

# SUDAN

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**1) What is the basic political system in your country (e.g. democratic, semi-authoritarian, authoritarian or other type of hybrid regime)?**

Authoritarian regime

**2) What are the main features of your media landscape? (Private/public, print/broadcast/internet usage, ownership concentration, government control, etc.).**

The main broadcast media (Radio and TV) are government controlled. There are some commercial and entertainment “private” FMs and TV channels, but it is very difficult to say they are “independent media houses “. However, there is a small margin of “freedoms” in the field of print media, though the ruling party is owning either directly or indirectly the majority of the print and broadcast media. The bulk of the media ownership is concentrated in the hands of the ruling party, except for a very few newspapers which are owned or affiliated to opposition political parties (left and right)

**3) Where does your country come in the rankings of Freedom House (on freedom of the press) and Reporters Without Borders?**

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=251&year=2009>  
<http://www.rsf.org/en-classement1003-2009.html>

According to Freedom House, Sudan scores 76, classified as ‘not free’.  
It is at the bottom of the index of RSF (number 172 out of 178)

**4) Would you broadly agree with their characterisation of your situation?**

Yes, I do agree.

**5) a) what are the main challenges facing the media in your country in the next five years (economic, political, technological etc)?**

The country is suffering from an ongoing conflict. Lack of democracy and democratic media laws are among the main challenges.  
Another crack down on human rights is expected to take place within the next few months. There are already indicators (detention and harassment of political activists, media, press and human rights defenders).

**b) What are the main limits on the practice of a free press in your country, based on your own practical experience of working there?**

The state carries out severe direct censorship by the state organs, in addition to indirect censorship, through tools like its power over advertisements and taxation. The legal frame is undemocratic, including media laws, and civil and political rights.

**6) What are the main roles that new media play in your country?**

It is quite challenging to the state media. It could be the alternative, but this will not happen in a short time, since the people who have access to internet are restricted in number and usually concentrated amongst the younger generation. New media have only very limited power, but they are growing in strength slowly.