

**Kazakhstan media -
press, TV channels, radio
stations, news agencies**

*Kazakhstan media overview

Press freedom is enshrined in Kazakhstan's Constitution, but media rights monitors say the privately-owned and opposition media are subject to harassment and censorship. In 2004 the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists identified a "growing pattern" of intimidation of Kazakhstan media.

Insulting the President of Kazakhstan and officials is a criminal offence; the private life, health and financial affairs of the President are classified as state secrets.

Kazakhstan government controls the printing presses and most radio and TV transmission facilities. It operates Kazakhstan national radio and TV networks.



*Kazakhstan press, newspapers



Kazakhstanskaya Pravda -
government-backed,
Russian-language.

Yegemen Qazaqstan -
government-backed,
Kazakh-language.

Ekspress-K - private,
Russian-language. Liter - private,
daily.

Vremya - private, opposition weekly.

Nachnem s ponedelnika - private,
Russian-language opposition weekly.

Karavan - private, weekly.

Khabar TV - operated by Khabar agency.

Kazakh TV (first channel) - state-owned, broadcasts in Kazakh and Russian.

Kazakh Commercial TV (KTK) - private, broadcasts in Kazakh and Russian.

Caspionet - satellite channel operated by Khabar agency.

Eurasia TV - state-run, rebroadcasts of Russia's Channel One.



*Kazakhstan main TV channels



- * Kazakh Radio - state-owned, broadcasts in Kazakh and Russian.
- * Europa Plus - private, Almaty, Astana.
- * Russkoye Radio-Asia - private, Almaty, Astana.

* Kazakhstan radio stations

*Kazakhstan news agencies



- Kazinform - state-owned.
- Gazeta.kz - online news, English-language pages.
- Interfax Kazakhstan - service of Russian news agency Interfax.

- * The country had 5.4 million internet users in 2011—up from 2010. "Twitter, Facebook and YouTube audience share is less than 0.4%", according to BBC in 2012.
- * The censorship of online publications has become routine and arbitrary.
- * In 2003 the state telecom firm KazakhTelecom was ordered to block access to a dozen websites it said were 'extremist'. The pages either supported the opposition or provided neutral news coverage.



* Media websites

- * In July, 2009, the government passed amendments to laws on[citation needed] the Internet which some critics claimed unduly restrictive. The law made internet content subject to existing laws on expression, such as criminal libel. It also widened the scope of 'banned media content' to cover political matters, such as coverage of the election campaign.
- * A broadcasting bill implemented in December 2011 was aimed at improving the content of the national media, and to 'protect' it from external influence. According to the government, the bill would “eliminate low quality content that inflicts psychological or emotional damage on views.”
- * The country had 5.4 million internet users and 362,000 Facebook users as of December 31, 2011.

* Media websites



PUNISHMENT FOR DEFAMING A NEWS AGENCY

*Punishment for defaming a news agency

Increasingly, censorship is imposed by means of civil legal action, such as defamation suits. On 13 June 2005 a court in Almaty ordered former Information Minister Altynbek Sarsenbaev (the opposition leader assassinated in January 2006) to pay 1 million tenge (\$7,500) in damages for 'defaming' Khabar news agency. Sarsenbaev was also ordered to publicly retract comments he made in an interview with the opposition newspaper Respublika. He had alleged that Khabar was part of a monopolistic media holding controlled by Dariga Nazarbayev. The case is believed to be in response to his resignation after the 2004 elections. At the time he stated "The election was not fair, honest, or transparent; the authorities showed that from the beginning they didn't want honest elections.

Media watchdog groups such as ARTICLE 19 have voiced their concern over the government's moves in the past few years to silence the opposition. Recent changes in media-related laws in Kazakhstan appear to target non-governmental media outlets. Criticism of government employees can lead to lawsuits, and news laws against "extremism" have been used to shut down opposition media sources.

***Media-related legal
code**

According to opposition source Adil Soz the Kazakh legal code is stringent on defamation, allowing even for cases where the defamation is true. "One can seek compensation for true statements damaging his/her reputation - for example, a government official who is accused of abuse of State funds, can claim compensation even if the statement damaging his/her reputation is true". This also means that an Internet Service Provider could attract liability "by unwittingly providing access to insulting or defamatory information published through the Internet".

*Eurasian Media Forum

The Eurasian Media Forum is an annual discussion platform that brings together over 600 delegates from 60 countries. The first Eurasian Media Forum was held in 2002 in Astana and aimed to start discussions on the most critical political, economic and social issues.