

How we compile our quarterly reports

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Reporters Without Borders (RSF) constantly monitors relations between the Brazilian government and the media, publishing a report every three months that draws attention to cases illustrating key aspects of the right to press freedom during the previous quarter.

This includes monitoring what senior government officials say in order to produce quantitative data on the government's attitude to the press. We monitor not only President Jair Bolsonaro's public speeches but also his Twitter and Facebook accounts because we regard them as an important channel of communication with society and the press.

His live broadcasts on social media every Thursday and his public appearances, press conferences and interviews, which are widely covered by the media and by the presidential press office, are also analysed.

As a result of the evolution in data processing, we decided we should also monitor and analyse the social media accounts of other leading figures associated with the federal government who make a significant contribution to the construction of what we call the "Bolsonaro system" of attacks on the press.

We therefore started to monitor the Twitter accounts of Vice-President Hamilton Mourão; the president's Special Secretariat for Social Communication (Secom); the three children of the president who hold elected office (Eduardo, Flavio and Carlos Bolsonaro); and government ministers who use social media as a means of communication.

We also monitor violations of the Brazilian government's requirement to prevent crimes against people exercising their right to freedom of thought and expression. In particular, we monitor violations of its obligation to:

- Strongly condemn attacks on journalists and other communicators and encourage authorities to act diligently and speedily in investigating the facts and punishing those responsible.
- Not make public statements that expose journalists and other communicators to the risk of violence or increase their vulnerability.
- Constantly, explicitly and publicly acknowledge the legitimacy and value of journalism and communication, even when the information disclosed may be critical of or inconvenient for government interests.