

REPORT OF VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE FREEDOM OF AND EXPRESSION OPINION IN YEMEN

OF 2022 DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER
(October – November - December)

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AGAINST THE FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION
IN YEMEN
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(October - November - December)

Media Freedom Observatory - Yemen



This report was prepared by the Media Freedom Observatory in Yemen. It is a platform affiliated with the Studies and Economic Media Center. The Observatory is devoted to monitoring and documenting cases of violations against the freedom of press and expression in Yemen.

With the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Yemen, this report was completed, and the said information solely belongs to the Media Freedom Observatory, and by no means expresses in any way the position of the European Union, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Yemen, or the Dutch Foreign Ministry.

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Violations Cases Against Media in Yemen

In the fourth quarter of 2022

Violations Against Media

19

7 Against media organizations  broken into

12 Against Individuals

1



Banned from photographing

3



incitement

2



Threats

3



Attacks

4



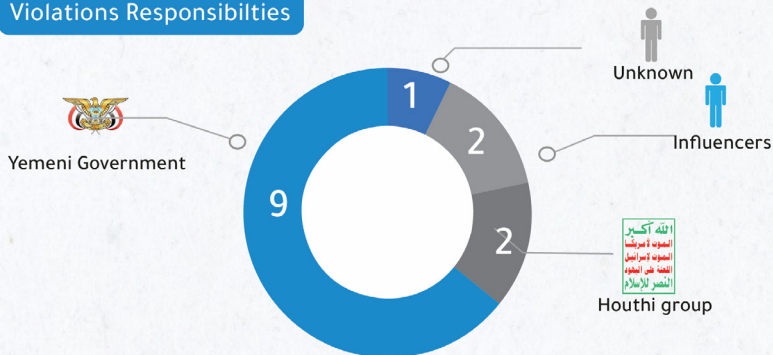
Detention

3

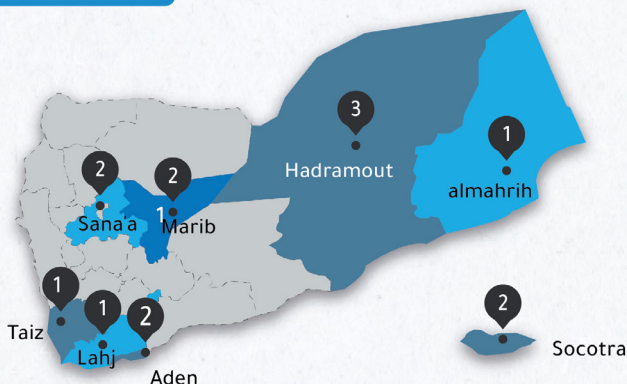


trial and summon journalists

Violations Responsibilities



Violations Areas



Report Methodology

The data and information in this report were collected by a professional team of observers, who are positioned in various Yemeni regions.

In collecting data, the observers relied on different methods, including direct contact with the victims, testimonies of their relatives, media or the reports submitted by the victims or their relatives to MARSADAK. The MARSADAK team reviewed and verified all the observed data and information through a verification mechanism that included at least 3 different sources.

The data and information contained in this report do not mean that all violations against journalists and social media activists in Yemen have been recorded. There are cases of violations that victims or their families were hesitant to report to avoid serious risks and consequences that may be instigated by the violators.

We would also like to point out that for the sake of brevity, we will not cite all the stories of violations, as the report will only present the most prominent stories of violations suffered by journalists in Yemen.

The executive summary

The report on media freedom violations in Yemen during the fourth quarter of 2022 reveals that there were 14 cases of violations, including the arrest and forced disappearance of journalist Abad Al-Jaradi by the Houthi authorities, as well as cases of assault, interrogation, trial, threat, incitement, and prevention of Almahriah TV correspondent from filming

A variety of violations against journalists and social media activists were reportedly committed in several Yemeni governorates, including Hadramout, Marib, Aden, Sanaa, Socotra, Al-Mahra, Taiz, and Lahj. The territories controlled by the internationally recognized government topped the list of violations perpetrated against journalists and social media activists with nine out of the total recorded cases. The Houthi group was responsible for most of the violations and has made its areas free of independent or opposite journalism.

Additionally, the Houthi group continues to detain 13 journalists, four of whom have been sentenced to death on charges related to publishing. The group also continues to restrict media and civil liberties. The areas under its control almost devoid of independent or opposite media outlets and voices that differ from its own ideology. The group exercises strict security censorship over what is published in local and social media, and coerces media outlets there to work in line with its policies and directions.

In territories subject to the control of the legitimate government, journalists face multiple forms of harassment, including being tried in courts that are not specialized in press and publishing cases. In Hadramout governorate, for example, journalists or any critic of the living and economic situation have to stand trials before public funds tribunals as if it was meant to disdain a public servant.

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to defending Yemeni journalists through all possible means and venues in order to preserve the constitutionally guaranteed climate of media freedom and freedom of expression. We reiterate our demand for the speedy release of detained journalists and the imperative of holding responsible parties accountable.

Types of Violations

During the first half of the current year, the Media Freedoms Observatory documented 14 violations against journalists and social media activists in Yemen. These violations included four cases of detention, three cases of interrogation and trial, three cases of assault, two cases of threat, one case of incitement, and one case of preventing an Al-Mahriah Channel correspondent from filming in Al-Mahraa.

Geographical Distribution of Violations

According to a report, violations against the media have occurred in various regions of Yemen. The report documented three violations in Hadramout, two in Sana'a, two in Ma'rib, two in Aden, two in Socotra, one in Taiz, one in Al-Mahraa, and one in Lahij.

Liability for Violations

During the fourth quarter of 2022, the Yemeni government was culpable for 9 out of the total 14 recorded violations against journalists. Two violations were committed by the Houthi group, two by influential individuals, and one violation was committed by an unidentified party.

Cases of Arrest

No	Journalist's name	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate	Current situation
1	Abbad Al-Jaradi	Arrest	Oct 1, 2022	Sana'a	Released
2	Abdullah Salem Ali Bada'han	Arrest	Oct 13, 2022	Socotra	Released
3	Mohammed Abdullah Bin Ta'ari	Arrest	Oct 13, 2022	Socotra	Released
4	Basel Bamghlas	Arrest	Oct 14, 2022	Hadramout	Released



Abbad Qaid Al-Jaradi

- **(Sports journalist)**
- **Type of violation: Arrest**
- **Place of Arrest: Sanaa**
- **Date of incident: October 1, 2022**
- **Perpetrator: Houthi Group (Ansar Allah)**
- **Status of Journalist: Released**

Sports journalist and Al-Wahda Sana'a Club media officer Abbad Al-Jaradi was abducted from his residence on October 1 by armed Houthi "Ansar Allah" supporters and has not been heard from or seen since. He was denied the right to contact his loved ones or select a legal representative. Because of his job in the media, he was held in isolation for 18 days while receiving threats and psychological torment.

Al-Jaradi is a journalist who has been arrested before. On June 18th, 2018, he was arrested, and after more than five months in jail, he was finally released. He was locked in a tiny cell for 77 days without food, visits, or medical care. He was in such bad shape that they let him go.



• Abdullah Badahen

- **Journalist**
- **Type of Violation:** Arrest
- **Place of arrest:** Socotra
- **Date of Incident:** 13 Oct, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government
- **Status of the journalist:** released



• Mohammed Abdullah bin Taari

- **Journalist- Media secretary of Socotra Governor**
- **Type of Violation:** Arrest
- **Place of arrest:** Socotra
- **Date of Incident:** 13 Oct, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government
- **Status of the journalist:** released

While covering the celebration of the October 14 Revolution, journalists Mohammed Abdullah bin Taari, the media secretary for the governor of Socotra, and Abdullah Badahen were arrested alongside a number of activists on October 13,

Through our communication with the journalist Badahen, the Observatory learned that on Thursday, October 13, 2022, during their coverage of the National Day celebration on October 14, military gunmen arrested journalist Mohammed Abdullah bin Taari, the media secretary for the governor of Socotra, and Abdullah Badahen, along with other activists who attended the celebration. They were taken to a cell in the Special Forces camp which is old and located in the center of Hadibo, the capital of Socotra Governorate. They were subsequently released on Saturday evening, October 15.

The journalist stated that he and his colleagues were subjected to harsh treatment, confined to a narrow cell, and denied sustenance for two days and nights. They were also asked to sign pledges, which they declined to do.

This was not the first time the journalist had been arrested, as he was previously arrested in June 2020 for publishing photos on his Facebook page that revealed the presence of a UAE military base near Socotra airport.



Basil Bamais

- **Type of violation:** Arrest
- **Place of arrest:** Hadramout
- **Date of incident:** October 14, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government
- **Status of journalist:** Released

Basil Bamais, a journalist for the independent Aden Channel, was arrested by a military checkpoint belonging to the Second Military Zone and taken to the Aliab Security Center in the Gail Ben Yamin district, east of Hadramout

Following his returning from covering an event for the Southern Transitional Council in Seyoun, he was detained in violation of press and publishing laws and international human rights law.

Bamais had been previously apprehended in May 2020 for his media activity.

The Media Freedom Observatory provides support to journalists and workers in media institutions who face psychological pressure while practicing their profession. The support includes psychological counseling as well as direct psychological support sessions through psychologists.

[Click here](#) To access psychological support

<https://tinyurl.com/48pd7smt>

Assault cases

No	Journalist's name	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate
1	Khalil Al-Taweel	Assault	25/12/2022	Mar'ib
2	Ali Al-Jaradi	Assault	25/12/2022	Mar'ib
3	Mohammed Ali Mahrous	Assault	26/12/2022	Taiz



• Khalil Al-Taweel

- **Affiliation:** Balqees TV, Ma'rib
- **Type of violation:** Assault
- **Date of incident:** December 25, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government



Ali Al-Jaradi

- **Affiliation:** Balqees TV, Ma'rib
- **Type of violation:** Assault
- **Date of incident:** December 25, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government

An armed group assaulted the Balqees TV channel crew in Ma'rib, including Khalil Al-Taweel and Ali Al-Jaradi, on military vehicles in the city of Ma'rib.

The MARSADAK team reached out to journalist Ali Al-Jaradi, who confirmed¹ that he and his colleague Khalil Al-Taweel were assaulted on the afternoon of December 25, 2022, by armed individuals in civilian clothing aboard two military patrols. The attackers brandished weapons at the channel's crew, used offensive language towards them, and attempted to arrest them, despite being aware of their journalistic identity.

The crew of the channel has been subjected to multiple attacks and harassment by security forces and armed individuals. While conducting their work in the city in March 2022, an armed group attacked journalist Khalil Al-Taweel and his team. They were prevented from filming in Al-Sehha Intersection while working on a television report about development during times of war. Al-Taweel said, "While filming, we were stopped by three people in civilian clothes who asked for our ID cards and licenses which we showed. We inquired about their identity and which party they belonged to, but then they assaulted us and attempted to rob our equipment. At that time, a few civilians at the scene of the incident intervened and took them to one of the city's departments, which in turn released them without any interrogation or action against them. This forced the crew to file another report with the Al-Salam Police Department, which led to the armed individuals. They apologized to the channel crew".

1 - Al-Jaradi was interviewed on December 26, 2022.



Mohamed Ali Mahrous

- **Occupation:** reporter - Taiz
- **Type of violation:** Assault
- **Date of incident:** December 26, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government

On December 26, 2022, soldiers linked with the Traffic Police in the city of Taiz assaulted Mohammed Ali Mahrous (reporter), stole his phone, and attempted to arrest him. He was doing work near the provincial General Traffic Administration when the tragedy took place.

Mahrous states,² "I saw a soldier abuse an elderly truck driver while on assignment on Traffic Street in Taiz, close to the Taiz Traffic Administration. I talked kindly to the soldier, explaining that his mission required him to treat citizens with respect and decency. But the soldier's response was a shower of foul language and insults. He, then, dispatched an armed man in civil clothes to follow me on the other side of the street. He dragged me to the square, took my phone, and assaulted me. One of the Traffic soldiers had been verbally abusing me the whole time, prompting the others to join in

2- The interview with journalist Mohammed Mahrous took place on December 28, 2022

Legal support

Through a group of lawyers who are ready to defend journalists, MARSADAK provides all kinds of legal support to journalists and media personnel who are subjected to violations and harassment in connection with their journalistic work. Legal support includes providing legal advice related to carrying out the press duties and in case journalists face legal issues in addition to allocating a lawyer in cases pending against journalists before the courts.

Click here to submit a request for legal support.

<https://marsadak.org/assistance-1/>

Threat cases

No	Journalist's name	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate	Current situation
1	Salah Abdullah Ghalib	Threat	15/11/2022	Lahj	Offenders were not punished
2	Nabil Al-Sharabi	Threat	27/11/2022	Sana'a	



Salah Abdullah Ghalib

- **Occupation:** journalist -al-mushahid.net
- **Type of violation:** Threat
- **Date of incident:** November 15, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Unknown

Salah Abdullah Ghalib, a journalist and correspondent for the almushahid.net news website, was the target of anonymous threats sent via WhatsApp. The messages accused him of filming and spreading false news and misinformation about the clashes that took place between Ministry of Defense personnel and armed members of the Al-Humaida tribe in Wadi Ma'abak, Al-Maqatirah district, Lahj.

Similarly, journalist Bassam Al-Ban, the head of the Voice of the People news website and the general director of the Journalist Observer Network, received several threatening messages from an unknown person claiming to be affiliated with security entities in Aden governorate. Al-Ban has been threatened with being arrested and compromising his freedom if he continues to publish and write about issues relating to security leadership.



Nabil Ali Al-Sharabi

- **Journalist**
- **Type of violation:** threat
- **Date of violation:** 27 Nov, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Houthi group

The Houthi group compelled journalist Nabil Al-Sharabi to sign a pledge not to enter Sana'a University again after he spoke with two female students following his attendance as a guest in a discussion of graduation projects for students of the Faculty of Mass Media.

On a Facebook post, he stated that he was invited as a guest to attend graduation projects in the Faculty of Mass Media; however, he left with a pledge not to visit Sana'a University again.

Al-Sharabi added "I was near the Main Gate exiting with two female students who, at the age of my daughter, had delivered their graduation presentation. We were talking discreetly and courteously about the journalistic work and the possibility to assist them publish their writings." I was approached by an armed Houthi member, called Abu Ali, in civilian attire, riding a bike. He asked for my ID and the IDs of the two students. He then tried to apprehend and threaten Al-Sharabi. By signing a pledge to never return to Sana'a University again, the matter was resolved.

Interrogation and trails

No	Journalist name	Governorate
1	Naser Al-Kazmi	Aden
2	Ali Salimeen Al-Awbathani	Hadramout
3	Tareq Omar Basllom	Hadramout



Naser Al-Kazmi

- **Type of violation:** interrogation and trial
- **Place of trial:** Aden
- **Date of Incident:** 24 Nov, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government

The Public Prosecution for Press and Publications issued a summons against journalist Naser Al-Kazmi. It is considered a precedent to issue a summons against Facebook posts after the establishment of the Press and Publication Court in Aden.

Al-Kazmi received a summons to appear before the prosecution based on a complaint lodged by the director general of Sheikh Othman district in Aden, but the dispute was resolved amicably after the first trial session.



Tareq Omar Basloom

- **Type of violation:** interrogation and trial
- **Place of trial:** Hadramout
- **Date of Incident:** 11 December, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government

On December 11, 2022, journalist Tareq Omar Basloom received a summons from the Public Funds Prosecution based on a lawsuit filed by the Land and Survey Authority branch in Hadramout due to his criticism of the authority's work. After the Public Funds Prosecution questioned him and released him on bail, he was charged and a trial date was on January 1, 2023.

Later, Basloom received a summons from the Criminal Investigation Department in Hadramout on December 21, 2022, to investigate a lawsuit lodged by the Public Works and Roads Office in Hadramout.



Ali Salimeen Al-Awbathani

- **Type of violation:** interrogation and trial
- **Place of trial:** Hadramout
- **Date of Incident:** 19 Dec, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government

Due to publishing issues, the Public Funds Prosecution in Hadramout issued a summons for the journalist Ali Salimeen Al-Awbathani's interrogation.

After speaking with journalist Ali Salemeen Al-Awbathani, the Observatory team confirmed that Al-Awbathani received an interrogation summons from the Public Funds Prosecution in Hadramout regarding the case filed against him by the presidency of Hadramout University as a result of Facebook posts criticising violations committed by the university.

The Public Funds Prosecution summoned him on December 19, 2022, and he was questioned on December 22 of the same year. Al-Abathani was granted parole by the Public Funds Prosecution. He was accused by the University of Hadhramout with "defamation of a scientific institution." On January 1, 2023, another session was scheduled to conclude the investigation before the same prosecution.

In reality, the Public Funds Prosecution and Criminal Investigation Bureau's practise of summoning journalists is intended to intimidate and silence them, preventing them from continuing their journalistic work freely and professionally. Moreover, under Yemeni law, these practises fall under the jurisdiction of the Press and Publications Prosecution, not these authorities.

Journalists still behind bars³

No	Name	No of days behind bars	Current place of detention	Violation Responsibility
1	Waheed Al-Soufi	Days 2802	Sana'a	Houthi group
2	Abdul Khaliq Omran	Days 2762	Sana'a	Houthi group
3	Tawfiq Al-Mansouri	Days 2762	Sana'a	Houthi group
4	Akram Al-Walidy	Days 2762	Sana'a	Houthi group
5	Harith Hamid	Days 2762	Sana'a	Houthi group
6	Mohammed Al-Salahi	Days 1533	Sana'a	Houthi group
7	Nabil Al-Soudi	Days 2658	Sana'a	Houthi group
8	Mohammad Ali Al-Junaid	Days 1407	Hodeidah	Houthi group
9	Walid Al-Matari	Days 924	Ibb	Houthi group
10	Mohammed Al-Hatami	Days 1549	Hodeidah	Houthi group
11	Mohammed Al-Muqri	Days 2637	Hadramout	Al-Qaida organization
12	Abdul Rahman Khalid	Days 308	Sana'a	Houthi group
13	Nabil Sultan	Days 393	Sana'a	Houthi group
14	Ahmed Maher	Days 148	Aden	Legitimate Yemen government

3 - Until December 30, 2022

4 - From the date of the arrest until 30 December 2022



Studies and Economic Media Center (SEM-C) is one of the Civil society organizations that works on economic field, awareness and promote the economic issues transparency, good governance and participated citizens in decision-making. Also, It works to find a professional media

<https://economicmedia.net/>







Yemen Media Freedoms Observatory (MARSADAK) is a monitoring and information platform aimed at disseminating all matters relating to freedoms of opinion and expression in various Yemeni regions in a professional and independent manner, as well as, analyzing and advocating for journalists' issues at the local and international levels.

<https://marsadak.org/>

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