

# Selection of Middle East From Freedom House Data

Bandar Alsharhan

2024-02-25

## Freedom in the World 2023 Codebook

### Introduction:

Freedom in the World is an annual global report assessing political rights and civil liberties worldwide. The methodology is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, aiming to evaluate the real-world freedoms of individuals. The report covers 195 countries and 15 territories from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2022.

**Methodology Summary:** Freedom House employs a rigorous methodology to assess political rights and civil liberties worldwide. This process begins with the selection of key indicators, encompassing areas such as electoral processes, political pluralism, government functionality, freedom of expression, belief, association, rule of law, and individual rights. Researchers then gather data from diverse sources, including human rights organizations, media reports, academic studies, and governmental and non-governmental organizations. The assessment operates on the principle that freedom is universal, focusing on the real-world freedoms experienced by individuals. It considers actions from both state and non-state actors, including governments, political institutions, civil society, and others. Additionally, Freedom House continuously updates its methodology to adapt to evolving concepts, ensuring relevance and accuracy in assessing political rights and civil liberties globally.

Attached is the link to dataset: Freedom House Index 2013-2023 <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2023/marking-50-years>

**Territories Assessment:** Territories are assessed based on governance, political rights, civil liberties, and stability of boundaries. Freedom House takes no position on territorial disputes but focuses on the level of political rights and civil liberties.

**Research and Ratings Process:** - Involves in-house and external analysts, expert advisers, and review meetings. - Scores are based on diverse sources and events during the coverage period. - Emphasizes methodological consistency, intellectual rigor, and unbiased judgments.

**Scoring Process:** - Two-tiered system: scores and status (Free, Partly Free, Not Free). - Scores range from 0 to 4 for political rights and civil liberties indicators. - Status determined by overall scores equally weighted between political rights and civil liberties. Status Characteristics: Designations of Free, Partly Free, and Not Free cover broad score ranges. Countries within each category can have varying human rights situations. Status Categories: Free: Countries or territories with relatively higher combined scores for political rights and civil liberties. Partly Free: Countries or territories with mixed scores, indicating moderate levels of freedom. Not Free: Countries or territories with lower combined scores, indicating limited freedom. —

## Step 1- Opened data set

## Step 2- Pulling row 1 of the data as the column names

## Step 3 Create Data Set that only uses your desired columns, which are the

CL =aggregate score for the Civil Liberties category

## Step 4 Renaming column Variables as desired and look at questions on

#FreedomHouse Website

#Step 5 Refine Sample Size so that includes countries only in Middle East

#Step 6, Change status column so that it spells out Free, Partly Free, Not Free

## Step 7 summary statistics and missing values

```
## Country/Territory Region Edition Status
## Mode :logical Mode :logical Mode :logical Mode :logical
## FALSE:165 FALSE:165 FALSE:165 FALSE:165
## CL rating indp_media Religous_Freedom academic_freedom
## Mode :logical Mode :logical Mode :logical Mode :logical
## FALSE:165 FALSE:165 FALSE:165 FALSE:165
## personal_views freedom_assembly freedom_nongovernmental_organizations
## Mode :logical Mode :logical Mode :logical
## FALSE:165 FALSE:165 FALSE:165
## freedom_tradeunions E Freedom_movement Right_own_property
## Mode :logical Mode :logical Mode :logical Mode :logical
## FALSE:165 FALSE:165 FALSE:165 FALSE:165
## Personal_social_freedoms CL
## Mode :logical Mode :logical
## FALSE:165 FALSE:165

## Country/Territory Region Edition Status
## Length:165 Length:165 Length:165 Length:165
## Class :character Class :character Class :character Class :character
## Mode :character Mode :character Mode :character Mode :character
## CL rating indp_media Religous_Freedom academic_freedom
## Length:165 Length:165 Length:165 Length:165
## Class :character Class :character Class :character Class :character
## Mode :character Mode :character Mode :character Mode :character
## personal_views freedom_assembly freedom_nongovernmental_organizations
## Length:165 Length:165 Length:165
## Class :character Class :character Class :character
## Mode :character Mode :character Mode :character
## freedom_tradeunions E Freedom_movement Right_own_property
```

```
## Length:165          Length:165          Length:165          Length:165
## Class :character    Class :character    Class :character    Class :character
## Mode :character     Mode :character     Mode :character     Mode :character
## Personal_social_freedoms    CL
## Length:165          Length:165
## Class :character     Class :character
## Mode :character      Mode :character
```

## Create Averages for countries for years 2013 to 2023

Variables 1. Country/Territory: - Description: Name of the country or territory. Specifically Middle Eastern countries and territories - Type: Character summarize(CLrating) 2. Region: - Description: Geographic region to which the country belongs, being in the Middle East - Type: Character 3. Edition: - Description: Years of the edition, 2013-2023 - Type: Numeric 4. Status: - Description: Freedom status of the country (Free, Partly Free, Not Free). - Type: Character

values	labels	freq	perc
NA	Free	11	6.7
NA	Not Free	128	77.6
NA	Partly Free	26	15.8

5. CL rating:

- Description: Aggregate score for the Civil Liberties category.
- Type: Numeric

values	labels	freq	perc
10	10	24	14.5
11	11	2	1.2
12	12	8	4.8
13	13	12	7.3
14	14	2	1.2
15	15	4	2.4
16	16	3	1.8
17	17	11	6.7
18	18	12	7.3
19	19	1	0.6
2	2	4	2.4
21	21	3	1.8
22	22	2	1.2
23	23	13	7.9
24	24	6	3.6
25	25	7	4.2
29	29	2	1.2
3	3	3	1.8
30	30	5	3.0
31	31	1	0.6
32	32	3	1.8
4	4	3	1.8

values	labels	freq	perc
42	42	1	0.6
43	43	5	3.0
44	44	3	1.8
45	45	2	1.2
6	6	5	3.0
7	7	7	4.2
8	8	8	4.8
9	9	3	1.8

6. Are there free and independent media? (indp\_media):

- Description: Indicator of whether there are free and independent media in the country and whether or not the government censors the media.
- Type: Numeric with a 0-4 scale based off each year and each country

values	labels	freq	perc
0	0	61	37.0
1	1	78	47.3
2	2	16	9.7
3	3	10	6.1

7. Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private? (Religious\_Freedom):

- Description: Indicator of whether individuals are free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private.
- Type: Numeric with a 0-4 scale based off each year and each country

values	labels	freq	perc
10	10	24	14.5
11	11	2	1.2
12	12	8	4.8
13	13	12	7.3
14	14	2	1.2
15	15	4	2.4
16	16	3	1.8
17	17	11	6.7
18	18	12	7.3
19	19	1	0.6
2	2	4	2.4
21	21	3	1.8
22	22	2	1.2
23	23	13	7.9
24	24	6	3.6
25	25	7	4.2
29	29	2	1.2
3	3	3	1.8

values	labels	freq	perc
30	30	5	3.0
31	31	1	0.6
32	32	3	1.8
4	4	3	1.8
42	42	1	0.6
43	43	5	3.0
44	44	3	1.8
45	45	2	1.2
6	6	5	3.0
7	7	7	4.2
8	8	8	4.8
9	9	3	1.8

8. Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination? (academic\_freedom):

- Description: Indicator of whether there is academic freedom and if the educational system is free from extensive political indoctrination.
- Type: Numeric with a 0-4 scale based off each year and each country

values	labels	freq	perc
0	0	24	14.5
1	1	72	43.6
2	2	47	28.5
3	3	22	13.3

9. Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution? (personal\_views):

- Description: Indicator of whether individuals are free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution.
- Type: Numeric with a 0-4 scale based off each year and each country

values	labels	freq	perc
0	0	3	1.8
1	1	83	50.3
2	2	53	32.1
3	3	24	14.5
4	4	2	1.2

10. Is there freedom of assembly? (freedom\_assembly): - Description: Indicator of whether there is freedom of assembly in the country. - Type: Numeric with a 0-4 scale based off each year and each country

values	labels	freq	perc
0	0	65	39.4
1	1	72	43.6

values	labels	freq	perc
2	2	12	7.3
3	3	14	8.5
4	4	2	1.2

11. Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights– and governance-related work? (freedom\_nongovernmental\_organizations):

- Description: Indicator of whether there is freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights– and governance-related work.
- Type: Numeric Numeric with a 0-4 scale based off each year and each country

values	labels	freq	perc
0	0	65	39.4
1	1	44	26.7
2	2	40	24.2
3	3	16	9.7

12. Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations? (freedom\_tradeunions):

- Description: Indicator of whether there is freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations.
- Type: Numeric with a 0-4 scale based off each year and each country

values	labels	freq	perc
0	0	25	15.2
1	1	88	53.3
2	2	41	24.8
4	4	11	6.7

13. Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education? (Freedom\_movement):

- Description: Indicator of whether individuals enjoy freedom of movement.
- Type: Numeric with a 0-4 scale based off each year and each country

values	labels	freq	perc
0	0	39	23.6
1	1	83	50.3
2	2	30	18.2
3	3	13	7.9

14.16. Are individuals able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors? (Right\_own\_property): - Description: Indicator of whether

individuals are able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors. - Type: Numeric with a 0-4 scale based off each year and each country

values	labels	freq	perc
0	0	9	5.5
1	1	101	61.2
2	2	44	26.7
3	3	11	6.7

15.Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance? (Personal\_social\_freedoms): - Description: Indicator of whether individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance.

values	labels	freq	perc
0	0	18	10.9
1	1	80	48.5
2	2	56	33.9
3	3	11	6.7