

Solomon Islands Low (Moderate)

The 2023 edition of Freedom in the World by Freedom House has noted some concerns regarding freedom of the press and government transparency in the Solomon Islands.¹ Of particular note, Parliament extended its term by seven months, and has exerted more direct control over the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, potentially vetting articles. Both of these may be indicators of increasing human rights violations and potential conflict.

Also a potential risk factor in the Solomon Islands is the impact of climate change. 80% of the Solomon Islands population lives in rural, low-lying coastal communities, which are reliant on services delivered by provincial governments, churches, and civil society.² Climate change effects on agriculture, social and economic opportunities, and the potential for displacement of communities, may exacerbate the risk of conflict and violence.

Recommendations

The government of the Solomon Islands should:

- Ensure freedom and independence of the media.
- Work towards greater transparency and reduce corruption.
- Support provincial governments and civil society to prevent and respond to climate change effects.

¹ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023, <https://freedomhouse.org/country/solomon-islands/freedom-world/2023>

² New Zealand Government, Hon Carmen Sepuloni and Hon James Shaw, Government builds on climate change focus in Pacific, 17 April 2023, <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-builds-climate-change-focus-pacific>