

# Report Of Violations

## Against The Freedom Of Opinion And Expression In Yemen

During The Third Quarter Of 2022

(July - August - September)

**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.**



**MARSADAK**

**مرصدك**

مرصد الحريات الإعلامية - اليمن  
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# Violations Cases Against Media in Yemen

The third half of 2022

Violations  
Against  
Media

19

7

Against media  
organizations



broken into

12

Against  
Individuals

1



Hacking Facebook  
account

2



Arrests

3



Threats

1



Attacks

3



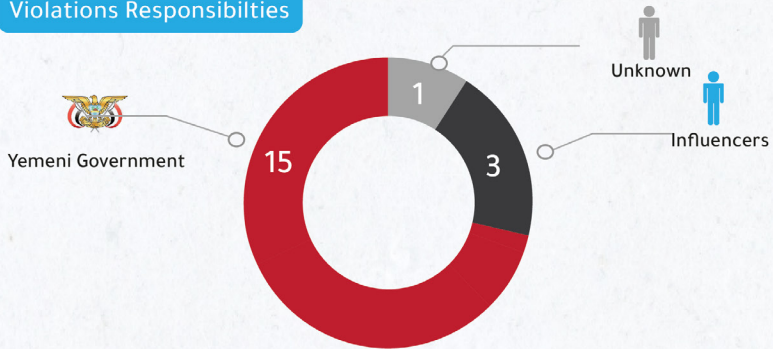
Detention

2

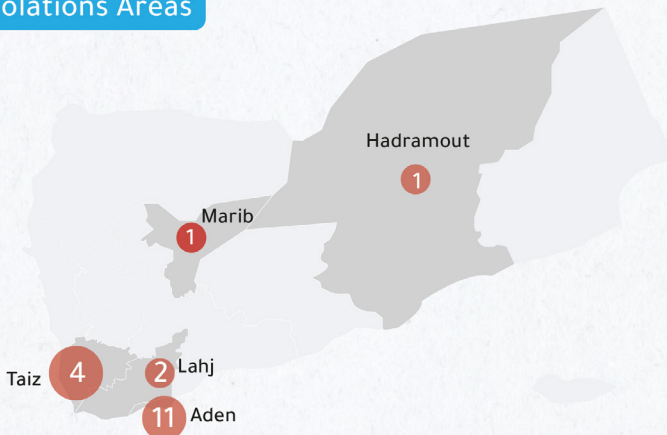


trial and  
summon  
journalists

## 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.

## Summary Executive

The “REPORT OF VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION IN YEMEN DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2022” monitors 19 violation cases against the freedom of the media. The most prominent case was the apprehension of journalist Ahmed Maher from his home in Aden, and, then, the forcible disappearance before he appeared in a video, during which the journalist was in front of an investigator coercing him to admit things hostile to the security of the state.

A number of journalists were also threatened, arrested, tried, and summoned in connection with publishing cases.

The cases of violations our team monitored took place in Taiz, Aden, Lahj, Hadramawt and Marib. The areas controlled by the internationally recognized Yemeni Government top the list of violations committed against journalists and social media activists since the beginning of this year. Second on the list is community-influential people who are individuals with no capacity to represent the authorities. Last, there is only one case registered against unknown persons.

On the other hand, the Houthi group “Ansar Allah” continues to arrest 13 journalists, four of whom were sentenced to death in connection with publication cases. The Group has been placing more restrictions on media and civil freedoms. The Houthi-controlled areas witness neither media nor opposition voices that differ with the Group’s orientations. The Houthi Group also exercises strict security control over published news and articles in the local media and the social media. Additionally, media outlets are compelled to work in line with the Group’s orientations and policies.

Observed violations monitored by the Observatory during the third quarter of this year 2022 varied between detention cases, assaults, arrests, threats, and trials of journalists, and storming into media outlets.

In connection with publishing cases, a multiplicity of journalists in the areas of the legitimate government were subject to arbitrary practices. For example, Mishaal Al- Khubaji, Ahed Khorasan, Raed Al-Ghazali and Imad Al-Masry were victims of such violations. Furthermore, the media outlets and journalists in these areas are facing complex circumstances and great challenges. For instance, in the temporary capital of Aden, the so-called National Southern Media Authority, a body affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, approved many decisions and procedures to restrict media freedoms in its areas of control, and target various media and journalists not in conformity with the directions of the Council. The Authority issued an order to stop Arab and international media offices from conducting television interviews with a number of journalists. Likewise, media outlets were requested to obtain prior permits from the Authority to conduct field coverage.

We affirm our continuity to defend Yemeni journalists by all means possible to maintain the climate of media freedoms and freedom of expression guaranteed by the Constitution and enforceable laws.

## Types of violations

During the first half of this year, the Media Freedom Observatory documented 19 violations against journalists: 12 of which were committed against individuals, be journalists or social media activists, representing 63 % of the total documented violations; and 7 cases against media outlets with a percentage of 37.

Individual violations were distributed between three cases of detention, two arrests, three threat cases, and one assault case, two cases of trials in connection with publishing cases, and a case of hacking a personal Facebook account of journalist Ahmed Pasha.

The Observatory recorded seven cases of violations against media organizations. They varied between storming into the building of the Journalists' Syndicate in Aden and preventing media offices from hosting certain journalists in satellite interviews.

## The geographical distribution of violations

Different areas in Yemen have witnessed violations against the media. The report registered 11 violation cases in the city of Aden, 4 cases in Taiz Province, 2 cases in Lahj Province, and 1 case in Hadramout and Marib each.

## Whose responsibility are these violations?

During the Third Quarter of 2022, the Yemeni Government came at the top of the violation perpetrators list with 15 violations out of the total recorded cases, three cases by influential people, and one case by unknown persons.



The Houthi-controlled territories witnessed a decreasing number of violations, but that does not necessarily mean an improvement in the index of freedom of press and expression there. In dire contrast, the Houthi group has been practicing all kinds of harassment, which has led to total absence of any media voice opposing the group.

Since the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, fell under the control of the Houthi group in September 2014, it has committed 75% of the violations recorded since the outbreak of the war in 2015 .

Using all means, the Houthi group has managed to silence every voice that does not submit to it. The group opened the doors of prisons to journalists. Those who were lucky got a chance to flee the firm grip of the Group get either internally or externally displaced.

The thirteen journalists, of whom four were sentenced to death, are still languishing behind its prisons. Their imprisonment is evidence of the terrible repressive practices against the media and journalists in Yemen.

## Arrest Cases



Arrest cases were intensified against journalists and media institutions in areas controlled by the international recognized Yemeni Government. These violations were committed by official bodies or entities affiliated with the government. The Observatory documented cases of arrests against journalists on the background of their media activity. Sadly, serious charges were brought against these journalists to the extent of accusing them of terrorism and destabilizing the security of the State.

Here comes a table showing the arrest cases against journalists during the Third Quarter of 2022.

No	Name	Violation Type	Violation Date	Province	Status
1	Ahmed Maher	Arrest	6 /8 /2022	Aden	Still detained
2	Ahd Al- Khorysan		16 /8 /2022	Lahj	Released

### Ahmed Maher - Journalist

- Journalist
- **Violation Type:** arrest
- **Place of arrest:** Aden
- **Arrest Date:** 6/8/2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni Government



Journalist and media activist Ahmed Maher was apprehended and forcibly disappeared on 6th August from his home due to his media activities and criticism for the living and security situations in the south. Security forces affiliated with Dar Saad District police station, Aden, did not only detain him, but also prevented his family from visit. His diabetic father was not safe from assault by security personnel.

Our team managed to contact Ahmed Maher's family<sup>1</sup>. His father stated "People in military uniforms apprehended his son Ahmed and Ahmed's older brother Mayyas from home. They were detained in Dar Saad police station. They were denied visitation."

When Mr Maher attempted to pay a visit to the detainees, the security forces assaulted him, confiscated his phone and car. He was also expelled from the building, preventing him from visit. Later, the two sons were forcibly disappeared.

After spending a month in detention, journalist Ahmed Maher appeared in a video in front of an investigator who was coercing him to confess works hostile to the security of the State.

The video was posted without any legal justification and out of context of the investigation and evidence collection procedures. Human rights activists believe the purpose of such an incidence is to continue the detention of journalist Ahmed Maher after a month passed since the day of his arrest. According to the law, police stations have no authority to detain anyone for more than 24 hours. A detained person in a police station is either released or his case is referred to the public persecution if there is sufficient evidence. In case of investigation, a judicial order must be obtained to detain anyone for more than seven days in accordance with the Penal Act.

Security forces turn a blind eye on the legal procedures, which is indicative of absence of justice in the case of journalist Ahmed Maher. Surprisingly, he was deprived of the right to have a lawyer, family's visitation, a chance to submit defenses against the accusations. His file was not referred to the public persecution within the timeframe according to the law. These constitute evidence against the investigation personnel and their approach to gather evidence.

After the family of journalist Ahmed received a report stating that he and his brother had been transferred to Bir Ahmed Prison, northwest of the city, the family demanded the urgent formation of an independent and impartial investigation committee to re-investigate the incident of their illegal arrest on 17th September.

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1 - It has been interviewed with the journalists family more than once, and the last one was on 25th Sep. 2022 -

### Ahd Al-Khorysan - Journalist

- Journalist- Sama News Platform
- **Violation type:** arrest
- **Place of arrest:** Lahj
- **Arrest Date:** 16th August, 2022



Journalist Ahd Al- Khorysan, writing in media outlets including Sama News, was arrested and attacked by soldiers affiliated with Lahj Province Security Head in connection with his media activities.

When we contacted him <sup>2</sup>, journalist Al- Khorysan informed us that on 6th August while he was in a market in Al-Houta District, Lahj Province, some security personnel took him by force from the market to place him under arrest from 10 am until 12 pm. Then he was released.

Ten days later, exactly on 16th August, while I was with my colleague Yaser Mansor in Al-Fayosh area, Tabin District, we were shocked to be attacked by three people in military uniforms. They assaulted me physically and verbally. Then, they took me by force to an FG car, and put me in the Headquarters of Security in Al-Houta. Again, I was assaulted by security personnel and threatened by Houta Security Department Head Awad Al-Shiln.

According to Al- Khorysan, the Head ordered him to stop writing against him. When Al- Khorysan refused, he was taken again to detention for four days without allowing him to contact anyone or be visited by his family.

In the end and to be released, he was coerced to sign a commitment not to publish or criticize the situation.

2 - It has been interviewed with Khorysan on 22nd Sep. 2022 -

## Detention Cases

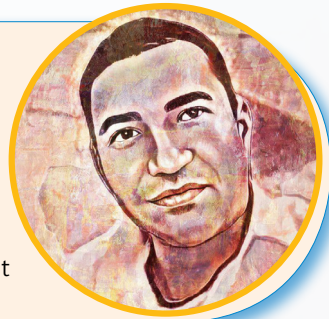


Three journalists were detained during the third quarter of this year due to their media activities. The violations occurred in areas under the control of the Yemeni Government.

NO	Name	Violation Type	Violation Date	Province	Status
1	Mish'al Al-Khabji	Detention	18/8/2022	Aden	Released
2	Raed Al-Ghazali	Detention	28/8/2022	Lahj	Released
3	Emad Al-Masri	Detention	25/8/2022	Mareb	Released

### Mish'al Al-Khabji - Journalist

- Journalist- Al Sharea Newspaper
- **Violation type:** detention
- **Detention Area:** Aden
- **Detention Date:** 18th August, 2022
- **Detaining Body:** Yemeni Government



On the background of a case filed by the Ministry of Transport against Al-Khabji, he was detained by the Sera Court of First Instance in Aden and had his phone confiscated. He was released with a bail.

On responding to our enquiry, the lawyer of Al- Khabji <sup>3</sup> assured us that after his client was fired arbitrarily, Al-Khabji lodged a case in the Administrative Court against General Transport Authority, affiliated with the Ministry of Transportation, to rule out the administration decision. The court ordered to reinstall his salary, but the Ministry refused to implement the court ruling.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Transport brought a lawsuit against Al-Khabji on charges of insult and defamation, of which the journalist claimed he

3 - It has been interviewed with Al-Khabji's lawyer on 28th Aug. 2022 -

had not received any court letter or notice. Two trial sessions were held without the knowledge of the journalist or his lawyer. When Al-Khabji went to the public persecution, the judge ordered to imprison him although the lawyer submitted a defense of not knowing of the trial. He was released with a bond to attend the hearing upon summoning.

After the intervention of tribal and influential mediators in Aden, the case of Al-Khabji was settled amicably.

The detention of the journalist came as a result of writing about financial corruption cases in the General Authority and Ministry of Transport, in which the minister, his office manager, and the acting chairman of the authority were accused.

### Raed Al-Ghazali - Journalist

- Journalist- Tomorrow Aden
- **Violation type:** Detention
- **Detention area:** Lahj
- **Detention date:** 28th August, 2022
- **Detaining body:** Yemeni Government



A military unit detained journalist Raed Al-Ghazali in one of the hotels in Lahj Province. He was released from Al-Qita'a Camp Prison, affiliated with the Fifth Brigade, Radfan, a day later. This is the fourth time to detain the journalist concerning his journalistic activities.

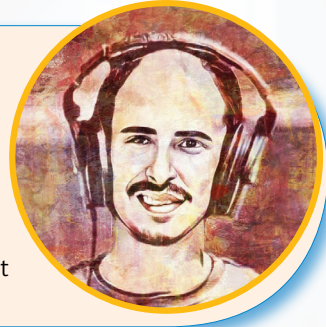
Journalist Al-Ghazali told <sup>4</sup> the Observatory team that on Saturday 27th August, he was attending a training course in a hotel in Al-Hubilian when a group of military soldiers, affiliated with the Fifth Brigade, Radfan, instructed him to follow them to the Al-Qita'a Camp. They added that it was the orders of the commander Mukhtar Al-Nobi. I agreed to go and upon arriving in the camp they detained me in the camp for one day without any charges or investigation or justification.

4 - It has been interviewed with Al-Ghazali on 28th Aug. 2022 -

Journalist Al-Ghazali was not subject to any investigation owing to the absence of any legal justification. Al-Ghazali is active on social media, which has made him the subject of arrests. This was the fourth time he was detained without any obvious reason.

### Emad Al-Masri - photographer

- Media photographer
- **Violation type:** Detention
- **Detention area:** Mareb
- **Detention date:** 25th August, 2022
- **Detaining body:** Yemeni Government



Media photographer Emad Al-Masri was subject to detention in the headquarters of the military police in Mareb, northeast. He was videoing a report for a foreign TV channel about the role of women before the detention. Later, he was released after writing a pledge not to video without obtaining a prior official permit.

We contacted the journalist who said <sup>5</sup>, “After I almost finished videoing a female activist in Mareb conducting a report for BBC channel about the role of woman in a community- the role of women in Mareb-, I was astonished to see a soldier in a military uniform asking to hand him my phone.” He added, “He asked to be given the phone, but didn’t ask for my media ID or the camera. He didn’t ask what we were videoing. Then, I declined his request, and offered him my media ID. I informed him about my job and we were in the middle to prepare a TV report. He called a police patrol vehicle to take me. One the way, I called the media secretary of the security chief to explain the situation. In the middle of the conversation, I was taken aback when a soldier took the cellphone away from me and couldn’t finish my phone call.” Al-Masri noted, “Upon our arrival in the military police headquarters, I was detained from the morning to sunset. I was declined to be released without writing a commitment not to photograph without obtaining a prior permit.”

5 - It has been interviewed with Al-Masri on 27th Aug, 2022

## Assault cases

A number of bodies and influential people resort to verbal or physical violence to silence or intimidate journalists who have opposite ideas. We would like to mention these stories of assault committed in response to published writings or posted opinions.

No	Name	Violation Type	Violation Date	Province	Status
1	Amer Al-Ameri	Attack	29/9/2022	Taiz	Perpetrators at large

### Amer Al-Ameri - photographer

- Media photographer
- **Violation type:** attack
- **Detention area:** Taiz
- **Detention date:** 29th September, 2022
- **Detaining body:** influential party



Amer Al-Ameri, a photographer, was subject to assault by an armed group. He added that on 9th September, he was stopped by an armed group affiliated with Taiz Military Axe, and, then, he was beaten. He lodged a complaint against the armed group but until writing this report nothing has happened so far.

Al-Ameri has been working as a photographer since 2013 for local and foreign channels including Dubai News TV, Saudi channels, BBC, Al Hurra, Abu Dhabi, Yemen TV, and Alghad Almushreq TV.



## Threat Cases

No	Name	Violation Type	Violation Date	Province
1	Fuad Mosaid	Threat	10 /9 /2022	Aden
2	Mohammed Abdulmalik	Threat	25 /8 /2022	Taiz
3	Salah Al-Afif	Threat	13 /8 /2022	Taiz

### Fuad Mosaid - correspondent

- Anadolu Agency correspondent
- **Violation type:** threat
- **Threat area:** Aden
- **Threat date:** 10th September, 2022
- **Perpetuating body:** Yemeni Government



The National Southern Media Authority in Aden Province prevented journalist Fuad Mosaid from appearing in a live broadcast on the pretext that he was among the list of prohibited people from being interviewed. The Authority requires the media to obtain prior permits for each journalist or other person before appearing in an intervention on TV.

Our team contacted the journalist Mosaid <sup>6</sup> and he confirmed “On the evening of Tuesday, 6th September, one of the Arabic-speaking BBC coordinators contacted him and asked him to participate in an interview on the latest developments and the interview would be at 8:00 pm, Yemeni local time, which was the time of the news bulletin.”

Mosaid added, “I arrived at the broadcast office of the private company, and shortly before the interview took place, the coordinator asked me

6 - It has been interviewed with Fuad Mosaid on 18th Sep. 2022

to wait a little while and went out. He made a call to someone, the content of which I have no clue. Later, he came to apologize that he couldn't make the interview since my name was listed as one of the people who are prohibited from being interviewed. I asked him which authority had banned me. He said that the decision was made by the National Southern Media Authority. He added: It was not you alone on the list; there are others too.”

### Mohammed Abdulmalik - Journalist

- Journalist, Taiz Time News
- **Violation type:** threat
- **Threat area:** Aden
- **Threat date:** 25th September, 2022
- **Perpetuating body:** an Emirati security officer



Journalist Mohammed Abdulmalik was subject to threats on 25th August, from an Emirati security officer in connection with publication cases.

We, Media Freedom Observatory, received a report that Mohammed Abdulmalik was threatened by Dhahi Khalfan, the former Deputy Chief of Police and General Security in Dubai. The threat was in connection with publication of the platform run by the journalist of a video that shows a Yemeni individual getting in the way of Dhahi Khalfan and accusing Emirates of taking part in the obliteration of Yemen and displacement of Yemenis.

The post by Dhahi Khalfan contained implicit threats against journalist Mohammed Abdulmalik whose picture and name were explicitly displayed in the post. Dhahi Khalfan asked for further information about the journalist. He described the journalist in a way that may threaten the life of the journalist. He depicted the journalist as 'dihbashi'- a pejorative term used to describe northern people living in the south- and affiliation with Muslim Brotherhood.

## 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/>

### Salah Al-Afif - Journalist

- Journalist, Yemen Shabab Channel
- **Violation type:** threat
- **Threat area:** Taiz
- **Threat date:** 13th September, 2022
- **Perpetuating body:** unknown



Journalist Salah Al-Afif received threat messages on his Facebook account from an unknown individual in connection with his media publications. The name of the unknown individual on Facebook is alqadem ajmal (which means Tomorrow is better).

Al-Afif confirmed to us that he received a threat message from an account carrying the name alqadem ajmal in connection with a post narrating that armed individuals tried to attack him on Wadi Al-Qadhi Street, Taiz. It is the second incident where the journalist has received intimidating messages from unknown people.

Salah Al-Afif works in Yemen Shabab TV and writes in several news platforms.

## Trials of Journalists

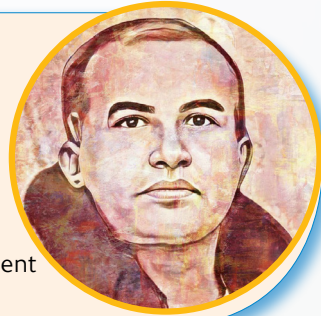
The Media Freedom Observatory documented a number of trials against Yemeni journalists in connection with media publications during the period of writing the report.

Here is a brief introduction about these trials, most of which took place in areas under the control of the internationally recognized Yemeni Government.

No	Name	Violation Type	Violation Date	Province
1	Adnan Al-Ajam	Trial	6 /9 /2022	Aden
2	Sabri bin Makhashin	Trial	21 /9 /2022	Hadhramout

### Adnan Al-Ajam - Journalist

- Journalist, Al-Omana newspaper
- **Violation type:** trial
- **Threat area:** Aden
- **Threat date:** 6th September, 2022
- **Perpetuating body:** Yemeni Government



The Sira Public Prosecution Office in Aden summoned journalist Adnan Al-Ajam, editor-in-chief of Al-Omana newspaper, in regard to the complaint filed by Aden Province Deputy Ghassan Al-Zamki. The complaint concerns a publication case about financial irregularities in the expenditures of government projects.

Our team contacted the journalist <sup>7</sup>, who confirmed his interrogation by the First Instance Prosecution of Sira in connection with an opinion article written months ago about financial irregularities in the expenditures of government projects. In the hearing session, journalist Al-Ajam defended his position and accuracy of his writing. Meanwhile, a number

7 - It has been interviewed with Al-Ajam on 18th Sep.

of journalists gathered in the courtyard of the prosecution in conjunction with the session, declaring their solidarity with the journalist.

Two weeks later, the case was resolved amicably after the intervention of the governor of Aden Province, Ahmed Lamlas.

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>

### Sabri bin Makhashin - Journalist

- Journalist
- **Violation type:** trial
- **Threat area:** Hadhramout
- **Threat date:** 21st September, 2022
- **Perpetuating body:** Yemeni Government



The Specialized Criminal Court of First Instance in Mukalla, the capital of Hadhramaut Province, in the east of the country, summoned journalist Sabri Salmeen bin Makhashin to attend a session scheduled for 21st September, 2022 against the background of publication cases.

We contacted journalist Makhashin <sup>8</sup> who confirmed that he was surprised to receive a request to attend the trial session on 21st September, 2022. For him, it goes against the promises made by the new Hadhramaut governor Mabkhout Bin Madi to protect media freedom and to abolish all sentences and cases against journalists.

After Mukhashin's lawyer attended the session, he was allowed to photograph the case file. Mukhashin was being tried in absentia. The trial was postponed to the 24th of October to allow him to present his defense.

Sabri bin Makhashin is a journalist who has been arrested and subjected to a lot of harassment and prosecutions against the background of his journalistic writings. He eventually managed to escape from Hadhramaut Province where he was arrested and imprisoned in 2018 for two months in solitary confinement for his journalistic writings. After his exit from Yemen, the authorities reported him as a fugitive and requested his arrest via the Interpol.

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8 - It has been interviewed with bin Makhashin on 26th Sep. 2022 -

## Journalists and media foundations have been prosecuted

No	Name	lawsuit against him	lawsuit against him	Governorate	Trial started date
1	Yasser Mansoor	Attorney West Lahij	defamation	Lahj	20 May 2022
2	Yemen voice Radio	Journalism and Publications Court - Appeal Prosecutor's Office	disturbs the public peace	Sana'a	11 July 2022
3	Halah Badhawi	Specialized Criminal Prosecution	disturbs the public peace	Hadramawt	31 January 2022
4	Abdulkhaleq Emran	Specialized Criminal Appeals Division	Rumoring false news and disturbs the public peace	Sana'a	9 December 2019
5	Hareth Hameed	Specialized Criminal Appeals Division	Rumoring false news and disturbs the public peace	Sana'a	9 December 2019
6	Tawfeeq Almansory	Specialized Criminal Appeals Division	Rumoring false news and disturbs the public peace	Sana'a	9 December 2019
7					
8	Akram Alwaledi	Specialized Criminal Appeals Division	Rumoring false news and disturbs the public peace	Sana'a	9 December 2019
9	Obaid Waked	Public Funds Court	Insult Public Facility	Hadramawt	8 June 2021
10	Mohammed Alyazedi	Public Funds Court	Incitement and disturbs the public peace	Hadramawt	14 October 2020
	Abdullah Bakir	Hadramawt Court of appeal	Formation of an armed gang and disturbs the public peace	Hadramawt	20 November 2020
11	Awadh Kashmem	Hadramawt Court of appeal	Incitement and disturbs the public peace	Hadramawt	14 May 2019
12	Sabri Salmeen Ibn Mkhashen	Specialized Criminal Prosecution	Incitement and disturbs the public peace	Hadramawt	6 April 2019

## Media Organizations

Local media, correspondents and offices of foreign channels and foreign broadcasting offices face plenty of harassment. In addition, many conditions to limit their freedom of activity and professional media work are imposed.

In the city of Aden, in the south of the country, the National Southern Media Authority, a body formed by the Southern Transitional Council, has placed many restrictions with the aim of regulating the work of media outlets working in the south. These restrictions are conducive to a reduction in the freedom of these media in field coverage.

On the other hand, the local media, the offices of foreign channels and broadcast offices, in the Houthi-controlled areas in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, have faced raids, closures and looting. The city is devoid of media outlets and foreign media offices, except for some institutions that are allowed by the official authorities under the condition they work within the Group's guidelines and measures to ensure the censorship of the content.

The media in various Yemeni regions are working under highly restrictive pressures with the aim of restricting and limiting their media activities. For example, in Aden City restrictions imposed by the National Southern Media Authority are to tighten and curb the freedom of opinion and expression.



ρ	Media outlet	Type	Province	Violation type	Perpetrator	the status quo
1	Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate-Aden	Media Institution	Aden	Raid	Yemeni Government	Eviction
2	International Media Agency	Media Office	Aden	Harassment and restriction of media freedom	Yemeni Government	Not allowed
3	ABS	Media Office	Aden	Harassment and restriction of media freedom	Yemeni Government	Not allowed
4	Media Digital Yemen	Media Office	Aden	Harassment and restriction of media freedom	Yemeni Government	Not allowed
5	RT	TV channel	Aden	Harassment and restriction of media freedom	Yemeni Government	Not allowed
6	Al Hurra	TV channel	Aden	Harassment and restriction of media freedom	Yemeni Government	Not allowed
7	BBC	TV channel	Aden	Harassment and restriction of media freedom	Yemeni Government	Not allowed

## **New restrictions on the media in Aden**

The Aden-based National Southern Media Authority, a body affiliated with the secessionist Southern Transitional Council, issued a circular to external broadcast offices working with Arab and international media channels. The circular contains a list of Yemeni personalities, including journalists, who are prohibited from being hosted and appearing on channels.

The Authority obliged broadcast offices to send the name of the would-be interviewee to the authority for approval in advance of the broadcast. Then, the Authority will decide whether to approve or reject the request.

Based on these directives, we documented cases of decline, as journalist Fouad Mosiad was prevented from participating in a television interview on the Arabic-speaking BBC channel.

The Authority exercises control over the work of media channels and their correspondents. It has prevented the RT, Al Hurra, and BBC channels, as well as broadcast companies, including the International Media Agency, IBS, and Yemen Digital Media, from preparing press coverage and preparing reports on various aspects, political, economic, and humanitarian. They are first required to obtain a prior permission from the Authority.

Those media were prevented from covering the military events that took place in August in Shabwa between government forces vs the forces of the Southern Transitional Council and the forces of the Giants Brigades.

The Authority allows the media outlets affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council, such as UNI Company, the Aden Independent Channel, Alghad Almushreq TV, and other media outlets to carry out field coverage.

Unfortunately, independent media outlets encounter unprecedented restrictions imposed by the Transitional Council in Aden during the last phase. The media outlets operating in the city of Aden have gradually been in line with the directions of the Authority controlling the temporary capital of Yemen and the seat of the internationally recognized Yemeni Government.

## Storming the Journalists Syndicate Headquarters - Aden

Security forces from the Security Belt in Al-Tawahi District, Aden Province, raided and stormed into the headquarters of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate branch on 20th September. The forces withdrew hours later, after the intervention of Aden Governor Ahmed Lamlas.

The head of the Syndicate branch in Aden, Mahmoud Thabet, is subjected to constant persecution and threats against the background of the activities of office in the province.

The Board of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate in Aden called on the Syndicate Council, the Arab Journalists Union and the International Federation of Journalists to take a firm stance towards storming the Syndicate's headquarters. It calls for the need to exert pressure to protect the Syndicate branch and its employees.

This is the second incident of storming a media institution building in Aden City during the recent period. During this incidence, the forces stormed the building of the Yemeni News Agency, Saba, and expelled the employees before changing the name of the agency.

## Journalists still behind bars <sup>9</sup>

No	Name	Date of arrest	No of days behind bars <sup>10</sup>	Current place of detention	Violation Responsibility
1	Waheed Al-Soufi	2015/04/30	٢٦١٨ يوم	Sana'a	Houthi group
2	Abdul Khaliq Omran	2015/06/09	٢٥٧٨ يوم	Sana'a	Houthi group
3	Tawfiq Al-Mansouri	2015/06/09	٢٥٧٨ يوم	Sana'a	Houthi group
4	Akram Al-Walidy	2015/06/09	٢٥٧٨ يوم	Sana'a	Houthi group
5	Harith Hamid	2015/06/09	٢٥٧٨ يوم	Sana'a	Houthi group
6	Mohammed Al-Salahi	2018/10/20	١٣٤٩ يوم	Sana'a	Houthi group
7	Nabil Al-Soudi	2015/9/21	٢٤٧٤ يوم	Sana'a	Houthi group
8	Younes Abdul Salam	2021/08/03	٣٣١ يوم	Sana'a	Houthi group
9	Mohammad Ali Al-Junaid	2019/02/23	١٢٢٣ يوم	Hodeidah	Houthi group
10	Walid Al-Matari	2020/06/20	٧٤٠ يوم	Father	Houthi group
11	Mohammed Al-Hatami	2018/10/04	١٣٦٥ يوم	Hodeidah	Houthi group
12	Mohammed Al-Muqri	2015/10/12	٢٤٥٣ يوم	Hadramout	Al-Qaida organization
13	Khalid Abdul Rahman	2022/02/19	١٣١ يوم	Sana'a	Houthi group
14	Nabil Sultan	2022/02/19	١٣١ يوم	Sana'a	Houthi group
15	Ahmed Maher	2022/ 8/ 6	٥٦ يوم	Aden	Legitimate government

<sup>9</sup> - Until 30th Sep. 2022

<sup>10</sup> - From the arresting date until 30 Sep. 2022



**Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC) 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**

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**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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