

Perceptions of deficits in liberty are comparatively low in the United States and Uruguay, where 19 percent and 23 percent, respectively, feel that there is very little freedom to voice political opinions. In a dozen other nations—Panama, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Jamaica, Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Bolivia, Guatemala, Venezuela, and Honduras—more than half of respondents feel there is little freedom to voice political opinions.

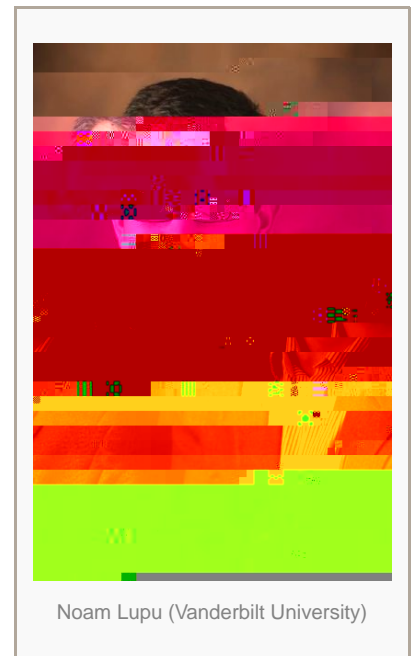
“It is noteworthy to view these results in light of the fact that Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala are three of the countries that have experienced extraordinarily high levels of threats and violence targeted at individuals associated with reporting on politics,” Zechmeister said.

Human rights

Sixty-four percent of those polled report that there is very little protection of human rights in their country. Just 27 percent report that there is a sufficient level of protection of human rights, and 9 percent report that there is too much.

More than 70 percent of people in 10 nations —Haiti, Jamaica, Venezuela, Honduras, Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, El Salvador, Mexico and the Dominican Republic—report that human rights aren’t protected enough in their country. Canada and the United States are the leading countries where citizens feel their human rights are protected.

“In the vast majority of cases (all but Canada, the United States, Uruguay and Costa Rica), more than 50 percent of the population reports that there is a deficit in human rights protection. In Haiti, more than 90 percent of respondents report that there is a deficit in human rights protection. In Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela, more than 70 percent of respondents report that there is a deficit in human rights protection. In Honduras, Peru, Bolivia, and El Salvador, more than 60 percent of respondents report that there is a deficit in human rights protection. In Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and Ecuador, more than 50 percent of respondents report that there is a deficit in human rights protection. In the United States, Canada, and Uruguay, more than 50 percent of respondents report that there is a sufficient level of human rights protection. In Costa Rica, more than 50 percent of respondents report that there is too much human rights protection.”



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