# The Report OF Violation Against

## Media Freedom - Yemen

## July-August 2018

# Contents

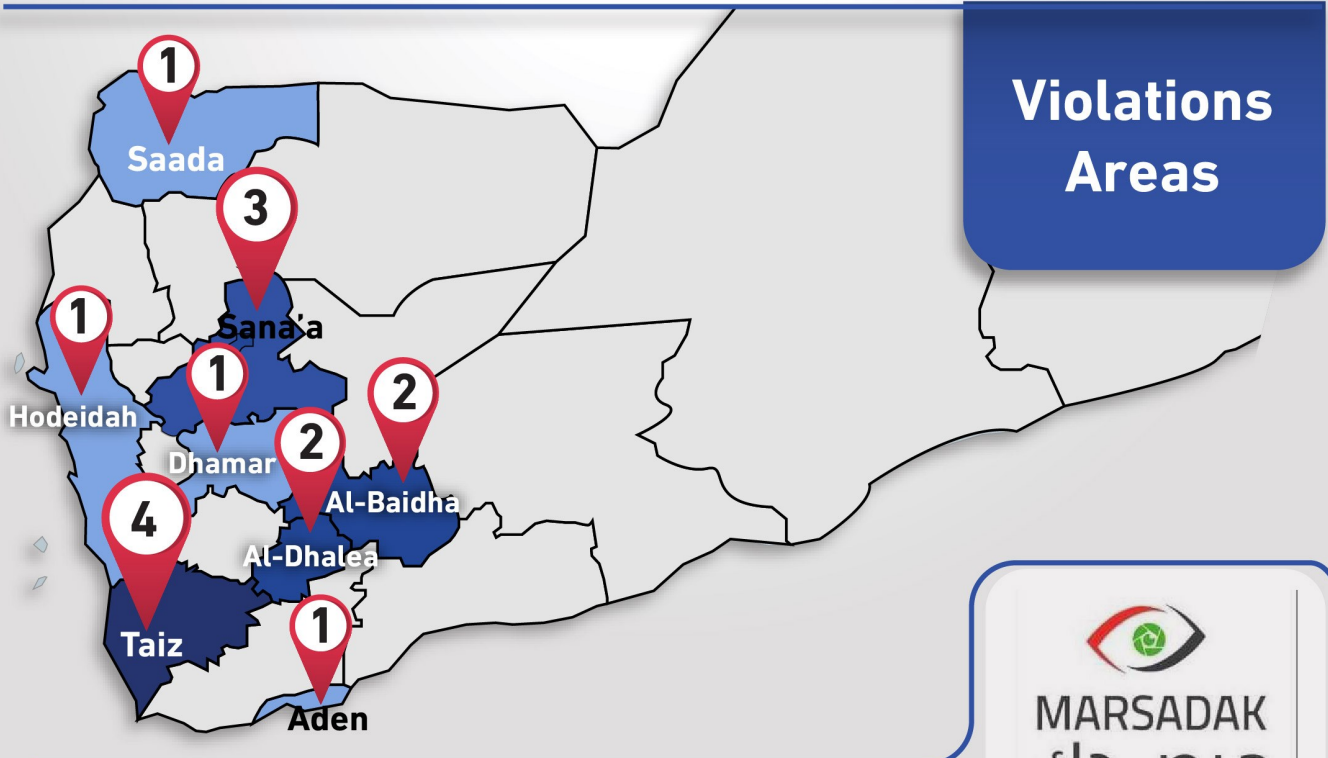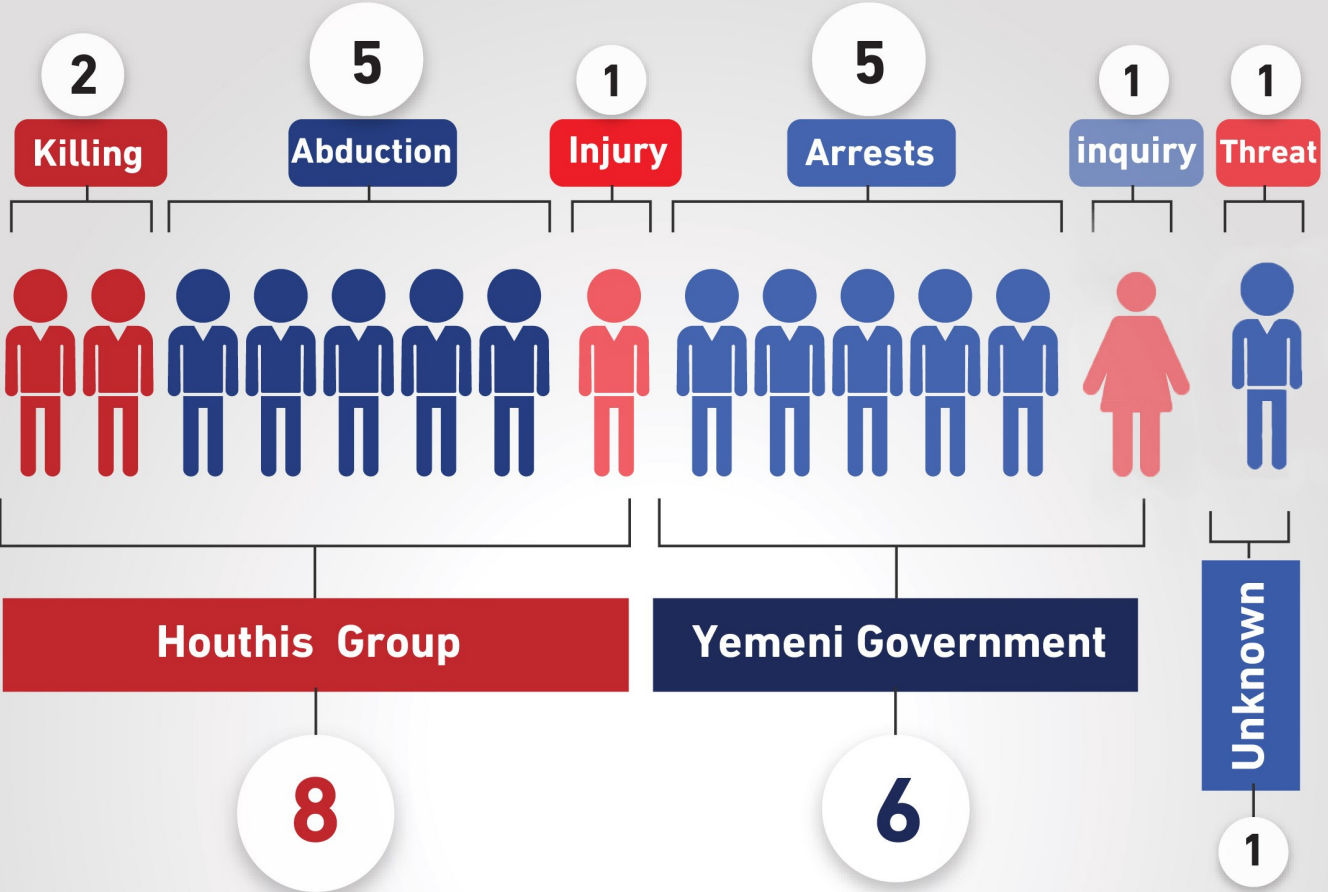MARSADAK
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# Violations Cases Against Media in Yemen

## During : July & August 2018

**Violations Cases 15**

| 2 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Killing | Abduction | Injury | Arrests | inquiry | Threat |

**Houthis Group**

**8**

**Yemeni Government**

**6**

**Unknown**

**1**

## Violations Areas

- **1** Saada
- **3** Sana'a
- **1** Hodeidah
- **1** Dhamar
- **2** Al-Dhalea
- **2** Al-Baidha
- **4** Taiz
- **1** Aden

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# INTRODUCTION

Journalism in Yemen has suffered severe limitations due to the increasing violations and arbitrary practices against media freedom in the country.

While demands to put an end to violations of media freedom are voiced by the various conflicting parties as well as by local and international organizations, the conflicting parties still inflict all kinds of violations of media freedom including killings, kidnappings, and torture of journalists.

The Expert Report issued by the UN Human Rights Council states that freedom of expression in Yemen has declined remarkably since September 2014 as the various conflicting parties have enforced further restrictions on freedom of expression.

Durng July and August 2018, the Media Freedom Observatory in Yemen has recorded 17 violations against individuals (journalists and social media activists). Two journalists were also killed while covering events in Sa'ada and al-Baidha.

We seize this opportunity to renew our demand of the immediate release of kidnapped journalists detained by the Houthis and al-Qaeda.

**Mostafa Nasr**
**SEMC Director**

# REPORT 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.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Media Freedom Violations Report (July-August 2018) monitored 15 violations against individuals (journalists and social media activists).
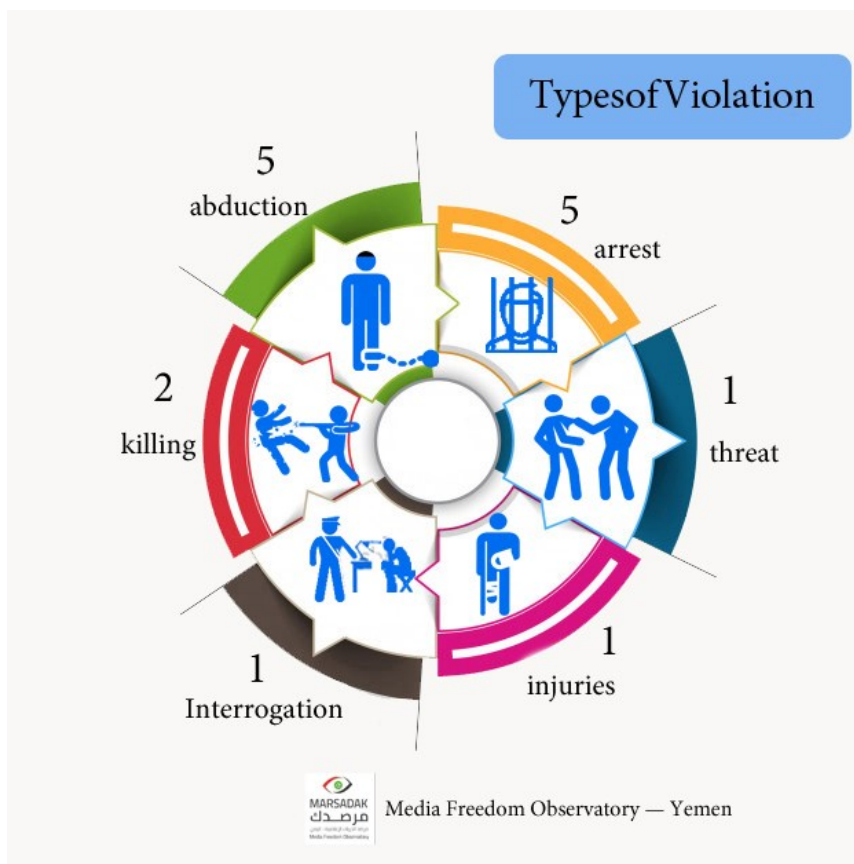
Violations were documented in Taiz, Sana'a, Al-Baidha, Aden, Al-Dhali', Thamar, Sa'ada, and Hodeida. A total of 15 violations against individuals (journalists and social media activists) were recorded in July and August, 2018. They were as follows: 2 killings, 5 kidnappings, 5 arrests, 1 threat, 1 injury, an 1 interrogation by Criminal Investigation.

The Houthi militia perpetrated most of those violations, claiming 8 of the total number of violations, followed by the Aden-based government which perpetrated 6 violations. In a single case the perpetrators were unidentified.

# TYPES OF VIOLATIONS

A total of 15 violations against individuals (journalists and social media activists) were recorded in July and August, 2018.

The violations included 2 killings, 5 kidnappings, 5 arrests, 1 threat, 1 injury, an 1 interrogation by Criminal Investigation.



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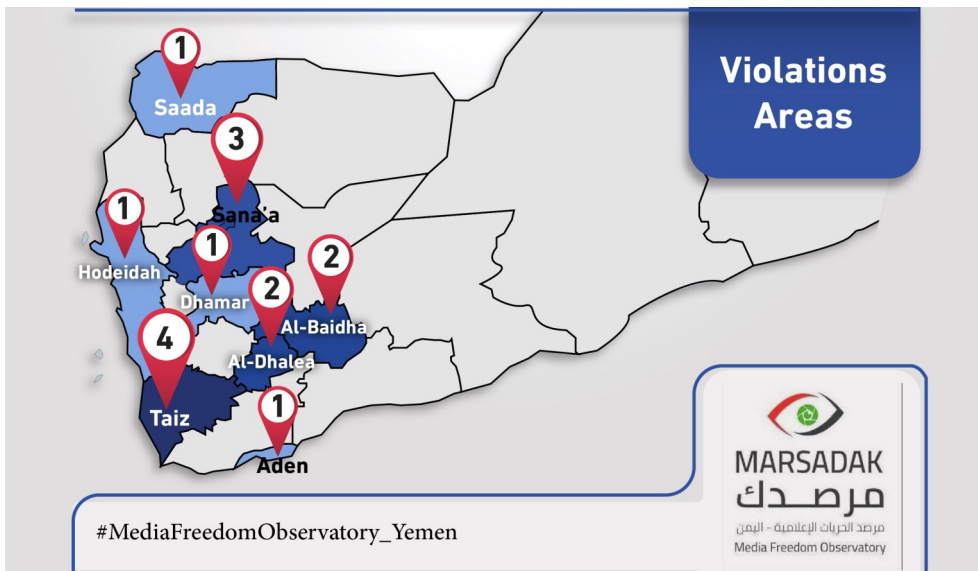
# RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VIOLATIONS

The Houthi militia tops the list of perpetrators of violations against journalists. It was involved in 8 violations, followed by the Aden-based government which was involved in 6 cases. Unidentified militants were involved in a single case.

## Violations Responsibilities

8 — Houthis Group

6 — Yemen Government

1 — Unknown Group

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# GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VIOLATIONS

Several governorates witnessed violations of media freedom. Four violations were recorded in Taiz, 3 in the capital Sana'a, 2 in each of Al-Baidha and Al-Dhali', while a single case was recorded in each of Aden, Sa'ada, Hodeida, and Thamar.

# KILLINGS

Two killings were recoded during the two-month period covered by the Report. A single case was recorded in each of Sa'ada and Al-Baidha.



Yemen Shabab Channel cameraman, Issa Al-Nu'mi was killed on August 1, 2018 in a mine explosion while covering the battles in Abwab Al-Hadeed, Alib Front in Sa'ada governorate. The mine was laid by the Houthi militia.



On August, 30, 2018, Saba News Agency Director, Ahmed Al-Hamzi, was killed in Al-Baidha in an explosion of a mortar projectile fired by the Houthi militia, while covering events in Qaniya, Al-Baidha. Al-Hamzi had been injured a month before his death in the same spot while covering clashes.

# KIDNAPPINGS

Five kidnappings were recoded during the period covered by the Report. Two kidnappings were recorded in Sana'a, while 1 case was recorded in each of Taiz, Thamar, and Hodeida.



On August 16, editor-in-chief of Raima Post website, Ali Al-Shawoosh, was kidnapped by Houthi militants in Hodeida. His whereabouts are still unknown.



Sports journalist, Obadi Al-Jaradi was kidnapped by the Houthi militia on July 1, while making arrangements for launching the Annual Summer Sports Camp organized by Al-Wahda Sports Club in Sana'a. Al-Jaradi is detained in the Political Security prison, a branch of the intelligence



On July 23, cameraman, Issa Obad, was kidnapped by Houthi militants in Al-Rahida, Taiz governorate. He is detained in Al-Salih City, Taiz. Obad was kidnapped while on his way to Aden. He was released 25 days later.



Iyad Al-Wasmani, a journalist, was kidnapped on July 8. Al-Wasmani was attacked by armed Houthi militants in front of his house. He was detained in a Thamar prison, and released 3 days later.



On July 3,Abdussalam Al-Duais, a journalist, was kidnapped by Houthi militants near his home in Shamlan, Sana'a. He was released 2 weeks later.

# ARRESTS

Five arrests were recoded during the two-month period covered by the Report. Taiz and Al-Dhali' claimed two cases each, while a single case was recorded in Aden.



Editor-in-chief of Aden Al-Ghad newspapers, Fathi ben Lazraq, was arrested by so-called security ring militants in Mansoura, Aden on July 3, and was detained for a few hours.



Security forces detained the Suhail Satellite Channel staff in Al-Alam checkpoint in Lahj. Mohammed Yusuf, a journalist, and Qais Mohammed, cameraman, were arrested and detained for a few hours.



On July 24, Haikal Al-Ariki, a journalist, was arrested by Aden-based-government-backed Abu Al-Abbas group militants in Taiz, while performing his job. He was released two days later.



On July 25, Wadhah Al-Yemen, journalist, was attacked by militants belonging to the 22 Micha Camp, which is affiliated to the Aden-based government.
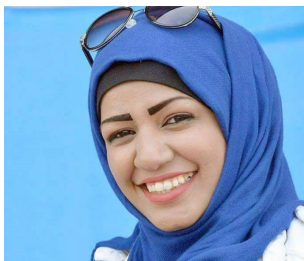
# OTHER CASES



Al-Mawqi' Post correspondent, Wiam Al-Soufi, was interrogated by the Criminal Investigation in Taiz on account of her critical posts on social media platforms.



Saba News Agency director, Ahmed Al-Hamzi, was injured on July 30, 2018 in an explosion of a mortar projectile fired by the Houthi militia, while covering clashes in Al-Baidha.



On August 9, Yemen Music Radio announcer, Samia Al-Hajri, was intimidated and threatened by armed men in two unnumbered cars, which intercepted hers in Hadda St., Sana'a.

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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