

Committee	Arab League
Issue	Addressing the issue of political censorship in the Arab World
Student Officer	Ingy El Sheikh (Arab League President) Yassine Abdel Hamid (Arab League Chair)

I. Introduction

Political censorship is an issue that has been spreading like wildfire for several years and is present among us even if people are oblivious to it. To put it briefly, political censorship is when a government “attempts to conceal, distort, or falsify information that its citizens receive by suppressing or crowding out political news that the public might receive through news outlets”¹. According to a new study by Freedom House (a known organization that is dedicated to defend human rights)², politically motivated censorship, and government control over internet infrastructure are among the diverse and growing threats to internet freedom. The humanitarian/moral viewpoint on political censorship has been summed up perfectly in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” Even though it is a controversial topic, political censorship has been viewed as both a mechanism of manipulation; and if used efficiently a positive tool. Censorship in its forms can often lead to public ignorance, abolishing public debate and opinion, blocking change and reproduction of norms and new ideas. On the other hand it also has positive aspects as it enables positive social relationships, and to an extent it is recognized that self-censorship is required for maintaining security, preserving the well-being of a society, and safeguarding the privacy of society members.³ In the Arab world, censorship is one of the most powerful tools, used to ensure control over the people, especially during times of political unrest and instability, therefore Governments have started intensifying control over news and media outlets. In addition, legislation on the freedom of information (FOI) has made less progress in Arab states as compared to other parts of the world⁴. Referring to figure 1, it is deduced that Arab states are the least likely region to support freedom of speech in comparison to other regions worldwide. Overall, addressing this issue is vital, as a consensus must be reached regarding this controversy.

¹ “Censorship.” *Jama Masjid, Delhi - New World Encyclopedia*, www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Censorship.

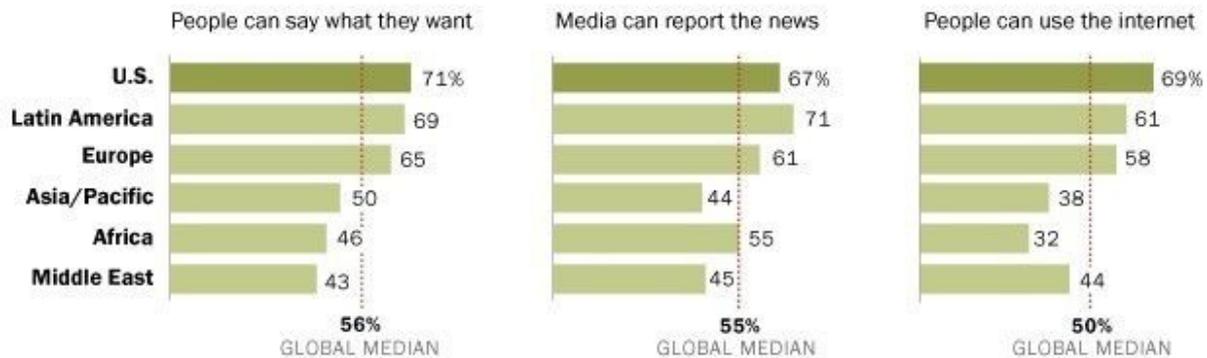
² Duffy, M. (2018). *Arab Media Regulations: Identifying Restraints on Freedom of the Press in the Laws of Six Arabian Peninsula Countries*. [online] *Scholarship.law.berkeley.edu*. Available at: <https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1036&context=jmeil>

³ Bar-Tal, Daniel. (2017). Self-Censorship as a Socio-Political-Psychological Phenomenon: Conception and Research. *Political Psychology*. 38. 37-65. 10.1111/pops.12391
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313752593_Self-Censorship_as_a_Socio-Political-Psychological_Phenomenon_Conception_and_Research

⁴ “Freedom of Information in Arab States.” *Literacy and Non-Formal Education in Iraq* | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Discovery Channel, Producer., www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/freedom-of-information/foi-in-arab-states/.

Americans especially supportive of free speech, press freedom and internet freedom

Regional median saying it is very important that ___ without state/govt censorship in our country



Note: Global median of 38 countries. Russia and Ukraine not included in Europe median.

Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes Survey.

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Figure 1, Study which compares freedom of speech and information world wide. Gray, Alex. "Freedom of speech: which countries had the most?" *World Economic Forum*. World Economic Forum, 8 Nov. 2016. <<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/11/freedom-of-speech-country-comparison/>>.

II. Focused Overview of the Issue

1. Government Censorship

Media coverage is the main mean of mass communication; it provides populations with news from around the globe, allowing them to develop an educated understanding of the issues around them both nationally and internationally. However, politically-motivated censorship and government control over media infrastructure has grown tremendously by means of **concealing, distorting, or falsifying information** that citizens receive, thus altering the news which the public could have received through news/media outlets. Additionally, such media outlets are usually set up through the acquisition of licenses or permits, which are governed by laws that deeply regulate the actions of journalists, creating a press that tends to support state policies rather than act as an overseer for the citizens.⁵

Ongoing political turmoil in the Arab region has resulted in governments resorting to censorship of the media in order to avoid any instability amongst its population. During the years of 2011-2012 there was a remarkable upheaval in the MENA region. As country after country erupted in nationwide protests and violence such as regime changes in Tunisia and Egypt, a

⁵ Schneider, N. (2018). *The Great Silencing: Intolerance and Censorship in the Arab World*. Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/the-great-silencing-intolerance-and-censorship-in-the-arab-world/>

rising death toll in Libya, and other countries grew unstable including Yemen and Syria ⁶. As a result the Tunisian government accelerated its blocking of websites and media outlets, Egyptian authorities invoked extreme censorship measures, including a near total shutdown of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Libya turned off the internet, and Syrian authorities attacked opposition and “hostile” websites.⁷ International press freedom rankings show that news media in the Arab region still operate in a heavily government-restricted environment. Even in Jordan, which has long stood out as a model of relative Internet freedom in the region, journalists recently voiced concerns when the government passed amendments in which it can censor content and hold journalists liable for what they write. The new amendments not only requires the country’s news websites to obtain licenses from the government but also state that website chief editors must be members of the Jordan Press Association, which is threatening the freedom of speech particularly in the online media.⁸

To illustrate, Freedom House which is a known organization that is dedicated to defend human rights ⁹ conducted a study ranking and categorizing counties as either “Free” or “Partly Free” or “Not Free”—*free* meaning the press and media are unrestricted and not controlled or censored by governments. As shown in Figure 2 only Libya, Lebanon, Kuwait, Tunisia, and Morocco earn a “partly free” ranking in its [2013 report](#). The other Arab countries sit firmly in the “not-free” category.¹⁰ Egypt also changed from partly free to not free because of the increased political instability in the year 2012.

AGGREGATE SCORES

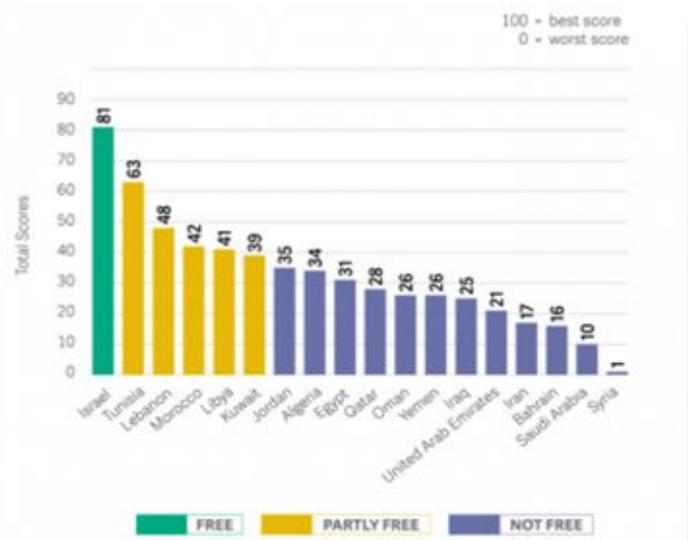


Figure 2 , Study conducted by Freedom House which determines which countries are free or not free-
Freedomhouse.org. (2018). *Freedom of the Press 2013*.
<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/freedom-press-2013>

2. Self-Censorship

The most widespread form of censorship is self-censorship. Self-censorship is control of what one says or does in order to avoid offending others or to avoid punishment of some sort. In this case, self-censorship is practised by media journalists and newscasters. The regimes in

⁶ Freedomhouse.org. (2018). *Freedom of the Press 2013*. [online] Available at: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/freedom-press-2013>

⁷ Secdev-foundation.org. (2018). Censorship and Social Activism in the Middle East and North Africa. <https://www.secdev-foundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/MENA.pdf>

⁸ Duffy, M. (2018). *Arab Media Regulations: Identifying Restraints on Freedom of the Press in the Laws of Six Arabian Peninsula Countries*. [online] Scholarship.law.berkeley.edu. Available at: <https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1036&context=jmeil>

⁹ Freedomhouse.org. (2018). *Freedom of the Press 2013*. <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/freedom-press-2013>

¹⁰ Ibid.

power in most Arab countries impose certain regulations on freedom of the press, which result in harsh measures being taken if they are not abided by, such as severe punishment, arrest and imprisonment, making self-censorship inevitable as journalists would be risking their lives otherwise.¹¹ According to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) The Arab region has been the most unsafe for journalists globally (see figure 3), reflecting the highest number of journalist killings between 2012 and 2017. Internet journalists have been at more risk than before, the number of imprisoned journalists has increased steadily and journalists are increasingly targeted with threats to their safety. As journalists Charles Glasser and Ava Macalpin discuss in their book on international media laws, the difficulty of practicing journalism in the Middle East is rooted in one significant issue: There are severe criminal penalties for vague forms of offence.¹² Thus resulting in journalists feeling forced into concealing or falsifying information in order to avoid punishment. For example according to the 2017 Freedom House report “Egyptian authorities restricted journalistic freedom in part through gag orders and censorship practices that suppressed criticism of high-ranking officials. The military’s influence on news channels was apparent, with observers noting that the private media no longer had any level of independence, and organizations focused on protecting journalists’ rights faced legal prosecutions and harassment from security forces”, thus resulting in journalists and news reporters to use self censorship as a protection mechanism to avoid such harassment.¹³



Map of journalists killed by region, 2012-2016

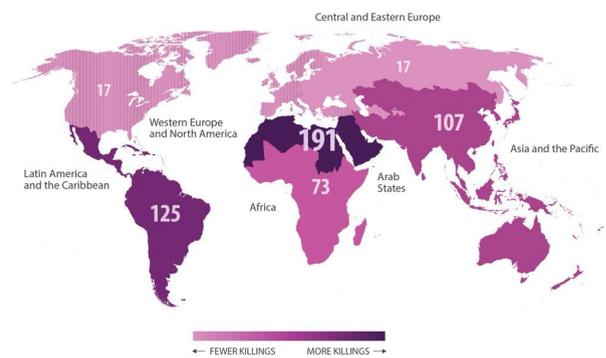


Figure 3, Study conducted by UNESCO to show the most dangerous regions for journalists.
<https://en.unesco.org/unesco-condemns-killing-of-journalists>

3. An Evaluation of Political Censorship

Censorship is a powerful tool that can work for or against society and the people. It can be beneficial in some aspects but can also be very harmful, if used improperly. As Bahraini Foreign Minister Al Khalifa says, “Censorship can be taken too far to silence dissent and opposing views, but it can also be used as a tool to prevent potentially destructive and damaging

¹¹ Khamis, S. (2018). *Press Freedom Reversals in Post-Arab Spring Countries*. Arabcenterdc.org http://arabcenterdc.org/policy_analyses/press-freedom-reversals-in-post-arab-spring-countries/

¹² Charles Glasser Jr., *International Libel and Privacy Handbook* 477 (3d ed. 2013)

¹³ Khamis, S. (2018). *Press Freedom Reversals in Post-Arab Spring Countries*. Arabcenterdc.org http://arabcenterdc.org/policy_analyses/press-freedom-reversals-in-post-arab-spring-countries/

ideas and behavior.”¹⁴. It may be said that there are pros to political censorship as well as cons. First of all, political censorship helps to prevent conflict by censoring things that may offend or anger entire groups of people, like other countries or religious groups. It is also used as a security measure for the country, as sensitive military and government information can be removed in order to ensure that terrorists or any groups of people that impose harm on the country do not have access to information that might aid them in any way. It also helps control panic and fear when political disasters occur.

However, there is also a notable humanitarian side to the issue, for example, the most dominant issue is that political censorship violates the basic human right which is stated in the Human rights charter that is “ Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”¹⁵. As well as the fact that political censorship could be practised by government officials that misuse and control media outlets in order to promote a negative agenda by manipulating people and the information that they receive.¹⁶

III. Involved Countries and Organizations

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has a widely established censorship on most of the internet, ranging from pornography to magazines, books, and political websites and articles that oppose the Saudi Arabian regime. In 1982, the *Royal Decree on Press and Publications* was established in Saudi Arabia in order to censor books, newspapers, and magazines alongside foreign publications coming into the Kingdom.¹⁷ The censorship was implemented in order to ensure that there was no unnecessary tension within the citizens and that the internet would not jeopardize the country’s islamic values. Therefore, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the internet is mainly used for educational purposes. In recent years, political censorship in Saudi Arabia has become more conservative due to the rise of terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State (IS) which are attractive for some Saudi Arabian citizens to join¹⁸. After the lifting of the ban on movie theaters, it has been revealed that Saudi Arabia’s censorship of the media is more of a political move, rather than a social one, as their main aim is not constricting the influence of Western culture.¹⁹

Even though there is currently no ban on social media applications, these apps are heavily monitored in order to ensure that the citizens are not rebelling and are not releasing unnecessary content. In 2016, the Saudi Arabian government managed to block file and image share from Telegram, an instant messaging service. It was clear that the ban was from within the

¹⁴ Edition.cnn.com. (2018). *Report: Mideast, North African countries censor, control media*. [online] Available at: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/02/10/press.freedom.mideast/index.html>

¹⁵ United Nations. (2018). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

¹⁶ Green Garage. (2018). *9 Primary Pros and Cons of Censorship*. [online] Available at: <https://greengarageblog.org/9-primary-pros-and-cons-of-censorship>

¹⁷ “Saudi Arabia.” *Oman: Basic Law of the Sultanate of Oman (Promulgated by the Royal Decree No. 101/96)*, www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=8491.

¹⁸ “Saudi Arabia Country Report | Freedom on the Net 2017.” *Freedom House*, 15 Nov. 2017, www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-net/2017/saudi-arabia

¹⁹ Northam, Jackie. “Saudi Arabia Is Lifting Its Longtime Ban On Movie Theaters.” *NPR*, NPR, 19 Apr. 2018, www.npr.org/2018/04/19/604119739/saudi-arabia-is-lifting-its-longtime-ban-on-movie-theaters

country when the CEO of Telegram, Pavel Durov, announced that there was no error from within the company and the reason behind it was unknown.²⁰ The Saudi Arabian government has also censored websites that address minority issues, such as websites which discuss the Shia sect of Islam or homosexuality.²¹

In all cases, this censorship has compromised some Saudi Arabians' human rights under the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.²² The main right that has been violated is the right to freedom of expression.

Egypt

Egypt has been one of the countries with the least political censorship in the Arab League, but this has changed in recent years. Over 450 websites have been blocked in Egypt²³; these websites however do not include pornography and similar things, the censorship is mainly to contain the rebellious thoughts of the Egyptian citizens. Most of these websites are rebellious websites or websites that state facts about the government that the

Egyptian government does not want to reveal. This was triggered due to the fact that the revolution of the 25th of January 2011 started due to a Facebook

page so the Egyptian government feel obligated to constrict all sources that might trigger another upheaval²⁴. The Egyptian government has also blocked many websites relating to or interfering with Qatar as the Egyptian government is not on good terms with the government of Qatar²⁵.

The government has suppressed the voice of the public in order to maintain political stability. Journalists and writers have been arrested for their publications, an example being Egyptian journalist Khaled Al-Balshi, who was arrested due to his criticism of the Egyptian government²⁶. Social media was first recognized as a problem in 2011 but later on in 2016 Egypt's internet service provider (ISP) hijacked encrypted HTTP connections and redirected them to revenue generating content.²⁷



Figure 4: Egypt country profile assessing the level of censorship in Egypt.

²⁰ "Saudi Arabia Country Report | Freedom on the Net 2017." *Freedom House*, 15 Nov. 2017, www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-net/2017/saudi-arabia

²¹ "URLs Blocked in Saudi Arabia - Highlights." *Berkman Klein Center*, www.cyber.harvard.edu/filtering/saudi-arabia/SA-highlights.html.

²² "Articles 16-30, United Nations Declaration of Human Rights : Youth For Human Rights Video." *Nelson Mandela, Nobel Peace Prize, South African President : Youth For Human Rights Champion*, www.youthforhumanrights.org/what-are-human-rights/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/articles-16-30.html.

²³ "The State of Internet Censorship in Egypt." *Association of Freedom of Thought and Expression*, www.afteegypt.org/digital_freedoms-2/2018/07/02/15445-afteegypt.html?lang=en

²⁴ Gustin, Sam. "Social Media Sparked, Accelerated Egypt's Revolutionary Fire." *Wired*, Conde Nast, 3 June 2017, www.wired.com/2011/02/egypts-revolutionary-fire/.

²⁵ "Egypt Blocks 21 Websites, Including Al Jazeera: State News Agency." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 25 May 2017, <https://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBNI8L0SG-OZATP>.

²⁶ "Egypt Country Report | Freedom on the Net 2017." *Freedom House*, 16 Nov. 2017, www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-net/2017/egypt.

²⁷ "The State of Internet Censorship in Egypt." *Association of Freedom of Thought and Expression*, www.afteegypt.org/digital_freedoms-2/2018/07/02/15445-afteegypt.html?lang=en.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization):

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is an organization that seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. One of the main goals in UNESCO'S vision is that "UNESCO stands up for freedom of expression, as a fundamental right and a key condition for democracy and development. Serving as a laboratory of ideas, UNESCO helps countries adopt standards and manages programmes that foster the free flow of ideas and knowledge sharing."²⁸ One of UNESCO'S main contributions towards the issue is, UNESCO's General Conference, at its 29th session, On 12 November 1997, which adopted [Resolution 29](#)"Condemnation of Violence against Journalists". On a more regional level UNESCO supports the advance of freedom of information in the arab region by bringing together key stakeholders to move forward the process towards passing FOI (freedom of information) legislation and translating it into practice in the arab world. In 2017 UNESCO published a regional overview of the arab states on freedom of expression and media development which highlighted defamation and other legal restrictions on journalists, Internet curbs, and content removal. The report contains detailed accounts on the trend of social media freedom in the arab region, highlighting the fact that the arab region is the most unsafe region for journalists globally, reflecting the highest number of journalist killings between 2012 and 2017.²⁹ Actions were taken by UNESCO when In 2012, UNESCO'S Director-General had condemned 50 killings of journalists that took place in the region. By 2016, the number of killings per year had dropped to 32 due to UNESCO'S interference.³⁰ Starting 2013, Iraq, in coordination with civil society groups and UNESCO, engaged in a series of dialogues between the media sector and security forces, in order to reduce tensions between the two groups. This resulted in a memorandum of understanding in 2014 as well as the formation of training workshops for media and security forces. Similar training sessions were held in Libya, Palestine and Tunisia between 2013 and 2017.³¹ Overall the UNESCO has taken several steps regionally in the arab nation and internationally in general in order to control the issue.

IV. Key Vocabulary

Political censorship: "when a government attempts to conceal, distort, or falsify information that its citizens receive by suppressing or crowding out political news that the public might receive through news outlets."³²

Self-censorship: the exercising of control over what one says and does, especially to avoid criticism. In this case, self-censorship is practiced by journalists that fear punishment from governments.³³

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29 "Freedom of Expression and Media Development." UNESCO, 2018, <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002660/266023E.pdf>

30 Ibid

31 Ibid

32 "Censorship." *Jama Masjid, Delhi - New World Encyclopedia*, www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Censorship.

33 "Self-censorship". (2018). *Cambridge English Dictionary*. [online] Dictionary.cambridge.org. Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/self-censorship>

Freedom of speech: The power or right to express one's opinions without censorship, restraint, or legal penalty.³⁴

V. Important Events and Chronology

Date	Event
10th of December 1948	Article 19 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created, - Discusses freedom of expression without interference. ³⁵
2007	In 2007 Jordan became the first Arab country to having enacted an access to information law, Law of Access to Information ³⁶
2008	A Civil Society Parallel Forum was convened during the Fifth meeting of the Forum for the Future co-chaired by United Arab Emirates. The Parallel Forum's participants made a number of recommendations on political reform demanding "the annulment of legislative bans on the right to access information, and the endorsement of laws that protect the right to and the freedom of information." ³⁷
2009	The first regional conference of the Arab Freedom of Information Network, titled "Information is a Right for All", was held in Cairo ³⁸

³⁴ Merriam-webster.com. (2018). *Definition of freedom of speech*. [online] Available at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/freedom%20of%20speech>

³⁵ United Nations. (2018). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/> [Accessed 2 Aug. 2018].

³⁶ Unesco.org. (2018). *Freedom of Information in Arab States | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/freedom-of-information/foi-in-arab-states/>

³⁷ Admin, and Pchr. "PCHR Participates in Parallel and Ministerial Conferences of Future Forum in UAE." *Palestinian Center for Human Rights*, 23 Oct. 2008, pchrqaza.org/en/?p=1294.<https://pchrqaza.org/en/?p=1294>

³⁸ "PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT." OHCHR, https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/14session/A.HRC.14.23.Add.1_FFS_only.pdf

<p>5th of July 2012</p>	<p>UN Humans Rights Council Resolution 20/8: adopts “the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet”³⁹</p>
<p>30th of May 2018</p>	<p>A joint delegation of the Federation of Arab Journalists request the support of the League of Arab States for the Declaration on Media Freedom in the Arab World,⁴⁰ which aims to defend independent journalism in the Arab world.</p>

VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

UN Humans Rights Council Resolution 20/8

- ❖ **Description:** This resolution promotes “the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet”. It stresses on respecting people's online views and not compromising their basic human rights.
- ❖ **Date:** 5th of July 2012

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- ❖ **Description:** Article 19 of this declaration states as followed: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”
- ❖ **Date:** 10th of December 1948

Declaration of Media Freedom in the Arab World:

- ❖ **Description:** Aims to defend independent journalism in the Arab world and discusses how freedom of expression, which includes media freedom, is a fundamental human right which finds protection in international and regional human rights instruments.
- ❖ **Date:** 30th of May 2018

VII. Failed Solution Attempts

The fact that there is a very limited number of solution attempts in the Arab League shows how little this topic is being addressed even though it is a very important issue especially in the Arab region.

³⁹ Right-docs.org. (2018). *RES/20/8 The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet / RightDocs - Where human rights resolutions count.* [online] Available at: <https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-res-20-8/>

⁴⁰“Declaration on Media Freedom in the Arab World.” *Med-Media.eu*, www.med-media.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Declaration-on-media-freedom-in-the-Arab-World-EN-FINAL.pdf.

There are many past attempts to promote freedom of expression and no interference from the government such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as resolution 20/8. However, these attempts have failed to affect the Arab region even if it has affected other regions. This may be due to the fact that the Arab region is in a more unstable and conflict prone state in comparison to other regions. In addition to that, another solution attempt was the Declaration of Media Freedom in the Arab World which was presented to the Arab league on May 2018 but only endorsed by Palestine, Tunisia, Jordan, Sudan, Morocco and Mauritania. The main reason as to why All the solution attempts have been merely discussing what the rights of freedom of speech, thought, and information should be, not how to make sure nations abide with them. Another main reason as to why these solutions have failed is because they do not take into account the pros of political censorship and in what cases is political censorship acceptable. These are the only solution attempts that have occurred to resolve this issue, which is why more efforts towards this issue must be put into action whether to balance the intensity of political censorship, to endorse it, or to abolish it completely.

VIII. Guiding Questions

- What is your country's stance on political censorship?
- To what extent does your country censor the internet?
- Does your country want to remove political censorship?
- What are the reasons for political censorship in your country?
- How is the Internet used in your country?
- What treaties and resolutions has your countries passed that address the issue of censorship?
- What is the reason behind your countries censorship?
- Is your country willing to reduce or remove its censorship?
- How can balance be achieved on the issue of political censorship taking into account the pros and cons?
- What other solution attempts have there been in other regions that can be applied to the arab region?

IX. Possible Solutions

- Delegates could suggest setting up an annual meeting in which nations would discuss their progress with regards to the level of freedom of speech in each nation, being free, partly free, or not free.
- Delegates could ask large organizations such as UNESCO and the Human rights watch with their assistance in monitoring nations, and request that these organizations take specific actions regionally in the arab nations.
- Partial removal of bans: Granting citizens for the time being the access to freedom of expression through journalism will grant them the temporary contentedness the government needs in order to test if the lift of censorship would be a possible solution by lifting one ban after the other in order to ensure that the countries citizens remain at rest.

- proposing an agreement that could be ratified by all nations, that would be legally binding which would make the nations required to abide by the rules, with consequences if they don't.
- Delegates can propose certain cases where political censorship can be accepted and create a legally binding agreement where all nation agree on the said cases.
- There is no direct solution for censorship, but a compromise between all countries could be reached in order to have a universal code for political censorship and at the same time have guidelines to ensure that all countries are content with such a solution.

X. Useful Links

- Khamis, S. (2018). *Press Freedom Reversals in Post-Arab Spring Countries*. Arabcenterdc.org. http://arabcenterdc.org/policy_analyses/press-freedom-reversals-in-post-arab-spring-countries/
 - It sums up many different aspects of political censorship clearly, while giving examples and quotes that make the topic clearer.
- “Human Rights Watch Archives.” *Columbia University Libraries*, www.library.columbia.edu/locations/chrdr/archive_collections/hrw.html
 - Talks about the Human Rights Watch and how this organization is closely related to the issue of Political Censorship.
- Freedomhouse.org. (2018). *Freedom of the Press 2013*. <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/freedom-press-2013>
 - A study that shows which Arab countries allow free press and which countries do not through categorizing and ranking the countries. It also explains why some countries do not allow free press.

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