

Media Freedom Report

MARCH—APRIL 2018

YEMEN



Executive Summery

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INTRODUCTION

Yemen is considered currently as one of the most dangerous countries for media in the world due to the series of continuing violations of media freedom. Yemen witnessed in March and April 2018 a number of violations such as murder, causing injuries and burning media institutions to the extent that some of them stopped working.

Media freedom in Yemen continues to pay a heavy price, as it is placed within the most advanced ranks in violation of the freedom of the press. In 2018, Yemen was ranked 167 among the most media-freedom violating countries according to the report of the United Nations (in the World Press Day).

It is regrettable that this situation continued for more than 3 years, and even escalated with the deliberate targeting of the killing of Yemeni journalists. Three journalists were killed and several others were injured. The Media Freedom Observatory in Yemen documented 19 cases of violations against journalists, social media activists and Yemeni media institutions in different regions committed by the parties involved in the conflict in the country.

In light of this situation, we renew our call on media organizations and international organizations that are concerned with rights and freedoms, and all the free world to stop the killings and violations of Yemeni journalists and to release detainees in prisons.

Mostafa Nasr

Chairman of SEMC

METHODOLOGY

Data in this report were collected by a professional team of SEMC-affiliated observers, distributed in the five main governorates

Observers relied on direct contact with the victims, victim relatives' testimonies, media releases, and reporting of violations to the Observatory. The team reviewed and verified all data and information monitored through a verification mechanism comprising at least 3 different sources.

Data contained in this report do not suggest that all violations have been monitored. In fact, many cases are not reported due to fears of further consequences inflicted on the victims by the oppressors.

This report does not cite all stories of violations for the sheer reason of keeping the report short. Only stories of the most important violation are covered in this report.

Definitions and keywords:

Kidnappings: The term is used in this report to refer to all instances of 'arrest' perpetrated by groups and entities beyond the control of the internationally recognized legitimate authority

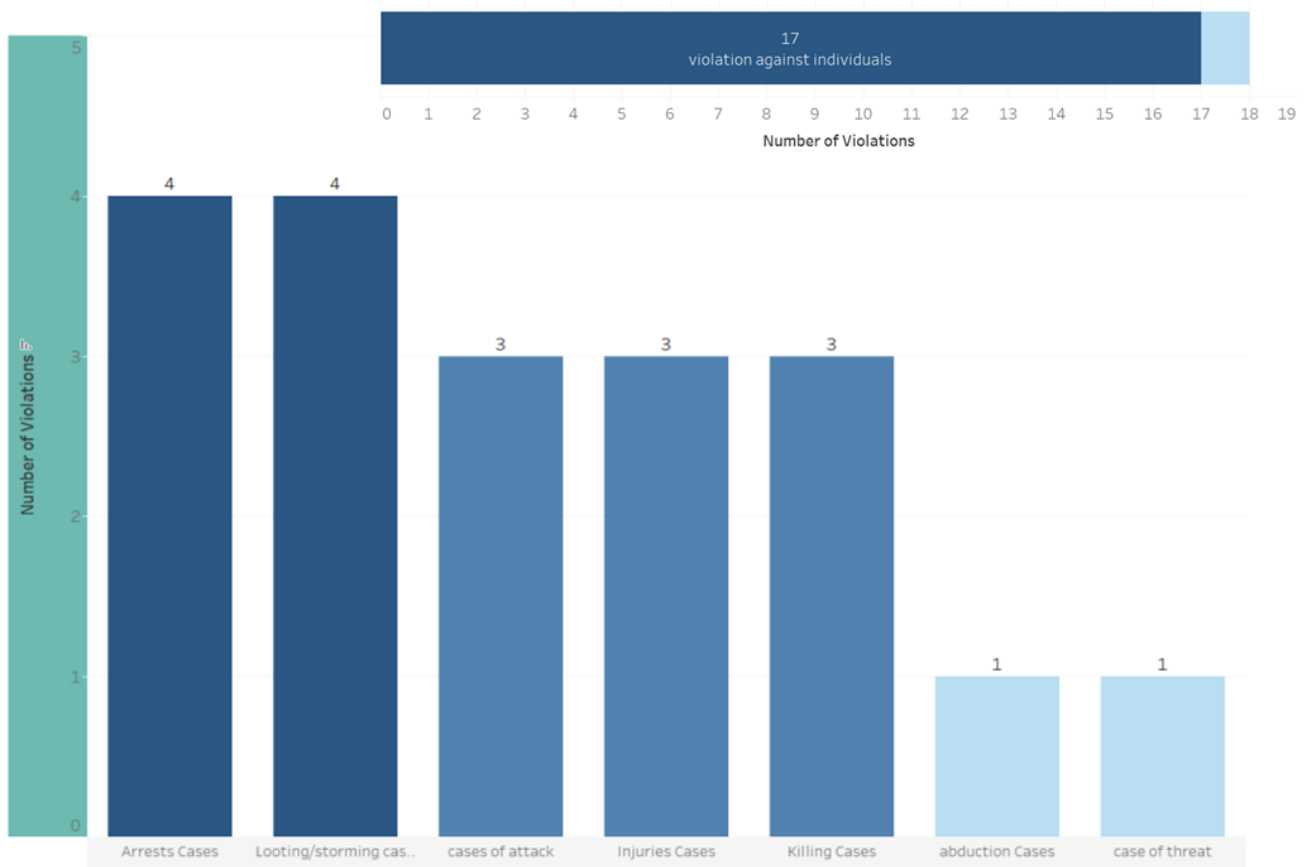
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The violations report of media freedom in Yemen for the months of last 2 months (March and April 2018) has observed 19 cases of violation against individuals (journalists and activists in social media), and media organizations (storming and burning media organizations).

The violations documented by the Media Freedom Observatory were mainly in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Al-Dale, Hodeidah, Al-Baidha'a, and Ibb. The report monitored 18 violations of media freedoms in Yemen, practiced against individuals (journalists and activists in social media) during the months of March and April 2018. The violations were: 3 cases of murder, 1 case abduction, 3 cases of attack, 4 cases of arrest, 1 case threat, and 3 incidents of storming media staff's houses.

The report monitored violation committed against media institutions. Unknown gunmen set fire to 2 printing press (Candles Foundation and Akhbar al-Yawm Newspaper) in Aden. They attacked and injured the journalists and employees of these printing press. Rushd and Sanaa TV channels were forced to stop broadcasting because of the difficult financial situation from which many TV channels are suffering

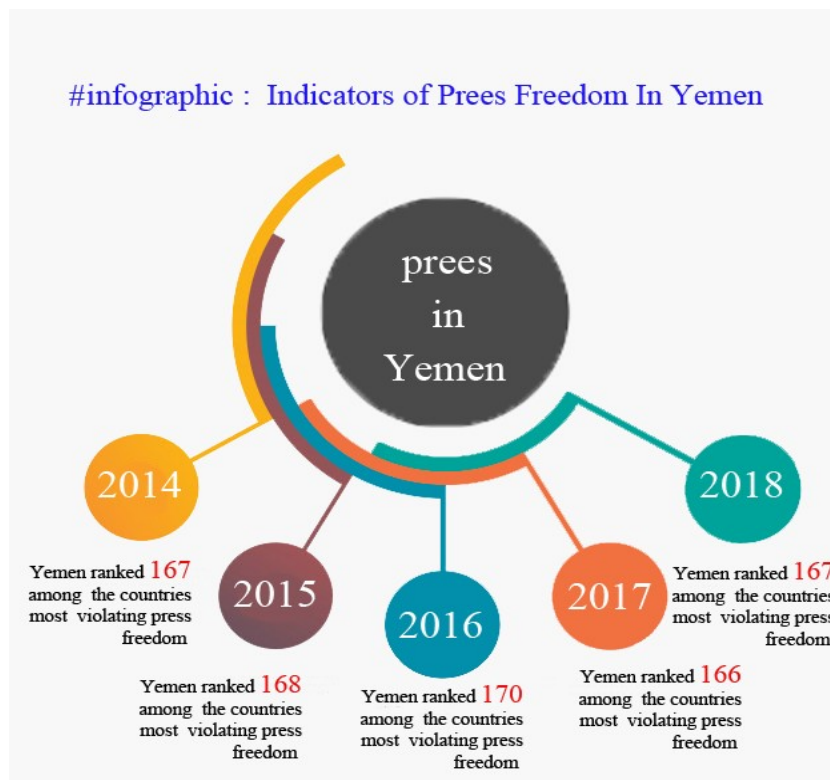
Responsible	Violations Types	Governorates	Journalists	Media Institutions	Photographer
coalition forces	Killing Cases	Hudeidah	1	0	0
Houthi group	Injuries Cases	Al-Baidha	1	0	0
	Killing Cases	Al-Baidha	1	0	0
	Looting/storming cases	Ibb	1	0	0
		Sana'a	1	0	0
Others	case of threat	Taiz	1	0	0
Unknown Group	abduction Cases	Sana'a	1	0	0
	cases of attack	Aden	1	0	0
		Al-Dalea	1	0	0
	Looting/storming cases	Aden	0	1	0
Yemeni government	Arrests Cases	Aden	1	0	1
	cases of attack	Taiz	1	0	0



INDICATORS OF MEDIA FREEDOM IN YEMEN

Yemen still occupies an advanced rank among the most violating countries of the media freedom. During recent years, the United Nations included through UNESCO Yemen in a blacklist of media freedom violators. This blacklisting of Yemen is along with a number of countries- most of them were Arab countries. This is in the Media Freedom Indicator, which consists of 180 countries listed in the organization classification.

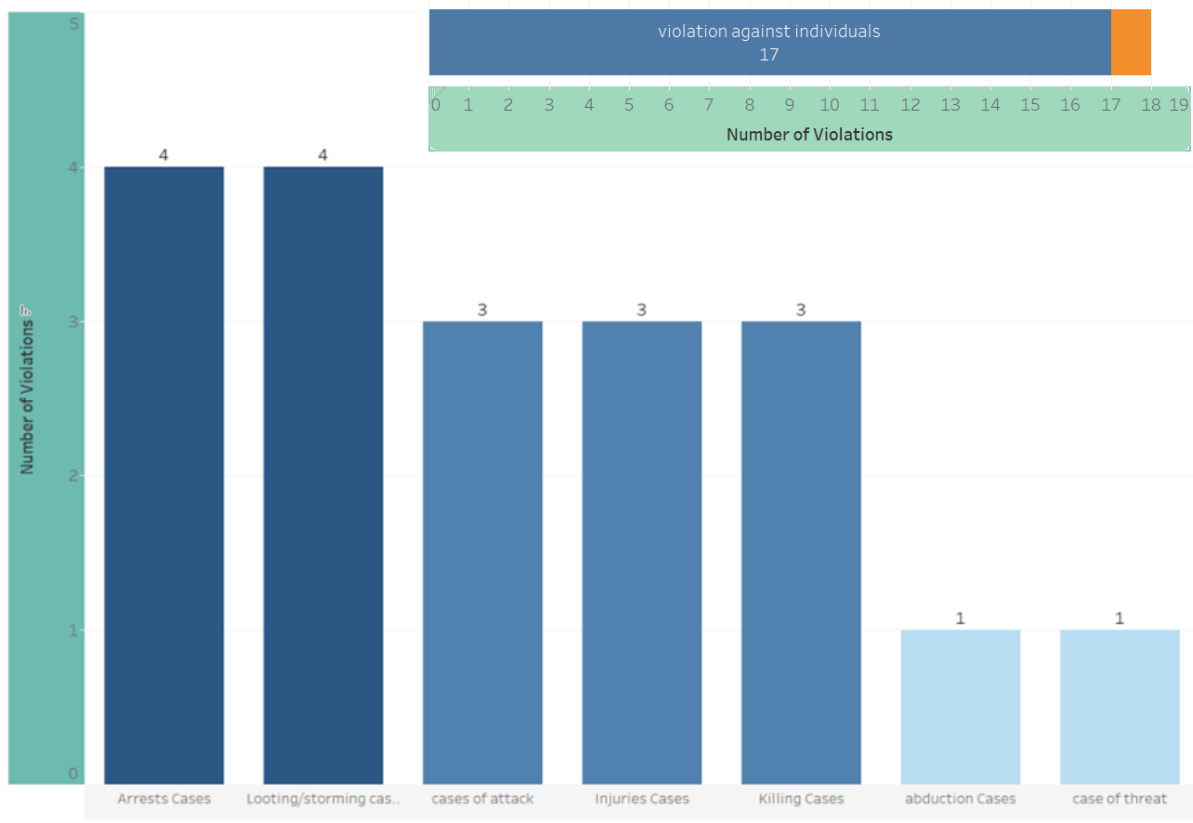
In 2014, Yemen was ranked 167th among the countries most violating media freedom. In 2015, Yemen was ranked 168th for media violations. While in 2016, Yemen was ranked 170th in terms of media violations. In 2017, Yemen was ranked 166th among the most media-freedom violating countries in the world. Lately, in 2018 Yemen was ranked 167th violations.



TYPES OF VIOLATION

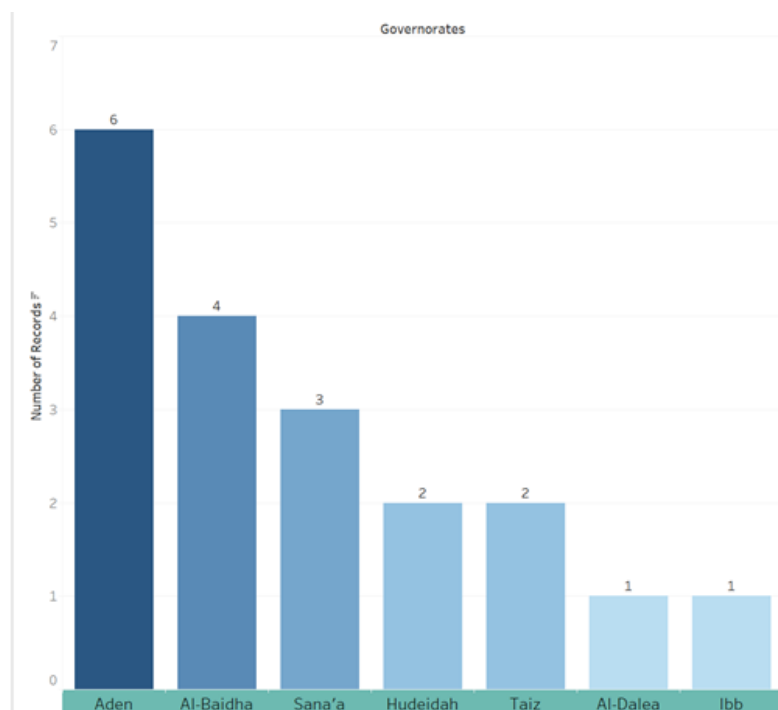
The report recorded during March and April 19 cases of violation during this year: 18 cases of violation against individuals (Journalists and activists in social media) by 94% of the total recorded violations cases, and 1 cases of violation were against media bodies by 6%.

Cases of violations were divided into 3 cases killing, 3 cases of injury, 1 abduction case, 3 assault cases, 4 arrest cases, 1 threat case, and 4 incidents of attacking media staff's houses.



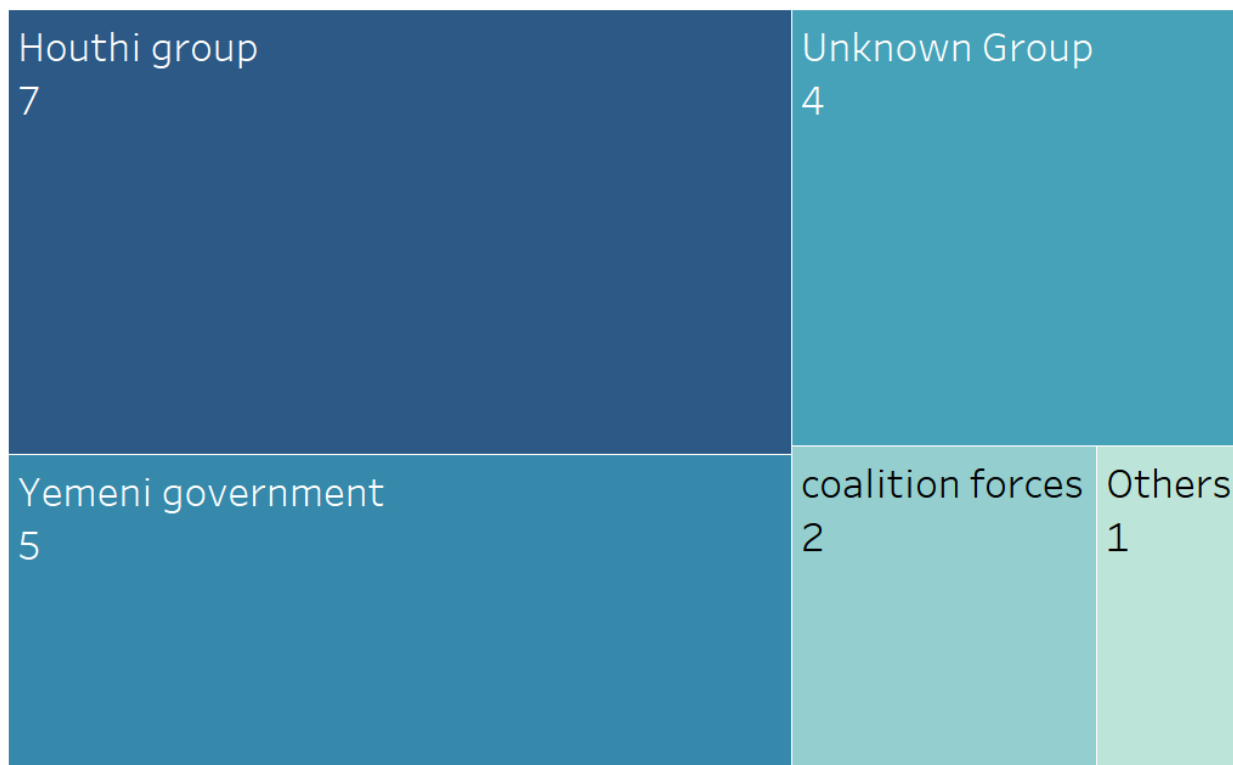
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF VIOLATIONS AREAS

Various regions in Yemen have seen cases of violations of the media, as the report has monitored (6) cases of violation in Aden, (4) cases of violation of the Al-Baidha'a city, (3) cases of abuse in Sana'a City, and (2) cases in both Taiz and Hodeidah, and the rest of the violations cases were distributed among the governorate of Al-Dalea and Ibb.



RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATIONS

The Houthi group is still placed at the first rank in terms of the number of violations against the journalists. The violations were (7) violations cases: 5 violations were by the Yemeni government, 4 violations were by unknown and moreover 2 violation cases were committed by the coalition forces led by the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



CASES OF KILLING

The number of killing cases during the months of March and April this year were (3) killings: (2) cases recorded in al-Hodeidah city, and one case in Al-Baidha'a city.

Abdullah Al-Qaderi (Reporter of Balqis Satellite Channel) was killed affected by an injury caused by shells Launched by Houthi group targeting Journalists at governorate Al-Baida'a, while they were covering the clashes at Al-Baida'a governorate



The Arabic Alliance Flight Led by the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has targeted the Alyemen Channel controlled by Houthi while they were preparing a drama for Ramadan at Bagel district Hodeidah City. Abdallah Alnajjar the decoration director was killed.



The Arabic Alliance Flight Led by the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has targeted Alyemen TV Channel controlled by Houthi while they were preparing a drama for Ramadan at Bagel district, Hodeidah. Mohammad Naser the production officer was killed.



CASES OF INJURIES

The number of cases of injury during the months of March and April of this year was 3 cases in the city of Al-Baida'a .

The Journalist Diab AL-Shater (Reporter of Yemen Shabab TV Channel) was injured seriously and affected badly by shell launched by Houthi group towards group of journalists during their covering of the Kania area at Al-Baida'a Governorate. He was then taken to hospital and remained unconscious and could not speak till he was moved to Jordan for treatment. He underwent many operations.



The journalist Khalil Al-Taweel (reporter of Balqis TV Channel) was injured by a shell launched by Houthid towards journalists during their covering of the Kania region at Al-Baida'a Governorate. The shell penetrated the safety shield he was wearing.



The journalist Waleed Jaoury (Photographer of Yemen Shabab TV Channel) was injured by a shell launched by Houthis towards a number of journalists during their covering the Kania region at Al-Baida'a Governorate.



CASES OF ARRESTS

The number of arrests during the months of March and April this year was (4) cases in Aden. The security authorities at the Aden airport arrested a number of correspondents of some TV channels: the correspondent of Yemen TV channel Adam Fahd and the photographer Lutfi Bakhwar, correspondent of Balqis, Adam Al-Husami, the correspondent of Yemen's TV channel Sadiq Al-Rteibi. These were arrested while covering the inauguration of Queen Balqis Aviation Company its air journeys in Aden. The correspondents were released later after hours of being arrested. The release come after the requests and sit-ins of a number of media people in the yard of Aden airport. They who refused to leave the airport until the journalists were released.



OTHER CASES

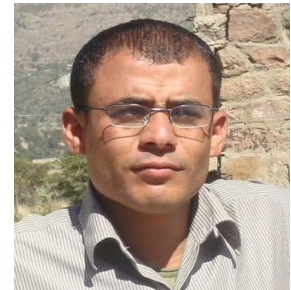
A number of gunmen on 25 March had abducted the journalist Rashid Al-Haddad from the streets of Sanaa City. Then they put him in prison. The armed attacker was having a Hilux car without a plate number. The attached pursued him till Rashid left the Ministry of Public Works and Roads and took him to a prison inside one of the houses that belongs to the militants .



Journalist Salah al-Jundi, the correspondent of the Akhbar Al-Youm Newspaper in Taiz, was attacked by soldiers supported by the coalition forces. They detained him in the Education Office after confiscating the camera.



Gunmen affiliated to Houthis attacked the houses of a number of journalists for practicing their work during the March and April 2018. The gunmen stormed the house of Ahmed Al-Sufi (the Press Secretary to the late President Ali Abdullah Saleh). Moreover, they stormed the house of the journalist Abdulelah Alboury (the correspondent of Suhail TV channel in Ibb governorate). They broke into the house of the journalist Aziz al-Khameri, looting its contents and confiscating a number of cameras, laptops and voice devices .



VIOLATIONS AGAINST MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS



Unknown gunmen storm and burn in March 2018 Candles Press Foundation and Akhbar Al-Madinah Newspaper in the Green City of Aden. They assaulted the journalists and employees of the Foundation and caused injuries to number of them in front of everyone in flagrant violation of the freedom of the press and expression

The security authorities in Aden refused to give Candles Press Foundation a permission to move their equipment out of the city in order to carry out its work in areas more secure than Aden.

Other Information

Rushd TV channel and Sana'a TV channels stopped broadcasting because of the difficult financial situation from which the channels are suffering. This prevents them from performing their duties.

Rushd TV channel granted all employees open unpaid leave, This comes after the accumulation of financial obligations or debt. The channel's management was unable to pay the salaries of employees for six months. The landlord asked for the TV studio in return for the rent of the TV channel since the channel was unable to pay the rent for more than a year.





Media Freedom Observatory – Yemen

The Media Freedom Observatory Platform is a professional and independent monitoring and information platform that contains maps and information on press violations and freedom of expression throughout Yemen

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