

Venezuela
Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, treats

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <p>STRENGTHS</p> | <p>Albeit forcibly and struggling for economic sustainability, journalists and media outlets penalized or harassed by the Nicolas Maduro regime have successfully migrated to the digital domain, finding the possibility of disseminating critical information over the Internet, in an online ecosystem sustaining blockages, but with fewer probabilities of full restriction by the government. Citizens have persisted in using social media as a means of criticism, despite arbitrary arrests.</p> |
| <p>WEAKNESSES</p> | <p>The regime has continued to persecute citizens and journalists who voice their criticism. Having as allies a National Constituent Assembly with a questioned legitimacy and a Judiciary subdued by the ruling party, the Executive persecutes newsmen and individuals by means of trials, jail, and rigged probation sentences, pressing against them charges for infringing regulations in place to avoid criticism, such as the Anti-Hate Law. The severe political, economic, and social crisis has weakened the media and pushed news organizations to a precarious situation or bankruptcy, as well as subjected them to direct and indirect controls. Law enforcement terrorizes citizens, restricting their free speech day after day in entities part of the public administration.</p> |
| <p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> | <p>Venezuelan journalists and media companies have made some impact on the Internet. An open digital media ecosystem offering the possibility of dissent continues to exist, even on platforms blocked by the regime. The activity of non-governmental organizations defending free speech rights in Venezuela has drawn attention from bodies inside the country and abroad. Some startups and personalities have emerged with relative success amidst adverse conditions to communicate the severe crisis that exists in the country.</p> |
| <p>THREATS</p> | <p>One threat remains latent in Venezuela, and that is the persecution of all dissidents in the digital ecosystem. After closing down media outlets and revoking licenses to radio and TV stations on political grounds, the Venezuelan regime has already persecuted journalists for critical content disseminated on the Internet, and forced entrepreneurial journalists in the</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>digital domain into exile, which makes the disappearance of the remaining information channels feasible. Universities could also be in the bull's eye for new controls by Maduro. The pandemic has given the regime an excuse to conduct new arrests.</p> |
|--|--|

