



مركز حماية وحرية الصحفيين

Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists



Media Freedom Status in Jordan 2016

Prohibition on Publication

Media Freedom Status in Jordan 2016

Executive Summary

Report's Team

General Supervision:

Nidal Mansour

Executive President, Center for Defending
Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ)

Review and Development:

Nigad El-Borai

Chairman - United Law Group

Chief Researcher:

Muhammad F. Ghunaim

Research and Communication Manager / CDFJ

Analysis of Journalists' Opinion Survey:

Walid Husni Zahrah

Legal Consultations:

Lawyer Khaled Khleifat

Lawyer Abdul Rahman Al-Sharari

Media Legal Aid Unit (Melad)

Monitoring Team:

Rasheed Ali - Nayef Munjed - Ziyad Al-Khatib

Journalists' Opinion Survey Team

Researchers at the Accurate Opinion for Public
Opinion Measurement Company

Raya Al-Huwaydi - Ola Al-Zghayyar - Fayzah Al-
Maharmeh - Sara Abdul-Rahman - Wa'd Banat -
Fatimah Al-Maharmeh - Muhammad Sa'd Eddin

Linguistic Translation: Tania Khoury

Design and Layout: Kamel Abu Yahya

Technical Supervision: Haytham Abu Atiyyeh



Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Preface | 07 |
| Media Freedom and Lost Opportunities | 07 |
| Introduction | 11 |
| Executive Summary of the Media Freedom Status in Jordan 2016 | 13 |
| Summary of Part 1 | 14 |
| Surveying Journalists, Opinion on the Media Freedom Status in Jordan 2016 | |
| Summary of Part 2 | 28 |
| The Reality of Complaints and Violations 2016 | |
| Recommendations | 42 |
| Activity of the Media Legal Aid Unit for Journalists «MELAD» | 45 |



Preface

Media Freedom and Lost Opportunities

*Nidal Mansour

Casting aside some legal and governmental orders to ban media publication during 2016 – which were the exceptions though – it can be easily said that the state of media freedoms in Jordan did not witness any notable serious setbacks. By the same token, it is not untrue to admit that worthy progress in media freedom is far from being reality.

Like in pervious years, we reproduce the same media scene. In fact, we are neither capable of getting rid of autocratic mindset – that hinder progress – nor we accept that media is an inescapable watchdog. They are yet to accept these changes during the age of new media as each person can have his or her media forum that can be hardly monitored. Besides, no one can control the contents of what is being broadcasted or read. On the other hand, we cannot underestimate or deny that the media in Jordan, whether the old or the new one, is making progress despite common restrictions. Obviously, media is no longer subject to control.

Frankly speaking, consecutive Jordanian governments, with all their shortcomings, have kept the doors opened and refrained from declaring hostility towards the press. Security agencies do not interfere blatantly in the press. Besides, they try their best to avert any friction with the media.

Sixteen years have elapsed since the first report on State of Media Freedoms in Jordan was published and 18 years since CDFJ was established. We continue to have a room for work, movement, stinging criticism of mistakes, abuses, and violations. Moreover, gates are opened for us for dialogue, consultation, and constructive work with the government. This is a credit for Jordan the homeland. Hence, I do not wish to overshadow the report with a state of pessimism and darkness.

I rather hope for change and advance more steps forward, and positive engagement with adult voices that believe that the media freedom does

not represent a looming danger, but rather a solid base for reform and reinforcing democracy, rule of law, and achievement of sustainable development.

Notwithstanding occasional setbacks, restrictions, and lack of attention, I am still convinced that Jordan still has an historic opportunity to embark on a different trajectory from the region – a region which is plagued by fires, autocracy and violations of human rights.

I am convinced that my country is different. The regime's legitimacy is not under question. There has neither been animosity between the monarch and the people nor bloodshed. The King's discussion papers, especially his decisive and clear speech about the rule of law, citizenship, and civil society are the key to the solution to retrieve the roadmap towards reinforcing human rights and preserving and respecting the freedom of expression and the media.

It is not the right equation to view security as the antithesis of human rights. Time has proved this lopsided logic false. We do not want to give up on security of the individual and that of the nation, in its comprehensive dimension. And yet, it should not lead to giving up human rights and freedoms.

Our problem and that of the freedom of expression and the media, and the state of human rights in general, is with those who want to impose a one-track agenda, without realizing its ramifications on Jordan, its reputation, and its status within the international community.



Let us again raise the question being discussed by the State of Media Freedoms Report 2016. Reality indicates that we have not yet emerged from the state of stalemate. We advance one step forward, two steps back. Why does the government continue to sometime see nothing beyond the end of its nose? When it come up with a legislation, it turns it to be a tool for further restriction. Why do they think that when they ban publication the problem ends and that information will not reach people in the era of social media?!

A question is followed by another one and yet the lump in the throat persists, as does the pain for wasting opportunities to achieve progress. While violations continue, accountability is non-existent. Policies celebrate freedoms, but crack down on them openly and secretly. It is as if they bet that the society is void of a memory and that glittering slogans obscure facts.

Our 2016 report reveals facts. Frustration is dominating the scene, and journalists continue to see, one way or another, that the state of freedoms has not improved. They also feel that legislations restraint their freedoms and interference and containment attempts continue. Taboos are expanding rather than receding, and the separation the lines between what is permitted and what is subject to penalties are grey.

Figures are revealing and cannot be concealed. Those among journalists surveyed who believe that the state of freedoms is retreating amounted to 39.4%, and those who described media freedoms as low were 27%, while those who believed that it is excellent were 1.5%.

Legislations remained an obsession of great concern. Those surveyed who believed legislations constrict freedoms were 55.3%, and those who considered it supportive of media freedoms were 11.3%.

Violations never stopped, and "AIN" Program for monitoring and documenting violations has continued working diligently to monitor the restrictions and violations to which journalists are subjected. The fact worth mentioning is that violations, in their serious sense, particularly physical ones, have receded, but those related to prohibiting coverage, concealing information, and circulars prohibiting publishing, remained and indeed increased. It is noteworthy to say that some journalists continue canceling what they are subjected to and prefer not to reveal it, especially after their income and living security problems have exacerbated.

We do not reveal a secret when we say that most serious violations against journalists take place in areas of crises and hot events. Skirmishes take place when law enforcement personnel strive to prevent journalists from coverage and practicing their professions, forcing them to stay away from the event location, even if they had to confiscate their cameras and clash with them.

This recurring practice reflects negligence and lack of clarity in the instructions given to law enforcement personnel regarding journalists. The best example was the large number of violations that took place against media professionals when covering the parliamentary elections in September 2016.

It is clear that the law enforcement personnel require training in dealing with media outlets during important events and crises locations. There is a need for a "protocol" among security men in dealing with the media that restricts their rights in accordance with international legal standards and best practices, and in a manner that does not prejudice the security situation.

There are three basic main issues that continue to form a challenge for the media freedom – which have persisted in 2016 – that have not been addressed by consecutive governments, and which persisted in 2016. They are related to laws, policies, and practices.

The law system is confining, and despite government promises to amend them to be more compatible with international standards and not to jeopardize constitutional rights or oppose conventions signed and ratified by Jordan, they have remained the same.

Jordan made pledges during the periodic comprehensive review of human rights in Geneva in 2013 to amend the Press and Publications Law to support the freedom of expression and the internet, but failed to do so. It also pledged to amend the Law guaranteeing access to information, and until now, amendments submitted by the government to the parliament in 2011 are still in the Council's drawers and have not been ratified. Although we agree that these amendments are positive, they still fail to address problems and gaps in the law that hinder its implementation.

Furthermore, we cannot overlook the urgent need for amending the Penal Code, the State Security Court, the Anti-Terrorism Law, the Electronic Crimes Law, and the Press Association Law. They all form pressure tools against journalists and use their articles to criminalize and punish journalists.

The recurring phenomenon in 2015 and 2016 was the legal and governmental instructions banning publication, which were used excessively by the public prosecution and the Media Commission, although they represent a violation of the constitution and the law, as well as article (19) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. These circulars represent prior censorship, reinforce and dedicate self-censorship among journalists, and prevent the right of society to knowledge and information.

Perhaps it is important to point out in this context that the Director of the Media Commission, Lawyer Muhammad Qteishat, pledged since he assumed this position on 16 October, 2016, not to issue any circulars banning publication.

Regarding policies, the media strategy the government come up with – and undertook to implement after being ratified by HM King Abdullah – was a model of intractability. The period assigned for implementing it expired without completing the legislative amendments package, and without ratifying a law or regulation for the Complaints Council. The positive point that was established was the beginning to work on launching the first public television channel carrying the name "The Kingdom," which is expected to go on air by the end of 2017.

Regarding violations, and away from the language of numbers and classification, the biggest problem is that violators enjoy impunity as accountability is absent. This is an issue over which Jordan has been repeatedly questioned in legal circles.

The media is in crisis. This is an issue that is not related to the government and its practices alone. To be fair, the media profession is under threat. Professionalism is receding, and the chaos of information and the rumor machine are rampant. Ethics and codes of behavior are battered. Besides, the press is eroding and its resources are drying. Journalists are being ejected by their institutions and therefore became unemployed. This requires solutions, ideas, and packages in the face of hazards and the deadlock.

We continue our work in defending media freedoms, and continue to insist on human rights values, on which we shall never give up. We shall not restrict our activities to reports that monitor the state of affairs, but shall extend our hand, with all honesty, to work together to confront problems and provide solutions. We shall remain loyal, test the waters and seek change, because Jordan is a homeland that deserves more and better.

*** EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT**

Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists

Introduction

CDFJ continues to publish its Media Freedom Status in Jordan Report for the 16th year, seeking to present a realistic image of the state of the media and the challenges it faces.

Every year, CDFJ tries to develop its annual report, and this has by itself become a challenge, for media freedoms are no more a priority in the view of the war against terrorism and the increase in the security obsession and the concern resulting from the large influx of refugees.

Nevertheless, CDFJ continues to question the new developments in the field of the media, waging battles of positive clashes with governments, in the hope that it would succeed in improving the media environment and achieve a victory on the media freedom's front.

The report evaluates the media professionals' perception of the state of the media, and the investigative questions it poses represent an exploration inside the journalists' minds and what concerns them. At the same time, the report represents an early warning "monitoring station" for encroachments, problems, and violations against media professionals and their institutions as they practice their profession.

The findings of the report are not a simple matter, for it has become an important document and reference to measure the state of the media freedom in Jordan in view of journalists' pressures and their livelihood security, and their resorting to reticence and non-disclosure. Their daily bread has come to take priority, and the constricting legislations take care of the remaining freedom margins.

This report, with all its details, information, and questions it attempts to answer, is published to diagnose the media freedom status in Jordan, and to present its case to decision-makers, legislators, and the local public opinion, and obviously, to media professionals themselves and civil society organizations, and, surely, both

houses of parliament, to be a guide, a manual, and a contributor to reinforcing the capacities of all stakeholders, to overcome the negative aspects and push in the direction achieving gains for the benefit of media freedom, or at least attempt to reduce the recurrence of violations.

The report is keen on presenting the realistic image of the media freedoms' status. Those who prepared it did not attempt to interfere outside the sphere of human rights on which the report, with all its contents and foundations, was based. Any positions taken by CDFJ are merely within the rights as well, and remain within the report's theme and objectives.

When preparing this report, CDFJ did not overlook reviewing the result of monitoring and documentation processes undertaken by "AIN" program since 2010 and until the end of 2016, connecting the information therein. Important and prominent results that cannot be overlooked do surface in the context of an ongoing process, namely, monitoring and documentation.

Over the past six years, "AIN" has documented 1056 violations against journalists and media institutions in Jordan, all of which took place along the background of media work and media freedoms. "AIN" seeks to monitor violations caused or instigated by the practice of media work only. It is not within its mandate to monitor violations outside the media framework.

During 2016, the report recorded 135 violations of media professionals' and media freedoms' rights. These took place in 34 cases of assault, 18 of which were individual and 16 were group-related, targeting all journalists, as part of the monitoring and documentation operations carried out by monitors and researchers at "AIN." 67 male and female media professional from various media institutions such as print, electronic, satellite channels, and reporters were subjected to these violations. Five media institutions all belonging to the special media independent from the state were also subjected to different violations, ranging from blocking

news sites, prohibition from satellite broadcasting, or making the broadcast process prohibitively difficult. In other words, media professional were subjected to 93% of the violations, while media institutions were subjected to 7% of the total violations.

The report maintained the presentation format it used in 2015, falling into two main sections. In Section 1, entitled "Survey of Journalists' Opinions," CDFJ was keen to upgrade it by adding new developments in the media arena, and deleting enquiries that are now considered aging. Section 2 presents the status of complaints and violations to which media professional and media institutions were subjected during 2016.

Perhaps the most prominent parts of the journalists' response to the survey questions include the increasing conviction that media outlets contributed to fueling the violence and exclusionary rhetoric, reaching 89%. Facebook assumed the top position among media outlets in promoting the hate speech, at a rate of 37.2%, followed by websites at 18.8%.

As for self-censorship indicators imposed by media professional on themselves, their indicators were very high at 93.6% in 2016, which is a slightly higher ratio than 2015. The increase in the ratio of media professional who avoid government criticism was noticeable at 54%, with an increase of 14% over 2011. There was also an increase in in the ratio of those who avoid addressing religious issues, reaching 83%, with an increase of about 6% over 2015.

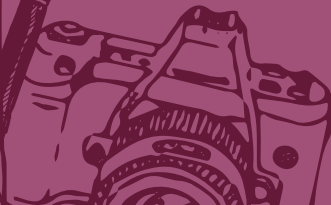
Section 2 presented the most documented cases, which included a number of assaults on human rights. It presented violations related to circulars prohibiting publishing, whose number reached 10 circulars, and their effect on increasing practices of self-censorship by journalists, as a result of these circulars. The report stated that they contradict international standards regarding freedom of opinion and expression.

In 2016, "AIN" program received 13 complaints, which exceeds the number of complaints received in 2015 by one. All complaints included violations against the freedom of the media. In addition to complaints, the "AIN" program team monitored 26 cases that included violations of media freedoms that were investigated and documented according to the rules.

Cases presented by the report in Section 2 reaffirm that the impunity policy regarding the violations committed against media professionals are still common in Jordan. The authorities have not taken any substantial or serious steps to stop acting on this policy, which has been followed for many years, and to take the necessary measures to redress the victims and hold the perpetrators accountable for the violations affecting the rights of journalists.

The report presented its recommendations in a well-studied manner based on its reading of the true status and the information derived from research and investigation of the media freedom status and their problems in Jordan. It stressed in its recommendations what may lead to real reform and change, directing these recommendations at actors and effective participants who are capable of achieving them on the ground.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Executive Summary

1. Part 1: Journalists' Survey 2016

The blockade against the media in Jordan continued throughout 2016, and the government and state law enforcement systems continued to consolidate and tighten its grip, or to impose prior self-censorship and to interfere in what the press publishes.

The year 2016 was replete with an unprecedented surge in decisions to prohibit publishing, after 2015 registered an unusual return of the detention and imprisonment in the wake of ratifying article (11) of the Electronic Crimes Law.

Siege and prosecution are no more restricted to professional media outlets. 2016 witnessed an increase in harassing social communication media and prosecuting some of their users, accusing them of promoting a hate speech.

Media freedom indicators in Jordan, in view of this environment, did not register any progress, and continued to point their compass towards retreat.

The 2016 Media Freedom Status revealed that 84.6% of media professionals describe press freedoms as low, acceptable, or medium. Only 13% believe that they are high and only 5% believe that they are excellent.

In the same direction, 39.4% believe that the media freedom status witnessed a retreat, and 44.4% believe that freedoms remained the same. Only 16.6% expressed their content and believed that they progressed.

79.3% believed that the prohibition from publishing circulars issued by the Media Commission or other parties represented prior censorship and harassment against media freedom.

Media professionals in Jordan are convinced that the security agencies are the more influential on the media scene, at 24%, followed by the government at 18%, the Royal Court at 10.2%, and that the least influential are the media professionals themselves at less than 1%.

The indicators of self-censorship remain very high at 93.6% in 2016, at a slightly higher rate than 2015. It was noticeable that the ratio of media practitioners who avoid criticizing the government was 54%, with a 14% increase over 2011. The number of journalists who avoided addressing religious issues also increased to 83%, with a 6% increase over 2015.

88% avoid criticizing the security system, while 84.2% avoid discussing sexual issues.

The 2016 survey, which covered 266 media professionals revealed the magnitude of contradictions in the journalists' perceptions and their urgent need for raising their legal awareness.

The survey revealed an increase in conviction that media outlets contributed to fueling the violence and exclusion-of-the-other address among media professionals, reaching 89%. Facebook assumed the top position in promoting the hate speech at a ratio of 37.2%, followed by websites at 18.8%.

It was remarkable in the survey results that 93.6% approve making penalties more stringent for those who promote the hate speech in the media or social media outlets.

The 2016 survey included a development of its questionnaire forms by updated many questions. Some areas were expanded, such as the axis related to the hate speech in social media. A number of questions were also made shorter in the self-censorship axis due to the repetition and closeness of results over the past few years.

The survey study relied on the same contexts related to the axis of describing the media freedom status in Jordan, in addition to shortening some of the questions related to media legislations and their effect on the state of the media.

The survey also focused on publishing prohibition circulars which were issued in large numbers this year, the scope of their effect

on media freedom, and the extent to which they are compatible with the constitution, local laws, and international standards. It kept most of the exploratory and induction questions related to the axis of violations to which media professionals were subjected in 2016.

The survey expanded in asking many questions regarding the effect of the imprisonment of social communications media on the freedom of expression, and the extent to which this is compatible with the constitution, laws, and international standards on the freedom of opinion and expression. At the same time, the survey resorted to reducing questions related to containing journalists, settling for two questions only due to the repetition of information over the past years, and for the lack of any new information that can be provided in this respect.

This year's survey also focused on the self-regulation axis, completing the attention started in 2015, while rephrasing some questions and discarding others.

Perhaps the most important axis is the one related to social media outlets, which enjoyed a clear interest in the 2015 survey study, in addition to the hate speech, for reasons related to their current importance, and due to the fact that they are interconnected, since the accusations are that social media outlets are the largest producer of the hate speech.

The government's expansion in referring social media users to the judiciary and prosecuting them was a sufficient reason to focus on this axis, especially since the government is aiming towards issuing a new legislation to reduce the hate speech in the media and social media.

1.1 Survey Population and Sample

The study population is composed of 1153 media professionals and journalists, based on member records at the Press Association, and lists of CDFJ, which were updated up to the date the survey was conducted between 8/12/2016 and 24/12/2016.

The systematic random sample method was used in designing the study sample, with a confidence level of 95%, and a standard error of 5.27%. Journalists and media professionals were divided into two categories in a manner commensurate with the volume of each category, as follows:

- Category One: Includes journalists and media professionals in the government sector, at a ratio of 23.1% within the framework.
- Category Two: Includes journalists and media professionals working in the private sector, with a ratio of about 76.9%.

Journalists and media professionals were distributed within each category according to sex, and according to magnitude. The ratio of male journalists and media professionals was (77.7%), while the ratio of female journalists and media professionals working within the framework was (22.3%).

The ratio of active journalists and media professionals registered at the Press Association was (79.4%), while the ratio of journalists and media professionals who were not registered at the Association was about (20.6%). Since the ratio of journalists who are currently not working was relatively low, and the sample size was about 55 journalists and media professionals, the sample size was increased for this category to give a higher representation, up to 65 journalists and media professionals.

The ration of journalists and media professionals working in the public sector was 25.9%, and in the private sector 74.1%. In terms of experience, the ratio of those with more than 20 years of experience was 46.6%, those with 10 -19 years of experience were 35.5%, and those with experience between 1 and 9 years were 18%.

The ratio of respondents working in the daily press was 39.1%, in television and satellite channels 18%, in news websites 15.4%, in news agencies 13.2%, in civil society institutions 4.1%, in local radios 3%, in periodicals 2.6%,

independents 2.3%, and in government institutions 1.5%. The lowest ratio was for those working in magazines at 0.8%.

The ratio of journalists' response in the survey was 95.5%, while the non-response ratio was 4.1%.

In terms of education, 41.4% of the respondent sample members have academic degrees in journalism and media, 12.8% in political science, 10.9% in management and economics, and 10.5% in the arts and literature.

In terms of the job title of the main work in journalism for the respondent sample, the ratio of senior editors in the sample was 18.4%, followed by a journalist at 17.3%, managing editor at 12.4%, chief editor at 10.2%, editing secretary at 7.1%, and a columnist at 5.3%.

The ratio of program preparers in the respondent sample was 4.1%, media consultant 3.8%, and photojournalist 3%. The ratios of news anchor, general manager, and director was equal at 2.3%. The ratio of head of section was 2.6%, office manager 1.9%, photographer and program preparer at 0.8% for each, and chairman of the board of directors and trainer in journalism at 0.4% each.

In terms of secondary work, 38% of the respondent sample do another secondary work, of whom 3.8% work in the government sector, and 34.2% work in the private sector.

1.2 Difficulties Facing the Data Gathering Team

A number of difficulties that faced the data gathering team emerged, including the lack of response of some journalists, in addition to some problems in the framework, such as wrong or disconnected telephone numbers, some journalists being outside Jordan at the time, or have retired from working in the media sector.

1.3 Data Collection and Processing

Data was collected by telephone calls with the targeted sample. A working team composed of qualified and efficient researchers in data gathering and holding telephone interviews was selected. The

team was trained on how to deal with respondents away from bias and insinuation to ensure the accuracy and quality of the data to be collected, in addition to training them on all concepts and terms in the questionnaire form, and how to direct questions and deal with them.

On another note, a smaller team of male and female researchers was trained to ensure the quality of data in terms of checking the forms, ensure that all questions were answered, and that they are compatible. Another specialized team was trained to tabulate the questions, particularly the open-ended ones, which mostly include other items in some questions.

1.4 Survey Results by Sections

We present briefly the results of the survey distributed over its eight sections as follows:

1.4.1 Section 1: Media Freedom Status and Legislation

The survey results showed that the media freedom status remained the same in 2016. In spite of the slight change to some data according to the study population, these changes do not represent a clear progress on which to base clear judgments indicating that the media freedom status in 2016 witnessed an improvement over 2015.

The 83.4% ratio of the respondents who believe that the state of freedoms remained constant to a large, medium, or small level, or remained the same in 2016, is the same ratio that said the same in 2015, and was repeated this year. 26.6% stated that it progressed this year to a large, medium, and low level.

84.6 of the respondents describe the media freedom status as low, acceptable, and medium, against 13% who describe it as good.

58.3% believe that the legislations governing the Jordanian media affect negatively the Jordanian media policies to large, medium, and low levels, against 12.8% who said that they have no effect at all. 26.8% said that the legislations governing the Jordanian media contribute positively to the

media policies. According to the survey results, 55.3% believe that the media legislations are considered a restriction to media freedoms, against 11.3% who believe that they contributed to improving media freedom. 32.3% believe that the legislations governing the Jordanian media affect negatively the Jordanian media policies to large, medium, and low levels, against 12.8% who believe they have no effect whatsoever.

The results showed that 78.5% of media professionals believe that the legislations governing the Jordanian media were compatible with international standards in 2016 to large, medium, and low levels, against 91.6% in the 2014 survey, against 18.4% who reject their compatibility.

Although more than two thirds of media professionals believe that the legislations governing the Jordanian media are compatible with international standards, 84.5% of the respondents believe that these legislations contribute to the violations against media workers to large, medium, and low levels, against 13.2% only who reject that.

Results reveal that 79.3% of media professionals believe that circulars prohibiting publishing issued by the Media Commission are prior-censorship, against 18.8% who reject that. 79.3% also believe that these circulars represent a harassment of the media freedoms, against 19.2% who reject that. 80.1% of media professionals consider publishing prohibition circulars as interference in the media work, against 18.4% only who do not consider them so.

Results indicate that 63.5% of respondents consider these circulars as measures to reduce the promotion of rumors and false news, against 35% who do not see that. 62.4% described these circulars as measures that reduce the hate speech, against 36.5% who do not see that.

At the same time when 37.2% of media professionals that these circulars represent interference in the work of the judiciary, half media professionals (52.6%) believe that it is against the law and the constitution, against 41.4% who do not see that. 68.8% believe that they violate international media

standards, against 28.6% who do not see that.

This reveals a clear contradiction in the media professionals' answers, 78.5% of who said that the legislations governing the media in Jordan are compatible with international standards in 2016 in a previous question, which also affirms an insufficient knowledge among journalists and media professionals of international standards governing media freedom.

1.4.2 Section 2: Media Policies

Regarding media policies, the report stated that Jordanian media policies continue to promote a debate and a disagreement regarding their evaluation and positions from them, and whether there were actually media policies that are being adhered to by governments and media institutions, or that planning for media policies by governments is still totally absent, although a strategy was developed for media policies years ago, ending in 2015, which did not achieve their objectives and did not make a large effect on the Jordanian media scene.

According to the survey results, more than two thirds of respondents (78.9%) believe that using media policies in Jordan aims at controlling the media, while the ratio of those who saw this in the 2014 survey was (72.1%). The ratio of those who believe that it targets developing the media went down to 16.5% in 2016, against 24.3% in 2014.

The survey results showed that Jordanian media professionals are still in a state of uncertainty and suspicion regarding the government's seriousness in building a free media. 36.1% of media professionals believed that the government is totally unserious in building a free media, against 62.4% who believe in this seriousness at high, medium, and low levels.

Regarding the areas that are more influential in directing media policies in Jordan, the government is still the first party according to respondents, at a ratio of 34.6%, followed by the General Intelligence Department (GID) at 13.2%, journalists themselves at 8.3%, the State Minister

for Information Affairs at 7.9%, and finally the Royal Court at 6.4%.

Data from the survey reveal that Jordanian media professionals were the parties least influential in the Jordanian media in 2016, while the government remained at the top of all parties that are most influential in the Jordanian media scene at a ratio of 18.1%. The influence of various security parties together, however, surpasses that of the government by a ratio of 24.1%%, with the GID topping the list at 13.4%, the security systems coming next at 10.7%, followed by the Royal Court at 10.2%, and advertising companies at 7.2%. The ratio of influence of the Ministry of Information, editors in chief, websites, Arab satellite channels, and the media professionals themselves was only 0.1% each.

Regarding methods to improve the independence of official media outlets, the survey revealed that 15.5% of respondents believed that the appointment of professional journalists at the official media (Radio and Television Corporation and Jordan News Agency "PETRA") will guarantee its independence, against 15.3% who believed that stopping government interference in it will ensure this. 14.7% believed that the presence of independent boards of directors in the official media will ensure its independence, against 13.8% who believed that the independence of the official media can be achieved by improving financial resources. 13.6% said that the technical development of the equipment can ensure its independence.

13.2% believed that adhering to the codes of behavior guarantees the official media independence, while 13.1% believed that stopping the security interference will guarantee its independence.

1.4.3 Section 3: Violations

Survey results revealed a decrease in total violations in 2016. 46 male and female media professionals were subjected to violations, with a repeated number of violations of 76, at a total ratio of 17.3%, against 69 media professionals subjected to violations in 2015, at a ratio of 27.5%, during

which they were subjected to 107 different and repeated violations. The ratio of those who were not subjected to violations in 2015 was 72.5%.

It is noticeable according to the survey that male media professionals were the highest in terms of being subjected to pressures and harassment in 2016, whereby 38 of them were subjected, at a ratio of 14.3%, against 8 female media professionals being subjected to pressures and harassment, at a ratio of 3%.

The survey emphasized that the blocking of information violation continued to be at the top of all violations in 2016 at a ratio of 7.7%, through 22 violations, followed by the prevention from publishing violation at a ratio of 4.6% through 13 violations. Threats, security investigation, and prevention from publishing were equal at 6 violations for each, at a ratio of 2.1%. There were many cases of slander and defamation, reaching 5 cases at a ratio of 1.8%. Cases of restricting freedom were 4 cases at a ratio of 1.4%, security summons were 3 cases at a ratio of 1.1%, and there were two cases of breaking or confiscating the journalist's tools, at a ratio of 0.7%.

Regarding media-related cases of detention, the survey results showed that 3 media professionals were detained this year (1.1%) against 4 cases in 2015, with a ratio of 1.6% at the time.

The survey study showed that the number of detention cases mentioned here does not include all detention cases to which media professionals were subjected in 2016, but rather the media professionals included in the survey. Results also show that cases of detaining media professionals in media issues continue to be high compared with information from previous years. The ratio of those detained in media cases in 2014 was 0.8%, and in 2013 was 1.7%, which is the highest ratio of detention monitored and documented in 7 years. In 2012, the ratio of detainees in media cases was 1.2%, and in 2011 it was 1%. The year 2010 recorded the lowest ratio of detention cases at 0.6%.

The results of the survey said that the civil public prosecutor is the one who ordered the detention of the three media professionals, while the public prosecutor at the State Security Court did not detain any media professional in 2016. The three media professionals who work in the private sector were detained in three different cases, namely, slandering a government official, publishing material in a newspaper, and publishing cases, at a ratio of 33.3% each.

Regarding trials of media professionals, the survey indicated that the number of media professionals who were tried in media-related cases in 2016 decreased to 20 professionals at a ratio of 7.5%, compared to 2015 in which 29 media professionals were tried in cases related to the media at a ratio of 11.6% at the time, which is the higher ratio recorded at the time on media professionals' trials since 2010.

Regarding non-conclusive judicial decisions against media professionals, among 20 professionals against whom media-related cases were raised in 2016, the number of cases in which non-conclusive decisions were taken was 7 only, at a ratio of 2.6%, against 29 cases in 2015, in which 7 cases saw non-conclusive decisions taken.

Regarding non-conclusive decisions issued, the survey results indicated that these decisions varied between financial fines for 4 media professionals at the ratio of 44.4%, innocence for 3 professionals at the ratio of 33.3%, and non-responsibility for 2 professionals at the ratio of 22.2%.

The survey results also indicated that the year 2016 witnessed the issue of 4 conclusive judgments that are not subject to appeal or contestation, at the ratio of 1.5%, out of 20 cases raised against journalists and media professionals, with a clear decrease compared to 2015, in which 6 conclusive judgments were issued. This indicates that the number of conclusive judgments that are not subject to appeal or contestation is decreasing, compared to the same data for previous years.

According to the survey results, judgments issued

against media professionals in 2016 varied between fines against 3 professionals at the ratio of 60%, innocence in one case at the ratio of 20%, and non-responsibility at the ratio of 20% as well.

The survey results emphasized that CDFJ's Media Legal Aid Unit (Melad) maintained its position in the forefront of defending professionals in media cases raised against them in 2016, among all other legal parties undertaking this task.

Among the 20 cases raised against media professionals in 2016, the report stated that the Media Legal Aid Unit (Melad) defended 12 cases at a ratio of 57.1%, while lawyer appointed by media professionals personally defended 5 cases at a ratio of 23.8%. Lawyers from media institutions for which the media professionals against whom cases were raised work defended two cases only at a ratio of 9.5%. Lawyers of the Jordan Press Association defended two cases at a ratio of 9.5%.

Survey results showed that the Media Legal Aid Unit (Melad) set new conditions for accepting cases as a result of an increasing work load, and reduced the number of cases it defends since 2015, a year in which it defended 44.8%, which increased in 2016 to 57.1%.

The survey showed that 84.2% of media professionals believed that the increasing resort to detention and imprisonment would lead to increasing self-censorship among journalists to large, medium, and low levels, against 14.7% who rejected that. Furthermore, 58.6% of respondents said that they believed to a large extent that the increasing resort to detention and imprisonment would increase prior censorship for journalists by media institutions. 27.1% said that this would work to a medium extent, and 7.1% said that it would to a low extent. 6.4% rejected that.

63.9% of respondents believe it will, to a large degree, result in a receding media freedoms indicator for Jordan in international reports, 24.8% to a medium degree, and 5.3% to a small

degree. Only 4.9% rejected that entirely.

45% believe to a large degree that this will control what people write in social media outlets, 32.7% to a medium degree, and 10.2% to a small degree, against 11.3% only who rejected this entirely.

45.1% believe to a large degree that this will intimidate social media users against writing without controls, 38.7% believe it to a medium degree, and 9% to a small degree. 6.4% rejected it entirely.

47% of media practitioners believe to a large degree that this will decrease interest in media investment, especially in the electronic media. 33.1% believe it to a medium degree, and 9.4% to a small degree. 9.8% rejected it completely.

Regarding the government's interference in the media outlets in 2016, the survey results revealed that 80.5% of media practitioners believed that the government is interfering, against 16.2% who denied that the government interfered in media outlets this year.

Among those who believed in the government's interference in media outlets in 2016, 68.4% stated that this interference led to a reduced media freedom ceiling.

1.4.4 Section 4: Methods of Containing Media Professionals

Results of the media professionals' opinion survey for 2016 registered an increase in the ratio of those who were subjected to containment in 2016. Those who said that they were subjected to containment and temptation attempts in 2016 were 21.8%, compared to 17.1% in 2015.

The survey study results warned against the increase and continuation in this phenomenon due to its negative effects on the freedom and independence of media professionals, and the effects of this on the audience and its right to receive information, describing it as a crime that is equal to corruption crimes.

The survey results noticed a decrease in the ratio

of media professionals who heard about others being subjected to containment attempts in 2016, reaching 39.5%, compared to the situation in 2015 when it was 51.4%.

1.4.5 Section 5: Professionalism and Self-Regulation

Regarding self-regulation by media professionals, the survey study noticed from the results of numerous opinion surveys carried out by CDFJ over the past few years a clear increase in the approaches of Jordanian journalists and media professionals towards their support for the self-regulation demand, including the establishment of a complaints council. Furthermore, the ratio of those who support the journalists' representation in associations grew and increased noticeably over the past few years. More than half the respondents, however, still believe that the presence of the Press Association is sufficient to represent them in the self-regulation framework.

The results of the survey showed that 55.3% of the respondents agree only or agree strongly on the presence of the Press Association as a sufficient framework for journalists' self-regulation. The ratio of neutrals who neither agree nor oppose was 6.8%, while the ratio of those who do not approve, or who do not approve strongly was 37.2%. Comparing the results of 2016 with those of the survey organized by CDFJ within the "Taghyeer" program, whose results were published in the book "Under the Microscope," the ratio of those who agree strongly that the presence of the Press Association is sufficient as self-regulatory framework was 19.5%. 40% did not agree only, 4.5% were neutral, 30.5% did not agree, and 4% did not agree only.

Comparing the data of the surveyed sample responses in 2015 and 2016, one notices the decrease in the ratio of media specialists who approve considering the Press Association's presence as a sufficient framework for representing journalists. The ratio of those who agree to this strongly was 55.3% in 2016 against

60%, and the ratio of neutrals (neither agree or oppose) in 2016 increased to 6.8% against 4.5% in 2015.

20.3% of the media professionals agree strongly that developing self-regulation mechanisms is connected to associations' pluralism. 38.3% agree only, and 8.3% remained neutral (neither agree or oppose), representing 22 male and female respondents.

The ratio of respondent media professionals who agree strongly that membership obligation in the Press Association contradicts the constitution and disagree with international standards for media freedom (40.3%), of which 14.7% agree strongly, 25.6% agree only, against 9.8% who opted for neutrality in their responses (neither agree or oppose), and those who disagree only and disagree strongly, at 45.8%.

According to the survey results, the total of those who agree only and agree strongly to cancel the mandatory membership in the Press Association requirement reached 32%, against 58.3% as the total ratio of those who do disagree only and those who do not disagree strongly, reaching 58.3%.

47.7% of the respondents agree only and agree strongly to the establishment of new Press Associations, against 45.1% who disagree only or disagree strongly to that.

The survey results showed that the ratio of those who agree and those who agree strongly to the establishment of specialized associations and unions for media professionals reached 53.7%, while the ratio of those opposing this who disagree strongly and disagree only was 39.5%.

More than two thirds of the media professionals agree, at the ratio of 87.6% that as the self-regulation mechanisms in the media developed, the more its independence increased. Furthermore, 89.1% agree that as the self-regulation mechanisms in the media developed, the more its professionalism increased.

The survey results also showed that about two thirds of Jordanian media professionals (63.9%)

believed that Jordanian journalists commit to a medium degree to credibility in reporting information, against 9% only who believed that they do not commit at all. The ratio of those who believed this to a large degree (10.9%) and those who believed this to a small degree is small (16.2%).

The study said that 63.9% of the respondents believed that Jordanian media professionals are committed to a medium degree to presenting opinions and are keen on having a second opinion, against 19.2% who believed this to a small degree, and 8.3% who believed this to a large degree, against 8.3% who do not believe this at all.

About half of all respondents (52.3%) believed that Jordanian media professionals are committed to protecting the secrets of their sources for a medium degree, and that 28.9% believed this to a large degree. 14.3% believed this to a small degree, against 4.1% who did not believe this at all.

The study said that more than half the study sample (59.4%) believed to a medium degree that Jordanian media professionals are committed to the professional and ethics codes, and 18.4% saw this commitment to a small degree. 9.4% saw it to a large degree, against 12.4% who deny this completely.

More than half the respondents (58.3%) said that Jordanian media professionals are committed to respecting people's private freedoms to a medium degree, 18% to a small degree, and 12% to a large degree, against 11.3% who do not see this at all.

Regarding the conviction of the surveyed sample in the commitment of Jordanian media professionals to integrity and transparency in the financing sources of their work, more than half of them (56%) stated that they are committed to a medium degree. 18.8% stated that they are committed to a small degree, and 7.5% to a large degree. 15.4% denied that.

The survey results indicated that more than half the respondents (53%) believed that Jordanian media professionals are committed to a medium degree to avoid the incitement of hate. 14.7% did that to a small degree, and 22.6% to a large degree. 9% denied that completely.

Regarding the extent to which Jordanian media professionals are committed to defending the freedom of the media and the values of independence, more than half of them (57.9%) stated that they are committed to a medium degree. 19.9% were committed to a large degree, and 13.2% to a small degree. 8.3% denied this completely.

Regarding the extent of the study population's conviction in the Jordanian media professionals' commitment to defending the human rights system, 59.8% said they believed in this to a medium degree, 15.4% to a small degree, and 16.5% to a large degree. 7.5% denied this completely.

Regarding the extent to which Jordanian media professionals are committed to avoiding slander and defamation of people, more than half of the respondents (62.8%) said that they believed in this commitment to a medium degree, against 16.5% who believed in it to a small degree, and 13.2% to a large degree. This commitment was completely denied by 7.1%.

The survey results revealed that the total ratio of media professionals who support the establishment of an independent Complaints Council that would provide redress for society from media mistakes in 2016 increased to 90.3% at high, medium, and low degrees, indicating to the results of the 2015 survey which reached 79.9%. The ratio of those who do not support the establishment of the council at all increased in 2016 to reach 9.8% against 14.3% in 2015.

92.1% of respondents believed that the establishment of a complaints council will contribute to reducing violations against the profession ethics at high, medium, and low degrees, against 7.9% who stated that they do not

believe at all that it would contribute to reducing the violations against the profession's ethics.

91.4% of the total number of media professionals indicated that they believed the establishment of the complaints council will contribute in reducing slander and defamation crimes to high, medium, and low degrees, against 8.6% who said that it would not contribute to that at all.

The ratio of all those who believe that the establishment of a complaints council would contribute to developing professionalism amounted to 89.8% at high, medium, and low degrees, against 10.2% who do not think that at all.

The overwhelming majority of respondents supported, at a ratio of 91.4%, that the establishment of a complaints council would contribute to providing redress to those who sustained damage from the media violations at high, medium, and low degrees, against 8.6% who did not believe this at all.

92.1% of the respondents said that the establishment of the complaints council would contribute to the establishment of a quick and fair redress mechanism at high, medium, and low degrees (8.3%), against 7.9% who did not believe that at all.

Regarding the independent media station, the establishment of which was announced in 2015, the survey results indicated a clear improvement in its image among media professionals in 2016.

Regarding the independence of this station from the government, the survey results indicated that 71.1% of media professionals still believed that it would be independent, and 15.9% did not specify their position, and have no idea what it will be like. Comparing with the 2015 answers, 81.3% saw that it would not be independent against 13.1% who believed it would be, and 5.6% did not specify their position.

More than half the media professionals at a ratio of 63.1% believed that the independent media station system, when it starts broadcasting, would not raise the media freedoms degree in 2016, against 70.9% who saw that in 2015. Furthermore, 53.4% said that it would not develop the Jordanian media, against 34.6% who said it would.

The survey results said that more than half the media professionals who responded, at the ratio of 67.3%, still believe that this station will not be able to compete with Arab media satellite stations, against 74.1% who believed this in 2015.

Regarding the extent to which media practitioners are convinced of the independent station's ability to gain the people's confidence and attract their attention, more than half the media professionals who responded (53.8%) denied that it would be able to achieve that, against 59.4% who denied this in 2015.

1.4.6 Section 6: Self-Censorship

The ratio of respondents who believed that Jordanian media avoided criticizing the government increased in 2016 by a large amount, reaching 14 points, to 54.1%, against 40.2% in 2015. The ratio of those who believed that Jordanian media professionals avoided being involved in religious issues also increased by 10 points in 2016, reaching 83.1%, against 73.7% in 2015.

The ratio of those who believed that media professionals avoided discussing subjects related to sex increased in 2016 by 12 points, reaching 84.2%, against 72.9% in 2015, which is the highest ratio recorded in 7 years as well (2010 - 2016).

The ratio of those who believed that media professionals avoided criticizing the security systems increased in 2016 to reach 88%, against 86.1% in 2015, reaching the highest ratio recorded in seven years as well (2010 - 2016). With a two-point increase, 78.2% of media professionals who responded stated that media professionals avoided criticizing heads of Arab states in 2016. Their ratio was 75.3% in 2015.

With a large increase that was never recorded in 7 years (2010 - 2016), at about 7 points, 66.9% of respondent media professionals stated that media professionals avoided criticizing heads of foreign countries in 2016, against 60.2% in 2015. The ratio of those who believed that media professionals avoided criticizing heads of friendly nations increased by 6.1% in 2016, reaching 77.4%, against 71.3% in 2015, which is the highest ratio recorded for 7 years (2010 - 2016).

With an increase of 11 points over the 2015 survey, 89.1% of the respondents said that media professionals avoided criticizing tribal Sheikhs and figures in 2016, against 77.7% in 2015. This increase represents the highest over 7 years (2010 - 2016).

The ratio of those who believed that media professionals avoid criticizing party leaderships in 2016 jumped by about 15 points; the highest in 7 years (2010 - 2016), reaching 38% from 23.5% in 2015.

94% of the respondents this year believed that Jordanian media professionals do not avoid addressing economic problems, against 89.6% in 2015. The ratio of those who believed that media professionals avoid criticizing the armed forces in 2016 increased by 2 points reaching 96.2% against 94.8% in 2015.

The ratio of those who believed that media professionals avoided criticizing the judiciary increased by 13 points in 2016, reaching 93.6% against 81.7% in 2015. The ratio of those who believed that media professionals avoided criticizing clergymen this year increased to its highest ratio in 7 years, at the ratio of 81.6%, with a difference of about 15.9% degrees over the results of 2015, which amounted to 65.7%.

According to the survey results, 91% of the respondents denied that Jordanian media practitioners avoided criticizing the parliament in both houses this year. The ratio of those who believed that media professionals avoided criticizing the Royal Court increased in 2016 by about 2 points to reach 92.1%, against 90.8% in 2015.

According to the survey results, the Royal Court came in the forefront of the areas that media professionals avoid criticizing, at the ratio of 24.6%, followed by the security systems in the second place at 17.2%, the armed forces third at 17.1%, the judiciary in the fourth place at 9.7%, and addressing religious issues in the fifth place at 9.5%.

1.4.7 Section 7: Social Media

Survey results revealed that 99.3% believed in the spread in the use of social media in Jordan in 2016. 92.5% of the respondents believed that social media have the people's confidence at high, medium, and low degrees, against the same levels in 2015, amounting at the time to 93.2%.

95.5% of the respondents believed that social media contributed to reinforcing people's participation and expression of opinions in Jordan in 2016 at high, medium, and low degrees, against 97.6% in 2015.

In spite of its decrease by about 5 degrees in 2016 compared to 2015, the ratio of media professionals who believed that these outlets played a role in reinforcing social accountability tools was very high in 2016, at a total ratio of 91.4% to large, medium, and small degrees, against 96.4% in 2015.

According to the results of the survey, 71.8% of the total respondents believed that social media outlets were committed to publishing credible information in 2016 to large, medium, and small degrees, against 74.6% in 2015 and to large, medium, and small degrees.

Respondents believed, at a total ratio of 74.8%, that these outlets are committed to respecting human rights to large, medium, and small degrees, against 71.8% in 2015, to large, medium, and small degrees.

According to the survey, 69.9% of respondents believed that these outlets are committed to refraining from spreading the hate speech to large, medium, and small degrees, against 67.4% to large, medium, and small degrees in 2015.

The data for 2016 were similar, at a ratio of 69.6% to large, medium, and small degrees with those of

2015 at a ratio of 69.7% to large, medium, and small degrees among those who believed that social media do not incite violence.

The survey results indicate that the total number of respondents who believed that social media are committed to refrain from violating the privacy of people to large, medium, and small degrees to 70.3%, against 62.6% to large, medium, and small degrees in 2015.

66.2% of respondents believed to large, medium, and small degrees that these outlets are committed to refrain from spreading rumors and false and misleading information, against 63.8% to large, medium, and small degrees in 2015.

66.5% of respondent media professionals believed that these outlets were committed to respecting opinions and counter opinions to large, medium, and small degrees, against 71.8% to large, medium, and small degrees in 2015.

Regarding the extent of interest and monitoring of social media as an alternative to traditional media, almost half media professionals (51.5%) believed to large, medium, and small degrees that these outlets gained the interest and attention instead of the traditional media outlets, receding by about 4 points from their ratio in 2015, amounting to 55.4% at the time.

The survey results indicate that the ratio of respondents who believed that social media users relied on them in their information remained very high in 2016, at a total ratio of 90.6%, although it went down 5 degrees compared to 2015, which was 95.6% at the time.

The survey results affirm that 90.7% of media professionals believed to large, medium, and small degrees this year that social media had become an important source of information for the media (newspapers, radio, television, websites), against 94% in 2015.

The survey results add that 89.4% of respondents believed that media outlets needed to promote

themselves to large, medium, and small degrees, with a decrease of about 6 points from their position in 2015, amounting to 95.3%. The ratio of those who did not believe this at all by about 5 degrees this year to reach 9.8% against 4.4% in 2015.

More than half respondent Jordanian media professionals (63.9%) that social media will never be an alternative for media outlets this year, against 73.3% who believed that in 2015. The ratio of those who believed that social media outlets will be an alternative to media outlets in 2016 increased by 9 points, reaching 35% against 26.3% who thought that in 2015.

Regarding the effects of the permission to detain and imprison social media users because of what they published, in that it will result in increasing self-censorship, the total ratio maintained its data between 2016 at 92.1% to large, medium, and small degrees, against 92.5% in 2015.

The survey results indicate that 94.7% of respondents believed that the detention and imprisonment of social media users because of what they publish will lead to increasing users' caution regarding writing or publishing that violate the law this year to large, medium, or small degrees, against 93.4% in 2015.

94% of media professionals believed that the permissibility of detaining or imprisoning employees of social media because of what they publish warned the employees against crossing red lines to large, medium, and small degrees, against 95.7% in 2015.

The survey results show that 92.1% of respondents believe that the permissibility of detaining or imprisoning employees of the social media for what they publish will lead to avoiding criticizing the state to large, medium, and small degrees, against 92.9% in 2015.

Media professionals said, at a ratio of 93.9% that detaining or imprisoning employees of the social media because of what they publish will lead to avoiding criticizing security systems members to large, medium, and small degrees, against 94.5% in 2015.

Survey results revealed that 94% of media professionals believed, to large, medium, and small degrees that the permissibility of detaining or imprisoning employees of the social media because of what they publish will lead to avoiding criticizing the military and the armed forces, against 94.8% in 2015.

Survey results indicated that 89.8% of media professionals believed that the permissibility of detaining or imprisoning employees of the social media because of what they publish will lead to avoiding criticizing the government to large, medium, and small degrees, against 90.4% in 2015.

93.7% of respondents believed that permissibility of detaining or imprisoning employees of the social media because of what they publish will lead to avoiding slander and defamation of normal people to large, medium, and small degrees, against 92.1% in 2015.

1.4.8 Section 8: Hate Speech in the Media

The survey this year concentrated again on the hate speech, especially in social media, based on the survey questions. It was the first of its kind in Jordan on the hate speech since 2014 to measure the extent of changes to the positions and evaluations of media professionals of the hate speech over three years (2014 - 2016).

The survey study believed that the data available from the results of the 2014 and 2016 surveys does not show much change, although the hate speech has expanded and branched, spreading in 2016 at a greater degree than what it was in 2014.

The survey results add that 81.5% of the total number of the respondents believe in the contribution of media outlets in reinforcing the tolerance address to large, medium, and small degrees, maintaining the same ratio of the 2014 survey, which reached at the time 81.5%, while this was rejected totally (18%) in 2016, against 17.6% in 2014.

According to the results, 85.7% of respondents believed that media outlets contributing to reinforcing respect towards opinions and the other's opinion and freedom of expression to large, medium, and small degrees, against 88% in 2014.

89.1% of respondents believed that media outlets contributed to fueling the violence and exclusion of the other address to a large, medium, and small degrees, against 87.2% in 2014.

Survey results affirm that social media come at the top of outlets that spread the address of hate in Jordan, in addition to websites, while the traditional media (newspaper, radio, television) come at the bottom of the list of outlets that promote the hate speech.

Facebook came at the top of the list among most outlets that spread the hate speech in Jordan, according to the answers of those surveyed, 37.2% of whom said that the Facebook network is the outlet that spread the hate speech most, followed in the second position by the electronic media at the ratio of 18.8%.

In position three came Twitter platform at a ratio of 17.3%, YouTube came next in the fourth position at a ratio of 12.5%, and in the fifth position came the Snapchat platform at a ratio of 11.2%.

According to the survey results, the traditional media outlets (newspapers, radio, television) came at the bottom of the list that spread the hate speech in Jordan at very low ratios. The ratio of print media was 1% only, radio stations was 0.8%, and television was 0.3%.

The study indicates that 64.7% of respondents believed that media outlets adopting the hate speech is related to the positions and awareness of the respondents themselves.

69.2% of respondents denied that adopting the hate speech by media outlets was due to the directives and incitement of the government media outlets, against 27.8% who believed that. Furthermore, more than two thirds of the respondents (72.9%) refused that adopting the hate speech by media outlets was due to the directives and incitement

of the government media outlets, against 24.1% who believed that.

The survey results indicate that respondents were divided, with a very tiny difference, between those who believed that media outlets adopting the hate speech was due to religious trends and parties inciting media professionals, at a ratio of 48.9%, and those who refused this, at a ratio of 48.1%.

More than two thirds of the respondents, at a ratio of 78.9%, believed that the media outlets adopting the hate speech was due to the social culture and values, against 17.7% who rejected that.

Half the respondent (50%) refused that the media adopting the hate speech was due to the media professionals' connection to the government and parties, and their lack of independence, against 46.2% who believed that.

More than half the respondents, at a ratio of 69.2%, believed that the media adopting the hate speech was due to the poor legal awareness on behalf of media professionals, against 27.8% who rejected that.

More than two thirds of the respondents, at a ratio of 68%, acknowledged that the media outlets adopting the hate speech was due to poor belief in democratic values, against 28.9% who rejected that.

More than half the respondents, at a ratio of 59%, rejected that the media outlets adoption of the hate speech was due to international and regional pressures, against 37.2% who believed that.

More than two thirds of the respondents emphasized that the media outlets' adoption of the hate speech was due to the absence of professional codes of behavior regulating the behavior of journalists and the media outlets, at a ratio of 62.4%, against 33.1% who rejected that.

More than two thirds of the respondents (72.9%) believed that the media outlets adopting the hate speech was due to poor professionalism among media professionals, against 22.6% who rejected that.

The survey results explain that 83.1% of the respondents believed that the religious and ideological disagreements contributed to fueling the hate speech to large, medium, and small degrees, against 77.4% who believed this to large, medium, and small degrees in 2014.

91.7% of respondents believed that the political struggles in the region were what contributed to reinforcing the hate speech to large, medium, and small degrees, against 90% in 2014 who believed that to large, medium, and small degrees.

Religious parties came at the top of the conviction of respondents as the reason for the spread of the hate speech at a ratio of 69.2% to large, medium, and small degrees, against 82.9% in 2014.

Leftist parties came second in terms of the respondents' belief that the parties were responsible for the spread of the hate speech in 2016, at a total ratio of 62.4% to large, medium, and small degrees, registering a retreat of about 7 points compared to its total value in 2014, amounting to 69.4% at the time.

National parties came third among the parties which the study sample believed were the reason for spreading the hate speech in 2016, with a total of 62% to large, medium, and small degrees, registering a retreat of about 17 degrees from its position in 2014 at 79.4% at the time.

Liberal parties came fourth and last in terms of the study sample's perception about the parties' responsibility behind the spread of the hate speech, at a total ratio of 60.9% to large, medium, and small degrees, registering a retreat of about 15 points from its ratio in 2014 of 75.1% at the time.

Results affirm that 93.6% of respondents believed that the consecutive political events and struggles in the countries of the region (Egypt, Iraq, Syria, as examples) were the main reason for the spread of the hate speech in the media at large, medium, and small degrees, against 91.6% who saw that in 2014.

The survey results show that the ratio of media professionals who believed that social media do not bear the responsibility for the spread of the hate

speech, since they are platforms for transferring information and the people's opinions and positions, continued to be very high at a total ratio of 87.8% to large, medium, and small degrees.

The survey study indicated that the overwhelming majority of the respondents support the need for increasing penalties against anyone who spreads the hate speech in the media or social media, at a total ratio of 93.6%, registering an increase of about two degrees only over the same ratio in 2014, which at the time amounted to 91.9%, in addition to the fact that 87.2% of the respondents who approved enacting a special law to reduce the hate speech, against 11.3% who did not support that.

The results of the survey indicated that comparing the answers of the surveyed sample in 2016 and 2014 regarding the reasons behind the increase in the hate speech in the social media revealed a number of variables that do not affect much the reduction of the hate speech in the social media.

Results revealed that 68% of the respondents believed that the stumbling reform track in Jordan was one of the reasons why the hate speech became clear in the social media, against 66.4% who saw that in 2014.

64.7% of the respondents believed that the performance and practices of the lower house of parliament was among the reasons of the increase and clarity of the hate speech in the social media in 2016, against 74.4% who believed that in 2014.

A clear drop by about 20 degrees, the convictions of respondents that the struggle between the government and the Muslim Brotherhood was one of the reasons behind the spread of the hate speech in Jordan in 2016 showed a clear decrease to 50% only, down from 70.5% in 2014.

85.3% of the respondents believed that the tough economic conditions through which people in Jordan are going are among the reasons behind the increase and clarity of the hate speech in social communications outlets, in 2016, against 82.6% who saw that in 2014.

75.9% of respondents believed that the exacerbation of the Syrian refugees crisis in Jordan was one of the reasons behind the increase and clarity of the hate speech in social media in 2016, registering a decrease of about 4 points compared to 2014, which was 79.2% at the time.

75.9% of respondents expressed the belief that social media users' belief that they cannot be prosecuted for what they write or publish is one of the reasons behind the increase and clarity of the hate speech in social media. Furthermore, 71.8% of respondents believed that the social media not being subjected to censorship and government control is one of the reasons behind the increase and clarity in the hate speech in social media.

82.7% of the respondents believed that the absence of increased penalties on the hate speech users is among the increase and clarity of the hate speech in social media.

About half the respondents, at a ratio of 52.6%, indicated that they believed that government and non-government parties encourage the hate speech to spread division among people, as one of the reasons for the increase and clarity of the hate speech in social media. 42.5% of the respondents, however, refuse this and do not approve it.

2. Part 2: Status of Complaints and Violations 2016

Part 2 presents the reality of violations against media professionals in Jordan based on the daily monitoring carried out by "AIN" program for monitoring and documenting violations against the freedom of the media in Jordan; one of the programs and units of CDFJ.

"AIN" is committed in its work to the legal concepts and standards, and therefore monitors violations against journalists and media institutions, especially violations affecting the right to the freedom of opinion and expression, the right to personal safety, not to be exposed to rough and humiliating treatment and torture, the right to ownership and personal safety, and the right to a fair trial and privacy, and other human rights.

"AIN" program has developed over the past few years systematic mechanisms for monitoring and documentation and mechanisms for collecting information and verifying their accuracy. For purposes of monitoring and documentation, it has adopted forms for complaints and reports, and assigned researchers and observers to collect information, and to pursue leads and allegations about violations even if the victims failed to disclose them.

Monitors at the "AIN" program reinforce the documentation of violations through written documents such as provisions, laws, government and non-government reports, official statements, correspondence, and pictures. Witnesses are among the most important sources of monitoring to prove the incidence of beating or detaining media professionals, or treating them inappropriately or in a humiliating manner, in addition to holding interviews and field visits, and using evidence and indirect sources, government positions, and positions of international agencies and organizations.

The Complaints and Violations Section aims at investigating the sources of violations against the freedom of the media, their directions, and influences on the human and general rights of journalists, in order to limit their occurrence and recurrence, and to examine international laws and internal legislations related to the freedom of opinion, expression, and the media, which ensure the rights of media professionals and the practice of media work, in addition to contributing to setting a perception to limit violations against the freedom of the media, reaching the stage of identifying the future of the media freedom status in Jordan.

Part 2 was divided, after the introduction, into four chapters as follows:

- Chapter 1: The Legal Framework related to the Freedom of the Press and Expression in Jordan, Compared to Its International Obligations.
- Chapter 2: Media Freedoms Violations in 2016: General Overview

- Chapter 3: Media Freedoms under Violation - Typical Cases
- Chapter 4: Recommendations

2.1 Chapter 1: The Legal Framework related to the Freedom of the Press and Expression in Jordan, Compared to Its International Obligations

Chapter 1 of Part 2 examines the legal framework related to the freedom of the press and expression in Jordan as compared to its international obligations. Jordan has witnessed over the past few years legislative amendments which were not in line with the international human rights standards. Laws continue to reveal large shortcomings that persist. Jordanian legislations impose restrictions on the freedom of expression and the media, and there are numerous legislations that involve restrictive articles, starting with penalties that deprive individuals of their freedom, and extending to exorbitant fines. Among the examples are texts of the Penal Code which criminalize the criticism of HM the King or a foreign country, or call for a basic change in the political regime and structure. Media professionals may be accused of crimes like lese majeste, or spoiling relations with a foreign country, or calling for undermining the regime. These require the amendment of Jordanian legislations as related to protecting the freedoms of journalists and the right to expression to guarantee that they are compatible with the constitution and international conventions, and the need for compatibility between the government, the parliament, media institutions, and civil society, in order to make these amendments. Among the most important laws that need to be amendment are the Press and Publications Law, which is the law that touches most on media work, the Access to Information Law, because it does not ensure that information is spread and that this right is granted, the Penal Code because it still includes penalties that deprive individuals of their freedom in media cases, the State Security Court, because it permits the detention of individuals for a long period of time before issuing a judicial decision, the Anti-

Terrorism Law, because of which journalists were referred to the State Security Court, in addition to including penalties that deprive of freedom, and finally the Electronic Crimes Law which directly confronts websites.

It is important to note that Jordan ratified 14 international conventions and agreements, including ones that include guarantees for journalists to practice their work freely, and guaranteeing their right to free expression. It is well-known that the International Human Rights Law is based on a group of conventions signed among states in the form of agreements or treaties, in addition to norms derived from the implementation of the provisions of these conventions in what is known as the "statutory law." International conventions signed by Jordan provide guarantees so that journalists are not subjected to abuse or rough or inhumane treatment while practicing their profession or because of their work, preventing discrimination against them for the same reasons. They also provide guidelines for journalists and media institutions to commit to refraining from spreading ideas based on racial supremacy or those that spread racial hate, in addition to protecting and preserving the freedom of expression, and guaranteeing their right to work and organization.

The report quotes the Human Rights Committee as saying: "A free, uncensored and unhindered press or other media is essential in any society to ensure freedom of opinion and expression and the enjoyment of other Covenant rights. It constitutes one of the cornerstones of a democratic society. The Covenant embraces a right whereby the media may receive information on the basis of which it can carry out its function. The free communication of information and ideas about public and political issues between citizens, candidates and elected representatives is essential. This implies a free press and other media able to comment on public issues without censorship or restraint and to inform public opinion. The public also has a corresponding

right to receive media output." Furthermore, the Human Rights Committee emphasized in its notes on the Jordan Periodic Report IV, presented in 2010, which was 12 years late, that "the member country should reconsider in its legislations and practices what guarantees the protection of journalists and media institutions from criminal penalties as a result of expressing a critical opinion, and to check any restrictions imposed on the press activities and media systems in general."

Chapter 1 concludes that it is necessary to review Jordanian legislations related to media freedoms to be more compatible with international agreements which were ratified by the Jordanian government, and that the government implements its international commitments with integrity and good will.

2.2 Chapter 2: Violations of Media Freedoms 2016: General Overview

Chapter 2 monitors the reality of violations against media freedoms in 2016. This monitoring was instigated by the need to verify the extent to which Jordan respects international standards applicable in the field of relevant media freedoms and human rights, mobilizing the local public opinion against practices that involve freedoms and rights, and understanding the prevailing violations patterns and their reasons in Jordan, as well as providing valid guidelines and foundations for pursuing perpetrators of serious violations against media professionals, preventing them from impunity, motivating media professionals to document the problems and violations they are subjected to, increasing their awareness of the importance of human and media freedoms and rights to enable them to carry out their functions easily and smoothly, and to reduce assaults they may be subjected to due to their media work, even if at the medium or long terms, in addition to spreading the idea of scientific and systematic monitoring and documentation of the media freedoms violations.

Chapter 2 also presents a general conclusion of what was monitored and documented and what complaints and reports received by "AIN" program. In addition, it presents the conclusions of the type and form of

violations against the media freedom in Jordan in 2016, the human rights assaulted and to which journalists and media institutions were subjected, and their relationship to Jordan's international commitments regarding conventions ratified that are related to the assaults presented.

During 2016, the report recorded 135 violations of the rights of media professionals and media freedoms. These violations took place in 34 assaults, 18 of which were individual cases, and 16 were group cases targeting all journalists. In addition to journalists and media professionals who were subjected to violations during 2016, 5 media institutions were subjected to violations as well. Media institutions in this context refer to news websites that were subjected to electronic blockage, and satellite channels that were prevented from satellite broadcasting and/or harassment. It is noticeable that all media institutions that were subjected to violations are also from the private and independent media sector. It can be said, adding journalists and media institutions that were subjected to violations, which journalists were subjected to 93% of violations, and media institutions were subjected to 7% of the violations.

"AIN" program registered the highest levels of cases monitored in August and September at the rate of 6 cases in August, including 8 violations, most of which were 4 circulars prohibiting publishing. The rest were imposed on an independent media institution. September registered the highest level of individual violations, amounting to 49 violations to which 30 male and female journalists from different media institutions were subjected.

5 cases took place, of which 3 were group cases. The reason behind this large quantity of violations is the prevention from coverage, blocking of information, and harassments which are thought to be systematic, and took place on the election day of the 18th parliamentary elections.

The report showed that CDFJ received during 2016 13 complaints, which is one complaint more than what was received in 2015. All complaints included violations against media freedom.

In addition to the complaints, "AIN" program team monitored 26 cases that involved violations of media freedoms that were investigated and documented according to established standards. In comparison with previous years, the complaints received by CDFJ in 2016 are considered very few compared to those received in 2015, for example, amounting to 117 complaints, although they continued to decrease gradually reaching 78 in 2011. They increased again during 2012 and 2013, to start decreasing again in 2013, and continued to decrease through 2014, reaching 69 complaints, and then decreasing sharply in 2015 to 15 complaints.

It can be said that the beginning of the popular movement in 2010 witnessed wide-scale assaults against journalists during their field coverage of marches and protest demonstrations. In 2011, the number of complaints received by CDFJ decreased in spite of the increase in systematic assaults against journalists, such as the assault in Al-Nakheel Square, which led them to practice more self-censorship, in addition to tightening the security fist on them. The report stated that complaints' levels started increasing once again between 2012 and 2013, whereby media professionals became more accepting of the idea of submitting complaints and reports, and more amenable to deterring perpetrators, after being influenced by the repercussions of the popular movement. In 2014, the number of complaints received by CDFJ went down as the wave of apprehension and self-censorship practiced by journalists continued, with the retreat in the popular movement and its repercussions on the reality of media work. In 2015, the level of complaints retreated as journalists became wary of detentions.

The low number of complaints, coupled with an increase in violations, drew the attention of "AIN" team, which contacted more than 30 journalists who said they were subjected to pressures in 2016 as part of the questions for surveying journalist opinions. They were asked whether they submitted complaints regarding violations and problems they were subjected to, and in case they did, why. Most responses were that they did not submit complaints for reasons related to not knowing that they could submit complaints to a

specific party, worry that they may lose a source of information, worry about job security, worry about penalties as a result of submitting complaints, and the futility of submitting complaints. "AIN" team also noticed that some journalists submit complaints over the violations they are subjected to as soon as they take place. And then retract them as they submit to pressures or agreement to reconcile and settle by arriving at an amicable solution, or accepting a "verbal apology" which normally takes place when they are involved in filing complaints against violators who are members of the security and law enforcement personnel, or, more importantly, they believe that the problem was not worth a complaint.

Violations mentioned by the report were distributed between prevention from coverage, harassment, prevention from publishing and distribution, humiliating treatment, and threats of inflicting harm. Looking at all the violations listed hereunder, it is noted that the nature of the violations came with the intention of prevention from coverage, and blockage of information and preventing publishing it. Detention, arrest, and random constriction of freedom, however, are forms of prior punishment to which journalists may be exposed as a result of publishing prohibited media material and/or material that touches on the red lines in publishing. The following table explains the various violations that complainants alleged they were subjected to in 2016, in addition to what was mentioned in terms of claims in reports, and what "AIN" researchers found as forming violations from the monitoring operations carried out.

The following table shows a summary of violations against the freedom of the media in Jordan in 2016.

Violations, Recurrence, and their Percentage 2016

| Type of Violation | Recurrence | % |
|--|------------|-------------|
|  Prevention from Coverage | 45 | 33.3 |
|  Harassment | 20 | 14.8 |
|  Prevention from Publication and Distribution | 13 | 9.6 |
|  Humiliating Treatment | 7 | 5.2 |
|  Threats of Inflicting Harm | 7 | 5.2 |
|  Arbitrary Detention and Restriction of Freedom | 5 | 3.7 |
|  Withholding Work Tools | 4 | 3 |
|  Assault against Work Tools | 4 | 3 |
|  Security Investigation | 3 | 2.2 |
|  Verbal Assault | 3 | 2.2 |
|  Physical Assault | 3 | 2.2 |
|  Unfair Trial | 3 | 2.2 |
|  Blocking Websites | 2 | 1.5 |
|  Confiscation of Work Tools | 2 | 1.5 |
|  Assault against the Sanctity of Private Places | 2 | 1.5 |
|  Damage to and Loss of Property | 2 | 1.5 |
|  Arbitrary Detention | 2 | 1.5 |
|  Withholding Information | 2 | 1.5 |
|  Deleting Camera Contents | 1 | 0.7 |
|  Restricting Freedom | 1 | 0.7 |
|  Withholding Identity Papers | 1 | 0.7 |
|  Prevention from Television and Radio Broadcast | 1 | 0.7 |
|  Prohibition from of Media Work | 1 | 0.7 |
|  Refusal to Grant a Media License | 1 | 0.7 |
| Total | 135 | %100 |

It is evident from this monitoring that there are institutions that are subjected to violations on continuous basis more than others. Reporters of the daily Al-Ra'i newspaper and Ro'ya channel were subjected to 5 violations for each institution, followed by Khabbeirni website, Al-Ghad newspaper, and Ya' Media for Websites, with each subjected to 4 violations. Yarmouk Satellite Channel, 7iber e-magazine, Al-Jazeera channel, and Jordan News Agency were subjected to 3 violations. Each of Al-Ahali partisan newspaper and Jafra news were subjected to two violations, and the remaining institutions were subjected to one violation. The report monitored the issue of 10 decisions prohibiting from publishing.

Among the most important achievements of the report is that it provided a comparison between violations against media professionals during the years 2010 to 2016, through the following table:

Table Number (8): Violations, Recurrence, and their Percentage for the Period 2010 - 2016

The government is the highest authorities violating the media freedom, followed by the the security services.



Violations, Recurrence, and their Percentage for the Period 2010 - 2016

| Type of Violation | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | Total | % |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
|  Blocking Websites | 13 | 3 | 1 | 291 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 321 | 30.4 |
|  Prevention of Coverage | 3 | | 10 | 42 | 30 | 4 | 45 | 134 | 12.7 |
|  Threats of Hurt | 14 | 22 | 11 | 14 | 13 | 1 | 7 | 82 | 7.8 |
|  Verbal Assault | 2 | 4 | 14 | 8 | 11 | | 3 | 42 | 4 |
|  Harassment | 27 | | 8 | 12 | 9 | 1 | 20 | 77 | 7.3 |
|  Physical Assault | 5 | 26 | 10 | 5 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 64 | 6 |
|  Arbitrary Detention | 2 | | 1 | | 16 | | 5 | 24 | 2.3 |
|  Restriction of Freedom | 4 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 5 | 1 | 46 | 4.4 |
|  Blocking Information | 34 | 7 | | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 58 | 5.5 |
|  Confiscation of Work Tools | | | 5 | 3 | 2 | | 2 | 12 | 1 |
|  Electronic Piracy | | 1 | 4 | | 2 | | | 7 | 0.7 |
|  Assault on Work Tools | | | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 0.9 |
|  Prior Censorship | 9 | 1 | | 8 | 3 | | | 21 | 2 |
|  Subsequent Monitoring | | | | 2 | 3 | | | 5 | 0.5 |
|  Incitement of Violation | | | 1 | | 2 | 3 | | 6 | 0.6 |
|  Security Investigation | | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 0.7 |
|  Assault on Private Property | | | 3 | | | | | 3 | 0.3 |
|  Damage to Property | | | | 3 | | | | 3 | 0.3 |
|  Threats of Killing | | | | | 2 | | | 2 | 0.2 |

| | Type of Violation | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | Total | % |
|---|---|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | Arbitrary Detention | 3 | | | 2 | | 9 | 2 | 16 | 1.5 |
|  | Prevention from Media Work | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 3 | 0.3 |
|  | Assault against Work Headquarters | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 | 0.2 |
|  | Prevention from Publication and Distribution | 9 | 15 | | | 2 | 3 | 13 | 42 | 4 |
|  | Discrimination Based on Ethnicity | | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 0.2 |
|  | Sustaining Injuries | | | | 5 | 1 | 1 | | 7 | 0.7 |
|  | Deprivation of Treatment | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 0.1 |
|  | Loss in Property | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 0.3 |
|  | Withholding Work Tools | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 5 | 0.5 |
|  | Deletion of Camera Content | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0.3 |
|  | Arbitrary Dismissal | 4 | 2 | | | | | | 6 | 0.6 |
|  | Withholding the Issue of Covering Documents | 3 | | | 5 | | | 1 | 9 | 0.9 |
|  | Torture | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 0.1 |
|  | Prohibition from Radio and Satellite Broadcasting | | | | | | 10 | 1 | 11 | 1 |
|  | Unfair Trial | | | | | | 7 | 3 | 9 | 0.9 |
|  | Humiliating Treatment | | | | | | 2 | 7 | 9 | 0.9 |
|  | Assault of the Sanctity of Private Places | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 0.2 |
|  | Withholding ID Documents | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 0.1 |
| | Total | 132 | 91 | 74 | 415 | 153 | 57 | 135 | 1055 | 100% |
| | | 14.3% | 10% | 8% | 45% | 16.6% | 6.2% | 12.8% | 100% | |

According to the report, figures show that 11.8% of the total violations to which Jordanian journalists and media professionals during the period 2010 to 2016 were serious violations. Furthermore, public prosecutors use arrest and detention heavily as a penalty against journalists after being interrogated. Although they seem precautionary measures in favor of the investigation, they are actually penalties that deprive journalists of their freedom that conflict with Jordan's international commitments, foremost of which is protecting the right to freedom of opinion, expression, and the media.

The cases presented by the report affirm that the policy of impunity regarding what is committed against media professionals is still common in Jordan. The official authorities have not taken any real or serious steps to redress the victims and hold the perpetrators accountable for the violations that affect the rights of journalists.

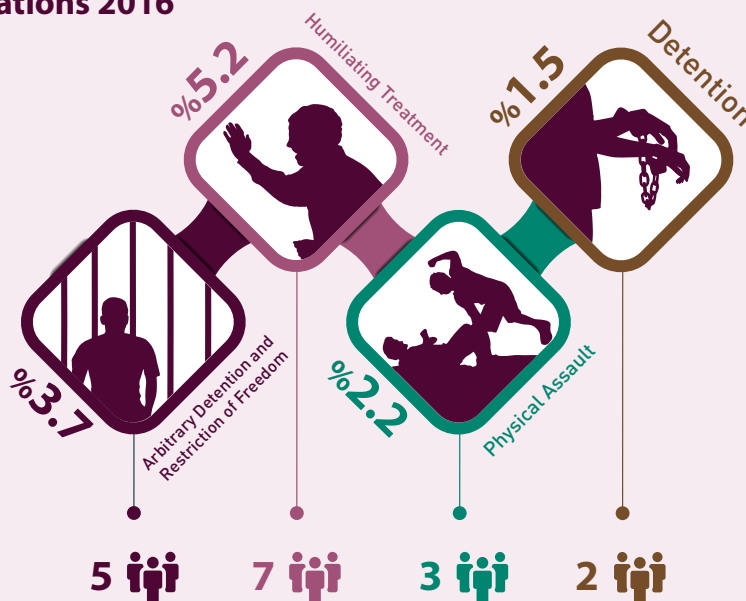
In spite of the cases of violations presented in Chapter 2 of Section 2 of this report, the public prosecution did not take a move on its own to investigate these violations in order to identify the persons responsible for and involved in them and to

bring them to justice before courts of jurisdiction to be tried and punished, especially since the Jordanian law requires public prosecution, in cases that involve criminal suspicion, to undertake its responsibilities and obligations.

CDFJ believes that the policy of impunity adopted by some security agencies and other specialized parties in Jordan towards the serious violations to which media professionals may be subjected, contributes to expanding the space and number of this type of violations and places media freedoms in Jordan in jeopardy. CDFJ would also like to mention that Jordan's classification on the media freedom indicator of the Reporters without Borders organization has retreated substantially as a result of these violations since 2011. In 2016, the law continued to be used to pursue and penalize journalists who complained and reported violations they were subjected to by members of the public security.

CDFJ documented one case in which a journalist was subjected to accountability although he was the complainant for violations against him.

Serious Violations 2016



Total Serious Violations

17

Serious Violations Percentage

12.6%

Due to the type of violations that recurred noticeably over the past seven years according to the above table, out of the 37 types of violations are 12 that continue to be repeated constantly at different rates, of which 8 are repeated at high rates, namely:

- **Blocking Websites**, which was repeated over the past 7 years for 321 times, and were highest in 2013 when the government blocked 291 websites according to the amendments to the Press and Publications Law, and involved licensing media websites.
- **Prevention from Coverage**. The prevention violation was repeated 134 times over the past 7 years. This was monitored and documented by the "AIN" program over that period.
- **Threats of Inflicting Harm**: This type of violation was repeated 82 times over the past 7 years, registering its highest rates in 2011 when the report documented allegations of threats to inflict pain 22 times.
- **Harassment**: Allegations of subjection to harassment remained in the fourth position, and was repeated 77 times during the past 7 years.
- **Physical Assault**: This is considered among the serious criminal assaults to which journalists in Jordan may be subjected, especially after covering demonstrations and protest marches. It is a common violation that takes place regularly, and was recorded by "AIN" to have taken place 64 times.
- **Withholding Information**: It is both common and proven that information is being withheld from journalists in Jordan. It can be said that journalists are normally subjected to withholding information on a daily basis. Allegations received by "AIN" program of withholding information were repeated 58 times.
- **Withholding Freedom**: Allegations of withheld freedom were repeated, and it was evident to "AIN" program that they did take place 46 times over the past 6 years.
- **Prevention from Publishing and Distribution**: "AIN" team believes that the prevention from publishing

and distribution violation has become common as it reached high levels over the past 7 years. What made this type one of the most common in Jordan is the issue of 10 circulars preventing publishing in 2016.

- **Verbal Assault**: It was evident for "AIN" program that verbal assault against journalists was repeated 42 times over the past 7 years.

The rest of the violations were repeated at low and dispersed rates, and it is not possible for the "AIN" program to claim that they are violations of a stable and recurrent nature.

The report also monitors the parties that committed these violations. In the first three positions in terms of the number of violations and documented cases were those whose perpetrators belonged to the security forces, judicial authorities, or the government institutions. They are all official agencies affiliated with the state. The same agencies also assumed the same positions in the 2015 report. It is also noteworthy that the number of violations committed by the security systems entrusted with implementing the law and through the government departments and agencies in 2016 was higher than their averages in 2015, when the report registered 58 violations by the law enforcement agencies, against 19 violations during the previous year, registering 51 violations whose source was government agencies, against 13. Violations resulting from the arbitrary use of the judiciary decreased, whereby the report registered 10 violations compared to 17 the previous year. This is due, according to the report, to a decrease in the number of arbitrary detention of journalists.

The previous numbers reaffirm that the government did not fulfil its international promises and commitments regarding the right to the freedom of opinion, expression, and media, in addition to its non-fulfilment of its commitment to ensure other accompanying human rights in its violation against the media and media professionals. In spite of fact that the

report recorded two cases that included 7 violations from normal citizens, and in spite of the fact that the suspicions of these informers about these violations hover around these citizens were pushed to commit their violations by other parties, what is suspicious is the abstention of the security systems to pursue these violator citizens, and not holding them accountable or interrogate them regarding the violations they committed. Furthermore, a security officer was negligent in a serious manner and as the law requires in implementing the law and to pursue a person who stole Al-Jazeera crew camera while covering the events in Karak. Hence, these violations can be listed among those committed by security personnel, as the pursuit of criminals is their duty, so they can be handed over to justice. "AIN" team also documented a case that included 5 violations by a private university for the purpose of preventing coverage of what it believed was offensive to it. Hence, the violating party was classified under "Universities and Academic Institutes." These cases may also be added as violations committed by the security personnel which failed to pursue the perpetrators, which is in the core of its duties, or perhaps its only duty.

The lower house of parliament recorded 3 violations of preventing coverage and harassment. While the "AIN" team believes that the Press Association continued to harass media professionals through its address aimed at the lower house to approve journalists who are registered as members in its lists and excluding those who are not, to enter the house for the purpose of coverage, which was classified by the researcher as "professional unions," yet this classification may be considered as violations by the parliament at the same time, and perhaps even more than a violation by the Press Association itself. If it is possible to understand the attempt by the Press Association to ensure the employment of its members and making the right to coverage exclusive to them, this rapid response from the lower house cannot be understood, since the lower house is supposed to know that the right to access information cannot be exclusive to one party alone, even if it is the Press Association.

2.3 Chapter 3: Media Freedoms Subject of Violations - Typical Cases

Chapter 3 records typical cases of violations, inclusive of the names of those affected by the violation, the violation's type and method, the venue of the violation, and its date. These violations included the documentation of 47 violations by prevention of coverage and withholding information, 20 violations by harassment, 13 violations by prevention of publication and distribution, and the blockage of two news websites, as well as one violation by deletion of content of a news camera, one violation by prevention of a media services company to broadcast on behalf of Yarmouk channel, one violation of prevention of a media production company to carry out media work for Al-Qanat, and, finally, one violation of refusal of licensing application of a media professional despite the fulfillment of all the required conditions. The team of Ain monitored and documented 28 violations related to the prevention of coverage of Election Day by media professionals during the 18th parliamentary elections in Jordan, which took place on 20 September 2016. CDFJ had issued a special report on the violations that occurred against the freedom of the media on that day.

The report monitors the issuance of 10 bans on publication, as previously stated. Publication bans occurred in the case of the Irbid cell upon the decision of the Media Commission on 6 March 2016; in a case for the Ministry of Social Development upon the decision of the Amman public prosecutor on 11 May 2016; in the case of the attack on the General Intelligence office upon the decision of the Media Commission on 7 June 2016; in the case of the attack on an Egyptian worker upon the decision of the Media Commission on 8 August 2016; in the case of the audio leaks of the president of Al-Wihdat Club upon the decision of the Disciplinary Committee of the Jordanian Federation on 9 August 2016; in the case of Nahed Hattar's trial upon the decision of the public prosecutor and in the case of the



Islamic preacher Amjad Qorsha upon the decision of the Amman public prosecutor on 28 August 2016; the ban on publication of any news related to the Royal family and committing to publishing on what is provided by the Royal Court upon the decision of the Media Commission on 29 August 2016; in the case of Nahed Hattar's assassination upon the decision of the public prosecutor of the State Security Court on 26 September 2016; on issues related to the Jordanian Armed Forces upon the decision of the Military Judiciary Directorate - the General Command of the Armed Forces on 29 November and 1 December 2016.

Chapter 3 of the report presents cases of severe violation of the freedom of opinion and expression, which occurred by the actions of state institutions and the security apparatus. These include blocking the website Saheh Khabarak website without prior notification by the Media Commission; preventing Jafra News' correspondent from covering the news conference on the population census; harassing the journalist Zaid Al-Marafi due to the case filed against him for a story he published; preventing Ro'ya TV's correspondent from covering the Lower House of Parliament's sit-in; harassing and threatening the journalist Amal Ghabayen as a result of a story she published about allocating a piece of land for one of the officials; the continued restriction on Yarmouk Channel and the technical and media services companies that supply it in Jordan; withholding information related to transgressions on state property; blocking the AmmanNet website for nine days; and harassing Jordan TV's correspondent, Munjed Dabbas, during the coverage of the pilgrimage rituals.

The perpetration of violations was not restricted to official parties. They included universities, and even citizens, making it appear as if journalists and media professionals were a target for all. Jidara University's security physically and verbally attacked the journalist Mohammad Qdaisat, who was on assignment. The reporter of the daily Al-Ra'y newspaper was harassed while he was on assignment in the area of Wadi Musa. Citizens harassed the team of Al-Jazeera TV, preventing

them from covering events related to the confrontation with a terrorist cell in the village of Qraiflah in Karak Governorate. There were severe violations against the right not to be subjected to torture or other forms of harsh, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment and against the right to personal safety, inclusive of physical and verbal assault, on Jamal Fkhaida, the correspondent of Jafra News website. The journalist Zaid Al-Marafi was subjected to inhumane treatment and was threatened with harm when he was arrested and investigated with over a story he published. The correspondent of Ro'ya TV was subjected to inhumane treatment and was threatened with harm when he was covering a protest in front of the Lower House of Parliament. The journalist Amal Ghabayen was subjected to inhumane treatment and was threatened over a story about allocating a piece of land in Dabouq to one of the officials. The team of Ya' Media for Electronic Websites was subjected to inhumane treatment when they were arrested for doing their media work. Al-Ghad newspaper's photographer, Mohammad Al-Maghaydah, was subjected to inhumane treatment when he was arrested during media coverage. The correspondent of Al-Urdon News Agency was subjected to inhumane treatment when he was covering the process of removing gathering citizens in front of the main operations room of the parliamentary elections in Ajloun Governorate. The journalist Dana Jibreel was threatened when she would not stop her coverage of the break-up of a sit-in for the National Campaign Against the Gas Agreement with Israel.

The violations related to the right to property included forcing a Ro'ya TV's correspondent to hand over his mobile telephone when he was covering a sit-in in front of the Parliament; seizing the camera of Al-Ghad newspaper's photographer, Mohammad Al-Maghaydah while he was working; seizing a sound mixer and two computers for the Ya' Media for Electronic Websites; undertaking measures against

the identity card of the correspondent of the Al-Urdon News Agency when covering the gathering of citizens in front of the main parliamentary elections operations room in Ajloun Governorate; and confiscating the personal telephone of the photographer of Al-Ahali newspaper when he was covering a protest staged against the Israeli gas import agreement. One of the violations that was committed by civilian parties was the stealing of Al-Jazeera TV's camera when it was covering the events of confronting a terrorist cell in the village of Qraiflah in Karak Governorate.

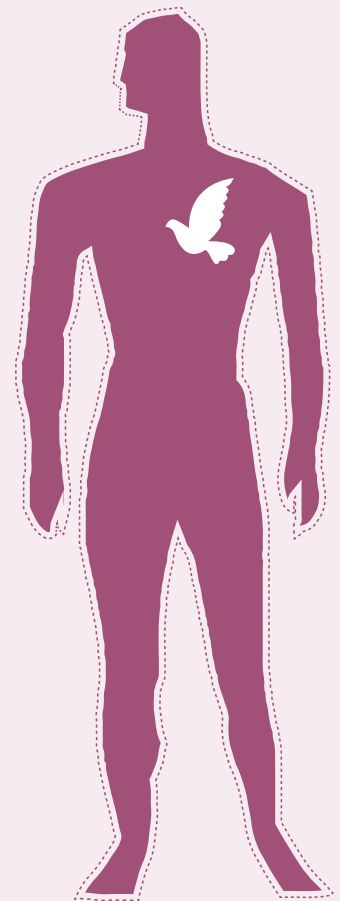
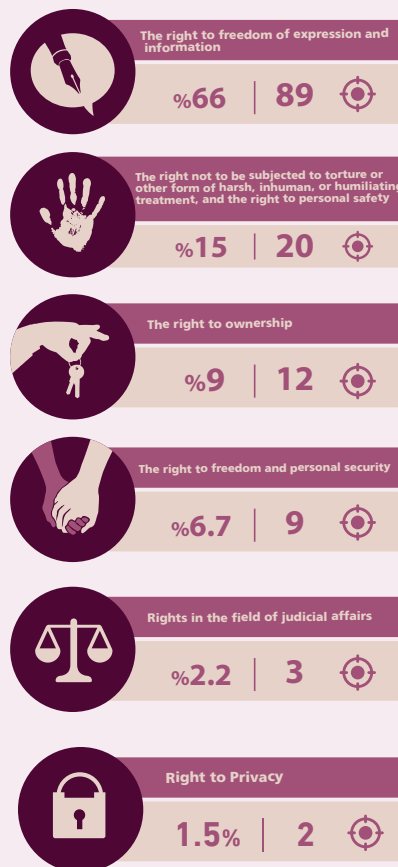
The severe violations related to the right to freedom and personal safety included arresting the journalist Zaid Al-Marafi for his story about the courts' employees; arbitrarily detaining the correspondent of Ro'ya TV during his coverage of a sit-in in front of the Parliament; arresting Al-Dustour newspaper's journalist Anas Sweileh; arresting the team members of Ya' Media for Electronic Websites while they conducting interviews with citizens about their preparations for the holiday; arresting the correspondent of Ya' Media for Electronic Websites, Adel Al-Mashayekh, when he was covering Al-Taraweeh Prayer; and arresting Al-Ahali newspaper's photographer Yousef Al-Ghazawi as he was covering a protest.

The severe violations related to judicial and legal rights included arresting the journalist Zaid Al-Marafi for his story about the courts' employees; arresting Al-Dustour newspaper's journalist Anas Sweileh; and presenting the team members of the Ya' Media for Electronic Websites to court after they were arrested on charges of working with an unlicensed institution.

The violations related to right to privacy included the storming of the headquarters of the Ya' Media for Electronic Websites in Jabal Amman by a delegation from the Media Commission team, accompanied by security members. The delegation shut down the studio,

which was rented for a limited amount of time by the Zweina satellite channel, and kicking out the guests who were in the studio for recording a program with members from Al-Hadith Al-Sharif Society. In a different incident, three members of the protective security visited the Tout Broadcasting Company and remained on site for five hours as they searched files, documents, and computers for proof of their dealings with Yarmouk Channel.

Assaulted Human Rights, their Recurrence, and Percentages



2.4 Chapter 4: Recommendations

It is possible to say that media professionals in Jordan continue to face increasing challenges as a result of the legal structure that does not guarantee the freedom of expression and the media on one hand, and the lack of comprehension by some staff members who are entrusted with the task of implementing the law of the importance of the media and the pivotal role played by media professionals to keep the people informed of the news, data, and information on the other.

In any case, the state should shoulder a multi-dimensional commitment to guarantee enjoying human rights. In addition to the duty of undertaking all the necessary legislative and other measures, it should interfere in two main areas: Prevent violations, and respect, protect, and reinforce human rights.

In order to fulfil its duty of respecting media freedoms, the state is required to refrain from acts that could violate human rights. The role of protecting media freedoms, however, is based on the state's commitment to protect people from acts that could prevent their enjoyment of their rights. Then there is the duty of reinforcing media rights and freedoms, which is based on the state's commitment to taking measures to spread human rights, train on them, and teach them. The protection of all human rights forces the state to adopt procedural measures that provide sufficient equity means as well as protection measures and investigation in human rights violations.

Hence, this report offers a number of recommendations which, if implemented, would make the work of media professionals in Jordan easier and smoother, and would provide an incubating legal environment for media rights, as follows:

2.4.1 To the Jordanian Government

CDFJ recommends that the Jordanian government does the following:

2.4.1.1 Approach the Lower House of Parliament to amend the Press and Publications Law to achieve the following:

2.4.1.1.1 Cancel the licensing condition to establish websites.

2.4.1.1.2 Consider the crimes committed by a press publication civil and not criminal cases.

2.4.1.1.3 Commit to the principle of the personality of the penalty when pressing charges against journalists and end the assumed responsibility of the chief editor.

2.4.1.1.4 Cancel the authority of the Media Commission director to block websites.

2.4.1.1.5 Add a legal text that ensures that a journalist is not referred to court or tried except in accordance with the Press and Publications Law.

2.4.1.2 Approach the Lower House of Parliament to amend the Access to Information Law to contribute to maintaining society's and media professionals' right to knowledge, by observing the following:

2.4.1.2.1 Establish penalties against anyone who does not commit to providing information in public agencies.

2.4.1.2.2 Cancel the exceptions mentioned in the law which conflict with article (19) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

2.4.1.2.3 Make the decisions by the Information Council mandatory.

2.4.1.2.4 The right to access information cannot be connected to the concept of "legitimate interest."

2.4.1.5 Grant the right to access information a transcendent status for information restricted in the State Documents and Secrets Law.

2.4.1.3 Apply to the Lower House to reconsider the Audio Visual Law to permit:

2.4.1.3.1 Cancel any prior or post censorship or restriction on broadcasting.

2.4.1.3.2 Add legal material that encourage public media (television and radio), reduce broadcast and repeat television and radio broadcast fees to support stations transferring to the concept of public service as is the case in many democratic countries.

2.4.1.3.3 Apply to the Lower House to amend the Press Association Law to permit compatibility with the International Human Rights Law standards, especially the materials stated in the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, which oppose the mandatory membership as a condition for practicing the journalism profession.

2.4.1.4 Approach the Lower House to amend the Penal Code in a manner that is compatible with international conventions and treaties, including:

2.4.1.4.1 Non-specialization in addressing cases in printing and publishing and/or audio visual media cases.

2.4.1.4.2 Cancel the article that permits referring journalists to the State Security Court.

2.4.1.4.3 Stop classifying and considering freedom of expression and media crimes as crimes against the state internal and external security.

2.4.1.4.4 Apply to the Lower House with a legislation regarding prohibition of publishing circulars, making these circulars under the jurisdiction of the judiciary alone, with appealing them being regulated into much shorter periods and before a regular court of law.

2.4.1.4.5 Commit to publishing information about the status of the government implementing its commitments according to the recommendations

it accepted before the comprehensive periodic review of human rights, the Convention against Torture, and other conventions that affect the freedom of expression and the freedom of the media.

2.4.2 To the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament

The Lower House of Parliament should undertake the following steps to improve the working environment for journalists and media professionals who cover its activities, through:

2.4.2.1 Amend the House's internal bylaws which permit holding closed sessions and prevent journalists from covering them, on the basis that the principle of holding closed sessions does not represent a violation of the right to access information provided by a public agency.

2.4.2.2 End using the certification system which restricts journalists who wish to cover the House's work, and settle for journalists submitting prior notice to the general secretariat of their interest in covering the House work, since the absolute need for the House to have a restricting system is unnecessary, taking into consideration that the International Human Rights Law opposes such systems to begin with.

2.4.2.3 End any discrimination in treating journalists and media professionals and refraining from insisting on their membership in any association or union as a condition, in order to facilitate their work at the House.

2.4.3 To Civil Society organizations and institutions operating in the field of defending the freedom of expression and the media

Civil society organizations can play an important role in defending the freedom of expression and the media through:

2.4.3.1 Create work mechanisms among the organizations concerned to reinforce monitoring the government's implementation of its international obligations related to human rights and the freedom of expression.

2.4.3.2 Monitor and document violations against all rights guaranteed by the International Human Rights Law, and paying attention to urgent cases of freedom of expression and freedom of the press in their monitoring reports.

2.4.3.3 Work at urging the government to amend law and legislations that affect the people's right to access information, including information needed by civil work organizations to reinforce their independent control work.

2.4.3.4 Commit to a methodology based on disclosure and transparency, and facilitate the work of media professionals and journalists to access information provided by these institutions without delay or blocking.

2.4.3.5 Attempt to assist employees entrusted with implementing the law by way of training, education, and raising awareness of the importance of the role of media professionals and the manner of dealing with them within the framework of international charters and the Jordanian constitution.



Attended 1177 court sessions and won 20 judgments in favor of journalists

"Melad" advocated in 95 cases in defense of media professionals before the courts in 2016

CDFJ's Media Legal Aid Unit "Melad" won 20 judgments in favor of journalists at the Court of Appeals in 2016.

Melad litigated in 95 cases in 2016, 62 of which were in courts of first instance and 33 at courts of appeals.

Melad took a decision since 2015 to set a ceiling of a maximum of three cases to defend for each journalist, in order to give an opportunity to provide assistance to other journalists, and to provide better quality services to media professionals after the number of cases increased, placing a burden on Melad lawyers.

Statistics published by Melad showed that it attended 1177 sessions to defend and litigate on behalf of journalists in 2016, during which 71 witnesses, defenses, and plaintiffs were cross-examined. 13 experts in compensations in personal rights cases were debated. In this respect, the court approved 6 expert reports and decided to discard 7 reports and new expert procedures.

Melad showed that it submitted 52 memorandums and 33 closing arguments.

Melad revealed that it won 23 innocence, non-responsibility, and halting prosecution judgments. There were 10 convictions.

Melad pointed out that during its work in 2016, it submitted 23 rebuttals to the appeals of the public prosecutor and personal right plaintiffs, and 10 appeals contesting conviction decisions.

Media practitioners, particularly those operating in websites, continue to be subjected to detention penalty when they appear before the public prosecutor, according to article 11 of the Electronic Crimes Law.

Melad was active in 2016 in participating in submitting proposals to amend the penal codes, prevention of terrorism, and press and publications to all parties (the government and the parliament, and exerted outstanding efforts to submit the draft law for the Complaints



and Media Council. Melad also participated in the preparatory and technical committee work to prepare the draft and/or regulation for the complaints council in partnership with the Media Commission, the National Guidance Committee, the Judicial Council, and the Press Association.

Melad submitted a legal reading on the decisions to prohibit publishing and the extent to which they are compatible with the constitution and international conventions that ensure the freedom of expression and media.

Melad explained the problems facing submitting assistance and legal aid to media professionals, most prominent of which were:

1. The absence of legal references and judicial precedence that enrich the knowledge and skills of lawyers working in them, which pushed it into an exhaustive search to find and provide some references and judicial provisions that agree with international standards for the freedom of expression and the media.
2. The large number and momentum of lawsuits before the court (for publications lawsuits) represent pressure on the judge's work, which leads to reducing the time allocated for addressing each lawsuit from the time allocated in times when the ratio of lawsuits is low. This relatively affects the time allocated for defense during litigation.
3. The long waiting period at the Public Prosecution department until a journalist appears before the public prosecutor at the interrogation room due to the

large number of cases under investigation represented a pressure factor on the lawyer's tasks, with the lawyer becoming forced to be free for hours in order to appear next to the journalist at the public prosecution. This affects his work and lawsuits addressed by the court at the same time negatively, especially that the public prosecutor informs journalists by phone of the need to appear before him at his office on the same day.

4. Media professionals do not commit to dates given by them whether by appearing at the CDFJ's offices to discuss their cases with lawyers or by attending at the courts. This affects negatively the lawyer's work and the manner in which he manages the lawsuit and the defense of the journalist.

5. The presence of suspended lawsuits raised against journalists due to an inability for the plaintiff to notify the prosecution witness to hear his testimony, which lengthens the litigation period.

6. The presence of many lawsuits in which the journalist has no defense evidence to submit, which would reflect on the result of the decision issued in the lawsuit and against the Melad lawyer during litigation before the courts.

7. Lack of commitment by some lawyers to attend meetings assigned in advance with lawyers to discuss the track of the lawsuit and defense, which contributes to delaying the work process, and prevents from preparing the defense on time, and certainly appearing before the prosecution and the judiciary in a state of embarrassment due to the recurrent request for an extension for the same objective.

8. Lack of commitment by some media professionals to appear before the court during the arraignment session and presenting defense evidence, which results in depriving the defense lawyer of his defense, and surely the conviction of the party concerned with the crime for failing to submit evidence, in addition to the accompanying professional embarrassment caused by the lack of response and inability to appear at the allocated time and place.

9. The main problems faced by Melad in 2015 and 2016 was the repercussions of the Electronic Crimes Law,

whereby the increase in the number of consultations requested from Melad and the increase in demand requests for legal assistance from the Unit before public prosecution, represented a pressure factor on the work by the Unit and the lawyers. The detention decision that accompanied the issue of the decision by the Bureau for Interpreting Laws became a sword aimed at those operating in websites that work within their license framework according to the Press and Publications Law, to benefit from the latter's benefits, especially the inadmissibility of detention for expressing opinion. The electronic publication, however, which was subjected according to the interpretation decision of the provisions of article 11 of the Electronic Crimes Law (slander and defamation) and article 114 of the Criminal Courts Procedures Law (detention), is now aware of the effects resulting from the interpretation on those working for it. Some of them now reject to appear before the public prosecutor to avoid detention. Others believe that there is negligence by the lawyer in pursuing the case and submitting a request for release. All this forms a gap that creates a state of lack of confidence between the lawyer and the journalist.

Melad pointed out the laws and articles that journalists were prosecuted based on them, summarized as follows:

- The Press and Publications Law Articles 5, 7C, 38D, 48 are the ones most used by the public prosecution.
- Communications Law, article 75A
- The Penal Code, articles 188, 189, 190, 118, and 150.
- Electronic Crimes Law, article 11.
- Violating the Integrity of Courts Law, articles 11 and 12.
- The Audio Visual Media Law, article 20.





مركز حماية وحرية الصحفيين

Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists

The Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists [CDFJ] was established in 1998 as a civil society organization working to defend media freedom in Jordan. CDFJ was established after a series of major setbacks to press freedom on a local level, starting with the issuing of the temporary press and publications law of 1997, which increased restrictions on the media and caused many newspapers to shut down.

CDFJ works to protect freedom and democracy in Jordan and the Arab world, while promoting respect for human rights, justice, equality, development, non-violence and open dialogue.

CDFJ always maintains its independence and does not take sides in the political process. However, when it comes to defending the freedom of journalists and the media, CDFJ stands against all policies and legislations that may impose restrictions on a free and thriving press.

CDFJ is active on a regional level in developing media freedom and strengthening the skills and professionalism of journalists in all Arab countries through customized programs and activities. Additionally, CDFJ works with media and civil society organizations to protect democracy and promote respect for human rights principles.

CDFJ's Vision:

Developing and strengthening democracy and the reform process in the Arab World in a manner that supports freedom of expression and the media and that ensures commitment to international standards in press freedom.

CDFJ's Mission:

The Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists is a non-governmental and non-profit organization. CDFJ defends media freedom and provides protection to Arab journalists by addressing violations to their rights, providing professional development and ensuring free access to information. Finally, CDFJ advocates for reform of legislation that restricts press freedom and works to foster a political, social and cultural environment that supports a free and independent media.

CDFJ's Primary Goals:

- Supporting free and independent media and journalists
- Providing protection and security to journalists and addressing violations to their rights
- Strengthening the professionalism of the media and promoting the role of the media in defending democracy, liberty and reform.
- Developing a legislative, political, social and cultural environment supportive of the media.



برنامج رصد وتوثيق
الانتهاكات الواقعة على الإعلام

AIN

The Program for Monitoring and Documenting of violations against the media

Vision:

To end violations committed against journalists and media institutions to strengthen the freedom and independence of the media

Mission:

To monitor and document the problems, transgressions, and violations committed against journalists and media institutions during the exercise of their profession, and to peruse their perpetrators.

Objectives:

- To build a qualified team of lawyers, journalists, and researchers to monitor and document the violations against journalists and media institutions according to internationally agreed upon principles and standards.
- To encourage journalists to disclose the problems, transgressions, and violations they encounter during the exercise of their work and to use relevant reporting mechanism.
- To develop and institutionalize the mechanisms for monitoring the problems and violations that journalists encounter
- To raise the journalists' awareness of their rights and their knowledge of the international standards for media freedom, as well as the definition of the violations they encounter.

- To urge the government to adopt the necessary measures to end the violations against the media and to hold their perpetrators accountable.
- To urge the Parliament to formulate legislation and laws that guarantee media freedom in order to end the violations against the media and hold their perpetrators accountable.
- To provide support and legal assistance to media practitioners who encounter problems and violations, inclusive of helping them receive fair compensation for violations they encountered and suffered from.
- To use UN mechanisms to limit violations committed against journalists.



The Media Legal Aid Unit (MELAD) was founded in 2001 to provide free litigation and legal consultation services to Jordanian journalists.

While the Jordanian constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression, vague clauses in the Press and Publications law (1998) and broad interpretations of an antiterrorism law often lead to journalists facing legal repercussions for their work.

The Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) established MELAD as a response to an increased number of media related legal cases brought against journalists. Given that Jordanian journalists can be detained for crimes ranging from defamation to denigrating religion or the state, the legal protection provided by MELAD is a necessity. In the absence of such protections journalists are likely to self-censor to avoid adverse legal consequences.

To date MELAD has represented 300 journalists in media related cases. In 2014, 66.7% of journalists facing trial in Jordan were represented by MELAD.

All of MELAD's legal services are 100% pro bono.

Objectives:

1. Assigning lawyers to defend journalists who are detained or prosecuted for carrying out their duties.
2. Providing legal consultation to journalists without increasing restrictions or self-censorship.
3. Enhancing the legal awareness of the journalists and helping them exercise their constitutional rights of expression and defending the society's right to knowledge without violating the law.
4. Exhorting lawyers to give attention to journalism and media freedom issues, and developing their legal skills in this field.
5. Presenting draft laws to the parliament and government to improve the legal structure governing the freedom of media in Jordan in harmony with the international standards.
6. Establishing streams of communication with the judicial authority to enhance press freedoms and create an understanding of the international standards for the freedom of media.

Mechanism of work:

1. Rebuilding the media legal aid unit by recruiting specialized qualified lawyers, organizing the unit's mechanisms of work and activating the voluntary efforts of lawyers.
2. Organizing advanced and specialized training for a

number of lawyers who took part in previous training workshops with CDFJ, and involving new lawyers who are already engaged in defending newspapers, radio and TV stations to enrich their experience and encourage them to support the efforts of media legal aid unit.

3. Re-distributing and restructuring the work of media legal aid unit MELAD along three lines:

- Defending journalists before juridical authorities and extending legal advice through building a network of lawyers which can provide legal protection for the journalists in a proper and professional manner.
- Documenting the lawsuits filed against journalists and institutions in Jordanian courts.
- Studying and analyzing verdicts issued in press and publication cases to determine their compatibility with international standards and to identify the Jordanian judiciary trends in dealing with media-related cases.

4. Establishing a forum for exchanging expertise on the freedom of media between judges, lawyers, and journalists

5. Providing legal advice to journalists through the following website: www.cdfj.org

6. Activating the hotline service and providing journalists with the names and telephone numbers of lawyers working with the media legal aid unit to seek their assistance in urgent cases.



