

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND LEGAL ACTION RELATED TO ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN SELECTED COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS

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	Country	Constitutional Provision of Free Access to Information ¹	Major Freedom of Information Bills or Laws ²
Countries With Access to Information Laws	Belize	Yes (limited)	Freedom of Information Act (1994)
	Canada	No	Access to Information Act (1983)
	Chile	Yes	Law of Freedom of Opinion and Information and Journalistic Practice (2001)
	Colombia	Yes	Law Ordering the Publicity of Official Acts and Documents (1985)
	Dominican Republic	Yes	Law of Free Access to Public Information (2004)
	Ecuador	Yes (limited)	Law of Practice of Professional Journalism (1975), Law of the Commission for Civic Control of Corruption (1999), Bill for a Law of Dissemination and Access to Public Records (2002), Freedom of Information Act (2004)
	Honduras	Yes (petition)	Law of Transparency and Access to Public Information (2006)
	Jamaica	No	Access to Information Act (2002)
	Mexico	Yes (petition)	Transparency and Access to Public Government Information Law (2002)
	Panama	Yes (petition)	Law of Transparency in the Public Administration (2002)
	Peru	Yes	Law of Transparency and Access to Public Information (2003)
	Trinidad y Tobago	No	Freedom of Information Act (1999)
United States	No	Freedom of Information Act (1966), Electronic Freedom of Information Act (1996)	

* Updated by Kathrine Welle in June, 2004, and Brian Palmer-Rubin in 2006.

¹ Source (with slight modifications): *Annual Reports of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, 2001-2005*. Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Contributing information was found in background papers commissioned for the Inter-American Dialogue's 2005 Access to Information Project (www.thedialogue.org).

² Year the law was passed and/or signed; or bill initiated. This category is based on the author's research and does not include recent laws and bills exclusively focused on habeas data.

(Continuation)

	Country	Constitutional Provision of Free Access to Information ¹	Major Freedom of Information Bills or Laws ²
Countries With Access to Information Laws	Bolivia*	Yes (petition)	Law of Administrative Procedures (2002), Bill for Law of Transparency and Access to Information (2004)
	Brazil	Yes	Bill for Access to Information (2005)
	Guatemala	Yes	Bill for Law of Access to Public Information and Classification and Declassification of Reserved State Information (2005)
	Nicaragua	Yes (petition)	Bill for Law of Access to Public Information (2006)
	Paraguay	Yes (petition)	Bill for Law of Free Access to Public Information (2005)
	Uruguay	No	Bill for Law of <i>habeas data</i> and Access to Information (2005)
	Venezuela*	Yes	Law of Administrative Procedures (1981)
Countries with No (or Negative) Action on Access to Information	Argentina	Yes	-
	Costa Rica	Yes	-
	El Salvador	Yes (petition)	-
Countries Where Access is Denied	Cuba	No	-
	Haití	Yes	-

* Laws of Administrative Procedures in Bolivia and Venezuela require government agencies to make information about their functioning available to the public, but do not specify information request procedures.