

In October, Seven Media Activist Killed, Five Kidnapped and Arrested, and Six Injured

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373 media activist have been killed from the beginning of the Syrian revolution until the end of October.

Abstract

- Violations against media activist for this month are distributed as follows:
- Killing: SNHR documented the killing of seven media activists as follows:
 - The Syrian regime: killed six media activists including one media activist who died under torture inside the Syrian regime detention centers.
 - Extremist armed groups: ISIS killed one media activist.
 - Arresting and kidnapping: five cases of kidnapping and arresting were recorded: three by armed opposition factions, one by Asayish forces affiliated to the Kurdish party PYD, and one by Jabhat al-Nusra
- Injuries: five injuries were documented, all by regime forces.

Introduction

A situation of media mess is emerging and dominating the media scene in Syria. This situation appears significantly through the number of contradictory information about the prominent events and violations along the country, lack of reliable sources, incidents blackout or even blocking it, and the difficulty of reaching it; especially in ISIS-controlled areas, that it imposes in a situation of terrifying and frightening about professional and independent media work. Although these areas' do not exceed 40% of Syria, those darkness area are extending to other areas, which are under the control of regime and the authority of other armed parties in the war; though there is a divergent range of violations biased to the Syrian regime and ISIS.

We can say that the deteriorating security conditions and the ongoing crimes and violations against media activists at the hands of the armed parties, are the most notable challenges and obstacle that the media field is facing today in Syria. These challenges prevent the media work from keeping up with the complicated and rapid developments on different levels. Furthermore, it resulted in negatively affecting the performance of the media to do its functional and active role in observing incidents and news and publishing it.

To imagine the size of the disaster hitting the Syrian media field, we find that most of the active media powers failed to rise the media as a civil-institution. Therefore, it failed in achieving the minimum limit of its tasks; but the most prominent characteristic in media propaganda is disrupting the audience, conflict in visions, and converting these messages to psychological war serves the interests and policies of the armed powers that support and finance. Thus, most of the information was found to be misleading and lacks reliability, accuracy, objectivity, and neutrality, which entered the country into real media crisis.

All of that face us in front of a situation of sick static in the media field right now; especially under the law of jungle and weapon, where the word is politicized and the news is directed according to the stronger interests, which forbids the existence of a healthy environment where media democracy and plurality are being applied freely.

As we face this harsh reality that lacks the foundations, whom a free professional media needs to function, and the results of hiding the truth, silencing mouths, and obscure facts, SNHR affirms the necessity of taking serious and immediate actions to save what could be saved of media activism in Syria and renews its condemnation of all the violations against media's freedom and truth-covering regardless of the involved parties and its kind or magnitude. SNHR also stresses the importance of respecting media work, insuring the safety of those who are working in that vital field, and paying them special consideration. The perpetrators of violations against journalists, activists, and media activists must be brought to justice and the International Community, represented by the Security Council, should shoulder its responsibilities to protect the civilians in Syria.

Details

Violations by Syrian regime and its allied militias:

Victims

Starting with the most notable violation: killing of the media activist Abd al-Haleem Abd al-Razzaq Barboor under torture in Branch 215, on 17 October. He was arrested on 17 October 2012 from the al-Aykardah checkpoint near Aleppo.

The Syrian regime killed also the following media activists:

Journalist Taj ad-Deen al-Sghayer by popular committees affiliated to the regime in Tishreen neighborhood in Damascus where his body was found decomposed while scanning the buildings which were controlled by them (30 September), manager of The Media Center in Jasim City: Marwan Mohamad al-Shahadat by targeting the center with a rocket shot by regime forces from one of the city mosques (3 October), Natheer Mahmood as-Sa'adi by regime bullets while its attempts to enter food to the besieged town of Deer al-Adas in Deraa countryside (5 October), Ata Allah Bahbooj (Abu Daneil al-Hoorany) with his injuries in Jordan after being injured critically in the head by shelled mortars from regime forces in Deraa al-Balad in Deraa city (15 October), and Bilal al-Masri by targeting the Syrian regime al-Waa'ar neighborhood in Homs with two ground-ground rockets (15 October).

The following media activists were injured by the Syrian regime

Sham News Network (SNN) correspondent: Majid Abd al-Noor while covering events in Sayfat area in Aleppo (8 October), Mohamad Falooji while covering events in Deraa al-Mahatta in Deraa (11 October), Abdallah an-Nawawi by regime bullets while covering events around Om al-Mayathen in Deraa countryside (17 October), Yaqeen Foundation correspondent: Mohammad Naqawa by regime bullets while covering events in the eastern countryside of Deraa, and Emad Abu Aqeel by targeting the Media Center in as-Sheikh Meskeen in Deraa countryside with a directed rocket from the Syrian regime warplanes (23 October).

The following media activists were arrested and kidnapped by the Syrian regime:

Yakiti Media Site media activist: Bawar Malla Ahmad by People Protection forces, the armed party of PYD, in Qamishli city in al-Hasakah governorate (11 October).

On the other hand, the author and poet Waddah Azzam was released after the investigation judge in the terror court stated his release on 28 September after he was arrested from his house by the State Security forces on 11 December 2012. It was transferred to the terror court on 28 March 2013 before he was taken to Adra Central Prison.

B. Violations perpetrated by groups fighting against the Syrian regime

Starting with the most notable crime: the killing of the media activist: Ahmad al-Asma'i by ISIS forces in Arraqa city. They arrested him since the beginning of the year. ISIS told his family by his death on 1 October. When his family demanded his body, ISIS personnel told them he was buried in a mass graveyard on the borders of the city on 18 September 2014.

Injuries

Orient TV station correspondent: Zaki al-Idilbi by his killing attempt by planting a bomb in his car by unknown group on 29 September in Binnish in Idlib countryside. Al-Idilbi was injured with many injuries including one in the chine and he was transferred to a field-hospital to be treated.

Kidnapping

Omar al-Dimashqi from eastern Ghouta by one of the armed opposition factions accused by calling international coalition forces to shell the Islamic faction of al-Ansar in Ghouta on his personal profile (24 October), Aleppo News correspondent: Walid al-Qasem by the Courthouse in Hreetan in Aleppo countryside which is affiliated to one of the armed opposition faction (12 October) when he was coming back from the northern countryside of Aleppo with Fajr al-Horryea personnel where they were arrested; while the Courthouse claims it set them free and doesn't recognize them with and al-Qasem was not checked where he is or kidnapped him, Siraj Press correspondent: Khaled Khalaf by an armed faction affiliated to the armed opposition in at-Trenbeh affiliated to Saraqeb in Idlib countryside (12 October) to inquest him with a security issue is not related with journalism as Khaled identified on his personal profile after he was arrested on 22/10/2014, and Jawdan Malas in Maa'ret an-No'man in Idlib countryside by armed personnel affiliated to Jabhat al-Nusra (28 October).

Properties violations

Masked armed personnel broke into a media office in Sayf al-Dawla in the rebel-held Aleppo on 25 October. They seized computers and internet devices without violation any media activists in the office then.

Appendixes and Attachments

Pictures and video footages of the media activist included in this report:

Victims, injuries, and kidnapped by government forces and its allied militias:

Journalist Taj ad-Deen as-Sghayer

Abd al-Haleem Barboor

Marwan Mohamad as-Shahadat

Ata Allah Bahbooj

**Author and poet
Waddah Azzam**

Mohamad Falooji

Bilal al-Masri

Bawar Mulla Ahmad

Victims and kidnapped by armed groups:

Ahmad al-Asma'ai

Omar al-Dimashqi

**Halab News correspondent
Walid al-Qasim**

Jawdat Malas

Journalist Khaled Khalaf

Zaki al-Idilbi

Acknowledgment

Our thanks and apperception go to the victims' families and their relatives whose valuable contribution helped us substantially to finish this report on this level, and our sincere consolations to the victims' families.

