

**BOLIVIA**  
**Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis**

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	The Printing Press Law, the constitutional text and the international regulations subscribed by the Bolivian government with respect to freedom of expression and press represent the legal support and the framework for appeals and challenges against abuses by both the government itself and different groups of power. Although there has been no defined action from the government to sanction the abuses, both trade unions, mass media and human rights organizations, as well as civil organizations and the very journalists who are critical of the government in power have shown firmness in whistleblowing these crimes and a stating clear position in defense of the right to information and communication.
<b>WEAKNESSES</b>	The climate of threats, intimidation, attacks, overall violence and control mechanisms such as the distribution of pro-government advertising lead to censorship and self-censorship that weakens the exercise of free speech and freedom of the press. Citizen movements and social organizations outside the government in power, faced with repression from the state apparatus, street violence from groups who support it and the prosecution and persecution of “adversaries”, are being prevented from expressing themselves and demonstrating freely, which has led to a certain disbanding and discouragement to confront abuses and outrageousness.
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Although there are multiple restrictions on the exercise of free speech and freedom of the press, as of yet there have not been serious infringements upon journalists such as murders or disappearances, destruction/silencing of mass media or imprisonment and judicial persecution against press workers or media owners, so there are ways to complain and protest to have abuses be known by the public, both domestically and internationally. The international authorities that would counterweight abuses from the government continue to be a go-to when it comes to making visible and possibly containing the excesses of both the government and the groups it protects.
<b>THREATS</b>	Context of high political polarization and social violence settled down after several years of Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS)’ office (2006-2019 and 2020 to date) and fueled after the November 2019 political and social crisis. During the Añez’s administration and now in the Arce’s administration, there’s encouragement of a violent confrontation between adversaries, a situation that has left the citizens, journalists and the media defenseless when facing the violation of their right to express themselves, to demonstrate or to seek, process and spread journalistic information, respectively. The co-optation of the branches of government, especially the Judiciary branch, creates a risk for those who do not agree with the government and its cronies.

