

# HOW OLIGARCHS KILL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

## METHOD N°1

**Put your media empire in  
the regime's service.**



**REPORTERS  
WITHOUT BORDERS**  
FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Called “the president’s best friends” in Turkey, they are wealthy construction, telecoms or financial sector businessmen who buy up leading media outlets in order to suppress any criticism of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In return, they can count on getting government contracts, operating licences or tax rebates.

**SEE THE SHOCK REPORT ON [RSF.ORG](https://www.rsf.org)**

# HOW OLIGARCHS KILL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

## METHOD N°2

Replace news with  
entertainment.



**REPORTERS  
WITHOUT BORDERS**  
FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The privately-owned Russian TV channel NTV was once well-known for being critical of the government but in 2001 it was taken over by Gazprom, the powerful state-owned natural gas company. Since then, its star journalists have all left and the focus of its programming has shifted to entertainment and talk-shows.

**SEE THE SHOCK REPORT ON [RSF.ORG](http://RSF.ORG)**

# HOW OLIGARCHS KILL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

## METHOD N°3

**Use media outlets to beat up your opponents.**



**REPORTERS  
WITHOUT BORDERS**  
FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A young Bulgarian who heads a shadowy business empire, Delyan Peevski uses the media outlets he controls to denigrate and intimidate his critics. Bulgarians describe his media outlets as “media baseball bats.”

**SEE THE SHOCK REPORT ON [RSF.ORG](https://www.rsf.org)**

# HOW OLIGARCHS KILL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

**METHOD N°4**

**Censoring anything that threatens  
your interests.**



**REPORTERS  
WITHOUT BORDERS**  
FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Owned by the House of Thani, the Qatari royal family, Al Jazeera is a TV news broadcaster that is very popular in the Arab world. However, it is used to promote Qatari influence and takes great care not to cover stories that might upset its powerful and generous owners. **SEE THE SHOCK REPORT ON [RSF.ORG](https://www.rsf.org)**

# HOW OLIGARCHS KILL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

## METHOD N°5

**Buying media outlets to corrupt  
the authorities.**



**REPORTERS  
WITHOUT BORDERS**  
FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

In Greece, a handful of “big families” have reigned supreme over the country’s economy and politics for decades and their offspring are often the main shareholders of its leading media companies. Greeks have found a special word for this incestuous system. They call it “diploki” (interweaving).

**SEE THE SHOCK REPORT ON [RSF.ORG](https://www.rsf.org)**