

Nicaragua
SWOT Analysis

<p>STRENGTHS</p>	<p>The main strength of journalists and citizens to exercise their right to free speech and freedom of the press is the courage to express themselves, fearlessly, and in accordance with international agreements executed by Nicaragua and that bind the State to respect these rights. Also, the capability of peaceful resistance by citizens and journalists who exercise their right to express themselves even in adverse conditions.</p>
<p>WEAKNESSES</p>	<p>The greatest weakness regarding free speech and freedom of the press in Nicaragua is that, despite the fact that the right to express oneself and exercise journalism freely is granted by the Constitution, the approval of three acts –at the end of 2020– restricts this right and even cautions citizens and journalists that they can be imprisoned for expressing what they feel about the government and the country. This has generated what is referred to as <i>apagón de voces</i> (blackout of voices), because many –especially social leaders– fear being arrested.</p>
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>The political situation the country is going through following the 2018 protests leads to the existence of few opportunities to exercise the right to free speech; however, social media and digital platforms, as well as teamed-up journalists, collaborative work, the voices of Nicaraguans supporting from exile, remain as a sort of domestically and internationally resounding loudspeaker that resonates in defense of the right to free speech and freedom of the press.</p>
<p>THREATS</p>	<p>Nicaraguan citizens and journalists face a hostile environment when exercising their right to express themselves. Threats from officials, aggressions and attacks on the media, perpetrated by agents from the government, are a constant without regard for constitutional rights and international agreements in favor of freedom of expression and of the press.</p>

