

The background is a textured, greyish-blue surface with various graphic elements. A large, stylized black chain link is visible on the left side. A red pencil with a yellow eraser and a gold band is positioned diagonally on the right. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of people protesting, holding up signs and raising their fists. There are also some abstract shapes and colors, including a red and black flag-like shape on the right and some light-colored paper or fabric pieces scattered around.

Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media Media Unit 1 to 15 July 2024

Introduction:

The Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media aims, in its pursuit of developing the journalistic and media landscape in Egypt, at working diligently to provide comprehensive support to journalists, offering legal assistance that contributes to protecting rights and ensuring freedoms. It also strives to establish a culture of a safe working environment for journalists and media professionals in Egypt, in addition to the institution's continuous efforts to enhance capabilities through training sessions, workshops, guides, and various research papers.

We present this bi-monthly newsletter that features the most important publications from the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media. We invite you to review our latest reports and studies that highlight key issues and current challenges facing Egyptian journalism. In this newsletter, you will find in-depth reports and objective analyses aimed at promoting a free and independent media environment, along with weekly updates on the extensive archive project of prominent Egyptian journalists and media institutions, introducing them to you. We are here to provide you with the tools and knowledge necessary for a deeper and more precise understanding of the media situation in Egypt. We always strive to support you in your research and writing. Do not hesitate to contact us for any inquiries or to obtain more information through the official email of the institution [:info@ejm.org](mailto:info@ejm.org)

In this regard, we present the highlights from the first half of July 2024:

First: Reports from the Monitoring and Documentation Unit:

This program aims at monitoring and following up on all violations that journalists, media professionals, and journalistic and media institutions in Egypt are subjected to.

The observatory relies on its specific methodology, which is based on a monitoring process that focuses on three main pillars for documenting violations:

- **1- Field Monitoring:** Conducted by the fieldwork team.
- **2- Communication with Victims:** To confirm the occurrence of violations against them and document their testimonies.
- **3- Media Monitoring:** When field information or direct contact is not available, violations are monitored and documented through newspapers and electronic media channels.

1- Report on the State of Press and Media Freedoms in Egypt, June 2024: To view the full report: [click here.](#)

Report Summary: The Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media documented 6 violations in June 2024. These violations were distributed by the gender of the victims as follows: 5 violations against male journalists and 1 violation against a female journalist. In terms of the geographical distribution of the violations in June 2024, we found that there were 6 violations, distributed as follows: Cairo witnessed 5 violations, while Giza witnessed 1 violation.

Regarding the type of violations documented in June 2024, out of the 6 violations, 2 were “renewal of detention pending investigation,” and the remaining 4 were “withholding financial rights.”

Furthermore, examining the violations that occurred in June 2024 from the perspective of the victim’s specialty reveals that 5 violations were against editors and 1 violation was against a journalist translator during the month.

Finally, analyzing the 6 violations that occurred in June 2024 from the perspective of the type of entity responsible for the violation reveals that judicial institutions were responsible for 2 of the total violations, and a journalistic institution committed 4 violations against journalists during the month.

Report Sections:

In addition to the introduction, which provides a brief overview of the report’s contents and maps the violations that occurred during the month, the report consists of two main sections. The first section is a detailed account of the violations that occurred during the month, and the second is a statistical analysis and careful examination of the recorded violations and their classifications. The conclusion includes several findings.

2 .Second Quarterly Report on the State of Press and Media Freedoms (April-June): To view the full report: click [here](#).

Report Summary: The second quarter of 2024 witnessed 30 violations: 18 in April, 6 in May, and 6 in June. These 30 violations were distributed by gender as follows: 16 violations against male journalists, 13 against female journalists, and 1 violation against a whole journalistic institution.

Regarding the type of violation, the most frequent were “renewal of detention pending investigation,” repeated 7 times over the three months, and “arbitrary arrest,” also repeated 7 times. Next were “arbitrary dismissal” and “withholding financial rights,” each occurring 5 times over the three months. “Release on bail” occurred 3 times, followed by “intellectual property violation,” which occurred twice. The least frequent was “removal of media or journalistic content,” which happened once during the second quarter.

In terms of geographical distribution, Cairo was the governorate with the highest number of violations, witnessing 19 out of 30 violations, followed by Giza with 9 violations, and Ismailia with 2 violations during the period covered by the report.

All violations recorded in the second quarter of 2024 were documented directly.

Analyzing the violations by the victims’ specialties shows that editors were the most affected, with 21 violations, followed by journalists with 3 violations. Translators and reporters each faced 2 violations. SEO specialists and those with unspecified specialties each faced 1 violation.

When classifying violations by the type of workplace of the victims, digital media workers were the most affected, with 28 out of 30 violations. Workers in visual media or press publications faced only 1 violation each.

Based on the ownership of the workplace, employees of locally privately-owned media or journalistic institutions were the most affected, with 27 out of 30 violations. The remaining 3 violations were against employees of foreign-owned institutions. There were no violations against employees of national institutions or the institutions themselves during this period.

Finally, when classifying violations by the type of perpetrator's workplace, it is unexpectedly revealed that the most violations against journalists and media professionals were committed by the journalistic institutions themselves, with 12 violations. Security agencies committed 10 violations, judicial authorities committed 7 violations, and digital institutions committed 1 violation during this period.

Second: Reports from the Support and Legal Assistance Unit:

This program aims to provide support and legal assistance to all journalists and media professionals in Egypt, as well as to various journalistic institutions.

1-Legal Support Report for Journalists and Media Professionals, June 2024: To view the full report, [click here](#).

Report Summary: The cases in June varied in nature. There were 14 cases of compensation for wrongful dismissal, 2 cases of joining a terrorist group, 1 case interpreting labor court rulings, and 1 case of appealing labor court judgments. The first section of the report also reviewed the judicial bodies that handled these cases in June. The labor divisions of the North Giza Court handled 10 cases, the labor divisions of the South Giza Court handled 2 cases, the General Administration of Forensic Medicine handled 2 cases, while the labor divisions of the Cairo Court of Appeals, the enforcement judge of the North Cairo Court, the terrorism division of the Giza Criminal Court at the Central Giza Prison, and the terrorism division of the Cairo Criminal Court at the Badr Reform and Rehabilitation Center each handled 1 case.

The second section of the report reviewed the efforts of the Support and Legal Assistance Unit team. The team provided direct legal support in 16 labor cases for 16 journalists and 2 criminal cases for 2 journalists. They also provided 6 legal consultations via the institution's various communication channels for 6 journalists regarding proper legal procedures related to their journalistic work.

The second section also detailed the number of sessions and legal procedures in the mentioned cases as follows:

Criminal cases: The Support and Legal Assistance Unit team attended 2 detention renewal sessions for 2 journalists ahead of the terrorism divisions of the Giza and Cairo Criminal Courts, in addition to performing one administrative task.

Labor cases: The team attended 16 sessions in labor cases ahead of first-instance courts, 1 session ahead of appellate courts, 2 sessions ahead of the General Administration of Forensic Medicine, and 1 session ahead of the enforcement judge of the North Cairo Court. They also performed 9 administrative tasks throughout the month, including obtaining session decisions, extracting copies of rulings and documents, and delivering and receiving notifications.

The third section of the report focused on the topic of the month, selecting a legal issue relevant to journalists and media professionals. The June legal newsletter focused on the topic of “court fees and the right to litigation for citizens.”

The fourth and final section of the newsletter featured a profile of a journalist in pretrial detention, detailing the basic information of the detained journalist, case details, and the main legal violations they faced during arrest, investigation, and detention renewal stages. The legal articles criminalizing these violations were highlighted. For June, the selected journalist was Yehia Khalaf Allah, director of Yaqeen News Network.

2-Legal Support Report for Journalists and Media Professionals, Second Quarterly Report (April-June 2024): To view the full report, click [here](#).

Report Summary: The cases in the second quarter of 2024 varied in nature. There were 19 cases of compensation for wrongful dismissal, 5 cases of joining a terrorist group and spreading false news, 3 cases of appealing compensation judgments for dismissal, and one case each for interpreting rulings, adding insurance periods and paying pensions, appeals against decisions before the Administrative Court, and the crime of broadcasting without permission.

During the second quarter, judicial and executive authorities continued to use detention as a tool to prosecute journalists, in violation of the Egyptian constitution, which in Article 54 protects personal freedom, and in Article 96 presumes the innocence of citizens. Moreover, pretrial detention was used for extended periods, violating Article 143 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which sets a maximum pretrial detention period of 24 months.

The violations against journalists and media professionals were not limited to the judicial and executive authorities but also extended to the journalistic institutions they work for.

These violations included assigning journalists tasks without formal work contracts, exceeding the legal duration stipulated by Egyptian labor law, and terminating employment without legal justification, leading to arbitrary dismissal.

The second quarterly report of 2024 from the Support and Legal Assistance Unit of the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media includes the latest developments in legal procedures in cases ahead of public prosecutors and criminal courts in criminal cases, and ahead of primary and appellate courts in labor cases. It presents the efforts made by the legal support team, highlights the major obstacles faced by the team during the last quarter, and analyzes the most prominent legal violations that journalists and media professionals encountered.

3-List of Imprisoned Journalists (January-June) 2024: To view the full list, click [here](#).

Summary of the List: The Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media releases its first report of 2024, detailing the variations in the situations and trials of imprisoned journalists during the first half of 2024 (January - June). The report provides a detailed presentation and documentation of the cases of journalists who were arrested and those who remained in detention during the reporting period, along with a summary of the legal violations and abuses they faced during their trials. This documentation follows specific criteria set by the institution, explained in this report. During the period covered by the report, the number of detained journalists and media professionals reached 20 in 11 different cases.

The Observatory team documented the continued pretrial detention of 5 journalists. Pretrial detention was not the only violation these journalists and media professionals faced. After some of them were arrested, they were detained illegally for periods ranging from a few days to several months without being presented to the prosecution, in violation of Article 54 of the Egyptian Constitution and Article 124 of the Criminal Procedure Code, both of which require that a detained person be presented to the prosecution within 24 hours of arrest. Additionally, their pretrial detention continued beyond the maximum period stipulated by the Criminal Procedure Code—more than a year—in violation of Article 143 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which sets a maximum pretrial detention period of eighteen months for felonies and two years if the prescribed penalty for the crime is life imprisonment or execution, as seen in the cases of journalists Mostafa El-Khatib and Medhat Ramadan.

During the reporting period, the team also documented the release of 14 journalists by decisions from the public prosecution, including the Supreme State Security Prosecution, in 7 cases. One journalist remained under precautionary measures, an alternative to pretrial detention.

The third and final section of the report presents the cases of journalists and media professionals who were released, including those under the scope of freedom of the press and media or freedom of opinion and expression.

Third: Diverse Reports for the First Half of July 2024

These reports are produced by the institution's media unit team to shed light on key issues related to journalism and media work in Egypt.

1. The Observatory Reveals the Truth About the Darkness on the Road (Professional Report)

To read the full report, click [here](#).

2. "The Cancellation of Daylight Saving Time" is the Latest... Why Do "Misleading Information" Spread Faster During Crises?

To read the full report, click [here](#).

3. Three Years Since the Suspension of Major Evening Publications... Is Print Journalism Disappearing?

To read the report, click [here](#).

4. How Are Regulatory Bodies for Journalism and Media Formed According to the Law?

To read the report, click [here](#).

5. The Observatory Reveals the Truth About the "[Faisal Street](#)" Photo.

Fourth: Journalists and Institutions Profiles

We aim at highlighting inspiring examples of journalists working on various issues and showcase pioneering and young journalistic experiences through the publication of these profiles.

- 1 . July 3, 2024: [Dina Nabil](#)... A Journalist Passionate About Sports.
2. July 6, 2024: ["Mohamed Awad"](#)... A Versatile Journalist Who Broke Free from Regional Journalism Constraints.
3. July 10, 2024: The Challenging Assignments Journalist ["Aya Nabil"](#)... An Inspiring Success Story.
4. July 13, 2024: [Hany Hathout](#)... The Voice of Truth in Sports Media.

Institution Profiles:

- 1 . [Vodka](#)... A Journalism Site That Turns Reading into an amusing Journey.
2. ["Maalomat Mubasher"](#)... A Hearty Economic Meal in Simple Citizen Language.

Fifth: Book Reviews and Story of a Picture

- 1 . [Book](#) Review: Media Without Ethics... Rules and Ethics of Journalistic Work.
2. [Book](#) Review: Journalism as a Craft and Mission by Salama Moussa.
3. Story of a Picture: A spontaneous [Shot](#)... Two Men Sheltering Under Cabbage Leaves from the Sun.
4. Story of a Picture: Alexandria [Churches](#) Open Their Doors to High School Students During Electrical Power Outages.

Sixth: Audience Reach Achieved by the Institution in the First Half of July 2024

This section covers the reach of the content published by the Observatory's official electronic platforms to both direct and indirect audiences through various social media engagements.

The official Facebook page achieved a reach and viewership of 70,000 views in just two weeks.

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Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media



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