



# Monitoring and Promoting Internet Freedoms in Africa

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# The Internet in Africa

- 16% Internet Penetration (ITU)
- 63% Mobile Phone Subscribers (ITU)
- Alexa.com website traffic rankings: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and blogger among top websites.
- Numerous incidents that infringe on online freedoms
- Long-existent but often vague laws, and also extra-legal means curtail online freedoms

# 2012 Freedom on the Net Report

## Free

**South  
Africa**

**Kenya**

## Partly Free

**Nigeria**

**Uganda**

**Rwanda**

## Not Free

**Ethiopia**

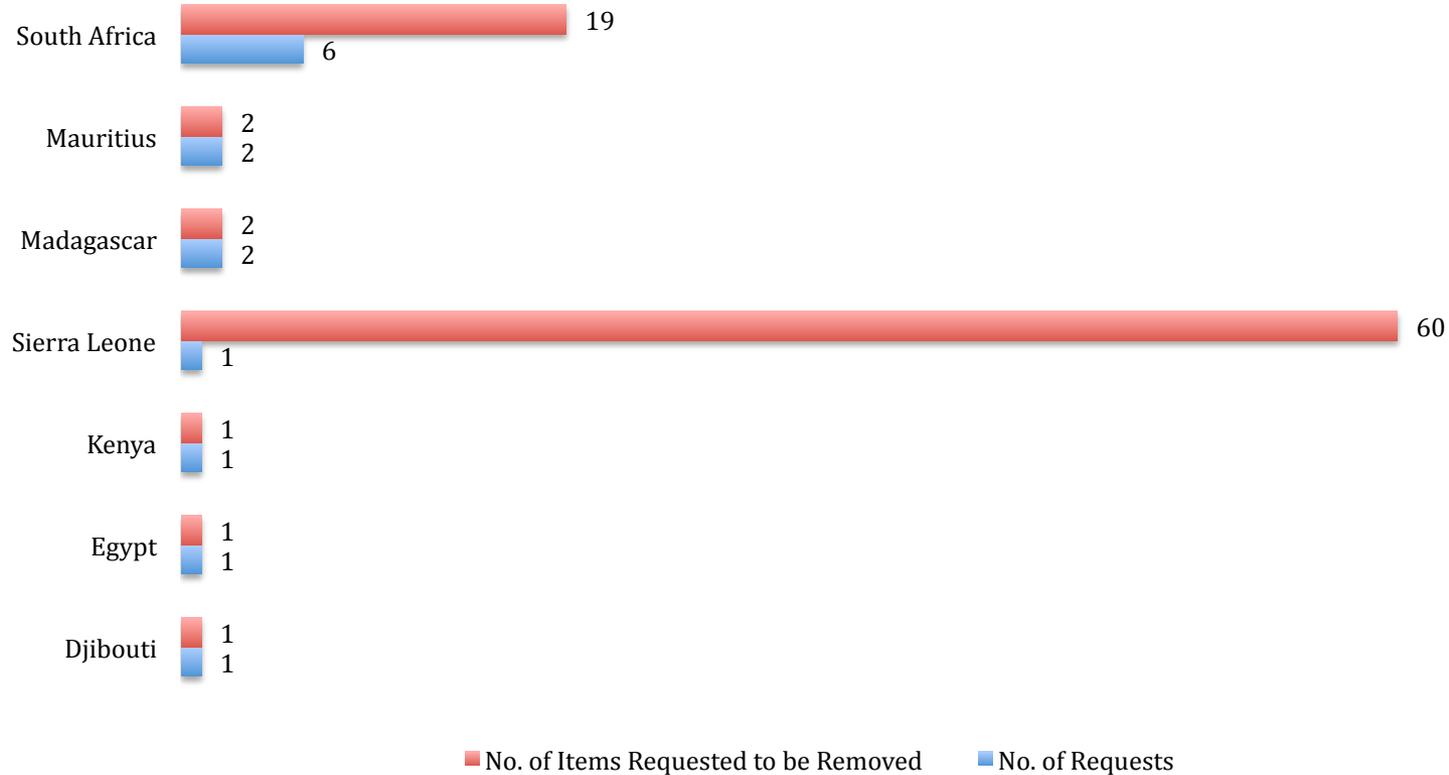


OpenNet  
Africa

# Jan – June 2013 Facebook Data Requests

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total Requests</i>	<i>Users/Accounts requested</i>	<i>Compliance rate</i>
Botswana	3	7	0%
Egypt	8	11	
Ivory Coast	4	4	
Uganda	1	1	
South Africa	14	9	
<b><i>Global Highest</i></b>			
India	3,245	4,144	50%
United States of America	11,000 – 12,000	20,000 – 21,000	79%

# 2012 Content Removal Requests to Google





# Other Notable Events

- July 2013 Gambia – The Information Communications Act 2013 clamps down on critiquing government officials online.
- The law seeks to punish “instigating violence against the government or public officials”, and also targets individuals who “caricature or make derogatory statements against officials” or “impersonate public officials”.
- Zimbabwe – ‘Whistle blower’ ‘Bada Jukwa’ being hunted by the government.
- May 2013, Uganda to establish ‘Social Media Monitoring Centre’



# Role of Government, Civil Society, Media and Private Sector

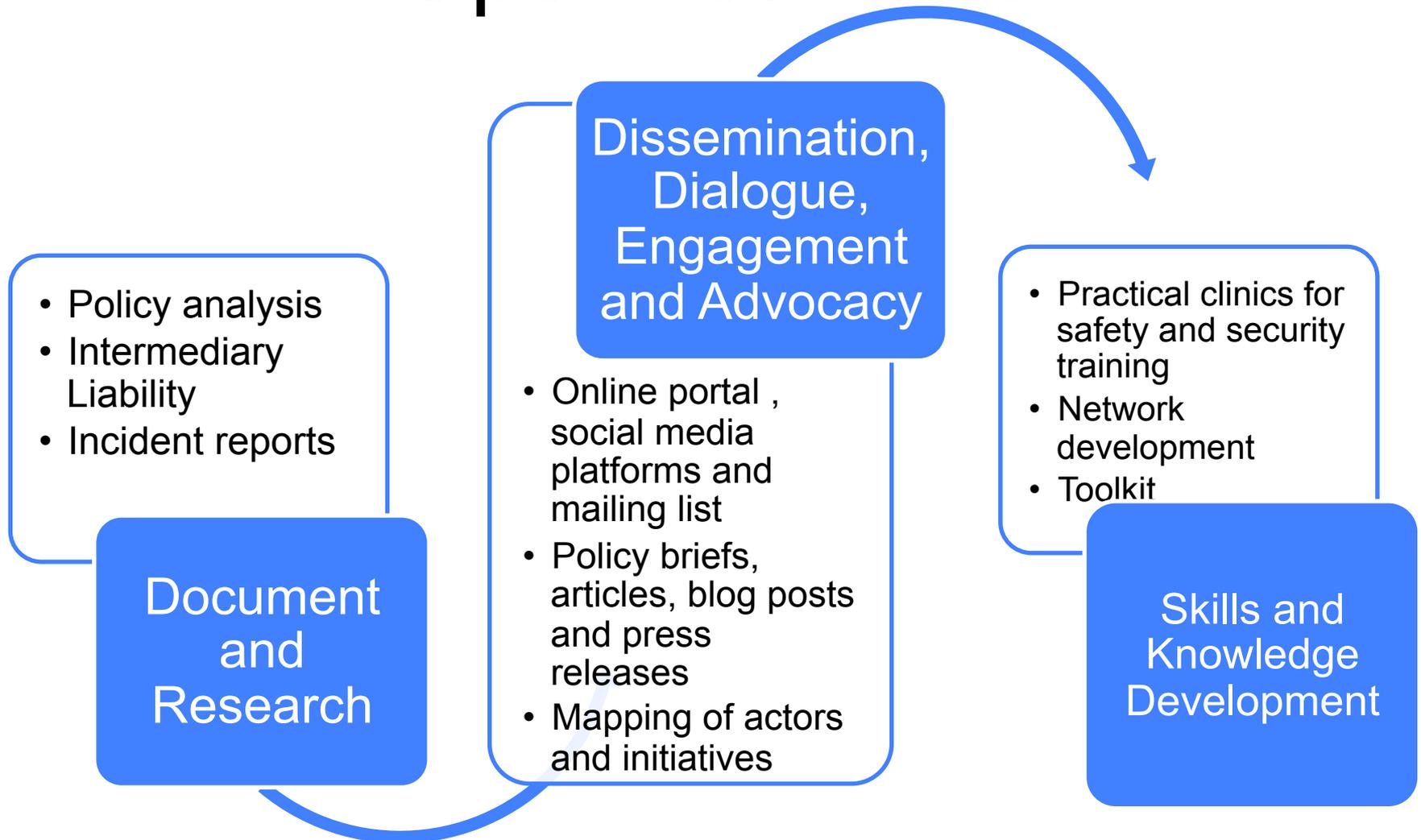
- There are few conversations in East African countries on these matters. Where these conversations related to internet freedoms are taking place, they are often not informed by research, nor are they driven by an agenda that seeks to educate citizens and promote liberal regimes of online rights



# Way Forward?

- Understand how policy and practice affect internet freedoms in the region
- Identify aspects of policies that need to be changed to make legislation more supportive of online freedoms
- Formation of a network of national and regional actors involved in the promotion of internet freedoms
- Raising awareness and spurring multi-stakeholder conversations on the importance of protecting internet rights the way human rights have always been protected and promoted

# OpenNet Africa





# OpenNet Africa

- Focus countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda
- Launch September 2013
- Welcome stakeholders to share ideas, report a violations etc





Contact and further information

OpenNet Africa

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**THANK YOU!**