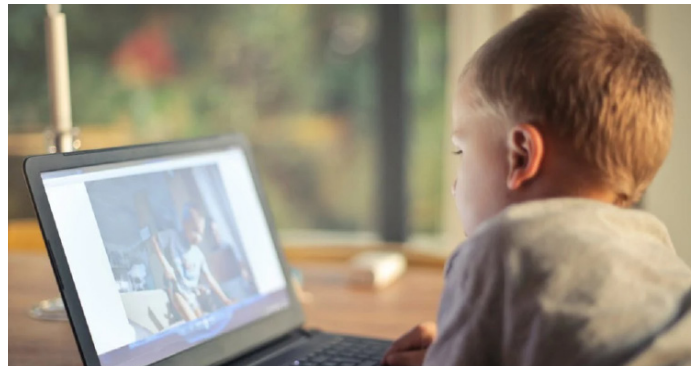


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FEATURED Q&A

How Adequate Are Efforts to Protect Minors Online?



A Brazil-based group recently filed a lawsuit alleging that social media companies are not doing enough to protect minors online. // File Photo: Andrea Piacquadro via Pexels.

Q Brazil's Collective Defense Institute filed a suit against Meta, TikTok and Kwai in late October, arguing that they have failed to set up adequate safeguards for minors using the platforms, with the consumer rights organization seeking \$525 million in total damages. What risks does widespread social media adoption present for minors in Latin America? How effective are initiatives that are already underway to protect minors from online harassment and abuse? What more should governments and social media companies do to improve minors' safety on online platforms?

A Alfredo Attié, justice at the Supreme Court of São Paulo: "The international Convention on the Rights of the Child, which took effect in 1990, was unable to foresee the problems that the spread of digital devices and virtual environments would bring to the formation of young people. At that time, the concern of international society was the protection of the rights of children amid open access to the 'mass media,' as well as of free individual and collective expression of their will and interests. At the same time, the idea of safety was confined to the concept of protecting them from the actual menace of physical or mental violence and all forms of injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. The present reality of social media does not fit that concept of children's safety. Social media are indeed private means and environments of interaction that, usually disguising their intent of obtaining high profit through the commerce of private and massive data,

Continued on page 2

TODAY'S NEWS

ECONOMIC

APEC Summit Ends in Lima, Biden, Xi Meet

The two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit ended Saturday in Lima. U.S. President Joe Biden met with Chinese President Xi Jinping on sidelines of the summit.

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ECONOMIC

Bitcoin Supporters Cheer Rally at Gathering in El Salvador

Bitcoin enthusiasts met Friday at a conference in El Salvador, where the cryptocurrency became legal tender three years ago.

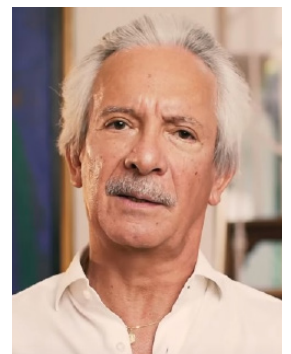
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POLITICAL

Guatemalan Court Orders Journalist Back to Jail

A Guatemalan appeals court on Friday ordered José Rubén Zamora, the founder of newspaper El Periódico, back to jail. Zamora, who was granted house arrest last month, is accused of money laundering. Zamora denies wrongdoing.

Page 2



Zamora // Photo: El Periódico Recursos.

POLITICAL NEWS

Guatemalan Appeals Court Orders Journalist Back to Jail

A Guatemalan appeals court on Friday ordered prominent journalist José Rubén Zamora back to jail, overturning an order that freed him last month, the Associated Press reported. Zamora, the founder of newspaper El Periódico, has been on house arrest since Oct. 18, but prosecutors had appealed the order to free him from a jail where he had been imprisoned for more than two years. The journalist's son, José Zamora, confirmed the order that he return to jail, calling it "insanity," the AP reported. Zamora is accused of money laundering and in June 2023 was sentenced to six years in prison. However, that sentence was annulled because of procedural problems. Zamora was arrested in July 2022 by agents of Attorney General Consuelo Porras' office after he asked a friend to go to a bank to deposit \$38,000, which Zamora said was a donation to his

news organization, the AP reported. Zamora said he did not make the deposit himself because the person who donated the money feared retaliation for supporting Zamora's news operation, the wire service reported. The United States has sanctioned Porras, saying she has obstructed corruption investigations in Guatemala. Although his first sentence was annulled, Zamora later faced a second trial for allegedly lying during the first case. He is also accused of falsifying documents. Zamora has denied wrongdoing and says the cases against him are motivated by his newspaper's investigative work. Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo denounced the judicial order to return Zamora to prison. "Once again, they are seeking to have José Rubén Zamora returned to prison in a completely abusive and arbitrary manner," Arévalo said in a post on social media site X. "Our judicial system is being tested and the people of Guatemala have been clear in demanding respect for the practice of journalism. Any resolution that violates freedom of expression is illegitimate. The Guatemalan government will take all measures to defend freedom of expression," he added. [Editor's note: See related [Q&A](#) in the May 31 Advisor.]

FEATURED Q&A / Continued from page 1

move toward replacing the actual public space. They have been acting, nevertheless, by subtracting themselves from the complex mechanisms of guarantees provided, at the end of a long and difficult historical process, for the sake of building common ground for the development of public life and the safeguarding of the private life of citizens and communities. Initiatives of governments and social media companies that are already underway to protect minors from online harassment and abuse could not be effective if they remain only locally conducted and do not involve global standards. The idea of merely prohibitive measures is also counterproductive to the extent that they disregard young people's high degree of attraction to social networks and the benefits that a well-directed and regulated virtual world can bring to their education and formation."

A **Geuseppe Gonzalez, head for Latin America at Access Partnership:** "The risks associated with social media platforms are no different from the risks associated with the internet itself. However, it is vital to maintain sight of the fact that these technologies are agnostic and depend on the intentions of users, both those who design and operate them as well as end users, including minors. Social media platforms are something digital natives take for granted, and therefore any measures associated with them must also consider their needs, opinions and interests. While risks are easier to detect on social media, the protection of minors in Latin America should not be based on restrictive or prohibitive measures imposed over the platforms, as this could even slow down digital development or limit

Continued on page 4

NEWS BRIEFS

Venezuelan Gov't Frees Hundreds of People Arrested During Protests

Venezuela's government has released 225 people who were arrested during anti-government protests following the country's disputed presidential election in July, Attorney General Tarek Saab said Saturday, Reuters reported. "Between the afternoon of Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th, 225 measures of liberty were granted and executed to people prosecuted for the acts of violence that occurred after the July 28 elections," Saab said in a statement.

Tropical Storm Causes at Least Two Deaths, Flooding in Honduras

Tropical Depression Sara dissipated early this morning after passing over Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula late Sunday, The New York Times reported. At least two deaths have been reported in Honduras as a result of the storm, the newspaper reported. The slow-moving storm's westward turn spared the U.S. Gulf Coast, but it brought torrential rainfall and flooding to northern Honduras, Belize and southern Mexico. The storm's remnants could still drop as much as 40 inches of rain on parts of Honduras over the coming days.

Biden Meets With Local Leaders, Conservationists in Brazil's Amazon

"Nobody can reverse" the United States' transition to clean energy, U.S. President Joe Biden said at a press conference Sunday in Manaus, the Associated Press reported. In a stop between international summits in Lima and Rio de Janeiro, Biden met with local leaders and conservation groups in Brazil's Amazonas region to highlight his outgoing administration's efforts to promote low-carbon energy and protect global ecosystems, the AP reported.

ECONOMIC NEWS

APEC Summit Ends in Lima, Biden Meets With China's Xi

The two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit wrapped up Saturday in Lima, with U.S. President Joe Biden seeking to firm up alliances that could be upended by President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office in January, the Associated Press reported. At the summit, Biden praised cooperation among Japan, South Korea and the United States but warned leaders about a “dangerous and destabilizing cooperation” between North Korea and Russia, the AP reported. Chinese President Xi Jinping held a formal dialogue with Biden on Saturday—the third and final meeting between the two leaders. Biden and Xi discussed ongoing tensions between the United States and China, including those relating to Taiwan and narcotics trafficking, the U.S. Embassy in Peru said in a statement. On drug trafficking, “both sides affirmed the importance of continued coordinated law enforcement actions, information exchanges to identify new and emerging drug trends,” the embassy said in the statement. Regarding Trump, who has pledged to substantially raise U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods, Xi told Biden on Saturday that China is “ready to work with a new administration to maintain communication,” the AP reported.

Bitcoin Enthusiasts Cheer Crypto Rally at El Salvador Gathering

Enthusiasts of Bitcoin who were meeting Friday at a conference in El Salvador cheered the rally in the cryptocurrency since Donald Trump was elected president of the United States earlier this month, Reuters reported. Supporters of the cryptocurrency met outside San Salvador. “Trump understands what it’s like to be a capitalist, he’s going to get out of the way and remove regulations that are not necessary,” Charlie Stevens, a native of Ireland who has

THE DIALOGUE CONTINUES

What Do Center-Right Victories Mean for Chile?

Q Center-right parties in Chile won several key races in the country's local elections held Oct. 26-27, in which voters cast ballots in more than 120 municipalities. The local elections came a year ahead of Chile's November 2025 presidential vote, in which President Gabriel Boric is ineligible for immediate re-election. To what can the center-right attribute its victories in the municipal elections, and which issues were the most important to voters? What do the results mean for Boric's ruling coalition? What impact will the local elections have on next year's presidential race?

A Daniela Jara Leiva, professor in the Department of Sociology of the University of Valparaíso: “The mayoral and gubernatorial elections had two relevant characteristics—they were the last before the 2025 presidential elections, and they were the first in which compulsory voting and automatic registration were implemented. Although a major defeat for the government was expected partly due to the security crisis, the election results did not leave big winners or losers. First, the mayoral elections were a victory for the right, which managed to increase its total number of mayors from 87 to 122, while the government lost an equivalent number (150 to 111). For its part, the government managed to maintain a presence in the most populated communes of Santiago, achiev-

ing mayoralties that together represent the largest percentage of the population under a coalition. One of these populated communes, Maipú, re-elected the promising Tomás Vodanovic, who obtained the highest individual vote in the entire country and is positioned as one of the Frente Amplio politicians with the greatest future. In addition, the ruling party maintained emblematic mayoralties such as Viña del Mar, despite losing the commune of Santiago. The extreme right hoped to sweep these elections, but its results were more modest than expected. Nevertheless, they consolidated themselves as actors in institutional politics. The group that had the best performance was Renovación Nacional, from the traditional right. The self-proclaimed political center tended to disappear in this election. Finally, the null and blank vote for mayors was 10 percent, while for councilors it was about 21 percent. Rather than demonstrate disenchantment with politics, this shows the challenges of representative democracy and, together with the problems detected in the vote counting process, could require a review of the design of the electoral system in processes that consider such a high number of candidates.”

EDITOR'S NOTE: The comment above is a continuation of the Q&A published in the Nov. 12 issue of the Advisor.

lived for a year and a half in El Salvador, told the wire service. “Bitcoin is growing very, very fast in front of the eyes of the whole world. And the whole world has its eyes on El Salvador,” he added. The Salvadoran government's Bitcoin holdings have grown to more than \$500 million, Coin Desk reported Nov. 12. Three years ago, Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele made the Central American country the world's

first to establish Bitcoin as a legal tender, using the cryptocurrency alongside the U.S. dollar, Reuters reported. The International Monetary Fund, with which El Salvador is negotiating a loan for \$1.3 billion, has criticized the government's embrace of Bitcoin. The digital currency was trading above \$90,000 last Friday, hitting all-time highs after Trump was elected on Nov. 5, the wire service reported.

FEATURED Q&A / Continued from page 2

the innovation that new generations could generate. Social networks, in general, are among of the most prominent success stories of the internet in the region—adoption rates are, on average, more than 90 percent of the population. These platforms have contributed to boosting financial inclusion, education and e-commerce, to name just a few. Governments and authorities could consider more comprehensive prevention and protection strategies for minors that do not depend solely on the digital environment. The sanctioning route is often ineffective if implemented in a fragmented manner, as seems to be the case in Brazil. Therefore, it is desirable that minors can benefit from the internet, with reasonable protection measures for all agents involved.”

A **Luciana S. Longo, consultant for government relations and regulatory affairs for OneWeb, Eutelsat Group:** “In Brazil, the push for further monitoring of social media platforms and their compliance with national legal frameworks has been established. The Brazilian Data Protection Authority (ANPD) has monitored and issued reports on social media platforms since 2021. Also, the events of Jan. 8, 2023, when a mob attacked Brazil’s presidential palace, Supreme Court and Congress, made the public and local authorities acutely aware of online behavior and their impact on society. These concerns were further intensified by the controversy between X, formerly Twitter, and the Brazilian Supreme Court. The lawsuit against Meta, TikTok and Kwai, in addition to the sanctioning process installed by ANPD against TikTok, showcase a different dimension of that same concern, with the focus now on children. According to a recent report from Cetic.br, 93 percent of Brazilian children between the ages of 9 and 17 are internet users, and 83 percent have a social media profile; 30 percent reported having contact with a stranger online and 29 percent have reported experiences online that were either offensive, unenjoyable or upsetting. There is

no silver bullet to address this problem. This is a realm of shared responsibility between families, civil society, government and the private sector. Continued support is needed for digital literacy of society in general, and of children in particular, as well as access to information that is easy to understand and to act upon. Newer and better laws and regulations are needed, but those will always lag behind innovation. Therefore, greater cooperation between public authorities and social media platforms is needed to enable the advancement of better trust, oversight and compliance mechanisms. And, finally, when dialogue and monitoring fail, there must be enforcement of the rules and regulations. The primary concern is how to prevent technology’s negative effects on children’s social and cognitive development. Children need protection from cyberbullying, exploitation, harassment and exposure to violent or sexual content. Concerns will become even greater with the wider adoption of artificial intelligence where the use of personal data creates a new dimension to the challenges facing authorities everywhere.”

[Editor’s note: In response to the Advisor’s request for a commentary for this issue, Meta sent the following statement from a company spokesperson: “We want young people to have safe and age-appropriate experiences on our apps, and we have been working on these issues for over a decade, developing more than 50 tools, resources and features to support teens and their guardians. We’ve also just announced the new Teen Accounts, coming to Brazil soon. These accounts provide teens with built-in protections to automatically limit who’s contacting them and the content they’re seeing, and teens under 16 need a parent’s permission to change those settings. We are committed to continuing to work to support the well-being of young people on our platforms.”]

The Advisor welcomes comments on its Q&A section. Readers can write editor Gene Kuleta.

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Gene Kuleta
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