

Just Released: Freedom in the World 2026



FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2025

Equatorial Guinea

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Overview

Equatorial Guinea holds regular elections, but voting is neither free nor fair. The current president, who took power in a military coup, has led a highly repressive authoritarian regime since 1979. Oil wealth and political power are concentrated in the hands of the president’s family. The government frequently detains opposition politicians, cracks down on civil society, and censors journalists. The judiciary is under presidential control, and security forces engage in torture and other violence with relative impunity.

Key



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- The country’s bar association confirmed a two-year suspension of lawyer Gemma Jones in July, after she was provisionally suspended the previous December for a social media post in which she criticized the judicial system. In August, lawyer Ángel Obama Obiang Eseng was temporarily detained and suspended from the bar after attempting to assist his detained client, Joaquín Elo Ayeto; the suspension was later lifted in December.
- Some three dozen people were arrested in July after protesting environmental damage from mining operations on the island of Annobón. They were accused

of links to an illegal separatist movement, and in August the authorities restricted access to internet and mobile communications on the island. Francisco Ballovera Estrada, a poet and member of the opposition party Convergence for Social Democracy, was also arrested in July while attempting to bring supplies to those already detained.

- Baltasar Ebang Engonga—a nephew of the president and head of the country’s National Financial Investigation Agency—was arrested on corruption charges in October, and a series of videos of him having sex began to circulate on social media. Observers speculated that the case was a politically motivated bid to



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A. Electoral Process

A1 0-4 pts

Was the current head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections?

0/4

A2 0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?

0/4

A3 0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies?

0/4



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B2

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B3 0-4 pts

Are the people's political choices free from domination by forces that are external to the political sphere, or by political forces that employ extrapolitical means?

0/4

B4 0-4 pts

Do various segments of the population (including ethnic, racial, religious, gender, LGBT+, and other relevant groups) have full political rights and electoral opportunities?

0/4

C. Functioning of Government

C1 0-4 pts

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D. Freedom of Expression and Belief

D1 0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media?

0/4

D2 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private?

1/4

D3 0-4 pts

Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination?

1/4

D4

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E2

Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights– and governance-related work?

0/4

E3 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations?

0/4

F. Rule of Law

F1 0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary?

0/4

F2 0-4 pts

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F3

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F4

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G. Individual Rights

G1 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education?

1/4

G2 0-4 pts

Are individuals able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors?

1/4

G3 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance?

1/4

G4

Do i
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1/4

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Country Facts

Population

1,675,000

Global Freedom Score

5/100 ● Not Free

Other Years

2026



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