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مرصد الحريات الإعلامية - اليمن

Media Freedom Observatory



**Report**

# Violations of Media Freedom

**Yemen - Feb. 2019**

# Introduction

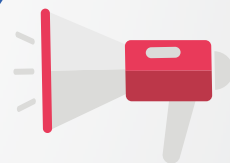
The Media Freedom Observatory continues monitoring abuses perpetrated against journalists and social media activists and the relentless curtailment of freedom of expression in Yemen by all conflict parties.

Yemeni journalists continue to face systematic repressive campaigns that have silenced most free voices, and many have come to fear the consequences of expressing their views in the media and in social media platforms.

The Observatory documented 43 violations against journalists and media outlets in various places in February, including 38 abuses against individuals and 5 cases against media institutions.

The Houthis is responsible for the majority of those violations despite appeals from international and local organizations to neutralize the media from political conflicts, claiming 35 violations of the total number of cases recorded in February, while 8 violations are perpetrated by Aden-based government parties.

We hope all human rights organizations will pressurize all parties in Yemen to respect freedom of expression and to immediately release kidnapped journalists who have been detained for fourth years.



# Violations Types

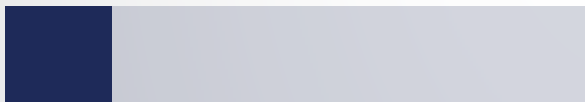
Violations Cases Against journalists and media outlets

**43** Violations Cases



# Violations Responsibilities

Yemeni Government **8**



Houthis Group **35**



# Violations Areas



# Arrest of Jameel Al-Samit:



Jameel Al-Samit, Al-Wahdawi Net correspondent in Taiz, was arrested on charges of criticizing corruption in the state's military and civilian institutions.

He was released after six days, following constant pressure on the authorities in Taiz and advocacy campaigns by a number of journalists, activists and human rights organizations demanding his immediate release.

A number of journalists and activists

staged a protest in front of the Criminal Investigation Office in Taiz, calling for the immediate release of Al-Samit, viewing his detention as a dangerous indicator of freedom of opinion and violation of rights guaranteed by the law and National Dialogue outcomes.



# Seizure of Journalists' Property

## Seizure of Journalists' Property

The Houthis issued a circular to the Ministry of Justice, inhibiting registration and disposal of any property belonging to what it called the 'traitors', including 25 Yemeni journalists and media outlets, in an initial step to confiscate their property.

The list included the following journalists: Nasr Taha Mustafa, Marwan Dammag, Hussein ba Saleem, Mahbub Ali, Mustafa Nasr, Abdelbaset al-Qaidi, Mohammad Qizan, Osama al-Sharmi, Mukhtar al-Rahbi, Arafat Mudabesh, Ahmed al-Musibli and Mohammed Bashraheel , Rajih Badi, Abdussalam Al-Hubait, Ayman Nasser, Bakr al-Dhibyani, Nabila Saeed al-Rabasi, Fayyad Al-Nu'man.

Channels and news organizations covered by the circular are Suhail TV channel, the Shabab FM Radio, Al-Masdar newspaper office and Yemen Shabab channel.

بموجب التعميم رقم (٦) لسنة ٢٠١٨م والصادر من وزارة العدل بشأن عدم تحرير أو مصادقة أو توثيق لأي تصرف يتعلق بممتلكات الخونة، المذكور أسمائهم أدنى : ١١٤٢		
ملاحظات	اسم الخائن	رقم
١	احمد علي عبدالله صالح	٩٢
٢	احمد صالح الرخسي مدير شركة بين الامود الامنية المملوكة لـ محمد محمد صالح	٩٣
٣	الكرم علي صالح عبدالله الاحمر	٩٤
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٥	توفيق صالح عبدالله صالح عفاش	٩٦
٦	جليدان محمود حميد جليدان	٩٧
٧	جمعية الإصلاح الخيرية	٩٨
٨	جمعية الصالح	٩٩
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١٠	خالد علي عبدالله صالح	١٠١
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٢٣	عصام محمد صالح الاحمر	١١٤
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٢٦	علي صالح علي الاحمر	١١٧
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٢٨	علي عبدالله صالح الاحمر	١١٩
٢٩	علي علي حسين مخلص	١٢٠
٣٠	عمار محمد عبدالله صالح	١٢١
٣١	عمار يحيى عبدالله صالح دويد	١٢٢
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٦٧	اسماعيل حسين عبدالله زحروج	١٥٥
٦٨	اسماعيل عبدالحميد الطوفي	١٥٦
٦٩	الحسن بن علي ابكر	١٥٧
٧٠	عبدالعزیز عبدالحميد المظفي	١٥٨
٧١	علي محمد احمد المعمرى	١٥٩
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٨٣	محمد عبدالله سعيد كده	١٧١
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٨٥	دا/صالح حسن صالح سمع	١٧٣
٨٦	سالم عبدالله الشطري	١٧٤

# Trial of 10 Yemeni Journalists in Opinion Cases

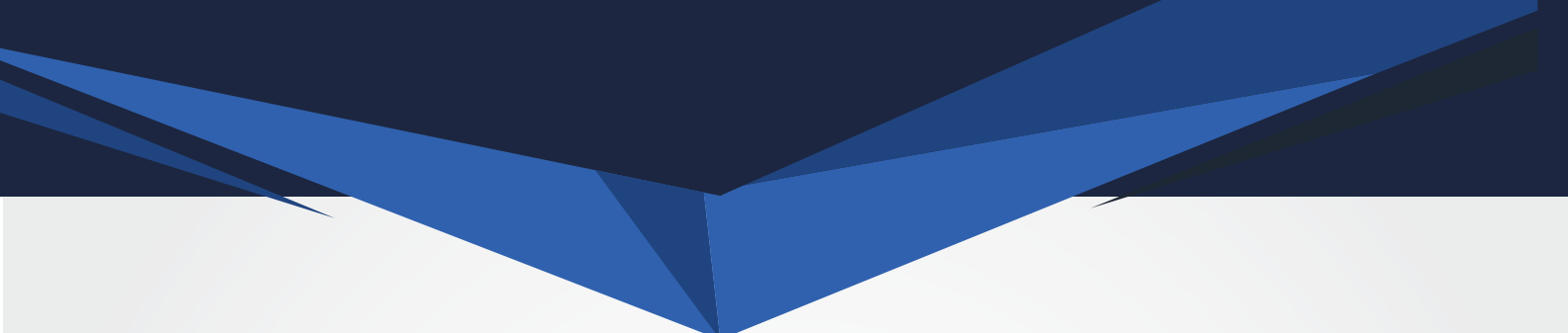
The Houthi group has referred 10 journalists who have been detained in its prisons for nearly four years to the State Prosecution Court.

According to the Houthi prosecution office, journalists are accused of disseminating harmful news that seek to betray military preparations, weaken public morale, undermine public peace and harm the public interest.

On June 9, 2015, Houthi gunmen raided a hotel in Sana'a, where nine young journalists working for various Yemeni newspapers were gathering. The journalists were detained for 10 days at Al-Ahmar police station in Al-Hasaba area, before being transferred to the Criminal Investigation prison in Sana'a and then to Al-Thawra Provisional Prison where they were detained for over six months.

The journalists were subjected to physical and psychological torture, enforced disappearances and their families were sometimes prevented from visiting them. They underwent yet another stage of forced disappearances, when they were transferred to Habra provisional prison where they were thrown into solitary confinement for over a month before being moved to the current stage of detention at the Political Security (intelligence) prison.






The nine journalists are Abd al-Khaliq Imran, Tawfiq al-Mansouri, Akram al-Walidi, Essam Bilghith, Hasan Annab, Hisham Tarmoum, Hisham al-Yusufi, Haitham al-Shehab and Harith Humaid. Another journalist, Salah al-Qadidi, was kidnapped from the street on 31 August, detained at Judairi police station before he was secretly transferred to the Habra prison where he was denied visits by relatives.

Relatives of kidnapped journalists and leaked messages confirm that they were subjected to constant physical torture during interrogation sessions at the early stage of their abduction. They were denied visits by their parents for long periods of time. They were also placed in solitary confinement for several hours, or in 3\*4 dirty cells together with detainees accused of criminal offenses.

Eighteen journalists are still detained in Houthi and Qaeda prisons. The Houthis kidnapped 17 journalists and refuse to release them. Kidnapped journalists are Abd al-Khaliq Imran, Tawfiq al-Mansouri, Harith Humaid, Hisham Tarmoum, Hisham al-Yusufi, Akram al-Walidi, Isam Belghith, Hassan Annab and Haitham al-Shehab. Waheed al-Sufi, Salah al-Qaidi, Nader al-Salahi, Hamed al-Qaoud, Anwar al-Haj, Muhammad al-Salahi, Bilal al-Arifi and Ahmad Houdan. Mohammed al-Muqri was kidnapped by al-Qaeda in Hadramout, and nothing is known about his fate.



Media Freedom Observatory - Yemen

[www.marsadak.org](http://www.marsadak.org)



Platform of the Media Freedom Observatory, a SEMC-affiliated platform, monitors violations in an independent and professional manner, mapping and providing information on violations of press freedom throughout Yemen.