

The background is a textured grey surface with a collage of various elements: a red pencil with a yellow eraser, a black paperclip, a black silhouette of a person with raised fists, and several pieces of crumpled paper in shades of brown and tan. The text is centered on a white rectangular background.

Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media Media Unit

From August 1 to August 15, 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

In this regard, we present the highlights from the first half of August 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, July 2024: To view the full report: [click here.](#)

Report Summary: The month witnessed 13 violations, with a notable increase in the number of arbitrary arrests of journalists, along with summonses for investigation related to the publication of journalistic materials on the internet. During the month, 5 cases of arrest were documented, in addition to one arrest that occurred during the same month but involved an event that took place before May 2024, the case of journalist Ramadan Gouida from the “Al-Youm Al-Ikhbari” website.

The arrests in July, along with the case of journalist Ramadan Gouida in May, indicate an intensification of the security campaign against journalists recently. The security forces assigned to these arrests appear to follow a specific pattern, including thorough searches and a heavy security presence during the arrest, which suggests an intention to publicly slander the targeted journalist and intimidate those in the surrounding area. These are recurring themes, seen again in the case of journalist Karim Assad on August 19, 2023.

Secondly: Reports from the Legal Support and Assistance Unit:

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

1. Legal Support Report for Journalists and Media Professionals - July 2024:

To view the full report: click [here](#):

Report Summary: The report reviews cases handled in July, covering 17 cases, including 14 labor cases and 3 criminal cases.

The cases in July varied in nature. There were 11 cases related to compensation for wrongful dismissal, 2 cases related to joining a terrorist group, 2 cases of appeals against labor court rulings, 1 case involving the interpretation of labor court decisions, and 1 case of defamation through publication. The first section of the report also reviewed the judicial bodies that handled these cases during July: 6 cases were heard by labor courts in North Giza, 4 cases by labor courts in South Giza, 2 cases each by the Cairo Court of Appeals and the Supreme State Security Prosecution, and 1 case each by Ministry of Justice experts and the enforcement judge at the North Cairo Court.

The second section of the report highlighted the efforts of the Legal Support and Assistance Unit team, which provided direct legal support in 14 labor cases for 14 journalists and in 3 criminal cases for 3 journalists. The team also provided 8 legal consultations via various communication channels of the institution, assisting 8 journalists with legal procedures related to their work.

The second section also reviewed the number of sessions and legal actions in the mentioned cases, as follows:

.Criminal cases: The team attended 2 pretrial detention renewal sessions for two journalists before the Supreme State Security Prosecution and one trial session at the Misdemeanor Court of Appeal in Boulaq El-Dakrou, along with performing 3 administrative tasks.

.Labor cases: The team attended 12 sessions in labor cases before first-instance courts, 2 sessions before the appeals courts, 4 sessions before the Ministry of Justice experts, and 4 sessions before the enforcement judge at the North Cairo Court, performing 9 administrative tasks throughout the month. The administrative tasks included inquiries about session decisions, obtaining copies of rulings and documents, and handling official notifications.

The third section of the report focused on a legal topic or issue relevant to journalists and media professionals. The legal bulletin for July covered the topic of “Termination of Employment and Rights Arising Under Egyptian Labor Law.”

The fourth and final section of the bulletin featured a profile of a journalist in pretrial detention, providing basic information about the journalist, details of the case they are detained in connection with, highlighting the most significant legal violations they faced during arrest, interrogation, and detention renewal stages, and citing the legal provisions that criminalize these violations. The journalist selected for the July profile is Yasser Abou Al-Ela.

2. Increase in Court Fees and Its Impact on the Right to Litigation - Research Paper:

To view the full paper click [here](#):

Summary: The paper discusses the impact of increased court fees on citizens’ ability to exercise their right to litigation, detailing the stages of paying court fees, types of fees, how they are calculated, decisions to increase fees, and concludes with recommendations to reduce the burden on citizens, including journalists, in exercising their right to litigation.

Thirdly: Key Events in the First Half of August 2024:

- 1- Renewal of journalist Yasser Abou Al-Ela's detention for 15 days.click [here](#).
- 2- The Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media wins a ruling allowing journalist Mohamed Al-Alfy to continue working.click [here](#).
- 3- New developments in the case of Ashraf Omar: Cartoonist's defense reports that he was beaten and tortured.click [here](#).
- 4- Mustafa Al-Khatib's wife: "I dream of his release soon," and his message: "I want to meet a representative of the Journalists' Syndicate."click [here](#).
- 5- Crises in the Al-Wafd Party surface: Delays in appointments and salaries not being paid on time.click [here](#).
- 6- Wife of journalist Ramadan Gouida, imprisoned on charges of joining a terrorist group: "My husband's imprisonment has caused a crisis for our children, despite their understanding." click [here](#).
- 7- A relative of journalist Khaled Mamdouh: "The prison administration refused to allow him to have home clothes and a plastic chair in his cell."click [here](#).

Fourthly: Friday with EOJM:

1- Imprisoned journalists: The specter of persecution and the cycle of pretrial detention. click [here](#) to view.

2- Prison as a point of stillness in a moving world... Mustafa Al-Khatib as a case study. click [here](#) to view.

Fifth: Journalists' and Institutions' Profiles:

Through publishing these profiles, we aim at shedding light on the inspiring models of journalists who work on various topics. Additionally, by publishing institutional profiles, we strive to highlight pioneering and young journalistic experiences.

.July 31, 2024: [Engy Lotfy](#)... A media exclusive specialist among “Media Professionals.”

.August 7, 2024: [Hoda Abdel Nasser](#)... A health journalist addressing the digital audience.

.August 10, 2024: [Peter Magdy](#)... A journalist who never stops learning.

.August 12, 2024: [“FactcheckAr”](#)... An Egyptian initiative against misinformation and rumors.

Sixth: Audience Reach Achieved by the Institution During the First Half of August 2024:

This section covers the reach of the materials published by the official electronic platforms of the Observatory to the direct audience in particular, and to the indirect audience through various social media platforms.

The official Facebook page achieved a reach and view count of 85,000 views within just two weeks.

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Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media



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