

South America and Journalism - Freedom and Life

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This article deals with the situation of the media in South America: Colombia, Peru, Argentina, and Brazil offer different aspects. The situation is much improved for reporters, but they still encounter difficulties in their daily work. The document approved at the last meeting of the Interamerican Press Society (SIP) says that in most countries the profession is still under pressure, at times extremely violent and bloody, and other times inhibited by a legal veil which purportedly protects the citizens but in reality curtails the free flow of ideas.

Over the past few years, dozens of journalists have been murdered in Colombia. Things have improved in the last decade, but unfortunately Colombia has yet to taste the fruits of peace. Journalists are still threatened and kidnapped. In Peru, the border skirmish with Ecuador has brought conflict to the media establishment. Alvaro Vargas Llosa was accused of “high treason” for having written a critical article in the Miami Herald. In Argentina, the press has managed to shirk off the yoke of past dictatorships. The same has occurred in Brazil, where one of the continent’s best media has arisen and flourishes. But, in general, according to the author, Latin America’s media moguls are not entirely satisfied with their lot.