

# Impersonating a journalist: Toward a new enrolment law for the syndicate of journalists (Policy paper)



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## Executive Summary.

The significance of Syndicate of journalists is that it's a legal frame in which journalists take shelter. It is supposed to defend them and their issues, but the current law of the syndicate (law no 76 of the year 1970) and the implementation of its executive regulation prevent this protection. The current law puts many obstacles for journalists to join the syndicate as the law sets conditions such as that a journalist should be a professional who owns a journalist archive, and should be a permanent journalist in a newspaper. Those conditions are very difficult due to the severe economic circumstances of Press institutions in the country, instead of that, journalism depends regularly on freelancer journalists. A huge contradiction also can be found in this law and its terms. The main contradiction in this law is that it only lets senior's journalists to be registered and punishes juniors for practicing their career. It charges them for impersonation of a journalist, which could lead to a year in jail or a 300 EGP fine or both sentences.

The problem gets more complicated with online journalists, who work for websites and other online media outlets. While International newspapers like the "independent" are allowed to publish online, the law demands journalists in Egypt to be working in a printed outlet approved by the supreme council for media regulation (SCM). Thus, it can be easily said, that the law can't keep up with the changes in the journalism industry.

On the other hand the law also requires that the news outlet in which the journalist is working at, to have no work related problems. The syndicate doesn't register the journalists who work in institutions that violate the code of ethics of journalism, or when there is a conflict on the property of the institution. The law also prevents the journalist who works in an institution that didn't pay the legal fees of establishment in the syndicate account from being registered. Also the syndicate requires a certain number of employees for each newspaper that shouldn't be exceeded. It makes no sense that a journalist should pay the price for the institution's administrative faults. The role of the syndicate should be to protect journalists not to put burdens on institutions' shoulders with complicated registration procedures.

As a result of these problems and the obvious contradiction found in the law, there have been at least 12 journalists charged with “impersonation of a journalist” in the past 3 years. Some of them worked more than 10 years in journalism.

So the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media (EOJM) seeks now to find solution to this contradiction in the rules of law with a new draft law for registration procedures in the syndicate. In order to write this draft we have held more than 10 internal seminars to discuss the current law and make suggestions about a new law. After that we conducted 4 focus group discussions with more than 50 journalists to present the first draft and make changes on it upon the journalists’ discussions, and suggestions that could be applicable.

The philosophy of the draft we made relied on guaranteeing an umbrella that protects all the journalists, legalizing their work to prevent the usage of the infamous charge of “impersonating a journalist”, also to protect all journalists working in the field, whether they work in printed or online outlets.

We have a parody, in which every journalist that is registered in the syndicate can have certain guarantees provided to him. All the journalists that are not registered have all the risks that might come with the practising journalism in such a country as Egypt, they are more likely to get charged with “impersonating a journalist”. After discussions we came up with the following suggestion. We suggested that we should develop a new sub roster which would be called the “Current practicing Journalists Sub Roster” which would include all the working persons in the field of journalism, even if they are not enrolled in the syndicate. Those journalists registered to that sub roster would act like a middle ground between professional registered journalists and non-registered journalists in the syndicate, they wouldn’t get the financial benefits but would have all the legal benefits.

Other current sub rosters in the law like “Apprentice journalists”, “unemployed” or “affiliated” should have the benefits of full membership and also the obligations of registered journalists. The registration articles in the syndicate law no 76 -1970, from article number 4 to 20, we suggest that 12 articles should be amended, an article should be abolished, 4 articles should stay as they are, and one article should be added.

The registration executive regulation (31 articles), we suggest that modify 22 articles should be amended, 4 articles should be abolished and 5 articles should stay as they are.

In 17th of September 1970, the former president Nasser ratified the law no 79 for the establishment of Syndicate of journalists. The law was intended to defend journalists' rights and guarantee the Journalists' freedom so they can properly perform their duty, it should have worked as a guarantee to those journalists especially in cases of sickness, dismissal, and disability. Also the law was intended to ensure the full commitment of the syndicate to find jobs for journalists and also commitment to provide better economic circumstances for them.

After five decades from its issuance, the law showed less flexibility toward the developments in the journalism career on both political and legal level. And less flexibility towards the changes in the nature of journalism itself on the technological level. So there is an urgent need for amendments to the law because of its inability to cope with the political and technological changes. The law also violates the constitution and other regulations concerning the journalism field. The current law has also many contradictions which hinder the development of journalism. Due to these unfair conditions made by the law, the un-united journalists are more likely to get charged at any time.

There is an urgent need for a new syndicate law to reform the disadvantages made by the current one, and also solve its contradictions. This new law will have to solve these problems concerning the ununited journalists and provide an umbrella under which all journalists can perform their duty and have the right of free expression.

# Introduction

The importance of the syndicate is that it is the organization which provides the protection for journalists, defend them and their causes. But the law that regulates the registration of new journalists to the syndicate and its implementation regularly prevents them from being legally registered, although it is supposed to provide protection for them. The law doesn't provide adequate conditions for joining the syndicate. For Example, article 5 and 7 of the current law, requires the journalist to have a regular full time job and have a journal archive. This- normally- requires to practice journalism before actually get in the process of registration in the syndicate. To be registered in the apprentice sub roster in the syndicate the journalist must do 3 months of press work in the institution which he works in (article 23 – implementation regulatory). This shows a major contradiction in this law, as the same law restricts the work in the newspapers without being registered in the syndicate sub rosters, also the law restricts the owners and the chief editors of newspapers (article 103) from hiring any journalist that is not registered in the sub rosters. The law punishes any person who is conducting journalism activities without being registered with at most a year presentment and 300 EGP or both penalties. These conditions make the junior journalists more vulnerable to exploitation by their bosses. These bosses use the policy of procrastination so they won't pay full salaries and insurance contributions, and of course the minimum wage in the Egyptian law. They exploit the need for work and the scarcity of new journalism jobs to make the journalists suffer of severe economic conditions, these junior journalists who are also vulnerable to be charged with the common charge of "impersonating a journalist "



## Problem.

The problem gets more complicated with online journalism, the syndicate refuses to acknowledge the online websites journalists. So any paper or website which have no printed edition is not acknowledged officially by the syndicate. Although the Egyptian constitution (article 70) acknowledged the establishment and owning of online newspapers, and the law no 180 – 2018 for regulating press and media acknowledged it in its first article, but the syndicate law still refuses to register these journalists. The law still demands a paper journalistic archive as a condition to be enrolled in the syndicate sub rosters. These conditions prevents many online journalists from being registered(1) .

As a result to this problematic contradictions in the law, at least 12 journalists were charged by “impersonating a journalist “in the last 3 years. Among them are journalists who worked for more than 10 years in journalism. Thus the significance of the paper is to identify these contradictions in the current law, through that we can make suggestion for a new draft. The aim of the draft is to provide the legal and financial protection for journalists to be make them more able to perform their duties. The draft should be presented to the syndicate council and the judiciary committee in the serving Egyptian parliament.

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1- law no 76 for the year 1970, on the link

<http://www.ejs.org.eg/pdf/%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B1%D9%82%D9%85%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9%201970.pdf> 76

<http://www.ejs.org.eg/images/1.docx>

**The paper is divided into the following sections:**

- I. Vision.
- II. The philosophy of the suggested law draft.
- III. The legal basis for media and press freedom in the international charters and Egyptian constitution.
- IV. Critical review of the law no 76 of the year 1970 and executive regulation.
- V. The Institutions entitled by the implementation of the law.
- VI. New draft.
- VII. New implementation regulatory draft.
- VIII. Conclusion & Recommendations.

# 1- Vision.

- Fair enrolment conditions for all the working journalists in different journalism platforms
- Expanding the legal definition of journalists in law so It will be more consistent with the international standards

## 2- The philosophy of the suggested law draft.

The philosophy of the draft relies on establishing a more cohesive framework to protect the journalists from arbitrary actions, this framework should prevent the “ impersonating journalist ” charge from existence, and should make the online journalists more protected and have the same rights as the printed newspaper ones(2) .

We found ourselves in front of a paradox, every journalist that is enrolled in the syndicate has certain guarantees that the syndicate provides him, but all the journalists that are not enrolled have all the risks that come with practicing journalism in a country such as Egypt, they are more than likely to get charged with “ impersonating a journalist(3) ” . After discussions we came up with a philosophy that makes balance between both. It won't give all journalists complete privileges, especially short -time journalists, but still it provides them legal protection. We came up with a new sub roster that we call ‘practicing journalists “which should include all persons willing to join the journalism field. The enrolled journalists in this sub roster are supposed to get all the legal protection but won't get the financial benefits given to professional employed registered journalists. The main purpose for this sub roster is to legally protect journalists so they couldn't be charged with “impersonating a journalist”.

Other current syndicate sub rosters such as “apprentice sub roster “, “journalism related “, and the “ un employed journalists” should be treated as a full membership, with all rights and duties given by the syndicate. The draft also is consistent with the Egyptian constitution, and international charters of press freedom. We also maintained a full attention to what the current law should include, especially its consistency with the developments in the journalism industry.

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2- supreme council for regulating media, the law, on the link <http://scm.gov.eg/>

3- law no 76, PR

### 3- The legal basis for media and press freedom in the international charters and Egyptian constitution.

There is no specific definition of the “journalist” on the international level, except for the “The International Convention on the safety of journalists and media staff independency” which defines the journalist as (Any person who contributes regularly in the process of gathering information, editing, and publishing it to an audience with any media outlet. This should include photographers, editors, translators, publishers, anchors and those who works in distributing(4) . This is considered a broad definition of journalism, and suppose to protect the right of expressing. Below, we will review the Freedom of the press and media in International laws and conventions(5) .

#### **1. The legal basis for the freedom of press and media at the international and regional levels.**

The UN assembly early recognized freedom of obtaining information, in 1946 resolution the UN General Assembly states that: “Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and is the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated(6).

Freedom of obtaining information implies the right to gather, transmit and publish news anywhere and everywhere without letters. As such it is an essential factor in any serious effort to promote the peace and progress of the world” Freedom of obtaining information requires - as an indispensable element - the willingness and capacity to employ its privileges without abuse. It requires as a basic discipline the moral obligation to seek the facts without prejudice and to spread knowledge without malicious intent”.

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4- International convention of journalist safety and independency, on the link <http://www.ifj-arabic.org/page-ifj-691.html>

5- international conventions for journalism safety , on the link <http://www.ifj-arabic.org/page-ifj-691.html>

6- universal declaration of human rights on the link <https://bit.ly/2hrKTAM>

Also in article 19 of the universal declaration of human rights which stated that “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”.

The international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Article 19 stated that “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice”.

There were farther confirmations in freedom of press and media, also about its relevance to promote development. So, the UNESCO Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, apartheid and incitement to war declares in article 2 that “The exercise of freedom of opinion, expression and information, recognized as an integral part of human rights and fundamental freedoms, is a vital factor in the strengthening of peace and international understanding. Also stated that “access by the public to information should be guaranteed by the diversity of the sources and means of information available to it, thus enabling each individual to check the accuracy of facts and to appraise events objectively. To this end, journalists must have freedom to report and the fullest possible facilities of access to information. Similarly, it is important that the mass media be responsive to concerns of peoples and individuals, thus promoting the participation of the public in the elaboration of information.”

Also the Johannesburg principles 1995 confirmed that, lastly The Camden principles 2009 on freedom of expression and equality which is considered a progressive interpretation for international standards of international law. It stated in the principle two that “states should ensure that the right to freedom of opinion and expression, through any medium of communication, including the right to information, is enshrined in domestic constitutional provisions or their equivalent, in accordance with international human rights law. (7)”

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7- Camden principles on freedom of press , on the link <https://bit.ly/2wt310I>

**On the regional level, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights Article 9 stated that:**

"Every individual shall have the right to receive information. Every individual shall have the right to express and disseminate his opinions within the law".

Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam states in article 22 that "Everyone shall have the right to express his opinion freely in such manner as would not be contrary to the principles of the Sharia"(8)

The the African Declaration Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa which African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted in 2002 stated that " Freedom of expression and obtaining information, including the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other form of communication, including across frontiers, is a fundamental and inalienable human right and an indispensable component of democracy. And everyone shall have an equal opportunity to exercise the right to freedom of expression and to access information without discrimination(9) .

The Arab charter for human rights 2004 also stated freedom of expression as a right as article 32 confirms on the right of free express, and the right to get news and ideas and pass it to others without consideration of geographical borders .(10)

In conclusion all the international conventions, charters confirmed on the right of expression, Freedom of obtaining information imply the right to gather, transmit and publish news anywhere and everywhere, as it is an essential factor in any serious effort to promote the peace and progress of the world.

## **2- Freedom of press and media in the Egyptian constitution**

The Egyptian constitution guarantees the freedom of press and expression, in article 65 "Freedom of thought and opinion is guaranteed. All individuals have the right to express their opinion through speech, writing, imagery, or any other means of expression and publication. Also in article 70, it stated that "Freedom of press and printing, along with paper, visual, audio and digital distribution is guaranteed. Egyptians whether natural or legal persons, public

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8- Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, on the link <https://bit.ly/2wt3l0l>

9- The Resolution on the Adoption of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa which African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, on the link <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arab/a005.html>

10- Resolution , PR , <https://bit.ly/2sCGyYHt>

or private have the right to own and issue newspapers and establish visual, audio and digital media outlets. Newspapers may be issued once notification is given as regulated by law. The law shall regulate ownership and establishment procedures for visual and radiobroadcast stations in addition to online newspapers(11) .

The Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt also tended to demonstrate that right in its relevant rulings, which confirms on constitutional and legal frames that is related to freedom of expression as a whole. It confirms on the right to criticize public servants, and the inclusive nature of that right to all the Egyptian citizens(12) .

Also, the supreme constitutional court certifies this rights in all of its rulings, which also compels other legal and constitutional principles concerning freedom of press and expression. The court confirms on the right of public critical attitude within journalism. The supreme constitutional court also stated that there shouldn't be any restrictions on opinions of citizens and publishing it(13) .

Also stated that, this freedom is essential to democratic regime, not intended to self-declaration but to react the truth through the diversified flow of information. Also stated that all opinions should be presented in a free atmosphere which may or may be the same, but should all exist so that all people should decide what is true and what is wrong. Also the supreme constitutional court stated that the constitutional protection of freedom of expression is intended to reach the public truth and deliver accountability (14).

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11- Egyptian constitution, on the link <http://www.sis.gov.eg/section/35/7482?lang=ar>

12- Egyptian constitution, PR

13- Camden principles on freedom of press , on the link <https://bit.ly/2wt3l0l>

14- case no 42 for year 16 ( judicial year ) , supreme constitutional court.



## 4- Critical review of the law no 76 of the year 1970 and executive regulation.

There are many problems within the current law, this brings major contradictions for the framework of journalism in Egypt, making the journalists more likely to be charged with “impersonating a journalist”, and the most important contradictions are:

### **A: Inadequacy of the law to the current political and social status**

The law was issued under Nasser’s era, while Egypt was in unity with Syria, which could explain its regular mention of “socialist Arab union” and the ministry of “guidance” as stated in article 4, which obligates the enrollment committee to send a copy of its sub rosters to the union and the ministry. Article 13 also demands the opinion of the union to the new journalists who are suggested to be enrolled and registered to the syndicate. Article 16 demands the council of the syndicate to inform its final decision to the Socialist Arab Union within two weeks.

The big question is where is the socialist Arab union? And where is the ministry of “guidance” right now? These entities are history, they don’t exist anymore. But yet they are still stated in the law, as the law didn’t develop since that era. And there is major political and social changes that should have been included by now.

### **B: The inadequacy of the law with the technological changes in the industry**

While the international press is getting in online totally and abandoning printing, the law still refuses to enroll online journalists. Which prevents many journalists from getting the syndicate’s legal protection.

### **C: The paradox of which comes first: journalism practice or being registered in the syndicate**

Which comes first? If anyone tries to have an answer, he will find a great paradox. The law demands the journalist to practice journalism (article 5) and have a journalistic archive (article 7) and should be appointed to a press institution. All of these conditions requires the practice of journalism before joining the syndicate. On the other hand there is punishment for impersonation of a journalist to all those who are not enrolled in the syndicate!

#### **D: Dependency of journalists on the institution.**

There is a paradox of a link established by the law, in which it sets a condition on the syndicate not to accept any journalist from any paper that have financial or administrative issues or a legal case on the property of the newspaper. Article 15 and 114 of the law demand the paper to pay 1% of advertisement revenue to syndicate, and article 17 of the current law demands the council to not approve any journalist in a newspaper doesn't pay this fees regularly. Or committed a violation of misconduct repeatedly.

All this problems is not directly related to journalists, it's the institutions, so it is not reasonable for journalists to pay the price for the institution's faults. The main task of the syndicate should be to ensure journalist's rights and protect them from abusive institutions not to prevent journalists' enrolment.

#### **C: A limited number of members from each newspaper should be accepted every year.**

Article 9 in the executive regulation states that "the number of accepted journalists from daily newspapers issued editions should not exceed 30 journalists per year, from weekly newspapers issued editions only 15 and from monthly issued editions only 5 journalists to be registered every year. And for the first time issued newspapers, daily issued editions might register 60 journalists and 30 for weekly issued editions and 15 for monthly issued editions. Also the law authorized the council to suspend any newspaper from registering its journalists when the number exceeds what is determined by the law.

All these factors and conditions makes the current law a problematic one, this should be solved by the new draft we present. The need for a new law, makes it urgently required to amend it or change it to guarantee the freedom of press and journalists.

## 5- The institutions entitled with the implementation of the law

A: Syndicate of journalists.

B: Supreme council for media regulating.

C: The legislative committee in the Egyptian parliamentary.

## 6- A new proposal for the articles of registration under the law of the Journalist's Syndicate No. 76 of 1970.

In this section, we propose substitute articles that should replace the current registration articles provided in the journalist's syndicate law; we divided the page into three main parallel sections. In The first part, we present the current form of the articles in the Press Syndicate Law No. 76 of 1970 and In the second section we present the suggested form of the amendments needed, And in the third section we provide the reasons for the suggested form of those amendments.

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Proposal for adding a new Article by the number of 4 (a)	New material added	The term 'press', in the application of the provisions of the present law, shall hereby construed to mean any work in the press organizations (i.e., a press agency) whether this work is regular, irregular or professional in collecting, preparing and disseminating the information to the public through any means of public communication.	A new definition of "press work" based on article 4 and 5 of this law was added, taking into account that its extents should be broaden to refer to all practitioners in various disciplines that might be considered as journalistic work

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 4	<p>Article 4 : A Master Roster shall be prepared and produced, and shall include the names of journalists. A number of sub-rosters shall be created and attached to the Master Roster. Journalists shall be assigned to specific sub-rosters, according to their professional status category, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employed Journalists</li> <li>▪ Unemployed Journalists</li> <li>▪ Affiliated Journalists</li> <li>▪ Apprentice Journalists (under apprenticeship programs)</li> </ul> <p>Both the Master Roster and sub-rosters shall be entrusted with the Registration Committee stipulated under Article Thirteen (13) of the present Law. The said Committee shall undertake to provide copies of the master roster and sub-rosters to the Arab Socialist Federation and the Ministry of National Guidance.</p>	<p>A Master Roster shall be prepared and produced, and shall include the names of Journalists. A number of sub-rosters shall be created and attached to the Master Roster. Journalists shall be assigned to specific sub-rosters, according to their professional status category, as follows:</p> <p>Employed Journalists Unemployed Journalists Affiliated Journalists Apprentice Journalists (under apprenticeship programs) Press work practitioners</p> <p>The table and sub-tables shall be entrusted to the Registration Committee provided for in Article 13 of this Law.</p>	<p>A more conclusive Master Roster for press practitioners has been created, which includes an added section for all those who wish to practice the profession in order to ensure that they all fall within the Syndicate's protection scope.</p> <p>The purpose of establishing this schedule is to provide legitimacy and syndicate's protection for those who are registered in it to enable them to practice journalism, under this section, however, they won't enjoy the same benefits provided by the syndicate to employed Journalists.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 5	<p>Registration of journalists in the respective master roster and sub-rosters shall hereby require the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Applicant journalists shall serve and act as a professional employee; and may not be a sole proprietor, a co-proprietor, or a shareholder of a newspaper-trade organization or a news agency operating in the United Arab Republic.</li> <li>▪ Applicant journalists shall be nationals/ citizens of the United Arab Republic.</li> <li>▪ Applicant journalists shall be of a good reputation; may not have been previously convicted or sentenced in a dishonorable or notorious criminal act; felony or misdemeanor; and, may not have been removed from the Syndicate Roster for reasons jeopardizing or compromising their integrity.</li> <li>▪ Applicant journalists shall hold a university degree.</li> </ul>	<p>Registration of journalists in the respective master roster and sub-rosters shall hereby require the following:</p> <p>(A) Applicant journalists shall hold a university degree, If the degree he holds is associated with the press work; he shall be directly registered as an apprentice journalist.</p> <p>(B) Applicant journalists shall be practicing journalism in one of the press outlets on Regular basis.</p> <p>(C) Applicant journalists shall be nationals/ citizens of the Arab Republic of Egypt.</p> <p>(D) Applicant journalists shall be of a good reputation; may not have been previously convicted or sentenced in a dishonorable or notorious criminal act; felony or misdemeanor with a final judgment; and, may not have been removed from the Syndicate Roster for Reasons jeopardizing or compromising their integrity.</p> <p>(E) The Master Roster shall include all press practitioners who falls within the scope of press work definition, who do not meet the conditions of registration as an apprentice journalist. A journalist shall only enjoy the privileges of the syndicate's membership form the date he is registered as an apprentice journalist</p>	<p>First, an article that grants the right to be registered directly in the syndicate for graduates of the press departments at universities and institutes was added, to guarantee that those graduates would fall with in the scope of the syndicate's protection while performing their jobs and as a normal outcome for being a press department graduate who studied the subject matter.</p> <p>Second, A condition was imposed upon those who are graduates of other departments or universities not related to press rather than the ones referred to in the previous article, and wish to register in the syndicate that they should be a press practitioner in one of the newspapers or websites in order to guarantee his eligibility for registration in the syndicate.</p> <p>Third, the Master Roster has been developed to include all those who wish to practice Journalism in order to ensure that the scope of the syndicate's protection and privileges includes all practitioners.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 6	<p>An applicant journalist shall hereby be deemed and classed as 'employed', if and when s/he shall fulfil any of the following employment provisions or arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journalists who engage in a regular paid employment in the field of journalism, whether in a daily or a periodical newspaper published, within the territory of the United Arab Republic, or otherwise, in a domestic or foreign news agencies operating the UAR, for which the respective journalists shall receive a regular and fixed remuneration, and provided that they shall not engage in another trade or profession.</li> <li>Translator-editors, reviewer-editors, editors, illustrators, illustrator-editors, and calligrapher-editor, who shall fulfil the requirements provided for under Articles Five and Seven, of the present Law, on the date of their registration.</li> <li>Journalists, who receive regular and fixed remuneration, whether they operate in the United Arab Republic or elsewhere, provided that they may not engage in non-media trade or profession, and that they meet the eligibility requirements established under Articles Five and Seven, on the date of their registration</li> </ul>	<p>An applicant journalist shall hereby be deemed and classed as 'employed', if and when . Journalists who engage in a regular paid employment in the field of journalism. .For example, Translator-editors, reviewer-editors, editors, illustrators, illustrator-editors, calligrapher-editor, and graphic designers who shall fulfil the requirements provided for under Articles Five and Seven, of the present Law, on the date of their registration. The executive rule, in accordance with the p to date requirements of the profession, shall periodically determine what should be considered as press work for employed journalists. . Journalists, who receive regular and fixed remuneration who work on a regular basis, whether in the Arab Republic of Egypt or abroad, provided that they meet the eligibility requirements established under Articles Five and Seven, on the date of their registration.</p>	<p>First, The condition set upon applicants so as not to engage in non-media trade or profession has been canceled due to the economic and social conditions suffered by journalists which might require them to face it by practicing one or more profession besides press work, to lift the heavy burdens imposed upon them and to improve the improve their standard of living.</p> <p>Secondly, graphic designers, one of the specialties in the field of practicing press, have been added to the article, as the regulations should refer to all disciplines related to press work, and be updated according to professional and technological developments and updates.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 7	<p>It is hereby stipulated that interested applicants shall be required to have completed the apprenticeship program without intermission or interruption; to demonstrate an active engagement in press- and journalism-related tasks and activities; and, to provide a detailed track record showing their apparent contribution to, and engagement in a newspaper organization or a news agency, where they completed the apprenticeship or induction training program.</p>	<p>It is hereby stipulated that interested applicants who wish to be registered as apprentice journalists shall provide what proves that s/he have completed the apprenticeship program, for two years without intermission or interruption; to demonstrate an active engagement in press- and journalism-related tasks and activities. Interested Applicants who wish to be registered as an employed journalist shall provide what proves that s/he have worked in a press on a regular basis, for one year without intermission or interruption; to demonstrate an active engagement in press- and journalism-related tasks and activities and to provide a detailed track record showing their contribution to the press institution where they completed the apprenticeship or induction training program.</p>	<p>First, the conditions set for transition from a registered apprentice journalist to a registered employed journalist were re-organized. In order to be a registered employed journalist, the apprenticeship program should be completed for two years without interruption, and that all conditions to be considered as an apprentice journalist in the first place should be met.</p> <p>Second: the term “apparent” was deleted from the original article, because the term is inaccurate and might be interpreted in various ways, have various meanings and explanations.</p>



	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 8	<p>Apprentice journalists shall be required to complete their apprenticeship or entry-level induction training program in newspaper organizations or news agencies that operate in the United Arab Republic. Under a special licensure, a protocol agreement may be secured from the Syndicate Board approving the possibility of completing one's apprenticeship program in a newspaper organization or a news agency, overseas.</p> <p>An apprentice journalist shall undertake to inform the Syndicate Board of his/ her place of residence, the newspaper or the news agency, where s/he is affiliated to complete the apprenticeship program, and shall undertake to keep the Syndicate Board updated, as to any changes or modifications introduced in such information.</p>	<p>Apprentice journalists shall be required to complete their apprenticeship or entry-level induction training program in one of the press agencies provided for in this law.</p>	<p>Press agencies have been added as a more inclusive term that includes all entities that practice press work such as newspapers, websites, etc., which an apprentice journalist has the right to complete his apprenticeship in.</p>
Article 9	<p>Apprentice journalists should state to the syndicate's council, his place of address, the name of the newspaper or the news agency in which s/he joined to complete his/her apprenticeship, and every change that occurs in those statements</p>	<p>Apprentice journalists should state to the syndicate's council, his place of address, the name of the press interests in which s/he joined to complete his/her apprenticeship, and every change that occurs in those statements</p>	<p>The word "newspaper or news agency" was deleted and replaced with "press interests" because it is broader and more inclusive.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 10	<p>The term of the apprenticeship program shall be one year for graduates of the Journalism Sections, at certified universities and high education institutes; and shall be two years for graduates of other recognized faculties and high institutes. The apprenticeship term shall commence on the date of registration into the roster of apprentice journalists. The internal statutes and regulations shall define the processes and procedures associated with the registration of apprentice journalists.</p> <p>All periods of employment in civil service posts, which involve a mandate to assume journalistic and press-related functions, shall be counted and credited against the apprenticeship term. The Minister of National Guidance shall issue a decree determining and specifying such functions and activities, as well as the names of those who shall perform them.</p>	<p>This article should remain as it is without any modifications</p>	
Article 11	<p>the period in which the employees serves in a governmental capacity that includes press work, shall be considered form the required duration of apprenticeship, and the minister of national guidance shall determine those governmental capacities specifically and the names of those who practice it.</p>	<p>The period in which the applicant perform his compulsory military service/ her public service shall be considered form the two years required duration of apprenticeship.</p>	<p>The jurisdiction of the Minister of National Guidance was canceled due to the absence of this entity and its legal capacity nowadays, and military service and public service were added to fall within the duration of apprenticeship the article as both are compulsory according to the law.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 12	<p>Notwithstanding the provisions stated in Article Five of the present law, the Registration Committee may opt to enlist the following in the Sub-Roster of Affiliated Journalists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Arab journalists, who are resident in the United Arab Republic, and who are contracted by a newspaper trade organization or a news agency based in the United Arab Republic, or by a news agency that operate therein, as long as they fulfil the eligibility requirements set forth under the provisions of Article Five, with the exception of the provision stipulating that a journalist shall be a national of the United Arab Republic.</li> <li>Foreign Journalists resident in the United Arab Republic, who are contracted by a newspaper trade organization based in the United Arab Republic, or by a news agency that operate therein, as long as they fulfil the eligibility requirements set forth under the provisions of Article Five, with the exception of such provisions stipulating that a journalist shall be a national of the United Arab Republic</li> <li>Individuals who contribute to, or engage in press- and journalism-related tasks, provided that they shall fulfil the provisions set forth under Article Five, with the exception of the provisions included therein regarding the professional practice of journalism</li> </ul>	<p>Notwithstanding the provisions stated in Article Five of the present law, the Registration Committee may opt to enlist the following in the Sub-Roster of Affiliated Journalists::</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foreign journalists residing in the Arab Republic of Egypt and working in newspapers or news agencies or websites who meet the conditions stipulated in Article 5 except for the condition of holding the Egyptian nationality.</li> <li>2. Those who contribute directly to press work whenever they meet the conditions provided for in Article 5.</li> </ol>	<p>The terms "Arab journalists and foreign journalists" were merged under the term "foreign journalists" since there is no need to separate the two terms as long as the conditions for registration were met.</p>

Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
<p>Article 13</p> <p>A committee shall hereby be established, and mandated to undertake the process associated with the registration of journalists in the Syndicate's rosters. The respective committee shall consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deputy captain journalist (President)</li> <li>▪ Two members of the Syndicate Board, to be designated and selected by the Board (Members)</li> </ul> <p>The respective committee shall, at least 30 days before it convenes, undertake to provide a list with the names of interested applicants to the Arab Socialist Union and the Ministry of National Guidance soliciting their input and insight thereabout. The Arab Socialist Union and the Ministry of National Guidance shall respond no later than two (2) weeks after the receipt of the respective list.</p> <p>In the event that the two respective authorities shall not provide their input during the specified period, the Committee shall undertake to decide into the application requests.</p> <p>The said Committee shall undertake to make its final decision, within sixty (60) days as of the date of the submission of the application request. In case an application or a request is disapproved or disqualified, the decision shall be based on warranted justifications or grounds.</p> <p>The applicant shall be informed of the decision reached by the Committee, within two (2)</p>	<p>A committee shall hereby be established, and mandated to undertake the process associated with the registration of journalists in the Syndicate's rosters. The respective committee shall consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deputy captain journalist (President)</li> <li>▪ Two members of the Syndicate Board, to be designated and selected by the Board (Members)</li> </ul> <p>The respective committee shall, within 60 days from the applicant's date of submitting his application for registration issue its decision, and in case of the application's rejection, the decision shall provide the reasons for rejection.</p> <p>Notwithstanding what stated above, the applicant shall be considered registered from the date of applying for registration.</p> <p>The student shall be notified of the decision of the committee within two weeks from the date of its issuance with a written letter of acknowledgment.</p>	<p>The list of interested applicants for registration that should be provided be the committee to the Socialist Union or the Ministry of Guidance, has been canceled " as both entities do not exist nowadays' and their jurisdiction was replaced by that of the syndicate.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 13	weeks after the decision is made. In this respect, the applicant shall receive a certified/ registered mail letter, notifying the applicant of the committee's decision. In addition, the applicant shall be requested to sign off acknowledging receipt thereof.		
Article 14	<p>Disqualified individuals may appeal against the decision reached by the Committee within thirty (30) days, as of the date of notification. The appeal request shall be reviewed by a committee composed of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A legal counsellor/ judge from the court of appeal, to be seconded or detailed by the General Assembly of the respective court of appeal (President)</li> <li>▪ A senior public prosecutor (Member)</li> <li>▪ Director of Information Authority, or his/ her delegate (Member)</li> <li>▪ Two (2) members from the Syndicate Board, to be identified at the discretion of the Syndicate Board (Members)</li> </ul>	<p>Disqualified individuals, whether be deferment or rejection, may appeal against the decision reached by the Committee within thirty (30) days, as of the date of the decision's declaration before the syndicate's board. The board shall decide on the appeal within a period of thirty days from the date of filing the complaint. The applicant shall be informed of the decision of the board within two weeks from the date of its issuance with a written letter of acknowledgment.</p> <p>Any person whose decision is rejected may appeal against the decision of the board before the Administrative Court within sixty days from the date of the council's declaration of rejection for appeal submitted before it.</p>	<p>A degree of appeal has been added to the decisions of the registration committee as the syndicate's board shall be responsible for supervising and expressing opinions on the decisions of the registration committee. The rejected and deferred decisions of the applicants by the Registration Committee and the syndicate board shall have the right to resort to the Administrative Court of Justice as the legitimate judicial body to decide on the decisions of the Committee and the board. The dates of appeals on these decisions were organized within a period of time that allows the applicant to acknowledge the decision and act legally to protect his rights</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 15	<p>The Registration Committee shall exclude from the Journalists Roster the apprentice journalists, who shall fail to apply for registration into the respective Roster, and who shall be employed within) months following the expiration date of their apprenticeship term, unless an admissible and warranted reason is provided by the respective applicant justifying why s/he failed to submit the request in due course. Applications of disqualified applicants may not be accepted in the former Roster, except after the lapse of a year, as of the date of disqualification or disapproval. In such case, the applicant shall be required to make a new payment of the statutory registration fees.</p>	<p>The Registration Committee shall exclude from the Journalists Roster the apprentice journalists, who shall fail to apply for registration into the respective Roster, and who shall be employed within one year following the expiration date of their apprenticeship term, unless an admissible and warranted reason is provided by the respective applicant justifying why s/he failed to submit the request in due course. Applications of disqualified applicants may not be accepted in the former Roster, except after the lapse of a year, as of the date of disqualification or disapproval. In such case, the applicant shall be required to make a new payment of the statutory registration fees</p>	<p>The term "months" was replaced by "one year", as a more precise period that is not subject to inaccurate and unprecise interpretation by the authorities applying the law.</p>
Article 16	<p>The Syndicate Board shall undertake to inform the Arab Federation Union and the Ministry of National Guidance of the decisions and resolutions reached by the respective committees identified under Articles (13), (14), (81) and (82), of the present Law. This is in addition to providing a breakdown of journalists included in the Syndicate Roster, and whose names shall be transferred from a sub-roster, to a different one, as deemed appropriate. Applicants shall not be permitted to re-apply, unless the reasons that constituted grounds for their disqualification are removed or addressed, and after the lapse of one year, as of the date when the decision is made final.</p>	<p>This article should be cancelled</p>	<p>This article gives might give the opportunity to other entities the right to intervene in the decisions of the Journalists' Syndicate board, which compromises the independence of the syndicate in managing its affairs and issuing its decisions, and violates the legal principle of separation of powers.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 17	An Applicant journalist may not resubmit his application unless the reasons that prevented the admission of his registration have been ceased and at least one year has elapsed since the date on which the rejection decision became final.	This article should remain as it is without modification	
Article 18	In the event that a member shall cease to fulfil any of the registration conditions or requirements, as pertains to the Syndicate Roster, the Syndicate Board shall undertake to inform the Registration Committee to enforce the decision of excluding or removing the respective member from the Syndicate Roster. A member excluded or removed from the Syndicate roster, may opt to appeal against that decision before the respective committee referred to under Article Fourteen of the present Law, within thirty (30) days, after the date of notification. Excluded or removed members may submit a request to renew their registration in the Syndicate Roster. This action shall require the payment of new registration fees, as dully appropriate.	In the event that a member shall cease to fulfil any of the registration conditions or requirements, as pertains to the Syndicate Roster, the Syndicate Board shall undertake to inform the Registration Committee to enforce the decision of excluding or removing the respective member from the Syndicate Roster, and s/he should be notified within two weeks from issuing the decision. A member excluded or removed from the Syndicate roster, may opt to appeal against that decision before the Administrative court with sixty (60) days. Excluded or removed members may submit a request to renew their registration in the Syndicate Roster. This action shall require the payment of new registration fees, as dully appropriate.	The duration of the advertisement has been regulated to provide for the assurance of journalists in the media of the cancellation decision so that they can take legal action to obtain all their
Article 19	A member, who is employed, may request that his/ her name be re-assigned to the sub roster of employed members.	This article should remain as it is without any modification	

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 20	The Syndicate Board and the Minister of National Guidance may request the reassignment of members, who discontinue to be employed in the sector of journalism and press, to the sub-roster of unemployed members. The respective members shall be informed of this request, and shall reserve the right to defend oneself before the said committee.	The Syndicate's Board may request the reassignment of members, who discontinue to be employed in the sector of journalism and press, to the sub-roster of unemployed member. The respective members shall be informed of this request, and shall reserve the right to defend oneself before the said committee. This shall not not preclude his right to appeal against the decision to reassign him/her to the sub-roster of unemployed member before the Administrative Court.	The Minister of National Guidance no longer exists because it does not exist anymore nowadays and even when it existed, its jurisdiction gave it the right to interfere in the syndicate's affairs, in such a way that compromised the independence of the syndicate in managing its affairs and issuing its decisions, and violated the legal principle of separation of powers.



## 7- A new proposal for the registration regulations of the Journalists' Syndicate.

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 1	The registration committee shall be formed at the beginning of each syndicate's session, from the oldest of the two proxies as chairman and the membership of two members of the board.	The registration committee shall be formed at the beginning of each syndicate's session from the oldest of the two proxies as chairman and the membership of two members of the board. The committee shall also have an administrative secretariat.	An administrative body has been established and it shall undertake a number of tasks as set forth in article 4 of this regulation.
Article 2	The Committee shall issue its decisions unanimously. If there is no unanimity, the decisions that are disputed upon shall be submitted to the Syndicate's board to express its opinion upon and deliver a final decision.	This Article should remain as its without modification	
Article 3	The Registration Committee shall hold a regular meeting in the first week of each month to discuss matters related to registration, provided that at least two meetings are held annually in the first week of April and October of each year to examine the applications for registration and to decide thereon.	This Article should remain as its without modification	

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 4	The applications for registration shall be available for admission twice a year from January 1 to the end of February and from July 1 until the end of August each year.	The applications for registration shall be available for admission twice a year from January 1 to the end of February and from July 1 until the end of August each year. Registration requests are received by the Administrative Secretariat of the Registration Committee. And undertakes to deliver to the applicant a receipt stating receipt of the application in its annexes	The task of receiving applications and registering files has been assigned to the Administrative Secretariat, and the task of receiving files has been organized by receipts that prove that the Secretariat received the applicant's files and applications in order to guarantee the rights of applicants.
Article 5	The Syndicate's captain shall refer to the Registration Committee files of candidates for membership at least 21 days before the date of the registration session.	This Article should be deleted	This article was deleted based on the amended Article 4 of the Regulation, which mandated the Administrative Secretariat the task of receiving the applicants' files and applications.
Article 6	The committee shall submit to the Syndicate's Board the names of the newspapers for which is accepted for the first time so as to be approved. Such approval, however, should only be granted if at least one year has elapsed from the date of its regular publication since issuing its first edition. The Board has the right to renew this period if it detected serious problems related to about labor relations, institutional performance or professional conduct	The committee shall submit to the Syndicate's Board the names of the newspapers for which is accepted for the first time so as to be approved, Provided that one year should elapse since it began operating.	The executive regulation for registration ties serious problems in press institution with registration which is a clear violation for journalists' rights. The law penalize press organizations that commit such offenses that violate the journalistic honor code And professional behavior under various other laws and articles.

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 7	<p>To accept the issuing a new newspaper, a sum of 400 thousand pounds is required to be paid for daily newspapers, 200 thousand pounds for a weekly newspapers and 100 thousand pounds for monthly newspapers.</p> <p>These amounts are insurance for unemployment allowance payments for journalists, if the newspaper was suspended from publication.</p>	<p>To accept the issuing a new newspaper, a sum of 400 thousand pounds is required to be paid for daily newspapers, 200 thousand pounds for a weekly newspapers and 100 thousand pounds for monthly newspapers.</p> <p>These amounts are insurance for unemployment allowance payments for journalists, if the newspaper was suspended from publication.</p> <p>This applies to all the press bodies, provided that the regulation specifies the amount to be paid by each party, so that it is not less than 100 thousand pounds and may not exceed 400 thousand pound</p>	<p>The last section of "press bodies: has been added so as to include other press entities such as websites, which may hold the membership of journalist' syndicate..</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 8	<p>It is required to pass four training courses approved by the Syndication Board before submitting them to the Registration Committee in Arabic and English, computer and professional legislation to accept new members.</p>	<p>It is required to pass three training courses approved by the Syndication Board before submitting them to the Registration Committee in Arabic and , computer and professional legislation to accept new members.</p> <p>in addition to a specialization course determined by the training committee composed of university professors selected by the Syndicate's Board, and the Board shall Change its members every two years.</p>	<p>The English language course has been disposed of in this article as a skill, as individuals should be free to learn and develop skills not related to press work or not .</p> <p>On the other hand, a specialized training course was added related to press field of work that is need for press portioners whether the Applicant was a journalist, an editor, a photographer or a graphic designer.</p> <p>The organizational procedures for these courses were assigned to the training and professional development committee of the syndicate as one of its tasks, provided that, the training committee should be composed of university professors members who would be changed on regular basis to ensure neutrality and independence in granting the certificates to the applicants, as well as to guarantee the minimum degree of efficiency required for the courses to be done professionally according to academic</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 8			<p>criteria</p> <p>It is required to pass three training courses approved by the Syndication Board before submitting them to the Registration Committee in Arabic and , computer and professional legislation to accept new members. in addition to a specialization course determined by the training committee composed of university professors selected by the Syndicate's Board, and the Board shall Change its members every two years.</p>
Article 9	<p>The number of journalists admitted from the daily newspapers should not exceed 30 journalists for every newspaper annually, 15 annually for the weekly editions, and 5 annually for the monthly editions.</p> <p>The maximum limit of journalists For newspapers that are accepted is 60 for daily newspapers, 30 for weekly publications, and 15 for monthly publications for the first year of publication.</p> <p>The maximum number of journalists admitted annually for institutions that issue more than one edition should be 60. The Syndicate's Board may suspend the registration for any newspaper for specified periods when it is proved that it exceeded the appropriate numbers stated above, and/or violated financial and editorial conditions</p>	This article should be deleted .	<p>the law regulates the issue of registration according to a number of conditions, and the syndicate is legally bound to apply the law. and this article violates journalists' right to be registered when they meet the conditions set by the law.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 10	The names of candidates for membership shall be placed in a prominent place at the headquarters of the syndicate and shall be sent to the newspapers at least one week before the date of the registration session in order to allow the members of the General Assembly to submit any appeals concerning membership requirements, provided that, it should be submitted no later than three days before the registration session.	This Article should remain as it is without modification.	
Article 11	The registration committee shall submit its decisions to the captain immediately after their issuance. The names of those accepted members shall be attached to a visible place in the syndicate building. The applicants shall be informed of the decisions in official letters within 3 weeks from the date of the registration session.	The registration committee shall refer its decisions to the captain immediately upon issuance. The names of those admitted shall be placed in a visible place in the syndicate building. The applicants shall be informed of the decisions in official letters within two weeks from the date of the registration session.	The notice period has been reorganized within two weeks instead of three weeks, so that the article is consistent with Article 13 of the Journalists' Syndicate Law.
Article 12	Applicants shall pay the prescribed fees for registration, membership and the issuance of the identification card within a period not exceeding 30 days from the registration session.	Applicants shall pay the prescribed fees for registration, membership and the issuance of the identification card within a period not exceeding 30 days from the date of announcement of the results of the registration session.	The deadline for payment of membership fees from the registration session to the announcement of the results of the session has been changed and replaced so as to guarantee that journalists has enough time to pay the fees since their announcement. This period guarantees the right of journalists to pay even if the registration committee is late in announcing the results.

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 13	The term "journalist" in Article 5 of Journalists' Syndicate Law refers to appointed journalists according to an indefinite or renewable employment contract, who are insured as an employed journalist at the social insurance authority, not employed by another public or private party, a member of any other syndicate, and not an owner or a shareholder of a newspaper or news agency operating in Egypt. The term "university degree" refers to university degrees recognized by the Supreme Council of Universities.	The term "journalist" in Article 5 of Journalists' Syndicate Law refers to appointed journalists according to an indefinite or renewable employment contract, who are insured as an employed journalist at the social insurance authority, not employed by another public or private party, in violation with the journalistic honor code And professional behavior. The term "university degree" refers to university degrees recognized by the Supreme Council of Universi-	"journalist" legal definition has been changed to be more consistent with the amendments needed to the articles of the law and regulation.
Article 14	The applicants who the registration committee refused his application to be registered, may file a complaint before the committee within 60 days of the decision. If his complaint was refused, he may appeal to the appeals' committee within 30 days of the decision of the primary registration committee.	The applicants who the registration committee refused his application to be registered, he may file a complaint before the syndicate's board within 30 days from the date declaring the decision. If his complaint was refused, he has the right to appeal before the Administrative court within 30 days of informing him of the decision.	An Appealing degree on the registration committee decisions has been added before the syndicate's Board, and it gives the right to the board to express its opinion on those decisions. the modified article gives the right for applicants whose applications were rejected or deferred to appeal before the courts as the legitimate judicial body . the time allowed for appeal was changed to guarantee that applicants could sue for their rights if needed.

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 15	<p>The Egyptian newspapers which membership can be accepted, are national newspapers, parties and newspapers issued by Egyptian joint stock companies established for the purpose of issuing newspapers. The membership and the existence of a financial and administrative regulation approved by the Supreme Council of the Press regulating its affairs and guaranteeing the rights of its employees according to article (7) are conditions to maintain the regularity of the issuance of these editions. The newspaper's obligation to appoint the minimum wage base announced by the Syndicate of Journalists within the framework of the law shall be imposed at the beginning of the financial year of each year.</p> <p>Its obligation to pay whatever is determined by allowances and incentives announced by the syndicate board and a social decree issued by the Supreme Council of the Press</p> <p>The membership of the newspapers shall be subject to regular payment of the syndicate's dues from the 1% of the proceeds of the declarations determined by the law, the resolutions of the Supreme Council and the value of the press stamp specified by the law. In accordance with provisions of Article 114 of the Syndicate's Law, Registration of newspapers, magazines and pamphlets issued by public bodies or for scientific purposes or newspapers issued by trade unions and cooperatives.</p>	<p>The newspapers that a membership can be accepted are all newspapers, news agencies and news sites operating within the Arab Republic of Egypt. To hold the membership the newspaper must be issued on a regular basis, and have a financial and administrative regulation regulating the affairs of its employees. It is also required that the newspaper preserves commitment to pay the minimum wage base which is declared by the Syndicate of Journalists within the framework of the law at the beginning of the fiscal period of each year, its commitment to pay whatever is determined from allowances and incentives announced by the Syndicate's board and what is decided from periodic, special or social allowances issued by a decision of the Supreme Council.</p>	<p>The newspapers which membership might be accepted have been re-defined according to the Constitution and international covenants, and conditions that maintain journalist rights.</p>



	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 16	The Syndicate's Board shall issue a unified sample for employment contracts for journalists, provided that the syndicate shall be a party to it. The newspapers shall abide by it in its contractual relations, and any other contract shall not be considered approved when accepting apprentice journalists as new members provided that the contract complies with the minimum wage applicable in the State.	This article should remain without modification	
Article 17	The Syndicate's Board may suspend the registration of a newspaper, if it does not meet the financial dues of the journalists and the syndicate regularly, or it violated repeatedly the labor relations and the rights of journalists guaranteed by the relevant laws, regulations and decisions. The Council shall issue a warning statement against working for that newspaper or contract with it and shall pursue against it all the legal procedure needed.	The Syndicate's Board must issue a warning statement against working for newspapers or websites or contracting with it, and it may take legal action against it in the event of violating the laws and regulations without prejudice to the rights of employees of the newspaper or websites.	This article has been amended so that the journalist's entry into the violating Press entity violations, or failure to meet its financial obligations. The article also stressed the need for the syndicate to issue a warning statement to warn against dealing with this press agency.
Article 18	Members may not be admitted from more than one newspaper issued by a single party or a joint stock company, except under employment contracts with the main newspaper issued by a political party or a company and signed by the party chairman or the chairman of the company's board.	This article should be deleted	This article violates journalists rights of journalists to be registered whenever they meet the conditions for registration set by laws that the Syndicate is bound to apply. Law No. 180 of 2018 regulates the conditions and criteria for issuing newspapers in Egypt.

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 19	In the event of a legal dispute arising, the newspaper shall be suspended until the final settlement of the dispute.	In the event of a legal conflict arising in a press entity , all journalists appointed at the time of the beginning of the dispute shall be registered as long as they meet all the requirements and conditions set by the law. The Syndicate shall publish a warning in the daily newspapers prohibiting dealing with the disputed press entity until the dispute is resolved.	The article in its original text is considered a violation to Journalists right to registered as long as meet the conditions of registration set by the law, the amendment of the article took into account the labor rights that should not be restricted due to a dispute arising. The article also assigns a role to the Syndicate's Board to warn journalists against dealing professionally with the disputed press entity.
Article 20	In the event that a newspaper ceases to be published, closed or was not issued regularly, the registration committee shall refrain from accepting applicants' applications applied through it to register as an apprentice journalist. If the applicant is already registered as an apprentice journalist and the apprenticeship period has not been completed, the applicant who wish to be registered as an employed journalist should submit an employment contract that ties him to another newspaper in which s/ he can complete his/her period of apprentices, provided that all conditions stipulated in Article (12) of this Regulation apply to this newspaper.	In the event that a newspaper ceases to be published, closed or was not issued regularly, the registration committee shall refrain from accepting applicants' applications applied through it to register as an apprentice journalist unless s/he provides a contract with any of the entities stipulated in Article 15 of the Regulations.	It has been taken into account that a journalist can be registered as a journalist and work for a newspaper that is not regularly published. However, in the case of registration as an employed journalist or apprentice journalist s/ he must provide proof of a contractual relationship with any of the press entities

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 21	<p>According to article (18) of the Syndicate's Law, based on Article (5) and Article (6) (a) and Article (15) of the Law. The Syndicate's Board shall instruct the Secretary-General to review the sub rosters of the syndicate at the time of payment of the contributions each year, in order to identify the names of those who lost one of the membership requirements.</p>	<p>According to Article (5) and Article (6) (a) and Article (15) of the Law. The Syndicate's Board shall appoint a special committee to review the sub rosters of the syndicate upon the date of payment of the contributions each year, in order to identify the names of those who lost one of the membership requirements.</p> <p>A person whose name has been removed from the table for the loss of one of the registration requirements may not resubmit his/her new application unless the reasons for his admission have been ceased and at least one year has elapsed since the date on which he was finally removed and a new registration fee shall be paid.</p> <p>Article (21)</p> <p>A Committee shall review the sub rosters at the beginning of each syndicate session and this committee shall be formed of (the Secretary General, the membership of two Council members elected by the Council and a member of the Legal Affairs department of the Journalists' Syndicate as an advisor.</p>	<p>First: The Articles of the journalists' Syndicate Law on which this article is based have been amended in accordance with the proposals and amendments proposed by the institution.</p> <p>Second, paragraph 21 (b) was added, which regulates the formation of a committee to review the sub rosters of registration. we have taken into consideration the number of members that will to achieve intellectual and physical ability needed to review these sub rosters. A member of the legal affairs department of the syndicate was added to the committee to ensure the principle of integrity as well as to express his legal opinion regarding the conditions of registration, and we also took into consideration while phrasing this paragraph that the method of decision-making in the committee by consensus through the vote will need three members to reach a resolution.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 22	<p>Full-time journalism is a condition for acquiring and maintaining membership.</p> <p>The work in advertising, or running administrative or non-press work in the establishment, is one of the reasons why a member loses a condition of his/her membership, as well as paid work in ministries and public and private institutions, which affects the nature of the work of the journalist and the required subjectivity and commitment to the ethics of the profession and its rules; and keeps him away from any real dealings with news sources.</p>	<p>Advertising, or administrative or non-journalistic work at the institution, is one of the reasons why a member loses a condition of active membership.</p> <p>As well as work paid by ministries and public and private institutions, which affects the nature of the work of the journalist and the required by the objectivity and commitment to the ethics of the profession and rules, and keeps him/her away from any dealings with news sources.</p> <p>Unless the work is temporary or advisory in a way that does not conflict with the nature of his journalistic work in the body in which he works</p>	<p>An exception has been made in the proposed article which is journalists' temporary or consultative work with institutions and ministries. because this deepens the journalist's experience develops his profession. This amendment maintains the exchange of expertise between journalists and those who are working in these institutions</p>
Article 23	<p>If applicant exceeds 44 years of age, the registration committee shall refer these case to the syndicate's board to review it, submit its decision and take what it deems necessary towards it</p>	<p>This article should be deleted</p>	<p>This article should be deleted because the profession of journalism is a profession that depends mainly on the creativity and personal skills possessed by the journalist. The law also regulates the conditions of registration and the person is acceptable if he meets these conditions without regard to the age, as this condition was not provided by law.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 24	<p>The applicant who wishes to be registered to the apprentice journalist sub roster shall fill out the form prepared by the syndicate supported by the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A copy of the employment contract signed by a newspaper to which the conditions stipulated in Article (13) of these Regulations apply.</li> <li>2. A copy of the social security document provided that the insurance is made for a press capacity.</li> <li>3. Copy of birth certificate.</li> <li>4. Copy of the academic qualification.</li> <li>5. A criminal record issued at a date not exceeding four months prior to the date of submission to the Committee.</li> <li>6. An approved certificate to pass the courses determined by the syndicate as a condition of registration.</li> <li>7. A sample of the press releases of the applicant.</li> </ol> <p>Foreign language and computer institutes graduates are exempted from submitting certificates that prove language and computers skills efficiency</p>	<p>. The applicant who wishes to be registered to the apprentice journalist sub roster shall fill out the form prepared by the syndicate supported by the following documents:</p> <p>A copy of a signed contract of employment from a newspaper to which the conditions stipulated in Article (13) of these Regulations apply.</p> <p>B- A copy of the social insurance document.</p> <p>C) A copy of the birth certificate.</p> <p>D - Copy of the academic qualification.</p> <p>(E) A criminal record issued on a date not exceeding one month prior to the date of submission of the Committee.</p> <p>(F) A certified certificate passing the courses determined by the syndicate as a condition of registration.</p> <p>. Foreign language and computer institutes graduates are exempted from submitting certificates that prove language and computers skills efficiency</p>	<p>First: The journalistic social security document condition has been replaced by a normal social security document in any form, because some newspapers and websites refuse to insure on journalists, on the one hand, some press workers are insured in another status in those papers.</p> <p>Second: The time needed to submit the Criminal record has been reorganized to be issued on a date preceding the submission to the Committee by a month, rather than prior to the date of the Committee meeting , in order to avoid the problem of the delays that might make the paper legally expire.</p> <p>Third: Article (7) was deleted that requires submitting a press work archive before the registration, because it exposes practitioners to many arbitrary procedures. The conditions of registration are regulated and reorganized in Article 5 of the law</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 25	The registration period as an apprentice journalist two years, with the exception of graduates of the press departments at universities and institutes recognized by the Supreme Council of Universities. The registration period is one year.	This article shall remain as it is without modification	
Article 26	An apprentice journalist who has not applied to be registered as an employed journalist within three months from the end of the period of his/her apprenticeship shall be eliminated.	An apprentice journalist who has not applied to be registered as an employed journalist within one year from the end of the period of his/her apprenticeship shall be eliminated, He may not be eliminated however, if he succeeds to provides a reasonable excuse and by a decision issued by the Syndicate's Board.	The period in which applicants are on the employed journalist sub roster has been extended from three months to one year, so that all journalists wishing to transfer their names to the working list can do so without a problem
Article 27	In order to be transferred to the employed journalist's sub roster, the applicant shall pass the duration for apprenticeship without interruption, has an apparent press work contribution, attach a detailed certificate of activity in the newspaper or news agency in which he spent the period of apprenticeship. Leaves without pay shall not be considered as part of the apprenticeship period unless it is proved by documents that press work was done inside the country for a newspaper or a news agency during this period or outside the country with submitting a copy of the employment's contract and what proves the continuity of that line of work, unless the applicant proves that he obtained a license from the Syndicate's Board to spend his apprenticeship period abroad in accordance with Article ( 8) of the Syndicate's law .	In order to be transferred to the employed journalist's sub roster, the applicant shall pass the duration for apprenticeship without interruption, did press work contribution, attach a detailed certificate of activity in the newspaper or news agency in which he spent the period of apprenticeship. Leaves without pay shall not be considered as part of the apprenticeship period unless it is proved by documents that press work was done inside the country for a press entity during this period or outside the country with submitting a copy of the employment's contract and what proves the continuity of that line of work, unless the applicant proves that he obtained a license from the Syndicate's Board to spend his apprenticeship period abroad in accordance with Article ( 8) of the Syndicate's law Taking into account the text of article 11 of the Act.	First, the conditions of the transition from apprenticeship to employed journalists sub roster were reorganized. It requires that the journalist be employed for a period of two years without interruption and that all conditions are met for him to be registered.  Second: the term "apparent' was deleted from the original article, because this term is loose and might have more than an explanation or meaning.

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 28	<p>The applicant shall fill out the form prepared by the Syndicate for the request for transfer to this table with the following documents:</p> <p>1. A certificate signed by the editor-in-chief of the newspaper, which the applicant is registered under its name stating that he continued his press work without interruption, the committee shall confirm the continuation of his contractual relationship whether it is with this newspaper s/he registered under its name, or with a new employment contract with a newspaper whose members are accepted in which he has completed his apprenticeship period with, if he didn't normally continue his apprenticeship in the newspaper s/ he is register under .</p> <p>2. Certificate of passing the courses determined by the Syndicate's Board in this regard.</p>	<p>The applicant shall fill out the form prepared by the Syndicate for the request for transfer to this table with the following documents:</p> <p>A certificate signed by the editor-in-chief/ whoever is on behalf on him of the press agency, which the applicant is registered under its name, stating that he continued his press work without interruption. The Committee shall confirm the continuation of his contractual relationship whether it is with this newspaper s/he registered under its name, or with a new employment contract with a newspaper whose members are accepted in which he has completed his apprenticeship period with, if he didn't normally continue his apprenticeship in the newspaper s/he is register under.</p> <p>B - Certificate of passing the courses decided by the Syndicate's Board in this regard</p>	<p>The first clause the possibility of obtaining a degree by signature of whoever represents the editor in chief was added guaranteeing the rights of applicants to register if the editor was absent for any reason.</p>

	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 29	To register as an apprentice journalist, the applicant's appearance before the meeting of the registration committee and passing the personal test is required	To register as an apprentice journalist, the applicant's appearance before the meeting of the registration committee is required.	The personal test requirement has been waived because the law regulates the issue of registration according to a number of conditions set by the law that the syndicate have to apply. The existence of that condition may, violate principles as transparency and neutrality as it gives the committee the right to test the applicant without clear basis. As a result the article was amended so as to require only mere attendance by the applicant.
Article 30	The press shall notify the syndicate of the names of its apprentices every six months. The registration shall be restricted to the names of the apprentices listed in these tables. In the event that the name of the apprentice is included in these schedules, the press organizations are obliged to appoint him/her.	The press shall notify the syndicate of the names of its apprentices every six months.. In the event that the name of the trainee is included in these schedules, the press organizations are obliged to appoint him/her.	This article obligates newspapers to notify the syndicate of the names of its apprentice journalists. The condition that restricts registration was cancelled to comply with the conditions stipulated in the law and regulation.



	Provision of the law	Text of the amendment	Reasons for amendments/ change and/ or addition
Article 31	Decisions issued by the Syndicate's Board in any matter related to registration shall be deemed to be an integral part of this regulation or an interpretation of some of its Articles.	Decisions issued by the Syndicate's Board in any matter related to registration shall be regarded as an integral part of this Regulation or an interpretation of some of their articles, provided that it neither violate or nor restrict the Constitution, the Law and its Executive Regulations.	A part has been added to this article provision to preserve and protect the texts and terms of the law from personal interpretations of the syndicate's board, to ensure that no violation to any of the rights and duties stipulated in the law and regulation shall occur.



المركز المصري للصحافة والإعلام  
Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media

The Egyptian Foundation for Civil Society was established by Decree No. 5805 of 2016. The Foundation adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international treaties on the freedom of the press and the media and the Egyptian Constitution as a reference to them.

The Foundation aims to defend and promote press and media freedoms and to provide a safe working environment for journalists and media professionals in the Egyptian society on the one hand, and to support the independence and professionalism of the press and media on the other.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Observatory operates through various programs and mechanisms; some monitor and document violations against journalists and media professionals, and monitor and critique certain types of newspapers in a number of newspapers, websites and the media. The Foundation also provides direct or indirect legal support to journalists or media professionals accused of practicing their profession. The Foundation also researches and studies the status of freedom of the press and the media in the society. It also offers a series of training and educational seminars to enhance the capabilities of journalists and media professionals, raise their professional level and introduce them to their rights, duties and safety and safety.

### **Our vision**

To support and promote the freedom and independence of the press and media, and to achieve a professional environment and a safe and appropriate environment for the work of journalists and media professionals in a country based on the rule of law and respect for human rights.