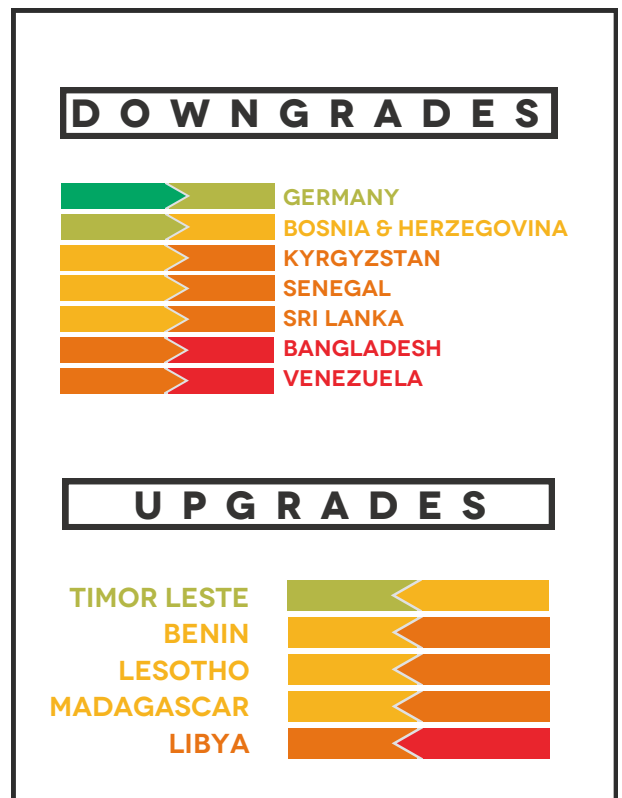


Data overview from 2023 global report from the CIVICUS Monitor, which rates and tracks the state of civic freedoms across 198 countries and territories.

### What's new in 2023

- The latest CIVICUS Monitor country ratings update in December 2023 indicates that civil society faces an increasingly hostile environment.
- Of the seven countries being downgraded, five moved to the two worst categories. Venezuela and Bangladesh are now rated as 'closed', and Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Kyrgyzstan are downgraded to the 'repressed' rating as conditions for civil society continue to worsen.
- Top 10 civic rights violations: Intimidation, Protest disruption, Protestor(s) detained, Censorship, Harassment, Journalist detained, Attack on journalist, Excessive force, HRD detained, and HRD prosecuted.



### Number of countries per rating category

- **Closed** - 28
- **Repressed** - 50
- **Obstructed** - 40
- **Narrowed** - 43
- **Open** - 37

### Top 5 violations include:

#### Intimidation: documented in at least **107 countries**

- In **Indonesia**: an improvised explosive device was detonated outside the house of Papuan journalist Victor Mambor from independent news website Jubi.
- In **Tunisia**: police raided the house of Mosaïque FM head Nouredine Boutar and arrested him after searching his home.

#### Protest disruption: documented in at least **85 countries**

- In **Sri Lanka**, police used water cannons to disperse ethnic Tamil protesters as they rallied against President Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit to the district.
- In **Bolivia**, police repressed a protest from a group of human rights defenders who gathered to demand respect for democracy and the defense of human rights.

#### Protestor(s) detained: documented in at least **80 countries**

- In **Panama**, mass protests erupted in October following the approval of Law 406, which granted mining rights to Minera Panamá. The police used tear gas and weapons to disperse the demonstration, leading to the arrest of 30 people.
- In **Australia**, Blockade Australia activists faced arrests for protests against climate inaction, highlighting discontent over the response to the climate crisis.

#### Censorship: documented in at least **85 countries**

- In **Kenya**, the media regulatory authority threatened to revoke the broadcast licenses of six local media outlets for allegedly "violating the programming code" in their coverage of the protests in Kenya.
- In **Spain**, several journalists were banned from accessing the Madrid City Council viewpoint to take pictures of a protest staged by healthcare workers.

#### Harassment: documented in at least **90 countries**

- In the **Philippines**, environmental activists were abducted and targeted for their activism.
- In **Iraq**, an environmental activist was forcibly abducted, tortured, and moved between locations, raising concerns about activists' safety in the region.

Journalist detained: documented in at least 67 countries

- In **Mexico**: the police detained an independent journalist after attempting to film police officers who threatened him and falsely accused him of a traffic violation.
- In **Uganda**, police officers arrested freelance journalist Andrew Arinaitwe, while covering a story on claims of sexual abuse by teachers in Ugandan boarding schools, including at Kings College Budo.

Attack on journalist: documented in at least 66 countries

- In **Nigeria**, at least ten unidentified individuals punched and used sticks to beat a TV crew of Arise TV - correspondent Oba Adeoye, camera operator Opeyemi Adenihun, and driver Yusuf Hassan - after the crew used a drone at voting stations in Lagos state.
- In **Sudan**, freelance journalist Shamael Elnoor was beaten by military forces with rubber hoses while covering a protest.

Excessive force: documented in at least 69 countries

- In **Poland**, while covering a climate protest in Poland, photojournalist Maciej Piasecki was violently arrested, had his camera confiscated, and was taken to a police station for questioning for “violating a police officer's bodily integrity,” - the officer fell on himself while dragging Piasecki to the ground by the neck.
- In **Vietnam**, police—armed with batons and shields—dispersed dozens of members of the Ede ethnic group who were attempting to block a drainage project they feared would discharge wastewater into a lake they depend on.

HRD detained: documented in at least 63 countries

- In **Senegal**, opposition leader Ousmane Sonko was arrested on charges of fomenting an insurrection and undermining state security.
- In **Saudi Arabia**, Manahel Al-Otaibi, an activist calling for women's rights, was arrested, and her sisters faced persecution.

HRD prosecuted: documented in at least 46 countries

- In **China**, a vocal critic of the government and supporter of the Hong Kong democracy movement, Xie Wenfei received a four-and-a-half-year jail term for "picking quarrels and stirring up trouble".
- In **Thailand**, a young activist Phimchanok Jaihong received a two-year prison sentence for a Facebook post criticising the government and an unspecified institution, presumed to refer to the monarchy.

### **Global trends and statistics**

- The CIVICUS Monitor documented over 950 violations of freedom of expression. This is half of the total violations documented in the updates we published during the reporting period.
- The state is the main perpetrator of these violations. State security forces are responsible for around 30% of the violations, and another 30% were perpetrated by the state itself, either through courts, laws, government officials, etc.
- More than 200 protests were disrupted in the past year in no less than 85 countries around the world. In at least 69, excessive force was used as a tactic to prevent people from fully exercising their right to peaceful assembly.
- Political dissent and environmental rights were the most prominent topics of the disrupted protests.
- In almost 40% of the disrupted protests, authorities combined the use of excessive force and the arbitrary detention of protesters as a disruption tactic.

Country	SCORES 2023	RATING 2023	RATING 2022	RATING 2021	RATING 2020	RATING 2019	RATING 2018
Afghanistan	12	CLOSED	CLOSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Albania	69	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Algeria	31	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Andorra	86	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Angola	35	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Antigua and Barbuda	79	NARROWED	NARROWED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Argentina	69	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Armenia	64	NARROWED	NARROWED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Australia	80	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	OPEN
Austria	86	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	NARROWED	NARROWED
Azerbaijan	16	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Bahamas	88	OPEN	OPEN	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Bahrain	15	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Bangladesh	20	CLOSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Barbados	95	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Belarus	16	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Belgium	79	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Belize	73	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Benin	47	OBSTRUCTED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Bhutan	53	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Bolivia	52	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Bosnia & Herzegovina	56	OBSTRUCTED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Botswana	60	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Brazil	49	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Brunei Darussalam	34	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	OBSTRUCTED
Bulgaria	70	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Burkina Faso	46	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Burundi	28	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Cambodia	31	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Cameroon	26	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Canada	81	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Cape Verde	88	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Central African Republic	31	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Chad	25	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Chile	67	NARROWED	NARROWED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	NARROWED	NARROWED
China	13	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Colombia	37	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Comoros	46	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	NARROWED
Costa Rica	80	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	OPEN	OPEN
Côte d'Ivoire	54	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Croatia	74	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Cuba	14	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Cyprus	79	NARROWED	NARROWED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Czech Republic	90	OPEN	OPEN	NARROWED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Democratic Republic of the Congo	33	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Denmark	88	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN



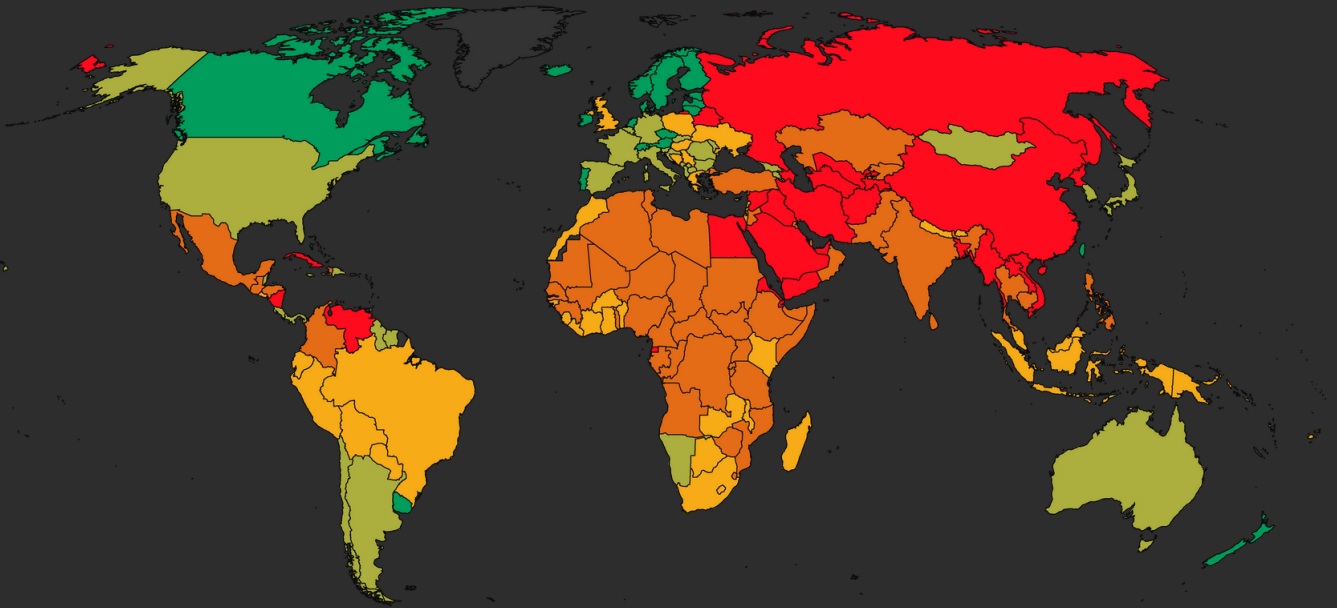


Country	SCORES 2023	RATING 2023	RATING 2022	RATING 2021	RATING 2020	RATING 2019	RATING 2018
Libya	29	REPRESSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Liechtenstein	93	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Lithuania	91	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Luxembourg	90	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Madagascar	47	OBSTRUCTED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	OBSTRUCTED
Malawi	60	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Malaysia	46	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Maldives	44	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Mali	32	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Malta	80	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	OPEN
Marshall Islands	93	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Mauritania	39	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Mauritius	77	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Mexico	40	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Micronesia	90	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Moldova	75	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	OBSTRUCTED
Monaco	91	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Mongolia	67	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Montenegro	78	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Morocco	45	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Mozambique	39	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Myanmar	11	CLOSED	CLOSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Namibia	71	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Nauru	60	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Nepal	41	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Netherlands	82	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
New Zealand	91	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Nicaragua	9	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Niger	35	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Nigeria	32	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	OBSTRUCTED
North Korea	3	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
North Macedonia	71	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Norway	94	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Oman	22	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Pakistan	27	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Palau	93	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Palestine	23	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Panama	70	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Papua New Guinea	60	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Paraguay	52	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Peru	43	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Philippines	31	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED
Poland	56	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	OBSTRUCTED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Portugal	87	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Qatar	27	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Republic of the Congo	33	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Romania	73	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED	NARROWED
Russia	17	CLOSED	CLOSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Rwanda	23	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED	REPRESSED
Saint Lucia	88	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Samoa	81	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
San Marino	97	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Sao Tome and Principe	82	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN









The CIVICUS Monitor is a research collaboration between CIVICUS and over 20 other research partners worldwide. The research tool provides quantitative and qualitative data on the state of civil society and civic freedoms in 198 countries and territories.

The data provides the basis for civic space ratings, which are based on up-to-date information and indicators on the state of freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression.

Countries can be rated as: **CLOSED**, **REPRESSED**, **OBSTRUCTED**, **NARROWED** or **OPEN**.