

# **Media Freedom Report- Yemen**

**March - April 2017**



انقذوا الصحفيين اليمن

SAVE YEMENI JOURNALISTS



## Media Freedom Report ( March–April 2017)

Periodic Report Issued By Studies & Economic Media Center (SEMC)

Yemen

[economicmedia@gmail.com](mailto:economicmedia@gmail.com)

# Introduction

The media freedom is experiencing one of the ever-worst conditions indicating clearly the continuous threat for values of democracy, pluralism and human rights in Yemen. Yemen has been classified as the world's worst country in the violation of journalists. The Houthi group is the second group in the world to threaten the lives of journalists after the terrorist organization Daesh.

The media landscape in Yemen is witnessing a dangerous precedent as the veteran journalist Yahia Al-Jubaihi was sentenced to death because of his views and writings under the freedom of expression guaranteed by international laws and conventions. Others are subjected to severe torture, some of whom have lost their hearing and other have become disabled and can't move because of the severe torture.

The Media Freedom Observatory in Yemen monitored 913 violations against journalists and media organizations from 2015 to 2017. Most of the violations were perpetrated by the Houthi group against journalists opposing its attitudes. The violations were not limited to the journalists themselves but also affected their families. The Houthi gunmen have abducted the father of the journalist Ali Jaabour in Hajjah province, the father of journalist Ahmed Al-Nuaimi in Hodeidah province and the son of the journalist Yahya Al-Jubaihi in Sana'a province and have threatened and harassed the family of the journalist Mohammed Al-Absi, who was mysteriously poisoned after publishing corruption cases in oil. They are a lot. On the other hand, many violations have been monitored against journalists in the areas controlled by the legitimate and internationally recognized government and by some armed groups and al-Qaeda organization.

There are still 19 journalists in Al-Houthi and Al-Qaeda prisons, some of whom are subjected to

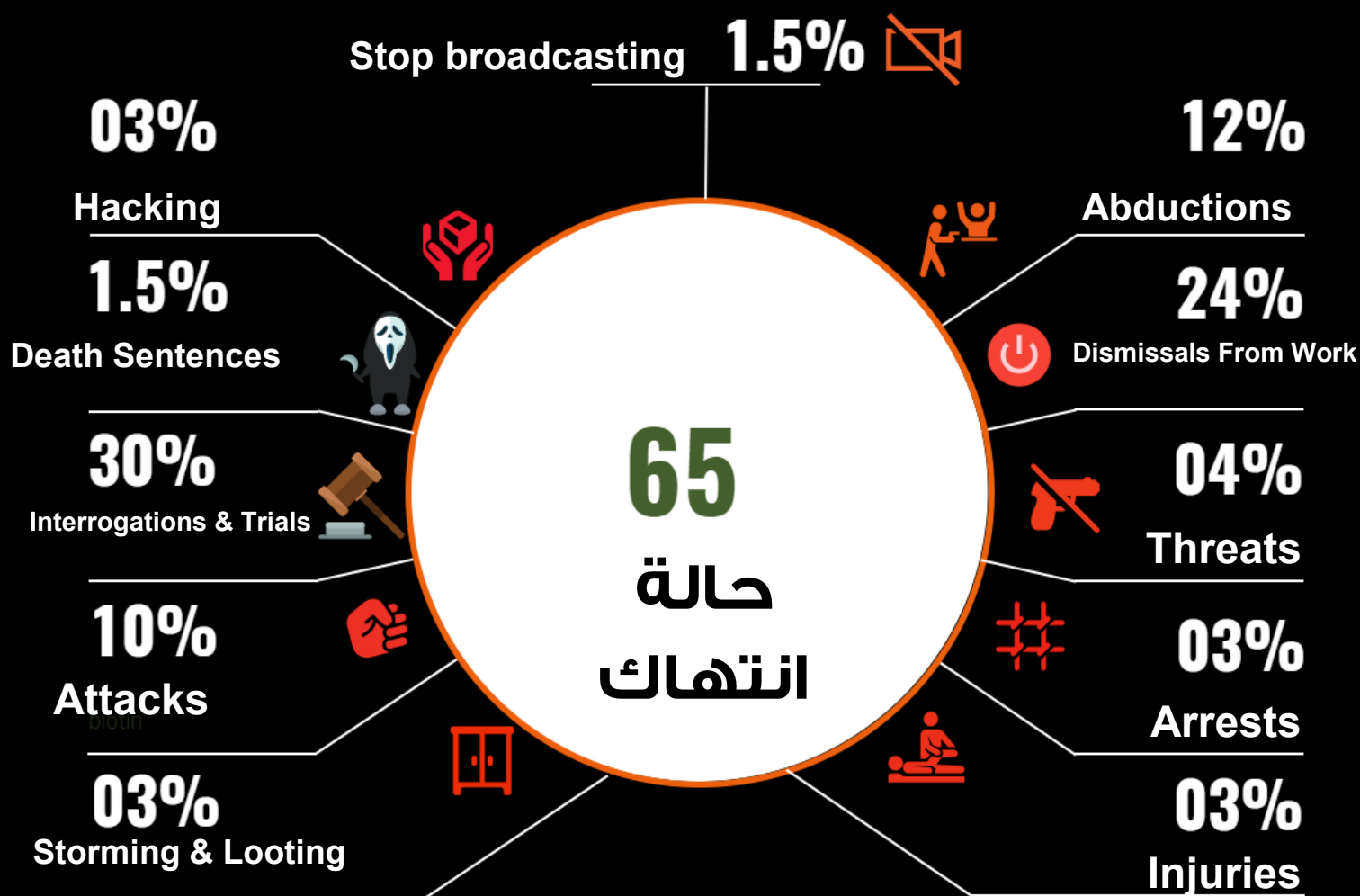
various types of torture. They are; Abdul Khalek Emran, Tawfiq Al-Mansouri, Harith Hamid, Hisham Taramum, Hisham Al-Yusufi, Akram Al-Walaidi, Essam Belghaith, Hassan Annab, Haytham Al-Shehab, in addition to the journalist Wahid Al-Sufi, Salah Al-Qaedi, Abdullah Al-Munifi, Hussein Al-Issa, Yahya Al-Jubeihi, Yusuf Ajlan, Taiseer Al-Samey, Ibrahim Al-Jahdani, Mohammed Al-Selwi and the journalist Mohammed Al-Maqrami who was arrested by Al-Qaeda in Hadramout province.

During the period from March and April 2017, the report monitored 65 cases of violations against journalists, social media activists and media organizations (storming, looting and stopping the broadcasting of political programs).

Violations cases concentrated in provinces of Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeidah, Marib and Raimah. The responsibility for the violations was distributed to the Houthi group, the Yemeni government and Al-Qaeda organization, as well as violations were monitored against unknown individuals.

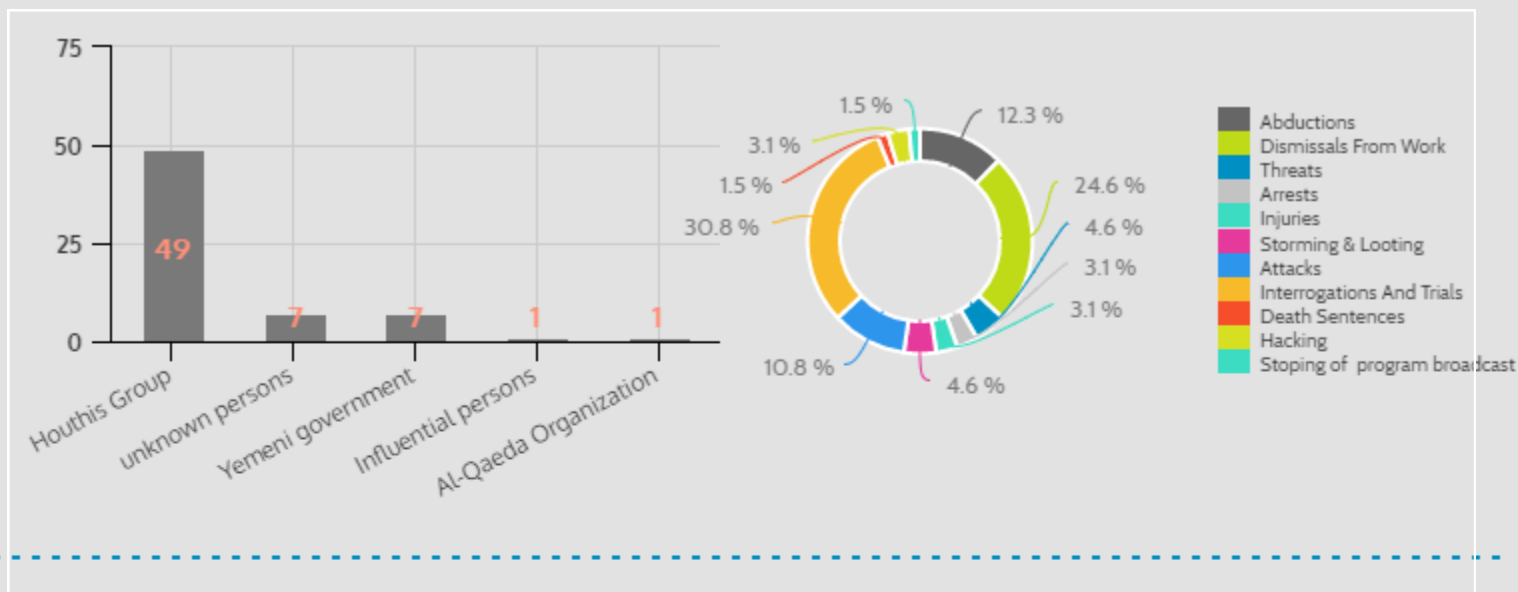
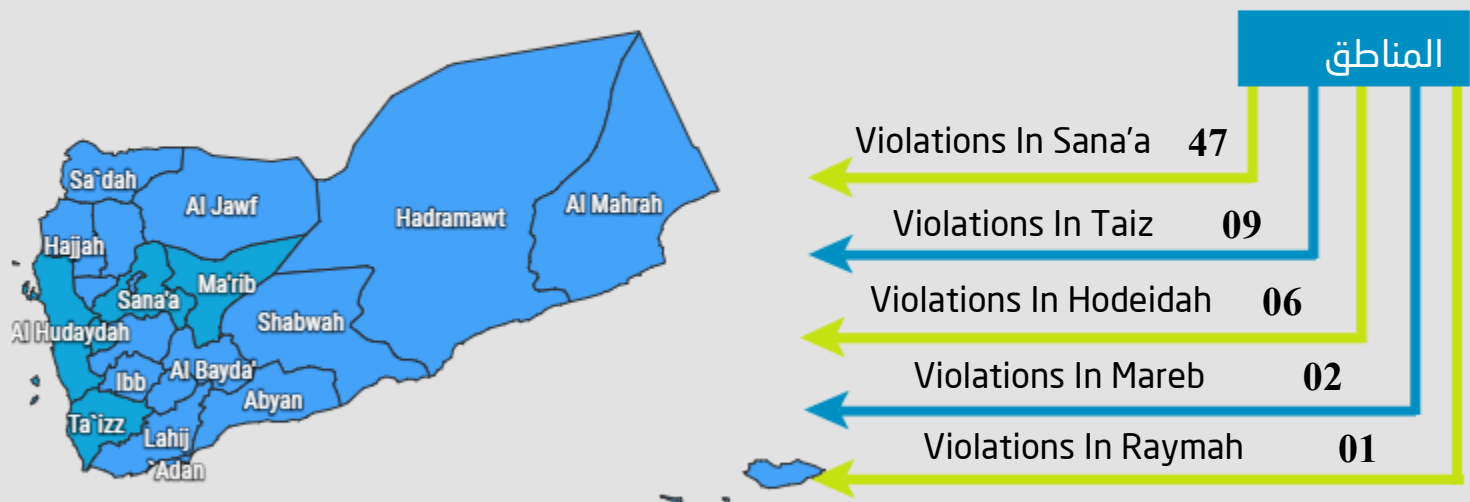
The report monitored 63 violations against individuals by 97% of the total monitored violations during March and April. These violations varied from 8 abduction cases, a death sentence against the journalist Al-Jubaihi, 2 injury cases, 20 trial cases against journalists, 16 dismissal cases from work, 7 attack cases, 3 intimidation cases, 2 arrest cases, 2 cases of storming and looting houses, 2 cases of hacking social networking. The report also monitored 2 violation cases against media organizations by 3%.

Studies & Economic Media Center (SEMC) continuously monitors the development of the free expression in Yemen and the media freedom in particular.

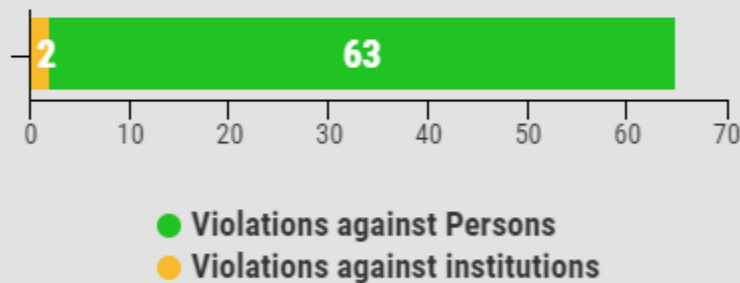


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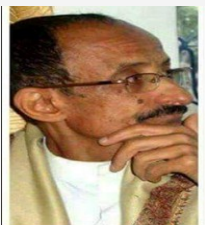
In Yemen, 47 cases of violations were reported in Sana'a province, 9 cases of violations were reported in Taiz province, 6 violations in Hodeidah province, 2 violations in Marib province and one violation case in Raimah province.



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## Death Sentence



### Yahya Al-Jubaihi

On April 12, 2017, the Specialized Criminal Court of First Instance, which is an unconstitutional court controlled by the Houthi group in Sana'a, sentenced to death the journalist Yahya Al-Jubaihi on charges of spying with Saudi Arabia after 8 months of abduction.

Al-Jubaihi's lawyer said in a statement to the Observatory Center that the judge issued the verdict after two sessions and faced the journalist in the first session with a list of evidences. The other session was devoted to hearing the responses of the journalist and his lawyer, but the judge hurried in issuing the verdict without hearing to the defendant to defend himself.

The lawyer also said the charges against the journalist are the cooperation with Saudi Arabia and that among the evidence provided by the court was a total of press reports written by the journalist for Al-Madinah newspaper in Saudi Arabia.

The death sentence against the journalist Al-Jubaihi caused an anger and widespread rejection of popular and official components who expressed themselves by organizing electronic campaigns on social networking sites since the death sentence until today, as well as campaigns of solidarity with the journalist and demanding his release, where it received a large Arab and international echo. Studies & Economic Media Center and Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate in addition to human rights activists had launched, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, a large solidarity campaign that aimed at sending a message to all international organizations headed by the United Nations to exert pressure on the Houthi group and the former President to release Al-Jubaihi.

Al-Jubaihi worked as a journalist and correspondent in several Yemeni and foreign newspapers, including Saudi newspapers. He held government positions as a media official in the cabinet presidency before being arrested by the Houthi group. He also worked as a university lecturer at Sana'a University, Mass of communication faculty, and he has a number of published reports and writings.

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## Injury



### Jamal Al-She'ry

The photojournalist in Al-Ghad Al-Mushreq TV, Jamal Al-She'ry was injured on 29th of March by unidentified people, who fled, in Jamal Street, Taiz city center while the cameraman Akram Al-Raseny survived.

The journalist Akram Al-Raseny said that when he and Jamal Ali Thabit Al-She'ry were coming back from preparing and producing reports for Al-Ghad Al-Mushreq TV, they were shot randomly by unidentified assailants in Jamal Street, where Akram was slightly bruised because of the fall and the people's rush while the journalist Jamal was wounded by a shrapnel of bullets.

Nabil Al-Osaidy, member of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate Council reported the exposure of the photojournalist Jamal Al-She'ry in a random shooting by unidentified gunmen in the center of the Taiz city and the survival of the photographer Akram Al-Raseny, who was with him.

Jamal Al-She'ry is a journalist and a photographer for Al-Ghad Al-Mushreq satellite TV and the director of Fikrah Foundation for Publishing and media.

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### **Saleh Al-Obeidi**

On April 23, the journalist Saleh Al-Obeidi was injured by a mortar shrapnel while covering the battles between forces loyal to President Hadi and the militants of the Houthi group and the former president in one of the fighting fronts near Khalid bin Al-Walid camp, east of Al-Mukha city.

Al-Obeidi was injured when an armored vehicle traveling a group of soldiers was attacked by a thermal rocket fired from areas where the militants of the Houthi group and former President were based. The journalist was taken to the United Arab Emirates for treatment because of the poor health.

Saleh Al-Obeidi is a photojournalist covering the battles on the southern coast of the Taiz province between forces loyal to President Hadi and the militants of the Houthi group and former President.

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## **Abduction Cases:**



### **Kamal Al-Shawish, Ali Al-Saqqaf, Alaa Al-Shafi'i and Abdul-Hakim Obadi**

On March 12, 2017, the Houthi group abducted the journalist Kamal Al-Shawish, Ali Al-Saqqaf, Alaa Al-Shafi'i and Abdul-Hakim Obadi while filming a human film for Al-Ghad Al-Mushreq at the Faculty of Arts, Hodeidah University. They were released three days after the abduction.

The journalist Kamal Al-Shawish reported that gunmen abducted them while filming a human film with three of his friends at the Faculty of Arts, Hodeidah University, where they were taken by a military car of the Houthi group. When they arrived to the prison, the Houthi militants interrogated them, and when they knew they were filming a human film, they were interrogated about their writings against the Houthi group. They have been released after they were followed up by a number of social figures.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) condemned the arrest and detention of journalists who were working on a TV report covering social and humanitarian issues. "This is yet another example of the climate of violence and intimidation that governs journalism in Yemen. An end shall be put for such detentions and policies of targeting the independent journalists," said Anthony Pelangi, the secretary general of IFJ.

The Journalists' Syndicate condemned the abduction of journalists and demanded an end to the intimidation of journalists, media workers and policies that treat journalists as enemies. The Syndicate called for measures to establish an environment that includes respect for media freedoms and the rights of journalists.

Ali Al-Saqqaf is the Editor-in-Chief of Sport News and a reporter of Al-Ayyam in Hodeidah province. He also works with Al-Ghad Al-Mushreq TV with Alaa Al-Shafe'i and Abdul-Hakim Obadi. Kamal Al-Shawish is the Editor-in-Chief of the Raimah Post news website and writes in a number of news websites.

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### **Wadi' Ataa**

On March 21, gunmen of the Houthi group abducted the brother of the journalist at Balqis satellite TV, Wadi' Ataa, from his home in Hays city, south of Hodeidah, to an unknown location.

Al-Mushahed Site published the abduction of the journalist's brother, Wadi' Ataa from his home in Hodeidah and taking him to an unknown location. The Journalist Nabil Al-Osaidi condemned the incident.

Wadi' Ataa is a journalist, writer and programmer for Balqis Satellite TV.

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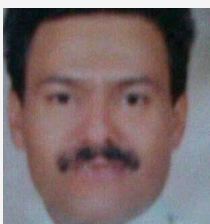
### **Ahmed Al- Naimi**

On April 18, Houthi militants in Zabid district of Hodeidah province stormed the house of journalist Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Naimi, the correspondent of Rushd satellite TV, and abducted his elderly father on the charge of his journalistic work and his dissenting views.

He called on all human rights organizations to intervene urgently to release his abducted father as he suffers from several diseases including heart and kidneys and his deteriorating health condition.

The Journalists' Syndicate condemned the storming of the house and the abduction of the father of journalist Ahmed Al-Naimi on the background of his work and his dissenting views. It demanded the release of Al-Naimi's father and stopping the abuse and harassment of journalists. It shouldered the Houthi group full responsibility for hurt or risk that may affects the father of the journalist.

Ahmed Abdul Rahman Al-Naimi is a journalist and a correspondent for Rushd satellite TV and works as a cameraman and TV editing technician. The father of the journalist Abdulrahman Al-Naimi works as a manager of Abu Musa al-Ash'ari school.



## Jamil Al-Samet

On March 12, the journalist Jamil Al-Samet was abducted by Al-Qaeda members in Taiz province. Al-Qaeda also issued a presence order for the journalist to attend the organization's court for publishing a report on the public Republican Hospital in Taiz.

The journalist Jamil Al-Samet said he spent 30 hours in Al-Qaeda prisons in Taiz city because of a press report he wrote about the Republican Hospital in Taiz before he was released.

Jamil Al-Samet is a journalist at June 13 news website and a head of the monitoring department of the Nasserist Popular Union branch in Taiz, and he writes in the party's Wahdawi Net website.

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## Jamil Al-Qushm

On April 26, an armed group abducted the son of journalist Jamil Al-Qushm while he was leaving his school in Sana'a.

The journalist Jamil al-Qushm confirmed that a gang of 3 members on board a white bus on the 26th of April has abducted at noon his son Jamal Jamil Ghalib al-Qushm as he was leaving his Al-Manar School, in 40th Street in the capital Sana'a. They took him by force to the bus and threatened him with dagger to silence. As a result of his shouting, they put him in front of the US Embassy in the Sheraton district. He was assaulted with minor injuries in the face and hands, adding that there is no enmity with anyone so as to be a target for such these criminal incidents.

The Media Freedom Observatory of the Studies & Economic Media Center (SEMC) condemned the abduction of the son of journalist Jamil al-Qushm by an armed group. It called on the security authorities under the control of the Houthi group in the capital Sana'a to take responsibility for protecting journalists and their families.

The Journalists' Syndicate demanded the concerned authorities to investigate the abduction of the son of journalist Jamil al-Qushm, arrest the perpetrators and provide protection for the journalist and his family.

The journalist Jamil Ghalib Al Qushm is the Deputy Director of Local News at Saba News Agency.

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## Arrest Cases:



## Yasser Dabar

On March 26, some security forces in Marib province arrested the reporter of Sana'a satellite TV, Yasser Dabar from an Internet shop for 24 hours. The journalist was detained on charge of being a suspect although he showed his identity card and work card, which doesn't work only after contacting a leader in Dhamar Resistance Council to introduce him and then was released.

The journalist Yaser Dabbar is a reporter of Sana'a satellite TV run by the legitimate government. He said armed men in civilian clothes arrested him from an internet cafe in Marib city.

They took him out of the cafe , told him that he is wanted and that there was a communication against him from the 26th brigade of Tehmah and said this is your picture. He saw the picture that was not for him and asked them about who is in the picture. They refused to talk to him even after presenting his identity card and work card proving that he works for Sana'a TV. They refused to respond and took him on a military car after confiscating all his belongings to a cell full of dirt and filth, full of cockroaches and worms. After allowing him to use his cell phone, he did some contacts and was introduced and released.

Yasser Dabar is a journalist and reporter of Sana'a satellite TV in Marib province.

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### **Diyab Al-Shater**

On March 27, 2017, the Yemeni army in Marib arrested the correspondent of Yemen Shabab TV Diyab Al-Shater. He was released three hours after his arrest on the background of a publication on his Facebook page criticizing the failure of the army and security forces to hold military officers and soldiers accountable for their detaining trucks carrying power generators belonging to Marib Electricity.

In a statement to the Media Freedom Observatory in Yemen, the journalist Dhiyab Al-Shater said that while he was leaving Marib radio building, one of the military pickup stopped him and asked him to go with them. The journalist refused because there was no official note and one of the army leaders intervened and took him to the intelligence building of the 3rd military zone, where he was questioned about a telegram, which they say it is secret and publishing it is a crime, and he must identify the source that provides him information. The journalist refused to reveal the source and spent hours of arrest and interrogation and then was released.

The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate condemned the detention of Yemen Shabab TV reporter in Marib Diyab Al-Shater by security authorities for hours on the background of a publication written by the journalist in the social media. It also demanded to quickly investigate the circumstances and to arrest the perpetrators and prosecute them. The syndicate shouldered the security authorities in Marib the responsibility of protecting the life of the journalist.

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## **Attack Cases:**



### **Ahlam Al-Askari**

On April 1, 2017, Taiz province, the female reporter of Sana'a satellite TV Ahlam Al-Askari and her crew Rashad al-Awadhi, Abdul Rahman al-Shawafi, Mohammed Al-Tuwaiji and Husam Al-Kulaia, were threatened to death by gunmen belonging to one of the resistance factions in Taiz while filming and preparing a Ramadan program for the channel.

Sana'a satellite TV issued a statement condemning what is suffered by its crew in Taiz, repeated prevention of its crew to perform their work for the second day sequentially and the threat, verbal abuse and gun aiming. It considered these repeated practices a negative sign and restricting the freedom of media outlets and channels and may lead to prevent those media outlets from performing its role in transferring the image and suffering experienced by the city. The channel shouldered the local authority, security management and resistance leaders responsibility for the safety of its staff in Taiz.

The journalist Nabil Al-Osaidi, member of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate condemned the exposure of Sana'a TV crew to the threat by gunmen while filming and preparing a program for the channel. He called on the leadership of the Taiz province, security, brigades and the leadership of the resistance to control what he called "Thug" who carry out attacks in front of the sight and hearing of people, and considered these threats offensive to all commitments of protecting journalists.

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### **Ibrahim Fathi**

On April 7, Ibrahim Fathi, a journalist and correspondent for Saba News Agency (1), was subjected to physical assault by unidentified gunmen and two sound bombs were thrown in front of his house in the capital Sana'a, creating a state of fear and panic among family members.

The journalist Mansour Al-Jaradi, head of the union committee of the Yemen Saba News Agency, reported that the journalist Ibrahim Fathi, director of the local news department of Sana'a Saba News Agency, was attacked by an armed gang.

A number of journalists and media outlets declared their solidarity with the journalist Ibrahim Fathi and called on the security agencies to quickly arrest the gang members, punish them and not to tolerate this attack.

Ibrahim Fathi is a local news director at Sana'a Saba News Agency

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### **Omar Al-Sarari**

The journalist and head of the breaking news department at the Radio & TV Observatory department in Yemen Saba News Agency (2), Omar Al-Sarari was attacked on Friday evening, April 21, by three unknown gunmen.

In a press release to the Observatory of Media Freedom, the journalist Omar Al-Sarari said that while passing through the area of Sa'wan heading to his home, three unknown persons intercepted, assaulted him and ran away, without knowing the cause of the attack.

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## **Threat Cases:**



### **Randa Al-Adeemi**

Randa Al-Adeemi was threatened by unknown people in the capital Sana'a, where she received a number of SMS and calls from unknown people demanding her to stop the journalism and write against the resistance, the Yemeni government and coalition forces.

The Yemeni Media Union, an entity established by media supporters of the Houthis group and Saleh in Sana'a, condemned the threats against Randa Al-Adeemi and

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(1) & (2) Saba Agency Controlled by Houthis Group

call on the security authorities to protect the journalist from any attack or violation that affect her life or freedom under the incitement campaign against her.

Randa Al-Adeemi is a member of the Monitoring and Inspection Committee of the Yemeni Media Union and writes in more than one media outlet and a member of the Journalists Against Aggression.

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### **Khaled AL-Jumaei**

On 18 March 2017, the journalist Khaled Saleh Kassem was subjected to the harassment by the Central Prison director because of his writings on the suffering and undernourishment of prisoners in the Central Prison of Raimah province.

The director of the Central Prison of Raimah province threatened the journalist Khaled and filed a complaint to the court against the journalist on charges of inciting the prisoners and requested to arrest the journalist.

The journalist Khaled AL-Jumaei presented a report to the Media Freedom Observatory in Yemen against the director of the Central Prison of Raimah province. "While I was there to cover the visit of the Attorney General to the Central Prison of Raimah province, and before the arrival of the Attorney General for an hour, I had sat with a number of prisoners who complained to me their suffering in the prison, I informed the prison director who did not respond to me to improve the conditions of the prisoners. He insulted and ordered me out of the prison. He threatened me and ordered the soldiers to imprison me if I did not get out, even though I am on a press mission to Yemen News Agency Saba to cover the news of the Attorney General visit. I went out immediately, and then wrote a publication on Facebook criticizing the situation of prisoners in Raimah. On March 19, I was surprised by the request of the court on charges of inciting prisoners against the prison administration," Reported Khaled.

Khaled Saleh Kassem AL-Jumaei is a journalist and the acting director general of Saba News Agency of Raimah branch.

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### **Wa'el Sharhah**

On April 20, the Editor-in-Chief of Akhbar Al-Hawadeth newspaper, Wa'el Sharhah, was threatened by murder and insulted by the Undersecretary of the Health Ministry for the therapeutic medicine sector in Sana'a for a publication case.

The journalist Wa'el Sharhah reported that the 10th issue of Akhbar Al-Hawadeth newspaper revealed the gap to smuggled drugs into Yemen, which angered many of the beneficiaries and prompted them to send gunmen to search for me at the newspaper headquarters as well as threatening to murder me, slandering and insulting me. He added that to save millions of Yemenis from death because of these drugs is not easy and the journalists of Al-Hawadeth newspaper must bear the consequences of their courage, patriotism and humanity.

The Media Freedom Observatory of Studies & Economic Media Center condemned the exposure of the Editor-in-Chief of Akhbar Al-Hawadeth newspaper to the threat by the Undersecretary of the Health Ministry for the therapeutic medicine sector. It blamed the security authorities in the capital Sana'a for any hurt may happen to the journalist in a time that many violations are committed against journalists without punishment or stopping.

The journalist Wa'el Sharhah is the Editor-in-Chief of Akhbar Al-Hawadeth newspaper and a journalist in the state-run Al-Thawra newspaper.

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## Dismissal and Trial Cases:

### 14journalists in the state-run Al-Thawra newspaper

The Public Finance and Anti-Corruption Prosecution filed a request for 14 journalists in the state-run Al-Thawra newspaper to attend the hearing session on April 29 in the lawsuit filed by the Al-Thawra Corporation for Printing and Publishing, controlled by the Houthi group since September 2014. Their questioning was delayed on the request of journalists' lawyers to grant him an opportunity to see the file, which was approved by the prosecutor, deputy prosecutor and persecution member.

In February, the director of Al-Thawra Corporation for Printing and Publishing issued a dismissal note for 16 journalists on the pretext of provoking chaos and incitement within the corporation while they were rejecting the administrative and financial corruption of the corporation and demanding to pay their salaries.

The journalist Hisham Al-Hakimi commented sarcastically on the court's request for questioning by saying, "they are stealing and we are responding the Prosecution. The journalist Zakaria Hassan also confirmed that he had received a request from the Prosecution to attend the hearings, which will begin on April 29.

The state-run Al-Thawra newspaper is a daily political newspaper published by Al-Thawra Corporation for Printing and Publishing, the largest media organization in Yemen. The Houthis took control of it when they stormed the capital Sana'a in September 2014 until now.

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### 6journalists from the editorial board of Al-Mithaq newspaper

The Press and Publications Prosecution questioned 6 journalists from the editorial board of Al-Mithaq newspaper, the mouthpiece of the General People's Congress to respond to the lawsuit filed by the Minister of Youth and Sports in the "Salvation Government" formed by the Houthi group and the former President on charges of insulting and slandering.

Al-Mithaq newspaper Editor-in-Cheif Mohammad Anam said during his questioning by the Prosecution that what was written in the newspaper falls within the responsibility of

the newspaper towards the society and its public issues and within the view of the professional responsibility that the newspaper has adhered to since its establishment, especially in these circumstances that experiences what he called "barbaric aggression and unjust siege".

He added that it was supposed by His Excellency Minister Hassan Zeid to adopt the legal means and the first right of respond guaranteed to him and others, which we shall comply according to the ethics of the profession.

Yemen Today TV reported that the Minister of Youth and Sports filed a complaint to the Press and Publications Prosecution against Al-Mithaq newspaper for writing about the corruption of the Minister of Youth and Sports.

The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate announced its solidarity with the editorial board of Al-Mithaq newspaper, in which 6 journalists are being subjected to prosecution and summons due to a publication issue. The syndicate demanded to stop the harassment of the rest of the media outlets after destroying the party, private and independent media outlets, which were attacked and subjected to assault from the de facto power.

The lawsuit included the Al-Mithaq Editorial Board namely:

Mohammad Anam Editor-in-Chief , Yahia Ali Nouri Deputy Editor-in-Chief , Abdul-Wali Al-Mathabi Managing Editor. Tawfiq Al-Sharabi Managing Editor, Najeeb Shuja Eldeen Editorial Secretary and Abdul-Majid Al-Beheiri Technical Editorial Secretary.

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## Cases of Storming and Looting :



### **Abdullah Al-Shalif**

On April 4, the Houthi group militants stormed the house of the journalist and the head of Raqeeb Organization for human rights Abdullah Al-Shalif in the east of the capital Sana'a and stationed in it after he had received a threat from a group leader. This storming happened after one day from an intervention by the head of Raqeeb Organization on Al-Jazeera about the violations of organizations and associations By the Houthi group.

Raqeeb Organization headed by Al-Shalif said that the Houthi group members stormed the house of the organization's head, Dr. Abdullah Al-Shalif, in the capital Sana'a. Witnesses said gunmen led by Abu Saqr, the Houthi supervisor, in Saref district, started breaking locks to storm the house, but the wise men of the neighborhood intervened and stopped the storming.

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### **Nasr Taha Mustafa**

On April 8, Houthi militants stormed the house of the journalist Nasr Taha Mostafa, the President's Adviser and the former journalists' chief, and looted his contents. They also stormed the house of his brother businessman Khaled Taha Mustafa.

The journalist Zakaria Al-Sharabi said Houthi group's militants with armored vehicles and military vehicles stormed the house of President's Advisor Nasr Taha Mustafa in the residential city of Hadda district in Sana'a and looted some of its contents.

Braqshnet website published the news of storming the house of the President's Advisor Nasr Taha Mustafa and looting its contents, adding that the storming of the house of the President's adviser is coincided with the storming his brother's house, the businessman Khaled Taha Mustafa.

The journalist and writer Nasr Taha Mustafa is an adviser to the President of the Republic. He left the capital Sana'a after the Houthi group had controlled over the capital Sana'a. He was the Minister of Information.

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### **UNI Yemen Information and Satellite Broadcasting Office**

On Saturday (April 8th), Houthi gunmen raided and confiscated the equipment of the UNI Yemen Office for Media and Satellite Broadcasting, which is owned by journalist Mohamed Al-Khamri. The office provides live broadcast services to local and international channels including; Al-Alam TV, Al-Mayadeen TV, Russia Today TV, which are only allowed to work in Sana'a by the Houthi group.

The journalist Mohammed Al-Khamri said the Houthis sent three military cars and more than 20 gunmen to storm his office in Sana'a and confiscate its equipment under the order of the National Security.

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## Cases of Hacking



### Salah Al-Afif and Ahmed Houthan

The social networking pages of journalist Salah Al-Afif and Ahmed Houthan have been hacked by unknown people with the aim of restricting the media freedom.

The journalist Salah Al-Afif said that unidentified people hacked his Facebook page on April 1, sent messages to several friends, deleted publications and friends and replaced his personal image with the leader of the Houthi group, Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi. Salah Al-Afif is a journalist in the media center of Taiz axis leadership, and he is a reporter of AL-Mashhad Al-Yamani website in Taiz. As well as, the Facebook page of the journalist Ahmed Houthan was hacked by unknown people. These incidents came while the social media pages of journalists were increasingly targeted by media enemies in order to restrict media freedoms.



### Yemen Today TV

Yemen Today TV was banned to broadcast a TV episode recorded by the journalist Nabil Al-Sufi with the lawyer Nazih Al-Emad in the program of view because the program included criticism of the leaders of Huthi and Saleh in Sana'a . The channel feared that the program cause a crisis between the Houthis and the General People's Congress, the former President Ali Saleh's party.

The journalist and program presenter Nabil Al-Sufi said last year that Nazih's dialogue had turned into a crisis with the Ansar Allah (Houthis) and addressed the GPC's President, considering the interview an aggression by the media of the General People's Congress.

## Others

The Media Freedoms Observatory in Yemen monitored various violations due to the war and the non-payment of salaries. The journalists and the satirical writer in the state-run Al-Thawrah newspaper, Ahmed Hamed tried on March 7 to commit suicide by cutting his artery inside the director's office of Al-Thawrah corporation, who is appointed by the Houthi group, because of his living conditions due to not paying their salaries suspended for 8 months, but he survived after an urgent treatment.

On the 16th of April, the journalist Mohammed Damaj Mufarreh was subjected to closing his house in which he lives. The journalist and his family were imprisoned inside the house by the owner of the house because he was unable to pay the rent of the house in which he lives.

Al-Mustaqbal satellite TV, which was launched in July 2016, was forced to stop broadcasting because of the debt and financial deficit of the channel. It delayed in paying \$ 10,000 because of the current situation and the marketing difficulty of the channel.

Nass radio FM of the legitimate government was forced to stop completely for hours because it was forcibly taken away by the building owner in Marib city and was not given the time to move to another building.

### **Information and Definitions:**

- ⇒ Detention: - The term "detention" shall be applied to all those who have been imprisoned by the Yemeni government or by any of its affiliated institutions.
- ⇒ Abduction: A term means in the report all cases of forcible detention by an unlawful armed group / groups.
- ⇒ Period of report: - March - April 2017