



national threats to online free expression

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ONLINE CENSORSHIP: A BRIEF HISTORY

STUDYING CENSORSHIP

- In 2005, the OpenNet Initiative releases first research on Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Bahrain.
- By 2009, their research shows heavy censorship in >10 countries; milder censorship elsewhere.
- 2009 deemed “the worst year ever for Internet censorship” – and yet, it gets worse...

Middle Eastern Censorship, Pre-‘Arab spring’

Pervasive

- Oman
- Saudi Arabia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tunisia
- UAE
- Yemen
- Bahrain

Selective

- Jordan
- Libya
- Morocco

Free

- Iraq
- Egypt
- Algeria

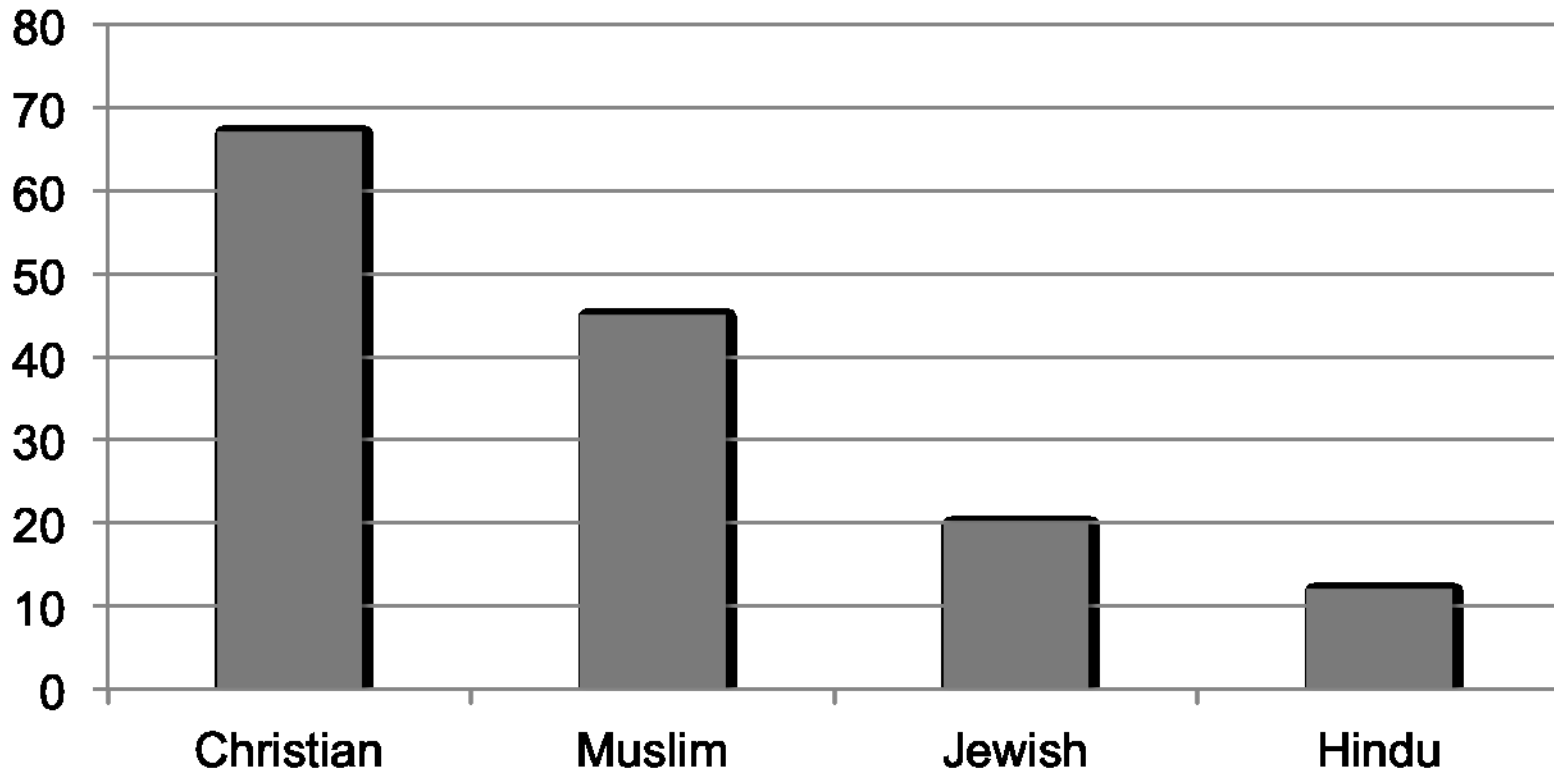
JUSTIFYING CENSORSHIP

WHY GOVERNMENTS CENSOR:

- Religion/Morality
- “National Security”/Terrorism
- Copyright
- Nationalism

SAUDI ARABIA, 2005

Sites Blocked: "Religious"



HOW GOVERNMENTS CENSOR:

- By URL (e.g., Syria)
- By DNS tampering (Tunisia)
- By IP address

- Transparently (UAE, Qatar)
- Not-so-transparently (Syria)

QATAR

رُفَا oops

لقد تم منع الدخول إلى هذا الموقع
This site has been blocked

تم إيقاف عملية الدخول الى الموقع الذي
تحاول زيارته نظراً لاحتوائه على محتويات
محظورة

The web page you are trying to
access has been blocked as the
content contains prohibited materials

إذا كنت ترى أن هناك خطأ في ذلك .. يرجى
إرسال رسالة بريد إلكتروني إلى help@isp.qa

If you feel this is an error then please send
an email to help@isp.qa



TUNISIA

404
Sayeb Free Sala7

C'est 3ammar qui m'a tué *



* L'affaire 3ammar 404

“NEXT GENERATION” CONTROLS

SURVEILLANCE



SUPPRESSION



الحرية
للمدون السوري
حسين غريير
FREE
SYRIAN BLOGGER
HUSSEIN
GHREER



#FreeHussein

STATE PROPAGANDA



The Plot Against Syria

[Home](#) | [Submit a plot Organization](#) | [Report a plot member](#)

Plot Hierarchy

- ▼ AIPAC
 - ▼ Jeffrey D. Feltman
 - ▼ Saad Hariri
 - ▼ Abdulhalim Khaddam
 - Jamal al-Jarrah
 - Ahmad Al-Sayasinah
 - Anas Airout
 - ▼ Okab Sakr
 - Fares Khashan
 - Kawa Rashid
 - Khaled Al Daher
 - ▼ Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani
 - ▼ Waddah Khanfar
 - ▼ Rami Nakhla
 - Anas Sheghri
 - Anas Qtiesh
 - Razan Saffour
 - Khalaf Ali Al Khalaf
 - Omar Edelbi
 - Fayez Sara

Welcome to the Plot Against Syria Directory

Syria is under attack by a conspiracy of evil persons. These persons created a massive fabrication machine to falsify information about Syria.

In this Site, we try to simulate the Plot hierarchy by introducing the key players and their negative impact on Syria.

Each visitor is invited to report Plot members, and to submit relevant Plot resources, by adding relevant informations in the ready form that you can see if you press the button "Report a Plot member" on the top left of the main page.

[Tweet](#) 4 | [Like](#) 32 | [+1](#) 3 | [Share](#) 2

[Read more](#) | [15 comments](#) | [Add new comment](#)

Some Plot Members

 <p>Ausama Monajed</p>	 <p>Feras Atasi</p>	 <p>Razan Saffour</p>	 <p>Fayez Sara</p>
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OTHER TACTICS

- “Just in time” censorship
- Network shutdowns
- Coercion of private companies
- Bad regulation

2012

TRANSPARENT CENSORSHIP

om/search?gclid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&q=russian+athlete+fuck+you+symbol

Tag for Pinboard Note in Reader Share on Tumblr HUECU TweetDeck Qualtrics Survey Soft What deux yeux hav Amazon Cloud Player

ld you like to use <http://www.google.tn/>

Agence Tunisienne d'Internet

Liste des Sites Web filtrés

Adresses des pages web filtrées	Motif de l'application de l'opération de filtrage web	Affaire N°	Date
facebook.com/jalel.brick	Réquisition émanant du Juge d'instruction du Tribunal Militaire Permanent de Tunis	4459/1	05 mai 201
facebook.com/takrizo	Réquisition émanant du Juge d'instruction du Tribunal Militaire Permanent de Tunis	2356/3	07 mai 201
facebook.com/OUAJIHBADREDDINE	Réquisition émanant du Juge d'instruction du Tribunal Militaire Permanent de Tunis	2356/3	07 mai 201
facebook.com/.../fratriete	Réquisition émanant du Juge d'instruction du Tribunal Militaire Permanent de Tunis	2356/3	07 mai 201
.../210055832354486	Réquisition émanant du Juge d'instruction du Tribunal Militaire Permanent de Tunis	4459/1	10 mai 201
Adresses des sites pornographiques selon SmartFilter® (ATI n'assume pas de responsabilité en cas d'erreur)	Jug... du tribunal de première instance de Tunis	2011/99325	26 mai 201

TREND: CRIMINALIZING BLASPHEMY

ahramonline

Wednesday, 02 May 2012



Cairo 31-17 °C

Home Egypt **World** Business Opinion Arts & Culture Folk Sports

Region | International

Kuwait MPs okay death penalty for cursing God

husseinghrer.jpg

Amid mounting tension btwn Kuwait's Sunnis and Shiites, lawmakers approve legislation stipulating death penalty for blaspheming God, the Prophet or his wives

AFP , Thursday 12 Apr 2012

(BAD) REGULATION



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Support technology and advocacy
- Build new tools
- ‘Name and shame’ companies
- Amplify local efforts
- Spread the word

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