

World Press Freedom Index Places Russia Behind Uganda

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An annual ranking composed by the [Reporters Without Borders](#) non-governmental organization has placed [Russia](#) in 148th place, behind countries such as [Uganda](#) or [South Sudan](#).

In what it described as “a stifling [atmosphere](#) for independent journalists” in Russia, the [NGO cited](#) the legal persecution of bloggers and social media users and [increased control](#) over independent news outlets as reasons for [Russia's](#) low score.

Last year Russia also ranked 148th out of 180 countries polled in the World Press Freedom Index, but its [overall score](#) has fallen by 0.42 points since then.

“The climate has become increasingly [oppressive](#) for those who try to maintain quality journalism or [question](#) the new patriotic and neo-conservative [line,]” the [NGO said](#) in its

report published Wednesday.

Russia's score places it behind South Sudan, Bangladesh and Mexico. North Korea was deemed the country with the least press freedom, with a score of 84.98.

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