

CUBA
STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES, WEAKNESSES,
AND THREATS ANALYSIS

<p>STRENGTHS</p>	<p>The strength of independent journalism in Cuba is, precisely, in doing free, different, objective, ethical, truthful and thorough journalism that goes where the government forbids it from going, despite the State security agencies' constant repression, censorship and the constant threats of legal proceedings for those who exercise it. Their commitment is to the people and not to the Communist Party of Cuba.</p>
<p>WEAKNESSES</p>	<p>Freedom of expression and press on the one-party nation's island is restricted. Independent journalism is considered unconstitutional (contrary to what is established by the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba) and those who exercise it can be condemned by law, and deprived of their freedom, with the implementation of a new criminal code and a new act on communications.</p>
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>There is a gap between the protected-by-the-State-and-its-laws official journalism and the reality of the Cuban people. Many young journalists leave the ranks of the Union of Journalists of Cuba in search of a different way of communicating. Every day citizens consume more information from alternative, independent media, which move away from ideologization and reflect reality.</p>
<p>THREATS</p>	<p>The Cuban government is the main threat to freedom of expression and press on the Island, protected by legal statutes such as executive orders 370 and 35, the new act on communications, and the criminal code which sets a ten-years-tops sentence in prison for those who exercise journalism independently. The official press itself also constitutes a threat to independent journalism, which they defame and discredit at will.</p>

