

# YEMENI MEDIA OUTLETS



STUDIES & ECONOMIC MEDIA CENTER  
مركز الدراسات والإعلام الاقتصادي

Media Landscape Study—Yemen

As at the end In 2017



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# Introduction

This Study is highly significant to observers of media freedom and freedom of expression in Yemen generally, especially in the context of the current conflict and its remarkable impact on the various types of Yemeni media.

The Study provides statistics which show the voluminous transformation of the Yemeni media as a result of the war to the extent that some were forced to leave the country. At home, a new map of the Yemeni media was drawn. A common feature of the new media scene is the dominance of a unilateral orientation, and the lack of diversity, and the narrow margin of media freedom, reversing the improvements that had been achieved by the Yemeni media over the last two decades.

The Study, which covers the Yemeni media, both inside Yemen and abroad, aims to determine the extent of impact of the war on those media. It outlines the contours of a new phase of Yemeni media that can be referred to as the “war media”. The Study attempts to shed light on the features of this media phase, analyze it, and the future of Yemeni media.

The Yemeni media industry is clearly going through an intensive war of attrition. The apparent boom of the Yemeni media is a temporary byproduct of the war and is most likely to disappear as soon as the war ends. Only then the huge loss of the Yemeni media with regards to independence and professionalism will become evident.

**Mustafa Nasr**  
Director, SEMC

## Study Objective

The Study aims to determine the extent of impact of the war on those media. It outlines the contours of a new phase of Yemeni media that can be referred to as the “war media” . The Study attempts to shed light on the features of this media phase, analyze it, and the future of Yemeni media.

Data were collected by a team of SEMC affiliates.

Data collection involved a process of persistent monitoring of the media scene over the course of the last four years.

# Executive Summary

The Study attempts to answer the following questions:

To what extent has the ongoing war in Yemen influenced the Yemeni media? What impact does it have on the map of Yemeni media?

A new media reality has been created since late 2014, and this reality needs to be monitored and analyzed.

The Study includes a database of currently active Yemeni media, media outlets which have ceased to function, and those which have been launched recently, as of the end of 2017. There were 258 active media outlets in Yemen as of the end of 2017. News websites constitute 68% of the total number of active media. Local radio stations represent 14%, while newspapers and TV satellite channels constitute 8% each.

Study findings show that 22 TV satellite channels are on the air as of the end of 2017. Only 8 channels are based inside Yemen. Some 37 local radio stations are currently broadcasting. Five stations went off the air following the outbreak of the war in Yemen in 2014,

but resumed broadcasting recently. On the other hand, 21 new stations have been established over the last 3 years.

The total number of currently active news websites was found to be 177. About 34% of these websites have been launched in the course of the last three years, whereas 37% of formerly active news websites are blocked by the Houthi authorities, and cannot be accessed inside Yemen except through mediating proxy websites or applications.

According to Study results, 13 Yemeni newspapers and magazines have been suspended since the Houthi takeover of the capital Sana'a in 2014. Active newspapers that have been launched in the course of the last three years constitute 59% of the total number of active print media in Yemen.

# Yemeni Media Outlets

**258** active media outlets



**22** TV satellite channels



**37** Local radio stations



**22** Newspapers



**177** News Websites

**20** Media Outlets reopened after closure on 2014

**15** Media Outlets still closed since 2014

## Ownership of The Media



**151**  
Independents<sup>(4)</sup>



**47**  
Governmental



**19**  
political parties<sup>(3)</sup>



**41**  
Private<sup>(2)</sup>

## Yemeni TV Satllite Channels



**8**  
Governmental



**3**  
Political Parties



**11**  
Private

**1**  
Britain

**3**  
Turkey

**1**  
Lebanon

**2**  
Egypt

**5**  
Saudi Arabia

**2**  
UAE

**TV Satellite Channels Broadcasting from Outside Yemen**

**8**  
Inside Yemen

**14**  
Outside Yemen

(2) : Media Outlets affiliated to individuals and private Sector institutions  
 (3) : Media Outlets affiliated to political parties  
 (4) : As shown in the vision and message of those Website sites

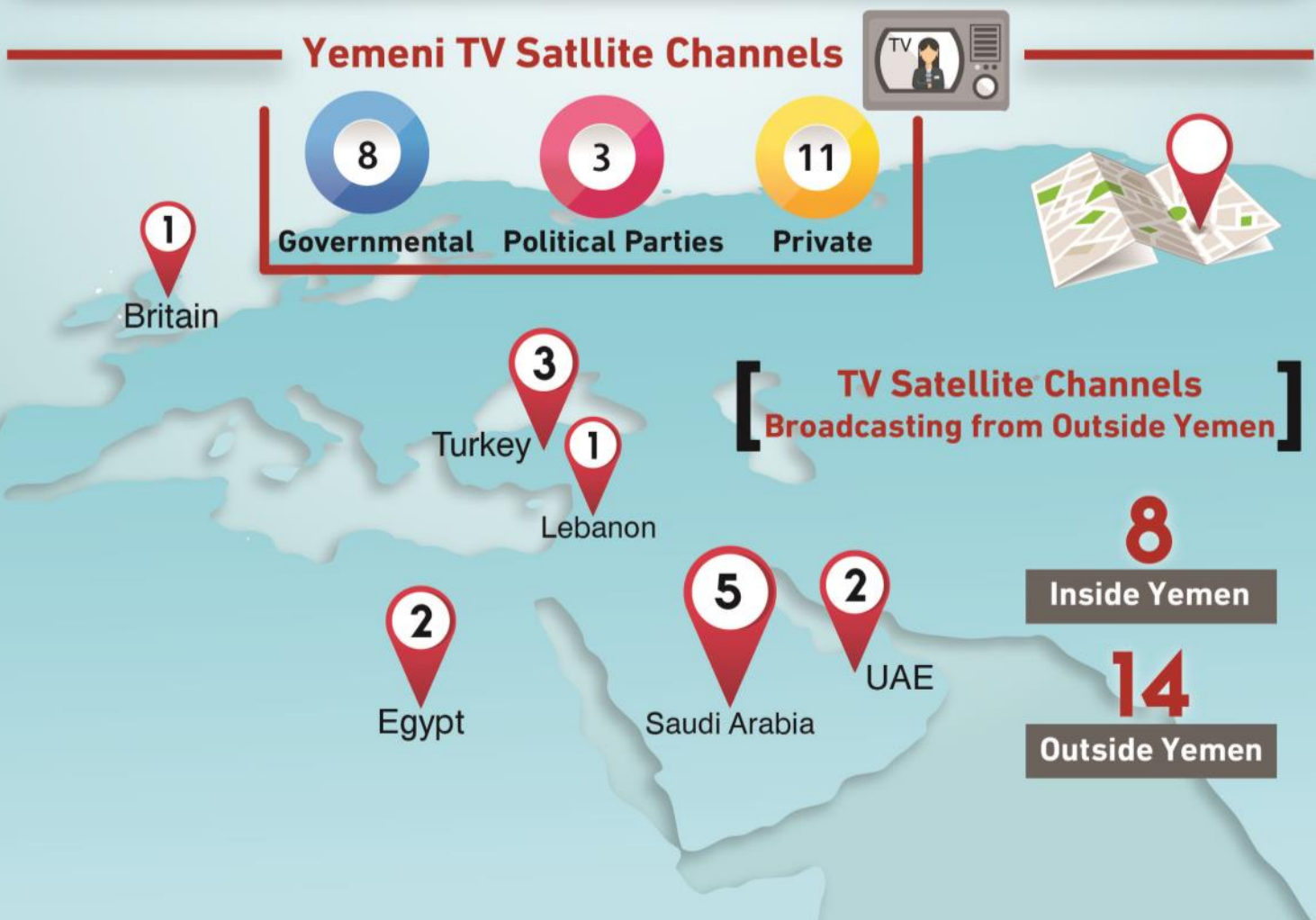
# TV Satellite Channels

**22 TV satellite channels were on the air as of the end of 2017. Only 8 channels were based inside Yemen**

whereas the other 14 channels were situated in several other countries. Five channels were stationed in Saudi Arabia, 2 in each of Lebanon, Turkey, and the UAE, and a channel in each of Lebanon and the UK.

Private channels (channels privately owned) represent 50% of the total


number of active TV channels, 36% are owned by governments (the internationally unrecognized Houthi government based in the capital Sana'a and the internationally recognized Aden-based government nominated by President Hadi), and 13% of those channels are organs of political parties.



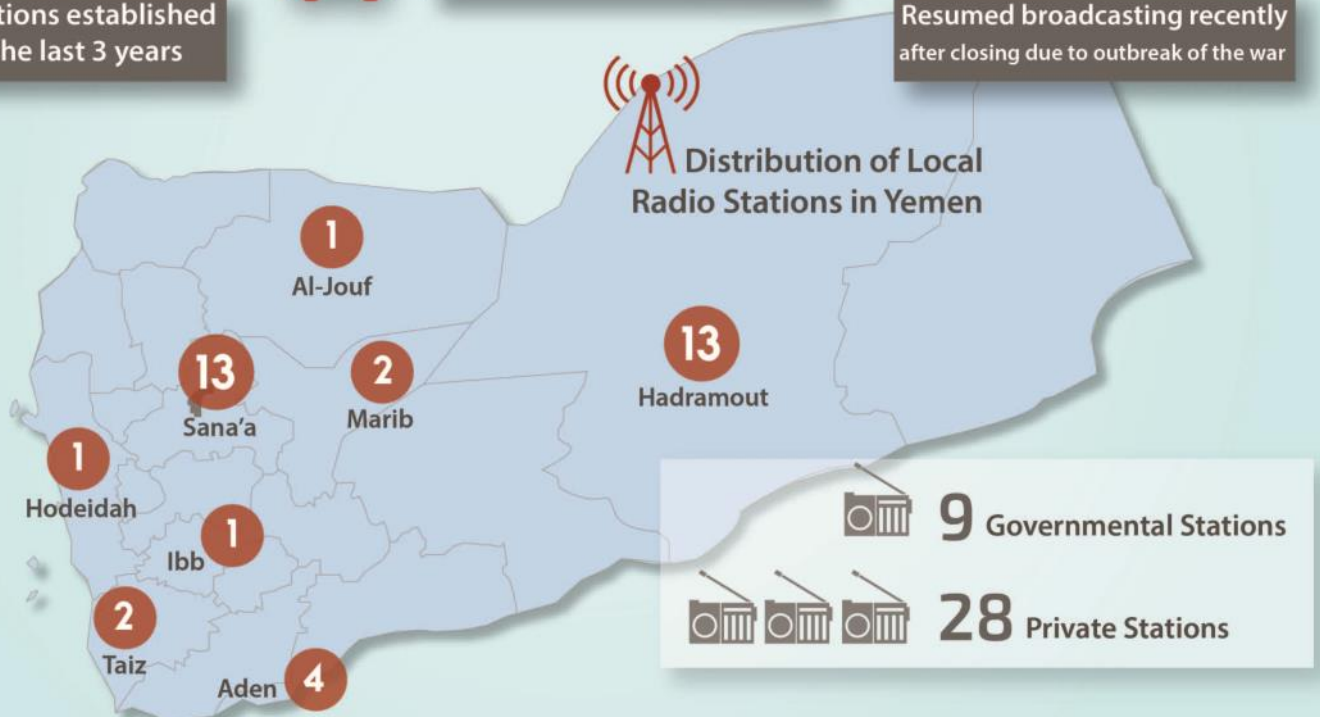


# Yemeni Local Radio Stations

**21**   
New stations established  
over the last 3 years

**37**   
Local radio stations are  
currently broadcasting

**5**   
Resumed broadcasting recently  
after closing due to outbreak of the war



## Local Radio Stations

Media freedom in Yemen had achieved remarkable gains in the wake of the 2011 revolution. However, those achievements were drastically reversed following the Houthi takeover of the capital Sana'a in September 2014, and the subsequent several incursions on media outlets and arrest of journalists.

Those encroachments led to the

closure of many local radio stations. Although some stations have been reopened, many are still closed on various grounds. Figure above provides a list of the active local radio stations as of the end of 2017. As shown in Figure above, 37 local radio stations are currently broadcasting, 9 of which are owned by public authorities and 28 are privately owned. The Figure also shows

**56 %**

**New stations have been established over the last 3 years.**

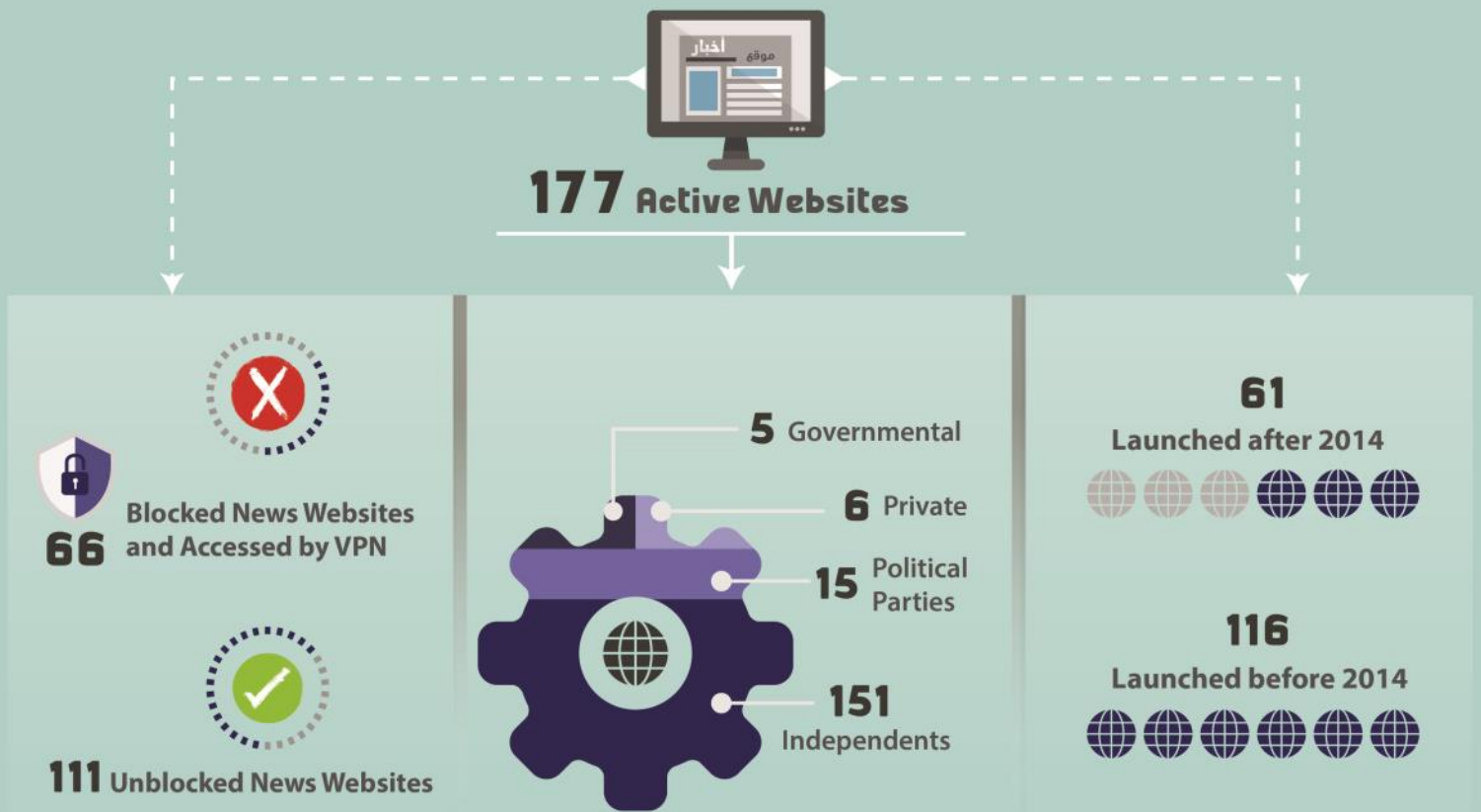
**63 %**

**Of active channels are Broadcasting From outside Yemen**

that 5 stations went off the air following the outbreak of the war in Yemen in 2014, but have resumed broadcasting recently. On the other hand, 21 new stations have been established over the last 3 years.

Radio stations are distributed in 8 Yemeni governorates. The majority of those stations are located in Sana'a and Hadhramout, which claim 35% each of the local radio broadcasts. The remaining 30% of radio stations are distributed in 6 governorates; namely, Taiz, Ibb, Al-Jouf, Marib, Hodeida, and Aden. Of these, Aden claims the largest share of 4 radio stations. It may be noted that a local radio station owned by the internationally recognized government is based in Saudi Arabia.

## Yemeni News Websites



# News Websites



**34%** of Yemeni news websites were launched during the last three years. In the context of strict censorship imposed by the Houthi militia



**37%** of the news websites are blocked by the Houthi authorities, and cannot be accessed inside Yemen except through mediating proxy websites or applications.

Figure above provides an unofficial list of active news websites. The list was prepared by the study team in late 2017. The total number of currently active news websites was found to be 177. Political parties claim 8% of those websites, 3% are official government

websites, and another 3% are owned by private media enterprises, whereas the majority of news websites (85%) are private endeavors (presented as 'independent' websites).

# Yemeni Print Media



## Print Media (newspapers and Magazines)

**Bloom of newspapers in Aden and Marib**

**13** Yemeni newspapers and magazines have been suspended since the Houthi takeover of the capital Sana'a in 2014.

**59%** of active newspapers have been launched in the course of the last three years.

Several newspapers have disappeared following the Houthi takeover of the capital Sana'a. On the other hand, Ma-

rib and Aden have witnessed the release of new newspapers. Aden claims 54% of the total number of active

newspapers, whereas 9% of newspapers are issued in Marib. Sana'a claims only 31% of active newspapers, and these are organs of the Houthi militia or government institutions.

Print media have witnessed a major drawback during the current phase of the ongoing war ravishing the country. As many newspapers and magazines disappeared from the scene, some others survived the current winter of print media, though they managed to appear only in thinner volumes and less frequent releases.

The following Table lists only 22 of active newspapers as of the end of 2017. Most of them (68%) are privately

owned, while 27% are issued by government institutions, and 4% are organs of political parties.

Weekly newspapers represent 63% of the total, 27% are dailies, whereas 9% are bimonthlies.

# Findings

## The study concludes that:

- ⇒ The war has redrawn the map of the Yemeni media presence, with
- ⇒ print and audio media gaining momentum in the provinces of Aden, Mareb and Hadramout .
- ⇒ Digital media was least affected by the war, and has seen the setting up of numerous news websites in the aftermath of the Houthi takeover of the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, back in 2014. This can be attributed to the nature of the work of digital media whose personnel can do their jobs while keeping a low profile to avoid any crackdown by the authorities.
- ⇒ More than two-thirds of Yemen's active radio stations are based in Sana'a and Hadramout.
- ⇒ Over half of Yemeni satellite channels are broadcasting from across the region and the globe.
- ⇒ Over a third of functioning news sites are blocked by the Houthi group and can only be accessed via proxy softwares.



Studies & Economic Media Center (SEMC) is a high-profile NGO ,specializing in training in economic and media fields, working towards the enhancement of transparency, good governance, public engagement in decision-making, the creation of professional and free media and empowering youth and women economically..

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