



## CUBA-CHINA

### Castro or Hu Jintao?

### Who's the biggest violator of free expression?

The two communist leaders meet today in Havana. Reporters Without Borders compares the behaviour of these two major predators of free expression on the Internet.

	<b>CHINA</b> (President Hu Jintao)	<b>CUBA</b> (President Fidel Castro)	<b>The worst...</b>
<b>What the regime says about the Internet</b>	Expand it... and control it. Vital for economic development. A propaganda tool but also a source of "subversion." Best to talk online about the weather than discuss politics.	Control it at all cost... "A big disease of the 21 <sup>st</sup> century." The US embargo is to blame for the country's slowness to develop the Internet.	Cuba
<b>Internet users</b>	About 100 million.	Less than 100,000, all handpicked by the regime (the Communist Party has to give permission to buy a modem).	Cuba
<b>Cyberdissidents in jail</b>	62	26 (journalists arrested for posting articles on websites and other offences).	China
<b>Reason for imprisonment</b>	"Inciting subversion"	Publishing "counter-revolutionary" material "directly or indirectly used by the US government to continue its aggression against Cuba."	Each as bad
<b>Cybercafés</b>	About 2 million but: - Minors are banned. - An ID has to be shown. - 1,800 have been shut down by the government in recent months.	Out of reach of nearly everyone. The cost – €4 an hour, about half the average salary – helps ensure this.	Cuba
<b>Online monitoring</b>	One of the most effective systems in the world, using spyware technology supplied by US firms such as Cisco.	Phones are more efficiently monitored than the Internet. Perhaps China will soon lend a hand.	China
<b>Method of censorship</b>	The "Golden Shield," a nationwide firewall, bars access to thousands of "subversive" websites.	Authorised users can access a few hundred websites chosen by the regime. The Reporters Without Borders site ( <a href="http://www.rsf.org">www.rsf.org</a> ) is not one of them.	China
<b>Banned topics</b>	Pornography, democracy, the Falungong spiritual movement, the independence of Taiwan.	Most that are not mentioned by the official <a href="http://www.granma.cu">www.granma.cu</a> website.	Cuba
<b>Internet police</b>	30,000 cyberpolice operating all over the country.	Not many. They operate in the offices of the country's only Internet service provider (ISP).	Each as bad

<b>Laws about the Internet</b>	Being written, but already very effective in silencing dissidents. ISPs have to sign good-conduct pledges and censor "subversive" content themselves.	Early days... The press law is being used for now.	China
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<b>Result</b>	Between the "technological" way...	and the "traditional" way...	It's a draw! The only losers are those who go online.
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