Limiting Freedom on the Internet

According to OpenNet Initiative, a group that monitors Internet censorship and content restrictions, many governments specifically restrict political content — sites related to opposing political viewpoints, human rights, religion or freedom of expression.

Libya

Has become less restrictive in recent years. Most filtering is directed toward political sites.

Cuba

Most citizens do not have access to the Internet; for those who do, the network is monitored closely by state agencies.

Syria

The state monitors Internet use closely and has at times detained people for posting commentary.

Sudan

Openly acknowledges filtering content that transgresses public morality and ethics or threatens order.

Iran

The government has undertaken an extensive and centralized effort to monitor and filter Internet content.

Saudi Arabia

The authorities have at times arrested bloggers for posting content deemed offensive.

Burma

The state shut down the Internet during antigovernment protests in 2007.

"Filtering" includes such practices as blocking access to certain Web pages and removing “undesirable” sites from search results.

*No data does not necessarily indicate that the government does not filter content.

Source: OpenNet Initiative; Martyn Williams of the International Data Group

The New York Times