	3	2		Free
United Arab Emirates	6	5		Not Free
United Kingdom*	1	1		Free
United States*	1	1		Free
Uruguay*	1	1		Free
Uzbekistan	7	7		Not Free
Vanuatu*	2	2		Free
Venezuela	4	4	↓	Partly Free
Vietnam	7	5		Not Free
Yemen	5	5		Partly Free
Zambia*	3	3▲		Partly Free
Zimbabwe	7	6	↓	Not Free

PR and CL stand for political rights and civil liberties, respectively; 1 represents the most free and 7 the least free rating. The ratings reflect an overall judgment based on survey results.

▲ ▼ up or down indicates a change in political rights, civil liberties, or status since the last survey.

↑ ↓ up or down indicates a trend of positive or negative changes that took place but that were not sufficient to result in a change in political rights or civil liberties scores of 1-7.

* indicates a country's status as an electoral democracy.

Indicates the country's status as one of the world's most repressive societies with a combined political rights and civil liberties rating of 6.5 or 7.

NOTE: The ratings reflect global events from January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

**Table of Related Territories:
Comparative Measures of Freedom**

Country and Territory	PR	CL	Trend Arrow	Freedom Status
<i>China</i> Hong Kong	5	2		Partly Free
<i>United States</i> Puerto Rico	1	1		Free

**Table of Disputed Territories:
Comparative Measures of Freedom**

Country and Territory	PR	CL	Trend Arrow	Freedom Status
Armenia/Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh	5	5		Partly Free
China Tibet	7	7	↓	Not Free
Cyprus Northern (Turkish) Cyprus	2	2		Free
Georgia Abkhazia	5	5		Partly Free
Georgia South Ossetia	7	6		Not Free
India Kashmir	5	4	↑	Partly Free
Israel Israeli-Occupied Territories	6	6	↓	Not Free
Israel Palestinian Authority- Administered Territories	5	6	↓	Not Free
Moldova Transnistria	6	6		Not Free
Morocco Western Sahara	7	6		Not Free
Pakistan Kashmir	6 ▲	5		Not Free
Russia Chechnya	7	7		Not Free
Serbia Kosovo	6	5		Not Free
Somalia Somaliland	5 ▼	4		Partly Free

Freedom in the World Methodology

The reports from “The Worst of the Worst: The World’s Most Repressive Societies” were excerpted from the forthcoming 2009 edition of *Freedom in the World*, an annual Freedom House survey that monitors the progress and decline of political rights and civil liberties in 193 countries and 15 select related and disputed territories. The survey rates each country and territory on a seven-point scale for both political rights and civil liberties, with 1 representing the most free and 7 the least free, and then assigns each country and territory a broad category status of Free (for countries whose ratings average 1.0 to 2.5), Partly Free (3.0 to 5.0), or Not Free (5.5 to 7.0). The ratings process is based on a checklist of 10 political rights and 15 civil liberties questions (please refer to the checklist immediately following this methodology section). Those countries and territories which received scores of 6 for political rights and 7 for civil liberties, 7 for political rights and 6 for civil liberties, and 7 for both political rights and civil liberties are included in the group of “the worst of the worst.” Within these groups are gradations of freedom that make some more repressive than others.

A change in a country’s or territory’s political rights or civil liberties rating from the previous year is indicated by an arrow next to the rating in question, along with a brief ratings change explanation preceding the country or territory report. Freedom House also assigned upward or downward “trend arrows” to certain countries and territories which saw general positive or negative trends during the year that were not significant enough to warrant a ratings change. Trend arrows are indicated with arrows placed before the name of the country or territory in question, along with a brief trend arrow explanation preceding the report.

The *Freedom in the World* ratings are not merely assessments of the conduct of governments, but are intended to reflect the reality of daily life. Freedom can be affected by state actions as well as by non-state actors. Thus, terrorist movements or armed groups use violent methods which can dramatically restrict essential freedoms within a society. Conversely, the existence of non-state activists or journalists who act courageously and independently despite state restrictions can positively impact the ability of the population to exercise its freedoms.

The survey enables an examination of trends in freedom over time and on a comparative basis across regions with different political and economic systems. The survey, which is produced by a team of in-house regional experts, consultant writers, and academic advisors, derives its information from a wide range of sources. Most valued of these are the many human rights activists, journalists, editors, and political figures around the world who keep us informed of the human rights situation in their countries. *Freedom in the World*’s ratings and narrative reports are used by policy makers, leading scholars, the media, and international organizations in monitoring the ebb and flow of freedom worldwide.

For a more detailed analysis of last year’s survey methodology, please consult the methodology chapter from *Freedom in the World 2008*. The methodology for the forthcoming survey edition will be published in *Freedom in the World 2009*.

Freedom in the World 2009 Checklist Questions

POLITICAL RIGHTS CHECKLIST

A. ELECTORAL PROCESS

1. Is the head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections?
2. Are the national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?
3. Are the electoral laws and framework fair?

B. POLITICAL PLURALISM AND PARTICIPATION

1. Do the people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and is the system open to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings?
2. Is there a significant opposition vote and a realistic possibility for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections?
3. Are the people's political choices free from domination by the military, foreign powers, totalitarian parties, religious hierarchies, economic oligarchies, or any other powerful group?
4. Do cultural, ethnic, religious, or other minority groups have full political rights and electoral opportunities?

C. FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT

1. Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the policies of the government?
2. Is the government free from pervasive corruption?
3. Is the government accountable to the electorate between elections, and does it operate with openness and transparency?

ADDITIONAL DISCRETIONARY POLITICAL RIGHTS QUESTIONS

- A. For traditional monarchies that have no parties or electoral process, does the system provide for genuine, meaningful consultation with the people, encourage public discussion of policy choices, and allow the right to petition the ruler?
- B. Is the government or occupying power deliberately changing the ethnic composition of a country or territory so as to destroy a culture or tip the political balance in favor of another group?

CIVIL LIBERTIES CHECKLIST

D. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND BELIEF

1. Are there free and independent media and other forms of cultural expression? (Note: In cases where the media are state-controlled but offer pluralistic points of view, the survey gives the system credit.)
2. Are religious institutions and communities free to practice their faith and express themselves in public and private?
3. Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free of extensive political indoctrination?
4. Is there open and free private discussion?

E. ASSOCIATIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL RIGHTS

1. Is there freedom of assembly, demonstration, and open public discussion?
2. Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations? (Note: This includes civic organizations, interest groups, foundations, etc.)
3. Are there free trade unions and peasant organizations or equivalents, and is there effective collective bargaining? Are there free professional and other private organizations?

F. RULE OF LAW

1. Is there an independent judiciary?
2. Does the rule of law prevail in civil and criminal matters? Are police under direct civilian control?
3. Is there protection from political terror, unjustified imprisonment, exile, or torture, whether by groups that support or oppose the system? Is there freedom from war and insurgencies?
4. Do laws, policies, and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population?

G. PERSONAL AUTONOMY AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

1. Do citizens enjoy freedom of travel or choice of residence, employment, or institution of higher education?
2. Do citizens have the right to own property and establish private businesses? Is private business activity unduly influenced by government officials, the security forces, political parties/organizations, or organized crime?
3. Are there personal social freedoms, including gender equality, choice of marriage partners, and size of family?
4. Is there equality of opportunity and the absence of economic exploitation?



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Freedom House is an independent private organization supporting the expansion of freedom throughout the world.

Freedom is possible only in democratic political systems in which governments are accountable to their own people, the rule of law prevails, and freedoms of expression, association, and belief are guaranteed. Working directly with courageous men and women around the world to support nonviolent civic initiatives in societies where freedom is threatened, Freedom House functions as a catalyst for change through its unique mix of analysis, advocacy, and action.

- **Analysis.** Freedom House's rigorous research methodology has earned the organization a reputation as the leading source of information on the state of freedom around the globe. Since 1972, Freedom House has published *Freedom in the World*, an annual survey of political rights and civil liberties experienced in every country of the world. The survey is complemented by an annual review of press freedom, an analysis of transitions in the post-communist world, and other publications.
- **Advocacy.** Freedom House seeks to encourage American policymakers, as well as other governments and international institutions, to adopt policies that advance human rights and democracy around the world. Freedom House has been instrumental in the founding of the worldwide Community of Democracies, has actively campaigned for a reformed Human Rights Council at the United Nations, and presses the Millennium Challenge Corporation to adhere to high standards of eligibility for recipient countries.
- **Action.** Through exchanges, grants, and technical assistance, Freedom House provides training and support to human rights defenders, civil society organizations, and members of the media in order to strengthen indigenous reform efforts in countries around the globe.

Founded in 1941 by Americans concerned with mounting threats to peace and democracy, Freedom House has long been a vigorous proponent of democratic values and a steadfast opponent of dictatorships of the far left and the far right. Eleanor Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie served as Freedom House's first honorary co-chairpersons. The organization's diverse Board of Trustees is composed of a bipartisan mix of business and labor leaders, former senior government officials, scholars, and journalists who agree that the promotion of democracy and human rights abroad is vital to America's interests abroad.