

7.4.2. Censorship

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According to Freedom House, the media landscape in Lebanon was among the most diverse in the region, yet outlets were largely dependent on political, financial, or foreign sponsors, which fostered a certain level of self-censorship. Criticism of the President or security services was criminalised, and such provisions were used to harass or detain journalists, who were at times required to sign pledges restricting future expression. ⁶⁴⁶ Self-censorship was also prevalent in online spaces, where users feared retaliation, such as defamation lawsuits.⁶⁴⁷

For further information on defamation lawsuits and the harassment of journalists, see section [7.4.1 Threats and harassment against journalists and media workers](#).

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Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025 – Lebanon, 2025, [url](#), section D1

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Freedom House, Freedom on the Net 2024, Lebanon, 31 May 2024, [url](#), section B4