

## 2020 Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievements Forum Application

Title: Declining Press Freedom in Brazil

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Abstract: Several press freedom groups around the world track how dangerous different countries are for working journalists by several indicators. There are a few countries that receive lots of attention for their poor press environments. Turkey. China. Syria. Mexico. However, countries that don't fit into this "worst-case scenario" group receive far fewer attention than their problems warrant. This paper aims to combine key research from several national and international press freedom groups to offer a snapshot of the situation in Brazil. Because it's not as bad as neighboring Venezuela or Mexico, Brazil's problems with press freedom largely fly under the international radar. They shouldn't. In the last decade, Brazil has taken several steps backward when it comes to how free and safe its journalism is. The number of cases of violence against journalists in the country exploded in 2013 following widespread protests, and has still not decreased to pre-protest levels. The number of murders jumped in 2011 and remains one of the highest among non-war zones. Over half of those murders are left unsolved. Brazil is the sixth-most populated country in the world and the fourth-largest democracy in the world. Its media environment matters, and the recent trends are concerning. This research paper explores those trends, offers explanations about their origins, and notes some reasons to remain hopeful.