The State of Internet Freedoms in East Africa
Research Report Launch

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Forum on Internet Freedoms
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Golf Course Hotel, Kampala
Overview

• Background to the Internet
  o Global Statistics
  o What it has enabled – economy and development
  o What it has enabled – human rights and freedom
• Aim of the OpenNet Africa Initiative
• About the Research
• Research findings
  o Notable country developments
• Going forward
• Acknowledgements and Contact
What do the numbers mean?

- Borderless...
  - eServices
  - eTransactions
  - eBusiness
  - eHealth
  - Distance learning
  - Communications (mass and cheap)
  - eVoting
  - And much more...
What do the numbers mean?

• For human rights and freedoms?
  o Freedom of Expression
  o Freedom of assembly/Association
  o Press Freedom
  o Democracy (critical opposition)
  o Privacy and Security
The Good
The Bad
# The ugly Facebook Data Requests Jan – Dec 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total Requests</th>
<th>Users/Accounts Requested</th>
<th>Compliance Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivory Coast</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Highest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>3,245</td>
<td>4,144</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>Approx 24,000</td>
<td>Approx 40,000</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. of Requests</th>
<th>No. of Items Requested to be Removed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Content Removal Requests to Google July 2012 – June 2013
OpenNet Africa

www.opennetafrica.org

OpenNet Africa **monitors** and **promotes internet freedoms**, primarily in East and Southern Africa.
OpenNet Africa

- Policy analysis
- Intermediary Liability
- Incident reports

Document and Research

- Online portal, social media platforms and mailing list
- Policy briefs, articles, blog posts and press releases
- Mapping of actors and initiatives

Dissemination, Dialogue, Engagement and Advocacy

Skills and Knowledge Development

- Practical clinics for safety and security training
- Network development
- Toolkit
The Research

• January 2010 – April 2014 developments (policy and action) related to internet freedoms in East Africa

• Method
  o Policy analysis
  o Document reviews
  o Technical audits
  o Interviews
  o Workshops
  o Online discussions
Findings: ICT Growth in East Africa

- Mobile Money
- Infrastructure development
- Academia and Private Sector Innovation
- Government Initiatives to promote access and use including for marginalised groups
- Liberalised sectors (except Ethiopia)

**Telephone and Internet Penetration (% of the population)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Teledensity</th>
<th>Internet Penetration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>49.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>19.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Findings

- Paucity literature on the subject
- Long existent and vague laws
- Recent legislations curtailing constitutional rights
- Government control over the internet and associated technologies through interception, monitoring and surveillance (including extra legal means)
- Numerous incidents that infringe on online freedoms
- Few actors promoting internet freedoms
- Low levels of user skills and knowledge about online safety and ethics
- Intermediary liability
- Lack of data protection and privacy laws
- Access to information denied
Notable Country Developments

**Burundi**

- 2013 Amendments to Regulatory law – oversight of internet writings and monitoring ethics of online news agencies
- 2013 Press Law - proscribes dissemination of information that undermines national security, incites civil disobedience, serves as propaganda for enemies or insults the country’s president.
- 2013 Press law – disclosure obligation of online publishers
- May 2013 – 30 day ban on online commentary at www.iwacu-burundi.org
- January 2014 – ARCT notice against SMS and anonymous calls

**Ethiopia**

- 2012 Telecom Fraud Offences Law
- 2009 Anti Terrorism Proclamation
- 2013 Information Network Security Agency (INSA) proclamation and National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) establishment – Internet Control, Censorship, Intelligence gathering and surveillance
- 2013 blocking tests – 62 blocked websites
- April 2014 – arrest of six bloggers and three journalists
Kenya

- Regulations on Monitoring Hate Speech – Online and Bulk SMS
- 2013 blocking of mashada.com for failure to moderate hate speech
- March 2013 – hunt for 14 bloggers for posting hate speech online. One charged with posting “annoying statements”
- National Intelligence service Act, 2012 – allows for interception

Rwanda

- Monitoring of online Media during Genocide period
- 2013 Interception of Communication Law – Monitor citizens voice and data communications (including with equipment not facilitated by service providers)
- Progress – 2013 laws on media and access to information, draft amendments to genocide law
- April 2014 – Phone, Whatsapp and Skype messages tendered as evidence in a treason case
- Intimidation over social media
Notable Country Developments

Tanzania

• Colonial laws
• September 2013 – Newspaper shutdown (print and online)
• August 2013 – TCRA social media campaign against hate speech
• 2011 - Alleged attempt at cloning JamiiForum – to control content

Uganda

• 2013 – Government plans to set up a “social media monitoring centre”
• 2014 – Anti Homosexuality Act
• 2014 – Anti Pornography Act
• 2013 CIPESA/Citizen lab test – no evidence of content blocking
Going Forward

- Fill the information void
- Lobbying and advocacy
  - Amendments to laws and regulations
  - Enactment of laws to mirror technology
  - Commit to full implementation of progressive laws
- Skills building
- Increased oversight and transparency
- Encouragement of conversation
Acknowledgements and Contact

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www.opennetafrica.org | www.cipesa.org
The State of Internet Freedoms in East Africa 2014

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#internetfreedom #eastafrica #cipesaug