

Forum:	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
Issue:	Discussing the Intimidation and Suppression of Political Activists Worldwide
Student Officer:	Christos Papanikolaou
Position:	Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

My name is Christos Papanikolaou and I am a student at the Arsakeio High-School of Ioannina. I am one of the Student Officers in the CCPCJ committee for this year's conference and look forward to sharing an amazing MUN experience with you all.

The CCPCJ committee is in my opinion one of the most interesting committees PSMUN has to offer, since it pertains to many pressing issues concerning crime and justice. MUN conferences have not only given me the opportunity to express my beliefs on a plethora of interesting topics, but debate from the viewpoint of different countries as well. The MUN process will help you grow, identify your talents and utilize them, as this topic will offer a lot of fruitful debate.

With this research report I hope to introduce you to the given topic, as well as assist you with your preparation and help you maneuver through all of the information available. Of course, that does not mean that you should limit yourselves only to this study guide, as it is crucial that you do your own research in order to have a well-rounded stance on the issue.

Do not hesitate at all to contact me via email (ckpapanikolaou@gmail.com) if you have any questions or are in need of any clarifications regarding the topic or anything in general.

Yours truly,

Christos Papanikolaou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Repression is an important factor external to social movements that affects the ability of these social movements to result in collective action. Nevertheless, political repression often escapes definition in studies of dissidence. Frequently, the term "repression" is used to denote state-sponsored violence carried out against dissidents who contest extant power arrangements, and the term is often used in the context of research on revolutions and democratization.

Political activism, as well as activism, in general play a vital role in the shaping of a society, since they involve the communication of different ideologies and stances concerning politics. However, it is well known that in many countries freedom of expression and assembly are heavily undermined, with their respective governments imposing new restrictions and regulations to limit deviant voices and dissent. Novel and inventive methods are carried out by official bodies and organizations to instill trepidation in activist collectives which choose to express their dissatisfaction, with their only aim being to engage in peaceful and lawful discussion. These people and organizations are being targeted all around the globe with false accusations and unreliable claims only to burden their efforts.¹



Assassinations, kidnappings, and other seemingly isolated acts create a persistent threat across the globe, impacting the lives of millions of people and influencing the lives of activists, journalists, and ordinary people. For numerous countries seeking to control their citizens overseas, repression is no longer an unusual instrument, but rather a commonplace and systematic practice. It has a significant influence on victims' rights. Even individuals who are not directly targeted may choose to keep silent because of the threat that is imposed to their community. This is especially true in cases of extreme violence, where a single death or rendition sends shockwaves

¹ <https://www.civicus.org/images/Monitor.C.R.GlobalMap.png>

across a large group of individuals. However, even internet threats or harassment of the families of dissidents may create a fearful environment among exiles.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Protest

A protest is a public demonstration of dissent, dissatisfaction, or disagreement against a concept or action, usually one that is political. Protests can be viewed as acts of collaboration in which a large number of people participate and share the expenses and risks of doing so.

Ban

An official or legal prohibition. Bans are formed for the prohibition of activities within a certain political territory.

Dissent

An unwillingness to cooperate with an established source of authority, which can be social, cultural, or governmental. Dissent is often related to two other concepts, critical thinking and toleration.²

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

Voluntary group of individuals or organizations, usually not affiliated with any government, that is formed to provide services or to advocate a public policy.³

Activism

A doctrine or practice that emphasizes direct vigorous action especially in support of or opposition to one side of a controversial issue, usually a political or a social one⁴

Suppression

The act of ending something by force, as well as the act of preventing something from being seen or expressed or from operating⁵

²“Dissent.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/dissent-political>.

³“Nongovernmental Organization.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/nongovernmental-organization>.

⁴“Activism Definition & Meaning.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/activism>

⁵“Suppression.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/suppression>.

Freedom of Expression

Freedom of expression is crucial to democracy. It means that everyone can take part in political discussions, and the media can hold those who are in power to account.⁶

Freedom of Assembly

The right of individuals to gather with other people and make their collective voice heard is fundamental to a properly-functioning democracy.⁷

Criminal Law

The body of law that deals with crime is known as criminal law. It prohibits behavior that is seen to be threatening, destructive, or otherwise harmful to the property, health, safety, or moral welfare of others, including oneself.

Free Speech Zone

Free-speech zones refer to areas on college campuses and at certain public events, such as political conventions, specifically designated for protesters and demonstrators to exercise their right to freedom of speech.⁸

Political Party

A political party is an association that organizes candidates to run in elections in a certain country. Members of a political party are likely to share similar political views, and parties may advocate certain ideological or policy goals.

Propaganda

Propaganda is the dissemination of information—facts, arguments, rumours, half-truths, or lies—to influence public opinion. Deliberateness and a relatively heavy emphasis on manipulation distinguish propaganda from casual conversation or the free and easy exchange of ideas.⁹

⁶*Impact of the European Convention on Human Rights*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/impact-convention-human-rights/>.

⁷ “Freedom of Assembly.” *Impact of the European Convention on Human Rights*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/impact-convention-human-rights/freedom-of-assembly>.

⁸Kraft, Emilie. “Free Speech Zones.” *Free Speech Zones*, <https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/960>.

⁹“Propaganda.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/propaganda>.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historical Retrospect

For thousands of years, oppression, inequality and protest have been a part of world history. Humans have battled injustice and slavery for thousands of years, both forcefully and peacefully. Campaigns that both impacted the geopolitical environment and those that, while fruitless, highlighted injustice and suppression may be seen throughout history. The Spartacist uprising, the Stonewall Riots, the Salt March, Nat Turner's Rebellion, the Hungarian Revolution, Vietnam war protests and the anti-apartheid movement comprise just a few examples of struggles that have occurred throughout history which illustrate the quest to make their own decisions, to be free of repression in any way, shape or form, and to be properly represented.

The civil rights movement, which mostly took place in the 1950s and 1960s for Black Americans to attain equality under the law in the United States, is one of the most important waves of activism. Although the Civil War ended slavery, it did not stop discrimination against Black people, who continued to suffer the consequences of racism, particularly in the South. The aforementioned movement was a struggle for social justice, during which suppression and ignorance towards the voices of activists was the norm. Women were still considered a minority at this time. Women activists marched in support of Civil Rights in the 1960s, but they also campaigned for women's rights by openly advocating for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Today, movements like Black Lives Matter, #Metoo, the fight for LGBTQ rights, and a plethora of environmental issues echo the call for change. Previous and systematic issues of repression are still present and, in some cases, remain persistent. Although the contributions of activism are visible in our society and progress has definitely been made, systematic corruption and insufficiency continue to plague the institution of activism.

In 2012, activists in North Carolina initiated weekly "Moral Mondays", responding to Republicans passing legislation curtailing voting rights, social assistance, Medicare advantage, school funding, abortion, LGBT rights, and environmental regulations. Protests against the movement, which included several arrests of their leader, William Barber II and others, extended to other states, eventually becoming part of a nationwide movement to reestablish voting rights and boost voter turnout, particularly among African Americans. The loss of state Senator Stacey Abrams for governor in Georgia, which was largely due to voter suppression, highlighted the GOP's persistent effort to restrict voting rights and sparked a national campaign to extend the ballot and promote voter turnout amongst people of color. In 2018, Florida voters approved a ballot measure regaining former felons' voting privileges.

There have been numerous significant movements related to activism, as well as oppression of activists in 2021. Farmers in India, for example, protested new regulations that they claimed would hinder their livelihood. The protests, dubbed as "some of the largest in world history," began in 2020 but lasted until early 2021. In response to protests in February, the government cut off internet access at protest sites all across New Delhi. The Delhi police even went so far as to open a criminal investigation against the developers of an online kit aimed at assisting farmers. More than half of India's workforce is employed in agriculture.

Supporters of Palestine assembled at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. in May to demand an end to the United States' investment of Israeli weapons and general aid, as well as to raise awareness of Gaza's growing humanitarian crisis. The protest came after 11 days of severe violence between Israelis and Palestinians, which claimed the lives of over 200 Palestinians, nearly a third of whom were minors, and at least 12 Israelis, two of whom were children. Israeli officials justified their actions, while US President Joe Biden claimed that Israel wasn't overreacting at one point.

Other significant activism movements include George Floyd's murder anniversary, pressures against the Texas abortion law, the Brooklyn Liberation March, the #StopAAPIHate campaign and actions by the MAPA against inactivity by UN and world leaders concerning climate change.

Harassment and violence

Several forms of harassment and violence such as beatings, shootings and bombings are carried out by the State, other institutions of reasonable power against dissident citizens. Fear of life and limb is the driving force behind discouragement for participation in social movements. Via the policing of large groups or targeted assassinations, the suppression of political opposition is achieved.

The use of lethal and violent force in the midst of primarily peaceful protests is often met with unfavorable consequences but also with a lack of accountability. Multiple countries' justice systems appear unwilling or unable to conduct the thorough investigations required to hold strong state actors responsible. "Qualified immunity" was created by the Supreme Court in 1982, where the court granted all government officials immunity for violating constitutional and civil rights, unless the victims of those violations can show that the rights were "clearly established." More recently, nationwide outrage over the police murder of George Floyd led to widespread requests for the reform of this "legal doctrine that makes it virtually impossible to sue police officers for violating a person's civil rights."

Travel Bans

Authorities have amplified punitive measures against activists, with officials banning human rights advocates, political dissidents, journalists and intellectuals from traveling. This action is mostly used to prevent dissenting voices from participating in

conferences or meetings abroad. However, legally, only a court order can prevent a citizen from traveling because they are a suspect in a criminal or financial case.

Education

Hate speech, based on xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, and other types of intolerance and discrimination, is on the rise around the world, with the ability to inspire violence, destroy societal cohesion and tolerance, and cause psychological, emotional, and physical harm. Genocide and other atrocity crimes, as history has revealed, begin with words. Education is critical in combating online and offline hostility, as well as in preventing the formation of group-targeted violence. Misinformation, as well as disinformation are very common phenomena in schools, with a great deal of the educational material, such as textbooks being outdated and sometimes one-sided, concerning history. This leads to the suppression, and often the delegitimization of different opinions.

The corporatization of higher education plays a vital role in the silencing of political activism, which is often cultivated and first exposed to people in educational environments such as universities and colleges. The process of privatizing public universities and colleges and adopting corporate governance to concentrate authority in the hands of appointed administrators in order to limit or eliminate democratic rights for students, workers, and faculty results in the repression of free speech.

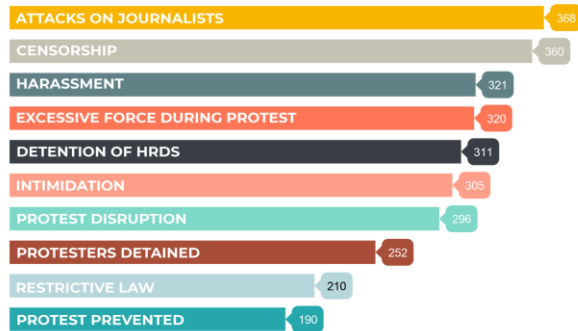
The very fine line between free speech and hate speech also coincides with suppression culture. A report by PEN America, a non-profit literacy organization, strikes an admirable balance by expressing staunch support of free speech while also discussing the "chilling effect" that racism, both casual and overt, can have on the free expression of historically oppressed groups. There have been numerous instances on campus where free speech has been inappropriately suppressed. For example, public expression of the belief that homosexuality is a sin — which many would consider discriminatory, offensive, and potentially intimidating to homosexual individuals — is considered protected speech. As a reference point, the American Bar Association's (ABA) examination of speech that crosses the threshold into harassment is used. The ABA, on the other hand, states that the repeated personal use of a pejorative slur directed at a person "so often and so publicly that it interferes with his or her peaceful enjoyment of the school or campus" enjoys no First Amendment protection.

Media

The mass media constitute a crucial site for the construction of social reality, an ever-unfolding discursive locale that deeply influences public opinion on social issues and significantly delimits societal assumptions and public moods. Historically the media have proven highly efficient to mold public opinion. Thanks to the media paraphernalia and propaganda, have been created or destroyed social movements,

justified wars, tempered financial crisis, spurred on some other ideological currents, and even given the phenomenon of media as producers of reality within the collective psyche.¹⁰

TOP 10 GLOBAL CIVIC SPACE VIOLATIONS



Based on analysis of 1,433 civic space updates published on the CIVICUS Monitor since 24 October 2016. The numbers above represent the number of times this violation was referenced in one report. Based on this we see that attacks on journalists are referenced in over one quarter of all reports published on the CIVICUS Monitor in this period.

also politics and journalism. Concerning traditional media, namely broadcast television, radio, and newspapers, a great deal of once private companies and collectives are now owned by government officials or other individuals with core relations to the state. In this case, these channels and media outlets are able to showcase only a specific side of various everyday topics, all while silencing and avoiding to include dissenting and opposing voices. Many dissent efforts are consistently downplayed through underreporting while being buried in the minor sections of a newspaper, or being hardly mentioned in news segments, causing them to fail to make it into the mass media's agenda.

Mass media deprecation portrays dissidents as ridiculous, bizarre, or otherwise out of step with mainstream society. Through the stigmatization of the opposing side, mass media do not only engage in selection bias but also description bias. With promoting labeling and vilification corrupted media, often run by the government are able to defame their opponents, while shaping public opinion. Manipulative tactics such as the "problem-reaction-solution" method, or distracting and disorienting techniques, all work in favor of suppressing activism. The principal tool of social control is the distraction strategy, which uses the tactic of flooding or floods continuous distractions and minor information to deflect public attention away from key concerns and changes dictated by political and economic elites.

The Legal System

Harassment arrests, public prosecutions and hearings, and special laws are all allowed in the legal system to interfere with individuals in biased ways. The state arrests

¹⁰ <https://www.civicus.org/images/007.png>

activists for small offenses that are frequently fictitious, and are sometimes based on obscure regulations that have remained on the books, buried and inactive but nonetheless serving as vessels for selective judicial harassment. Public prosecutions and hearings have the potential to put dissidents in jail or drain their resources by diverting their activities and demobilizing their movements. Dissident attitudes are discouraged among current followers and potential allies. Prosecutions and hearings that are widely reported ricochet across the public realm. Another form of legal repression is when the state enacts and enforces special laws and norms in order to entangle activists in the criminal justice system. This is how the legal system works to suppress opposition.

Stop-and-frisk programs are controversial since they allow police officers to hold and sometimes search people without adequate evidence. Protests are severely limited in terms of time, place, and method in free-speech zones. Those arrested during Donald Trump's inaugural protests were subjected to public prosecutions that were unlikely to result in a conviction. And when some crimes, such as arson or property destruction, are coupled with a political objective, they are elevated to terrorism, allowing the State to significantly strengthen the punishment.

Surveillance

The goal of surveillance is to frighten rather than obtain information - which is best done covertly. This is designed to have a chilling effect, causing people to be cautious in their speech and actions for fear of retaliation. It has the potential to drive away activists and make it harder to recruit new ones. Although the chilling effect has been ruled unconstitutional, proving harm in court is difficult, therefore it is a relatively safe technique of suppression from the perspective of the surveillant. The FBI has a long history of conducting "knock and talks" or simply stopping by the homes of dissidents and activists (and their families and employers) to "have a chat" in order to inform them that they are being observed.

The utilization of spies, targeted wiretaps, and subpoenas or warrants for data, the use of infiltrators (covert operatives who become members of the target group), and or the use of informants are all examples of covert or focused surveillance. Surveillance can also be dispersed, such as the collection, storage, and analysis of personal and group data gathered through internet monitoring, mail opens, and other mass-surveillance tactics.



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MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

China

China runs one of the world's most advanced, broad, and comprehensive repression campaigns. The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) has made various efforts to compel and control Chinese and members of minority communities. A prime example is the use of campaigns targeting a diverse range of people, including ethnic and religious minorities, political dissidents, human rights advocates, journalists, and former insiders suspected of corruption. Moreover, these efforts entail a wide range of measures, including direct attacks, co-opting other countries to arrest and render exiles, mobility limits, digital threats, malware, and coercion by proxy.

Iran

Following wrongful trials, a large number of Iranian human rights defenders, attorneys, activists, and members of ethnic and religious minorities are serving prison sentences for peaceful protesting. Iran is a prominent practitioner of the death penalty, having executed 233 individuals in 2020. The authorities continue to imprison human rights defenders and those who speak out against the government's actions, but they have taken no steps to hold those legally liable for serious human rights violations accountable, particularly security forces who used excessive lethal force against protestors in November 2019. Security forces utilized excessive and unlawful fatal force against large protests around the country in a harsh crackdown, during which the authorities imposed a near-total shutdown of the global internet across the

¹¹ https://miro.medium.com/max/848/0*cFl4OfbMnmZOm29Q.jpg

country. According to Amnesty International, at least 304 people were killed during these protests, albeit the Iranian government officials insisting the total was 230.

Rwanda

In terms of techniques, targets, and geographic scope, Rwandan repression is extremely diverse. Rwandans, both at local and global level, face a variety of threats. Individuals who defy the government through criticism or active opposition, or who doubt its account of Rwandan history, are typically targeted by the government. Rwanda's visible assassinations, renditions, and assaults on its population are accompanied by a massive nonphysical repression effort that includes spyware attacks, cyber threats and harassment, family surveillance, and mobility controls.

Saudi Arabia

In spite of the release of some prominent activists in early 2021, Saudi authorities continue to repress dissidents, human rights campaigners, and independent critics. Three individuals were sentenced to long prison terms in March and April on charges connected to their nonviolent protest and speech, highlighting the authorities' ongoing suppression effort. According to Michael Page, a deputy director in the Middle East and North Africa division at Human Rights Watch, "The Saudi Authorities may have let a few people out to lessen the international pressure, but their attitude towards dissidents remains the same." Saudi Authorities continue to harass and persecute dissidents and their families, by establishing and renewing arbitrary travel bans and arresting family members without probable cause.

FBI

Since 2010, the FBI has been monitoring black and Muslim Americans, Palestinian solidarity and peace activists, Abolish ICE protestors, Occupy Wall Street, environmentalists, proponents of Cuban and Iranian normalization, and Republican National Convention protesters. Civil rights organizations have regularly raised concerns about the FBI's intrusive and illegal targeting of Muslim Americans in the years since 9/11. The FBI has devoted sizable resources to the surveillance of nonviolent civil society organizations and protest movements, primarily on the left, using its duty to protect national security to target tens of thousands of people who pose no threat but oppose government policies and practices.

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

The Open Government Partnership is a multilateral initiative aimed at securing substantial commitments from national and subnational governments to promote open government, empower citizens, combat corruption, and achieve better governance through the use of new technology. Specifically, regarding fighting repression of activists and journalists, the initiative has published a variety of reports and articles. These articles expand into great detail about the struggles and dangers

of political activists and deviant individuals, while proposing viable solutions for tackling such issues.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

Reporters Without Borders is a non-governmental organization based in Paris that has consultative status with the UN, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF). It is an international organization that monitors and reports on violations of press freedom, fights for legislation and practices that ensure journalists' safety, and prepares, protects, and extracts journalists working in vulnerable positions when required.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of Event	Description of event
1831	Nat Turner's Slave Rebellion
1919	The Spartacist Uprising
1930	The Salt Satyagraha March
1954-1968	The Civil Rights' Movement
1956	The Hungarian Revolution
1959	The Anti-Apartheid Movement
1960-1970	The Vietnam War Protests
1969	The Stonewall Riots
1972	The ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
2006	The #MeToo Movement
2012	The Monday March Protests
2013	The Black Lives Matter Movement
2020	India's Farmers Protests
2020	The Stop AAPI Hate Campaign
May 25 2021	George Floyd's Murder Anniversary
May 2021	Palestine Supporters Rally
June 2021	The Brooklyn Liberation March
November 2021	MAPA Activists calling out global leaders at COP26

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

First Amendment

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Funding of NGOs

Government officials in several countries throughout the world are speaking out against non-governmental organizations engaging in "political activities," in order to justify legal limitations imposed upon the NGO sector. Several countries, including Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela, have proposed or passed restrictive legislation and regulations in recent years. Many NGOs are concerned that these constraints will prohibit them from carrying out their fundamental constitutional functions, such as defending members' interests, participating in public debates on a variety of issues, and serving as watchdogs over state action.

Thus, it is vital that an increase for the funding of NGOs is promoted. These institutions have a great impact on public awareness and are able to engage and mobilize citizens to participate in political discussion by raising concerns about the suppression of dissent and other pressing political causes. NGOs are also able to make significant interventions concerning governmental practices and by this way making their voices heard. As NGOs become dependent on external funding, they lose sight of their original goals. Their contributions, which are not limited to educating the population but also to promote active citizenship, democratic values and a cohesive society are remarkable. Funding is crucial for an NGO's work. In fact, the United Nations has stated that the Third Sector institutions are "crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals".

Regulation of police and increasing accountability

Regulating the role of the police and increasing their accountability during the conduct of citizen assemblies is achieved by introducing oversight mechanisms and introducing laws that limit the excessive use of force. Following protests, establishing a commitment to produce a guide on peaceful protests with the police (in accordance with international legal frameworks) could be a critical step. The basic goal of such frameworks is to guarantee assembly freedom on a multi-level basis. By sharing information in open data forms that may be utilized to cooperatively address problems and inspire innovation, these local, state, and national/federal policies would increase accountability amongst law enforcement agencies and communities.

Furthermore, arranging citizen-police dialogues would provide a safe environment for individuals and citizen organizations, human rights activists, and the media to prosper, express themselves, and participate in the policy-making process without fear or intimidation. Through their ability to associate, congregate, and express themselves freely, people and citizen organizations will be able to inform and influence legislation

policies and actions, fostering constant collaboration between the public, private, and third sector.

Development of legal frameworks

Another focus would be on building or strengthening legislative frameworks to defend the rights of activists, journalists, and independent media. Ensuring that restrictions on freedom of expression are only imposed for the purposes of pursuing legitimate goals, such as combating corruption and cybersecurity, are legal and proportionate. Emergency powers that momentarily restrict these rights should be subject to certain restrictions in accordance with international law and legislative supervision. Strong protections for investigations and prosecutions of violence against reporters and other civil society actors need be established in order to ensure equality of access concerning justice. These should entail gender-sensitive/responsive procedures; methods that allow for independent and publicly-funded media platforms while avoiding media ownership concentration; and challenges or modifications to harsh laws that may oppress a citizen's right to free expression and rights to dissent.

Croatia, for example, has committed to building a legislative framework to increase transparency and responsiveness in regards to the ownership of editorial boards of publications. Mongolia is committed to establishing a new legislation on media freedom and amending its law on national broadcasting to preserve the rights of its journalists, ensuring that the media is free of governmental political influence, and that its finances are politically neutral.

Legal safeguards against disinformation

Various measures could be utilized to combat disinformation and increase information access frameworks, with legal safeguards in place to prevent rollbacks during times of crisis. Governments all across the world might create special units to respond quickly to misinformation trends by fostering factual information distribution while avoiding punitive actions that could escalate to censorship. State agencies should also avoid engaging in propaganda efforts and support legislative safeguards that allow independent media and civil society to observe and report on state-led disinformation tactics. In regards to the COVID-19 pandemic and the misinformation waves it has inspired, countries such as Portugal and Italy have used online platforms and social media to convey timely and appropriate information about the virus and government policies, while debunking false claims and disinformation.

Preventing unwanted surveillance

Journalists, activists, and human rights advocates should be protected from invasive digital surveillance by regulatory organizations. Even in the event of a health emergency, surveillance mechanisms must be legal, necessary, and reasonable. Citizens must be able to talk and share their ideas without fear of retaliation from the government or non-government entities. Mexico, for example, has pledged to address

issues of uncontrolled and unauthorized government digital surveillance by collaborating with civil society organizations to establish multi-stakeholder monitoring to prevent private communications from being intercepted.

The entire world has gone digital. Our privacy and fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression, are jeopardized in this situation. As a result, we must protect our digital rights in the locations where we work. Governments should be pressured to implement policies and actions that protect digital rights in order to ensure a free and secure civic environment. In states that lack strong democratic controls over the collection and use of surveillance technologies, similar provisions should be provided.

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