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Blogging For Freedom

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Project for Amity Among Nations

Egypt has been at the forefront of blogging dissidents in the Middle East region. Egyptian bloggers and their blogs and experiences have guided other countries in the region and helped them to form stronger organizations to work around the government's roadblocks. Many Arab governments, including Egypt, have said that they allow freedom of expression and they favor a press that is free of censorship. Yet many newspapers, television stations, and radio networks are all censored in what can be said about the government and other taboo issues. Bloggers in Egypt have begun writing about these issues and pushing for further freedom of expression and press rights. Human rights organizations, most notably The Arab Network for Human Rights Information, located in Cairo Egypt, have begun programs to help bloggers share stories of government injustices and social problems. They also help bloggers fight against the government's harassment, torture, and imprisonment of the bloggers for speaking publicly about those issues. Many bloggers write their blogs in more than one language so that they can be read beyond the borders of Egypt and hopefully attract attention abroad. The traditional media has long been an unreliable source of information in Egypt due to censorship by the government and a long tradition of self-censorship conducted within society. Bloggers in Egypt are trying to break beyond these barriers and with the help of human rights organizations push for freedom of expression.



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