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FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2025

# Eritrea

NOT FREE

**3**  
/100

<u>Political Rights</u>	<b>1</b> /40
<u>Civil Liberties</u>	<b>2</b> /60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

**3/100**    **Not Free**

A country or territory's Freedom in the World status depends on its aggregate Political Rights score, on a scale of 0–40, and its aggregate Civil Liberties score, on a scale of 0–60. See the methodology.



## Overview

Eritrea is a militarized authoritarian state that has not held a national election since independence from Ethiopia in 1993. The People’s Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ), headed by President Isaias Afwerki, is the sole political party. Arbitrary detention is commonplace, and citizens are required to perform national service, often for their entire working lives. The government shut down all independent media in 2001.

## Key Developments in 2024

- Eritrean authorities continued to implement a nationwide forced conscription campaign in order to maintain its military occupation in parts of Ethiopia’s Tigray Region, with security units deployed to track down those who attempt to escape being drafted and in some cases detaining their family members as a means of coercion.
- In September, as part of their ongoing persecution of unrecognized religious denominations, authorities raided a house meeting of Jehovah’s Witnesses and arrested 24 people. In July, a United Kingdom–based advocacy organization found that over 200 followers of different Christian denominations had been arrested in Eritrea over the preceding 12 months.
- A number of political prisoners remained in arbitrary detention during the year, and one high-profile critic of the president, former Finance Minister Berhane Abrehe, died in custody in August, having been held without trial since 2018.

*This report has been abridged for Freedom in the World 2025 due to ongoing budget constraints. Freedom in the World is entirely funded by nongovernmental sources such as private foundations, corporations, and individuals like you. Please consider making a [donation](#) to support future editions of this vital resource.*

*For additional background information, see last year’s [full report](#).*

## Political Rights

### A. Electoral Process

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

## B. Political Pluralism and Participation

**B1** 0-4 pts

Do the people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and is the system free of undue obstacles to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings?

0/4

**B2** 0-4 pts

Is there a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections?

0/4

**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

Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the policies of the government?

0/4

C2 0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?

1/4

C3 0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency?

0/4

## Civil Liberties

### 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?

0/4

**D4** 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution?

0/4

## E. Associational and Organizational Rights

**E1** 0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly?

0/4

**E2** 0-4 pts

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

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters?	0/4
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**F3** 0-4 pts

Is there protection from the illegitimate use of physical force and freedom from war and insurgencies?	0/4
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**F4** 0-4 pts

Do laws, policies, and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population?	0/4
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## G. Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights

**G1** 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education?	0/4
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**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?	0/4
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**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
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**G4** 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from economic exploitation?

0/4



### On Eritrea

See all data, scores & information on this country or territory.

[See More >](#)

### Country Facts

Population

**3,684,000**

Global Freedom Score

**3/100** Not Free

### Other Years

2024

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