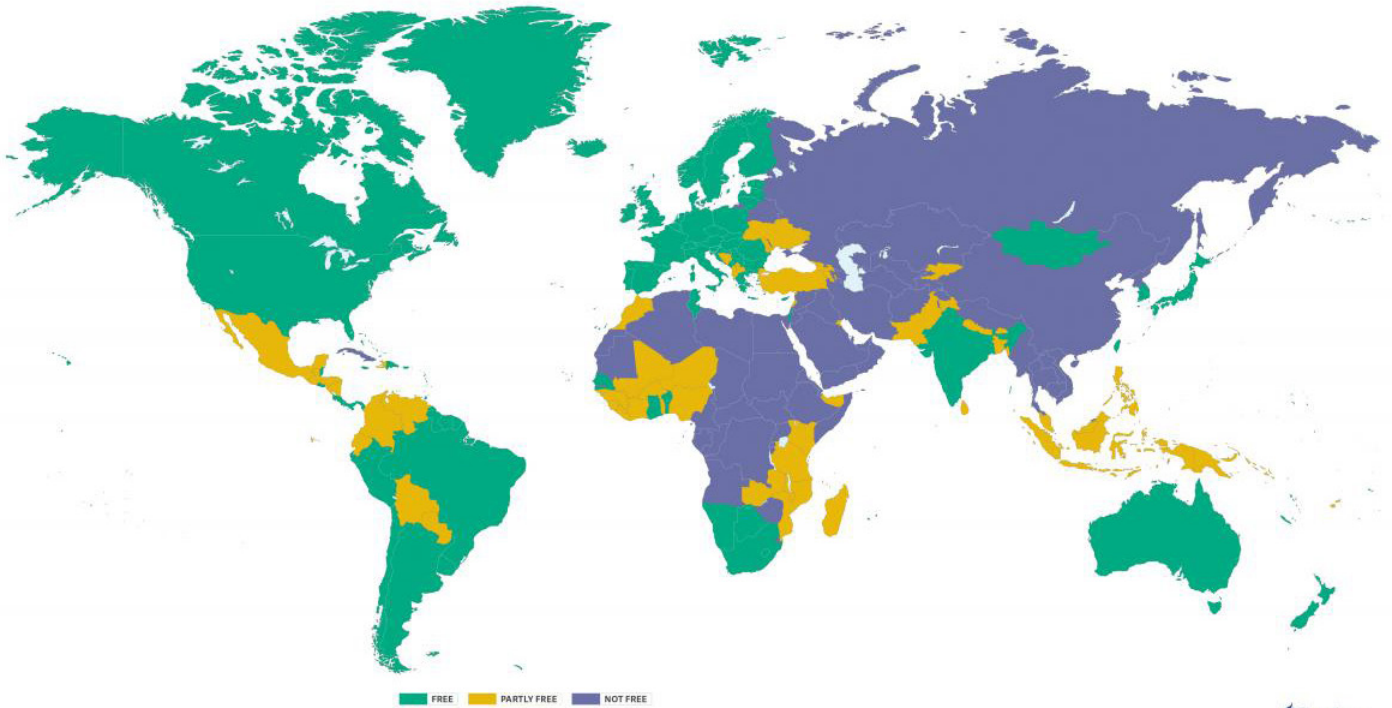


FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A Symposium

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2015



Freedom House

Saturday, November 14th 9a-5p
Corcoran Commons, The Heights Room
Boston College

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THE ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION AND SOCIETIES
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Freedom of the Press in the Middle East

9:00-10:00 Breakfast

10:00 Opening Remarks

Dr. Kathleen Bailey, Department of Political Science, Boston College,
Associate Director, Islamic Civilization & Societies Program

10:00-11:30 Panel 1: Censorship in the Media

Stephen Kinzer is a Senior Fellow in International and Public Affairs at Brown University. He spent more than 20 years working for the *New York Times*, most of it as a foreign correspondent. In 1996, he was named chief of the newly opened *Times* bureau in Istanbul. Since leaving the *Times*, Kinzer has taught journalism, political science, and international relations at Northwestern University and Boston University.

Mohamad H. Elmasry is Assistant Professor at the University of North Alabama. He is a political and media analyst, appearing regularly on international television news networks, including CNN, the BBC, and Al-Jazeera English. His research has appeared in refereed publications and focuses on the sociology of news, Arab press systems, Egyptian news production and professionalism, and news coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Kerim Balci is the Editor-in-Chief of Turkish Review. He is also a columnist for Today's Zaman and Zaman Media Group. He works with interfaith dialogue groups in Europe to promote multiculturalism in Europe, and is the author of several books, including *Ottoman Jerusalem in Photographs*, 2009.

Ali Banuazizi is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Program in Islamic Civilization and Societies at Boston College. His scholarly interests include political cultures of the Middle East; comparative study of religion, civil society, and politics in the Middle East; and Iran's social history and contemporary domestic politics and foreign relations.

11:45-1:00 Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Noam Chomsky**, MIT

1:00-2:00 Lunch Break

2:00-3:00

Panel 2: Ethics and Safety

Hasan Cemal is a Turkish journalist and writer. In 2015, he was selected by Nieman Fellows at Harvard University to be the recipient of the Louis M. Lyons Award for Conscience and Integrity in Journalism. He was chosen in recognition of a long career dedicated to championing freedom of the press in Turkey and as a representative of all Turkish journalists working today under increasingly difficult conditions. Cemal is also the co-founding president of P24: Platform for Independent Journalism.

Maggy Zanger is Professor of the Practice at the University of Arizona School of Journalism and an affiliated faculty member of the UA Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Her research focuses on international journalism; media, conflict and humanitarian crises; community journalism; Iraq and Kurdistan; and Kurdish media development. She spent two years as the Iraq country director for the Institute for War & Peace Reporting in Baghdad.

Nada Alwadi is a journalist, writer and researcher, as well as a Fellow at IREX. She has been working in print media since 2003 covering politics and human rights issues in Bahrain and the Middle East. In 2011, she was one of the recipients of the first James Lawson Award for Nonviolent Achievement by the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict. Alwadi also co-founded the Bahraini Press Association with other prominent Bahraini journalists.

Berna Turam received her PhD from McGill University, the Department of Sociology. She has an abiding interest in conducting ethnography on state-society interaction, government and the city, urban space and democracy, political Islam and ordinary Muslim people, religion and politics, secularisms, and politics of gender in the Middle East. She is the author of *Between Islam and the State: The Politics of Engagement*, 2007 and *Gaining Freedoms: Claiming Space in Istanbul and Berlin*, 2015.

3:45-5:15

Panel 3: Social Media

Nate Schenkkan is the Project Director for Nations in Transit, Freedom House's annual survey of democratic governance from Central Europe to Eurasia. He previously served as Senior Program Officer for Freedom House's Eurasia programs, covering Turkey and Central Asia. He is the creator and host of "The Central Asianist Podcast," a regular interview series with experts and journalists covering the region. Prior to joining Freedom House in 2012, he worked as a journalist in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Panel 3: Social Media

Chris A. Bail is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Duke University. He studies how non-profit organizations and other political actors create cultural change by analyzing large groups of texts from newspapers, television, public opinion surveys, and social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. He is currently conducting a study of how non-profit organizations reach new audiences on the Internet using a unique sample of groups recruited via Facebook.

Lina Ben Mhenni is a Tunisian Internet activist, blogger, and assistant lecturer in linguistics at Tunis University. She rose to prominence during the Tunisian Revolution of 2011. She has been awarded the Deutsche Welle International Blog Award and El Mundo's International Journalism Prize. She was also nominated for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. She is the author of *Tunisian girl, la bloggeuse de la revolution*.

Mustafa Gurbuz's research focuses on political violence and terrorism, Muslims in the West, and Kurdish movements in the Middle East. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Connecticut and is currently a policy fellow at Center for Global Policy at George Mason University. Dr. Gurbuz is Associate Editor of *Sociology of Islam* and the author of *Transforming Ethnic Conflict: Rival Kurdish Movements in Turkey*, 2016.