MEASURING DIGITAL REPRESSION: GLOBAL TRENDS & PATTERNS

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Facial Recognition Surveillance in China, 2019
Digital Repression: Use of digital ICT to surveil, coerce, or manipulate individuals or groups in order to deter specific activities or beliefs that challenge the state
TAXONOMY OF DIGITAL REPRESSION

- Persecution Against Online Users
- Surveillance - mass surveillance, spyware, AI systems, laws & directives
- Censorship - filtering, infrastructure restrictions, laws & directives
- Internet Shutdowns
- Social Manipulation & Disinformation
DIGITAL REPRESSION INDEX: HIGH/LOW RANKINGS FOR 2022

Most Digitally Repressive:
- North Korea
- Turkmenistan
- Eritrea
- South Sudan
- Iran
- China

Least Digitally Repressive:
- Sweden
- Denmark
- Norway
- Portugal
- Lithuania
- Finland
DIGITAL REPRESSION INDEX - REGIONAL COMPARISON
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIGITAL REPRESSION & ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY (2010-19)
MOST INFLUENTIAL FACTORS LINKED TO DIGITAL REPRESSION
KEY FINDINGS

- Pre-existing political repression
- Democracies & autocracies digitally repress
- Countries employ unique strategies