

# Ethiopia allows access to over 260 blocked websites

The Committee to Protect Journalists welcomed the Ethiopian government's decision to allow access to 264 websites, including news outlets and blogs, that were blocked in the country.



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In a tweet, Fitsum Arega, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's chief of staff, said that the sites included the diaspora outlets Oromia Media Network (OMN) and Ethiopian Satellite Television and Radio (ESAT).

Belay Manaye, a journalist in Addis Ababa, confirmed to CPJ that the outlets were accessible in Ethiopia.

*“ Freedom of expression is a foundational right that other rights depend on. [#Ethiopia](#) has opened access to 264 blocked websites/bloggers/ ESAT and OMN. A free flow of information is essential for engaged & responsible citizenry. Only a free market of ideas will lead to the truth.— Fitsum Arega (@fitsumaregaa) [June 22, 2018](#) ”*

"Allowing Ethiopians to access these news outlets is a positive sign that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is committed to delivering his promise to end Ethiopia's censorship of the independent press," said CPJ Africa Program Coordinator Angela Quintal.

"We ask the prime minister to now amend laws that restrict free speech and to end a system of surveillance that has long

been used to intimidate journalists."

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