

The Current Status of Yemeni Women Journalists

Challenges in Peace and War



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The Current Status of Yemeni Women Journalists: Challenges in Peace and War

**A report on Yemeni Media Women during the conflict
... challenges and prospects for the future**

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Media people and social media activists have paid a heavy bill during the war in Yemen for more than three years and the cost was doubled, especially for women journalists and social media women activists.

Despite their relatively small numbers compared to male journalists, they constitute only 11% of the total members of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate, they have been subjected to numerous violations, including assassination attempts and other violations related to their professional work clarified within this report.

Due to the fact that the media work is a dangerous profession for women, most female journalist feel reluctant to practice the profession of journalism; either because of the high security risks or because of the salaries suspension or delay. In most official media institutions women journalists are available more than private media organizations.

The media field is not discrimination-free against women. This situation is a reflection of the phenomenon of discrimination against women in Yemen in various areas. However, a group of women journalists show bright models in challenging reality and emerge as active and determined journalists.

In 2017, the Yemeni journalist Hadeel Al Yamani (Aljazeera's correspondent) received the Journalist Courage Award; this recognition is a clear indication of the important role played by the Yemeni women journalists despite the great dangers. Many journalists appeared as war correspondents in the heart of the battles in Yemen.

In this report, we try to review the reality of women journalists and activists in the social media in Yemen and to identify the cases of discrimination and the obstacles to the media profession they face during their work.

The report represents a summary of dozens of meetings with Yemeni media organizations and journalists working in media in addition to media experts

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In the media, women constitute less than 20% of the media, compared with men who make up 80%.¹ 60% of the media women work in the field of visual and audiovisual media and 40% in the written press especially in the Yemeni News Agency, the October 14 newspaper, Althawrah and Aljomhoreyah newspapers, which are official institutions of the government; these institutions are consequently fulfilling the official information policy.

This number of female in the media are very few if compared to the number of graduates from the Mass Communication Colleges in Yemen. The number of graduates from Mass Communication Colleges with form various departments (journalism, radio and television) is about 140 graduates annually. Half of these women get work in the field of media. Others work in other fields, and many of them spend their lives without work due to lack of suitable job opportunities in the same specialization. This is because of their family responsibilities that hinder them from applying for a job in the media field. Therefore, it is obvious that media institutions do not take into account the women's privacy in their recruitment policies and regulations.

Though the Yemeni journalists affiliating to the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate are about 170 journalists out of more than 1,500 members, only one woman reached the Journalists Syndicate Council's membership during the last election session of the union council.

In Aden governorate, the number of women journalists, according to the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, is 90 women. They are in Saba Agency - Aden Branch, Aden Radio and TV, 14th October Newspaper, and the private newspapers and websites.

In Hadramout governorate, only seven of the 35 women graduates in the media field graduated from Hadramout University over the past four years. Only a few worked in the field. Others worked in fields other than the media because of the lack of the media institutions' assistance that help female graduates to improve their skills and enable them to pursue their media ambitions. They tend to go to teaching in private schools, or looking for work opportunities not related to media.

In Hodeida governorate, the number of media women is 14, distributed on the websites, newspapers and radio stations of Hodeidah and only one correspondent for Yemen's official channel.

Only 170 women journalists are members of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, representing 11% of the total membership of the 1,500 affiliates.

Women working in the media constitute only 20%, while men constitute the largest number of 80%

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Freedom House country profile: Yemen (located at <http://www.freedomhouse.org>)
Yemen: an Analysis of Women in the Media – ARTICLE 19, London, 2009 – Index Number: 978-1-906586-04-1

The following table shows the number of women compared to the number of men working in some of the media organizations:

Table (1)

Media Institution Name	Women Staff	Men Staff
Yemen News Agency Saba	300	2500
Althaowrah Newspaper	100	1100
October Newspaper 14	20	27
Belqees Channel	25	155
Yemen Shbab Channel	3	20
Suhail Channel	2	40
Sana'a Channel	8	37
Hadramout Channel	3	16

In the interviews conducted in the framework of this report, the target female journalists agreed unanimously that the discrimination exist in media organizations in Yemen. Women journalists considered that discrimination existed in the simplest positions. Women's recruitment in many cases only used to as a matter of decoration for the work environment or where there was no suitable man for the position. Women's recruitment should be out of a moral obligation to the media profession and as a response to the campaigns that advocate the women involvement in the public office. However, some of those recruitments were imposed by government decisions; yet they could not empower women to have a significant role in the decision-making positions. It is worth mentioning that the media arena has its own features and nature, especially when the journalist becomes an announcer on the TV; this gives women overpowering to be employed on TV.

The distinction between men and women and the preference of men to women in media institutions is because of men's control of the leadership positions. This is in addition to the social ideas and concepts imposed by the surrounding environment, which affect the decisions-making process of those who are in charge of these institutions. This eventually creates such type of hesitation about women's abilities. This preconception leads to a prejudiced actions and incompetency in terms of providing equal opportunities of employment for both men and women. There is another factor that causes discrimination against women i.e. the men are making decisions in the Qat sessions, which are usually confined to men. One more factor is that the regulations were not applied and followed.

The inequality of the men and women in the media organizations is clearly noticed through wages variation, unequal training opportunities offered to women, lack of harmonization of the environment of some media organizations for female journalists, and the allocation of specific areas in which women work, such as women's chances and social life positions.

Among the reasons that lead to the discrimination is the family's attitudes towards women engagement in media work. The work of women during the nighttime is not accepted and traveling on any mission outside their residence without a family companion is not accepted either. This is due to the misconceptions about the nature of journalism, especially audiovisual. This leads, as some people think, to violation of the social values through man-woman close contacting; another reason is that the man does not like the women to be more famous than him. One more reason for discrimination against women is the role of women in the family as a wife or a mother. This is in addition to their social obligations towards husband and children.

All of the women interviewed in this report believe that they did not have the opportunity to lead significant roles and were not entrusted with leadership roles in the media organizations where they work, and they have never made a decision during their work except in very rare cases.

Women's lack of progress in decision-making positions is a reflection of the situation of the Yemeni women in all life sectors. This comes despite the fact that they have engaged in certain media field such as the press, audio and visual media work since the launch of radio and television in Yemen. However, they have not had the opportunity to be empowered to take part in the decision-making process except for rare circumstances and reasons.

Through a close review of media positions led by woman, we find that they are very little over the past decades, whether the positions of media director or director of television or radio or editor of a daily or weekly newspapers or even a website. For the first time in the history of Yemen, a woman was appointed as a media secretary in 2014 and as a president of one of the major government newspapers in the same year. Only one of them preceded the post of undersecretary of the Ministry of Media in 1991, and the majority of media posts are reserved for men. The recruitment of a media woman is always accompanied by deliberate campaigns of defamation and abuse. In such cases, the appointment of a woman journalist in any high rank position was an exceptional circumstance, so female journalists remained in office only for a very short period before being excluded in favor of men.

Table showing the highest official positions held by Yemeni women and the period of stay in these positions

Table (2)

Name	Position	Work Period
Amat Al-Alim Al-Suswa	Deputy Minister in Ministry of Mass Communication	One year
Nadia Al-Saqqaf	Minister of the Ministry of Mass Communication	Two months
Nadra Abdul Qaddous	editor of the 14th October Newspaper	One year
Lisa Hassani	Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Mass Communication (for radio affairs)	Still at the position

For the first time in the history of Yemen, a woman was appointed Minister of Information (Nadia Al-Saqqaf, Editor-in-Chief of the English-language newspaper "Yemen Times") in the Competencies Government at the end of 2014

There is no editor-in-chief of any newspaper (be it public or private or parties' newspaper).

Nadra Abdul Quddous: The only woman who was the editor-in-chief of the 14th October Newspaper; she was subject to an unmatched campaign and was replaced by a man.

The most prominent obstacles to women's being without an access to decision-making in media institutions, according to interviews and meetings with media experts and media women in the framework of this report are as follow:

1. Community Factor

Persistence of a narrow understanding of women according to the traditional views of a large number of the community members is the first factor, where society members consider the women incapable, compared to men, in bearing the burden of responsibility for the decision-making. Family and social pressures negatively affect women's capacity and limit their promotion toward being involved in leadership positions. Despite the strong effect of this factor, but this does not preclude the adoption of appropriate mechanisms for promoting women's participation and positioning them in leadership positions in media organizations.

2. Institutional Factor

It is not possible to overlook the dominance of men over the media institutions and the obstacles they may pose to the development of the status of women in newspapers and media institutions. The Mass Communication Departments in general are in the hands of men, which lead to exclusion of the female component in favor of men. Moreover, the male workmate does not support his female colleague.

3. Women Journalists Themselves

It cannot be denied that an important part of the obstacles are the responsibility of the woman journalist and the media woman in general. They accepted the small space granted to them from the community and did not struggle to get more, and often did not withstand the challenges. Women considered the profession as a job, which starts at a certain hour and ends at the end of working hours, and they end their relation to the work when the door of their house is closed. As a result, this reflects the woman's inclination to work in the departments of public relations and editing departments, which are in fact non-moving sections and eventually do not give an opportunity to advance and progress towards being an important part in leadership positions.

Ms. Nadia al-Saqqaf said she reluctantly accepted the appointment as a Minister of the Ministry of Mass Communication (she said to 14th October Newspaper, issued on 22 January 2015). She said, "Because I am not a position seeker and I am proud that I am a journalist. I have spent four decades of my life in my profession career. Thanks God! I accepted due to the insistence of my coworkers; it was a kind of mandatory assignment. I was seen as the only professional remaining of the second generation in the prestigious newspaper. I accepted the offered position and made sure to organize daily meetings with staff, employees and journalists to listen and understand to their problems and suffering, some of which I know by virtue of my work with them. Nevertheless, I did not realize about other things for not being interfering in administrative and financial matters before my management of the foundation. During these meetings, I realized that there was a consensus of accepting me as a leading woman for the first time in the history of the foundation. But tainted by doubts. As the general mentality believes in the leadership of men; they believe that men are intelligent, politicians; they have party relations, kinship or other forms of special relations that help them to reach high positions. How could a woman journalist get to high management? She has nothing to do with a party or any political affiliation. Also she has no relations or knowledge of anyone in the authority. These questions were hitting my mind in my first days of the leadership of the foundation and I used to smile at them with saying "Subhan Allah or Gracious God". The work was quietly going on despite some hurdles due to the interruption break of the quarterly operating budget for the Foundation from the Ministry of Finance in Sana'a. I received the Foundation with a little of the remaining operational materials (journal and commercial press) though I felt that there were other things happening in secret. Where I could feel the absence of the Director of the Department of Press Production, a number of journalists, directors and employees of other departments, and started to summon them from their homes to work but no response. Then I resorted to taking legal action procedures. Hence, the suffering and the creation of problems started, and it exposed out later whom weaving threads of conspiracy against me. There were a number of elements of the previous leadership disturbed by my presence and knowledge of my policy in the new management of the Foundation, which is based mainly on rules and regulations in using the finance of the Foundation. But the war of 2015 emerged and led to stopping the Foundation for five months. I was worried about the Foundation and all its contents. If some harm happens, everything will be over. There paper will not able to function again.

Whence we knew the war was over at Mualla, I rushed to the Foundation building to find it just a military barracks and detaining place. For four months, the war turned it into a camp and detention camp for the resistance youth and all of those who are suspected to belong to the youth movement. I went to the former governor Naif Bakri and asked him to visit the Foundation; and indeed he answered the call and saw with his own eyes the extent of the devastation and damaged that has occurred on the Foundation building with some of the shells that fell upon it. Moreover, the shells did not hit the printers (thanks to God), as all contents of the foundation that have not been lost or stolen but they have been misused.

The governor had agreed to provide six million Yemeni Riyals to rehabilitate the foundation and issue the journal. I hastened to form a committee of departmental managers who have not quit work to start the implementation of the orders to resume work. Indeed during the month of the rehabilitation support, the Foundation building became better than it was. The operational materials were bought for the re-issuance of the Journal. Here, those who were upset refused to act and they fabricated stories and excuses. The newspaper resumed its operations. Thus, they began to spread rumors, raise doubts, false ideas and other provocative actions. Throughout the period from September 2015 to October 2016, I was harmed psychological and I felt nervous damage from those human beings. The most effect was stopping printing the press deliberately by a number of workers on May 23, 2016.

Two of solidarity campaigns supported me; they were from various social layers of the community. Although I did not surrender and I notified the local authority (led by the governor) who stood by my side. He supported me to overcome a lot of difficulties by paying ten million to the Foundation account to reopen again.

In fact, about thirty numbers of the newspaper were issued; some equipment were bought as well as office materials. However, the governor bewildered of what the people do: they destroy their source of livelihood with their hands.

I could not work under those conditions, especially as I was moving in the last period from my house to the Foundation and return home by public transportation. I did not own a car, and the cars of the Foundation are parked because there is no budget for fuel. The oil company refused to provide us with oil until we pay our debts.

After that, I resigned from the position, which I did not gain from anything except pain, sadness and sorrow. I was receiving only my monthly salary as the rest of the employees. I was even paying some of the Foundation's needs from my salary to run its activities.

Although Yemeni women journalists in the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate do not exceed 170 journalists out of more than 1,500 members but the journalist Fatima Mutahar won the highest votes in the elections of the Yemeni journalists' union in its last election session in 2009. This gives a clear indication of the presence of women in the media, and their ability to compete and to be present.

"If the security situation in Yemen is a threat to women in the public sector in general, it would seem a lot worse for women journalists who deal with the political and military affairs situation in Yemen", said Fatima, the Executive Director of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate journalists.

"The press in Yemen has become a risky profession and is the most dangerous for women journalists; some of whom have been threatened, assaulted and attempted assassination," says Fatima Journalist.

Fatima, who is currently in Cairo and can not return to Yemen for fear of her life; this is because she is a well-known journalist. She confirms that the social and tribal culture that gave women a special position in non-aggression but not when it comes to a woman who works in the media. The huthi movement formed a group of women to deal with female activists and this is what happened in more than one case.

The war has forced most of the female journalists working in official institutions to leave the media. "Unfortunately, political parties and various groups have brought in media professionals, while most professional journalists at home fear the risks of going out to work for security and suffer from the limitations of freedom in their professional work," Fatima said. Hadil Alyamani represented the experience of the military war correspondent in a story of "Mulhema" of Al-Jazeera channel in Taiz. However, the dangers of armed groups remain present, as no one can be reassured, and many of journalists were kidnapped and cited in different parts of Yemen" Fatima said.

She added "The war affected the performance of the journalists' union and most of the members of the Yemeni journalists' union fled from Yemen, and those who were inside had to go to the villages or return to secondary cities for fear of oppression, salary cuts and lack of services."

The Syndicate is trying not to raise its voice more fearful of the remaining journalists at home, especially since its headquarters in the capital Sana'a of Yemen, controlled by the Houthi group and forces loyal to former President Ali Saleh. The social media provided a good opportunity for the participation of women journalists and media activists in expressing their opinions, but unfortunately, "there are those who monitor and follow these publications to restrict the women journalists."

The problem, according to the executive manager of the Syndicate, is the lack of protection mechanisms for journalists against the dangers. The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate and international organizations concerned with journal freedoms can issue a statement of solidarity and record the situation in lists of violations. This is not enough for a journalist in the field of explosives to be dangerous, as "Fatima expresses".

The language of violence is no longer limited to the writings of male journalists. The war has affected the language used by Yemeni women journalists, many of whom have become verbalized in dealing with events and this is the aspect of another war equal to the profession of journalism.

Journalist Fatima Mutahar believes that the worst decision she made in her life when she chose the profession of journalism. She said "I do not know if it is time to choose another profession?!"

The war provided an opportunity for many journalists to work as correspondents for foreign channels. "Unfortunately, the choices made by foreign channels to their correspondents are dominated by security and political relations rather than by professional standards, not to mention the existence of a men's lobby that controls the network of correspondents," Fatima said.

Many media workers lack the training and qualification that enables them to raise their professional performance and enable them to reach leadership positions. Most training and qualification opportunities are limited to men according to the media women. These women see that they are in urgent need of a number of trainings: management, decision-making, news and report writing related to documentary surveys, leadership skills, storytelling, breaking the fear barrier, occupational safety, conflict resolution, photography, strategic planning, team leadership, women's media rights Media institutions, courses in audio production, cycles of modern methods of presentation, courses in media management, training in communication ... press coverage in light of the crisis ... training film and albums industry ... press and journal reports catalog.

Media women face many challenges in their media work. The most important challenges according to the experts interviewed in this report (in addition to interviews with media professionals in a number of governmental and private media institutions) include:

The deliberate marginalization of media women, where they are deprived of promotions, bonuses, and do not have the opportunity to participate in local, Arab and international activities and events such as seminars, conferences, workshops and training courses, and participate in a limited scope such as events related to women and children and social and health issues. Women journalist also believe there is a monopoly of external trainings by the male participants who are mainly from the media institutions leaderships.

Women journalist face challenges related to the mass communication profession that require more efforts, time and creatively. However, women overcame those challenges but hidden war against women from male counterparts affects negatively women continuation to compete with males.

Lack of media work, such as transportation, communications, health insurance and housing, and the media suffer from harsh working conditions with weak material and moral benefits in addition to being subjected to threatening harassment by the authorities.

With regard to the difficulties associated with the institution facing the media, most notably the issue of unfairness in opportunities and promotion, low wages, lack of technical tools and equipment necessary for performance, low encouragement and appreciation by the administration for media.

Male domination of many media means despite the superiority of women to many media professionals. Some women journalists are also blackmailed in return for a good job in TV channels, which makes some of them reluctant to work in this field.

The Yemeni media woman contributed to the promotion of private media in Yemen through the establishment of several prominent journalists for media organizations. The journalist and activist Tawakul Karman established Bilqis TV Channel, Nadia Al-Saqqaf was the editor-in-chief of the English newspaper Yemen Times Newspaper. A number of other women media professionals established a number of Yemeni websites, including the website of the Event created by Nabila al-Hakimi.

Journalism is the profession of trouble in a war-torn country and the denial of freedom of expression. It is not easy for women to work in the press in an environment that sees women's work as something wrong and out of the ordinary- how to be a journalist and in a dangerous environment. Nevertheless, the Yemeni women journalists insisted that they continue to fight to break this stereotypical picture that they have been able to present in the field, to convey the events of the war that is taking place in Yemen, and to convey the humanitarian tragedy that the Yemenis suffer from the continuation of the war. The role of women media was not marginal or an ordinary figure, but this presence was able to get full attention. This is highlighted by the Yemeni media Hadeel Yamani who received the award of courage, as the best reporter/ courage of 2017.

The following are prominent women journalists who were prominent during the ongoing war in Yemen

Table (3)

NAME	MEDIA OUTLET	LOCATION
Hadeel Al Yamani	Al Jazeera Chanel	TAIZ
Ibtihal Al Salihi	Yemen Youth Channel	ADEN
Anissa Al Alwani	Belqees channel	TAIZ
Na'aa'em Al Khalid	Aden channel	TAIZ - ADEN
Ahlam Al Askari	Sanaa correspondent channel	TAIZ
Wafaa Alwaleedi	Photographer	TAIZ
Aayah Khalid	Correspondence	TAIZ
Olla Alwahbani	Photographer of Sana'a Channel	TAIZ
Affaq Alhaj	Free journalist	TAIZ
Marwa Asaid	Belqees channel	ADEN

The adventure that the Yemeni women journalists had in the covering the events of the conflict in this period in Yemen was not easy. The conflict which is continuous for nearly two and a half years has no signs that it will end soon. The women journalists have difficulties and obstacles to carry on their profession during such events. According to the interviews conducted by women journalists during the preparation of this report, we summarize them as follows:

- The family's fear about their daughter of danger during media coverage. They fear armed clashes to harm their daughters who are in the media. The society's view that women are supposed to remain away from dangerous occupations of this kind.
- Financial capabilities are one of the main challenges for journalists in covering the events and preparing professional reports. The reason is the lack of financial support that leads to working according to a tight budget. This does not fit the nature of work in a war environment where fuel is needed for the car to go to different places to cover events. This is in addition to the other costs the Channels do not consider as part of their priorities.
- Training and qualification is the biggest challenge as media professionals need specialized training on how to maintain personal safety, awareness of the risks involved and how to deal with crisis situations, first aid training, safe place selection skills, and handling critical moments such as kidnapping and others.
- The lack of professional safety precautions, such as bulletproof vests, helmets, and first aid kits, makes female journalists vulnerable to injury at any moment. They also do not receive professional safety training during coverage of disputes. In the training and rehabilitation of cadres and provide them with the necessary equipment to cover the conflict, in addition to the lack of coordination with officials and stakeholders in the conflict areas and ensure delivery and return to those areas.

Hadeel Al Yamani, a young media person who has had a unique experience by sharing the tragic events in Yemen as a result of the ongoing war. Hadeel experienced covering events in the battlefield from Taiz with courage, surpassing her counterparts of male journalists. She faced all the social, administrative and field challenges as she works to cover military confrontations. She may be the target of sniping or mines planted in many areas of the governorate but she overcame all these challenges. She changed the views that women are not entitled to engage in men's work.

Hadeel tells her story in the face of challenges. These are the common challenges that frustrated the ambition of many aspiring Yemeni women: "The first challenge was with the family, which stood in my way first, but they changed their minds after seeing my strong determination towards my goal. The channel also had its fears of being a media woman working in a dangerous environment, but the fears of the channel disappeared after they knew my strong desire for this task. These concerns turned to unlimited support from the channel. As a result of the double effort of Hadeel in the field and the efforts of the Media Foundation I work for."



Hadeel Al-Yamani

- Hadeel tells her story "I was trapped for an hour and a half by a sniper in an area in Jebel Habashi while covering the human suffering there: the forcible displacement of the people in that area by Houthis forces and the former President Ali Saleh. We left after an hour and a half from the direct shelling that wanted to target us. But fate stood with us; the rebellion sent reinforcements to protect us and were managed to escape the trap."
- Hadeel Al-Yamani has many challenges in her humanitarian mission, which was a great motivation for her to carry out this difficult experience. "I stand by the side of the man and the child who lost their family, beside the mother who lost her children and beside the father who lost his children. I stand beside those who suffer but still resist to survive. There are heart-breaking stories in Taiz and in other provinces. The Yemeni person is my primary concern because he is the first loser in this war. But this simple person still resists because he or she loves life and wants to live it."
- This insistence and brilliance shown by the media Hadeel Yamani demonstrates the capabilities and courage that Yemeni women have when there is a social environment to help them achieve their ambition. This is in addition to the presence of media institutions that contribute to the Yemeni women in the media or other areas.
- Hadeel, as a result of her outstanding performance in covering events in the battle-torn city of Taiz, received the Journalism Courage Award from the International Women's Media Foundation.

The war has caused in the loss of hundreds of women journalists for their jobs, where many newspapers and news websites have been closed. A number of television channels have been suspended and have resumed their activities in different areas outside or inside Yemen. A number of women journalists lost their jobs due to these events. In addition, salaries have been cut for more than a year in government media institutions that employ most female journalists in Yemen.

The security grip imposed by the Houthi rebel group in the Yemeni capital of Sana'a and the fragility of security in other governorates in Yemen have posed a major threat to women's presence. Many women journalists have been out of work for fear of threats and abuses against female journalists while in the field.

A number of professional women journalists left Yemen in search of work opportunities. Many women journalists also fled to other governorates in Yemen, including Taiz, Aden and Marib, for fear of harm they may suffer as a result of their continued media work. Media women and their ability to compete hard and efficiently, but the number of women who continue to work is very small compared to those who left the profession of journalism.

The following attacks and violations show some of the suffering by women journalists in Yemen:

- Around 25 journalists working for the official Sanaa Saba agency are no longer working with this agency. They also stopped from working in other official media, such as television and radio, and some were replaced by others.
- Journalist and human rights activist Samia Al-Aghbari was subjected to insulting on Facebook and other social network sites by a group of Houthi sympathizers on the basis of her positions and articles condemning and rejecting the coup.
- Journalist Nahla al-Qudsi, a photographer and editor at the Abu Dhabi Online website, was beaten by Houthi gunmen wearing military uniforms and carrying weapons with Houthi slogans in the capital Sanaa while filming a demonstration.
- Journalist Anisa Al-Alwani, correspondent of the Balqis channel in Taiz province, was attacked by al-Houthi and Saleh forces, where a sniper bullet penetrated the vehicle she was traveling in and the driver was injured.
- The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate member Soud Alaia was detained with a number of her colleagues when Houthis entered the headquarters of the two organizationsL Yemeni Journalist Syndicate and the Yemen Network Of Human Rights.
- The killing of Jamila Jamil in mysterious circumstances, and the imposition of guarding the Republican Hospital in Sana'a, where the body of the announcer is located and preventing anyone from approaching.
- Bombing of the house of Dikra Al -Arasi in Aden because she hit the head of the Huthi delegation in Geneva negotiations Hamza al-Houthi with her shoe.

- The journalist Boushra Al-Nashair was exposed to an assassination attempt by gunmen belonging to the Houthi and Saleh groups in Sana'a. This is when she was to enter her house with her journalist brother. The Huthis had taken over her house because of her media coverage. The Huthis prevented her to be taken to hospitals and after mediations; she was taken to hospital while bleeding to pull out a bullet from her feet. Her husband and brother were arrested and released under the pressure that to sign a document that she was shot by a bullet reruning from the sky. Her leg was recently amputated after suffering from gangrene due to delayed treatment.
- A well-known human rights activist, Ahlam Aoun, was exposed to assassination in an unidentifiable Mercedes car after leaving the Investment Authority building in Sana'a.
- Journalist Nadra Abdel Qadous Mohamed, the editor of the 14th of October Newspaper, was subjected to a negative media campaign through social media and some news websites for the reason that the 14th of October newspaper's resumption of its work. On 6/22/2015, she was subjected to a similar campaign motivated by unknown individuals in several newspapers and news websites; this group are affiliated with Al-Houthi group; this was due to what the paper published against the coup in Sana'a.

In order to overcome the challenges faced by Yemeni women journalists, we recommend:

- The need for all political parties to abide by the war principles that guarantee the freedom of expression and freedom of the press provided for in international and domestic legislation; the obstacles that limit press freedoms are to be removed.
- Journalists who carry out their duties to convey facts to society, respect their work and not endanger their lives, especially journalists working in hostile and dangerous environments, should not be harmed.
- Violations against women journalists and activists in social networking sites are crimes that do fall under the statute of limitations and the one who does it must be held accountable.
- The enactment of media legislation that achieves full equality between men and women working in the field of information and the implementation of these laws on the ground.
- Empowering women journalists to hold leadership positions in media organizations according to a specific time plan and to involve them more in the preparation of television and radio programming plans and plans.
- Advocating media women to participate in trade unions, especially in leadership positions.
- Not to interfere in changing the convictions of female journalists while exercising their profession in the institutions in which they work and to consider any pressure against their convictions or wishes as a violation of freedom and of the freedom of media.
- Adopting media policies that stimulate women to engage in the media profession and work to change the misconceptions of society towards the work of women in the media.
- Conduct studies and media research on the status of media women in Yemen and hold seminars and events that discuss the status of women media and seek their concerns and develop perceptions to address them.
- The need to implement programs of rehabilitation and training for women working in the media profession and awareness of the importance of their roles and give them a suitable opportunity for creativity.
- The need to focus on providing a good working environment for women that protect the dignity of all employees and protect them and protect their rights.
- The rapid disbursement of salaries of women journalists working in official media institutions and the creation of a safe environment that will enable them to return to their journalistic work.
- Establish regulations that guarantee equality between men and women in media organizations so that the criterion is when assigning tasks to efficiency rather than gender, as well as to promotion and wages.
- Develop appropriate working mechanisms for women media, enabling them to participate effectively, especially leadership roles, such as choosing early meeting times, or providing facilities for children and nurseries.
- The need to review the laws and regulations that affect women's rights to achieve gender equality, and reach a national strategy to promote equality and equality of opportunities between both genders.
- The need to review the laws and regulations that affect women's rights to achieve gender equality, and reach a national strategy to promote equality and equality of opportunities between both genders.
- The need to work by all official civil society organizations and women's rights advocates in order to change the stereotype and break the rigid mold in which women were put in order to start from the curriculum so as to raise a generation that believes in the role of women and the need for partnership and equality between the both of genders.

The report was based on a wide range of dialogues and correspondence with a large number of women journalists and media experts in official, party's and private media institutions.

The experts who have been conducting interviews with them:

1. Dr. Samia Al-Aghbari, Professor of Journalism, Sana'a University
2. Nadra Abdelkaddous - former editor of the 14th of October newspaper.
3. Aswan Shafer - Media
4. Hadeel Al-Yamani - Correspondent
5. Sa'adaa Olaya – a Journalist
6. Wa'im Abdul Malik, a Journalist

In addition, interviews were conducted with 20 journalists representing the Yemeni news agency Saba, Al-Thawra newspaper, Al-Gomhouria Newspaper, 14 October Newspaper, Bilqis channel, Yemen first channel, Sana'a channel, independent journalists ...

Agency	Agency
Na'aa'em Al Khalid	Foundation of 14th of October Newspaper
Ahlam Al Askari	Sana'a Channel
Asma Taher	Yemeni news agency Sabaa
Ashjan Almaqtari	Foundation of 14October
Saba'a Mohammed	Radio broadcasting of Hodeidah
Eftikar Alqadhi	Al Thawra newspaper
Marwa Asaid	Belqees channel
Mojah	Yemeni news agency Sabaa
Ibtihal Adhule'i	Yemen Youth Channel
Laylaa Alfaheedi	Yemeni news agency Sabaa
Marwa AlOreeqi	Free journalist
Arwa Aremal	Free journalist
Rawabi Aljanadi	Journalist of media
In addition to 7 other women journalists who did not agree to mention their names	

- What are the main challenges facing women media workers and how can they be addressed?
- Do you see that media women have received enough leadership positions in media organizations?
- What are the administrative, legal and social obstacles that prevented women from obtaining enough leadership positions?
- Do you see that media women have received an appropriate level of qualification and training to enable them to perform their work in a professional manner and help them obtain career upgrades? What are the
- Are your career ratios the best for you?
- What are the most prominent manifestations of discrimination between men and women in media organizations from your point of view?



STUDIES & ECONOMIC MEDIA CENTER
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The Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC) is one of the most prominent Yemeni NGOs that works on , and spreads awareness of economic issues, in addition to buttressing good governance and public engagement in decision making, and working towards the creation of professional media.

The Center has contributed tremendously to debating and rectifying economic policies, divulging the loopholes inherent in the country's economic performance, and influencing decision makers in such a way that serves the think-tank 's vision- a transparent and flourishing Yemeni economy. Further, it has assumed a vital role in presenting economic information to society in a plain and simple manner. The Center seeks to forge ahead with its scholarly mission despite the harsh conditions Yemen is experiencing.

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