



Explosives on the way to the Yemeni press

Report of violations against freedom
of opinion and expression

This report is made by the Media Freedom Observatory - Yemen (MARSADAK), which is a platform affiliated with the Studies and Economic Media Centre (SEMC) and is concerned with monitoring and documenting cases of violations against freedom of the press and expression in Yemen.

The report was made possible by the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Yemen. The information contained in the report belongs to MARSADAK and does not in any way reflect the stance of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Yemen or the Dutch Foreign Ministry.



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Introduction

It is unfortunate that repressive measures against journalists and social media activists are continuing in Yemen trying to silence all free voices for the eighth consecutive year (the years of Yemeni war that has never come to an end).

Although the parties to the conflict in Yemen reached a tentative truce during the past six months of this year, violations against journalists and social media activists continued at a high rate. In addition, there have been serious and diverse ways of targeting journalists and social media activists during the last period.

MARSADAK documented fifty-six (56) violations, the cruellest and most brutal of which was the detonation of Saber Al-Haidari (journalist) with an explosive charge planted inside his car in Aden. Fawwaz Al-Wafi (journalist) was also killed in mysterious circumstances, as he was found dead in one of the main streets in Taiz Governorate, "south of the country."

Cameras, journalists' publications and their stories have become tools of crime that deserve prosecution and punishment, and the controlling parties in the different regions of Yemen find repressive justifications to silence the press and eliminate the margin of press freedom that Yemen has enjoyed during the past three decades.

These violations take place in an environment hostile to freedoms, where all authorities or forces on the ground impose the type of media discourse and outlets that are allowed to stay and work under conditions lacking the most basic elements of a free and responsible press.

While journalists and social media activists face a daily battle to preserve a margin of freedom, a state of media chaos prevails, characterized by rumours and political, regional and regional polarization. This

state directly affects the values and principles of media freedom and turns some journalists, social media activists, and media into tools that contribute to the state of fragmentation, societal division and conflict between the parties that usually fight by proxy on Yemeni soil.

In light of this tragic reality, we would like to appeal to all international organizations and countries that support media freedom to intensify their efforts and keep the flame of media freedom burning. We also urge them to support free journalists in the face of violations and attempts to eradicate them. Independent free press is now the lung through which people breathe and get hope and the power to face challenges.

Moreover, we also call on all parties that commit violations against journalists and social media activists to immediately stop these repressive practices inconsistent with constitutional and legal texts, legislation, and international covenants. They must realize that the violations that are practiced do not have a statute of limitations and that the voice of victims will never die...!

Violations Cases Against Media in Yemen

In The First Half 2022

Violations
Against
Media

56

10 Against media organizations

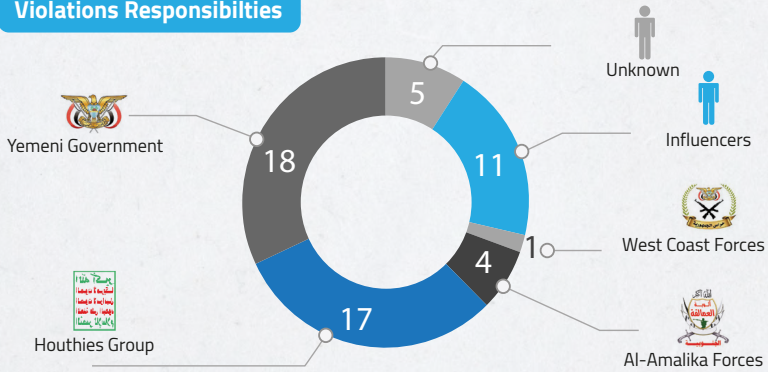


broken into

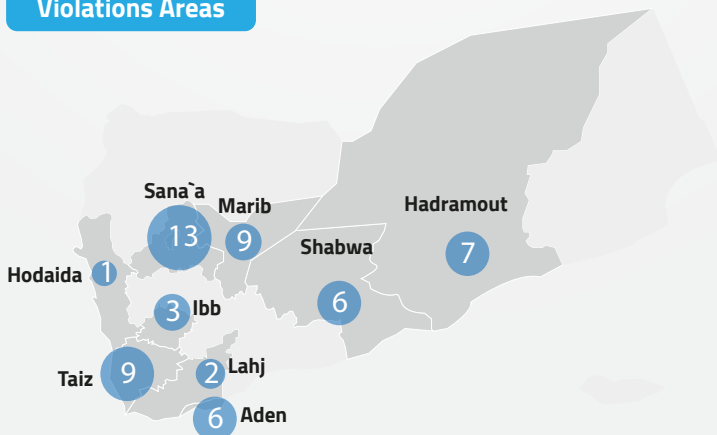
46 Against Individuals



Violations Responsibilities



Violations Areas



Report Methodology

The data and information in this report were collected by a professional team of observers, who are positioned in various Yemeni regions.

In collecting data, the observers relied on different methods, including direct contact with the victims, testimonies of their relatives, media or the reports submitted by the victims or their relatives to MARSADAK. The MARSADAK team reviewed and verified all the observed data and information through a verification mechanism that included at least 3 different sources.

The data and information contained in this report do not mean that all violations against journalists and social media activists in Yemen have been recorded. There are cases of violations that victims or their families were hesitant to report to avoid serious risks and consequences that may be instigated by the violators.

We would also like to point out that for the sake of brevity, we will not cite all the stories of violations, as the report will only present the most prominent stories of violations suffered by journalists in Yemen.

Executive Summary

The report on violations of media freedom in Yemen during the first half of 2022 recorded 56 violations, most notably the assassination of Fawwaz Al-Wafi (journalist) in Taiz and Saber Al-Haidari (journalist) in Aden.

The cases of violations recorded by the MARSADAK team took place in the governorates of Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Hadhramaut, Ma'rib, Lahj, and Shabwa. The areas under the control of the internationally recognized Yemeni government topped the list of violations committed against journalists and social media activists, followed by the Houthi-controlled areas, noting that the latter has been holding fourteen (14) journalists in detention for more than eight years.

The list of violations recorded by the MARSADAK during the first half of the year 2022 included cases of killing, injury, arrest, assault, threat, trial and summoning of journalists by the prosecution, in addition to storming and suspending radio stations.

These violations are a dangerous indicator of the state of media freedom, as most areas of Yemen became unsafe for journalists. All parties to the conflict are deliberately harassing journalists and social media activists and imposing multiple levels of censorship, prosecution, and arrest on them.

The authorities in Yemen impose restrictions on journalistic work and sort journalists according to their whims, which leads to an escalation of violations and illegal practices towards freedom of opinion and expression guaranteed by the constitution and the laws in force.

Journalists detained in prisons of various parties are subjected to mock trials that lack the most basic standards of a fair trial. In that context, four (4) journalists; Abdul-Khaleq Omran, Tawfiq Al-Mansouri, Harith Hamid and Akram Al-Walidi face death sentences. Hala Badawi (journalist) was arrested and faced a trial which lacked the most basic rules of justice, not to mention the fabrication of charges and the publication of videos to discredit her.

Types of violations

During the first half of this year, the report recorded fifty-six (56) violations against journalists, including forty-six (46) committed against journalists and social media activists (83% of the total violations recorded), and ten (10) violations against media outlets (17%).

Individual violations included two (2) cases of murder, a case of injury, seven (7) arrests, fourteen (14) assaults, eight (8) threats, six (6) detentions, and eight (8) trials and summons by the prosecution.

The MARSADAK also recorded ten (10) cases of violations against media institutions including stopping, storming, looting, and closing media institutions. These cases included storming and looting Voice of Yemen Radio, Grand FM Radio, Al-Oula FM Radio, Community Childhood Radio, Al Diwan Radio, Delta FM Radio, Yemen Music Radio, Samara FM Radio, and Yemen Shabab Channel.

Geographical Distribution of Violations Areas

Various regions in Yemen witnessed cases of violations against the media, as the report recorded thirteen (13) cases of violations in the city of Sana'a, nine (9) in Taiz, nine (9) in Ma'rib, seven (7) in Hadramout governorate, six (6) in Aden, six (6) in Shabwa governorate, three (3) in Ibb governorate, two (2) in Lahj, and a case in Al-Hodeidah governorate.

Responsibility for violations.

During the first half of the current year 2022, the Yemeni government topped the list of perpetrators of violations against journalists, with eighteen (18) violations out of the total recorded cases, seventeen (17) carried out by the Houthi group (Ansar Allah), eleven (11) by influential individuals¹, four (4) by Al-Amaleeq forces, one (1) by West Coast forces, and five (5) recorded against unknown persons.

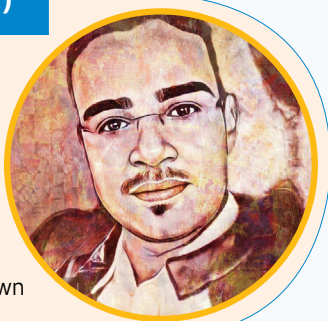
1 - Individuals who have influence within the community but do not have the capacity to represent the ruling authorities.

killing cases

During the recent period, the brutality of arbitrary practices against journalists has unprecedentedly increased. Fawwaz Al-Wafi (journalist) was found dead inside his car in the city of Taiz. The perpetrators have not yet been revealed. Saber Al-Haidari (journalist) was also hideously killed by planting an explosive charge in his car that exploded when he was passing through one of the districts of the city of Aden.

Fawwaz Al-Wafi (Photojournalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Head of the Public Relations and Media Department at the Hygiene Office in Taiz City
- **Type of Violation:** Murder
- **Date of Incident:** March 23, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Unknown



On the evening of Wednesday, March 23, 2022, Fawwaz Al-Wafi (photo-journalist) was found dead inside his car in mysterious circumstances in the Wadi Al-Qadi area in the centre of Taiz, southwest of Yemen.

Al-Wafi's lawyer revealed to MARSADAK that the case is still pending before the West Taiz Prosecution and that three of the perpetrators were arrested, two of them were detained, and the third was released.

"We are still working to bring him back to prison as one of the perpetrators, along with two others who are still free," he added.

The lawyer also stated that the evidence proves the involvement of the five people - the detainees and the fugitives - in the crime, but that the case procedures are proceeding slowly.

Al-Wafi's family expressed its dissatisfaction with the slow progress of the

case's procedures, despite the availability of much evidence and the calls of the people who had contacted the victim before his murder. This explains how he was lured from his home and then murdered in this shocking way besides the attempt to obliterate the traces of the crime as a precedent in the city of Taiz. "Despite the pain, we kept tracking down the killers (the perpetrators of the crime and their assistants) through the official authorities, the General Criminal Investigations, the Police General Department, and then resorted to the prosecution. However, the procedures for bringing the accused were too slow, the last of which was the failure to bring the rest of the accused in Fawwaz's murder despite the long time passed and the authority's knowledge of the identities of the accused and their places of residence", added Fawwaz's family.

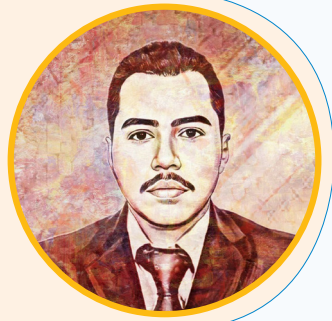
According to Al-Wafi's wife, the family (3 children and their mother) is facing difficult economic circumstances after the killing of their only breadwinner and the suspension of his salary. She also says that she and her children live on the meagre assistance provided by her brothers and some people from her family.

Three months after his death, Al-Wafi's body was buried in the "Martyrs' Cemetery" in the Asifrah neighbourhood, on Friday, June 24, in Freedom Square downtown, with the participation of dozens of people.

Al-Wafi, who works as the head of the Public Relations and Media Department at the Hygiene Office in Taiz, was found dead inside his car on March 23, 2022, in Wadi Al-Qadi, in mysterious circumstances.

Saber Al-Haidari - Journalist

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Japanese NHK TV reporter in Yemen
- **Violation Type:** Murder
- **Date of Incident:** June 15, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Unknown



Saber Al-Haidari (journalist), a Japanese NHK TV reporter, was heinously assassinated in Yemen on June 16, 2022, by planting an explosive charge inside his car which exploded when he was driving through the Kabota area in the Mansoura District, Aden Governorate.

MARSADAK contacted ² the victim's sister who said that Saber was driving his car on Wednesday, June 16, 2022, in the governorate of Aden, where he had been residing for nearly four years, after leaving Sana'a. His car was bombed with an explosive charge that claimed his life.

The victim's sister said, "We learned of the incident through the media. The governorate's security authorities informed us that two suspects had been arrested and that the investigation was underway with them." She added, "When my brother had this painful accident, none of his brothers or relatives was in Aden, nor his wife or children. They went to Sana'a four days before the accident. When we learned of the incident, my brothers and cousins went to Aden where he was buried. Pain overwhelmed the hearts of his family and friends; he was buried without punishing or arresting the perpetrators of this horrible crime." She also explained: "It is true that the case has not been closed, but the perpetrators will remain unknown". Al-Haidari is the fifth journalist to have been killed by explosive charges during the last eight months in the city of Aden, along with Rasha Al-Harazi, Ahmed Bu Saleh, Tariq Mustafa, and Ahmed Baras (journalists).

It is noteworthy that Saber Noman al-Haidari, 40, the father of four children, left the capital, Sana'a, in 2017, for fear of the Houthi group's oppression, to settle in Aden. He worked as a coordinator for several Arabic and foreign television channels and agencies. The last job he held after working as a correspondent for the Chinese news agency Xinhua in Yemen, was a reporter for the Japanese television station (NHK). Al-Haidari's family is currently facing difficult circumstances after the death of its sole breadwinner.

2 - MARSADAK team interviewed Al-Haidari, on July 26, 2022.

Injury cases

The number of injuries suffered by Yemeni journalists has increased over the past years, as hundreds of journalists were injured while covering the war battles taking place in Yemen for eight years now. However, the number of injuries decreased during the first half of this year, as one (1) case (of Suhaib Al-Hatami -journalist) was recorded. This decline is due to the truce signed by the conflicting parties in Yemen under the auspices of the United Nations envoy to Yemen.

Suhaib Al-Hotami (Photojournalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Photojournalist collaborating with several local and Arabic media and channels
- **Violation Type:** Injury
- **Date of Incident:** January 14, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The Houthi group
- **The Journalist's Current Medical Condition:** burns to different parts of his body, «leg and neck.»



Suhaib Al-Hatami ³, who works as a photojournalist for several local and Arabic channels, suffered burns in separate parts of his body, especially in the “legs, thighs and neck” as a result of a missile fired by the Houthi group in an area near Harib in Ma’rib. Al-Hatami was wearing safety equipment including a helmet and a shield with his press ID written on it.

Al-Hatami who was contacted by MARSADAK, stated that the incident occurred while he was in the area between Al-Juba and Harib to cover the battles taking place there between the government forces and the Houthi group, as he works as a collaborator photojournalist for several local and Arabic media and channels.

Al-Hatami says, “My task was to cover the events until the 14th of January

³ - MARSADAK team interviewed Al- Hatami, on January 17, 2022.

when the clashes stopped. I tried to advance to areas near Harib to film the aftermath of the war. At the time, I was wearing a protective shield and a helmet with the phrase “press” written clearly on it. While I was at work, I was hit by a missile from the direction of the Houthi militia’s location to find myself in the hospital.”

Arrests

Arrests of journalists and social media activists are one of the common violations in Yemen, as the various authorities and commanders of armed groups deliberately silence media voices because they are suspicious of any journalist who films or publishes press materials that oppose their orientation.

The following table lists the cases of arrests of journalists in different parts of Yemen during the first half of this year.

We also provide important information about these incidents, although many victims refrained from providing us with details of violations against them, for safety issues, as they are still working in a dangerous environment.

No	Journalist's name	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate	Current situation
1	Nasser Bamendoub	Arrest	Jan. 7, 2022	Hadramout	Released
2	Abdullah Barhma	Arrest	June 16, 2022	Shabwa	Released
3	Abdul Rahman Sabri	Arrest	June 16, 2022	Shabwa	Released
4	Ahmed Ali Lahjar	Arrest	June 16, 2022	Shabwa	Released
5	Mohamed Saleh Bakir	Arrest	June 16, 2022	Shabwa	Released
6	Anwar Al-Sharif	Arrest	May 29, 2022	Hodeidah	Released
7	Mamoun Al-Shaibani	Arrest	June 29, 2022	Aden	Released
8	Mansour Al-Mayasi	Arrest	May 23, 2022	Lahj	Released

Abdullah Barhama (Journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist - Director of Shabwa Media Office
- **Type of Violation:** Arrest
- **Date of Incident:** June 16, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Giants Brigades
- **Journalist's Current Condition:** Released

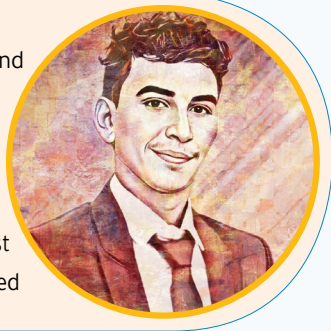


On the 16th of last June, the “ Giants Brigades ” positioned in Camp Marra in Shabwa governorate arrested the director of the Shabwa media office, Abdullah Barhama, and his accompanying crew; Abdul Rahman Sabri Barhama, Ahmed Ali Lajar and Mohammad Saleh Bakir. They were filming scenes of a documentary film about Shabwa governorate in an area called (Murra) on the outskirts of Ataq Directorate using a drone. All their devices, filming equipment and personal phones were confiscated despite showing the forces their identities and media qualities and presenting all the recorded videos to the camp command. They were video clips depicting scenes of the movie to be produced, and they did not contain any clips of the military sites of these brigades.

The detention of journalists and photojournalists continued for three days before they were released thanks to several mediations and media campaigns calling for their speedy release.

Anwar Al-Sharif (Journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist and photojournalist
- **Violation Type:** Arrest
- **Date of Incident:** May 29, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The National Resistance Forces on the West Coast
- **Journalist's Current Condition:** Released



On May 29, the command of the “National Resistance Forces on the West Coast” arrested Anwar Al-Sharif (journalist and photojournalist) and detained him in Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari camp in Al-Khokha district (west of Yemen) for three days without legal grounds before he was released. The arrest was based on charges of filming one of the military zones of the resistance forces using his filming plane (drone).

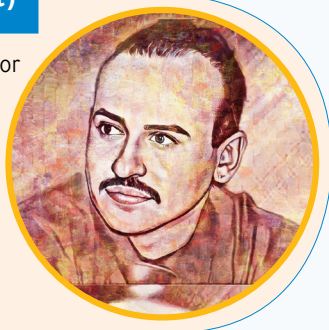
This arrest took place although Al-Sharif was in the company of the Director General of the Culture Office of the local authority in Al Hodeidah Governorate, working on a press content about one of the ancient mosques.

On the second day of filming, Al-Sharif was summoned and asked, through the Governor of Hodeidah, Al-Hassan Taher, to report to the legal affairs of the National Resistance Forces on the West Coast where he was arrested and his press tools, camera and private car confiscated.

Al-Sharif works as a photojournalist for several media outlets. He also participated in covering the military confrontations on the West Coast fronts.

Yasser Mansour Al Mayasi(Journalist)

- **Occupation/Place of Work:** managing editor of Sama News newspaper and website
- **Type of Violation:** Detention
- **Date of Incident:** May 23, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the violation:** Houthi Security Department in Lahj Governorate
- **Journalist's Current Status:** Released



Yasser Mansour (journalist) was arrested by the Houthi Security Department in Lahj Governorate on May 23, 2022, after publishing stories that revealed corruption in one of the agricultural projects in the governorate.

“I made a post on Facebook and addressed the corruption in the sale of agricultural land and its conversion to residential land along with its impact on the agricultural sector, as well as the corruption committed by

some engineers. As a consequence, one of the engineers involved was arrested. They also suspended the project that was to cause damage to the agricultural land when I directed the attention of the community and the authorities to the problem.”

⁴ Mansour added, “Ten days following the post, on May 23, around 10 am, I was arrested by the director of the Houthi security, along with his guards, who were wearing military uniforms. I was taken by force without orders from the Public Prosecution office from inside the health office “currently the governorate office” and detained in the Houthi police station for ten days.

“After pressure from civil society and activists on social media and human rights to release me, and thanks to the efforts of my relatives who requested my referral to the prosecution, I was released on a bail bond. I am currently pending a case of defamation of an engineer, although I did not disclose specific names in my post.”, Mansour explained.

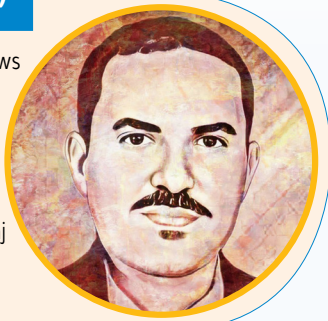
Detention cases

The number of detention cases of journalists during the first half of the current year 2022 AD, amounted to six (6) cases, including two (2) in Lahj governorate, two (2) in Taiz governorate, one (1) in Sana'a governorate, and one (1) case in Ma'rib governorate.

No.	Journalist's name	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate	Current situation
1	Abdul Qawi Al-Uzeibi	Detention	2022 /2/ 6	Lahj	Released
2	Rabie Al-Junaid	Detention	2022 /1/ 8	Sana'a	Released
3	Yasser Al-Mayasi	Detention	2022 /2/ 14	Taiz	Released
4	Ibrahim Al-Jahdabi	Detention	2022 /6/ 28	Ma'rib	Released
5	Anonymous	Detention	2022 /4/ 19	Taiz	Released

Abdul Qawi Al-Uzeibi (Journalist)

- **Occupation/Place of Work:** “Al-Umana” news reporter
- **Type of Violation:** Detention
- **Date of Incident:** February 6, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** a security body affiliated with the Governor’s Office of Lahj
- **Journalist’s Current Condition:** Released after six hours of detention



Abdul Qawi Al-Uzeibi (Journalist) was illegally and unjustifiably detained by the guards of the Lahj governorate office, on Sunday afternoon, February 6. Al-Uzaibi works as a reporter for “Al-Umana” News, and previously held the position of Deputy Director General of the Information Office in Lahj Governorate.

He was detained while crossing the gate of the health Office building and transferred on board one of the trucks to the detention centre of the governorate office.

MARSADAK contacted Al-Uzeibi ⁵, after his release, who said: “While I was leaving my workplace in the governorate’s office around noon and at the gate, I was stopped by the commander of the guards of the governorate building without giving reasons or committing any crime. When asked about the reasons for my detention, he said that he had verbal orders and directives from the Governor of Lahj, Ahmed Al-Turki, to arrest me. I was taken by the guards to the central prison temporarily located in the same building, but the deputy director of the prison refused to keep me without a written order. I remained in a room inside the prison until sunset when I was released after mediation with the commander of the Giants Brigades, Hamdi Shoukry, and thanks to several contacts”.

Al-Uzeibi added, “Until this moment, I do not know the reasons for restricting my freedom and detaining me. I have worked in the governo-

5 - MARSADAK team interviewed Al-Uzeibi, on March 29, 2022.

rate office for about a year and a half before I submitted my resignation to work as a reporter for the Al-Umana News.”

The victims’ deprivation of the right to personal safety without judicial orders or committing a crime punishable by law is a violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, national laws, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other rights recognized by Yemen through its ratification of international conventions.

Rabie Al-Junaid (Journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist
- **Type of Violation:** Detention
- **Date of Incident:** January 8, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The Houthi group (Ansar Allah).
- **Journalist’s Current Condition:** Released



Rabie Al-Junaid (journalist) was detained for publishing information about medical errors that led to the death of patients. The Yemeni Press and Publications Prosecution summoned Al-Junaid and held him in detention on January 8, 2022. He was released the next day on bail. The case is still in court until writing the report.

Ibrahim Al-Jahdabi (Journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist - Ma’rib
- **Type of Violation:** Detention
- **Date of Incident:** June 28, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** the security forces in Ma’rib Governorate
- **Journalist’s Current Condition:** Released



Ibrahim Al-Jahdabi was detained and assaulted on the evening of June 28, 2022, by the security forces in the Mar'ib governorate without giving reasons.

Al-Jahdabi was working in the courtyard of his house because of the poor internet in the city of Mar'ib, and from there he was taken to the detention centre. He was arbitrarily treated and was not even allowed to inform his family that he was taken to the detention centre.

ARSADAK verified the arrest and contacted Al-Jahdabi ⁶, who said, "I had to go out to the courtyard of the house at night on June 28 to surf the internet and make some work calls. Out of the blue, several private security personnel on a truck stopped me and asked for my phone. I gave it to them thinking that they would investigate and apologize and leave me on my way, but they ordered me to board the military truck with them. I thought that I would be taken to the police station and then released. One of them asked several questions which I answered. He was terribly nervous and angry, and as soon as I told him that I was a journalist, his voice rose even higher and took me to the police station and forced me to print my fingerprint on the report. I tried to read what was written in the report, but he hit my back and ordered me to sign without reading.

I told him that was the same behaviour of gangs and militias and even similar to the arrogance, ruthlessness and bullying of the Houthis. He replied by saying, "I will send you back to the Houthis."

On February 5, 2017, Al-Jahdabi was arrested by the Houthi group and remained in detention for a year and a half where he faced physical and psychological torture before his release in a prisoner exchange deal.

6 - MARSADAK team interviewed Al-Jahdabi, on March 30, 2022.

Assaults cases

Field reporting in Yemen is a risky adventure, as journalists face hostile behaviour on a daily basis. Journalists are exposed daily to a series of physical and verbal attacks, and their tools are confiscated by many parties in the field.

We review below those assaults against journalists during the first half of 2022.

No.	Journalist's name	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate
1	Khalil Al-Taweel	Assault	01/03/2022	Ma'rib
2	Ali Al-Taweel	Assault	01/03/2022	Ma'rib
3	Abeer Abdullah	Assault	28/05/2022	Taiz
4	Wahb Al-Din Al-Awadi	Assault	28/05/2022	Taiz
5	Abdullah Al Humairi	Assault	28/05/2022	Taiz
6	Anwar Al-Hauri	Assault	19/04/2022	Ma'rib
7	Abdul Hakim Al-Madda	Assault	05/04/2022	Taiz
8	Harith Hamid	Assault	10/03/2022	Sana'a
9	Abdul Khaliq Omran	Assault	10/03/2022	Sana'a
10	Tawfiq Al-Mansouri	Assault	10/03/2022	Sana'a
11	Abdul Aleem Dahlan	Assault	26/05/2022	Mar'ib
12	Fouad Al-Majidi	Assault	26/05/2022	Mar'ib
13	Hisham Al-Shubaily	Assault	08/06/2022	Mar'ib
14	Abu Bakr Hussein	Assault	05/06/2022	Shabwa

Khalil Al-Taweel (journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Belqis TV, Ma'rib Governorate
- **Type of Violation:** Assault
- **Date of Incident:** March 1, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** influential individuals



The crew of Belqis TV in Ma'rib Governorate were assaulted by an armed group while carrying out their work downtown. Gunmen on board a Toyota assaulted and insulted Khalil Al-Taweel and the other members of the crew. They were about to rob their work tools while filming a media report, had it not been for the intervention of some citizens.

Based on the MARSADAK team's contact with Al-Taweel ⁷, he confirmed that he was prevented from filming in the Jawlet Al-Sehha area while working on a television report on development in wartime. He said: "While filming, we were stopped by three people in civilian clothes who asked for our ID cards and licenses which we showed. We enquired about their identity and which party they belonged to, but then they assaulted us and attempted to rob our equipment. At that time, a few civilians at the scene of the incident intervened and took them to one of the city's departments, which in turn released them without any interrogation or action against them. This forced the crew to file another report with Al-Salam Police Department which led to their arrest. They apologised to the channel crew".

7 - MARSADAK team interviewed Al-Taweel, on March 2, 2022.

Abdul Khaliq Omran (journalist)

- **Occupation/Place of Work:** Editor-in-chief of Al-Islah Online Website
- **Date of Arrest:** June 9, 2015
- **Type of Violation:** arrest, enforced disappearance, torture, and death sentence
- **Date of the Recent Incident:** March 10, 2022, AD
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The Houthi group



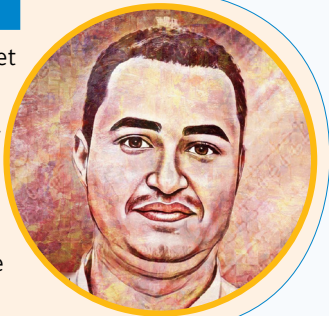
Harith Hamid (journalist)

- **Occupation/Place of Work:** Al-Masdar daily newspaper
- **Date of Arrest:** June 9, 2015
- **Type of Violation:** arrest, enforced disappearance, torture, and death sentence
- **Date of the Recent Incident:** March 10, 2022, AD
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The Houthi group



Tawfiq Al-Mansouri (journalist)

- **Occupation/Place of Work:** Al-Rabie Net
- **Date of Arrest:** June 9, 2015
- **Type of Violation:** arrest, enforced disappearance, torture, and death sentence
- **Date of the Recent Incident:** March 10, 2022, AD
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The Houthi group



The detained journalists' families reported to MARSADAK⁸ that their sons Abdul-Khaleq Omran, Tawfiq Al-Mansouri and Harith Hamid were severely assaulted and beaten in the Central Security Camp Prison, under the control of Abdul-Qadir Al-Murtada (Houthi leader and representative of the Houthi group in the negotiations of prisoners and detainees). This incident took place nearly two years after the Houthi Specialized Criminal Court (State Security) sentenced them to death in an unfair and politicized trial, not to mention the unconstitutionality and illegality of the court itself and its violation of international laws and covenants that guarantee journalists' freedom of opinion and expression.

The assault comes after news from local and foreign media about the conditions of journalists in Houthi prisons. The Houthi group accused the journalists' families of leaking this information after their last visit to the Central Security Prison in Sana'a.

The Houthi group refused to refer journalists to doctors after their physical and psychological health deteriorated as a result of the severe torture they went through during their detention, which began in June 2015 until today. The journalists are currently suffering from various types of diseases because of torture and deliberate medical neglect in the group's prisons.

Abeer Abdullah (journalist)

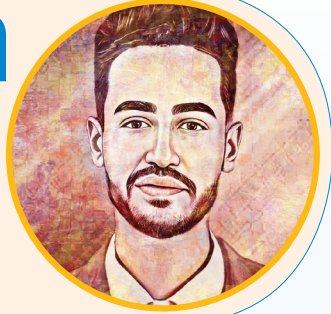
- **Profession/Place of Work:** Freelance journalist - Taiz
- **Type of Violation:** Assault
- **Date of Incident:** May 28, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** influential individuals



8 - MARSADAK team interviewed the journalists' families on March 11, 2022.

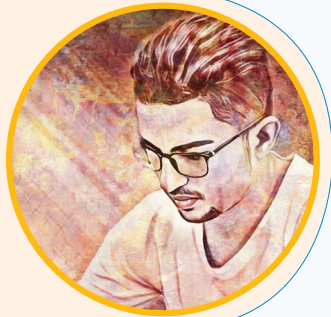
Wahb Al-Din Al-Awadi (journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Freelance journalist - Taiz
- **Type of Violation:** Assault
- **Date of Incident:** May 28, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** influential individuals



Abdullah Al-Humairi (photojournalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Freelance photojournalist - Taiz
- **Type of Violation:** Assault
- **Date of Incident:** May 28, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** influential individuals



In the morning of May 28, 2022, three journalists in Taiz governorate (Abeer Abdullah, Wahb Al-Din Al-Awadi and Abdullah Al-Hamairi) were assaulted and shot by armed men in civilian clothes in the centre of Taiz. The journalists confirmed to the MARSADAK ⁹ that they were attacked and directly shot by gunmen, in the Salh Humaira area in the centre of Taiz while filming press material for one of the satellite channels.

Journalist Abeer Abdullah said, “We were attacked for no apparent reason, despite the prior coordination with the concerned authorities and social figures in the area to work on filming an interview and footage with one of the residents of the area, in the presence of the neighbourhood head, but the gunmen attacked us and demanded our immediate departure.”

9 - MARSADAK team interviewed Abeer Abdullah on June 4, 2022.

MARSADAK contacted the neighbourhood head who confirmed the assault and explained that, on the following day, he and the journalists filed a complaint against the gunmen at Salh Police Station, but the perpetrators were not arrested.

Threat cases

Mishaal Al-Khubaji (journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist for the Ministry of Transport
- **Type of Violation:** Threat
- **Date of Incident:** February 1, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The General Authority for Regulating Land Transport Affairs



Mishaal Al-Khubaji (journalist) was harassed, threatened, and his contract with the General Authority for Regulating Land Transport Affairs was suspended. On February 6, 2022, the charge d'affaires of the authority, Ali Haidara Mahrouqi, issued an administrative order to arbitrarily dismiss Al-Khubaji on the background of his writing about financial corruption cases in the authority and the Ministry of Transport.

These practices, and many others, are increasing day after day against journalists and others who address or write about corruption in state institutions, although the validity of the published information is supported by official numbers and documents. "It is a state secret that should not be disclosed, and people should not know it," stated Al-Khubaji.

Ali Oweida (journalist)

- **Profession/place of work:** Anadolu Agency correspondent in Yemen
- **Type of Violation:** Threat
- **Date of Incident:** February 10, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Influential individuals



Ali Oweidah, Anadolu Agency correspondent in Yemen, received a death threat on the ground of publishing information about corruption in the oil and gas sector in the Ma'rib Governorate run by influential parties.

Oweidah, told us ¹⁰ that he had received notifications from people on the social networking site “Facebook” about a plan against his life by influential parties in the oil and gas sector, on the background of publishing information about corruption and nepotism in the sector. He added that this threat is the most serious in a series of responses and comments that call on him to refrain from talking about such corruption.

Bassam Alban (journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** General Manager of ojnet-yemen - Aden
- **Type of Violation:** Threat
- **Date of Incident:** March 4, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Unkown



Against the background of his journalistic work, Bassam Alban, head of the Voice of the People News website and general manager of the ojnet-yemen in Aden governorate, received several threatening messages on his Facebook page from a person named “Abdul Hamid Qassem Al-Dha’i”.

10 - MARSADAK team interviewed Oweida on June 4, 2022.

Alban said ¹¹, “On Friday, March 4, 2022, at about 10 PM, I received an explicit threat from an unknown person claiming to be affiliated with security agencies in Aden Governorate. He threatened to arrest me and restrict my freedom if I did not stop publishing and writing about matters related to security leaders. I do not know exactly which post angered him.”

Bassam filed a report with the Public Prosecutor and the security services about the threat he received, explaining, “I appealed to them to protect me and my family members. After looking for the person who threatened me in cooperation with the security services, it turned out that it was a fake name and account. It was also found out that other people had received threatening messages from the same account that amounted to killing in gruesome ways.

Trials and court rulings against journalists

The controlling authorities in Yemen are resorting to the judiciary as one of the tools to suppress media freedom and to issue political sentences that do not meet the fair trial standards. Journalists in Yemen face trials for what they publish and received rulings by non-specialized or illegal courts.

Legal support

Through a group of lawyers who are ready to defend journalists, MARSADAK provides all kinds of legal support to journalists and media personnel who are subjected to violations and harassment in connection with their journalistic work. Legal support includes providing legal advice related to carrying out the press duties and in case journalists face legal issues in addition to allocating a lawyer in cases pending against journalists before the courts.

[Click here to submit a request for legal support.](#)

Nabil Al-Sadawi (journalist)

- **Place of work:** Director of the Yemeni News Agency, Saba - Sana'a
- **Type of Violation:** Arrest and Prosecution
- **Date of arrest:** September 21, 2015
- **Ruling date:** February 22, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The Houthi group



Nabil Al-Sadawi, one of the journalists of the Yemeni news agency, Saba, in the capital, Sana'a, was arrested by the Houthi group on September 21, 2015, through the security and intelligence services (formerly Political Security). During his arrest, he faced enforced disappearance and physical and moral torture. Despite the Public Prosecution's directive to refer him to a doctor due to the pain he suffered in the back and lower spine as a result of the torture and beatings he faced, the prison management refrained from carrying out the order.

Nearly four years after the arrest of Al-Sadawi, he was referred to the Specialized Criminal Prosecution (State Security), which is not concerned with press and publishing issues. The prosecution, in turn, referred him to the Criminal Court on July 2, 2019

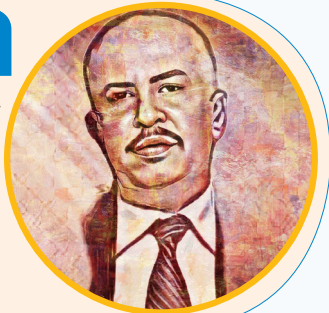
In the session held on February 22, 2022, the court convicted the journalist of the accusation of forming an armed gang and communicating with the aggression forces. He received a ruling of eight (8) year imprisonment and was ordered to be placed under police supervision for three years. The ruling also included a directive to the concerned authorities to rehabilitate him culturally, behaviourally, intellectually, and educationally in cooperation with the Zakat and Endowments Authority.

According to the testimony of the lawyer of the detained journalists, Abdul Majeed Sabra, the clause: "rehabilitating him culturally, behaviourally, intellectually and educationally in cooperation with the Zakat and Endow-

ments Authority” is one of the oddest clauses of the ruling that Judge Muhammad Mufleh is keen to pronounce in many of his rulings despite its violation of the judiciary norms, the constitution, and the law. Moreover, it is connected to the nature of the political work of the Houthi group, which requires many segments of Yemeni society to take cultural and religious courses to implant the group’s beliefs and ideas in the community.”

Khalil Abdullah Al-Omari (journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Correspondent for the Lebanese Al-Manar TV channel in Sana’a
- **Type of Violation:** Trial
- **Date of Incident:** January 12, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The Houthi group



The Specialized Criminal Prosecution in Sana’a (State Security Prosecution) summoned Khalil Al-Omari, correspondent for the Lebanese Al-Manar TV channel in Sana’a, against the background of accusing the Ministry of Communications of being involved in smuggling calls to the Intelligence Service - Political Security

Al-Omari was accused of publishing information about the smuggling of international calls via optical fibres.

He was summoned by the criminal prosecution in the capital, Sana’, on charges of communicating with a foreign country. Al-Omari posted on his Facebook page that he had “important and complete information about major smuggling operations via optical fibres for international calls and that he got “the name and type of the system used in smuggling, the name of the importing local company, the identity of its manager, the name of the external supplier, and the identity of the local smuggling expert”.

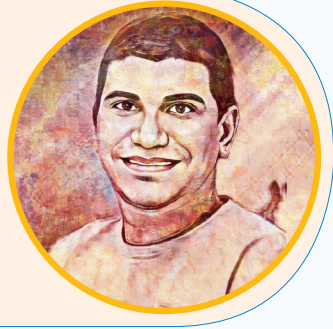
The Criminal Prosecution had previously summoned Al-Omari on July 12,

2021, on the same charge, and on July 20 of the same year, Kamel Al-Maamari (journalist) was arrested by the Political Security Service in connection with the same case.

Al-Maamari is a reporter for Al-Kawthar TV and Tehran Radio (broadcasting in Arabic).

Obeid Waked (journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist - Hadramout
- **Type of Violation:** Trial
- **Date of Incident:** May 30, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Yemen Oil Company, Hadramout Coast Branch



Obeid Waked is one of the journalists whose publishing case is still pending before the judiciary in Hadhra maut governorate.

Obeid said ¹², “I was summoned by the criminal investigation in the city of Mukalla on May 30, 2022, in a publishing case brought against me by the Yemeni Oil Company, the Hadhramaut Coast Branch, because of a previous post of mine. After completing the investigation, the director of criminal investigation in the Hadramout Security Department issued an order to arrest and detain me in prison with no legal grounds. Although I was interrogated and attended the investigations in accordance with the law, I was detained for more than 10 hours before being released on bail thanks to the pressure exercised by public opinion, journalists, activists, and officials.

Obaid added: “On June 9, 2022, the criminal investigation submitted my case to the Public Funds Prosecution who interrogated me and listened to my statements in two investigative sessions. The case is still pending before the Public Funds Prosecution until now.”

Awad Kashmim (Journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist - Hadramout
- **Type of Violation:** Trial
- **Date of Incident:** February 18, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Yemen Oil Company, Hadramout Coast Branch



On February 18, 2022, the Specialized Criminal Court in Hadhramaut Governorate issued a one-year suspended prison sentence against Awad Kashim (journalist), head of the Rights and Freedoms Committee in the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate in Hadramout, on the ground of what he published.

The security and judicial authorities began to crack down on many journalists, including Awad Kashmim, since 2017, when he was arrested on February 21, 2018, for publishing charges when he addressed the security campaign announced by the second military region led by the governor of Hadramout against Al-Qaeda elements. Al-Qaeda, Kashmim described the campaign as theatrical and media hype that lacks professionalism and credibility and serves external parties.

Media Organizations

No	Media organization	Type	Governorate	Violation type	Perpetrator	Current situation
1	Voice of emen	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	still off
2	Grand FM	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
3	First FM	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
4	Al-Diwan	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
5	Community Childhood	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
6	Delta	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
7	FM Colors	Radio	Father	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
8	Yemen Music	Radio	Father	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
9	Samara FM	Radio	Father	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
10	Yemen Youth	Satellite channel	Taiz	Break in and assault	Influential parties	The broadcast has not stopped

Private and community radio stations in Houthi-controlled areas face many challenges and difficulties, including security challenges such as threats of arrest, closure, and confiscation, not to mention other challenges related to the poor basic services such as electricity, internet, and others.

In the first half of the current year 2022, ten (10) local radio stations in the capital, Sana'a and Ibb governorate (controlled by the Houthi group) were arbitrarily stormed and the broadcast was suspended to restrict freedom of opinion and expression. As a result, the ten (10) radio stations (Voice of Yemen, Grand FM, Al-Oula FM, Community Childhood, Al-Diwan Radio, Delta FM, Yemen Music, and Samara FM) were required to pay sums of money and levies under several names.

It is known that the Houthi areas have become devoid of all independent, private, and partisan media outlets, except for those radio stations forced by the group to broadcast programs that serve the political orientations of the Houthi group.

MARSADAK obtained video clips documenting the moment armed men illegally stormed the radio stations and then sprayed paint on the surveillance cameras in order not to document the actions of the attackers, members of the Houthi group.

The directors of the radio stations confirm that they are trying to obtain licenses, but the Ministry of Information in the Houthi-controlled areas is deliberately obstructing the procedures with the aim of restricting the radio stations, despite their compliance with the policy of the Houthi group. They are also forcefully involved in media battles by broadcasting weekly programs on all radio stations against what they call aggression. It is a binding broadcast by the Houthi group.

Radio stations in those areas suffered from harassment for broadcasting songs and are forced to broadcast Houthi zamales (mobilizing chants with words that inflame the conflict and call for violence and hatred).

Voice of Yemen Radio

An armed group affiliated with the Ministry of Information in the Sana'a government and the Al-Nasr Police Department attacked and broke the doors of Voice of Yemen Radio and looted broadcasting and transmitting devices and other content, then left, leaving the doors open. This incident led to the suspension of the broadcast of the station, whose losses during the past six months were estimated at nearly 60 million riyals.

The storming and looting incident came after an urgent decision was issued by the Press Court in Sana'a, days before the attack, which allowed

the radio station to re-broadcast its content and not to be harassed by any government agency.

The radio station was stormed, looted, and its broadcasts suspended by armed men affiliated with the Ministry of Information and the Al-Nasr Police Department, despite a decision issued by the Press Court in Sana'a days before the attack that allowed it to re-broadcast its content and not to be harassed by any government agency.

The radio explained to MRSADAK by saying, "We only continued for four days after this decision, and then we were shocked by the assault, armed robbery and disrespect for the court's decision.

The spokesperson for the radio explains: "Voice of Yemen Radio was forced to resort to the judiciary after suspending its broadcast by the Ministry of Information on 25/1/ 2022. For nearly five months, we have been trying to review and comply with the ministry's regulations, but all our attempts were rejected."

He added: "The radio broadcast has been suspended for six months, incurring financial losses amounting to 25 million riyals until the date of obtaining a judicial decision to resume broadcasting. These losses include employee salaries, building rentals and the loss of advertised customers, not to mention the loss of the Ramadan season, which is the most important annual event. The losses multiplied significantly when the Ministry of Information looted radio transmitters, whose value is estimated at thirty-five (35) million riyals. The losses of the radio reached sixty (60) million riyals, subject to a monthly increase due to the radio's cessation of broadcasting.

Journalists still behind bars¹³

No	Name	Date of arrest	No of days behind bars ¹⁴	Current place of detention	Violation place
1	Waheed Al-Soufi	2015/04/30	days 2618	Sana'a	Houthi group
2	Abdul Khaliq Omran	2015/06/09	days 2578	Sana'a	Houthi group
3	Tawfiq Al-Mansouri	2015/06/09	days 2578	Sana'a	Houthi group
4	Akram Al-Walidy	2015/06/09	days 2578	Sana'a	Houthi group
5	Harith Hamid	2015/06/09	days 2578	Sana'a	Houthi group
6	Mohammed Al-Salahi	2018/10/20	days 1349	Sana'a	Houthi group
7	Nabil Al-Soudi	2015/9/21	days 2474	Sana'a	Houthi group
8	Younes Abdul Salam	2021/08/03	days 331	Sana'a	Houthi group
9	Mohammad Ali Al-Junaid	2019/02/23	days 1223	Hodeidah	Houthi group
10	Walid Al-Matari	2020/06/20	days 740	Father	Houthi group
11	Mohammed Al-Hatami	2018/10/04	days 1365	Hodeidah	Houthi group
12	Mohammed Al-Muqri	2015/10/12	days 2453	Hadramout	Al-Qaida organization
13	Khalid Abdul Rahman	2022/02/19	days 131	Sana'a	Houthi group
14	Nabil Sultan	2022/02/19	days 131	Sana'a	Houthi group

The MARSADAK in Yemen is a monitoring and information platform that aims to publish everything related to freedom of opinion and expression in various Yemeni regions professionally and independently, in addition to analyzing and advocating for journalists' issues at the local and international levels.

¹³ - Until June 30, 2022

¹⁴ - From the date of the arrest until 30 June 2022



Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC) is one of the Civil society organizations that works on economic field, awareness and promote the economic issues transparency, good governance and participated citizens in decision-making. Also, It works to find a professional media

<https://economicmedia.net/>







Yemen Media Freedoms Observatory (MARSADAK) is a monitoring and information platform aimed at disseminating all matters relating to freedoms of opinion and expression in various Yemeni regions in a professional and independent manner, as well as, analyzing and advocating for journalists' issues at the local and international levels.

<https://marsadak.org/>

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