



INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH GROUP ON INTERNET CENSORSHIP



Academic Guidelines

Title: Internet Censorship

Thesis: How do we strike a balance between safeguarding and surveillance?

1. How is freedom of expression protected in your national legislation and which legislation is in place to protect against limitation towards freedom of expression?
 - Is censorship defined in your country and if so, how?
 - Does your country specifically grant a right to information? If so, how is it granted and what is the content? Which content is excluded from the right to information?
2. Which legislation on the issue of blocking and takedown of internet content does your country have?
 - Does your country have legislation specifically targeting blocking and taking down of content on the internet?
 - How is the issue regulated if there is no specific legislation?
 - Is the legislation collected in one piece or scattered over several different kinds of regulation?
 - Has your country been party to cases related to blocking and takedown of internet content? Please include reference to and a thorough analysis of relevant case law. Please structure your case law analysis as follows: short outline of the facts, the decision and an evaluation of how the decision affected state of the law.
 - Please list the legislation and explain how this legislation regulates the issue.
 - Please include reference to any policy papers and/or proposals.
3. On which ground may internet content be blocked/filtered or taken down/removed in your country?
 - Is content which is unlawful in civil law and content which is illegal under criminal law treated differently?
 - Does a context exist in your country under which otherwise legal content may be blocked/filtered or taken down/removed?
 - Which safeguards are in place to ensure a balance between censoring and freedom of expression?

- What is the process of judicial review of cases where content has been blocked or taken down from the internet? Which bodies conduct such review? Does the review constitute effective protection of freedom of expression online?
 - Does the legislation in your country on content filtering and take down conform with the requirements set out in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights? Please analyse the degree of compliance and explain where compliance is not reached as well as any reasons behind non-compliance.
 - Include reference to and analysis of relevant case law. Please structure your case law analysis as follows: short outline of the facts, the decision and an evaluation of how the decision affected state of the law.
4. To which extent is the issue of blocking and taking down internet content self-regulated by the private sector in your country?
 - Are there any safeguards in place for ensuring the protection of freedom of expression online where self-regulation is applied?
 - Which particular models are applied, e.g, a right to repost after notice and take down, or a right to be notified of a takedown request and to object to the same?
 - Is there a grievance redressal mechanism available? If yes, are they sufficient/appropriate?
 5. Does your country apply specific legislation on the “right to be forgotten” or the “right to delete”?
 - Please identify specific legislation on the issue as well as related jurisprudence and decisions of competent authorities.
 6. How does your country regulate the liability of internet intermediaries?
 - Does an obligation to implement the measures for blocking and taking down content exist?
 - Are there any safeguards in place for ensuring the protection of freedom of expression online?
 7. Based on your analysis, how do you believe that legislation regarding online content blocking and takedown, liability of internet intermediaries and the right to be forgotten will develop in your country over the next five years?
 8. Has your country reached an adequate balance between allowing freedom of expression online and protecting against hate speech in the online environment? If not, what needs to be done to reach such balance?

9. Has your country reached an adequate balance between allowing freedom of expression online and protecting other rights? If not, what needs to be done to reach such balance?
10. How do you rank the access to freedom of expression online in your country?
 - Please rank from 1-5.
 - Please provide reasoning for your answer.
11. How do you overall assess the legal situation in your country regarding internet censorship?
 - Incorporate the answers you have given to the previous questions and the main findings.