Falling Down

Media Freedom Status in the Arab World 2013

Monitoring and Documentation of Violations

Executive Summary

شبكة المدافعين عن حرية الإعلام في العالم العربي

SANAD

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The Libyan Center for Democracy and Human Rights/ Libya

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1 AIN Program was implemented in 2013 in Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia And Yemen by national teams that monitored and documented violations through questionnaires that covered all complaints and met with victims of these violations from the media.

2 AIN Program implemented in other Arab countries in 2012 resorted to monitoring and verifying relevant news stories and publications of national, regional and international organizations.

The Remains of the Media

• **Nidal Mansour**

What is there left for you?

A lump in the throat, pain in the heart, and a search for answers; three years after the start of the Arab Spring revolutions, what is left for us to dream of? What is there left for us to live in anticipation of it?

The blood that flowed, and the throats that raised their voices till they shook the sky, do they not have the right to know? Do they not have the right to see the rose gardens which we were promised and that never came?

Those who fell as an offering to the revolution, those who sacrificed their liberty for a promise, and those who bared their chests for the whips during the confrontations, but they did not cry nor bow their heads, what we will say to them?

Was the dream a mere illusion? Was the revolution a mirage, the fantasy of a thirsty imagination? Was our spring really the autumn?

In what language can we explain why we deliver the promised future as a cadaver?

All wagers that the fallen horse would rise again; that that the victorious, roaring in exhilaration at their victory cannot be defeated;

and that, after the gunpowder and tear gas there would rise a nation glorious in its freedom that had been usurped were mere hallucinations and feverish delirium, from which we awoke to a nightmare that moved the clock back to the point where we now compare the jackboot of a past dictator with that of an incoming one, between one who imprisoned the free and another who kills them!

An alarming comparison of alternatives the sweetest of which is bitter

The scent of jasmine has faded. The gulls that soared and carried us with them to the sea of freedom have abandoned our shores. And we are left to wait.

We used to say after our first year that revolutions and popular protests are forging ahead, and that the crack of dawn has dispelled the dark of night.   In our second year we accepted the platitude of one step forward and two steps back. Our concern was to stay firm because revolutions are not magic wands that you throw on the ground and immediately flowers bloom. But in our third year we have nothing but lamentations as we weep over revolutions that were usurped and young people in the flower of their youth who fell without a word of goodbye, and their passing was followed by nothing except chaos and ruin.

I search in the landscape of the Arab world and find nothing but fighting between the allies of yesterday, victories for the enemies of freedom, whether clad in military uniform or entrenched in religious and sectarian guise. In the shadows, those who made the revolution call out6, but their screams remain unheard because the nation which they quenched with their blood has been usurped by the

brokers of revolutions.

It is an about turn. The fight, after three years, has been resolved. Defenders of freedom, who stood up for their dreams, have been broken. The dust of battle has unfortunately settled, and nothing short of a miracle will save us from the abyss.

A close look at the media scene shows that the situation in Egypt has become worse. The killing of journalists, which Egypt had not seen in decades, has now become a painful everyday fact. Yemen is now a model of a failed state where the lives of journalists are threatened or extinguished, and where their cries go unheeded. In Syria the assassination of journalists, professional journalists or citizen journalists, cannot be counted, and the blood that is shed is shared between a despotic regime, "religious" militias, and armed groups who want to silence the media to tailor-make a nation to suits them.

Great similarities in the tyranny against freedom of the media; in Iraq journalists come out of their homes every day to face an unknown destiny that may await them around every corner. Their lives are worth no more than the price of a bullet. What is happening in Iraq has long been the reality of Somalia, where journalists are targets for assassination and liquidation at the hands of armed groups. In Libya, journalists live in terror, under constant threat of death or kidnapping on a daily basis.

When journalists are not exposed to grievous and dangerous threats, it does not mean that they enjoy the bliss of freedom. Abuses abound, which are not brought under the limelight, most notably withholding information, prevention from covering news stories, self-censorship, prior censorship, and interference by

the government and security services, to say nothing of jamming satellite TV stations and piracy of news websites.

Pages are insufficient to tell the story of the media which had not yet caught a breath of the promised freedom when they were swiftly and cruelly strangled. There is no difference between countries of the Arab world except the nature and severity of violations, and the identity of their perpetrators, but in all cases the media are the victim and the target.

The margins of freedom which journalists snatched through their struggle have now narrowed. The virtual [cyber] space where they soared to escape from the days of custodianship has now become subjugated and controlled by the ruling authorities. The social media have been usurped and they became arenas for pitched epic battles.

Executioners are numerous in the post-Arab-Spring time. Violations against freedom of the media are no longer the monopoly of the government and its security forces; now many political forces partake in this, providing myriad justifications for the violations of media freedom, at times under pretext of national security, at others for denigrating religions, all of which are slogans that match the discourse of tyrants.

The independence of the media from [the ruling] authority are slogans that failed to be implemented in our countries. Many media that claim to be independent now disseminate the discourse of hatred and incitement against political opponents, and before that against journalists who dare express a different opinion, offering absolution for those who throw journalists in prison even without a trial.

The state of media freedoms in the Arab world is decidedly not conducive to optimism. It shows no promise that we have learned from the experiences of the past. All that has happened is that the picture and the faces have changed, but the hands that commit crimes and violations continue.

The first report by the Network of Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (Sanad) was entitled "Freedom under the Batons" because freedom at the time competed with the truncheon, stood resolute before it, and refused to succumb to the bludgeon. Today, as we publish the second report on the state of media freedoms in the Arab world I can say: "Freedom is gone and the baton dominates the scene". Those who wield the cudgel and use it against journalists are numerous, most dangerous among them, perhaps, are the journalists themselves!

The scene in the second year of the Sanad Network remains bleak. The situation has become more confused and dangerous because many of the rules and traditions of professional media have disappeared, and it has become necessary to go back to the basics of journalism to revive them and entrench ourselves behind them, by reasserting the vital importance of credibility, objectivity, and the need for pluralism to face exclusivity of the single opinion, the dissemination of rumors and incitement, and fomenting hatred.

In 2013 the task of Sanad Network was not easy. It became more difficult. Undeclared violations may have been many times more numerous than those that were monitored and documented, despite all efforts. Disclosure became more dangerous, and falsified charges became ready to be used against anyone who dares to defy the policy of silence.

Post Arab Spring countries are no exception in violations against journalists. Despite all the constant clashes that occur and in which journalists are attacked and subjected to violations, especially those working in the field, there remain in these countries opportunities for news to leak, and for social networks to monitor and document, even though they may be expressing the conflict between adversaries. The problem is that governments impose an iron wall against reporting violations, to stop information about these violations from leaking and being documented. Journalists fear the fate that may befall them if they report what happened to them, and these countries keep a clean slate, although their human rights records betray violations against journalists.

Violations against journalists have not changed much between 2012 and 2013, although some states have seen serious developments in the quality of violations, notably the growing incidence of killing journalists, which was not common previously.

But the common denominator among all countries is the continuation of impunity for those who commit crimes and violations against journalists.

The Media Freedom Status in the Arab World Report does not offer solutions to the complex crisis of the media, nor does it predict a bleak image. It reports facts. It acts like a magnifying lens that reveals the sins of regimes, governments, militias, political parties, and groups that persist in striking at media freedom to protect themselves from the oversight of the media and accountability before society.

Our report this year is a voice that refuses to be silenced and muzzled. It shames those who want to suppress and stifle the media.

And furthermore,

Has the curtain gone down on the scene of media freedom in the Arab world after the defeat of the Arab Spring? Is it a foregone conclusion that worse is to come? Is the discourse of hope a thing of the past?

Let us admit that the defenders did not win their battle. More importantly, let us also recognize, and this is the most important and the only constant, that dreams do not die.

One ear of corn, in its death, fills the valley with wheat.

Executive President
Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ)

Introduction

The Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD), was established in 2012, through an initiative of the Forum for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (MFD), which was organized by the Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) in Jordan in December of 2011. Among the most important goals that the SANAD network seeks to achieve is monitoring and documenting violations against media freedoms in the Arab world, in a systematic and scientific way, according to methods used globally in the monitoring, investigation, and documentation. SANAD network established the 'Ain' Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against Media Freedoms.

The reasons that prompted SANAD network to create the program and to monitor and document violations against media freedom in the Arab world are to measure the extent of respect in Arab countries for international standards of media freedom and related human rights, to mobilize Arab and world public opinion against practices that involve violations of these freedoms and rights, to understand patterns of violations prevalent in the Arab region and their causes, to submit evidence and suitable grounds for the prosecution of those who commit grievous violations of the rights of journalists and prevent the culprits from escaping with impunity, to encourage journalists to document the problems and violations which they face, to raise journalists' awareness of the importance of freedoms, human rights and journalists' rights for them to be able to do their work easily and conveniently, and to spread the idea of scientific and systematic monitoring and documentation of violations of media freedoms in the Arab world.

SANAD focused this year on monitoring all types of violations. It did not limit its monitoring to grave violations, the policy of impunity,

and the use of law and the judiciary to block media freedoms as in the past year. This was necessary particularly because a number of Arab Spring countries covered by the systematic monitoring, which depends fundamentally on complaints received, suffered a clear and noticeable retreat of media freedom. Violations are no longer limited to specific types, but affect all journalists' activities. SANAD also focused on the change that occurred after the Arab Spring in the sources of violations against media freedom and the rights of journalists in the Arab world. Violations are no longer committed exclusively by the authorities and official bodies; now they are also committed by unofficial persons such as political organizations and movements, and the militias affiliated with some of them. It is also noticeable that the law and the judiciary have become tools used by public authorities to muzzle the media in the name of legality and legitimacy.

Countries such as Egypt and Jordan saw a significant decline in media freedom. SANAD noticed the significant decline in media freedom in Egypt since the ouster of the former government led by the Freedom and Justice Party of the Muslim Brotherhood and the coming to power of a new regime which is described as military rule, after the Egyptian army intervened to overthrow President Mohamed Morsi. In Jordan, the Network focused on the self-control policy, also known as self-censorship exercised by journalists and media organizations obviously and clearly. SANAD also noticed this year that Jordan enacted a number of laws governing the work of the media in a restrictive way, especially with regard to blocking news websites

After this introduction, the report reviews the following issues:

▪ Methodology of work and preparation of the report.

- General trends of violations of media freedom in the Arab world: general overview.

- Complaints and violations in Jordan.

- Complaints and violations in Tunisia.

- Complaints and violations in Egypt.

- Complaints and violations in Yemen.

- Violations of media freedom and the rights of journalists in other Arab countries.

- Recommendations

Executive Summary

First: Methodology of work and preparation of the report

In addition to the three monitoring teams operating in Jordan, Tunisia and Egypt, which were formed by SANAD network in 2012, the Network created this year a monitoring team specialized in Yemen, in coordination with Freedom Foundation for Media, Rights and Development, which has worked in Yemen for years. SANAD also sought to develop the preliminary nucleus for a monitoring team in Iraq in preparation to start the systematic monitoring of violations against media freedom in Iraq, which is hoped to commence in 2014. The Yemeni team was formed in the same way as the other three teams, whereby team members underwent an intensive two-phase training program. The Network emphasized the use of a disciplined scientific methodology for information gathering and fact-

finding in the four countries, and it aimed to monitor violations against a wide range of rights and freedoms related to the media and journalists.

In addition to systematic monitoring of violations against journalists and the media in the four countries mentioned above which were targeted by the Network this year, the Network also monitored violations against media freedom and the rights of journalists in all Arab countries. In other words, the process of monitoring and documentation carried out by the Network in 2013 was on two levels: The first level consisted of an institutional and comprehensive monitoring process of violations against media freedom in four Arab countries. The second level covered all other Arab countries but not in an institutional and comprehensive manner through monitoring teams, but through gathering information from published reports and various media sources, verifying this information,

and reviewing it scientifically in cooperation and coordination with a network of civil society organizations that work on the defense of freedom of information and opinion and human rights; but the latter process was not based on receiving complaint forms and reports and following up on them through a process of investigation in the strict sense of the word. Violations of media freedom in Iraq were a special case because the Network did not establish a monitoring team there, but carried out a training course in coordination with the Kurdistan Journalists Syndicate and the Iraqi Association for Defending the Rights of Journalists. As a result, the Network developed links with a number of the trainees who provided it with complaint forms and reports concerning a number of violations that took place in Iraq. In addition, the Network monitored violations that took place in Iraq in the same way as other Arab countries where monitoring did not take place through monitoring teams. Below is a review of the methodology used by the Network this year in monitoring violations against the media and journalists, as well as the legal frame of reference that governs this process and the difficulties and challenges that it faced:

SANAD's monitoring teams

In the context of its offshoot 'Ain' Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against Media Freedoms, the Network sought to monitor and document violations in all Arab countries through two different processes: (1) monitoring violations in Arab countries in general, by collecting information from published position statements, reports, and journalistic material about these violations, and (2), institutional systematic monitoring by monitoring teams which the Network established in four Arab countries, namely Jordan , Egypt , Tunisia and Yemen. The general monitoring process

which aimed at gathering public information about violations against the media in all Arab countries was done by researchers engaged by the Network for this purpose. Their methodology will be reviewed later.

The monitoring teams which the Network set up to collect information in Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt, and Yemen were prepared in a scientific and systematic manner through an intensive and in-depth training program. In 2013, SANAD upgraded the capacities and skills of these four teams through regular meetings for training, coordination, and assessment.

As for the Yemeni monitoring team established by the Network in cooperation with Freedom Foundation for Media, Rights and Development in Yemen, the Network held a preliminary course for a number of people. Based on the results of this course and in light of tasks which participants were assigned and performed, and the results they achieved, the nucleus of the monitoring team was selected, which underwent a training course in Sana'a in June 2012. The Network then organized an advanced applied course that focused on providing monitors with the basic skills for information gathering; interviewing victims, witnesses and officials; filling complaint forms and reports; data analysis; and preparing case reports. In this course, agreement was also reached on the team's working method and coordination between it and the Network's incubator organization, the CDFJ.

Target countries

The 'Ain' Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against Media Freedoms, which is an offshoot of the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD), aimed in 2013 to monitor violations against media freedom and the rights of journalists in all

Arab countries. But the monitoring process is divided into two parts: The first part does not depend on creating local monitoring teams, receiving complaints and reports, and verifying them through investigation and information gathering; the second part depends on building local monitoring teams in a number of Arab countries, which receive complaints and reports and follow up on them in a methodical and disciplined way. The Network hopes to establish two to three new local monitoring and documentation teams each year. In 2013 the Network monitored violations through specialized monitoring teams in Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen, all of which are among the countries collectively called Arab Spring countries.

In any case, the Network will expand in the coming years the scope of monitoring that depends on monitoring teams who receive complaints and reports, to include other Arab countries.

Rights and freedoms covered by the monitoring

SANAD, acting through the 'Ain' Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against Media Freedoms, only monitors violations against recognized human rights and freedoms that are the right of all people, including journalists, in addition to media freedoms. Ain does not monitor violations against these rights and freedoms unless said violations are caused or motivated by the exercise of journalistic work. In other words, the rights and freedoms targeted for monitoring and documentation by Ain are those that are violated in the context of journalists doing their work and activities. In 2013, Ain studied and analyzed not only the direct causes of violations, but also the indirect causes, such as the effect of journalists' job security and political and ideological polarization on the exercise of media

freedoms. Ain, an offshoot of SANAD, aims to monitor and document violations against the following rights and freedoms:

- The right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment punishment.

- The right to personal freedom and security.

- The right to life.

- Freedom of opinion and expression and the media.

- The right of access to information.

- The right to a fair trial.

- The right to privacy

Collecting and verifying information

Monitoring violations against journalists is not an easy task; it is very difficult and complex for many reasons that include journalists' policy of not disclosing violations against media, the way certain violations are committed, such as making threats on the phone or by e-mail or in a comment on a website, prior censorship by the editor, or being subjected to physical or verbal assault by faceless people.

The 'Ain' Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against Media Freedoms developed a number of ways to gather and verify information to prove that different violations have occurred, which include the information form, report and the direct monitoring form, all of which may involve allegations or suspicions of a violation. The program also draws its information and evidence from other documents such as official statements, national and international reports relating to media freedom and human rights, and from interviews, witnesses, and evidence surrounding the case and its context.

The most important sources for gathering information and evidence used by Ain can be classified as follows:

- Complaint or report forms of direct monitoring reports.

- Written documents.

- Interviews and field visits.

- Clues and indirect sources.

- Positions of international organizations.

Case study and analysis

The Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (Sanad) was careful to study the cases received by Ain Program, whether complaint or report forms or direct monitoring. All cases are scientifically and methodically examined and analyzed, because the main objective behind Ain is to monitor violations in the strictest technical sense, and document them duly according to recognized human rights in international covenants on human rights. Complaints are examined and analyzed at various stages, starting with a comprehensive and scientific legal review. Be-

fore studying the veracity of the case, that a violation actually took place, a check is conducted to ensure that all conditions of validity and acceptability of form are satisfied. If it is proven that the conditions of form are met, an examination is conducted in the basis of the case or its subject, and the result shows that it may or may not involve a violation of media freedom or journalists' rights. The process of examining cases received and monitored by Ain, which is an offshoot of SANAD, can be summarized as follows:

Scientific and legal review

Cases received by Ain Program from monitoring teams working under its umbrella are immediately subjected to a legal and scientific review by Dr. Mohammed Al Mousa, a legal expert specialized in human rights law, who has studied all cases received or monitored by Ain Program, and Mr. Khalid Khlai-

fat, an expert in media law, who reviews these cases on the basis of national and international laws, assisted in the review of national laws in Tunisia, Egypt, and Yemen by lawyers working with monitoring teams in these countries.

In the review process, prime consideration is given to international standards on human rights because a review based solely on national law would not be sufficient. The review also needs to take into consideration the international obligations of Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, and Yemen related to human rights and media freedom. The provisions of international law to which Arab countries in general, and Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt, and Yemen in particular are committed, constitute the prime and overriding reference, and the minimal threshold that cannot be ceded or compromised, and they supersede national laws in case of a conflict. It may be that a case does not constitute a violation according to national laws in the countries above, but it does according to Jordan's obligations arising from international law, and the latter is the basis. Moreover, regulatory bodies of international governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights and media freedoms define their positions with regard to states in light of these states' international obligations, not on the basis of their national laws.

Analysis and classification of the case subject

When conditions of a case's validity and acceptability are satisfied, the case is then subjected to a scientific and legal review. It needs to be emphasized in this regard that the source of a violation may be the public authorities within the state, private agencies, private sector organizations, or ordinary persons. Violations of media freedoms and the rights of journalists that Ain

monitors and documents may be committed equally by public or private sector organizations, including of course the media organizations themselves, or their staff.

Case analysis and consideration of its subject is based on a number of foundations the most important of which is legal provisions in international and national laws that must be respected and implemented in the area of human rights of journalists and media freedom. These provisions are spread in a number of international conventions that commit Arab countries such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights , the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, the laws on the media, public meetings, assembly, and electronic media,

the right of access to information, and the national penal laws and constitutions.

The process of studying each case was based on the relevance of its subject matter to the journalist's work and professional activities. Consideration was given to the effect of the facts cited in the complaint forms, reports, or direct monitoring forms on the actual exercise of media freedom, in addition to the consistency of the application's content and the facts of the case with one another.

It should be noted that in many cases involving violations, one violation can fit more than one category. Consequently, case analysis and the classification of violations follows the rules and frameworks applied in human rights, which are interrelated and indivisible, such that violation of one human right may lead to violation of other associated rights. Hence scientifically, violations of the human rights of journalists

and violations of media freedom are mostly not limited to one recognized right, but composite violations that touch on more than one right or freedom. For instance, detention of a journalist without legal cause is not only a violation of his personal freedom, but also a violation of the right not to be subjected to cruel or inhuman treatment, and it may also be a case of discrimination if the deprivation of freedom is limited to certain journalists and not others involved in the same situation, for instance if a security officer detains a journalist for three hours while allowing others to proceed and cover the event.

The classification applied by the Network for Media Freedom Defenders and its affiliate Ain Program are considered a qualitative leap in the field of monitoring violations against media freedom because it is more realistic and comprehensive, and it has a better understanding of the nature, reality, and patterns of violations and their cumula-

tive influence on the actual exercise of media freedom in the Arab world.

The legal frame of reference

The review of cases received by Ain Program, affiliated with the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD) is based on a wide legal frame of reference that takes into account the national laws in force in the four countries covered by the mechanism of complaint and report forms, as well as the international obligations of these countries that originate from the different human rights conventions to which these countries are signatory. The four countries in question here are Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia. With other Arab countries where monitoring violations against media freedom is not based on receiving reports and complaints, but limited to monitoring through published international and national reports,

media reports, and any information that comes to the Center, the process of monitoring and analysis is based on international standards used in the area of media freedoms.

National laws in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, and Jordan that were taken as a reference in the examination and analysis of cases included the laws in force that govern audiovisual, print, and electronic media as well as the penal codes, the national constitutions of these countries, and the laws governing the right of access to information.

It should be noted that the primary reference in judging a case was the international commitments related to media freedom and human rights because these obligations constitute the minimal level of protection that may not be ceded or curtailed in national legal systems. Moreover, under international law, these obligations supersede national law because states may

not elude them or refrain from respecting and guaranteeing them on the grounds that they contradict national laws. In addition, the states that are signatories of human rights conventions, including Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan, are committed under these agreements to take all legislative, administrative, judicial or other actions and measures in order to harmonize their obligations arising from the said conventions with national conditions. Furthermore, the review of the state of media freedom and journalists' rights in United Nations organizations concerned with human rights and in the work of non-governmental organizations working in media freedom or human rights take international standards as the basis of this review in assessing the state of these rights and freedoms.

Among the most important international conventions adopted by the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab

World (SANAD) as the basis and frame of reference for its work and activities in monitoring and documenting media freedom are the following: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel , Inhuman or Degrading Punishment or Treatment, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all recommendations relating to media freedom in general, and in Arab countries in particular issued, by the Human Rights Council and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression. These make up a comprehensive unit of principles and standards that must be respected and protected to enhance media freedom.

Difficulties and challenges

Monitoring violations of media freedom and the rights of journalists is a complex and painstaking process, particularly collecting evidence and verifying that violations have occurred. In addition to the inherent difficulties, this operation often faces a number of challenges and obstacles. In its first report, released in 2012, SANAD diagnosed the challenges and difficulties that face the Network in monitoring violations of media freedom and the rights of journalists in the Arab world.

This year, 2013, the network confirms that the difficulties and obstacles referred to in its 2012 report still exist, and they are compounded by new difficulties and challenges related mainly to the failure of the democratic transition in many countries of the Arab Spring and the return to power of the former regimes in some of these countries. Ain Program, an affiliate of the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab world, faced a number of difficulties in 2013, mainly:

- The decline in the state of freedoms and human rights in general in all Arab countries.

- The failure of some Arab states and their inability to manage the affairs of state and provide security.

- The method used in committing the violation.

- Continued avoidance of, and indifference by journalists to reporting violations.

- Lack of awareness in Arab media of issues of human rights and media freedom.

- Journalists reflect their political outlooks on their positions regarding violations against them.

- Violations related to the misuse of the law and penal prosecution.

- Disparity in policy and legislative environments in the countries included in the monitoring and documentation process.

Scond: General trends related to the state of media freedom in the Arab world in 2013 (general overview)

The period in which SANAD prepared this report, 2013, did not witness the success of democratic transition in a number of Arab Spring countries. More importantly, it was a period of a major retreat in public rights and freedoms, particularly media freedom. The 'Ain' Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against Media Freedoms monitored violations against journalists and the media in all Arab countries, and found that the state of these freedoms declined significantly in 2013. The Program also noted as a result of monitoring and documenting violations that there are features and general trends in common among violations committed in all Arab countries, an

issue which will be reviewed and its reasons and causes will be analyzed elsewhere in this report. In any case, there are trends and common denominators between violations committed in 2013 which Ain monitored in all countries. These can be summarized as follows:

- Decline in media freedom in Arab countries.

- Violations against the media against the backdrop of political positions.

- Grievous violations continued to be committed.

- The main perpetrators of violations were the security and the military.

- Assaults by ordinary and anonymous persons continued to be committed.

- Persistence in the policy of impunity.

- The big difference between national legal systems and international standards of media freedom.

Third: Monitoring and documentation of violations against media freedom in the countries covered by the monitoring teams

Jordan - Tunisia - Egypt - Yemen

Jordan

A striking result of monitoring and documenting violations against the media in Jordan is the evident decrease in grievous violations that were widespread and systematic in Jordan particularly in 2011, at the start of revolutions and popular movements that swept the Arab world. Ain Unit for Monitoring and Documentation of the CDFJ believes that the logical explanation of the decrease in this type of violations, which was not common in Jordan in previous decades, was the decline of demonstrations and protests in the Jordanian street. Fewer demonstrations meant that journalists were less frequently present in hot areas of tension and friction, which made them vulnerable to deliberate and systematic as well

as accidental attacks.

However, violations in general did not decrease. Withholding information and interventions continue to take place. The most prominent violation was the enactment by the government of the Press and Publications Law, which caused 291 websites to be blocked. This was a broad collective violation, contrary to the standards of media freedom and freedom of the Internet. Despite government pledges after the enactment of the Press and Publications Law to limit trials of journalists to cases based on the Press and Publications Law, journalists were detained and referred to the State Security Court.

The issue that preoccupied journalists most was job security, after the Arabic daily newspaper Alarab Alyawm closed and terminated the services of most of its staff whose number was more than 200 journalists and employees. This decision was followed by a long protest in front of the newspaper by its employees against non-payment of their salaries and financial entitlements.

The crisis of Alarab Alyawm had hardly faded from the scene when employees of Arabic daily newspaper Alrai erected their tent protesting against the refusal of the newspaper's management to comply with a labor agreement signed by them in 2011. The protest at Alrai escalated to demands for the dismissal of the Chairman and members of the Board of Directors, and journalists stopped publishing any news related to the Prime Minster and members of the Council of Ministers. The crisis deepened when employees decided to stop publication of the newspaper for one day, which was considered the most dangerous indicator of the print media's crisis. This prompted parliamentary deputies and public figures to intervene to contain the crisis, which did not stop until the Board of Directors was dismissed and the government pledged to implement the labor agreement. In the meantime, the crisis at Arabic daily newspaper Addustour was open to all possibilities because of the deteriorating financial position of the newspaper and the failure to pay employees' salaries on time.

Complaints and violations in Jordan

The state of media freedoms in Jordan in 2013 was marked by a severe reversal. The government besieged the media, especially the electronic media, by enacting the amendments to the Press and Publications Law, which led to the closure of a large number of them. The government also continued to dominate the official media. There were several cases where journalists were referred to the courts, particularly to the State Security Court for trial on the basis of the Penal Code for material they published in the media. Despite the significant and clear decline in the state of media freedom in Jordan, the number of cases that Ain monitored and the number of complaint, reporting, and monitoring forms received and filled by the monitors were close to the previous year for reasons that are detailed later. It should be noted that some monitoring forms later became complaint forms, because monitors were able to meet the victim in the appropriate time. The number of forms of all types (monitoring, report, and complaint) that were received amounted to 100 forms in 2013, out of which 61 involved one or more violations related to media freedom or journalists' rights.

The state of complaints and violations in Jordan

As a result of the study and analysis of the cases monitored by "Ain", it transpired that there are a number of general trends similar in part to trends identified last year, in addition to new trends that emerged in 2013. These general trends can be summarized as follows:

- A clear return by journalists to the practice of not reporting violations.

- Erosion of job security for journalists and its impact on the exercise of media freedoms.

- A retreat in the role of print media in favor of electronic media.

- A preference among journal-

ists for conciliatory solutions instead of legal solutions.

- Diversity and widening scope of the problems involved in the cases.

- Lack of knowledge of the legal and legislative systems related to media freedom.

Listing and analysis of sample cases

The number of forms related to complaints, reports, or direct monitoring, that were received in 2013 amounted to 100 forms. Below are the most prominent cases and complaints received by Ain that are related to cases in which Jordanian journalists faced problems. This list focuses on cases that raised questions which merit analysis and discussion. They are:

✓ The case of Eyad Jaghbeer who had criminal charges filed against him.

✓ The case of Hassan Al Husseini who was beaten by a candidate for parliamentary election.

✓ The complaint of Yousef Bustanji of Ro'ya TV channel for being beaten by the Drug Control Unit.

✓ The complaint of Adnan Bariyeh concerning his arbitrary dismissal from work at Alarab Alyawm Arabic daily newspaper.

✓ The complaint of Hadeel Ghabboun regarding delays in accrediting her as a reporter for the Arabic website of CNN.

✓ The complaint of Rashid Furaihat that he was beaten by the Darak (gendarmes) at the Chamber of Deputies (Lower House of Parliament).

✓ The complaint of Ahmad Abu Hamad that he was prevented from covering a protest by the staff of the Palace of Justice (Court).

✓ The complaint of Walid Hosni that he was prevented from entering the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

✓ The complaint of Omar Zyoud that he received a telephone call instructing him to remove a news item.

- ✓ The complaint by a group of journalists that the police stormed the offices of Alrai Arabic daily newspaper.

- ✓ The trial of Nidal Faraaneh and Amjad Maalla before the State Security Court.

State of violations against media freedom and the rights of journalists

The 'Ain' Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against Media Freedoms, which is part of the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD), managed to verify the occurrence of a number of violations of journalists' rights and media freedoms in Jordan in 2013. Out of 100 information forms received by AIN in 2013, 61 involved one or more violations of media freedoms or the rights of journalists.

Below is a review of the trends identified by the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD) regarding media freedom in the Arab world based on the state of violations that it monitored and documented in Jordan, the most important of which are classified by the violated rights and freedoms.

Basic trends revealed by the violations against media freedoms and the rights of journalists

The year 2013 was characterized by a major decline in media freedoms in Jordan, despite the significant decrease in the number of grievous violations compared to last year. This kind of violation decreased in Jordan in favor of other violations such as preventing coverage, detention of journalists, and trial of journalists before the State Security Court, which does not provide guarantees of a fair trial, particularly the independence of the court itself. Jordan continued to pursue a policy of using the law as a tool for suppressing freedoms and muzzling and narrowing the freedom of the media. It also continued the policy of impunity for perpetrators of violations and hiding the identity of violators. In general, it can be said that official and gov-

ernment control of media has increased. It was manifested in the severe tightening of the freedom of electronic media and amendments to the laws governing the work of media in ways that flagrantly undermine its freedom. The report will address the above points in the following order:

- Decline in media freedoms.

- Drop in the number of grievous violations.

- Continued policy of impunity and lack of accountability for the perpetrators.

- Trial of journalists before the State Security Court.

- Frequent cases of prevention from coverage by the security agencies.

- The return of self-censorship among journalists.

Main violations against media freedoms and the rights of journalists

These violations include those that occurred and violated media freedoms and the rights of journalists as a result of certain acts and practices (violations resulting from practices) and as a result of the operative legislation and laws in force. It is important to stress that these violations contravened more than one of the recognized human rights and media freedoms, but they were classified in the report according to their most visible form; i.e. these violations were classified according to their most visible form although they may involve violations of other rights or freedoms. They can be summarized as follows:

Violations related to the threat of attack on the right to life

Ain did not monitor in 2013 any attacks on media freedom through violation of the journalists' right to life or the threat of being deprived of it. It can be said in general that this kind of violation is not common in Jordan

Violations related to the right not to be subjected to torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

In 2013, Ain monitored and doc-

umented a number of violations related to ill treatment of journalists in different ways, including arbitrary or illegal deprivation of freedom, verbal abuse, beating, threats, and summons by security agencies because of journalistic work. The unit was able to verify the occurrence of violations of this type in 19 cases monitored. Below is a list of the most important:

- ✓ Attack on AbdulHamid Al-Lahham of Radio Al-Balad who was beaten by masked supporters of a candidate for parliamentary elections.

- ✓ Physical assault on Hassan Khraisat of Efra news.

- ✓ Threats made against Amjad Majali of Alrai Arabic daily newspaper and subjecting him to verbal abuse using foul language.

- ✓ Physical assault on Ghassan Abu Lawz and the team of Al Arabiya satellite television station at Al Zaatari Camp (for Syrian refugees).

- ✓ Physical assault on Ahmad Harasis of the online news website Jo24 by the Darak (gendarmes).

violations of the right to a fair trial

As pointed out earlier, 2013 saw the trial of a number of Jordanian journalists before the State Security Court for activities and publishing material that comes under the exercise of freedom of the media. AIN monitored four violations of media freedom by subjecting journalists to trials before the State Security Court, in violation of the right to a fair trial stipulated in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Below is a list of a number of these violations:

- ✓ Maher Madieh was summoned by the Prosecutor General of the State Security Court.

- ✓ Nader Maqableh was summoned by the Prosecutor General of the State Security Court for publishing a story about changing the Chief of Staff.

- ✓ Nidal Fara'neh and Amjad Mualla were tried before the State Security Court.

Violations of the right to personal freedom

Ain monitored and documented six violations in 2013 that affected the personal freedom of Jordanian journalists by detaining or arresting them. Below is a list of the most important cases:

- ✓ Detention of Samer al-Shammari at the Mafraq Police Directorate.

- ✓ Detention of Nidal Salameh when he appeared before the Prosecutor General of the State Security Court.

- ✓ Detention of Issa Shaqfa without a legal cause by the anti-narcotics police while he was going about his work.

Violations of the freedom of expression, publication and the media

The Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD) verified in 2013 the occurrence of 43 violations of the freedom of opinion, expression and publication through actions that do not involve the denial of other recognized human rights. Below is a list of the most important

- ✓ Prevention of Jihad Ghaben from taking photographs during the election campaign by the Public Security Directorate Special Branch.

- ✓ Harassment of Hadeel Dasouqi and forcing her to withdraw a news item after it had been published

- ✓ Withholding information from Muwaffaq Kamal by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice.

- ✓ Preventing a number of journalists from asking questions and getting information in a meeting of the Initiative For Greater Irbid.

- ✓ Preventing a number of journalists from covering a meeting of the Minister of Social Development.

- ✓ Attempting to close Yarmouk TV and preventing it from broadcasting.

- ✓ Blocking hundreds of websites in accordance with the Jordanian Amended Press and Publications Law.

Tunisia

The state of complaints and violations in Tunisia

In 2013, SANAD received and monitored 190 cases which the Network included in the record of complaints and reports and cases of monitoring in Tunis. The following table shows the number of complaint report, and direct monitoring forms, which came to SANAD regarding problems and attacks suffered by journalists in Tunisia this year.

The state of complaints in Tunisia

The Network studied and analyzed all complaints and reports that it

received regarding problems and attacks suffered by journalists, in addition to cases which the network monitored by the monitoring team of Tunis. The Network discovered that these cases involved a number of issues that constitute specific overall trends, which are common to the vast majority of these cases. These trends can be summarized as follows:

- Continued indifference among Tunisian journalists towards documenting attacks against them.

- Complaints are influenced by the political and ideological polarization that prevails in Tunisia.

- The high numbers of cases involving grievous assaults by unidentified perpetrators.

List and analysis of a number of complaints

Below is a list of some cases which SANAD monitored, which reflect clearly the general trends mentioned above. The Network affirms that that the selection of complaints and reports included in this item does not mean that they are more important than others, because the choice is not related to the importance of the case. The operative criterion is the link between the case, whether it is a complaint or report, and the overall trends related to these cases or to issues that raise important questions or controversies in the area of monitoring and documentation. Below is a list of samples of these complaints and reports:

- ✓ The case of the referral of journalist Lutfi Al-Amari of Hannibal TV to the court.

- ✓ The case of the injury sustained by Ahmed Alakoni from Tunis News Network by accident.

- ✓ The case of Journalist Adel Alniqati of Hannibal TV.

- ✓ The case of journalist photographer Mohamed Mudalleh.

- ✓ The case of journalist Najeh Alzagdodi of Alchourouq Arabic daily newspaper.

- ✓ The case of the injury sustained by journalist Essam Alouni of Astrolabe TV.

- ✓ The case of vandalizing

the offices of 30 Daqeeqah newspaper.

✓ The case of journalist Basma Alghuraibi of Lemaghreb daily newspaper.

The state of violations

The Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD) monitored a variety of violations against media freedoms and the rights of journalists in Tunisia in 2013. Information on these violations came to the Network through cases monitored by the Network either directly or through complaints or reports received. Out of 190 forms received by the Network, 147 related to one or more violations of media freedoms or the rights of journalists. The following is a review of the most important trends and the most prominent violations that were verified:

General trends of violations against media freedoms

A study of the violations that were monitored and documented showed the existence of general trends that characterize these violations in 2013. They were very similar to those identified by the network last year and those identified in all other Arab countries. The most important of these trends can be summarized as follows:

- Multiplicity of sources of violations against media freedoms.

- Persistence of grievous violations.

- Continued policy of impunity [for perpetrators].

- Failure of security agencies to provide the necessary protection for journalists.

Main violations against media freedoms and the rights of journalists in Tunisia

This section of the report presents a brief review of the most important violations monitored and documented by the Network that were committed in Tunisia in 2013. These are not all the violations documented by SANAD, but the

most grievous. Violations whose occurrence was verified by Ain in Tunisia included: ill treatment; cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; violation of freedom of expression, publication and the media; illegal detention; violation of the personal freedom of journalists; violation of privacy; violation of the right to life; and violation of the right to trial before special courts. These violations against the rights of journalists in Tunisia can be summarized as follows:

Violations related to the threat of attack on the right to life

SANAD Network monitored six cases committed in Tunisia related to violation of the right to life. Below is a list of the most important cases involving violations of this kind:

- ✓ Death threat against Hamza Albalomi of Nessma TV.

- ✓ Death threat against Mahdi Hawwas channel Tonsna TV.

- ✓ Death threat against Ziad Al-hani of Essahafa Arabic daily newspaper journalism

violations of the right not to be subjected to torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

This type of violation is the most common and widely committed among the violations monitored and documented by the Network in Tunisia.   The Network verified the occurrence of 84 such violations, the most prominent of which are listed below:

- ✓ Verbal assault on Moiz Suleiman of Alhiwar TV.

- ✓ Verbal assault on Maher Qasim of Tunisia TV.

- ✓ Threat of physical violence against Majdi Orfali of Elaph news website and the German news agency.

- ✓ Verbal assault against Amina Al-Zayani of Radio Kalima.

- ✓ Torturing Karim Mufti of Hannibal TV.

- ✓ Torturing Mohammed Alhashiri of Aldhamir weekly.

- ✓ Ill treatment of Amin Mtirawi site of Nawaat news website.

- ✓ Ill treatment of Jalil Almzoghi of Sabra FM.
- ✓ Verbal assault against Ghassan Qasem of Talfaza TV.

Violations against personal freedom and the right not to be subjected to unlawful detention

This type of abuse is another of the most common and widespread violations of media freedoms and the rights of journalists in Tunisia as well as Egypt. The Network verified the occurrence of seven violations, the most prominent of which are listed below:

- ✓ Detention of cameraman Murad Almahrazi of Astrolabe TV.
- ✓ Detention Azar Manasri of Reuters news agency

Violations related to freedom of the media and publishing

The Network monitored the occurrence of 118 violations that encroached fundamentally on media freedom, the most prominent of which are listed below:

- ✓ Preventing Montasir Sassi of Shems FM from covering a story.
- ✓ Preventing Saber Aljabalawy of Aljarida Attounissia newspaper from covering a story.
- ✓ Preventing Najeh Alzagdodi of Alchourouq Arabic daily newspaper from covering a story.
- ✓ Preventing Hatem Al-Salhi of Radio Oxygène FM from covering a story and the destroying his work tools.
- ✓ Witholding information from Bokhadrah Haji of El Hiwar Ettounsi TV.
- ✓ Preventing Kholoud Bouziane Radio Light FM-Tunisie from covering a story.

Egypt

Egypt is going through a period of transition in which different forces compete. The conflict has taken the form of a sharp polarization between Islamists on the one hand, and the secular forces, the left-wing, and influential remnants of the former regime on the other. In these circumstances, the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD) sought to be completely neutral in monitoring and documenting violations of media freedoms in Egypt, and do its work objectively irrespective of the allegations of this or that group. In circumstances such as those experienced by Egypt now, it is not easy to conduct monitoring and information gathering in an impartial manner since the information gathered

may not be accurate because the source may be inclined in favor of one of the antagonists. There is also the fear of exaggerating the problems faced by journalists if the source belongs to a stream that opposes that against which the complaint is filed, or if the source has the support of the journalist in question. Consequently, the process of fact-finding and collecting information regarding violations of media freedoms in Egypt required special care to ensure impartiality of information and objectivity of conclusions.

Although 2012 was the first year in which the Network monitored and documented violations in Egypt, the Network noticed that there was an acceptance of the idea there, as evidenced by the large number of cases received by the Network or monitored by the Egyptian monitoring team. 'Ain' Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against Media Freedoms, which is affiliated to the Network, received nearly 348 cases that included complaints, and reports of cases or direct monitoring.

State of complaints in Egypt

The Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD) examined and analyzed the complaints and reports that it received, as well as cases that it monitored. It transpired that these cases involve a number of general trends which will be addressed in the report. The report will include a review of a number of the most prominent cases that relate to these trends or that address controversial issues and topics in the field of monitoring violations against the media and journalists.

General trends related to cases monitored by the Network

The Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World concluded from studying the cases that it received or monitored either in the form of complaints or reports or cases of direct monitoring, that the 348 forms received by the Network show the existence of 635 types of violations against journalists in Egypt. The

Network drew a number of conclusions that reveal the general trends, which can be summarized as follows:

- The phenomenon of unintended or accidental assaults.

- The large number of cases involving financial or labor claims or personal disputes between journalists.

- The large number of cases involving attacks by unknown persons.

- Continued indifference among Egyptian journalists with regard to documenting attacks against them.

Review and analysis of the most important cases

This part of the report deals with the review and analysis of some of the most prominent cases which the Network monitored either through receiving complaint and reports or through direct monitoring forms. The selection of these cases does not mean that they are more important than others, but that they are related to the above-mentioned trends and to controversial issues that raise important questions in the field of monitoring and documentation in general, and with regard to cases involving Egyptian journalists in particular. Out of the 348 forms received by the Network in Egypt, there were 262 forms which involved one or more violations against Egyptian journalists. These can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ The case of the injury sustained accidentally by journalist Ahmed Ghoneim of Al-watan newspaper.

- ✓ The case of filing a report against journalist Tawfiq Okasha of Almusare' TV.

- ✓ The case of referring journalist Amr Adeeb of Orbit TV to the Prosecutor of the State Security Court.

- ✓ The report submitted by Tariq Al-Rifai of Masrawi news website with regard to the killing of journalist Salah al-Din Hassan.

- ✓ The case of the resignation of Hanan Kamel of Al-Jazeera

because of disagreements regarding political outlooks.

- ✓ The case of the assault against Sahar Abdulrahman of Al-Ahram newspaper for personal reasons.

- ✓ The case of the detention of Mohamed Rabie of Misr 25 TV for political reasons.

- ✓ The case of the trial of Abdul Ghani Al- Sharif of Addustour newspaper.

Violations against media freedoms and the rights of Egyptian journalists

SANAD's study of the violations that it documented and verified to have occurred against the media and journalists in Egypt revealed a number of general trends, which are very similar to those identified by SANAD last year. The violations which Ain verified as having occurred in Egypt included the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, freedom of the media, publishing and expression, the sanctity of private property, personal freedom, illegal

detention, the right to life and the right to a fair trial. They can be summarized as follows:

- Continued recourse to detention of journalists.

- The prevalence of grievous violations against journalists.

- Political polarization is a key cause of the violations.

- Diversity of the rights and freedoms violated.

- Continued violations related to inadequate protective measures.

The most important violations of media freedoms and the rights of journalists in Egypt

This section of the report presents a summary of the most important violations committed in Egypt in 2013, which were monitored and documented by the Network. They are not all the violations documented by the SANAD, but the most serious. Furthermore they reflect clearly the general trends of violations against media freedoms, which does not mean in any way that other violations

monitored and documented in Egypt by the network are less relevant. These violations include those that occurred and violated media freedoms and the rights of journalists as a result of certain acts and practices (violations resulting from practices). It is important to stress that these violations contravened more than one of the recognized human rights and media freedoms, but they were classified in the report according to their most visible form; i.e. these violations were classified according to their most visible form although they may involve violations of other rights or freedoms. They can be summarized as follows:

Violations related to the right of life

Ain affiliated with the Network monitored 12 violations related to the threat of attack on the right to life or the threat of deprivation of it that occurred in Egypt. Below is a list of the most prominent violations:

✓ The attempt on the life of Sabih Moataz of Al Wafd newspaper by thugs.

✓ The killing of journalist Salah al-Din Hassan while covering demonstrations at Port Said.

✓ The shooting of Ahmed Assem of Alhurriah wal adalah newspaper by security forces.

✓ The killing of three reporters the day when the sit-in at Rabaa Aladawiya was broken up.

✓ The killing of Tamer Abdul Rauf, Al-Ahram's office director at Albuhaira.

✓ The shotgun injury of Shadi Yaqoub of Alshorouq newspaper while doing his work.

✓ The threat of physical liquidation against Mohammed Albahrawi of Almasri.

✓ The shooting Alaa Mohammed of Almasri Alyawm.

Violations related to the right not to be subjected to torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

The Network verified the occur-

rence of about 182 cases of this type of violation, which is one of the most common and widespread violations in Egypt. Below is a list of the most prominent violations:

- ✓ Assault on Nermin Fathi of Alsabah newspaper.
- ✓ Physical assault on Heba Wasfi of Veto newspaper.
- ✓ Physical assault on Hamdi Gomaa of Almasri Alyawm.
- ✓ Physical assault on Suleiman Abu Bakr of Yaqin network.
- ✓ Mistreatment of journalist Ahmed Mohi of Anatolia Agency by security officers.
- ✓ Physical assault on Sabri Kamel of Huqouq.com news website.
- ✓ Physical assault on Ibrahim Yousef of Albadeel newspaper.
- ✓ Physical assault on Ahmed Naji of Al-Watan newspaper.
- ✓ Physical assault on Mohammed Safa Al-Din of Albadeel news website.

Violations against personal freedom and the right not to be subjected to unlawful detention

This kind of violation is also among the most recurrent forms of violations against media freedoms and the human rights of journalists in Egypt. The Network verified the occurrence of 43 such violations. Below is a list of the most prominent:

- ✓ Arrest of Adham Rushdi of Addustour newspaper by the police.
- ✓ Detention of Karim Abdelmueen of Algumhouriyah newspaper.
- ✓ Arrest of Mohammed Badr of Al-Jazeera.
- ✓ Detention of Mohammed Hawari from Sada Albalad news website.
- ✓ Detention of Bassem Alsharif of Almuheet Arab media network.

Violations related to freedom of the media and publishing

The Network monitored violations

that infringe fundamentally on the freedom of the media and publishing, which were not accompanied by violation of any other recognized human rights as a means of obstructing media freedom. There were 174 such violations, below is a list of the most prominent:

- ✓ Preventing Said Shoaib and other journalists from appearing on the government TV channel.

- ✓ Preventing the crew of Al Jazeera Live from covering a press conference.

- ✓ Storming the offices of Al-nass Channel and stopping it from broadcasting.

- ✓ Preventing Ahmad Abu al-Qasim from Althawrah Time news website from covering a story and destroying the work tools that he had in his possession.

- ✓ Iman Ali from Alyawm Alsabe' newspaper.

- ✓ Preventing the broadcast an episode of the program presented by Bassem Yousef from CBC Channel.

Yemen

It can be said that the most prominent feature of the state of media freedoms in Yemen is the failure of the Yemeni state and its inability to maintain respect for media freedoms and the human rights of journalists and to protect them. Violations and problems that plague the community of journalists in Yemen show clearly the total absence of the state and its organizations from the field of protecting Yemeni journalists and ensuring media freedoms. It is important to note that there are many sources of violations against journalists in Yemen, which include government organizations and non-government actors. SANAD, acting through Ain and the Program's Yemeni monitoring team, monitored and docu-

mented many cases that reflect specific trends in media freedoms in Yemen.

Complaints in Yemen

The study and analysis of cases which Ain monitored show the existence of general trends clearly that reflect the state of the media in Yemen. These can be summarized as follows:

- Large number of attacks related to the political background of journalists.

- Large number of attacks related to disputes.

- The difficult and dangerous working environment for the media in Yemen.

- Lack of awareness among Yemeni journalists of their human and legal rights.

- Indifference to documenting attacks against journalists.

- The difficulty of proving the violations because of the way they were committed.

Review and analysis of sample cases

The number of forms related to complaints or reports or violations monitored directly in 2013 amounted to 200, which addressed 392 types of violations against journalists and media organizations in Yemen. The following is a list of the most prominent cases and complaints received by the Ain this year in connection with cases involving problems faced by Yemeni journalists, which raise issues that merit discussion and analysis:

- ✓ Physical assault on Tawfiq Abu Zeid of Saba satellite TV channel beat .

- ✓ Physical assault on Hammoud Dagchar of Yemen Nation.

- ✓ Physical assault on Tawfiq Sharabi and a number of his colleagues by soldiers guarding Yemen TV channel.

- ✓ Verbal assault against Abdulraquib Ahudyani using obscene language by a colleague.

- ✓ Physical assault on Mohammed Farhan and preventing him from entering his place of work by soldiers guarding Eden TV channel.

✓ The burglary of Bashir Al-Hazmi's home by unknown persons.

✓ Threat against Yahya Hatami of physical liquidation and burning down his home and his car by an unknown person.

✓ Arrested of Bassam Alqadi by the Political Security Agency at Sana>a Airport.

✓ Attempt on the life of Abdullah Alnheidi by unknown assailants.

✓ Physical assault and shooting of Tareq Awad.

✓ Case of pirating of the news website Damaj Press.

State of violations against media freedoms and the rights of journalists

"Ain" Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against Media Freedoms, affiliated with the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD), verified the occurrence of a number of violations of journalists' rights and media freedom in Yemen in 2013. The Network gathered information on these violations either through direct monitoring or through complaints and reports received. All these cases went through the process of examination, fact-finding and scientific and legal review. Out of 200 forms received by the Program in 2013, 149 involved one or more violations of media freedoms or the rights of journalists. The sources of these violations, according to the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD), were equally divided between the public and private sectors.

Violations against media freedoms and the rights of journalists in Yemen in 2013 infringed on more than one of the right which are monitored by the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World, particularly since violations of human rights, including the freedom of the media are by their nature and by virtue of their interrelatedness, multi-faceted. Violations in Yemen verified by Ain Program included violation of the right to life; cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, including kidnapping; violation of freedom of expression, publishing

and media; illegal detention and infringement of the personal freedom of journalists; and trial before special courts that do not provide internationally recognized guarantees of a fair trial.

The following is a review of trends identified by the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World from the violations that it monitored and documented in Yemen, and the most prominent of these violations, classified according to the rights and freedoms abused:

Main trends revealed by violations of media freedoms and the rights of journalists

The year 2013 was characterized by a policy of using the law as a tool to suppress freedoms and muzzle and restrict the media. The policy of impunity for the culprits and concealment of the identity of attackers also continued. In general it can be said that government control over the media has increased, and its main feature is severe tightening of the freedom of electronic media and

amendment the laws governing media work in ways that flagrantly abolish its freedom. The report will address all the issues mentioned in the following manner:

- Prevalence of grievous violations.

- Impunity.

- Failure of the state and the fragility of law enforcement agencies.

- Multiplicity and diversity of the sources of violations.

Most important violations of media freedoms and journalists' rights

This section of the report presents a summary of the most important violations monitored and documented by the Network, which reflect clearly the general trends of violations of media freedoms in Yemen. These violations include those that occurred and violated media freedoms and the rights of journalists as a result of certain acts and practices (violations resulting from practices) and those that resulted from operative laws.

It is important to stress that these violations contravened more than one of the recognized human rights and media freedoms, but they were classified in the report according to their most visible form; i.e. these violations were classified according to their most visible form although they may involve violations of other rights or freedoms. They can be summarized as follows:

Violations involving threats to the right of life

This is the kind of violation is very common in Yemen, where journalists are killed or threatened with death or abducted in order to eliminate him because of his journalistic activities. SANAD network monitored and documented 34 violations of media freedoms in Yemen through violation of the right to life of Yemeni journalists. Below is a number of these violations:

- ✓ Threat of physical liquidation of Adel Alsaeed.

- ✓ Attempt on the life of Ahmed Algehhari and cameraman Ali Badani.

- ✓ Abduction and death threat to Yasser Almsori.

- ✓ Attempt on the life of Mohammed Al Emadi by an improvised explosive device.

- ✓ Abduction of Suleiman Alnuwwab by unknown assailants.

- ✓ Attempt on the life of Abdullah bin Amer.

Violations related to the right the right not to be subjected to torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Ain Program, affiliated with SANAD monitored and documented in 2013 a number of cases of ill-treatment of journalists in various forms, including verbal abuse, physical assault, threats, and being summoned by security agencies because of journalistic work. SANAD verified the occurrence of 94 such violations, the most important of which are listed below:

- ✓ Physical and verbal assault against the crew of Suhail satellite channel.

- ✓ Physical assault causing grievous bodily harm to Abdul Ghani Alyousifi.
- ✓ Physical assault causing grievous bodily harm to Yousef Alqarah by a soldier.
- ✓ Physical assault on Abdelhafeez Alhotami because of his journalistic work.
- ✓ Intimidation and ill-treatment of Safwan Algaeshi to prevent him from covering a story.
- ✓ Physical assault causing grievous bodily harm to Iyad Ghanem by unknown assailants.

Violations against personal freedom

In 2013, Ain Program, affiliated with the Sanad Network, monitored and documented 31 violations against Yemeni journalists by depriving them of their freedom. Below are the most prominent cases:

- ✓ Detention of Khaled Alyousifi by soldiers of the Republican Guard.
- ✓ Detention of the crew of China Central Television in the Central Security Camp.
- ✓ Detention of Adel Abdul Maghni by the National Security at Sana'a Airport.
- ✓ Detention Ramzi Alqadri by the personal guards of the Provincial Director of Security.

Violations against the sanctity of personal property

SANAD network monitored and documented 54 violations of media freedoms in Yemen through violating the sanctity of private property. The following is a list of the most important:

- ✓ Attempted breaking and entry of Adel Muhsen's home.
- ✓ Burning of a warehouse belonging to the Aloula and Alshare' newspapers and all the newspapers in it.

Violations against freedom of expression, publication, and the media

In 2013, Sanad Network verified

the occurrence of 63 violations of freedom of opinion, expression, and the media through actions that do not involve the denial of other recognized human rights. Below is a list of some of these violations:

- ✓ Preventing the team of Al Jazeera Live from covering a story and conducting a re-connaissance of the field.

- ✓ Preventing Nahla Almaqdisi and a number of fellow journalists from covering the situation of prisoners of the central prison / Hodeida.

- ✓ Preventing the broadcast of an episode of Marafi' Alsamar by journalist Ahmed Alnaquib on Radio Sana'a.

Fourth: Monitoring violations against media freedoms in other countries

UAE - Bahrain - Algeria - Saudi Arabia - Sudan
Syria - Somalia - Iraq & Kurdistan - Palestine
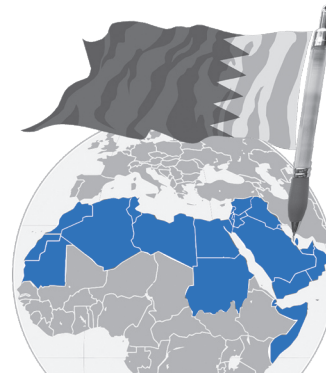**Qatar - Kuwait - Lebanon**
Libya - Morocco

The United Arab Emirates

The UAE came close to Nepal in terms of press freedom, which was ranked 112 according to the annual press freedom index of Reporters without Borders. The following are the most prominent of these violations:

- ✓ Preventing Mansour al-Jamri and Reem Khalifa from entering the UAE's territory.

- ✓ Preventing foreign journalists from covering the trial of 94 Emiratis on charges of conspiring against the regime.

- ✓ Detention of Mohammad Ali Musa and preventing him from traveling.

- ✓ Blocking the website of Al-Watan newspaper

Bahrain

In 2013, the deterioration of press freedom was noticed in countries such as Bahrain, Kuwait, and United Arab Emirates. Bahrain was classified as a not-free country because it was among the worst three countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Bahrain was ranked in 17th place and dropped two points to a score of 86, which was due to government censorship and intimidation of journalists. The reason for the decline of media freedom in Bahrain was the policy of pressure exerted by the authorities on the media to stifle the growing political opposition. The following are highlights of the violations recorded by the Network.

- ✓ Arrest of Mohammed Alsheikh, Mazen Mahdi, and Hasan Jamali by Bahraini

authorities.

- ✓ Preventing the team of ITV News from working and deporting it.

- ✓ Detention of Mohammed Alsheikh, Hasan Jamali, and Nazeeha Saed by the security services.

- ✓ Arrest of Hussain Habil by Bahraini security forces and preventing him from traveling.

- ✓ Threatening Ibrahim Sinan.

- ✓ Withholding 70 news websites.

- ✓ Raiding the house of Qasim Zinedine and arresting him.

- ✓ Arresting and torturing Abdullah Salman Aljerdabi.

- ✓ Preventing the media from covering the storming of the offices of Alwefaq Association.

Algeria

Algeria came 125th in the world ranking of press freedom for the year 2012 – 2013, a drop of three ranks because of "the increase in the number of assaults on professionals working in the field, and the increase in economic pressure on independent media." After more than one year since the Algerian parliament voted for a new law on the media, the government was expected to cancel the monopoly on public broadcasting but the law has not been activated. The new legislation remains purely theoretical, a mere announcement. Below are the most important violations monitored by the Network.

- ✓ Verbal assault on Amal Lacal.

- ✓ Verbally assault on Afaf Fanouh by the Minister of

Culture.

- ✓ Death threat against Hanan Ghasool.

- ✓ Threat of prosecution against Saad Bouaqbah for publishing an article critical of the army generals.

- ✓ Preventing a journalist from El-Khabar from taking photos of unemployed people who tried to commit suicide.

- ✓ Harassment of Mussa Noi to prevent him from covering a story.

sites.

- ✓ Blocking the news website Alahali.net.

- ✓ Summoning Nader Alenazi for inquiry and forcing him to reveal his journalistic sources.

- ✓ Investigation with Mohammed Almajdouie for publishing press material.

- ✓ Blocking Ahrar Alhijaz news website.

- ✓ Summoning Fahed Alenazi by security agencies.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Below are the most important violations monitored by the Network.

- ✓ Stopping the newspaper AL-riyadiyah.

- ✓ Piracy of a number of web-

Sudan

The violations monitored in Sudan by the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD) show that the state of these freedoms is very poor and that the legislative and political environment there is hos-

tile to media freedoms. Journalists are continuously subjected to violations such as censorship by the security before and after; the confiscation and closure of newspapers exercised by the National Security and the Intelligence services on a daily basis against newspapers; continuous bans from writing by a decision of the security; repeated summons and travel bans; grievous violations such as severe beatings by officers of the police and military intelligence; and unfair and illegal trials and exorbitant fines. The following is a list of the most prominent violations monitored by the network:

✓ Confiscation of an issue of Khartoum newspaper.

✓ Arrest of Ammar Aldaw by the security officers.

✓ Investigation of Almusalami Alkbashi.

✓ Censorship before going to press exercised on Al-Ayyam.

✓ Confiscation of an issue of the newspapers Alrai Alamm and Alahram Alyawm.

✓ Preventing the publication of an article by Mahjoub Mohamed Saleh.

✓ Suspending publication of Altayyar newspaper by a decision of the Director of Public Security.

✓ Stopping publication of Almeedan newspaper by a decision of the public security agency.

✓ Banning Salah Auodah from writing.

✓ Suspending publication of Alqarar newspaper by a decision of the Public Security.

✓ Suspending Aljareeda newspaper because of the losses it suffered when its issues were continuously confiscated.

✓ Arrest of Hashem Abdel-Fattah.

✓ Preventing Salah Auodah from publishing by decision of the public security.

Syria

Violations of media freedoms have been a matter of daily routine in Syria since the outbreak of the armed conflict there. 2013 witnessed grievous and numerous violations in all parts of Syria, committed by all parties to the conflict including the government as well as armed groups and militias. These violations affected Syrian and foreign journalists; professional journalists as well as citizen journalist. The Network monitored these violations, but is only concerned with highlighting those that affected professional journalists, whether Syrian or foreign. The following is a list of the most important violations monitored by the Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World:

✓ Killing of Yves Debay in the countryside of Aleppo.

✓ Abduction of Témoris Grecko, Balint Szlanko and Andoni Lubaki in northern Syria.

✓ Death of Olivier Voisin as a result of serious injury.

✓ Shrapnel injury of Nour Kelsa.

✓ Shrapnel injury of Mohammed Abdullah.

✓ Abduction of four Italian journalists in northern Syria.

✓ Arrest of Armin Wirtz by Syrian government troops.

✓ Arrest of Shaaban Hassan by the Shariah in Aleppo.

✓ Killing of Yara Abbas and injury of Osama Diop of Al Ikhbariyah TV channel.

✓ Arrest of Mustafa Ahmadi by militants from Jabhat Al Nusra.

✓ Arrest and torture of Ahmed Omar by militants from Jabhat Al Nusra.

✓ Shooting at the Iranian Alalam News Network and wounding its correspondent.

✓ Arrest and severe torture of Ali Aboualmajd in Alraqqah.

- Arrest of Sami Jamal by DAESH.
- Injury of Abu Bakr al- Haj by shrapnel from shells fired by government forces during clashes with gunmen.
- Abduction of Marc Marginedas by an armed group.
- Killing of Murhaf Almudahi.
- Arrest of Jean-Pierre Dotyon by the Syrian government authorities.
- Killing of Abdul Hadi Qashit as a result of torture at the hands of the Air Force Intelligence.
- Killing of Mohammed Saeed al-Khatib at the hands of militants.
- Threats to Raafat Alrafii and raiding the newspaper Zaman Al Wasl in search for him.
- Raiding the house of Abdullah Amin Alhallaq by Syrian intelligence.
- Abduction of Mu'ayyad Salloum by militants from DAESH.
- Storming the offices of the newspaper Alghurbal by militants from DAESH and kidnapping its managing editor.
- Arrest of Mohammed Alzuhouri by fighters from Jabhat Al Nusra.
- Continuation of the trial of Mazen Darwish on charges of terrorism.
- Storming the offices of Shaza Alhuriya TV channel and the abduction of a number of workers by CAESH militants.

Somalia

Somalia is one of the Arab states where violations of media freedoms and human rights of journalists are most frequent, and one of the Arab countries where the killing of journalists and attempts against their lives are most common. Although 2013 was less

bloody than 2012, the militia of the Shabab Islamic Youth Movement continues to threaten the safety of journalists. Seven journalists were killed this year in attacks attributed to the youth movement, whose style of killing has become well known. This type of targeted killings creates an atmosphere of terror among journalists working for the national media. The Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World believes that this large number of journalists who were killed in Somalia without the perpetrators being known or prosecuted reflects the weakness of Somali authorities and their failure to protect journalists or access to the perpetrators. The following is a list of the most prominent violations monitored by the Network:

- ✓ Arrest of Abdulaziz Abdulnoor Ibrahim and Omar Farouq by the police.

- ✓ Stopping the broadcast of three radio stations by government decision.

- ✓ Physical assault against Ali Abdulfattah Mahmous Siyad.

- ✓ Shooting at Ali Abdulqader Abdulrazzaq Jaijali.

- ✓ Killing of Ahmad Sharif Hassan by unidentified gunmen.

- ✓ Killing of Mohammad Mahmous Tamadi.

- ✓ Arrest of four journalists by the police.

Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan

Iraq is a prime example of the policy of impunity for perpetrators of violations and of the rise in the number of incidents of grievous violations against journalists, primarily violent assaults, killing, and forcible disappearance. Iraqi authorities do not fulfill their duties with regard to these violations. The Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World (SANAD) observed that the Iraqi government does not take measures to prevent the occurrence of

these violations and it does not investigate the violations to identify those implicated and bring them to justice. Below is a list of the most important violations:

- ✓ Arrest of Mohammad Alubaidi in Iraqi Kurdistan.
- ✓ Detention and torture of Ayoub Albaldawi.
- ✓ Killing Hamid Rashid Abbas in an armed attack by unidentified people.
- ✓ Arrest of Iyad Altamimi by judicial order.
- ✓ Beating of Alaa Adour and destroying his camera.
- ✓ Raiding the offices of Diali satellite TV station by the police.
- ✓ Arrest and beating of Hareem Aljaff in Iraqi Kurdistan.
- ✓ Arrest of Suhaib Alfahdawi and the cameramen of the Baghdad Satellite TV station and Falouja Satellite TV station.
- ✓ Arrest of the reporters of Reuters and the BBC at Al Anbar.
- ✓ Physical assault against Riyad Alasadi by the Director General of the Department of Health.
- ✓ Assault against a number of journalists in Kirkuk by the guards of the Property Registration Department.
- ✓ Beating of Nabil Aljourani and Mohammad Aljabiri by a group of military servicemen.
- ✓ Arrest of Khaldoun Younis in Samerra.
- ✓ Retirement of Shahab Ahmad Mahmoud from journalism after he was beaten and threatened with death.
- ✓ Physical assault against employees of Aliraqiyah and Albaghdadiyah TV stations as well as Abulmanaf Alwaeli, Mohammad Wahhab Abboud, Riyad Alismaili, and Adnan Aziz Daffar at Thi Qar Province.
- ✓ Preventing the team of Biladi satellite TV channel from covering a story in Karbala.
- ✓ Preventing representatives of the media from covering the central celebration of Baghdad University.

✓ Assassination of Yaqouob Rassoul at Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan.

✓ Killing of Bashar Abdul Qader Alnuaimi south of Mosul.

✓ Arrest of Baqer Mohammad at Maysan Province.

✓ Unlawful and arbitrary detention and torture of Ziyad Tariq Alsanjari.

✓ Killing of five journalists from Salahuddin Satellite TV channel when armed men from DAESH stormed the station's office.

✓ Assassination of Kawa Ahmad Karmyani at Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan.

✓ Killing of Nawras Alnuaimi east of the City of Mosul.

Palestine

Palestine remains one of the countries where violations against journalists are most frequently committed, mostly by the Israeli occupation authorities, which violate media freedoms and the rights of journalists in Palestine on a daily basis. It is noteworthy that the occupation authorities commit grievous violations and pursue a policy of impunity for perpetrators. Below is a list of the most prominent of these violations:

✓ Assault against Ashraf Abu Amra.

✓ Assault against Ali Shadi Hatem by the occupation authorities.

✓ Injury sustained by Amer Abdeen when hit by a rubber bullet.

- ✓ Arrest of Mohammad Sabaaneh by the occupation authorities.

- ✓ Deliberate shooting of Jihad Alqadi by the occupation authorities.

- ✓ Preventing journalists from covering a protest in solidarity with prisoners held by the occupation authorities.

- ✓ Threatening Ruba Alnajjar with rape and death.

- ✓ Death threat against Nasser Abu Mayyaleh, and discovering a bomb placed in his briefcase.

- ✓ Detention and beating of Saeed Alqaq by the occupation authorities.

- ✓ Arrest of Abdullah Obeid and Amjad Yaghi by the Government in Gaza.

- ✓ Arrest of Mohammad Muna by the occupation authorities.

- ✓ Assault by the occupation authorities against Nidal Ishtiyeh and confiscation of his camera.

- ✓ Summoning of Mustafa Alkhawaja by the Spe-

cial Branch of the police in Hebron.

- ✓ Arrest of George Qanawati by the police at Bethlehem.

- ✓ Arrest of Majdi Taha by the Palestinian intelligence.

- ✓ Assault by the occupation authorities against Ata Oweisat while covering the storming of Al Aqsa Mosque.

- ✓ Arrest of the crew of Palestine Television by the occupation authorities.

Qatar

It was not easy for the Network to monitor and document violations committed in Qatar for many reasons, mainly that media freedom is guaranteed in Qatar as long as the issue does not relate to Qatar itself and its regime, but there is clear self-censorship in this area.

As regarding issues unrelated to Qatar, media freedom is guaranteed to a certain extent. Below is a list of the most prominent violations monitored by the Network.

- ✓ Detention of Nabil Saharfeddin by Qatari authorities.

- ✓ The draft anti-cybercrimes law in Qatar.

Kuwait

Without doubt, Kuwaiti media enjoy the highest level of media freedom and guarantees of the safety of journalists in the region. Kuwait is far more advanced than many of its neighbors in the region even Arab Spring countries. Below are the most important violations monitored by the Network:

- ✓ The ruling to close Scope TV station for two months and

impose exorbitant fines on it.

- ✓ The prison sentence on Zayed Alzeid, chief editor of Alaan blog.

- ✓ Preventing Abdullah bin Hamad from entering Kuwaiti territory.

- ✓ Stopping the program Talk Sawk by Mohammad Alwusheihi by a decision from the Ministry of Information.

- ✓ A new draft law hardens penalties on the media in Kuwait.

Lebanon

The media environment in Lebanon is better than many Arab countries, but it declined in 2013 due to many internal and external reasons. Below are the most important violations monitored by

the Network:

- ✓ Insulting Hossam Msheimish and confiscating his camera.

- ✓ Threatening the team of Al-jadid TV in Tripoli.

- ✓ The army prevented the media from covering the protest by the families of Islamist prisoners at Roumieh prison.

- ✓ Physical assault on journalist Habib Battah.

- ✓ Assault on the crews of OTV, MTV, Aljadid, and Almustaqbal TV in Abra.

- ✓ Snipers taking shots at a vehicle belonging to the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation in Tripoli.

- ✓ Injury sustained by cameraman Ibrahim Baikal while filming the bringing out of Almufti Qabbani from Khashoggi Mosque.

Libya

The Network of Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World monitored a number of violations of media freedoms in 2013. Below are the most important violations monitored by the Network:

- ✓ Physical assault on the crew of Alasema Satellite TV channel.

- ✓ Stopping the broadcast of official Libya TV channel due to harassment by armed militias.

- ✓ Physical assault on Mohammed Ghiryani.

- ✓ Assassination of Ezzedine Qossad by gunfire from unknown assailants.

- ✓ Abduction of Taher Turki by an armed group.

- ✓ Killing Radwan Ghiryani.

✓ Attempt on the life of Omar al-Badri.

Morocco

The Network for Media Freedom Defenders in the Arab World monitored a number of violations of media freedoms in 2013. Below are the most important violations monitored by the Network:

✓ Threatening Hisham Alsumaiei with assault.

✓ Assault on Muhammad Warraq by an agent of the authorities.

✓ Assault on Samir Aldedy at a seminar in Casablanca.

✓ Arrest and jail sentencing of Mustafa al-Hasnawi.

✓ Assault on Abdullah Hafri with an electric cattle prod by the rapid intervention force.

✓ Physical assault on Rahman Mokhtari by security officers.

✓ Insulting Noureddine Mimouni and confiscating his camera.

✓ Assaulting Jalal Rafiq by security officers.

Fifth: Recommendations

In light of the facts and findings that the Network for Media Freedom Defenders learned about violations of media freedoms in the Arab world in 2013, and in view of the close similarity among Arab countries in this area, the Network saw fit to end this report with a number of recommendations, which are very similar to last year's recommendations because the same patterns of violations continue to prevail this year. Sanad believes that governments of all Arab countries, including those of Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, and Yemen, would do well to act on these recommendations in order to improve the situation of media freedoms and the human rights of journalists in the coming years.

The network did not offer special recommendations for Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen in order to avoid unnecessary repetition, given the great similarity among them in the basic trends of violations of media freedoms, and between them and other Arab countries. The following are the most important recommendations of the Network:

1. To stop the policy of impunity for perpetrators of violations, which is pursued by all Arab governments with regard to grievous violations of media freedoms such as murder, torture and ill-treatment, whatever their source, and to launch a full and independent investigating in all the grievous violations mentioned in the report, leading to the trial of those involved.

2. To seriously consider establishing an Arab criminal court specialized in the trial the perpetrators of grievous violations against journalists, especially when the states take the decision to continue the policy of impunity for perpetrators that they pursue.

3. To review all types of legislation concerning the media including penal codes to remove all provisions that restrict media freedoms, and

to make them compliant with the international standards applicable to the media and media freedoms.

4. To activate international conventions on human rights, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the Arab States that are party to these agreements and for other Arab countries to join these agreements in order to safeguard the internationally recognized rights and freedoms of media work.

5. To stop controlling or monopolizing the media, to promote a climate of freedom and pluralism among journalists, and to refrain from interfering in the media or imposing government policies and outlooks on them.

6. Arab governments and their special agencies, particularly security services, should provide the necessary protection for journalists in their work, especially at critical and dangerous times, such as protests, demonstrations and internal or international conflicts.

7. To invite the Arab League to work towards the adoption of an Arab convention for the protection of journalists in dangerous times, and to agree on unified rules of protection that are enacted in all member states of the Arab League.

8. To annul the registration requirement in the journalists' association as a precondition to be a journalist, pursuant to international standards in this regard, especially since this requirement stipulated in Arab countries violates the right not to be compelled to belong to an association or union, which is an internationally recognized right.

9. To train security officers and the gendarmerie on standards and rules related to the rights and freedoms of the media, and how to exercise

the powers of law enforcement without hindering journalists or obstructing their work and professional activities.

10. The need for Arab governments to stop using the law and referral to the courts as a way to muzzle the media and journalists and prevent them from carrying out their work freely or to punish them for journalistic work that they did professionally and in accordance with the regulations and standards of journalism.

11. Arab governments should immediately stop using arrest and detention and deprivation of freedom (imprisonment) in crimes of press and publication and the media, and to stop imposing unreasonable fines that impede the exercise of freedom of media work as a result of the heavy financial consequences that may be imposed on journalists.

12. To act on the idea of the sanc-

tity of offices of audiovisual, broadcast, print, and electronic media, and to ban the police and security agents from entering or raiding them except on clear and reasonable grounds to believe that criminal non-media activities are exercised within, and by a court order justified as mentioned.

13. Political organizations and militias affiliated with them should desist from obstructing journalists and preventing them from doing their work, threatening them with death, or beating them severely because the journalist published material that does not agree with their outlooks, particularly when these organizations and movements are in power or at the head of the government.

14. Media organizations operating in the Arab world should adopt codes of professional conduct and stop exercising prior censorship and non-professional practices in favor of the free exercise of media work.

15. Human rights organizations and non-governmental organizations that defend the media and journalists in the Arab world should use international mechanisms for monitoring and overseeing countries' respect for human rights, and to coordinate with international bodies that have expertise in this area. They should also coordinate at the regional level and exchange information among them for the success of this endeavor.

16. The establishment of a regional black list of the principal persons and organizations that commit, or call for committing grievous or repeated violations of the rights of journalists and media freedoms, or that call to restrict them.

شبكة المدافعين عن حرية الإعلام في العالم العربي
SANAD

SANAD

Network for Media Freedom Defenders in The Arab World

The Network for Media Freedom Defenders in The Arab World (SANAD) is a coalition of civil society institutions advocating the freedom of the press.

SANAD was established in implementation of recommendation by the First Forum for the Defenders of Media Freedom in the Arab World, organized by the center for Defending the Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) in Amman, in December 2012, immediately after the birth of the Arab Spring.

The first achievement of SANAD was the "Ain" (eye) Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against the Media. Work was kicked off by training national teams to monitor and document such violations in Egypt and Tunisia, while work was still underway in Jordan to achieve that goal. It then formed another national team in Yemen, and conducted a monitoring training in Iraq in cooperation with Kurdistan Journalists Syndicate.

Under Ain Program, a plan was designed to expand in the Arab world through setting up national teams for monitoring and documentation, within a realistic and workable timeframe.

The national teams will be working on detecting and documenting violations against the media in the countries where they function, applying a scientific rights-based approach consistent with international media and human rights criteria. Side by side with that, professional researchers will be monitoring violations in the countries where Ain monitors do no exist, relying on data collected from the media, communication with rights group and monitoring their reports on violations against the press, along with field visits and direct contacts with journalists who are victims of these violations.

SANAD seeks to institutionalize efforts exerted to defend the media freedom in the Arab world. Towards that end, it has launched its web-based observatory to shed light on the violations against journalists, providing an electronic platform that works effectively to expose violators, mobilize support for journalists and offer a venue for networking between advocates of media freedoms.

SANAD will continue embracing the Forum for Defenders of Media Freedom in the Arab World, and working to expand the base of media supporters, eying a wider margin of freedom, enhancement of achievements and attracting international experts to back Arab journalists who are struggling with huge challenges to win their freedom and independence.

Ain

Program for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations against Media

Vision:

To curb violations against journalists and media institutions in order to strengthen the freedom and independence of the media

Mission:

To monitor and document the problems, abuses and violations targeting journalists and media institutions as they carry out their professional duties

Objectives:

- To set up qualified and specialized working teams of lawyers, journalists and researchers to monitor and document violations against journalists and media institutions in accordance with the internationally recognized norms and standards
- To stimulate journalists to disclose the problems and abuses to which they are exposed during their work and activate reporting mechanisms
- To develop and institutionalize mechanisms of monitoring the problems and violations against journalists
- To educate journalists on their rights and familiarize them with international standards of the freedom of the media, and the nature of violations they are subject to
- To demand that governments take measures to curb abuses against the media and hold perpetrators accountable
- To urge parliaments to upgrade relevant legislation in a manner that safeguards the freedom of the media, curb abuses committed against journalists and hold perpetrators accountable
- To provide support and legal assistance to journalists who are exposed to problems and violations, including helping them obtain fair compensation for the violations they suffer and sue perpetrators
- To use the mechanisms of the United Nations to curb violations against the freedom of the media and ensure justice for journalists.

مركـــز حماية وحـــرية الصحفيين
Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists

Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ)

Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists [CDFJ] was established in 1998 as a civil society organization that works on defending media freedom in Jordan; the center was established after a series of major setbacks on a local level, starting with issuing the temporary press and publication law in 1997, which added more restrictions on media and caused many newspapers to shut down.

CDFJ works on protecting freedoms and democracy in Jordan and the Arab world, in addition to respect of human rights, justice, equal rights, and development in the society encouraging non-violence and open dialogue.

CDFJ always maintain an independent role like any other civil society organizations, and is not part of the political work, but in terms of defending media and journalists freedoms CDFJ stands against all policies and legislations that may impose restrictions on media freedom.

CDFJ is active on regional level to develop media freedom and strengthen the skills and professionalism of journalists in the Arab countries, through specialized and customized programs and activities, in addition CDFJ works with media and the civil society on protecting the democracy and promoting respect of human rights principles.

CDFJ Vision:

Creating a democratic environment in the Arab Countries that protects media freedom and freedom of expression and enhances the society's right in knowledge through building professional Journalists committed to the international standards of independent and free media.

CDFJ Mission:

CDFJ is a non-government organization, committed to defending the freedom and security of journalists through addressing the violations to which they are exposed, and building sustainable professional capacities as well as enabling them to have free access to information, along with developing and changing restrictive media related legislations, and building a supportive political, social, and cultural environment for free and independent media.

CDFJ main Goals are:

• Supporting the freedom and independence of media organizations and journalists.
• Defending journalists, protecting their safety, and stand against the violations committed against them.
• Strengthening the professionalism of media and its role in defending democracy, freedoms and reform.
• Developing the legislative, political, social, and cultural environments that embrace media and journalists.

CDFJ Pillars:

• FIRST: Protection of Journalists
• SECOND: Developing Professionalism of Media
• THIRD: Developing the Environment Surrounding Media

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