

BOLIVIA
STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES
AND THREATS ANALYSIS

<p>STRENGTHS</p>	<p>The mobilizations of activists, the statements and actions of trade union organizations have pushed back legislative initiatives that violate freedom of expression, or have exerted pressure to contain judicial processes, illegal detentions, and abuses of different types directed at journalists and the media. Now, the validity of the Printing Law (1925) and the precepts of the Political Constitution of the State regarding information and communication have been fundamental legal coverage in questioning the actions of the state or other groups against the union.</p>
<p>WEAKNESSES</p>	<p>Given the lack of guarantees that the State provides systems of protection or reparation for damages caused, adjusted to international standards, journalists threatened, even with death, have been forced to leave the country. Helplessness is evident, and, for the moment, it seems to have no signs of reversal; on the contrary, it is progressively increasing with multiple risks and violations surrounding journalism.</p>
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>International organizations such as the Inter-American Press Association, the special rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and Human Rights Watch (HRW) have expressed concern about the situation of journalistic practice in Bolivia and its impact on the democratic system. The journalistic unions have closed ranks around the defense of the fundamental rights of information, freedom of expression and freedom of the press, in a framework of progressive abuses and violations, mainly from the ruling party and its allies.</p>
<p>THREATS</p>	<p>Multiple violence threatens journalism and a plural system of media and information actors. Cyber-attacks and the spread of stigmatizing speeches, threats and hatred that seek to sow distrust and discredit towards the work of the press among citizens have been intensified. The financial siege around official advertising or other income from media companies have been unfortunately effective weapons that promoted the closure of one of the country's main newspapers. Public resources and the state apparatus are used for disinformation and disqualification campaigns against journalists. Judicialization and criminalization also play a strong role in attacking and weakening the work of informing society.</p>

