

Blogger Arrests Around the World

Unfortunately, one way to assess the political importance of blogging around the world is through the growing number of blogger arrests. Since 2003, 64 citizens unaffiliated with news organizations have been arrested for their blogging activities.

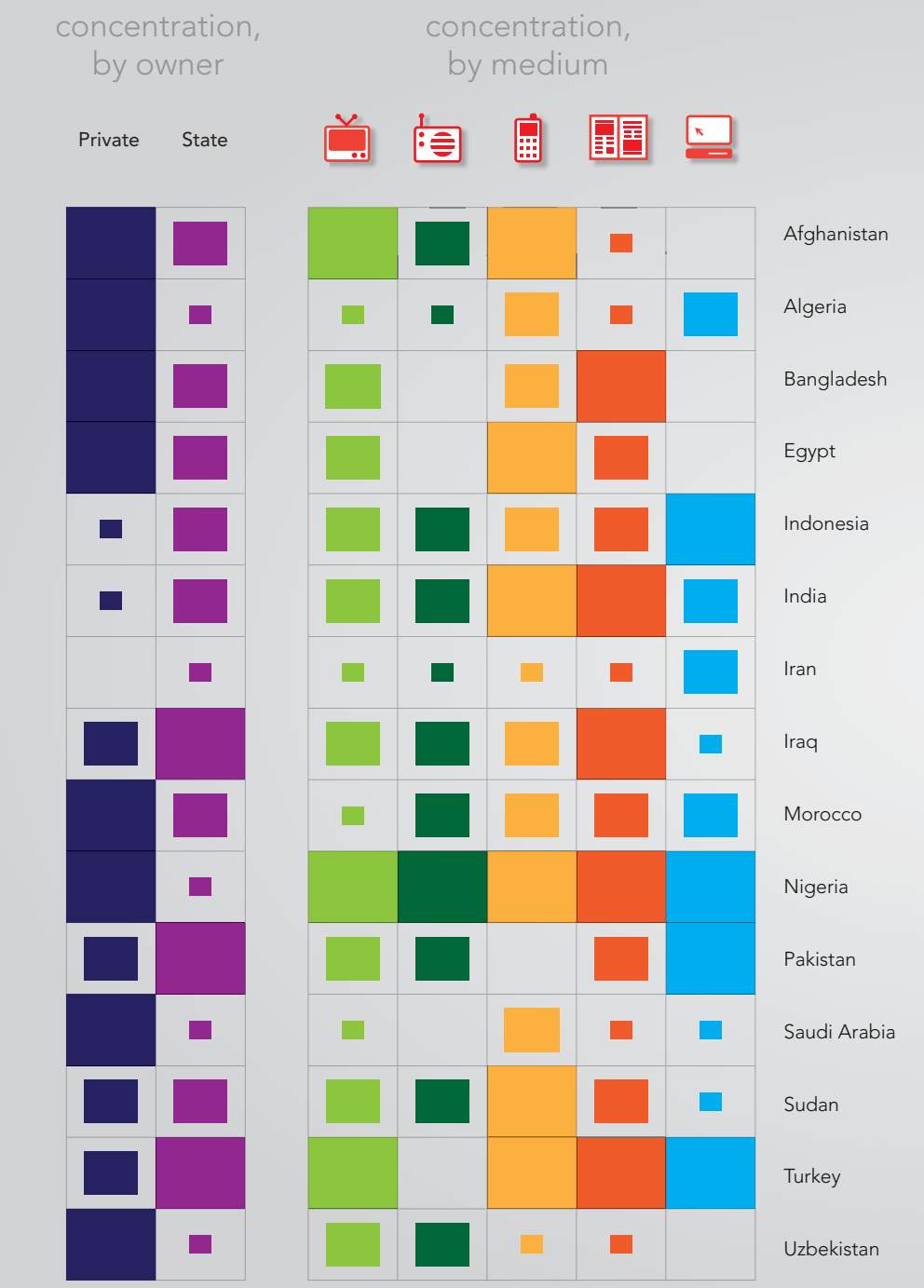
The topics of these blog posts vary, as do the kind of criminal charges and punishments handed down. Altogether 940 months of jail time has been served by bloggers around the world. China, Egypt and Iran account for more than half of all the arrests since 2003.

Over the last five years, the average prison time for "citizen journalists" was fifteen months.

These bloggers expose bureaucratic corruption or human rights abuses and express opinions about political figures and public policy options. They post reports and photos from social protests. They write about political artwork, or share images and texts that some feel violate cultural norms.

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The World Information Access Project investigates the causes and consequences of the global digital divide. Our website provides access to other data memos, graphics from past summaries of our research, working papers, raw datasets, and other research resources related to information access around the world.



Ownership Diversity in Muslim Media Systems

Across the 15 largest Muslim media systems, ownership patterns vary in interesting ways. In many Western countries, there is less and less diversity in the ownership of media assets because these assets are being concentrated among fewer and fewer corporate actors. In some Muslim countries, media assets are also concentrated, but among state actors

such as ministries of communications, government secretariats, or publically traded companies in which state agencies still hold controlling shares. In other Muslim countries, there is modest competition among the state and private owners of television stations, radio stations, mobile phone service providers, newspapers, and internet service providers.



Politics Online in the Muslim World

The 2007 WIA Report analyzed the websites of political parties in over 50 Muslim countries.

An overwhelming number of the political parties online were secular and represented the diverse ideological spectrum of political parties found in many other countries around the world.

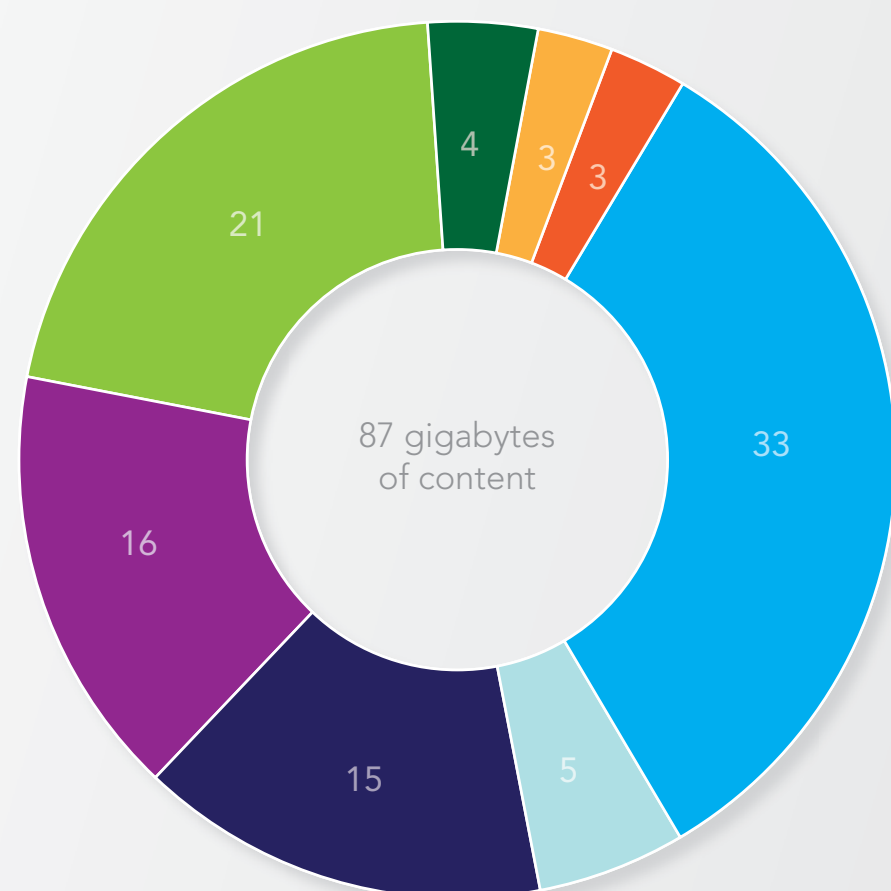
This year the sample includes 74 nations with significant Muslim populations. Political parties are assessed for the volume of content they have online and how internally complex they are. These results are summarized by political ideology, but further analysis and raw data can be found at wiareport.org.



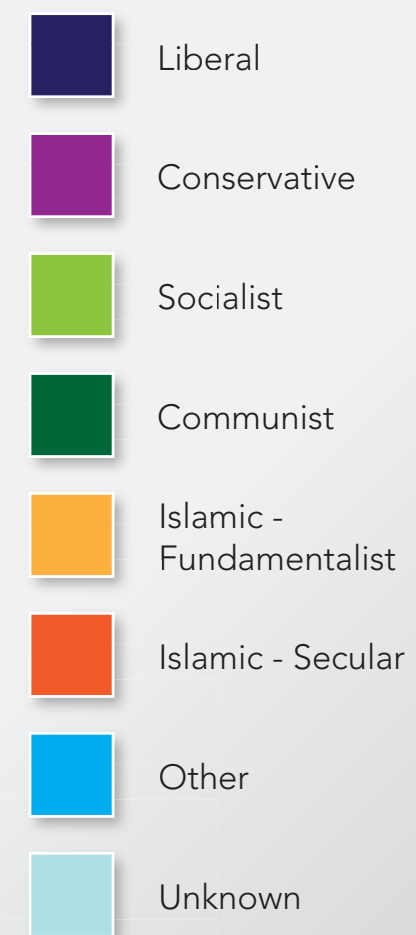
Volume of Political Content

percent of total gigabytes, by party ideology

In 2008, a tiny fraction of the political content online belongs to fundamentalist political parties. The vast majority of 87 gigabytes of content belonged to familiar types of secular parties. All in all, just over half the volume of political content online belongs to liberal, conservative or socialist parties and social movements. A third of the content belongs to "other" political parties, which includes nationalist, green and populist parties. A very small portion belongs to Islamic fundamentalist parties.



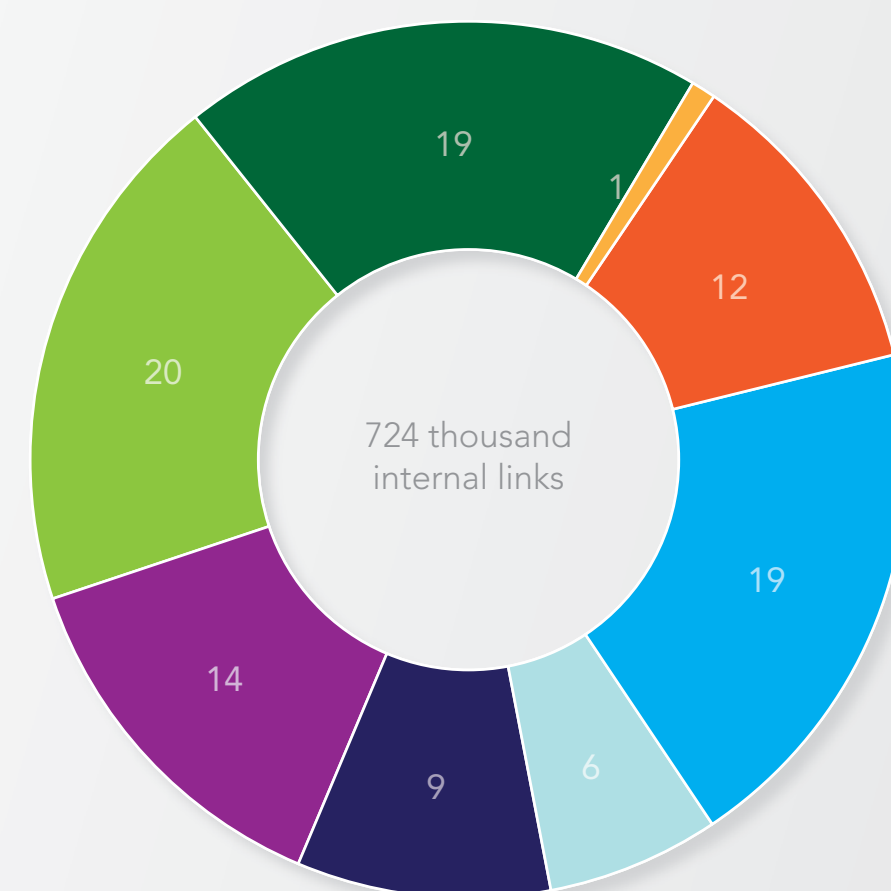
Party Ideology



Website Complexity

percent of all internal links, by party ideology

Yet another way to assess political content online is by the complexity of links developing within a website. The 355 websites analyzed had 87 gigabytes of content, 2.5 million external links, and 724 thousand internal links. Scanning each of these websites reveals that while communist and secular Islamic websites have low volumes of content and few external links, they tend to have lots of internal links.



Afghanistan	Central African Republic	Guinea	Libya	Oman	Tanzania
Albania	Chad	Guinea-Bissau	Macedonia	Pakistan	Togo
Algeria	Comoros	India	Malawi	Qatar	Tunisia
Azerbaijan	Cote d'Ivoire	Indonesia	Malaysia	Russia	Turkey
Bahrain	Cyprus	Iraq	Maldives	Saudi Arabia	Turkmenistan
Bangladesh	Djibouti	Israel	Mali	Senegal	Uganda
Benin	Egypt	Jordan	Mauritania	Sierra Leone	United Arab Emirates
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Eritrea	Kazakhstan	Mauritius	Singapore	Yemen
Brunei	Ethiopia	Kuwait	Montenegro	Somalia	
Bulgaria	Gambia	Kyrgyzstan	Morocco	Sudan	
Burkina Faso	Georgia	Lebanon	Mozambique	Suriname	
Cameroon	Ghana	Liberia	Niger	Syria	
			Nigeria	Tajikistan	



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