

MEXICO
SWOT ANALYSIS

WEAKNESSES	<p>Impunity in crimes against journalists: Most murders and attacks against journalists remain unsolved, fostering an impunity culture and sending the message that violence against the press will have no consequences.</p> <p>Judicial harassment: The use of judicial harassment as a way to silence journalists has become a common practice both by government and private players, thereby limiting the media's ability to freely do their job.</p> <p>Control over the media through official advertising: Using official advertising as a tool to reward or punish media based on favorable or critical approach to information weakens independence of the press and bolsters self-censorship in many media outlets.</p>
OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Judicial and protection reforms: The political context presents an opportunity for judicial and legal reforms to be implemented to improve the journalist protection and strengthen devices against impunity.</p> <p>Increased international pressure: Reports from international organizations such as Reporters Without Borders and the European Parliament can be leveraged to drive positive change and force the Mexican government to respond with concrete actions to protect freedom of the press.</p> <p>Possible change in government: With the change of leadership at the Executive level, there is an opportunity for rethinking policies towards the press and greater respect for freedom of expression, depending on the direction the new government undertakes.</p>

<p>STRENGTHS</p>	<p>Fewer murders of journalists: Although the number of homicides remains alarming, fewer murders compared to the previous period (from twelve to seven) is a positive sign showing a certain degree of improvement in respecting the work of journalists.</p> <p>Spaces of expression on social media: Despite the government's pressure, many journalists and media have found refuge in social media to keep on their reporting work, generating a space for independent resilience.</p> <p>Placement at the Chapultepec Index: Mexico slightly improved its rating (43.50 in 2024, while 41.82 in 2023), which shows some remaining leeway and a base on which building a starker defense of freedom of the press.</p>
<p>THREATS</p>	<p>Violence and organized crime: The presence of organized crime remains a constant threat to journalists, especially in regions affected by showdowns between cartels. Widespread violence and lack of authority oversight worsen the risk for those reporting in these areas.</p> <p>Pressure and censorship from the Executive Branch: Verbal attacks and the disclosure of journalists' personal information by the Executive are methods of intimidation that create a hostility toward independent journalism, which thereby affects free speech.</p> <p>Disinformation and official propaganda: The use of disinformation from government realms to disqualify independent media and manipulate public opinion erodes trust in the press and hinders citizens' right to be well informed.</p>

