



How Are Big Telcos Responding to New Human Rights Threats?

Public webinar

10 September 2026 | 10:00 AM ET / 15:00 BST / 16:00 CET

Speakers



Stacey Cram

Associate Director, Investor Alliance for Human Rights

Moderator



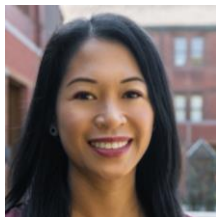
David McKean

Executive Director, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable



Jan Rydzak

Executive Director, Ranking Digital Rights



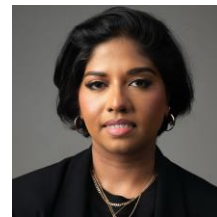
Dr. Irene Poetranto

Senior Researcher, The Citizen Lab



Asha Mehta

Managing Partner and CIO, Global Delta Capital



Sherilyn Naidoo

Senior Manager: Digital Human Rights, MTN

1

Welcome and introductions

Stacey Cram, Investor Alliance for Human Rights

2

Scene setting

David McKean, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable

3

2026 RDR Index: Telco Giants Edition — key findings

Jan Rydzak, Ranking Digital Rights

4

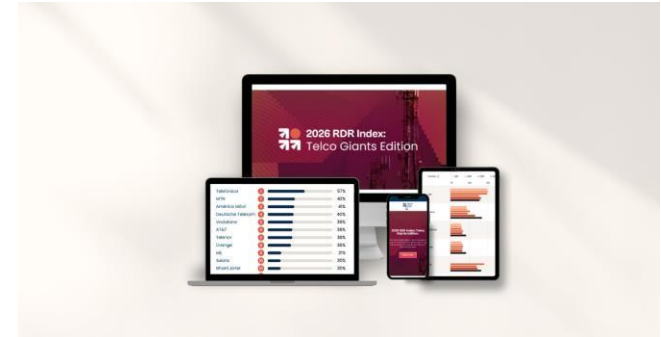
Civil society, investor & company perspectives

Dr. Irene Poetranto, Asha Mehta, and Sherilyn Naidoo, MTN

5

Q&A

Moderated discussion with attendees



 2026 RDR Index:
Telco Giants Edition

Assessing the transparency of 12 of the world's most powerful telecommunications companies on their policies and practices affecting people's rights to freedom of expression and privacy.

Read the Executive Summary



The **Ranking Digital Rights Index** assesses the transparency of powerful tech platforms and telecom companies on critical human rights issues affecting privacy, freedom of expression, and freedom of information.



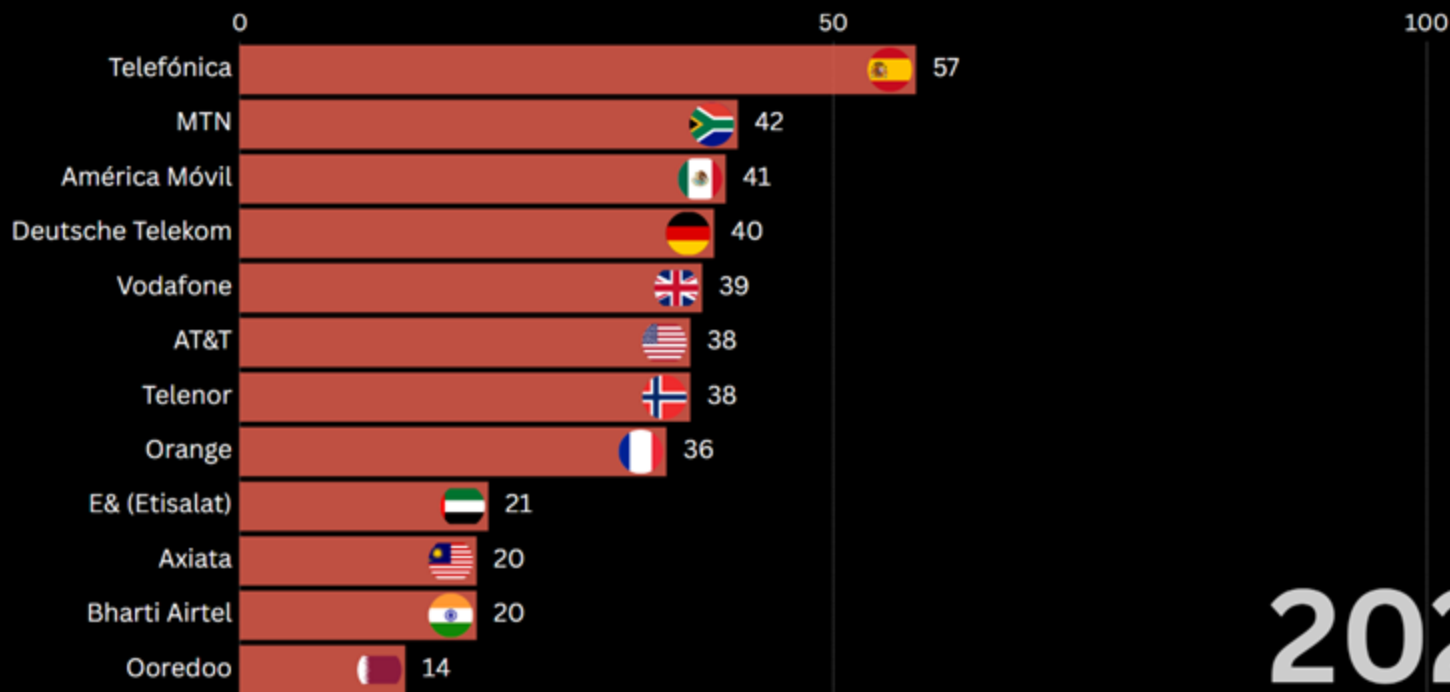
2025 RDR Index:
Big Tech Edition



2026 RDR Index:
Telco Giants Edition

- Corporate governance
- Core privacy, use, and human rights policies
- Content moderation & policy enforcement
- Government censorship and data requests
- Algorithms and AI
- Targeted advertising
- Network shutdowns

2026 RDR Index: Telco Giants Edition | Total scores



2026

Highlights

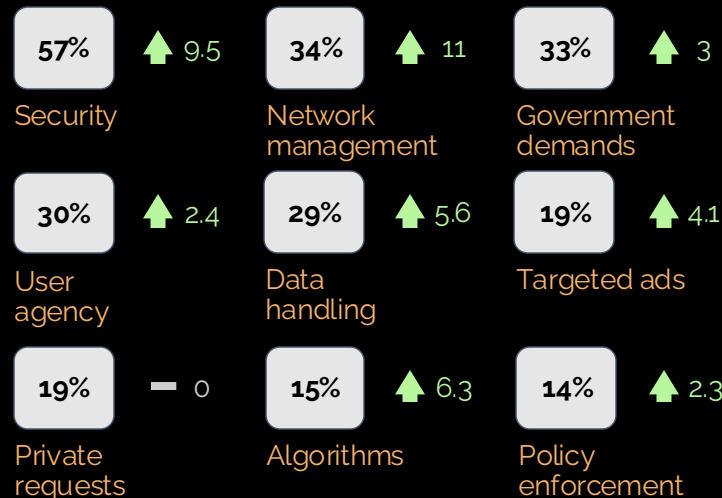
- ❑ For the first time, telecoms based in “emerging markets” are surging to the top..
- ❑ Several frontrunners are less transparent than they were four years ago — but $\frac{3}{4}$ of their peers improved.
- ❑ Transparency is exceptionally weak on algorithms and AI, network shutdowns, and operators’ own policy enforcement.

Explore further:

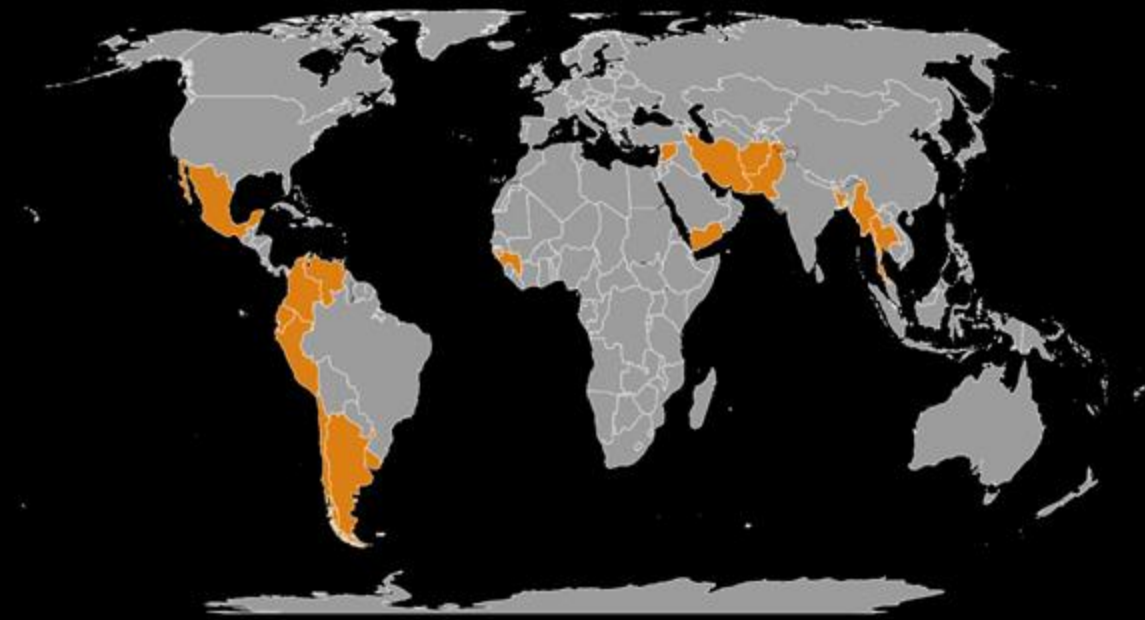
<https://rankingdigitalrights.org/tge26/explore>

- ❑ Platform giants outperform telcos

Average scores in key areas



Under the radar



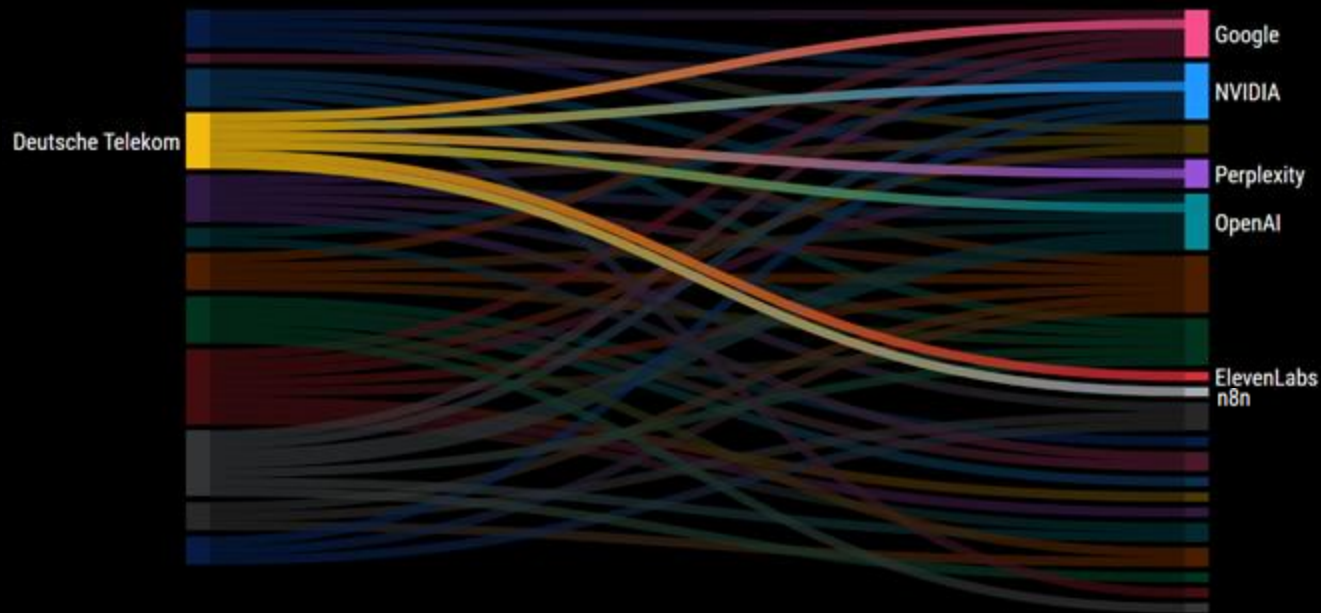
Map of recent (2022-26) or planned market withdrawals for Telenor, Telefónica, and MTN.

Since 2022, 3 telcos have sold off local operations (or plan to) in 17 countries, many with a history of surveillance and shutdowns.

These withdrawals risk opening an **accountability vacuum** that can threaten millions of people's rights.

Under the radar

Major AI partnerships + poor algorithmic transparency = human rights risk



Note: This data is based on public sources, it is not intended to be comprehensive, and is therefore necessarily incomplete.

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Thank you!

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

To learn more about the Investor Alliance's coordinated Digital Rights and AI Accountability collective investor engagement, please contact Stacey Cram.