

# RESONANT

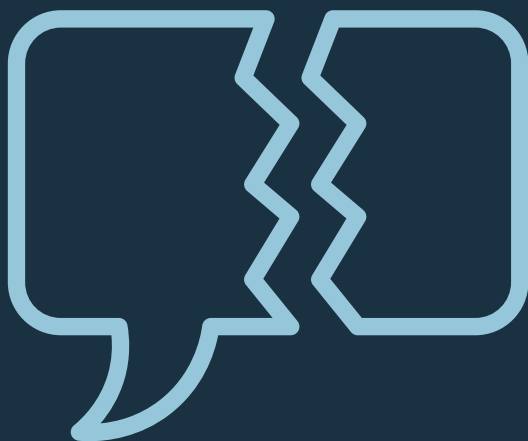


## ENHANCING THE UNDERSTANDING OF FIMI AND INFORMATION SUPPRESSION

### Defining information suppression

"The **intentional** action by state or non-state actors of **controlling or eliminating activities or publications** that disclose relevant information —data, facts, theories, or pertinent knowledge—, whether to **influence public opinion, restrict access to information, or maintain secrecy**".

Information suppression operations may take place **before having the information spread (active) or after (reactive)**, by blocking or eliminating the information source. Both phases rely on different methods to achieve their goals that may or may not interact with each other, and **can cause severe damage to a countries' policies, political processes, economy and social issues**, as the public's restricted access to information and unawareness of it could avoid a critical positioning towards them.



### Effects



#### On individuals and societies

**Self-censorship:** fear of repercussions silences critical voices.

**Human rights violations:** infringes on freedoms of speech, press, and expression.

**Diasporas:** exiled communities face threats like transnational repression (TNR).



#### On democracy

**Erosion of democratic resilience:** undermines transparency and accountability.

**Manipulation of political processes:** distorts public debate and electoral outcomes.

**Loss of trust:** reduces credibility of media and institutions.



#### On global information flow

**Transnational impact:** suppresses dissent across borders.

**Restriction of knowledge:** limits public access to critical data and innovation.

# RESONANT



## Information suppression, censorship and self-censorship

IS relies heavily on **censorship and self-censorship** tactics. Censorship involves the **deliberate and often visible restriction or elimination of information by external actors**. It operates through measures like restrictive laws, content takedowns, or infrastructure control. In contrast, self-censorship occurs when **individuals or media voluntarily withhold information or opinions due to fear of repercussions**.

While **censorship is imposed externally, self-censorship has a personal and psychological aspect, only affecting individuals rather than infrastructures**. Nonetheless, **censorship and self-censorship tactics work together** and can be resumed in the following:

### Self-censorship



#### Legal prosecution and threats

Fear of imprisonment or loss of property compels silence.



#### Media control

Economic or coercive influence over media outlets.



#### Transnational repression (TNR)

Harassment or coercion of exiles via threats to families or assets in their home countries.



#### Troll behaviour

Coordinated online harassment campaigns to silence critics and doxxing to intimidate and suppress dissenters.

### Censorship



#### Restrictive law-passing

Broad laws targeting dissent, such as Russia's Foreign Agent Law.



#### Infrastructure control

Internet shutdowns and throttling to disrupt communication.



#### Algorithmic suppression

Reducing visibility of critical narratives via shadowbanning.



#### Content takedowns

Removing posts or accounts deemed violative of guidelines or deplatforming dissenting voices entirely.



#### Media flooding

Overwhelming channels with propaganda or other information to drown out alternatives.



#### Cyber-attacks

Disrupting opposition via DDoS attacks or phishing.