



# THE REPORT OF VIOLATIONS AGAINST FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION IN YEMEN

**Second Quarter of 2023**  
**(April, May, June)**

The Report of Violations  
against Freedom of Speech and Expression  
IN YEMEN

Second Quarter of 2023  
(April, May, June)

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.

## Table of Contents

● <b>Infographic</b> .....	5
● <b>Report Methodology</b> .....	6
● <b>executive summary</b> .....	7
● <b>Violation Types</b> .....	8
● <b>Geographical Distribution of Violations</b> .....	8
● <b>Liability for Violations</b> .....	8
● <b>Arrest</b> .....	9
● <b>Detention</b> .....	10
● <b>Assault</b> .....	11
● <b>Threat</b> .....	13
● <b>Journalists in Court</b> .....	15
● <b>Storming into the Yemeni Media Syndicate</b>	
<b>Inciting Campaigns</b> .....	17
● <b>Journalists still behind bars</b> .....	18

# Violations Cases Against Media in Yemen

The second quarter of 2023

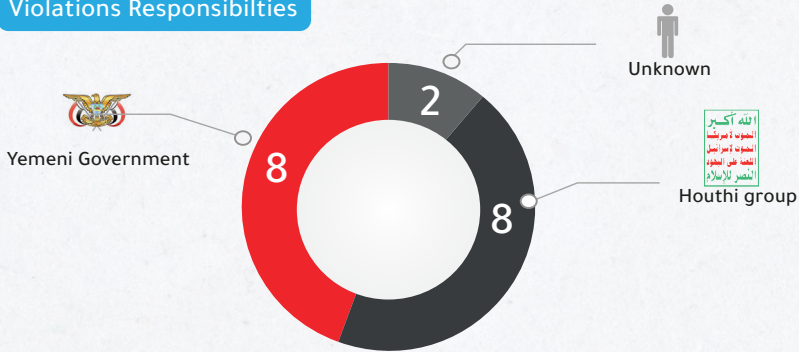
Violations  
Against  
Media

18

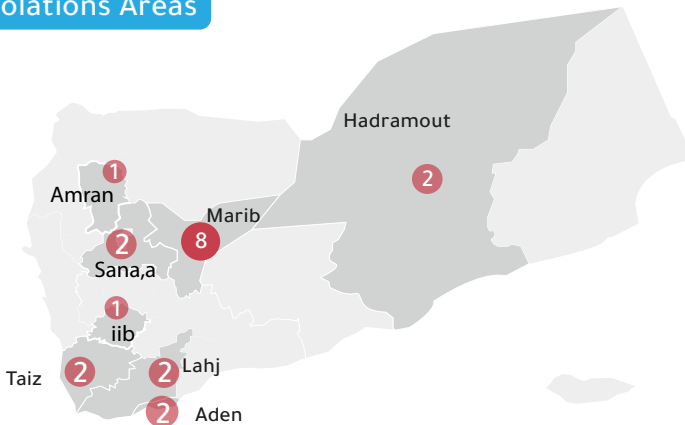
18 Against  
Individuals



## Violations Responsibilities



## Violations Areas



## Report Methodology

The data and information in this report were collected by a professional team of observers living in various regions of Yemen.

The observers gathered the data through direct communication with the victims, relatives' testimonies, media sources, and reports submitted by either victims or their relatives to the Observatory. Then, the monitoring team reviews and verifies all the collected data and information using a verification mechanism that involves at least three different, related sources.

It is important to note that the data and information presented in this report do not imply that all violations against journalists/ media people and social media activists in Yemen have been monitored. That is due to the fact that some victims or their families fear reporting violations owing to the serious risks and consequences that the perpetrators of the violations may commit.

Additionally, for the sake of brevity and focus, the report does not include all the stories of violations. Instead, it highlights most prominent stories of violations committed against journalists in Yemen.

## Executive Summary

According to a report on media freedom violations in Yemen during the second quarter of 2023, there were 18 cases of violations, with the most prominent being the pursuit and summoning of a group of journalists by the judicial authorities in Marib governorate, and the issuance of repressive orders against them, considering them fugitives on the run. They are harassed because of their media activities.

Yemeni journalists face a difficult media reality, including arrests, threats, and persecution, as well as incitement campaigns against them. The latest campaign was against six journalists, who were accused of spying for foreign countries. Local media outlets affiliated with the Houthi group circulated the news, putting their lives in danger.

During the reporting period, Marib governorate had the highest percentage of violations, with 8 out of 18 violations, followed by Sana'a, Taiz, Hadramout, Aden, Amran, and Ibb, with each governorate having between one and two violations.

In Aden, the so-called National Southern Media Authority, which is affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, controls the work of journalists and various media outlets in the city. It imposes restrictions on the work of local and foreign journalists and media institutions. The role for the Yemeni government's Ministry of Information is totally lacking any influence or presence on the scene.

Houthi-group controlled areas also practice intimidation against journalists by summoning them for investigation from time to time by the security and intelligence apparatus. The Houthi group summons a number of journalists for investigation and prevents them from moving within their controlled areas or traveling abroad without obtaining security approval from the intelligence apparatus.

Again, it is worth noting that the data and information contained in this report do not mean that all violations have been monitored, as there are cases of violations that victims fear to report due to fears of more dangerous consequences from the perpetrators.

## Violation Types

During the second quarter of this year, there were 18 reported cases against journalists. The violations included one case of arrest, one case of detention, two cases of assault, three cases of threats, six cases of incitement, and five cases of interrogation and trial of journalists in non-specialized courts.

## Geographical Distribution of Violations

In various regions of Yemen, there have been cases of violations against the media. The report documented eight cases in the city of Marib, as well as two cases of violations in Sanaa, Taiz, Hadramout, and Aden. Additionally, there was one violation in the governorate of Amran and another in the governorate of Ibb, in central Yemen.

## Liability for Violations

During the second quarter of this year, each of the Houthi group (Ansar Allah) and Yemeni-government affiliated factions perpetrated eight cases, with two violations recorded against unknown individuals.



## Arrest



No	Journalist	Violation Type	Violation Date	Governorate
1	Fahd Al-Arhabi	arrest	05/06/2023	Amran



## Fahd Al-Arhabi

- **Violation Type:** Arrest
- **Violation Place:** Amran
- **Date:** 05/06/2023
- **Perpetrator:** Houthi group

According to the information provided, the security and intelligence agency of the Houthi group in the governorate of Amran summoned journalist Fahd Al-Arhabi on June 5, 2023, and he has not been seen at home since then.

According to the information obtained by the monitoring team from a person close to the journalist who talked under the condition of anonymity, he said that the journalist was arrested after he published a message on WhatsApp accusing Houthi leaders of looting more than 7,000 bricks belonging to the Amran Cement Factory. Later, a verbal argument ensued between him and some individuals belonging to the Houthi group. He was suddenly summoned by the intelligence apparatus. Upon going there, he has never been seen.

The journalist had previously been arrested on July 12, 2021, for criticizing the group's abusive practices towards citizens in the governorate. The security and intelligence agency regularly summons journalists for questioning to monitor their movements.

This is a usual practice by intelligence agencies against a number of journalists who still live in their controlled territories. They are summoned on daily basis to be investigated and know their movements.

Journalist Fahd Al-Arhabi was arrested on 12 July, 2021, for criticizing the Houthi group's abusive practices towards citizens in the governorate of Amran. His house was raided and his family was terrified with no legal justification.

He had Facebook posts, criticizing the group's practices, which led to his arrest and detention for 25 days. During his detention, he was interrogated, intimidated, and his home and personal phone were searched, and his old phone calls were listened to in search of evidence but in vain.

## Detention



No	Journalist	Violation Type	Violation Date	Governorate
1	Abdullah Ali Bamanif	Detention	23/05/2023	Hadramout



### Abdullah Ali Bamanif

- **Eastern Dau'an FM Radio Station- Marib and Hadramout**
- **Violation Type:** Detention
- **Date:** 23/05/2023
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni Government

The security department of the Du'an District in Hadramout Governorate summoned journalist Abdullah Bamanif on 21 May, 2023, based on a complaint filed against him by the director of Sadiq School due to an opinion post on his Facebook page.

Upon reviewing the content of the post, it did not directly target the director or the school itself, but rather discussed the state of education in general. When Bamanif arrived at the security department, he was interrogated, arrested, and held in custody for five hours before being released.

Abdullah Bamanif is the director of Ishraq Du'an Community Radio in the district, a former journalist and presenter on Hadramout TV channel and Nama Radio, and worked in other media outlets in Hadramout.

## Assault



No	Journalist	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate
1	Nawaf Al Hamiri	Assault	29/04/2023	Taiz
2	Waleed Hesham Al-Sada	Assault	05/06/2023	Ibb



### Nawaf Al-Hamiri

- **Journalist- Taiz**
- **Violation Type:** Arrest
- **Date:** 29/4/2023
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni Government

Journalist Nawaf Al-Hamiri was assaulted by security forces affiliated with the Al-Najda Forces while he was near the Hes-ab roundabout in the city of Taiz, southwest of the country.

After contacting Al-Hamiri, he confirmed that he was attacked by soldiers affiliated with the Al-Najda Forces. They insulted him without justification, despite identifying himself as a journalist. Upon inquiring about the reason for the sudden attack on an unarmed civilian, he received more insults and threats.



### Waleed Hesham Al-Sada

- **Al-Liwa Newspaper-Ibb**
- **Violation Type:** Assault
- **Date:** 5/06/2023
- **Perpetrator:** Houthi group

The editor-in-chief of Al-Lawaa newspaper, journalist Waleed Al-Sada, was attacked and his car was taken by a prominent figure in Ibb governorate due to publishing issues. Al-Sada reported the incident to the Media Freedoms Observatory, stating that he was attacked, and his life was threatened by a prominent figure who works in the local authority due to issues related to publishing corruption and looting cases. These mal-practices are committed by security leaders and officials in the local authority in the governorate.

The incident occurred after a lawsuit was filed against Al-Sada in the Public Funds Prosecution in the governorate and an attempt was made to fabricate false charges.

This is not the first time that Al-Sada has been subjected to

harassment and arbitrary practices. He was arrested in 2018. In October 2021, the Eastern Ibb Prosecution issued an indictment against him following a complaint related to publishing, despite the Attorney General's directive that the Prosecution does not to have jurisdiction.

## Threat



No	Journalist	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate
1	Khaled Dallaq	Threat	6/5/2023	Sana'a
2	Fathi bin Lazraq	Threat	21/05/2023	Aden
3	Ali Uwaidha	Threat	21/05/2023	Marib



### Khaled Dallaq

- **Journalist- Sana'a**
- **Violation Type:** Threat
- **Date:** 06/05/2023

A person named Hussein Abdullah threatened to target the house and family of journalist Khaled Dallaq, a member of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, due to his media activity in exposing corruption in the judiciary and violations against citizens.

Dallaq confirmed that he received a message from Abdullah threatening to kill him and his family with a missile if he continued to write about corruption in the judiciary in the southeastern areas of the capital, Sana'a.

This is not the first time that Dallaq has been threatened and attacked. He has been subjected to arbitrary practices, including arrest in the military area of Al-Hafa, breaking into his house and intimidating his family by Houthi security forces. Furthermore, threats from a military prosecutor accusing him of working for a foreign country were made.

The Houthi group is responsible for protecting Dallaq and his family from these illegal practices, and it is necessary to put an end to all these violations by some military personnel, members of the prosecution, and police departments who fabricate false charges against journalists to stop them from criticizing the living conditions and corruption in security, judicial, and legislative institutions.



### Ali Uwaidha

- **Journalist- Marib**
- **Violation Type:** Threat
- **Date:** 21/05/2023
- **Perpetrator:** Unknown individual

Journalist Ali Uwaidha, who works for the Source Media Foundation, received a new death threat from one of the smugglers in Marib Governorate, as part of a series of previous threats he has received due to his journalistic writings and his talk about corruption in the oil and gas sector.

The Source Online website reported in a statement that journalist Ali Uwaidha received death threat by one of the influential people in Marib. The security authorities were provided with the phone number from which the threat was made.

The statement called on the security authorities in the governorate to arrest those involved in the threat. The security authorities are held responsible for protecting Uwaida and maintaining his safety so that these people do not continue to harass journalists.

This threat is not the first, for Uwaidha has previously received similar threats from oil smugglers who benefit from leaking quantities of gas for sale in the black market.

## Journalists in Court



No	Name	Governorate
1	Ali Al-Faqih	Marib
2	Mohammed Misad Al-Saleh	Marib
3	Ahmed Yahya Ayadh	Marib
4	Yemen Shebab Channel	Marib
5	Al-Mahriah TV	Marib



**مَرَسَدَاك**  
مركز حرية التعبير  
Freedom of Expression Center





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تقرير: تهديدات صاعقة بأحد الصحفيين

**Ahmed Yahya Ayadh**



محمد عيسى المسعد  
الصحفي: تهديد صاعقة بأحد الصحفيين

**Mohammed Misad Al-Saleh**



علي الفقيه  
التقرير: تهديد صاعقة بالصحفيين

**Ali Al-Faqih**





Several officials and media heads in Marib Governorate received orders for compulsory arrest issued by the Marib Primary Prosecution on the basis of publication cases, which were considered as escaping from justice.

Journalists Ali Al-Faqih, deputy editor of Al-Masdar Online, Ahmed Ayed, editor-in-chief of Marib Press newspaper, and Ahmed Yahya Ayed, editor-in-chief of Marib Press website, Yemen Shabab TV channel, and Al-Mahria satellite channel, were among those who received the orders. They are accused of fabricating and defaming a public servant. A person called Ali Al-Awash, a former prosecutor, was accused of corruption and nepotism. He employed a number of his relatives illegally.

The Observatory rejected these arbitrary practices against journalists and defenders of rights and freedoms. These actions are considered a flagrant violation of the freedom of opinion and expression guaranteed by the constitution and international conventions.

It confirmed that these methods aim to silence voices and suffocate media and journalistic freedoms, and to persecute journalists and those with opposite opinions.

The Observatory also confirmed its support for journalists in all legal ways and its readiness to appoint a lawyer to defend them before the judicial authorities until the truth prevails.



## Inciting Campaigns

The Media Freedoms Observatory in Yemen received a press report from a number of journalists about a campaign of incitement against them through media reports published by foreign media outlets and circulated by local media outlets affiliated with the Houthi group, accusing them of spying for foreign countries.

The report claimed that it had obtained secret and leaked information, without clarifying any of that information that would prove the credibility of the report, that a group of journalists, including Mansour, and the television producer Ziyad Hussein, the journalist Waleed Abdel-Mutalib Mohammed Al-Rajhi, the media figure Abdullah Amr Ramadan Masoud, the journalist Rania, and the journalist Haib Dhiban, were working for the British intelligence service with the aim of undermining the political process in Yemen.

The media campaign launched by foreign media outlets and circulated by local media outlets affiliated with the Houthi group aims to cause physical harm, damage reputations of journalists, and it is necessary for human rights organizations active in the field of freedom of opinion and expression to intensify efforts to protect journalists to work professionally.

It is also confirmed that we stand with the journalists in suing these parties by all legal means, locally, regionally, and internationally, as these accusations are direct incitement and a threat to murder.

## Journalists still behind bars <sup>1</sup>

م	Name	Detention Place	Violation Responsibility	No of days behind bars <sup>2</sup>
	Wahid Al-Sofi	Sana'a	Houthi group	2984
	Nabil Al-Saudi	Sana'a	Houthi group	2840
	Mohammed Al-Hotami	Al Hodeidah	Houthi group	1731
	Mohammed Al-Moqri	Hadramout	Al Qaeda group	2819
	Ahmed Maher	Aden	Yemeni government	330
	Fahd Al-Arhabi	Amran	Houthi group	26

1 - Until March 31, 2023

2 - From the date of the arrest until 31 March 2023



**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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