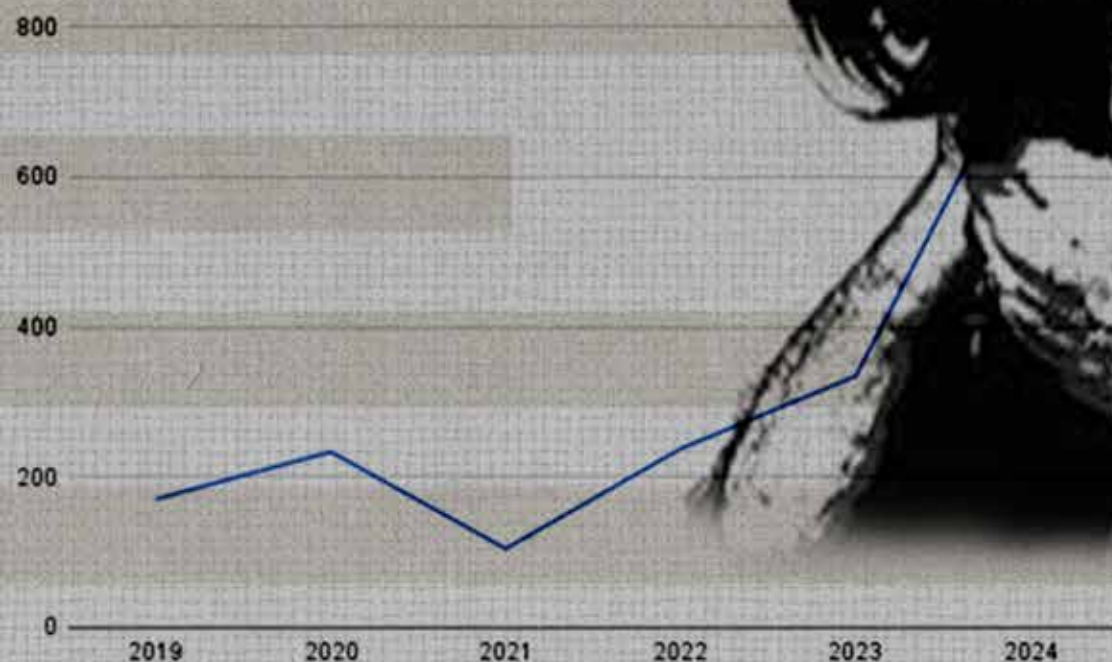


# The State of Journalism and Media in Egypt

## Annual Report 2024



# The Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media

## Monitoring and Documentation Program

### The State of Journalism and Media in

### Egypt

### Annual Report 2024

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## Introduction

### Report Contents and Maps

The Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media is an independent human rights and research institution that aims at defending and promoting journalistic and media freedoms while working to ensure a safe working environment for journalists and media professionals. Additionally, it seeks to support the independence and professionalism of journalism and media.

The Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media publishes an annual report titled “The State of Journalism and Media in Egypt During the Year,” which addresses the following:

1- Monitoring violations that occurred throughout the year (January 1 to December 31, 2024) against individuals working in the field of journalism and media in Egypt. These violations are analyzed and interpreted in an attempt to understand their internal logic and patterns, utilizing various analytical tools, most notably comparative analysis.

2- Tracking and analyzing the outputs of entities responsible for regulating journalistic and media work in Egypt or those that intersected with them during the year. These entities include:

\* **The Supreme Council for Media Regulation**

\* **The National Press Authority**

\* **The National Media Authority**

\* **The Journalists’ Syndicate**

\* **The Media Professionals’ Syndicate**

\* **The National Elections Authority**

\* **The Committee for Culture, Media, and Antiquities in the House of Representatives**

3- Covering significant updates and events in Egypt’s journalistic and media landscape throughout 2024.

In addition to the introduction, the report begins with a descriptive overview of the methodology used to document the violations monitored by the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media’s team.

Finally, the report concludes with a series of findings and recommendations based on the content of the report and insights gained from the team’s 12 monthly reports covering the entire year.



## Report Topics and Maps

### First: Violations

The year 2024 witnessed 781 violations against journalists and media professionals. Some of these violations were frequent and recurring, while others were less common.

Violations related to the economic rights of journalists and media professionals were the most frequent, with 610 cases of financial rights being withheld, 600 violations of these involved the withholding of journalistic rights affecting 200 journalists at a single press institution.

The second most common violation was the “renewal of detention pending investigations,” occurring 74 times during the year. In third place, with a significant gap, was unfair dismissal, with 18 cases recorded in 2024. Fourth was arbitrary arrest, with 15 cases involving journalists and media professionals. Fifth, violations such as “denial of media coverage” and “physical assault” each occurred 10 times during the year.

Additionally, the year witnessed 8 cases of verbal abuse or threats, 4 cases of release on financial bail (which the observatory considers a violation as the default is to release without financial conditions), 4 cases of illegal detention or stopping, and 4 cases of banning media content from broadcasting or airing. Furthermore, there were 3 cases each in the following categories:

defamation, intellectual property theft, and confiscation or seizure of belongings. There were 2 cases each of personal belongings being damaged or burned, media content being removed, media outlets being closed, and bans on practicing journalism. Lastly, there was 1 case each of the following violations: restriction on journalistic work, causing injury, damage or burning of work equipment, online verbal threats, and judicial rulings of imprisonment.

When analyzing the 781 violations in 2024 by the gender of the victim, 602 violations targeted groups of journalists, including both males and females. Meanwhile, 144 violations specifically targeted male journalists, 23 targeted female journalists, and 12 targeted entire journalistic institutions.

In terms of geographic distribution, Giza Governorate had the highest number of violations, with 632 incidents, 600 of which occurred in Al-Fajr newspaper. Cairo Governorate recorded 94 violations, while Sharqia had 15, Qalyubia 11, and Menoufia 8. Kafr El-Sheikh witnessed 6 violations, while Ismailia and Alexandria each had 4. Minya recorded 2 violations, with 1 each in Luxor and Qena. Outside Egypt, 2 violations were documented: one against an Egyptian



journalist working for a foreign media organization abroad and one against a non-Egyptian journalist working for an Egyptian satellite channel.

When classified by the victim's journalistic specialization, 607 violations targeted groups of journalists whose specific specializations were not identified, either because the violations involved groups of journalists whose roles could not be determined or because they affected entire institutions regardless of their specializations. There were 66 violations against editors, 23 against photojournalists, 21 against writers, 13 against reporters, 12 against cartoonists, 9 against translators, and 9 against desk journalists. SEO specialists faced 7 violations, broadcasters 5, program presenters 3, and 2 violations each against administrative staff and editors-in-chief. Lastly, 1 violation each targeted video editors, program producers, and directors.

Regarding the type of media organization the victim worked for, 733 violations affected workers in digital media outlets or online journalistic platforms. Meanwhile, 32 violations were recorded against those working in print journalism, and 16 against those in visual or television media. No violations were recorded against radio workers.

As for the ownership of the entity employing the person subjected to the violation, we find that 753 violations were committed against journalists and media professionals working in privately owned local institutions, while 20 violations were committed against journalists working in media institutions owned by foreign capital, and 8 violations were committed against workers in state-owned media institutions. This carries more than one implication.

**First:** Those working in online media outlets are the least protected among journalists, whereas those working in foreign-owned media institutions enjoy greater protection. Meanwhile, those employed in state-owned media institutions are the most protected.

**Second:** The number of journalists and media professionals working in privately owned online platforms is significantly higher compared to those working in state-owned or foreign-capital-owned entities.

From the perspective of the type of entity committing these violations, 629 were committed by media institutions against their employees, 78 by judicial entities, 23 by security agencies, 18 by civilians without official capacity, 11 by private security companies, and 7 by entities regulating

journalistic and media work in Egypt. Governmental agencies committed 6 violations, while TV channels committed 5 against their employees. Online platforms committed 2 violations against their workers. Lastly, there was 1 violation each committed by a foreign military entity (specifically Israel, against a correspondent for Al-Qahera News Channel) and a sports institution.

Regarding the method of documentation, most violations during the reporting period were documented directly through contact with the victims or their families, field visits by the observatory's lawyers, official documents, or videos of the incidents. Of the total, 778 violations were verified directly, while 3 were confirmed through intermediaries.

A comparison of violations across the year's quarters shows that the last quarter of 2024 recorded the highest number of violations, with 654 incidents. This sharp increase was attributed to Al-Fajr newspaper withholding salaries from 200 journalists for three months, leading to 600 violations. The first quarter ranked second, with 52 violations, followed by the third quarter with 40 violations, and the second quarter with 35 violations.

A comparison of violations over the past five years reveals that 2024 had the highest number, with 781 violations, nearly double the 335 violations recorded in 2023. In third place were 2020 and 2022, with 234 and 238 violations respectively, while 2021 had the lowest number, with 105 violations.

The most frequent violations in 2024 were "withholding financial rights," occurring 610 times, followed by "renewal of detention pending investigations" 74 times. Accompanying violations included unfair dismissal, which occurred 18 times, often linked to the withholding of financial rights, and arbitrary arrests, which occurred 15 times, often linked to the renewal of detention.

There are associated violations, if we may term them as such, accompanying the violation of withholding financial rights. Alongside it, we find the violation of arbitrary dismissal, which occurred 18 times during the year. Similarly, alongside the violation of renewal of pretrial detention, we find the violation of arbitrary arrest, which occurred 15 times during the year.

The reason for linking the violation of withholding financial rights with arbitrary dismissal is that both violations are committed by press or media institutions against their employees and are related to the economic rights of journalists and media professionals. On the other hand, the connection between renewal of pretrial detention and arbitrary arrest is justified by the fact that

both violations pertain to press and media freedoms and aim to restrict the freedoms that enable journalists to work. Additionally, both violations are carried out by state's judicial or security agencies.

## Challenges and Obstacles in Monitoring and Documenting Violations:

The monitoring and documentation program team at the observatory faces a set of challenges and obstacles in the documentation process, including:

**Regarding Journalists Themselves:** Many journalists and media professionals subjected to violations are unwilling to document their experiences, believing that revealing these incidents would defame them and diminish their dignity. They also perceive that dwelling on these violations and seeking justice through the judiciary might reduce their chances of obtaining work in the journalistic and media field. Additionally, imprisoned and detained journalists, as well as their families, fear providing information about what happened to them, as they worry that it might lessen their chances of release or lead to further mistreatment. There is also widespread apprehension among journalists regarding organizations working on media-related issues due to these organizations' high level of advocacy for journalists' rights.

**Regarding Government Institutions and the Law:** The primary issue observed in this area is the absence of legal documents in cases of unlawful detention. Additionally, the legal framework governing journalistic and media work is vast and complex, making it extremely difficult to legally define violations and determine their nature under Egyptian law. This difficulty is compounded by frequent contradictions within these legislations, between them and the constitution, as well as by deliberate withholding of information by officials, given the secrecy that characterizes most state institutions. Furthermore, there is no specific law guaranteeing freedom of information circulation.

**Regarding Press and Media Institutions:** A striking observation in this regard is the frequent contradiction between statements and information provided by media institutions' administrations and those provided by journalists regarding the same issue. This is especially true when there are conflicts of interest between the two parties in cases of arbitrary dismissal and withholding of financial rights. In some instances, newspaper officials refuse to cooperate with the documentation team, particularly if they are responsible for the violations and lack evidence to support their position. If the violation concerns freedoms or involves a government institution, many press organizations deliberately ignore covering it, believing that doing so

would secure a better relationship with state authorities.

**Regarding the Violations Themselves:** One of the key challenges facing the monitoring and documentation team is the difficulty in accessing reliable sources to identify the journalist or media professional subjected to a violation, especially given their reluctance to provide details. Additionally, false reports sometimes create the illusion of violations without offering any real or verifiable information. In cases of arrests, limited information from lawyers in session reports makes it challenging to determine whether a violation has actually occurred.

## Second: Actions Taken by Entities Regulating Journalism and Media

The second section of the report highlights the activities issued by entities responsible for regulating journalistic and media work in Egypt, whether in the form of statements (announcements, declarations, correspondences) or actions (events and activities).

These regulatory entities are divided into two types:

**1- Syndicate Entities**, which represent the journalistic and media community in Egypt, acting as the voice of journalists and media professionals and advocating for their members.

**2- Regulatory Bodies**, which are governmental or national institutions whose primary goal, as reflected in their policies, is to oversee, direct, and control the operations of the press and media sector.

The first category includes, in practice, **the Journalists' Syndicate** and, theoretically, **the Media Syndicate**.

The second category includes **the Supreme Council for Media Regulation, the National Media Authority, and the National Press Authority**.

There is also a third category of institutions that, while not strictly regulatory bodies, remain relevant to the journalistic and media landscape in Egypt. These include **the Parliament, judicial bodies, the National Elections Authority, the General Information Authority<sup>1</sup>**, as well as television channels, newspapers, magazines, media production and

1-As it is the entity responsible for granting permits for journalistic and media coverage of constitutional entitlements, including elections and referendums.

distribution companies, and media academics.

Statistical monitoring of activities issued by entities regulating journalism and media in Egypt indicates that these entities collectively produced 786 activities in 2024. Of these, **151 activities** were recorded in the first quarter, **159 in the second quarter**, **229 in the third quarter**, and **247 in the fourth and final quarter**, making the last three months of the year the most active period.

**Regarding Syndicate Entities:** The Journalists' Syndicate was the most active body during the past year, issuing 503 activities out of the total 786. Meanwhile, the Media Syndicate issued 64 activities, a relatively limited number compared to the Journalists' Syndicate. However, this figure is understandable given that the Media Syndicate was established by government directive under Law No. 93 of 2016<sup>2</sup> and is still relatively new, being only eight years old.

**Regarding Regulatory Bodies:** The Supreme **Council for Media Regulation** was the second most active regulatory body after the Journalists' Syndicate, though with a significant gap in activity. The council issued **97 activities** during the year, compared to the **503 activities** issued by the Journalists' Syndicate. The **National Press Authority**, responsible for managing national press institutions and ensuring their development, independence, and professional, administrative, and economic integrity, ranked third, issuing **64 activities**. The **National Media Authority**, which oversees state-owned media institutions and their television, radio, digital, and print content production and engineering services, was the least active, issuing **58 activities** throughout the year.

Decisions were among the most significant outputs of these regulatory entities in Egypt. A quick review of the decisions issued reveals a total of **31 decisions** collectively. The statistical analysis of these decisions shows that:

- \* **The Supreme Council for Media Regulation** was the most active in issuing decisions, with **12 decisions**.
- \* The **National Media Authority** followed with **8 decisions**.
- \* The **National Press Authority** issued **5 decisions**.
- \* The **Media Syndicate** issued **4 decisions**.

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2-Legal Publications, Issuance of the Media Syndicate Law, Date of Access: January 3, 2024, Link: [Issuance of the Media Syndicate Law | Legal Publications](#).

**\*The Journalists' Syndicate issued 3 decisions, making it the least active in this regard.**

Notably, the fourth quarter of the year saw the highest number of decisions, with **18 decisions** issued, compared to **13 in the first quarter, 11 in the second quarter, and none in the third quarter.**

The report contains further analysis and commentary on the activities and statements issued by these entities throughout 2024.

### **Third: Developments in the Journalistic and Media Community in Egypt**

The third section of the report examines the most significant events and developments in the Egyptian journalistic and media community during 2024. This section addresses two key issues:

- 1- The formation of councils responsible for journalistic and media work in Egypt**
- 2- A brief evaluation of the performance of the Journalists' Syndicate Council over the past year**

**Finally: The Conclusion and Recommendations of the Report**

## Methodology

The Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media relies on a strict methodology for monitoring, documenting, and classifying violations against journalists and media professionals. This methodology has been developed over more than 10 years of work in the journalism and media sector in Egypt. This section presents an overview of the methodology and its key components. The discussion is divided into three main areas:

### 1- Monitoring Methodology

### 2- Documentation Methodology

### 3- Classification Principles of Violations Reported to the Institution

## First: Monitoring Methodology at the Institution

The monitoring process at the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media is based on four primary sources:

### 1- Reports and complaints received by the observatory, which are documented through

communication with witnesses, journalists, and media professionals, as well as by collecting materials and evidence.

### 2- Research through the digital archives of journalism, official platforms, publicly available

testimonies on social media, civil society organizations, and lawyers concerned with media

freedom.

### 3-Monitoring conducted by the observatory's lawyers or reports received by the institution's legal support unit during their daily field presence alongside journalists and media professionals in judicial and police institutions.

### 4-Field journalists collaborating with the observatory provide all available data on new violations against journalists and media professionals.

## Second: Documentation Methodology

Documentation complements the monitoring process, and the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media follows two documentation paths:

**1- Direct Documentation:** This involves direct communication with journalists, their families, or their legal representatives to document their testimonies and the violations they experienced, using reporting and complaint mechanisms in accordance with international standards.



**2-Indirect Documentation:** If direct communication with victims of violations or their families is not possible and obtaining official documents proving the violation is difficult, the observatory relies on reports from credible journalistic and media outlets, human rights organizations, relevant individuals (such as members of the Journalists' Syndicate or the Media Syndicate), colleagues of the affected journalists, or personal social media accounts of journalists and media professionals.

### **Third: Classification Principles of Violations Reported to the Institution**

This section addresses the criteria used by the observatory to define an event as a violation. The observatory's team classifies and categorizes violations based on key principles.

A violation is defined as **any assault, breach, or transgression that is legally, ethically, or socially unacceptable, committed against a journalist or media professional at a specific time and place.** A violation is identified based on three key variables (**Location of the violation, Time of the violation, Type of violation**)

Additionally, a journalist or media professional affected by a violation is defined as **any individual who has been subjected to a violation due to their journalistic or media work, provided that the institution can verify their professional status through:** Membership in the Journalists' or Media Syndicate, A work permit, An assignment from a media or journalistic institution, A journalistic or media archive, A certification from their media organization or its officials.

#### **Classification of Violations**

##### **1. Classification by Number of Victims:**

**\* Individual Violation:** A violation against a single journalist or media professional.

**\*Collective Violation:** A violation against an entire media institution or a group of journalists whose identities as individuals are unknown.

##### **2. Classification by Type of Harm:**

Violations are categorized into the following types of harm:

###### **A. Physical Harm:**

**\* Physical assault or injury:** Includes beating, dragging, torture, or injuries sustained while covering clashes or as a result of an assault.

\* **Physical assault or injury inside a detention facility (torture):** Separate incidents occurring within detention facilities, including beatings, dragging, and torture of journalists while in police custody or prison.

## B. Psychological Harm:

\* **Arrest:** The process of detaining a journalist or media professional, filing a report against them, presenting them to the prosecution, and bringing charges.

\* **Unlawful detention:** Holding a journalist or media professional in an official detention facility for a period of time before releasing them without filing charges.

\* **Stop and search:** Briefly detaining a journalist or media professional without transferring them to a detention facility or restraining them, followed by their release without filing charges.

\* **Verbal abuse or threats:** Includes insults, slurs, and threats made directly or through social media.

\* **Verbal abuse or threats inside a detention facility:** Separate incidents occurring inside detention centers while a journalist is in custody.

\* **Prison sentences:** Judicial rulings by various courts (misdemeanors, appeals, or felonies) against journalists in cases related to their professional work.

\* **Restriction of movement:** Limiting a journalist's ability to travel within or outside the country, including travel bans, entry bans, or deportation, whether through official decisions or unofficial measures (such as being denied entry at the border).

## C. Professional Harm:

\* **Denial of press coverage:** Any obstruction of press coverage, including photography or broadcasting. If the incident occurs at a specific time and place (e.g., conferences or public events), it is recorded as a single collective violation, regardless of the number of affected journalists. If it occurs over an extended period (e.g., protests), each journalist's case is recorded separately.

\* **Ban on broadcasting or publishing media content:** Includes the prohibition of publishing or airing news, articles, programs, or any media content across different platforms.

\* **Publication ban order:** Official bans issued by the Public Prosecution regarding high-profile public cases.

\* **Newspaper confiscation:** The seizure of newspaper issues.

\* **Raid on a media institution:** Incidents involving attacks on journalistic or media offices or the Journalists' Syndicate.

\* **Denial of access to the syndicate:** Preventing journalists from entering their syndicate

due to arbitrary measures by the syndicate's administration.

- \* **Denial of access to a media institution:** Preventing journalists from entering their workplace due to arbitrary actions by the institution's management.
- \* **Website blocking:** The use of advanced electronic measures to restrict access to specific websites within a defined geographic area, whether through official decisions by the Supreme Council for Media Regulation or by unknown entities.
- \* **Content deletion:** Forcing a journalist to delete or destroy recorded or written content against their will.
- \* **Unjust dismissal:** Termination of employment in violation of labor laws, such as early termination of a fixed-term contract or dismissal from an open-ended contract without prior notice.
- \* **Work suspension:** A decision by the administration or relevant authority to suspend a journalist, depriving them of their professional rights.

#### D. Employment and Administrative Harm:

- \* **Administrative disciplinary actiC.** Professional Harm:
- \* **Denial of press coverage:** Any obstruction of press coverage, including photography or broadcasting. If the incident occurs at a specific time and place (e.g., conferences or public events), it is recorded as a single collective violation, regardless of the number of affected journalists. If it occurs over an extended period (e.g., protests), each journalist's case is recorded separately.
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- \* **Newspaper confiscation:** The seizure of newspaper issues.
- \* **Raid on a media institution:** Incidents involving attacks on journalistic or media offices or the Journalists' Syndicate.
- \* **Denial of access to the syndicate:** Preventing journalists from entering their syndicate due to arbitrary measures by the syndicate's administration.
- \* **Denial of access to a media institution:** Preventing journalists from entering their workplace due to arbitrary actions by the institution's management.
- \* **Website blocking:** The use of advanced electronic measures to restrict access to specific websites within a defined geographic area, whether through official decisions by the Supreme Council for Media Regulation or by unknown entities.

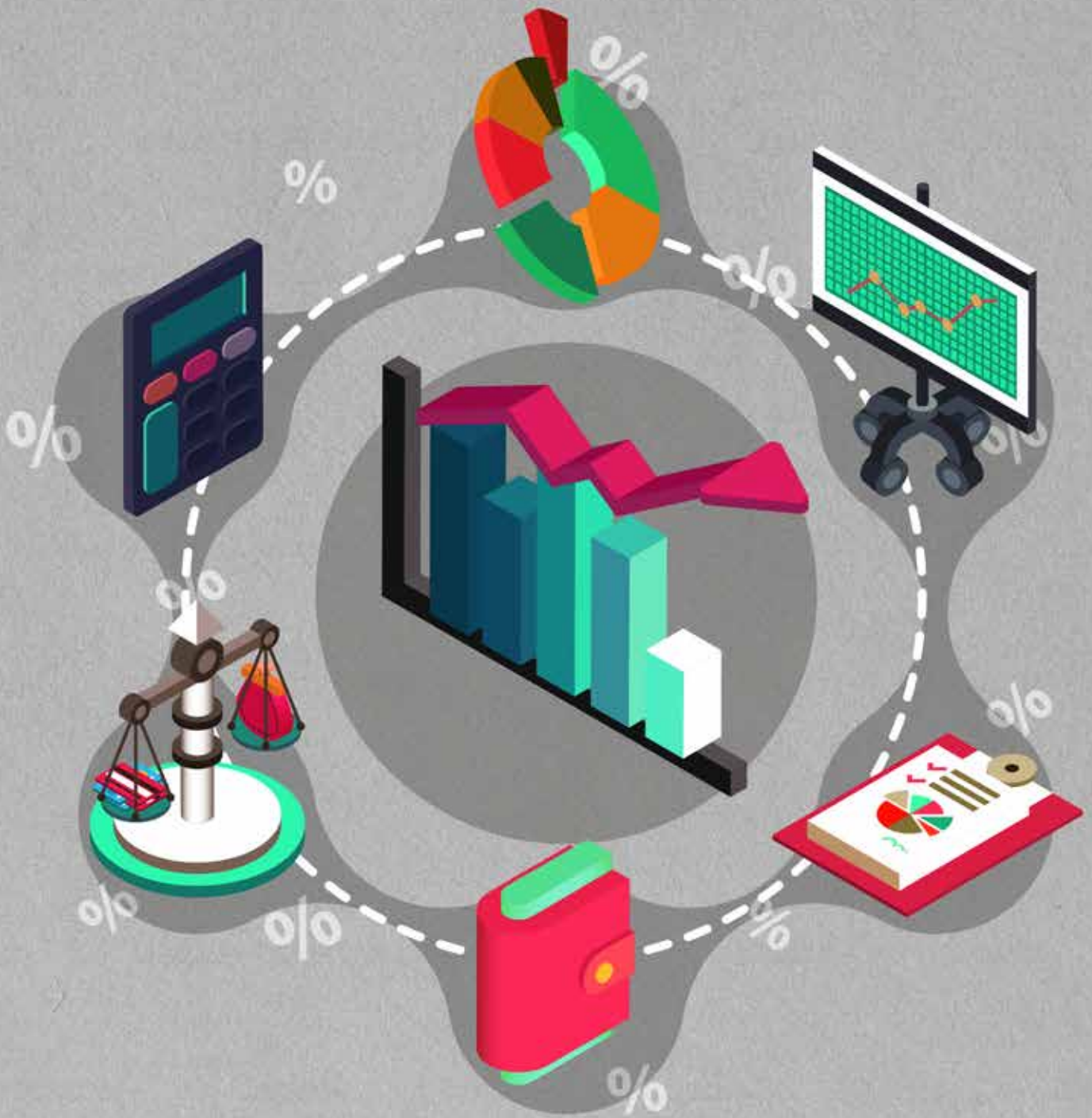
- \* **Content deletion:** Forcing a journalist to delete or destroy recorded or written content against their will.
- \* **Unjust dismissal:** Termination of employment in violation of labor laws, such as early termination of a fixed-term contract or dismissal from an open-ended contract without prior notice.
- \* **Work suspension:** A decision by the administration or relevant authority to suspend a journalist, depriving them of their professional rights.
- \* **on:** Internal investigations within media institutions or administrative actions related to a journalist's work or membership in the Journalists' Syndicate.

#### E. Financial Harm:

- \* **Destruction or burning of journalistic equipment:** Damage to tools and property used for journalistic work (excluding personal items).
- \* **Confiscation of journalistic equipment:** The seizure of journalistic tools by official authorities or unauthorized individuals while performing journalistic duties.
- \* **Release on bail:** Payment required for the release of detained journalists before trial.
- \* **Imposition of financial penalties:** Fines issued through judicial rulings in misdemeanor or felony courts.

# Section One:

## Statistical Analysis of Violations in 2024



The first section of the report provides a statistical overview of the violations against journalists and media professionals throughout the year. It also includes a comparative statistical analysis of these violations, contributing to an understanding of their patterns and causes.

This section consists of four main parts:

- 1- Statistical presentation of violations in 2024.
- 2- Comparative analysis of journalistic and media violations in 2024.
- 3- The most notable violations in 2024.

Challenges and obstacles encountered in the monitoring and documentation process.

## **First: Statistical Presentation of Violations in 2024**

This part of the report analyzes the violations recorded between January 1 and December 31, 2024, totaling **781 violations**.

### **1. Classification of Violations by Type**

In 2024, the most frequent violations were related to journalists' and media professionals' economic rights, with **610 cases of withheld financial entitlements**, including **600 instances** of withheld wages affecting 200 journalists at a single newspaper.

The second most common violation was **“renewed detention pending investigations,”** which occurred **74 times** during the year.

The third-ranked violation was **arbitrary dismissal**, with **18 recorded cases** in 2024.

In fourth place was **arbitrary arrest**, with **15 cases** affecting journalists and media professionals.

Fifth were **“denial of media coverage”** and **“physical assault,”** each occurring **10 times** throughout the year.

Additionally, 2024 witnessed:

- \* **8 cases** of verbal abuse or threats.
- \* **4 cases** of release on **financial bail**, which the observatory considers a violation since release should occur without financial conditions.
- \* **4 cases** of illegal detention or stopping journalists for questioning.



- \* 4 cases of **banning the broadcasting or publication** of media content.
- \* 3 cases in each of the following categories: **defamation, intellectual property theft, and confiscation of belongings.**
- \* 2 cases in each of the following: **destruction or burning of personal belongings, removal of media content, closure of a media outlet, and banning from work.**
- \* 1 case in each of the following: **obstruction of journalistic work, causing physical injury, destruction of work equipment, online threats, and court-issued prison sentences.**



figure no.(1-1): Classification of Violations by Type



## 2. Classification of Violations by Gender

The 781 violations in 2024, categorized by the gender of the victims, reveal that:

- \* 602 violations affected groups of journalists, including both male and female journalists.
- \* 144 violations specifically targeted male journalists.
- \* 23 violations targeted female journalists.
- \* 12 violations affected entire media institutions.

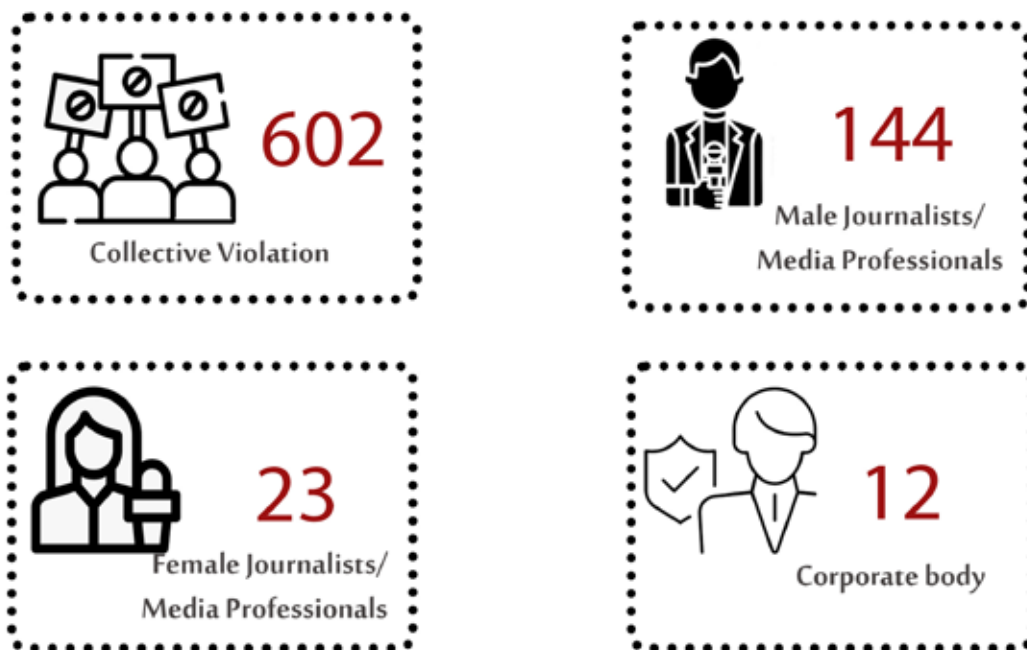


figure no.(1-2): Classification of Violations by Gender

### 3 . Classification of Violations by Location

The distribution of violations based on geography shows that:

**Giza Governorate** recorded the highest number, with **632 violations**, including **600 violations** in Al-Fajr newspaper alone.

**Cairo** saw **94 violations**.

**Sharqia** recorded **15 violations**.

**Qalyubia** recorded **11 violations**.

**Menoufia** recorded **8 violations**.

**Kafr El-Sheikh** recorded **6 violations**.

**Ismailia and Alexandria** each recorded **4 violations**.

**Minya** recorded **2 violations**, and **Qena** recorded **1 violation**.

**Outside Egypt**, **2 cases** were recorded: one against an Egyptian journalist working for a foreign media organization and another against a non-Egyptian journalist working for an Egyptian satellite channel.

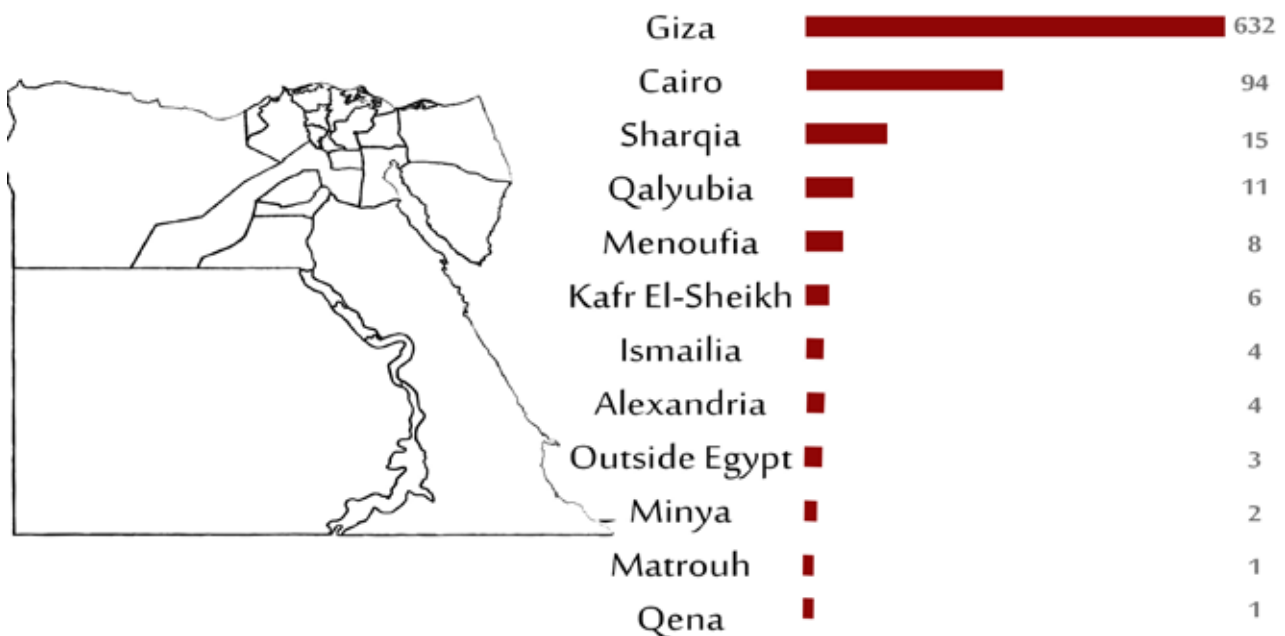


figure no.(1-3): Classification of Violations by Geographic Distribution

#### 4. Classification of Violations by Specialization of the Victim

Analysis of violations based on the specialization of the affected journalists shows that:

- \* **607 violations** targeted groups of journalists with **undefined specializations**, either because the violations involved entire media organizations or groups where individual roles were not distinguishable.
- \* **66 violations** targeted **news editors**. \* **23 violations** affected **photojournalists**.
- \* **21 violations** involved **columnists**. \* **13 violations** targeted **reporters**.
- \* **12 violations** affected **cartoonists**. \* **9 violations** affected **media translators**.
- \* **9 violations** targeted **news desk editors**. \* **7 violations** targeted **SEO specialists**.
- \* **5 violations** targeted **broadcasters**. \* **3 violations** targeted **TV presenters**.
- \* **2 violations** affected both **administrators and chief editors**.
- \* **1 violation** affected each of the following: **video editors, program producers, and directors**.



figure no.(1-4):Classification of Violations by Victim's Specialization

## 5 . Classification of Violations by Type of Employer

Analyzing **the 781 violations** based on the type of employer shows that:

- \* **733 violations** affected journalists working for **digital media or online news platforms.**
- \* **32 violations** affected journalists working for **printed newspapers.**
- \* **16 violations** targeted journalists in **TV and broadcast media.**
- \* No violations were recorded against **radio journalists** in 2024.

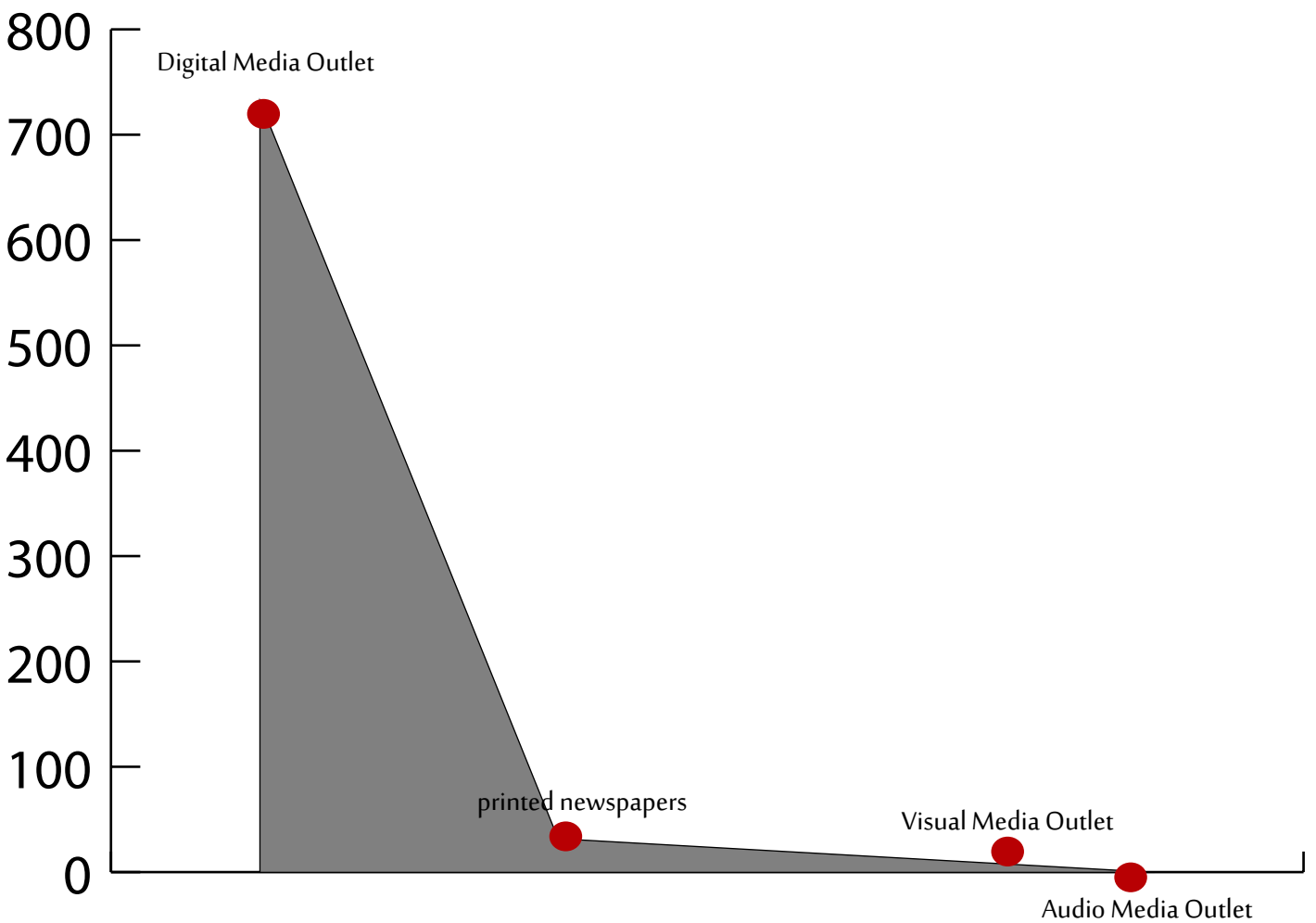


figure no.(1-5): Classification of Violations by Victim's Workplace Type

## 6. Classification of Violations by Ownership of Employer

Based on the ownership of the employer, the data reveals:

\* **753 violations** affected journalists and media professionals working in privately owned local institutions.

\* **20 violations** targeted those working in foreign-owned media organizations.

\* **8 violations** affected employees in state-owned media organizations.

This indicates the following:

1- Journalists in online media platforms face the least protection, while those in foreign-owned media organizations have greater security. Journalists in state-owned media experience the most protection.

2- The majority of journalists work in private digital media, significantly outnumbering those in state-owned or foreign-owned organizations.

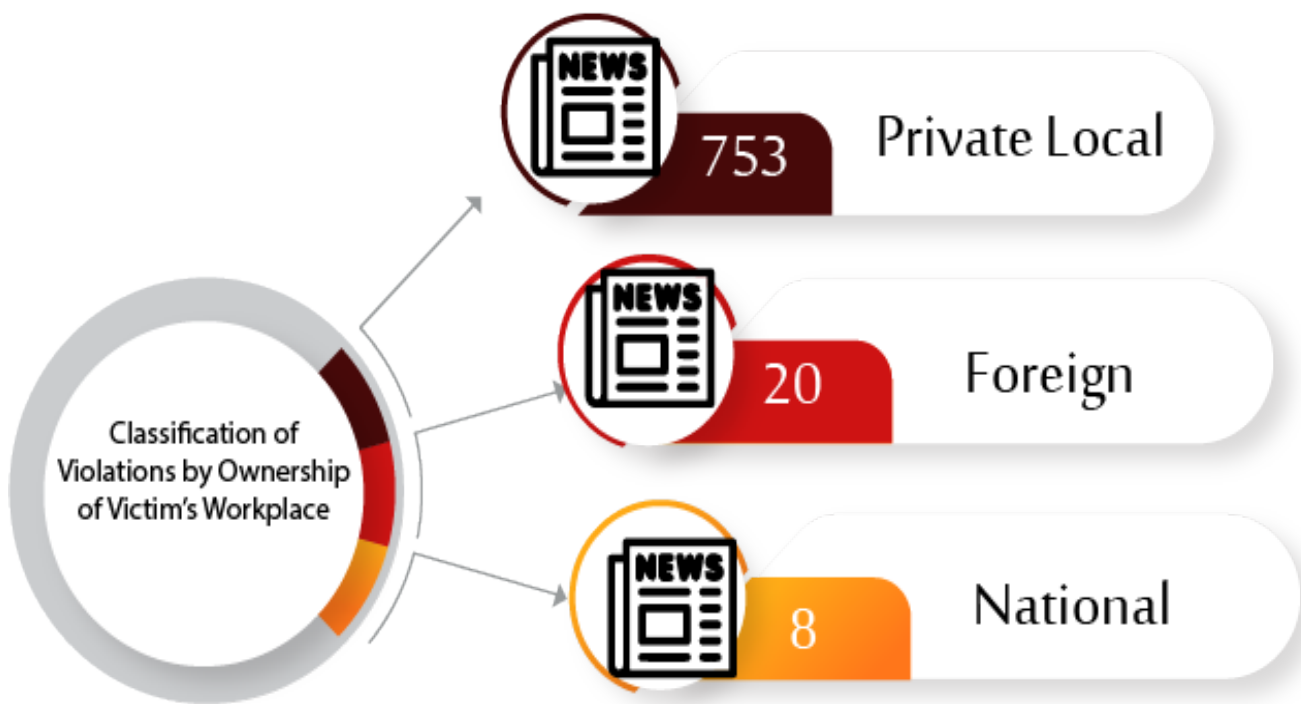


figure no.(1-6): Classification of Violations by Ownership of Victim's Workplace

## 7. Classification of Violations by Perpetrating Entity

In 2024, a total of **781 violations** were recorded. Based on the perpetrating entity, the data shows:

- \* **629 violations** were committed by media institutions against their employees.
- \* **78 violations** were committed by judicial authorities.
- \* **23 violations** were committed by security agencies.
- \* **18 violations** were committed by civilians without official positions.
- \* **11 violations** were committed by private security company employees.
- \* **7 violations** were committed by bodies responsible for regulating journalism and media work in Egypt.
- \* **6 violations** were committed by government entities.
- \* **5 violations** were committed by television channels against their employees.
- \* **2 violations** were committed by online platforms against their employees.
- \* **1 violation** was committed by a foreign military entity, specifically Israel, against a correspondent working for Al-Qahera News channel.

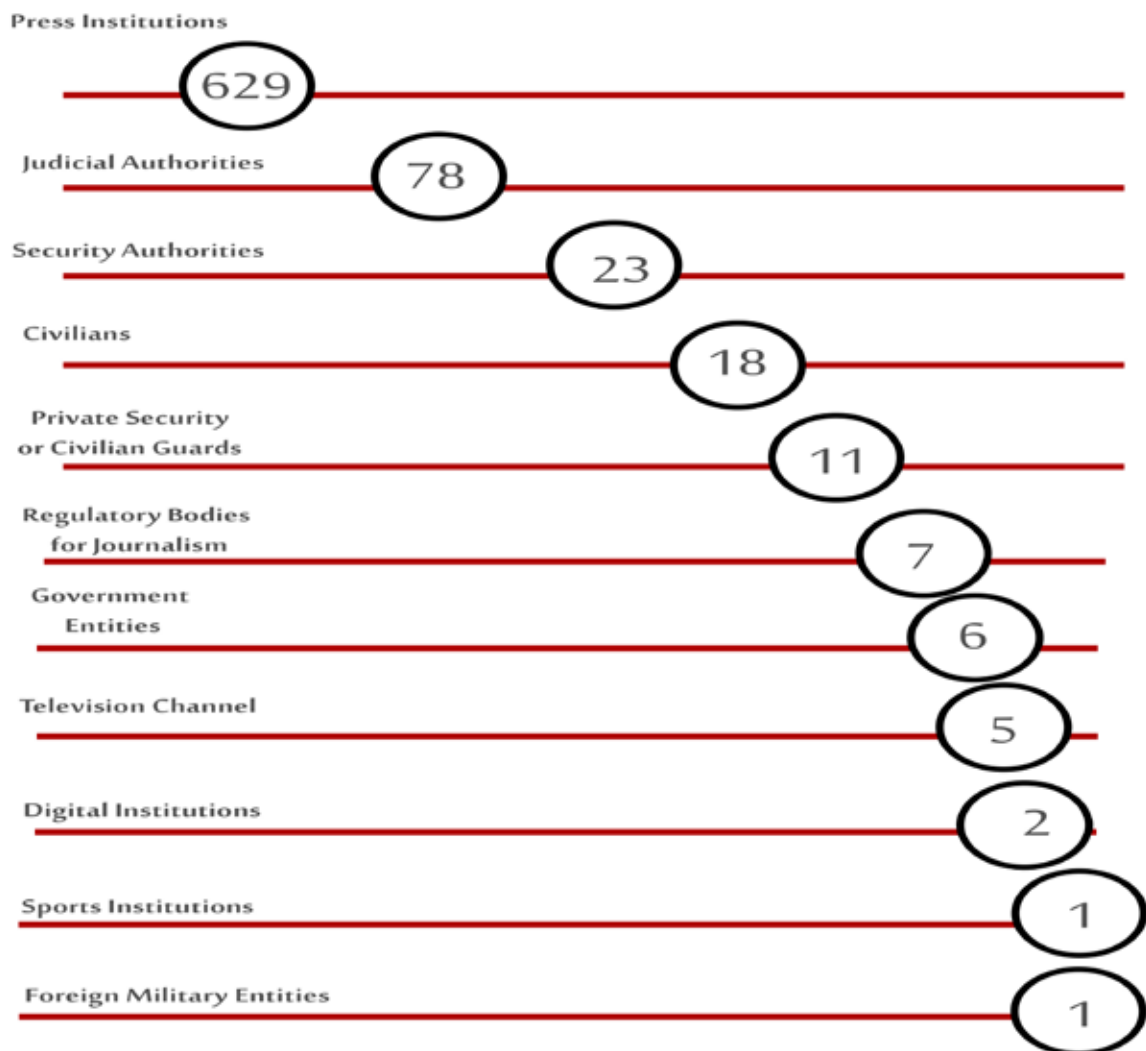


figure no.(1-7): Classification of Violations by Perpetrator's Workplace

## 8- Classification of Violations by Documentation Method

Regarding the documentation of violations and the verification of their occurrence:

\* **778 violations** were verified **directly**.

\* **3 violations** were verified **through an intermediary**.

To differentiate between the two documentation methods, as explained in the “Conceptual and Methodological Framework” section of the report’s introduction:

\* **Direct documentation** occurs when **the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media** verifies a violation by directly contacting the victim, witnesses, the media institution, or lawyers, or by obtaining material evidence or documented information from official sources.

\* **Indirect documentation** occurs when **direct contact** with the victim, witnesses, media institution, or lawyers is unavailable, and when there is no material evidence or documented information from official sources. Instead, the primary source of information is **another human rights organization, a journalist, a political party, or social media platforms**.

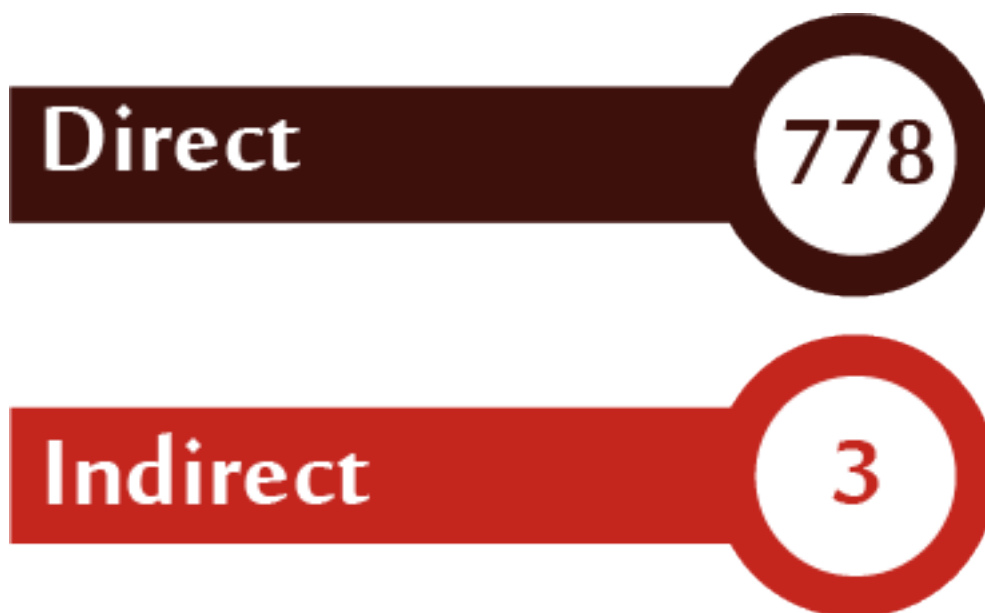


figure no.(1-8):Classification of Violations by Documentation Type



## 9. Classification of Violations by Type of Right Violated

Violations against journalists and media professionals have negative effects on their professional and social lives.

Regarding the negative impacts of **the 781 violations** recorded in 2024:

- \* **632 violations** negatively affected **the economic and, consequently, social conditions** of the affected journalists and media professionals.
- \* **98 violations** infringed on journalists' **right to criminal justice**.
- \* **48 violations** restricted **the right to press and media freedom**.
- \* **3 violations** impacted the affected individuals' **right to free expression**.

It is important to note that:

- \* **“Press and media freedom”** refers to violations that journalists or media professionals face **while performing their work**.
- \* **“Freedom of expression”** refers to violations journalists or media professionals face **when exercising their right to express personal opinions outside of their professional duties**.

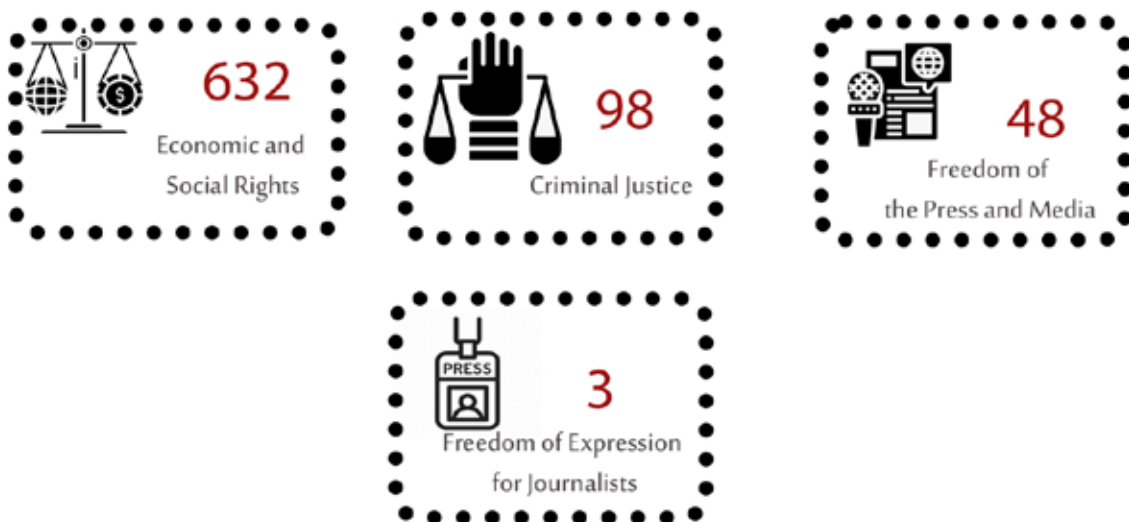


figure no.(1-9): Classification of Violations by the Right Violated

## Second: Comparative Analysis of Violations in 2024

In this section, two comparisons are conducted to further highlight the analytical and statistical dimensions of the violations that occurred in 2024. The first comparison examines the number of violations across the different quarters of the year. The second compares the number of violations over the past five years.

### Comparison of Violations Across the Four Quarters of 2024

A comparison of the violations recorded throughout 2024 by season reveals that the **fourth quarter** had the highest number of violations, with **654 violations**. The reason for this sudden surge in violations is that Al-Fajr newspaper, which employs 200 journalists, refrained from paying their salaries for **three months without a clear reason**. This resulted in each of the 200 journalists experiencing **three financial rights violations** over the course of those three months, leading to a total of **600 violations during October, November, and December**.

**The first quarter** (January, February, March) ranked second, with **52 violations**. **The third quarter** (July, August, September) followed with **40 violations**. **The second quarter** (April, May, June) had the lowest number of violations, recording **35 violations**.

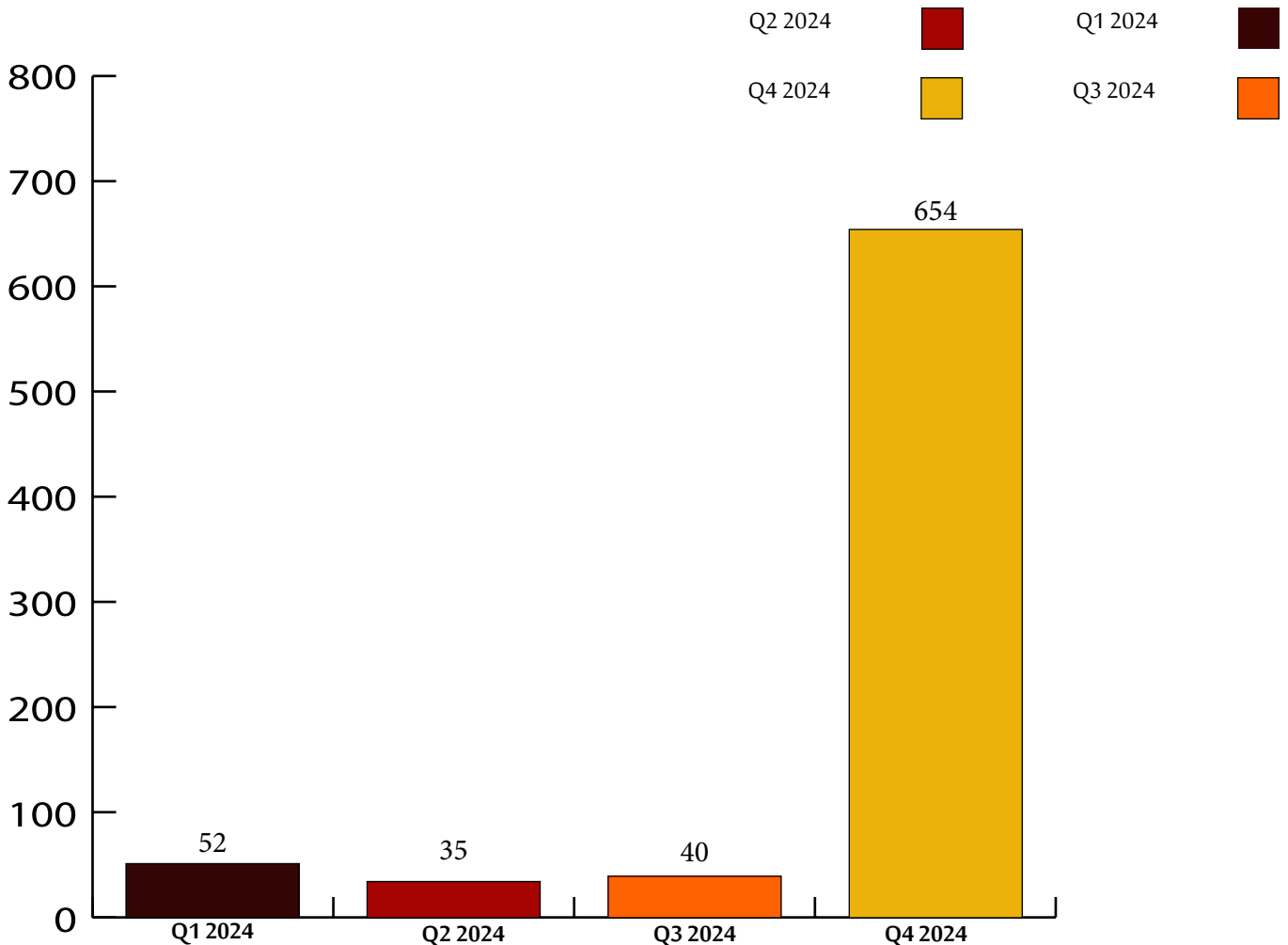


figure no.(1-10): Comparison of Violations Across Four Quarters of 2024

## 1. Comparison of the Total Number of Violations Over the Last Five Years

When comparing the number of violations over the past five years, **2024 had the highest number of violations, recording 781 violations.** This is nearly double the number recorded in **2023**, which ranked as the second-highest year with **335 violations.**

In third place were **2020 and 2022**, with **234 and 238 violations**, respectively, showing a small difference of just **4 violations** between the two years. **2021** had the lowest number of violations, with **105 cases recorded.**

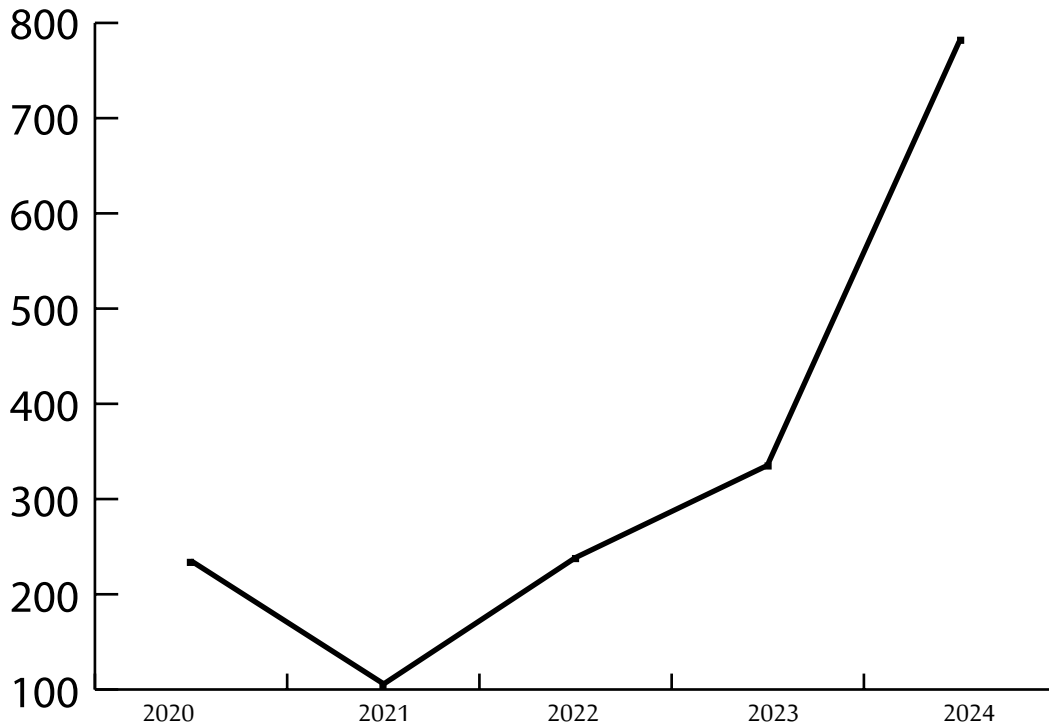


figure no.(1-11): Comparison of Total Violations Over the Last Five Years

Tracking the violations against journalists and media professionals over the past five years shows that the number of violations **increased in 2020 to 234 violations**, then **declined in 2021 to 105 violations.** The numbers then **rose again in 2022 and 2023**, recording **238 and 335 violations**, respectively. Finally, in **2024**, the number of violations **skyrocketed to 781 for the first time in the past five years.**

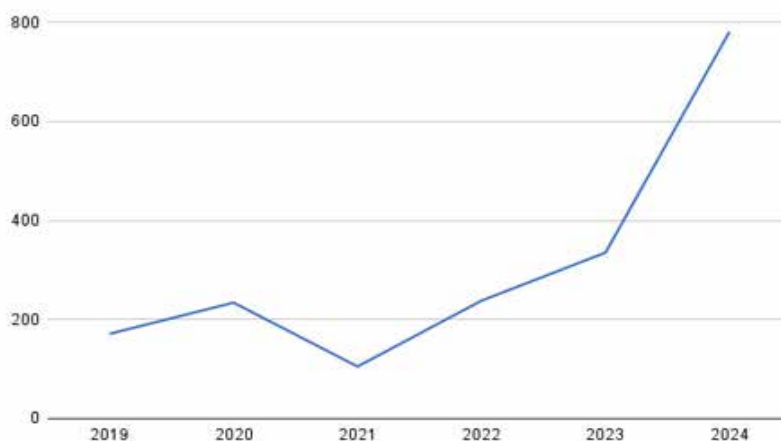


figure no.(1-12): Trend of Violations Over the Last Five Years

### Third: Most Notable Violations in 2024

This section highlights the most frequently occurring violations of the year. It can be said that the “**withholding of financial rights**” was the most prevalent violation in 2024, occurring **610 times** out of the total **781 violations** recorded.

Additionally, “**renewal of pretrial detention**” was a notably frequent violation, occurring **74 times** in 2024.

Some violations are closely linked to others. The “**withholding of financial rights**” is often associated with “**arbitrary dismissal**,” which occurred **18 times** during the year. Similarly, “**renewal of pretrial detention**” is linked to “**arbitrary arrest**,” which occurred **15 times** in 2024.

The connection between “**withholding financial rights**” and “**arbitrary dismissal**” is that both are committed by **media institutions** against their employees and relate to **the economic rights** of journalists and media professionals.

On the other hand, the link between “**renewal of pretrial detention**” and “**arbitrary arrest**” is that both relate to **press and media freedoms** and aim to **restrict journalists’ ability to work**. These violations are committed by **judicial and security authorities**.

The following sections will discuss these **four most frequent violations** of the year and their associated violations in more detail.

### First: Violation of Withholding Financial Rights

The most frequently occurring violation in 2024 was **withholding financial rights**. Notably, the number of these violations has fluctuated over the past six years. As shown in the table, there were **32 cases** of withheld financial rights in 2019, which dropped to **23 cases in 2020**, then decreased significantly in 2021 to **9 violations**. The number rose again in 2022, and in 2023, there was a sharp surge, with **132 cases** recorded. In 2024, this number increased more than **fivefold**, reaching **610 cases** of withheld financial rights. The reason for this surge in the past year was that **200 journalists were deprived of their salaries for three months at Al-Fajr newspaper**.

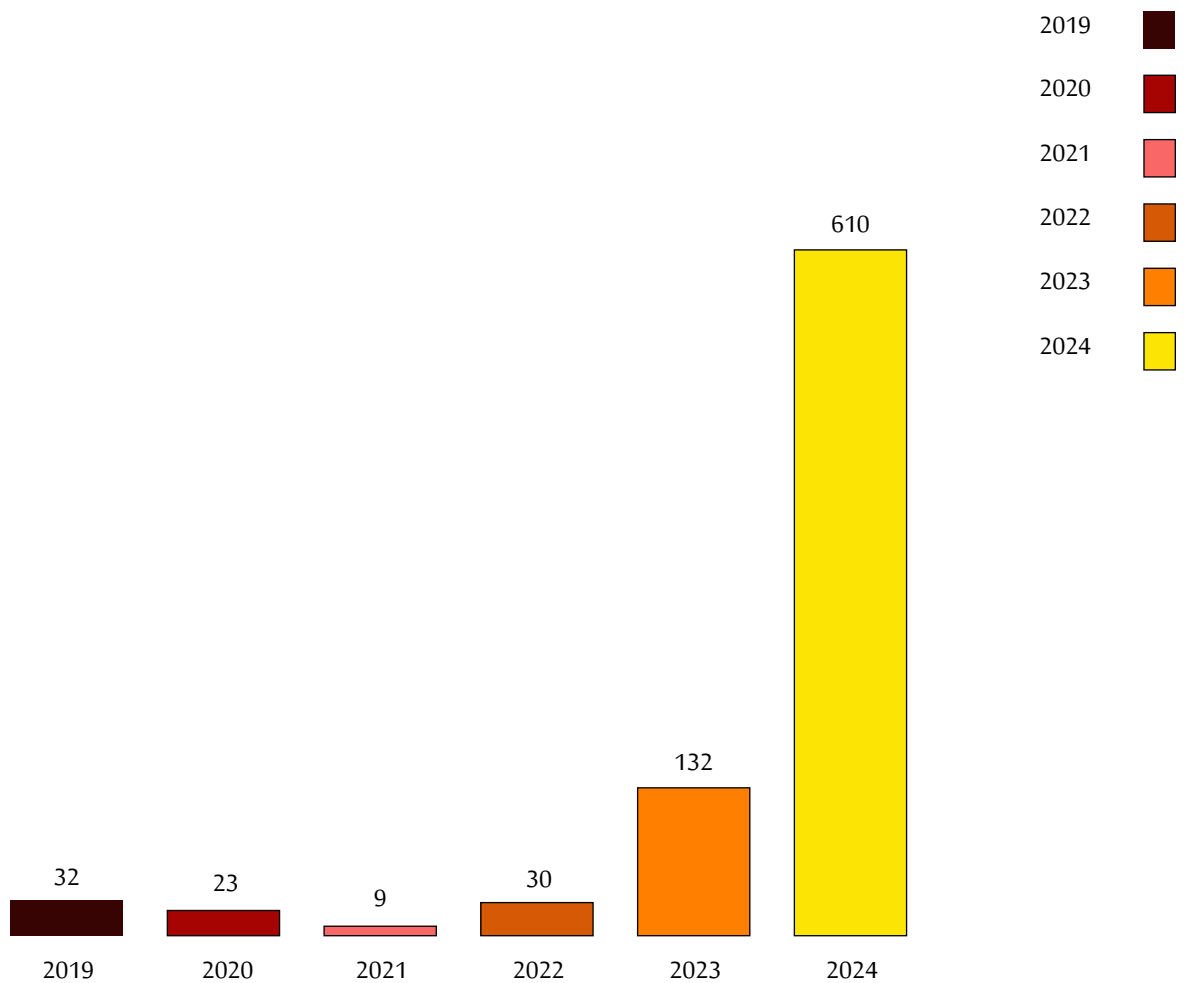


figure no.(1-13): Total Financial Rights Violations Over Five Years

From a **geographical perspective**, **Giza Governorate** recorded the highest number of financial rights violations, with **604 cases**. It was followed-by a wide margin-by **Cairo Governorate**. Additionally, one case was recorded involving a **journalistic institution operating outside Egypt**, which withheld financial rights from an Egyptian journalist.

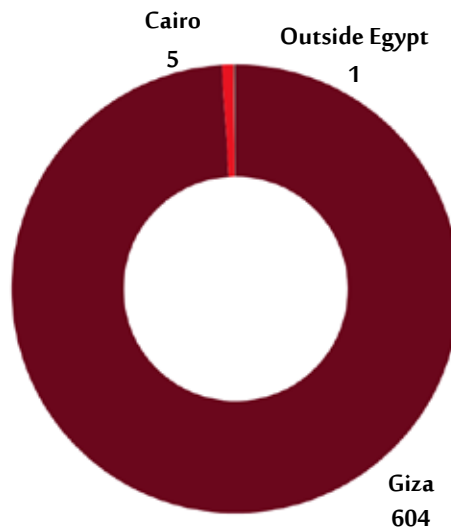


figure no.(1-14): Financial Rights Violations by Geographic Distribution

Regarding **the gender distribution** of financial rights violations, **8 cases** involved male journalists, while **2 cases** involved female journalists. However, the remaining **600 cases** did not specify the gender of the affected individuals.

When looking at **the distribution of financial rights violations throughout the year**, the **first quarter of 2024** recorded **2 cases**, the second quarter recorded **6 cases**, the **third quarter** recorded **2 cases**, and the **fourth quarter** saw a surge with **600 cases**, affecting **200 journalists**.

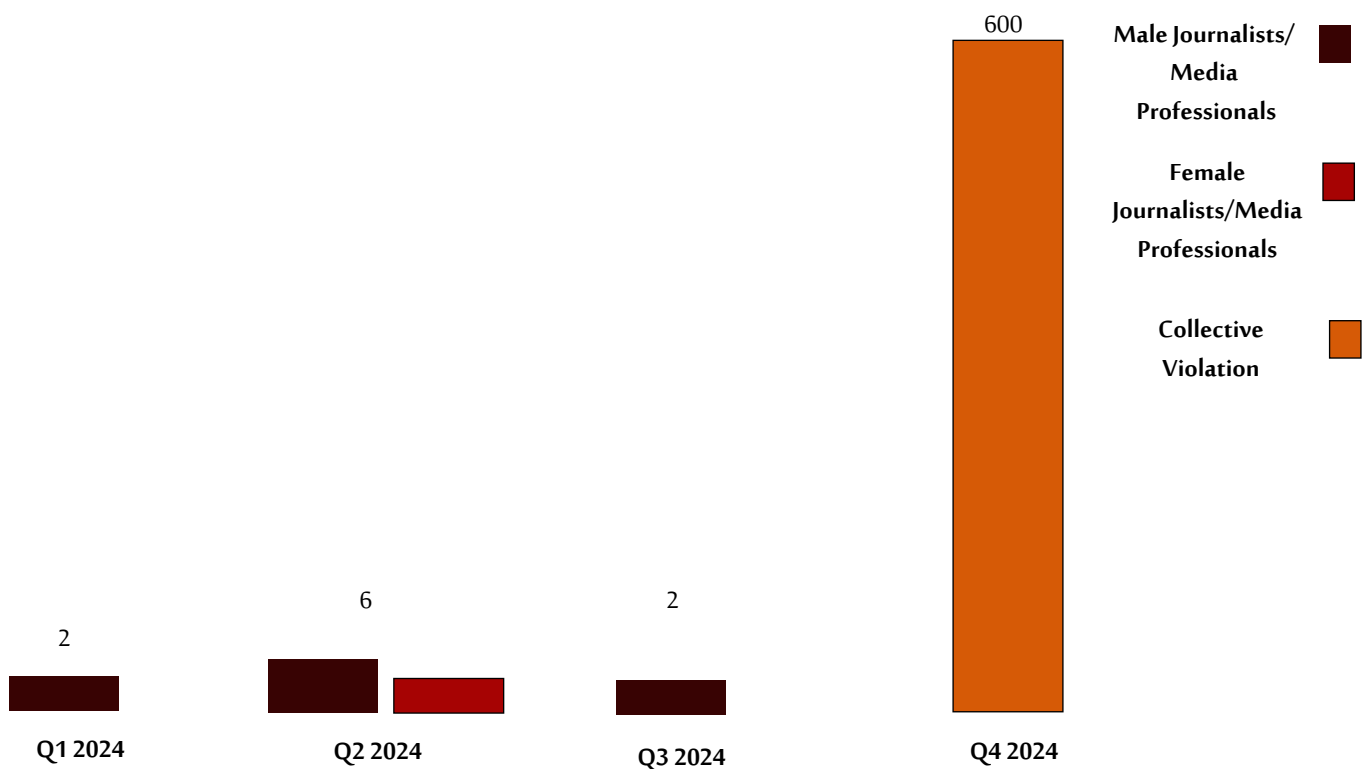


figure no.(1-15): Financial Rights Violations by Gender

Examining which institutions' journalists were most affected, it is evident that employees at state-owned institutions and those owned by foreign capital were the least exposed to financial rights violations, with only 2 cases recorded in these institutions. In contrast, privately owned Egyptian media institutions accounted for 608 cases of financial rights violations throughout the year. This not only highlights the exploitation within these institutions but also reveals their financial struggles and inability to meet their financial obligations.



figure no.(1-16): Distribution of Financial Rights Violations by Workplace Type



## Second: Violation of Arbitrary Dismissal

The **violation of arbitrary dismissal** is closely linked to the **violation of withholding financial rights**, as both are committed by media and press institutions against their employees, negatively impacting journalists' financial stability and living conditions.

Regarding **arbitrary dismissal cases**, a comparison of the past six years reveals that the number of dismissed journalists has fluctuated over time. In **2019**, there were **31 cases** of arbitrary dismissal, which dropped to **11 cases in 2020**. The number then slightly increased in **2021 to 19 cases**, followed by a significant rise in **2022**, reaching **53 cases**. This trend continued in **2023**, with **72 cases** recorded. However, in **2024**, the number declined to **18 cases**, which can be attributed to efforts by the **Journalists' Syndicate** to reduce dismissals and intervene with press institutions to prevent them.

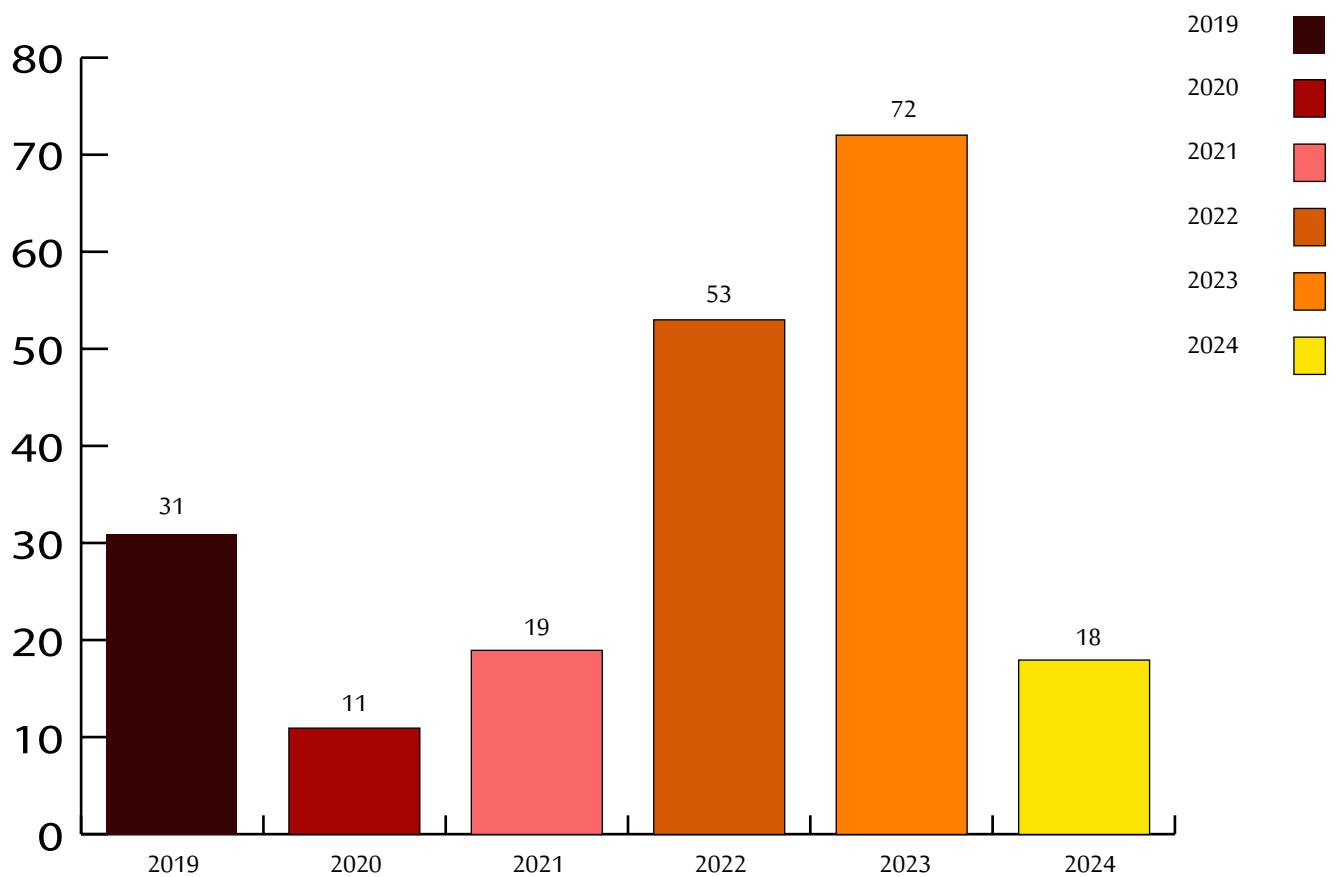


figure no.(1-17): Distribution of Unjust Dismissals Over the Last Six Years

During **2024**, the **first quarter** recorded **7 cases** of arbitrary dismissal, the **second quarter** also recorded **7 cases**, the **third quarter** recorded **zero cases**, and the **fourth quarter** saw **4 cases** of arbitrary dismissal.

Regarding the **gender distribution** of the **18 arbitrary dismissal cases in 2024**, **11 cases** involved male journalists, while **7 cases** involved female journalists.

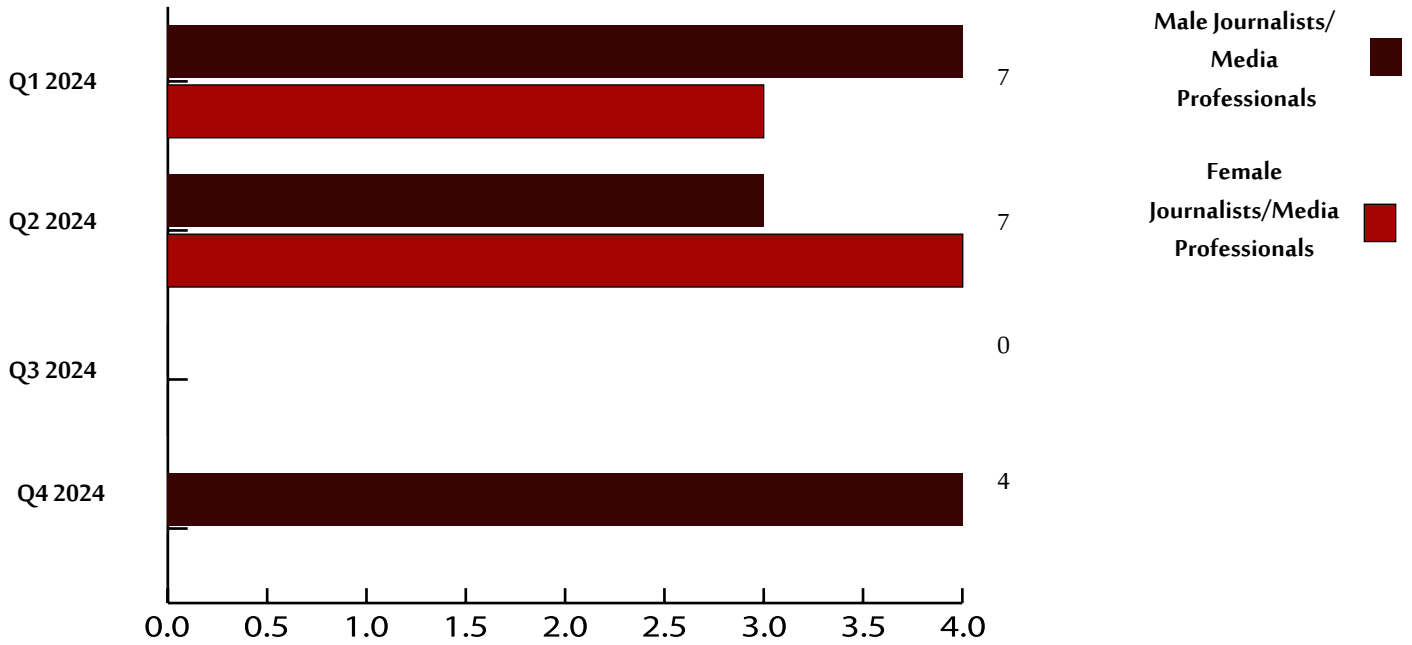


figure no.(1-18): Distribution of Unjust Dismissals by Gender

Looking at the institutions responsible for these violations, **state-owned press institutions** committed **4 cases** of arbitrary dismissal, while **foreign press institutions** did not commit any. The majority of violations-**14 cases**- were committed by **privately owned press institutions**.

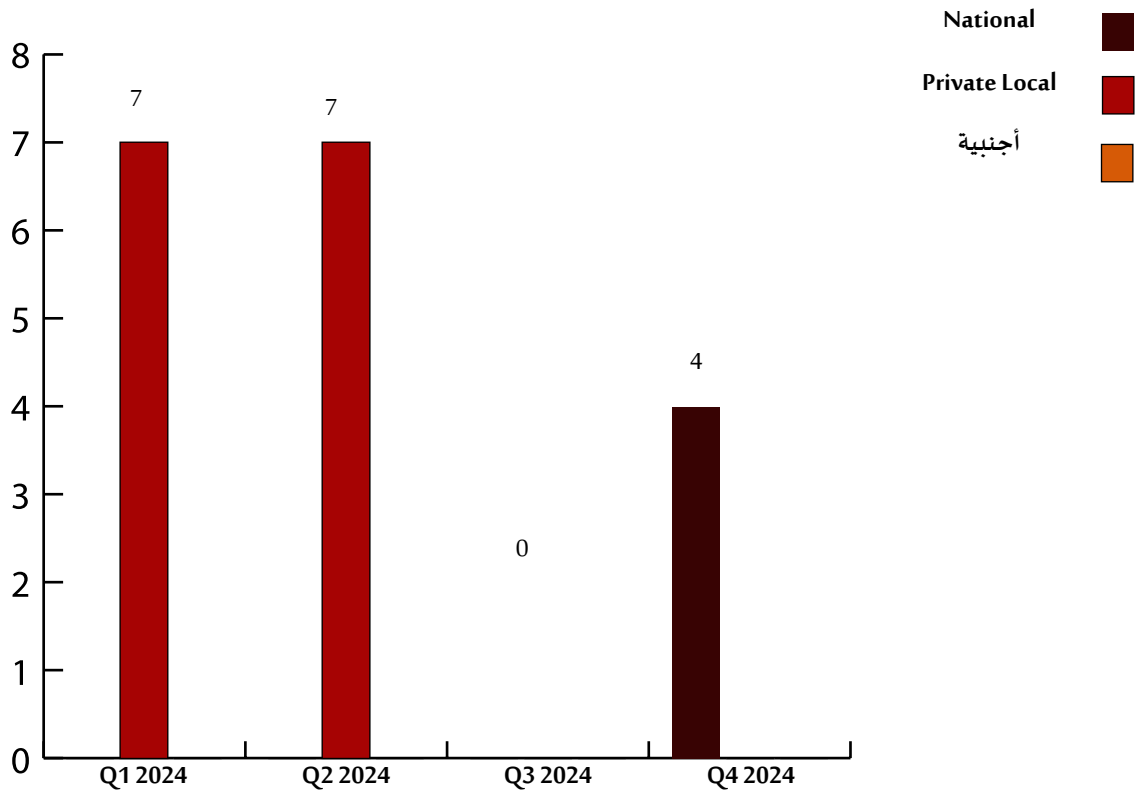


figure no.(1-19): Distribution of Unjust Dismissals by Ownership of Victim's Workplace

### Third: Violation of Pretrial Detention Renewal

The violation of pretrial detention renewal affected journalists whose primary assets are their pen and words. This violation was highly prevalent in 2024, just as it was in 2023. In 2024, 44 cases of pretrial detention renewal were recorded initially. However, this number later rose to 74 cases, with some journalists exceeding the legal pretrial detention limits outlined in the Criminal Procedure Code.

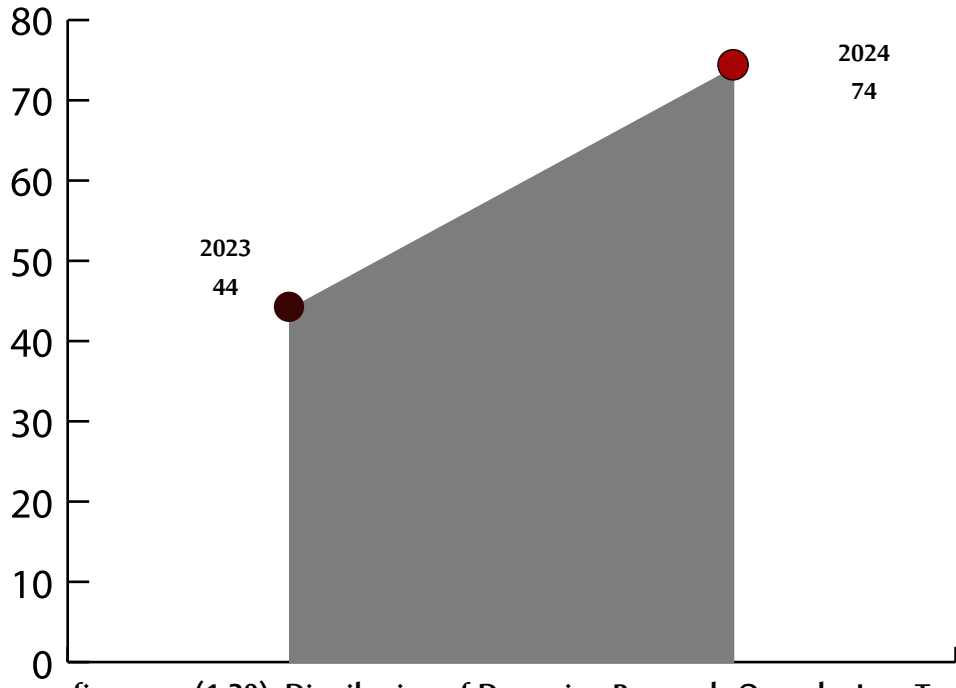


figure no.(1-20): Distribution of Detention Renewals Over the Last Two Years

Regarding the distribution of pretrial detention renewal cases throughout the year, the first quarter recorded 11 cases, the second quarter recorded 7 cases, the third quarter recorded 27 cases, and the fourth quarter recorded 29 cases.

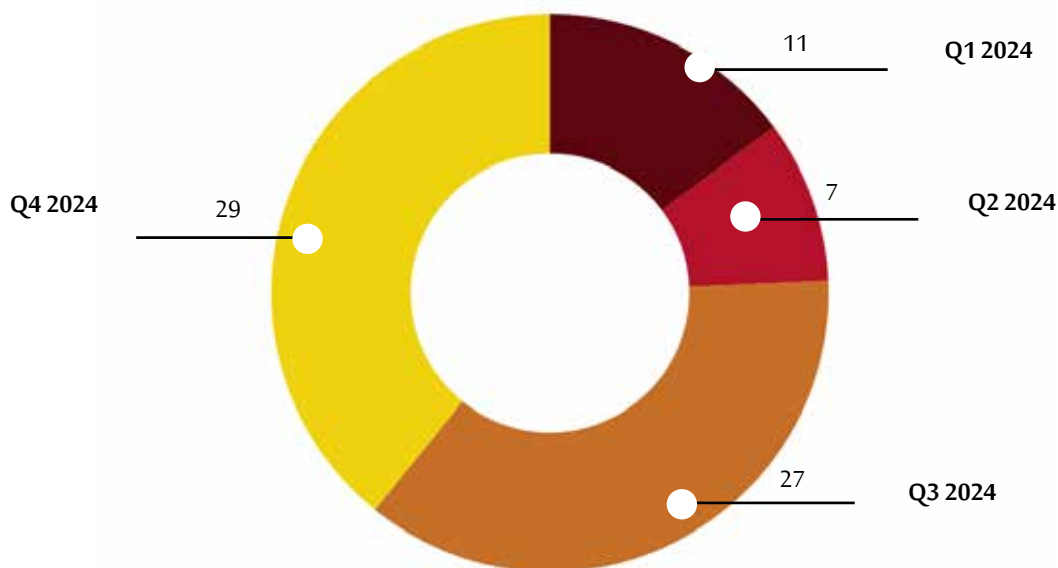


figure no.(1-21): Distribution of Detention Renewals by Season

Analyzing which press institutions had the highest number of journalists subjected to prolonged pretrial detention, we find that private local press institutions accounted for 59 cases of pretrial detention renewal, while foreign press institutions accounted for 15 cases. State-owned press institutions recorded zero cases throughout the year.

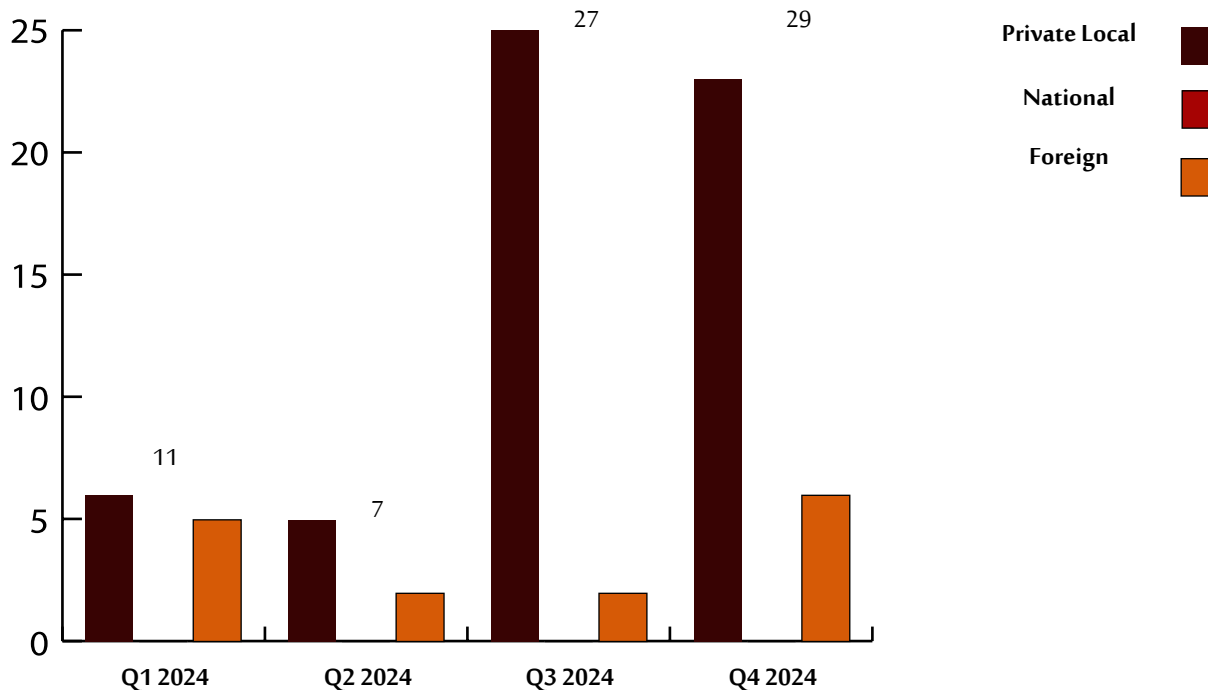


figure no.(1-22): Distribution of Detention Renewals by Ownership of Victim's Workplace

When comparing different media sectors, digital media (news websites) were the most affected, with 65 cases, followed by print media with 7 cases, and broadcast media (TV and radio) with 2 cases.

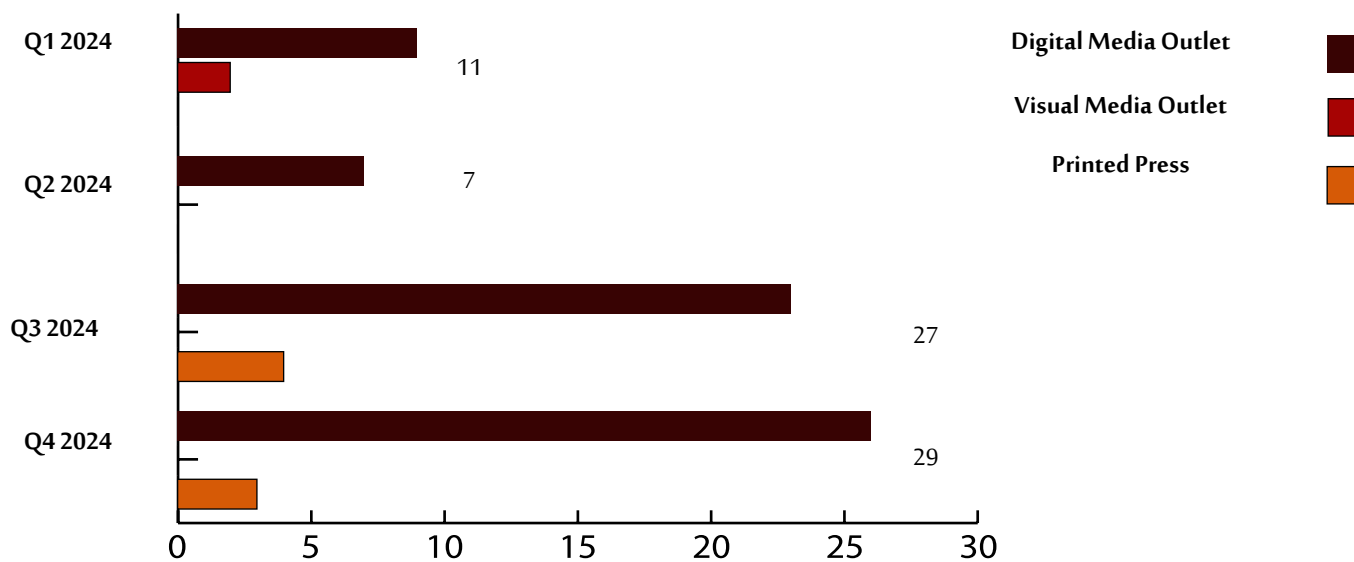


figure no.(1-23): Distribution of Detention Renewals by Victim's Workplace Type

Regarding the journalistic roles most affected by pretrial detention renewal in 2024, writers were subjected to 18 cases, editors to 16 cases, and cartoonists to 11 cases, all involving Ashraf Omar, a cartoonist for the Al-Manassa news website. Translators faced 9 cases, SEO specialists and desk editors 7 cases each, photographers 5 cases, and program producers 1 case.

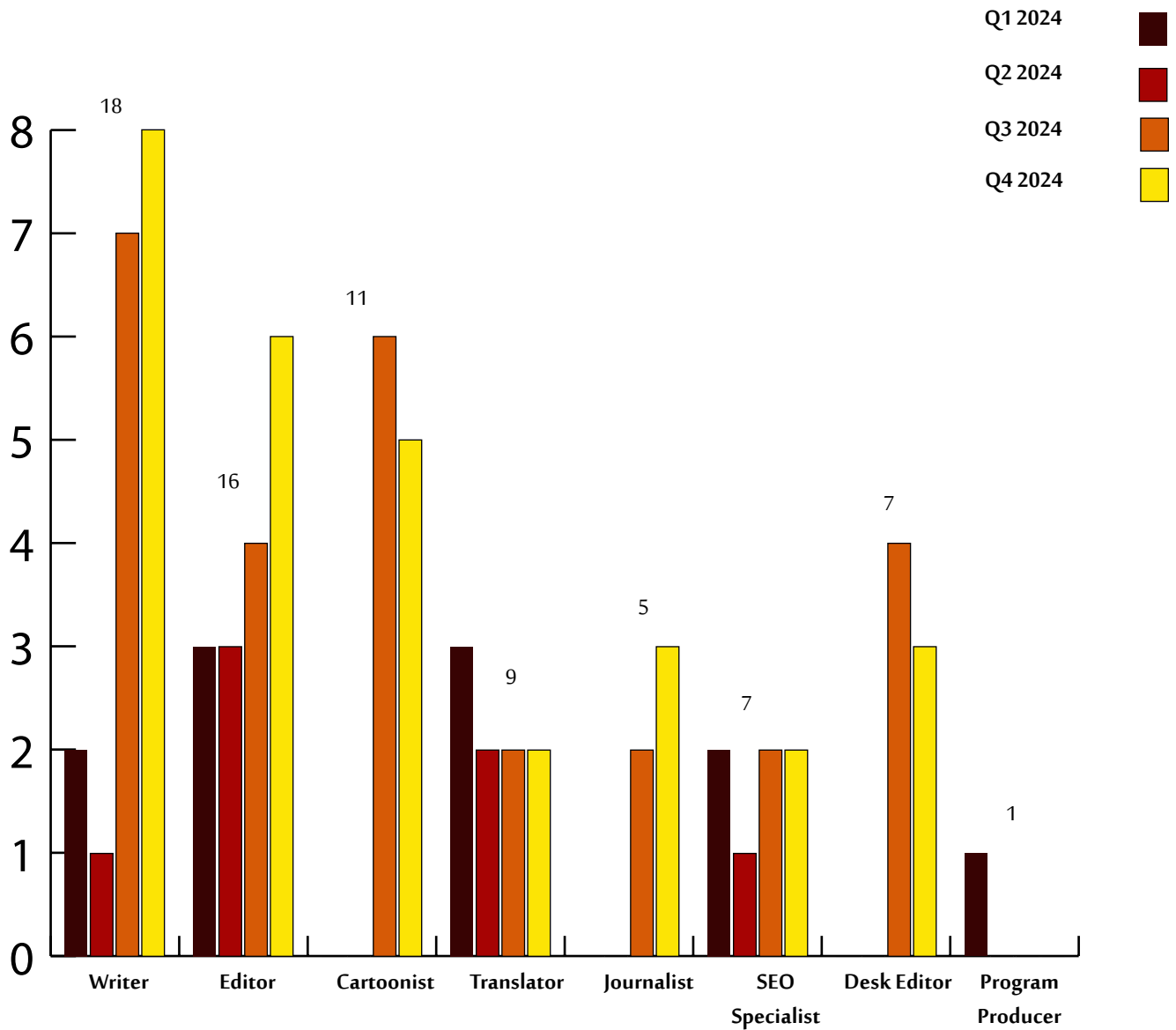


figure no.(1-24): Distribution of Detention Renewals by Victim's Specialization

#### Fourth: Violation of Arbitrary Arrest

The violation of arbitrary arrest often accompanies pretrial detention renewal, as both are carried out by official institutions- the former by judicial bodies and the latter by security agencies. Both violations infringe upon press freedom, preventing journalists from practicing their profession.

Examining arbitrary arrest cases over the past six years, 2020 and 2024 recorded the highest numbers, with 18 cases in 2020 and 15 cases in 2024. Other years recorded fewer cases, with 2019 witnessing 8 cases, 2021 recording 7 cases, 2022 also recording 7 cases, and 2023 recording only 3 cases, the lowest number recorded.

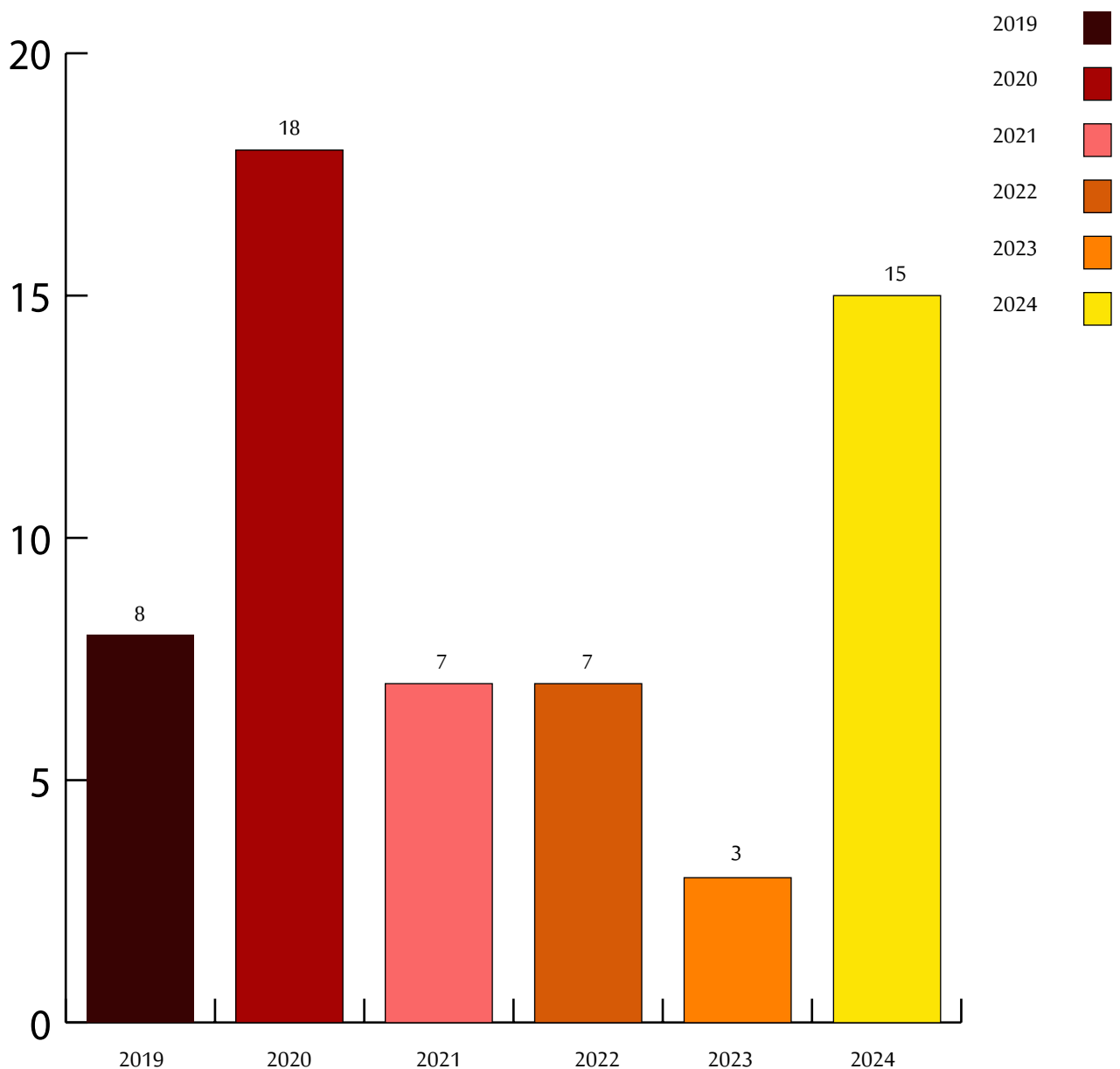


figure no.(1-25): Distribution of Arbitrary Arrests Over the Last Six Years

In 2024, analyzing the geographical distribution of arbitrary arrests, Cairo recorded 7 cases, the highest among governorates. Ismailia ranked second, with 4 cases, while Giza recorded 3 cases. Menoufia recorded 1 case, involving journalist Ramadan Gouida, who was arrested in May 2024.

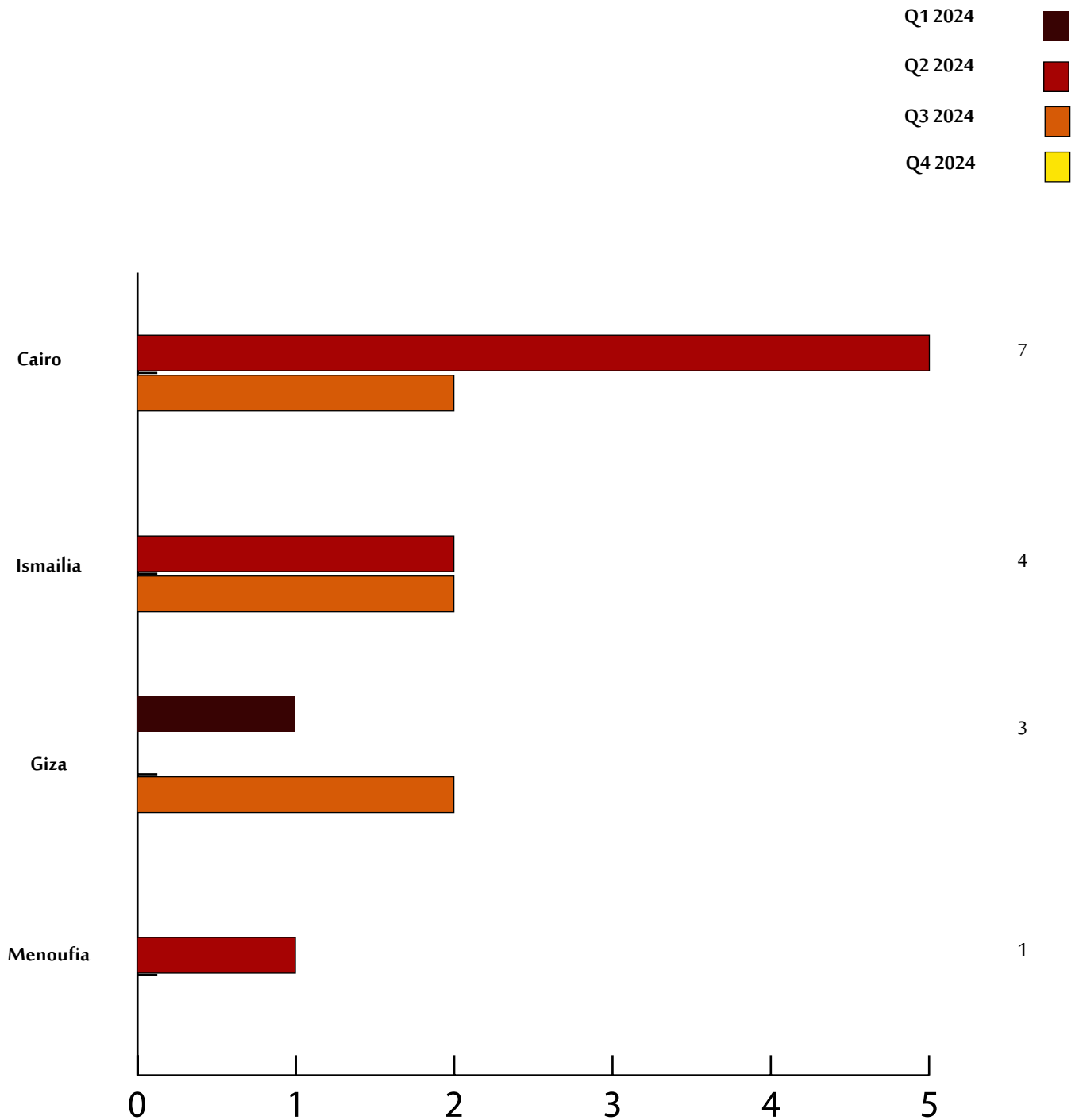


figure no.(1-26): Distribution of Arbitrary Arrests by Geographic Location



# Second Section

## Activities and Statements Issued by Entities Regulating Journalism and Media Work in Egypt in 2024: A Statistical Analysis and Critical Review



The second section of the report highlights the activities issued by entities responsible for regulating journalism and media work in Egypt, whether these activities are statements (press releases, declarations, official correspondences) or practices (events and activities).

These entities are divided into two types:

The first type includes syndicate bodies that represent the journalistic and media community in Egypt. These organizations serve as the voice of journalists and media professionals, advocating for their members.

The second type includes regulatory bodies, which are governmental or national institutions established to monitor, guide, and control the functioning of the journalistic and media sector.

Under the first category, there exists in practice the **Journalists' Syndicate** and, theoretically, the **Media Syndicate**.

Under the second category, there are three key institutions: **The Supreme Council for Media Regulation (SCMR)**, **The National Media Authority (NMA)**, and **The National Press Authority (NPA)**.

A third type of institution is also monitored in this section of the report. This type does not fall strictly under either of the first two categories but remains closely related to journalism and media work in Egypt. These include entities such as **the Parliament, judicial authorities, the National Elections Authority<sup>1</sup>, the State Information Service, in addition to TV channels, newspapers, magazines, media content production and distribution companies, and academics specializing in media studies.**

### **First: An Overview of Activities Issued by Media and Journalism Regulatory Entities**

The statistical monitoring of activities issued by media and journalism regulatory entities in Egypt indicates that these entities collectively issued 786 activities in total. These activities were distributed as follows:

\* **151 activities** were recorded in the first quarter of the year.

\* **159 activities** were recorded in the second quarter.

\* **229 activities** were recorded in the third quarter.

\* **247 activities** were recorded in the fourth and final quarter, making the last three months of 1-As it is the entity responsible for granting permits for journalistic and media coverage of constitutional entitlements, including elections and referendums.

the year the most active period.

A more detailed breakdown of these activities reveals the following:

### **1. Syndicate Entities:**

#### **(A) The Journalists' Syndicate:**

The syndicate was the most active entity throughout the past year, issuing **503 activities out of the total 786**. These activities were distributed as follows:

- \* **The first quarter** recorded **101 activities**.
- \* The **second quarter** recorded **85 activities**, indicating a decline in activity.
- \* **The third quarter** recorded **176 activities**, marking a significant increase in the syndicate's activities.
- \* **The fourth quarter** recorded **141 activities**, reflecting a decrease compared to the third quarter.

#### **(B) The Media Syndicate:**

The syndicate issued 64 activities throughout the year, which appears limited compared to the Journalists' Syndicate's activity. This number is understandable given that the syndicate was established by government directive under Law No. 93 of 2016 and is relatively new, having been founded only eight years ago.

Breaking down its 64 activities throughout the year:

- \* **14 activities** were issued in the first quarter.
- \* **17 activities** were issued in the second quarter, reflecting a slight increase.
- \* **12 activities** were issued in the third quarter, showing a decline.
- \* **21 activities** were issued in the fourth quarter, marking an increase compared to all previous quarters.

As previously noted, **the fourth quarter of 2024** was the most active period for all media and journalism regulatory entities in Egypt.

### **2. Regulatory Entities:**

#### **(A) The Supreme Council for Media Regulation (SCMR):**

The SCMR was **the second most active** regulatory entity in Egypt after the Journalists' Syndicate, though with a **significant gap** in activity levels. While **503 activities** were issued by the Journalists' Syndicate, the SCMR issued **only 97 activities** throughout the year.

These activities were distributed as follows:

- \* **16 activities** in the first quarter.

- \* **20 activities** in the second quarter, showing a slight increase.
- \* **18 activities** in the third quarter, reflecting a slight decline.
- \* **43 activities** in the fourth quarter, making it the most active period.

### **(B) The National Press Authority (NPA):**

The NPA is responsible for **managing state-owned press institutions, developing them, enhancing their assets, ensuring their modernization, independence, and neutrality, and maintaining professional, administrative, and economic efficiency.**

It issued **64 activities** throughout the year, ranking as **the third most** active entity after the Journalists' Syndicate and the SCMR. The distribution was as follows:

- \* **13 activities** in the first quarter.
- \* **19 activities** in the second quarter, increasing by 6 activities from the first quarter.
- \* **12 activities** in the third quarter, reflecting a notable decline.
- \* **20 activities** in the fourth quarter, showing a resurgence in activity.

### **(C) The National Media Authority (NMA):**

The NMA is responsible for **managing state-owned media institutions, overseeing broadcasting and digital production services, as well as providing related engineering services.**

It was **the least active** among regulatory entities, issuing only **58 activities** throughout the year. The breakdown is as follows:

- \* **7 activities** in the first quarter.
- \* **18 activities** in the second quarter, marking a notable increase.
- \* **11 activities** in the third quarter.
- \* **22 activities** in the fourth quarter, making it the most active period for the NMA.

Interestingly, **in the fourth quarter, the NMA (22 activities) was more active than the Media Syndicate (21 activities) and the NPA (20 activities).**

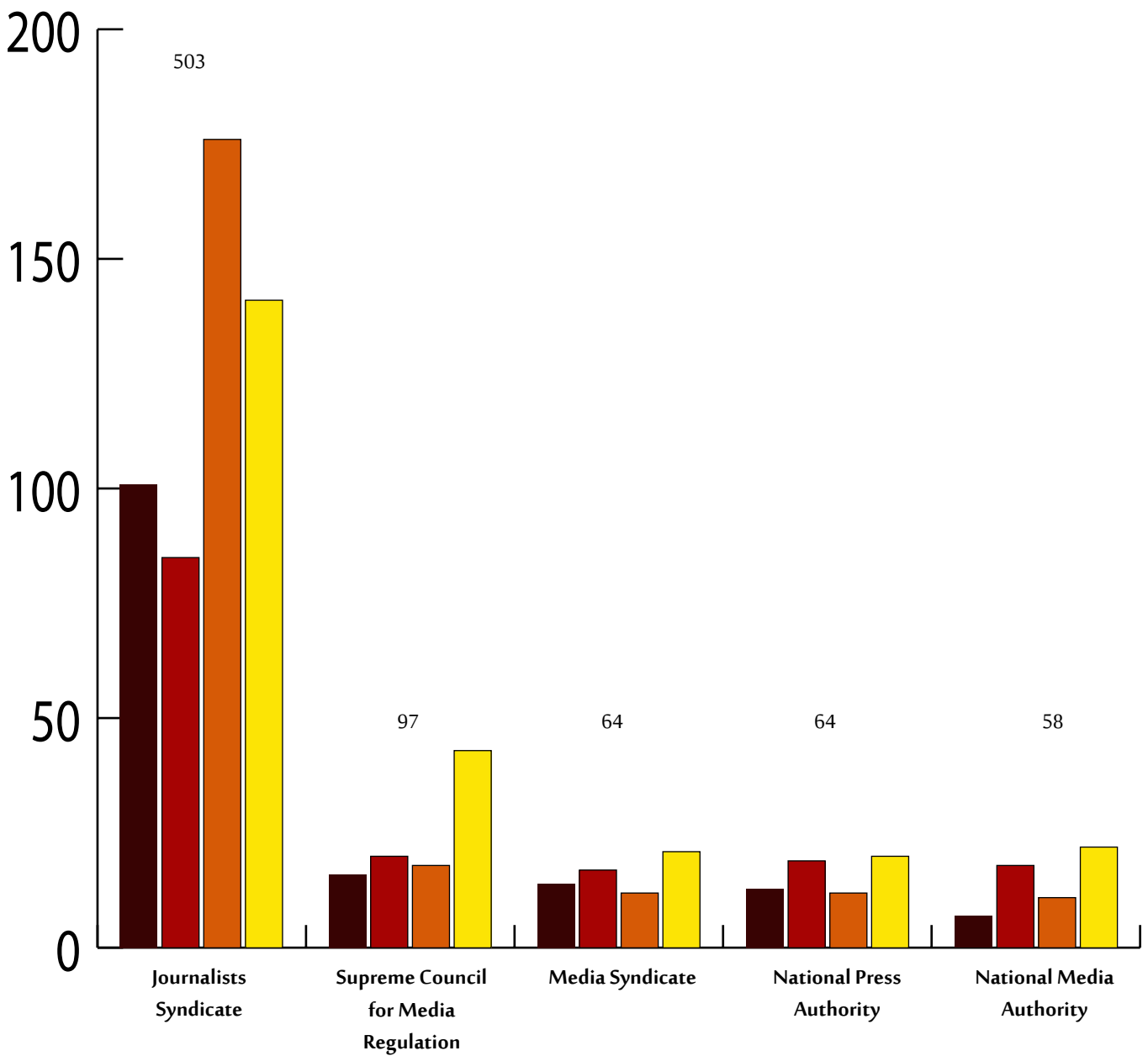
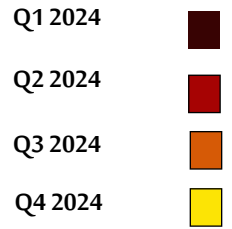


figure no.(2-1): Total Issuances by Media Regulatory Entities, Distributed by Season

## Second: Breakdown of Activities by Type

The following analysis provides a **statistical breakdown** of the activities issued by media and journalism regulatory entities in Egypt, not by entity, but **by the type of issued activity and its proportion of total activities**.

Based on this classification:

- \* **News announcements** were the most frequent, totaling **332 announcements**, covering updates from regulatory entities but not categorized as events, declarations, or speeches.
- \* **Event announcements** ranked second, with **126 announcements** about entertainment or service-related events organized by these entities.
- \* **Events** ranked third, with **79 celebratory events** organized.
- \* **Congratulatory statements** ranked fourth, with **66 issued statements**.
- \* **Press releases** ranked fifth, with **54 issued statements**.
- \* **Official statements** ranked sixth, with **44 issued declarations**.
- \* **Decisions** ranked seventh, with **31 issued decisions**.
- \* **Obituaries** ranked eighth, with **29 issued obituaries**.
- \* **Cooperation protocols** ranked ninth, with **12 signed agreements**.
- \* **Official letters** ranked tenth, with **9 letters sent** to various official institutions.
- \* **Honors and awards** ranked eleventh, occurring **three times**.
- \* **Petitions** ranked last, with only **one [petition](#)** issued by the Journalists' Syndicate, calling for **the release of imprisoned journalists and requests to visit detained journalists, directed to the Public Prosecutor, the National Dialogue Board of Trustees, and the Presidential Pardon Committee**.

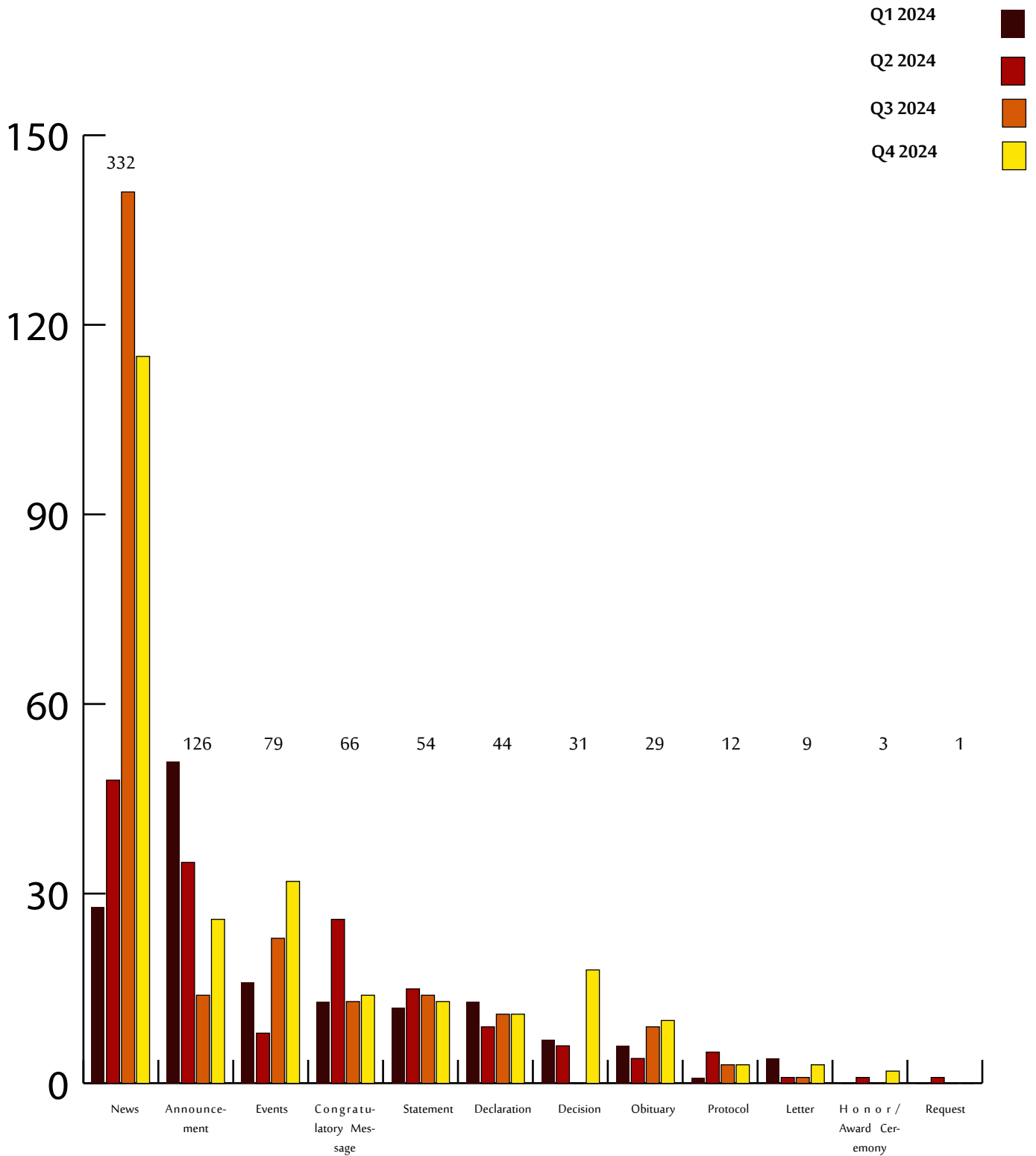


figure no.(2-2): Issuances by Regulatory Entities by Type

### Third: Issued Decisions by Regulatory Entities in Egypt:

Decisions are among the most significant measures taken by media and journalism regulatory bodies. A **statistical analysis** of these decisions reveals the following:

- \* The **SCMR** issued **12 decisions**, making it the most decision-active entity.
- \* The **NMA** issued **8 decisions**.
- \* The **NPA** issued **5 decisions**.
- \* The **Media Syndicate** issued **4 decisions**.
- \* The **Journalists' Syndicate** issued **3 decisions**, making it the least active in issuing decisions.

\* The **fourth quarter** recorded the highest number of decisions (**18 decisions**), followed by the **first quarter** (**13 decisions**), the **second quarter** (**11 decisions**), and the **third quarter**, which recorded **zero decisions**.

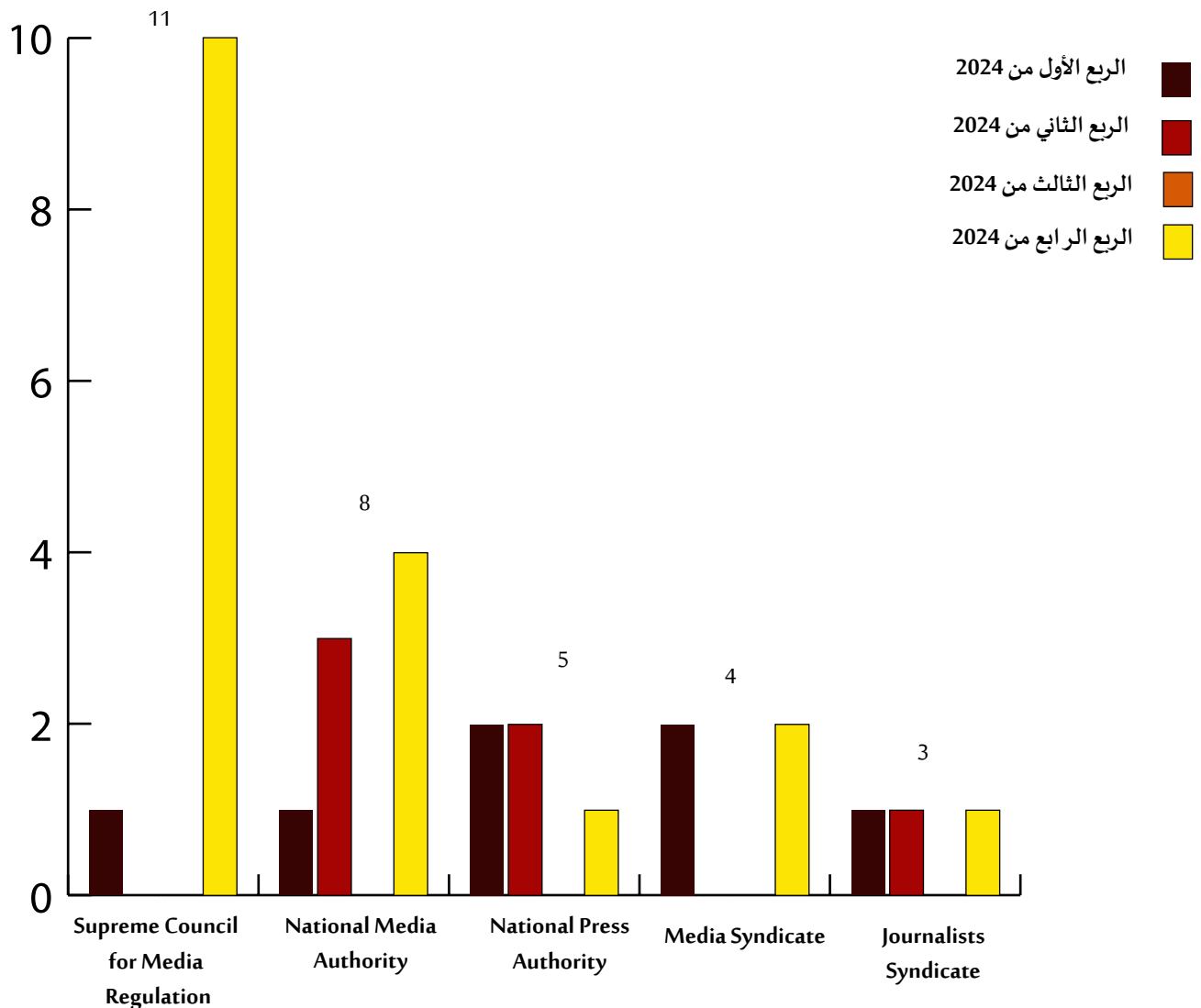


figure no.(2-3): Decisions Issued by Media and Journalism Regulatory Authorities in Egypt



## Finally: A detailed presentation of what has been issued by the bodies regulating journalistic and media work:

In the following lines, we analyze what has been issued by the entities responsible for regulating journalistic and media work in Egypt. We address each entity separately and examine the activities it has undertaken, whether in practice or statements.

### First: Professional Syndicates:

#### (A) The Journalists' Syndicate:

The syndicate is the most active institution among the entities responsible for regulating journalistic and media work in Egypt, with 503 activities issued throughout the year.

These activities are as follows: 223 news reports, all related to the activities and movements of the syndicate's council. Additionally, 118 announcements were issued in 2024 regarding training, educational, and service-related events. The syndicate also organized 73 training or general educational events. Furthermore, 48 statements were issued concerning issues related to the journalistic community, those directly affecting it, or in the context of the council's engagement with significant national and regional issues. The syndicate's council also issued 15 statements, along with 8 official letters addressed to various institutions. Moreover, the council signed 8 cooperation protocols, issued 3 resolutions, and finally released 5 congratulatory statements, a single obituary statement, and one request.

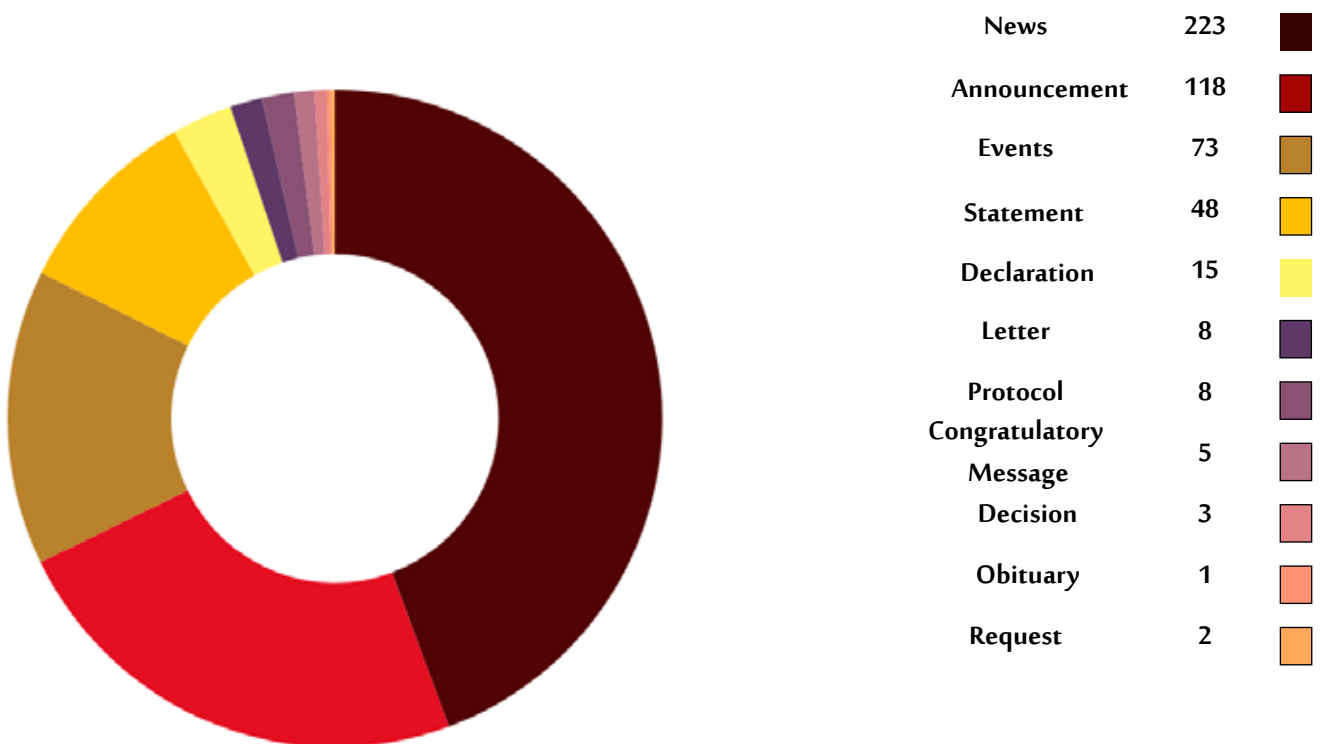


figure no.(2-4): Activities Issued by the Journalists' Syndicate in 2024

## The most important decisions issued by the Journalists' Syndicate:

**Regarding freedoms:** The syndicate [condemned](#) violations against journalists in Minya and called on the Minister of Higher Education to investigate the assault of a journalist by security guards. It also expressed [solidarity](#) with journalists in Kafr El-Sheikh and demanded that the governorate facilitate their work and stop withholding information. The syndicate also [condemned](#) the administrative investigation of a BBC journalist on charges of anti-Semitism over a "like" and called for an end to bias in favor of Israel by targeting Arab journalists. Additionally, it [condemned](#) the arrest and enforced disappearance of journalist Yasser Sayed Ahmed Abu Alaa, a member of the syndicate's general assembly, who had been missing for about a month. The syndicate also [denounced](#) the assault of a photographer from "Sada El-Balad" by members of a stadium security company, emphasizing that such violations were recurring and demanding an investigation, while the syndicate's president communicated with the journalist and assigned legal actions to be taken.

The syndicate submitted a [request](#) to the Public Prosecutor for the release of Ahmed Tantawi until the appeal ruling is decided. It also filed a complaint demanding an investigation into the prevention of his lawyer's visit and requesting that the syndicate's council be allowed to visit him to check on his well-being and detention conditions. The syndicate also [condemned](#) the arrest of cartoonist Ashraf Omar and demanded his release. Additionally, it [called](#) for the release of five journalists who were detained while organizing a peaceful protest in front of the United Nations headquarters, opposing international inaction towards Israeli aggression on Gaza, particularly the violations against women in Gaza and Sudan amid global silence.

On July 29, the syndicate [organized](#) a solidarity day for imprisoned journalists and launched a symbolic sit-in at the syndicate following increased arrests. The syndicate also [condemned](#) the arrest of journalist Ahmed Bayoumi and expressed [solidarity](#) with the "Fikr Tani" website after its license was denied, arguing that vague language should not be used as a pretext for such decisions. It further condemned the issuance of an "in absentia" life sentence against journalist Yasser Abu Alaa in case no. (339) of 2022, despite him being in detention since March 10.

Similarly, the syndicate [condemned](#) the 15-year prison sentence against journalist Hussein Karim. It expressed full [support](#) for the "Cairo 24" website, which faces unjustified blocking without any official decision explaining the reasons.

The syndicate submitted a [complaint](#) to the Minister of Interior requesting legal protection for journalist Rasha Azab and an investigation into the harassment and violations she had recently experienced. The syndicate also held [discussions](#) to propose a comprehensive bill for freedom of

information circulation during preparations for the Sixth General Conference of Egyptian Journalism, calling for legislation that fully realizes constitutional rights. The syndicate also [urged](#) a review of the provisions related to publishing and pretrial detention in the draft criminal procedure law and called for a careful approach in discussing it within the Legislative Affairs Committee of Parliament, emphasizing the need for a societal dialogue. The syndicate expressed concerns that the bill was introduced in a way that raises many questions and does not align with the aspirations of Egyptian society for judicial reforms. The syndicate's committee also noted that the bill undermines efforts made during the national dialogue and raises doubts about its intentions.

The syndicate [rejected](#) the Ministry of Religious Endowments' decision to ban the filming of funerals, considering it unconstitutional and illegal, as well as an infringement on journalists' rights and the public's right to information.

**Regarding rights:** The syndicate [urged](#) the leadership of Al-Wafd Party to implement its agreement with the syndicate regarding the minimum wage and to immediately disburse the 800 EGP increase. It also [commended](#) the President's decisions to implement a social protection package and called for its extension to journalists, including an increase in the technology allowance and the permanent employment of temporary workers. The syndicate further urged journalistic institutions to raise the minimum wage in line with the President's directives.

The syndicate [welcomed](#) the National Media Authority's decisions to increase salaries and demanded a similar increase in training allowances and the appointment of temporary employees. It also [announced](#) the opening of applications for financial aid to improve the income of disabled members. The Press Telecommunications Division of the syndicate [expressed](#) concern over the lack of official statements regarding rising communication and internet service prices in Egypt.

Moreover, the Journalists', Engineers', and Lawyers' syndicates [announced](#) a boycott of Al-Mokhtabar, Al-Borg, and Alfa laboratories due to their monopolistic practices and unjustified price hikes.

Regarding internal organization: The syndicate's council [announced](#) that the Sixth General Conference would be held in May and formed a preparatory committee. Wahid Abdel Meguid was [appointed](#) Secretary-General of the conference, and a 100-member advisory committee

was formed, including five past syndicate presidents. Abdullah Abdel Salam was appointed as coordinator of the Journalism Future Committee, while Gabaly was appointed to coordinate the Journalism Economy Committee, and Mohamed Basal was assigned to coordinate legislation and freedoms. The syndicate [announced](#) that the Sixth Egyptian Journalism Conference would take place on December 14, 15, and 16, inviting the general assembly to participate in discussions about the challenges and crises facing journalism.

The syndicate's council, in its May 18 session chaired by Khaled El-Balshy, [approved](#) the membership rules for journalism and media professors in Egyptian universities who actively contribute to journalistic work. It also approved the membership of Egyptian journalists working in Arab countries under specific conditions. The council [decided](#) to activate Article 12 of the syndicate's law by opening membership applications for affiliated journalists and forming a committee to set registration regulations that ensure genuine journalists are protected while preventing impersonators from infiltrating the profession.

A joint [meeting](#) between the Journalists' Syndicate and the Actors' Syndicate was scheduled for the following Wednesday to establish regulations for funeral coverage.

Regarding services: The syndicate [announced](#) the offering of 96 housing units in the New Administrative Capital and the [opening](#) of reservations for 50 housing units in the Journalists' City on Sixth of October. The syndicate also [opened](#) registration for its medical treatment program from December 7, 2024, to January 16, 2025. A cooperation [protocol](#) was signed with Helwan University to provide healthcare services for journalists and their families, alongside another [protocol](#) between the Journalists', Lawyers', and Engineers' syndicates for healthcare services.

The syndicate [launched](#) the Egyptian Journalism Digital Archive project to preserve historical journalistic treasures and started developing its library under the supervision of Khaled Azab. The project also includes the [renovation](#) of the syndicate's training center and the reopening of its studios.

**(B) The Media Syndicate:**

The second syndicate body operating in the journalistic and media community in Egypt, after the Journalists' Syndicate. During 2024, it issued 64 activities, as follows: 18 congratulations, 17 obituary statements, 10 statements, 9 news reports, 4 decisions, 3 event announcements, 2 honoring ceremonies, and a single position statement.









Congratulatory Message	18	
Obituary	17	
Announcement	10	
News	9	
Decision	4	
Declaration	3	
Honor/Award Ceremony	8	
Statement	48	



figure no.(2-5): Activities Issued by the Media Professionals' Syndicate in 2024

## Key Decisions Issued by the Media Syndicate:

### Freedoms:

A [decision](#) to suspend Ahmed Abdel Aziz, the presenter of the program Al-Wasat Al-Fanni on Al-Hadath channel, until the investigation against him is concluded. This [decision](#) was based on complaints received by the syndicate against him, the most recent being from the Head of the Musicians' Syndicate and its board of directors. In addition, the Media Syndicate's Monitoring Report cited several violations committed by him in recent days.

A [decision](#) to suspend Yasmine El-Khatib and summon her for investigation regarding the episode featuring Hadeer Abdel Razek. The decision was based on El-Khatib's violation of the Media Code of Honor and the Professional Conduct Charter. A ruling was made to suspend Yasmine El-Khatib for three months and to ban both the director and editor-in-chief from engaging in media activities.

Authorization to [take](#) legal and judicial actions against Dalia Fouad and the Al-Qahera Wal Nas channel, following reports circulating on some online news sites and social media platforms accusing her of possessing narcotic substances.

### Services:

The Media Syndicate Head [announced](#) the allocation of 64 residential units in New Alamein City for syndicate members. Additionally, [new](#) distinguished housing units were announced under the same project (Sakan Masr) in New Alamein City (Phase II).

## Secondly: Regulatory Authorities

### (A) The Supreme Council for Media Regulation:

The Supreme Council for Media Regulation is the second most active body concerned with journalistic and media work in Egypt after the Journalists' Syndicate. The council issued 97 activities distributed as follows: 36 news items about the council's policies, movements, and participations; 25 congratulatory messages; 11 decisions; 10 statements from the council president; 5 events organized for its members; 3 obituary statements; and 2 activities each in the categories of statements, protocols, and announcements, with a single official letter issued.

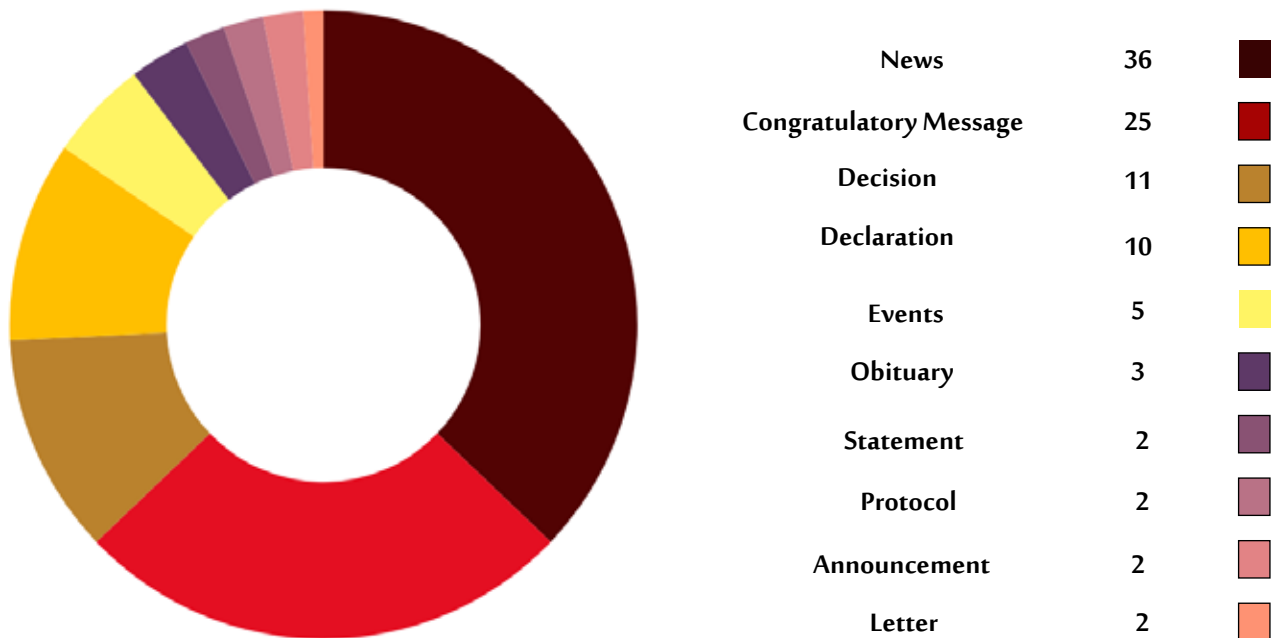


figure no.(2-6): Activities Issued by the Supreme Council for Media Regulation in 2024

## Key Decisions Issued by the Supreme Council for Media Regulation:

### Freedoms:

Summoning the website Zat Masr for publishing false news. Summoning the legal representative of Al-Nahar channel for investigation regarding complaints received by the council about the program Shay Bel Yasmeen, hosted by Yasmine El-Khatib, to determine the legal responsibility of those in charge of the channel.

### Exclusion of Divergent Content:

Suspension of the program Shay Bel Yasmeen on Al-Nahar channel for six months with a fine of 200,000 EGP. The suspension also includes the program Tafaseel on Sada El-Balad channel, Sabaya on Heya channel, and the closure of the Seha w Jamal channel.

### Media Landscape Management:

The council announced the activation of journalistic and media codes of honor, regulations for advertisement durations during drama shows and programs, with particular attention to children's, youth, and cultural programs. Talk shows are limited to a maximum of 90 minutes, with restrictions on hosts' personal opinions and accountability for mistakes. Programs should not be platforms for personal views of presenters. The council also aims to support associations protecting the public's right to clean content.

### Regarding Religious Programs:

- 1- Prohibition of live audience phone-ins during religious programs. Questions and comments must be pre-screened by the production team to ensure compliance with laws and standards.
- 2- The duration of religious programs should not exceed 30 minutes on general channels and 45 minutes on specialized religious channels, except for programs featuring the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, the Pope, the Minister of Religious Endowments, or the Mufti.
- 3- All forms of advertisements are banned during religious program broadcasts, allowed only before or after the program.

### Regarding Sports Programs:

- 1- Sports talk shows should not exceed 90 minutes.
- 2- Match analysis studios (for local or international games) are limited to one hour, divided before and after the match.
- 3- Referee performance analysis segments are canceled across all platforms under the council's authority.
- 4- No live broadcasting of sports programs is allowed from midnight to 6 a.m., except for international matches due to time differences.



**(B) The National Media Authority:**

In 2024, the National Media Authority carried out 58 activities, including 16 reports on the authority’s policies and activities, 15 congratulatory notes, 8 decisions, 7 official statements from the authority’s president, 7 obituary notices, 3 position statements on current issues, one cooperation protocol, and one honorary event.

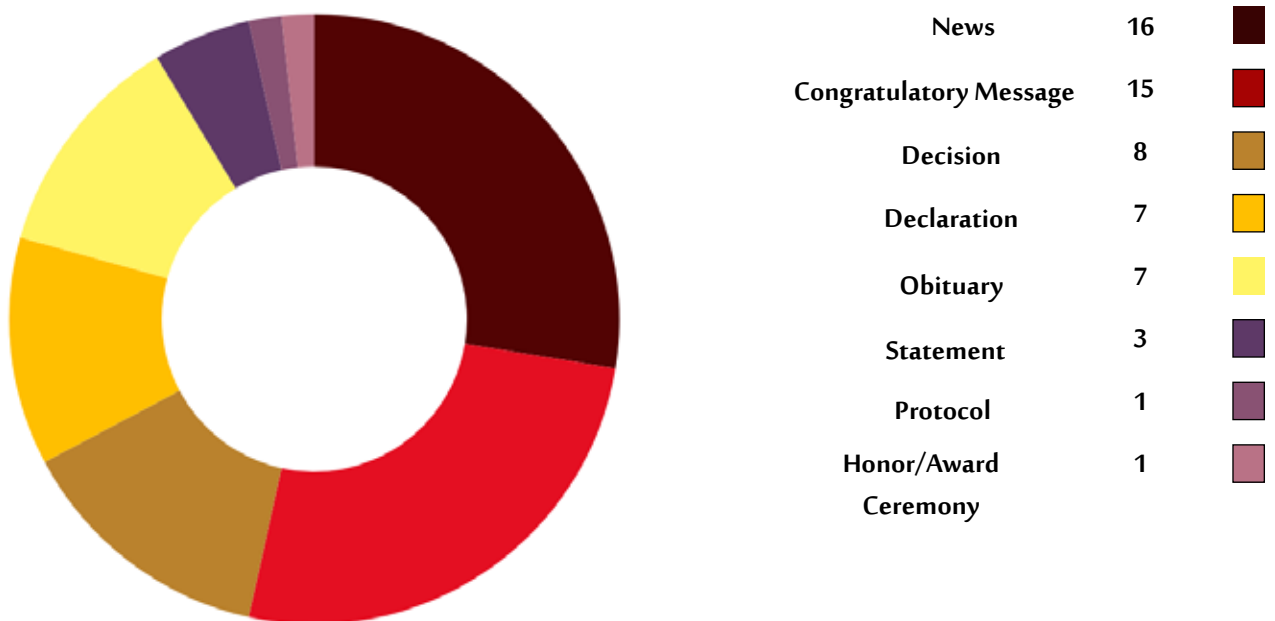


figure no.(2-7): Activities Issued by the National Media Authority in 2024

**Key Decisions Issued by the National Media Authority:**

The authority [banned](#) the hosting of fortune-tellers and astrologers to combat superstitious thinking and promote scientific discourse.

It also decided to [cancel](#) advertisements on the Quran Radio Station, transferring them to other broadcasting networks.

### (C) The National Press Authority:

The National Press Authority conducted 64 activities in 2024, including 48 reports on its policies and members’ activities, 5 decisions, 3 congratulatory statements, 3 obituaries, 2 official statements from the authority’s president, and one activity each in the categories of events, obituaries, and protocols.

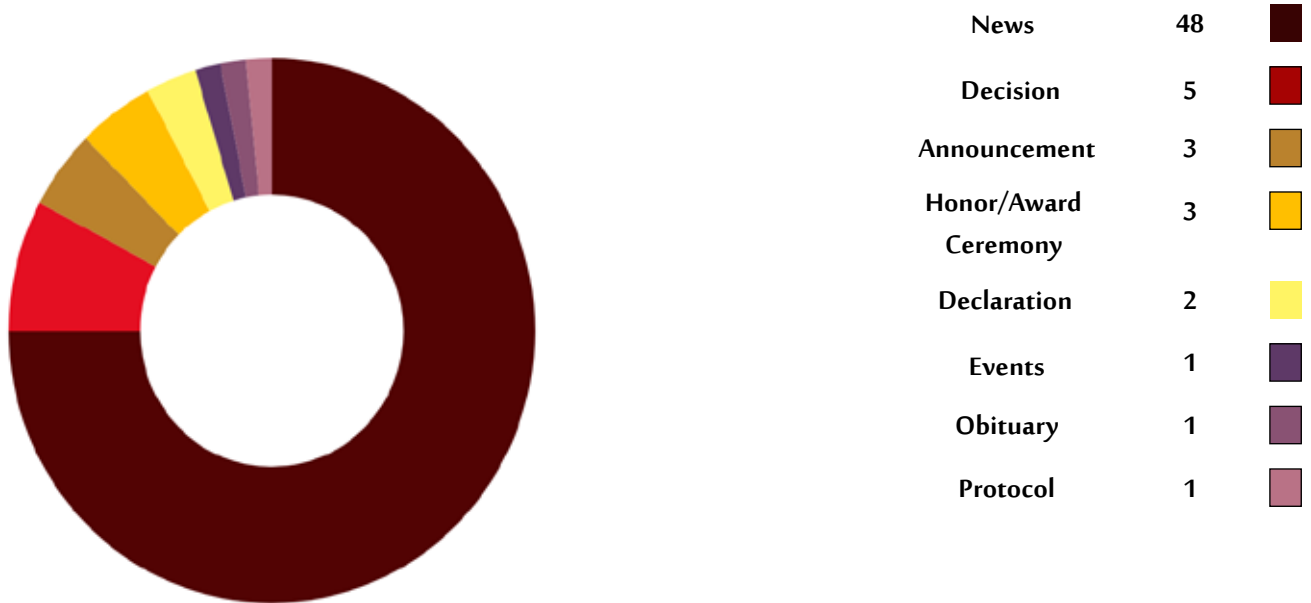


figure no.(2-8): Activities Issued by the National Press Authority in 2024

### **Key Decisions Issued by the National Press Authority:**

#### **Hiring of Temporary Journalists in National Newspapers:**

In collaboration with the Journalists’ Syndicate to develop the profession and improve journalists’ conditions, the head of the National Press Authority, Eng. Abdel Sadeq Al-Shorbagy, met with Khaled Al-Balshi, head of the Egyptian Journalists’ Syndicate, to discuss cooperation strategies. The meeting resulted in [agreements](#) to:

- 1- Develop journalistic content to reflect public opinions and societal diversity.
- 2- Expand specialized journalism and revitalize existing newspapers.
- 3- Inject new talent into national journalism by hiring temporary journalists, administrative staff, and workers through monthly recruitment batches starting from September, based on regulations agreed upon by both entities.
- 4- Launch a training program to retrain journalists, with outstanding participants contributing to the new development initiatives.
- 5- Enhance the national press’s advertising system by engaging with various state entities to revitalize this sector.
- 6- Form a joint committee between the authority and the syndicate to liaise with relevant bodies and oversee the implementation of these outcomes.

# Section III

## Key Developments in the Egyptian Journalistic and Media Landscape in 2024



This final section of the annual report reviews the most significant events and issues that shaped the journalistic and media community in 2024, with a particular focus on the pivotal role played by the Journalists' Syndicate during the year. It also highlights critical topics addressed by the Monitoring Unit's Research and Studies Division.

The selection criteria for these topics are based on two factors:

- 1- Events with a clear impact on a wide segment of the journalistic and media community.
- 2- Developments with unique significance, either unprecedented or of substantial influence.

### **First: Key Developments in the Journalistic and Media Community in 2024:**

One of the most notable events in the journalistic and media landscape during the year was the restructuring of the regulatory bodies overseeing journalistic and media work. This movement included:

#### **Formation of the Board of Directors of United Media Services:**

On December 10, 2024, United Media Services [announced](#) the reformation of its Board of Directors, appointing businessman Tarek Nour as Chairman of the company and selecting Tarek Makhoul as Managing Director. The board includes: Seif El-Waziry, Mohamed El-Saadi, Tamer Morsi, Ahmed Tarek, Amr El-Feki, Sherif El-Khouly, and Amr El-Khayat. Nour's appointment came as part of a partnership the company established with Tarek Nour Holding and Al-Mehwar Channel. According to the company, the partnership aims to "develop a future strategy for enhancing the media system, benefiting the media industry as a whole."

#### **New Formation of the Supreme Council for Media Regulation:**

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi issued [Decree](#) No. 518 of 2024 to form the Supreme Council for Media Regulation for a four-year term, [appointing](#) Khaled Abdel Aziz as Chairman of the Council. Media figure Essam El-Amir was [elected](#) as the Council's Deputy, and the Supreme Judicial Council was approached for approval to appoint Counselor Yasser Al-Maabdi as the Council's Secretary-General. Additionally, under Khaled Abdel Aziz's leadership, the Council issued [decisions](#) to fully form its committees.

#### **New Formation of the National Media Authority:**

The President issued [Decree](#) No. 520 of 2024 to form the National Media Authority for a four-year term, with Ahmed El-Moslemany as Chairman. Members include Counselor Hamad Makram Tawfik (Vice President of the State Council), Khaled Mohamed Ibrahim Nofal (representing the Ministry of Finance), Engineer Walid Zakaria Ahmed (representing

the National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority), public figures Osama Kamal and Riham El-Deeb, Hala Hashish (representing the Media Syndicate), Sami Abdel Salam Saadoun (representing the General Syndicate of Press, Printing, and Media Workers), and Safiya Mostafa Amin (public figure and expert). Khaled Nofal was elected Deputy of the National Media Authority.

### **Renewal of Confidence in the Chairman of the National Press Authority and Restructuring of Its Office:**

According to Decree No. 519 of 2024, the Egyptian President renewed confidence in Engineer Abdel Sadeq Al-Shorbagy, appointing him as Chairman of the National Press Authority for another four years. New members include Counselor Mahmoud Fouad Ammar, Yasser Samir, Alaa Thabet, Amr El-Khayat, Hamdy Rizk, Sameh Mahrous, and Osama Abu Basha. Alaa Thabet was appointed as Deputy, and Marwa Nabih as Secretary-General of the Authority.

The formation of specialized committees was also approved, including:

- \* **Committee for Evaluating and Developing Economic and Administrative Performance in national press institutions, chaired by Alaa Thabet**
- \* **Committee for Developing Professional Performance, chaired by Hamdy Rizk**
- \* **Complaints and Suggestions Committee, chaired by Amr El-Khayat**
- \* **Dispute Resolution Committee, chaired by Counselor Mahmoud Ammar**
- \* **Monitoring, Communication, and Distribution Committee, chaired by Osama Abu Basha**
- \* **Cultural Committee, chaired by Sahar El-Gaara**
- \* **Research and Future Proposals Committee, chaired by Sameh Mahrous**

## Second: Issues Addressed by the Studies and Research Unit of the Observatory:

### (1) Evaluating the Performance of the Syndicate Over the Year:

In July 2024, the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media published a report<sup>1</sup> monitoring, commenting on, and analyzing the activities of the Journalists' Syndicate from April 2023 to April 2024. April was chosen as the starting point because the current Syndicate Council began its duties on April 3, 2023, after completing the formation of its committees. The main question was: After one year, how successful has the current council been in achieving its goals as declared in election programs and committee agendas? The report sought to answer this through observation and analysis of the Syndicate's activities. The objective was to build an objective assessment to identify weaknesses and areas for improvement.

### First: The Syndicate Council:

The Council engaged in several key issues after its election, forming various committees.

\* The first major issue was freedoms, focusing on two areas:

Violations, restrictions, and difficulties faced by journalists and media institutions within Egypt, including issues related to detained journalists and press freedom.

\* Challenges faced by Egyptian media institutions covering conflict zones abroad.

In this context, the Syndicate [condemned](#) the Israeli bombing of the Cairo News Channel team near Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, resulting in the death of cameraman Ahmed Fatima and the injury of a colleague.

\* The second issue was journalists' economic and social rights, particularly minimum wage and the status of temporary journalists in national newspapers.

The Syndicate initially demanded raising the minimum wage to EGP 3,000, later increasing the demand to EGP 6,000, addressing relevant authorities accordingly.

\* Regarding temporary journalists, the Syndicate [contacted](#) the National Press Authority on October 17, 2023, seeking solutions to the long-standing issue of temporary contracts.

### Other key economic and social cases included:

1- The wage crisis for Al-Wafd newspaper journalists

2- Salary disputes of Egyptian journalists working for Reuters

3- Financial entitlements of journalists at Radio and Television Magazine

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1-Essam Nasser, Between Electoral Promises and Actual Implementation... What Has the Journalists' Syndicate Council Achieved in a Year? An Evaluation of the Council's Performance from April 2023 to April 2024, Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media, accessed on January 16, 2025, at: <https://tinyurl.com/ec68su79>

The Syndicate actively supported journalists in disputes with their employers, fully endorsing their demands and leading negotiations.

### **The third issue was services for Syndicate members, including:**

- \* Improving conditions for journalists with disabilities**
- \* Pension and healthcare projects**
- \* Loans and assistance funds**
- \* Journalists' land allocations**

Internally, the Council worked on organizing the Syndicate, encouraging broad participation in meetings, and developing its internal systems. On May 3, 2023, the Syndicate announced plans to update its financial and accounting systems and improve healthcare services for members.

In this framework, the Syndicate called for the 6th General Conference to discuss the future of journalism, press freedom, technological developments, and legislative challenges, coinciding with World Press Freedom Day on May 3.

The Council also communicated with influential entities to advocate for journalists' interests, [contacting](#) the four presidential candidates- Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Farid Zahran, Hazem Omar, and Abdel-Sanad Yamama- presenting demands on behalf of journalists.

Additionally, the Syndicate engaged with Arab issues, notably the Israeli aggression on Gaza starting in October 2023. It applied for membership in the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) on November 28, 2023, receiving preliminary approval in September, and officially [opened](#) membership registration for IFJ cards on March 28, 2024.

### **The Syndicate also undertook discreet initiatives to address sensitive issues, including:**

- \* Tackling dual allowances for training, technology, and pensions, as this violates internal regulations
- \* Contacting members with overdue subscriptions to avoid their removal from the active registry
- \* Verifying the status of members living abroad
- \* Cleaning up the registry by addressing cases where members failed to transition from trainee to full membership



## Second: The Syndicate's Committees:

The Syndicate's committees include service-oriented bodies, others focusing on press freedom, and some handling internal organizational matters. Their performance is evaluated based on their roles.

### 1. Press Freedom and Media Work:

#### A - Freedom Committee:

On April 1, 2023, journalist Mahmoud Kamel was appointed as Chairman of the Freedom Committee, holding its [first](#) session on May 7, 2023, to discuss activities, proposals, and potential developments. However, no official statement was released regarding the outcomes of the meeting, and no formal work plan was announced, making performance evaluation difficult.

The committee resumed its role after four years of inactivity, with its [last](#) event held on July 16, 2019- a caricature [exhibition](#) titled "Journalism and Its Freedom: Images from Egypt."

During the reporting period, the committee focused on:

- \* **Detained journalists**
- \* **Restrictions faced during media coverage**
- \* **Journalists' disputes with media institutions**
- \* **Networking with Egyptian and Arab entities**
- \* **Access to information laws**
- \* **Enhancing the committee's operational mechanisms**
- \* **Organizing cultural events related to freedoms**

While the Freedom Committee made considerable efforts, they remained routine and within available resources, with no extraordinary actions concerning the release of journalists or addressing press freedom violations. Nonetheless, reviving the committee after four years of inactivity is noteworthy as the [last](#) activities of the committee was on July 16, 2019.

### 2. Women's Issues:

#### B- Women's Committee:

Duaa El-Naggar was [appointed](#) Chair of the Women's Committee on March 27, 2023, continuing her [leadership](#) from the previous council. The committee held its first meeting on May 9, 2023, to receive [proposals](#) regarding its work, though the suggestions were too general to be effectively measured.



During the reporting period, the committee did not actively follow through on the promises made in its first meeting. Its activities largely revolved around issuing statements on women's issues, organizing discussion panels, and conducting training sessions for journalists' children-activities unrelated to the committee's core focus on women's professional roles and challenges.

**Two notable events were organized:**

- 1- A solidarity event supporting Palestinians during the recent Israeli aggression on Gaza
- 2- A celebration honoring exemplary mothers among female journalists on Mother's Day

**Final Assessment:**

The committee held only one internal evaluation [meeting](#) on February 28, 2024, discussing the Ministry of Labor's code of conduct to combat workplace discrimination and violence against women, aligned with Egypt's Vision 2030. However, the committee did not network with organizations concerned with women's issues or female journalists, intentionally [maintaining](#) distance from such entities to remain focused on professional syndicate work rather than human rights activism.

### Third – Committees Related to Organizational Aspects:

#### (3) Enrollment Committee:

On March 27, 2023, Hisham Younes was [appointed](#) as the head of the Enrollment Committee. Younes was one of the six journalists [elected](#) during the midterm elections, the results of which were announced on March 18, 2024. The Enrollment Committee is responsible for registering journalists who meet the necessary criteria on the lists of the Journalists' Syndicate. It handles three main categories: First, transferring colleagues from the trainee list to the practicing journalists' list, provided they meet the conditions stipulated in the Syndicate's regulations. Second, enrolling journalists applying to join the Syndicate on the trainee list, if they fulfill the required conditions. Lastly, deciding—whether to accept or reject—enrollment decisions appealed by journalists before the Journalists' Grievance Committee, the appellate committee.

#### Committee Performance Evaluation:

The committee's overall performance was notably active compared to its activities prior to the current term. The number of enrollment sessions held was higher than usual; however, the committee continued to operate in its customary manner as in previous terms. Nonetheless, the committee witnessed an attempt to develop its operational mechanisms during the latest session. In this context, the Syndicate Council announced the formation of an [auxiliary](#) committee to support the Enrollment Committee. The members of this auxiliary committee are not disclosed, and they assist in the selection process and the application of criteria, with members changing for each enrollment cycle.

Additionally, the committee announced that applicants for the trainee list are required to [complete](#) a "rigorous program" comprising six courses covering Arabic and English language skills, legal regulations, and computer skills. The head of the Journalists' Syndicate also [promised](#) that applicants would be informed of the reasons for any deferrals or rejections.

According to observers<sup>1</sup>, the committee has clearly evolved its approach during the current council's term. It has modified some methods for receiving application documents and archives, introduced specialized exams for each journalist based on their specific department rather than general journalism exams, and adopted seniority as a criterion within the same newspaper when the number of applicants exceeds the legal limit. Furthermore, the committee implemented a system for announcing reasons for deferrals or rejections in the results and developed an electronic system requiring applicants to register on the Syndicate's official website and upload

1-Testimony of journalist Maysoon Abu Al-Hassan, Syndicate Editor at Al-Fajr newspaper.

documents via an online form. This aims to facilitate document review for committee members.

However, the process of holding practicing journalist committees has experienced some disruptions, causing dissatisfaction among certain applicants.

#### **(4) Settlements Committee:**

Mohamed Saad Abdel Hafiz was appointed as the head of the Settlements Committee on March 29, 2023. There has been no announcement regarding committee meetings to organize its work or promises to address pressing issues from before the new council's term. Over the course of a year, the Settlements Committee worked on three cases to resolve them in the interest of journalists: First, [negotiating](#) with the BBC's management regarding financial rights for Egyptian journalists in its Cairo office. Second, addressing the crisis faced by Al-Wafd journalists, where the committee attended multiple meetings with Al-Wafd's management alongside the Syndicate's head and council members to advocate for salary [increases](#). Third, organizing a press conference for temporary journalists in national newspapers on March 20, 2024, as part of preparations for the sixth general conference, to present their issues and explore solutions.

In conclusion, observers believe that the committee has worked to find amicable solutions for journalists who submitted complaints, without issuing formal statements during the reporting period. According to the activity report covering March 2023 to February 2024, the committee stated that it had taken measures to resolve crises related to complaints from Syndicate members, primarily concerning arbitrary dismissals, warnings of dismissal, forced resignations, unpaid leave, salary deductions or reductions, and failure to pay journalists' social insurance contributions.

The committee also prepared a report on newspapers with suspended registrations and newly accredited newspapers at the request of the Syndicate Council, assessing whether these newspapers face any issues. Furthermore, the committee compiled reports on newspapers subject to complaints from Syndicate members, referring unresolved cases to the Syndicate's Investigation Committee.

The Settlements Committee took action to resolve issues with newly accredited newspapers, including Ahl Masr, Baldna Al-Youm, Al-Borsaghiya, and Jeel Al-Ghad, after receiving complaints. The committee successfully mediated with these newspapers, resolved all issues with journalists and trainees, and facilitated their return to work.

## Fifth: Service Committees:

### (5) Social and Health Care Committee:

The midterm elections in the Press Syndicate officially ended on March 17, 2023, with the announcement of the supervisory committee's results, declaring 7 candidates as winners, one of whom was Mohamed El-Garhy, who was [elected](#) on March 27, 2023, as the head of the Social and Health Care Committee.

The committee held its [first](#) meeting under El-Garhy's leadership on May 15, 2023. The meeting's goals were to study the priorities of the committee's work during the upcoming period, set a timeline and clear mechanisms for creating a strategic plan, and assign tasks based on the preferences and capabilities of the committee members, as well as to listen to members' suggestions.

While the Social and Health Care Committee held its first meeting on May 15, it announced its plan to develop health care on April 8, 2023, just 10 days after Mohamed El-Garhy was chosen as the committee head on March 27, 2023. This suggests two possible meanings: First, that the committee began implementing projects before announcing them, meaning they typically finish tasks before announcing them. Second, that these projects were fully formed in the minds of the committee members and were based more on their experiences rather than input from the general assembly members or other professional unions, thus initiating them without much consultation from outsiders.

What confirms this is that the committee [provided](#) a PDF version of the treatment project guide on the syndicate's website on April 7, 2023, and confirmed it would be printed and distributed in the coming days, with a note that it was the updated version. This happened before the committee officially announced its plan to develop the treatment project, meaning the treatment guide resulting from the development plan was revealed before the plan itself.

Since its establishment, the committee has worked on several projects, most of which relate to health care, with a few concerning social care. The health care-related files included: (1) The treatment project. (2) Establishing clinics within the syndicate building. (3) [Opening](#) a health insurance clinic and customer service and statistics office, with plans to set up a health insurance pharmacy within the syndicate. (4) Organizing medical convoys and free treatment events. (5) Cooperation protocols signed by the committee with institutions providing treatment or medication services to provide these goods at discounted prices to syndicate members, their families, and relatives.

As for the social care-related files, the committee's efforts were limited to the file concerning the colleagues with disabilities among the members of the general assembly and their families.

### **What Was Achieved:**

Regarding the evaluation of the Social and Health Care Committee's performance, we find that it did not initially announce a clear work plan with specific goals. Therefore, we lack a clear metric to measure its success in fulfilling its promises. However, on the other hand, it can be said that the committee members made significant efforts to serve the syndicate's journalists, but these efforts were limited to health care services, without extending to other social services that the committee should have provided.

From another angle, it is evident that the committee tried to operate on multiple service tracks simultaneously, but it continued work on some tracks and stopped others, likely due to a lack of capacity and available resources to handle all these initiatives at once. This raises questions about why the committee leaders pursued so many files beyond its capabilities, which reflects wasted effort on initiatives with little return.

### **(6) Pensions Committee:**

While the judicial committee overseeing the midterm elections of the Press Syndicate announced the results of the competition on March 17, 2023, and member of the Press Syndicate Council, Ayman Abdel-Meguid, was [selected](#) to head the Pensions Committee on April 1, 2023, the committee announced its work [strategy](#) on August 6, 2023, four months after the appointment of its head, with unclear reasons for the delay.

### **The Committee's Promises:**

During its [first](#) meeting on August 6, 2023, the committee announced its work strategy for the upcoming period, its priorities, listened to members' suggestions, and set timelines to begin its activities. The committee stated the following [goals](#) it promised to achieve during its term:

### **In the rights file:**

- 1- Increasing pensions by an amount equal to the technology and training allowance, with the aim of full parity in future increases.
- 2- Granting pensioners in both pension tables the right to vote in elections, which requires legislative amendments to specific materials.
- 3- Working on the proposal for a health insurance clinic, providing medicine, and expanding the

**In the service activities file**, the committee aimed to achieve the following goals:

- 1- Establishing a Humanitarian Communication Committee to support and follow up on the elderly in the profession, particularly those without family support.
- 2- Coordinating with efficient elderly care homes to host those without family support from the elderly in the profession, with a proposal to establish a special home for the syndicate, called "Al-Wafa" home, to serve the elderly in the profession.
- 3- Providing low-cost home visits for colleagues who cannot go to doctor's clinics.

**And Finally, for utilizing the experience of senior professionals and benefiting from it**, the committee set the following targets:

- 1- Launching a "Generations Communication Salon," where senior journalists would share their experience with young journalists, with each event focusing on a particular journalistic skill.

### **What Was Achieved:**

The committee partially succeeded in increasing the pensions of the elderly professionals. The goal of introducing legislative amendments to the Syndicate's law to ensure voting and nomination rights for the elderly professionals was not achieved. It was expected that this goal would not be realized due to journalists' concerns over the consequences of proposing such amendments, yet it was still included in the committee's priorities despite its challenges.

As for the service goals, such as establishing the Humanitarian Communication Committee and coordinating with elderly care homes, no official statements were made to confirm or deny the success of these initiatives, though it is likely they were not achieved, as no announcements were made regarding them.

The final goal, related to utilizing the experience of senior journalists, was successfully realized as the committee held the "Generations Communication Salon" four times throughout the year.

### **(7) Activity Committee:**

This committee is responsible for providing recreational services to syndicate members. Dua'a Al-Najjar was selected to head the Activity Committee on March 27, 2023, and the committee held its first meeting on May 25, 2023, with members of the committee and journalists from various newspapers in attendance.

During the meeting, the committee confirmed its plans to organize one-day trips to Ain Sokhna, Port Said, and Fayoum, as well as discounted trips in cooperation with various ministries and agencies. It was also noted that the syndicate provided over a 25% discount on summer unit rentals at Panorama Village in the North Coast, amounting to 6,000 pounds per week, as well as similar discounts and installment plans for trips, which were applied to the Hurghada trip for the first and second groups.

### **Actual Activity of the Committee:**

During the 12-month period covered in the report, the committee organized 9 trips, each lasting three days. Of these, 7 were to Hurghada, one to Ras Sidr in South Sinai, and one to Luxor and Aswan.

In the same period, the committee also organized 4 one-day trips, including two to the San Stefano beach in Alexandria, one to El Alamein in the North Coast, and one to Ain Sokhna in Suez.

The committee also facilitated reservations for summer units at Panorama Village on the North Coast twice, first on June 11, 2023, with 5 groups available, and second on June 19, 2023, with prices ranging from 5,850 to 8,200 pounds.

Additionally, the committee managed to secure summer cabins for syndicate members and their families at Stanley Beach in Alexandria, with a subscription fee of 100 pounds per day, available for one or two days at most, on two occasions- July 31, 2023, and August 21, 2023.

The committee also organized two exhibitions offering discounted secondary school reviews for children of journalists on May 16 and June 22, 2023.

### **Final Remarks:**

It can be said that the services offered follow the available opportunities, meaning the Activity Committee specializes in providing recreational services, but may offer educational services if an opportunity arises, as seen in several other committees. This highlights that the performance of the committees and the types of services they provide are influenced by the personality and specialization of the committee head. For example, the head of the services committee, being a sports journalist, provided several sports-related services, such as discounts on club subscriptions, discounts for children of journalists on sports academy enrollments, free screening of the African Cup of Nations for journalists at the syndicate's cafeteria, etc.

### **(8) Committee on Arab Affairs:**

Hussein Al-Zanati was elected as the head of the Committee on Arab and African Affairs on March 27, 2023. Al-Zanati, a former member of the syndicate's council, was not promoted in the midterm elections.

The committee held its [first](#) meeting on May 8, 2023, to discuss its plan and agree on implementation mechanisms. However, according to the available data, the committee has not officially announced its plan or the mechanisms for its implementation.

### **Committee Activities:**

During the reporting period, the committee organized nine discussion seminars on important issues that arose during this time.

### **Final Assessment:**

The committee did not commence its activities until September 2023, nearly four months after its first meeting in May. Its activities were concentrated in September and October before halting in November and December. The committee resumed its work in January 2024 with a single event, followed by two seminars in February, before ceasing activities again in March and April 2024. This means the committee was active for only four out of the 12 months covered in the report (September, October, January, and February).

The nine events organized by the committee focused on the future of the Arab world in light of regional changes, the war in Gaza and its regional implications, and Egypt's role and diplomacy in these developments.



Based on the committee's activities over the year, it appears that its work was limited to organizing seminars without engaging in other activities such as service exhibitions, showcasing artistic works, competitions, or similar events. The committee also did not attempt to establish communication and networking with its counterparts in journalists' unions across the region.

### **(9) Hajj and Umrah Committee:**

On April 2, 2023, the Journalists' Syndicate Council [completed](#) the formation of its committees. However, no specific committee for Hajj and Umrah was mentioned in this formation. It seems, though, that the committee was established around this time, as it [announced](#) on April 28, 2023, that it had begun receiving applications from syndicate members wishing to perform Hajj.

The absence of an official announcement regarding the committee's formation in April may be due to its specific focus, which does not require a formal program, pledges, or approval from the syndicate council or general assembly. The committee's primary function is organizing Hajj and Umrah trips for journalists.

### **Committee Activities:**

During the reporting period, the committee organized two Hajj and Umrah trips and began preparations for a 2024 Hajj trip.

### **(10) Services and Technology Committee:**

The judicial committee supervising the midterm elections of the Journalists' Syndicate announced on March 18, 2023, that Mohamed Yehia Youssef had [won](#) with 2,301 votes. On March 27, he was [named](#) head of the Services and Technology Committee, continuing his [role](#) from the previous syndicate council.

### **Committee Activities:**

Over the 12-month period covered in the report, the committee successfully provided 12 services, averaging one service per month. These included:

\* **Four sports-related services:** Agreements with sports institutions allowing journalists to subscribe at discounted rates, installment plans for membership fees, and a discount on joining the "Anderlecht Academy." The committee also organized a chess tournament (traditional and electronic) with a prize pool of 30,000 EGP.

\* **Discounts:** The committee secured discounts for syndicate journalists at “Oasis Khattab” restaurants and arranged for discounted wireless earbuds and free Etisalat SIM cards. It also secured discounts at three bookstores providing stationery and academic books.

\* **On-site services at the syndicate:** The committee arranged for screenings of the African Cup of Nations matches on large screens in the syndicate’s cafeteria and facilitated the issuance of passports for syndicate members through an official representative of the Passport Authority.

### **Final Assessment:**

It is challenging to objectively assess the committee’s performance due to the lack of official information on available resources. Given the committee’s service-oriented nature, its success can only be accurately measured through the perspectives and satisfaction of syndicate members.

### **(11) Housing Committee:**

On March 27, 2023, during the first meeting of the syndicate council following the midterm elections, Abdel Raouf Khalifa was [appointed](#) head of the Housing Committee.

At the beginning of his tenure, Khalifa did not announce specific goals or a work plan. However, his tenure was marked by efficiency and effectiveness, particularly in comparison to the period following his dismissal when the committee was managed directly by the syndicate council.

### **Dismissal of Abdel Raouf Khalifa:**

On September 27, 2023, the syndicate council decided to [relieve](#) Khalifa of his position after he announced the establishment of the “Journalism Services and Development Association,” which the council [viewed](#) as a parallel entity overstepping the syndicate’s authority. He was referred for investigation, particularly after threats were made against journalists. However, on March 10, 2024, the Administrative Court ruled to [annul](#) the syndicate council’s decision to remove him. During the dispute between Khalifa and the council, he continued efforts to provide housing services, though these were not officially endorsed by the syndicate.

### **The Syndicate’s Efforts in the Housing:**

After Abdel Raouf Khalifa was removed from his position as head of the Housing Committee, the Syndicate Council took over the committee’s affairs. Notably, all the housing units offered by the Syndicate Council, representing the committee, were part of the 600 units that Abdel Raouf

Khalifa had previously announced during his tenure as committee head. These units were [allocated](#) to journalists in five cities: **New Cairo, the New Administrative Capital, New Alamein, New Mansoura, and New 6th of October.**

### **The only exceptions to this were:**

\* The Syndicate Council's announcement **on August 29, 2023**, regarding the availability of **50 housing units in Madinaty**, with reservations open starting **September 2, 2023**.

\* The Syndicate Council's announcement on **March 6, 2024**, regarding the availability of **96 housing units in the Al Maqsed - R3 project in the New Administrative Capital**, with [reservations open](#) starting **March 9, 2024**.

### **(12) The Cultural and Artistic Committee:**

On March 18, 2023, Mahmoud Kamel was announced as the [winner](#) in the midterm elections of the Journalists' Syndicate. On March 27, 2023, he was appointed as the [head](#) of the Cultural and Artistic Committee, while the committee held its [first](#) session on June 5, 2023, to discuss its work and development proposals. "In truth, I do not understand the reason for such a delay in starting the committee's work- two whole months."

At the outset, it is important to note that we lack a clear criterion for assessing the success of the Cultural and Artistic Committee in achieving its supposed goals and objectives. We do not know whether the measure of success is the number of activities organized by the committee, their real and tangible impact on the journalistic community, or a comparison between the committee's activities in this term and those in previous terms.

However, we can review the committee's efforts during the period covered by this report, highlight the cultural, literary, and artistic fields it has addressed, and offer initial observations on its activities. The final judgment is left to the reader, who can form their own evaluation of the committee's performance, thereby opening a dialogue about its work and that of the council as a whole.

## First: Artistic Activities

The committee presented several artistic activities:

- \* **Cinema screenings:** The committee organized two film screenings.
- \* **Theatrical performances:** Two theatrical performances were held for children.
- \* **Celebratory events for adults, including:**
  - \*A Ramadan night performance by the Ezzedine Nasreddine [band](#) for the Sira Hilaliya on April 13, 2023.
  - \*A [storytelling](#), singing, and poetry evening for Palestine titled Stories from the Land of Olive Trees on October 23, 2023.
  - \*A [celebration](#) on September 10, 2023, marking the centenary of the passing of People's Artist Sayed Darwish, under the sponsorship of Al-Hayat channel.
  - \*A second [celebration](#) on September 17, 2023, for Sayed Darwish's centenary, led by Maestro Selim Sahab.
  - \*A final [celebration](#) for the Prophet's Birthday on September 26, 2023, featuring Sheikh Mahmoud Al-Tohami, sponsored by Al-Hayat channel.
  - \*An artistic [evening](#) on March 17, 2024, honoring the late composer Helmy Bakr, including a documentary screening about his life and career.

Additionally, the committee organized **two art exhibitions:**

- 1- A caricature and portrait [exhibition](#) starting April 4, 2023, featuring prominent syndicate members and late pioneers, marking the 82nd anniversary of the Journalists' Syndicate.
- 2- A caricature [exhibition](#) on September 10, 2023, commemorating Sayed Darwish's centenary.

Finally, the committee successfully allocated **50 free invitations per day** for journalists and their families to attend the [Annual](#) Egyptian Cinema Film Festival, held from May 7–13.

The committee also organized **four workshops:**

- 1- [Music education](#) – starting August 6, 2023.
- 2- [Screenwriting training](#) – on September 12, 2023.
- 3- [Drawing skills workshop](#) – on January 10, 2024.
- 4- A four-day free [training grant for 30 journalists](#) on proper writing techniques.

## Second: Cultural Activities

On the literary and cultural front, the committee organized **a wide range of symposiums** to discuss literary, poetic, and cultural texts. Over 12 months, the committee held 31 symposiums.

## Third: Solidarity Actions

The committee took several solidarity positions on both national and Arab issues:

- \* It **expressed** solidarity with the film critic Tarek El-Shennawy after he was subjected to defamation and insults by artist Mostafa Qamar, and addressed the Actors' Syndicate to investigate the incident.
- \* It condemned the demolition of historic cemeteries in the Sayyida Aisha and Imam Al-Shafi'i areas, **calling** for a halt to the destruction.
- \* **On the Arab level**, the committee **condemned** an agreement between the Rabat Auteur Film Festival and the Dakhla Film Festival in Morocco with representatives from Israel's Ministry of Culture and Sports.
- \* It expressed solidarity with the **Palestinian cause**, marking the **75th anniversary of the Nakba**.
- \* It organized a **solidarity day with the Sudanese people** amidst the ongoing civil war.

## (13) The Economic Committee:

On March 27, 2023, Mohamed Kharaga was appointed as the head of the Economic Committee, and the committee held its first **meeting** on May 22, 2023, to set its work plan and implementation mechanisms. However, no specific objectives or future plans were publicly announced.

## First: Economic Activities

The committee's real impact on the ground was limited during the 12-month period covered by this report. It provided only three economic services for journalists:

- 1- **Allocating 350 cemetery plots** in 6th of October City for syndicate members at a rate of **3,000 EGP per square meter**, with applications open from October 21-30, 2023.
- 2- **Providing 157 additional cemetery plots** in 6th of October City under the lahd burial system.
- 3- **Negotiating with the Housing and Development Bank** to offer **mortgage financing** for journalists who had acquired apartments through the New Urban Communities Authority.

## **Second: Educational and Awareness Services**

The committee also provided **educational and awareness services**, including:

- \* **Summer [training](#) for 30 students** (children of journalists) at Banque du Caire, announced on June 8, 2023.
- \* **A 10-day [training](#) course** on reading economic indicators, held at the syndicate in partnership with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, starting August 8, 2023.
- \* **A Quran memorization [competition](#)** for journalists' children, supervised by Al-Azhar, announced on March 16, 2024.
- \* **An academic excellence [award](#)** for outstanding children of journalists in **primary, preparatory, high school, and university education**, announced on August 31, 2023, in cooperation with the Social and Health Care Committee.
- \* **Four symposiums** on economic topics.

## **(14) The Training and Professional Development Committee:**

Journalist Mohamed Saad Abdel Hafiz was [appointed](#) as the head of the Training and Professional Development Committee in the Syndicate's formation meeting following the midterm election results on March 29, 2023. However, the committee held only one meeting during its first year.

The committee provided **a wide range of training services** for journalists, categorized into:

- (A) Training in collaboration with external institutions**
- (B) Independent training programs for journalists**
- (C) Training for journalists' children**

The committee also organized **a special training [course](#) via Zoom on field coverage in conflict zones** for Sudanese journalists, in solidarity with Sudan's current crisis.

Over 12 months, the committee:

- \* **Offered 26 training services** in partnership with external entities, including 9 training courses, 11 grants, and 6 training seminars.
- \* **Independently provided 7 training courses** to develop non-specialized journalistic skills for journalists and their families.
- \* **Organized 10 basic journalism training sessions and 7 advanced media courses.**
- \* **Provided 13 general and specialized training courses** in digital journalism.
- \* **Held 4 training sessions** for journalists' children.

## Evaluation

The committee held **50 training courses**, some of which were new and organized in partnership with international institutions such as WAN-IFRA and the Heikal Foundation for Arab Journalism.

However, early training sessions were **restricted to syndicate members and their families**, a policy that persisted until November 12, 2023, when the Syndicate Council decided to open training programs to non-members. Despite this, certain courses remained exclusive to syndicate members and affiliated unions.

Finally, we point out that the Training Committee collaborated with the Enrollment Committee in organizing various training courses for applicants registering under the apprenticeship category, as well as conducting electronic tests to pass these courses, according to a new plan set by the Enrollment Committee.

## Conclusion:

During the year covered by this report, we observed committees with limited activity and others with no recorded activities. However, in general, the current council of the syndicate can be described as active, creating a movement within the journalistic community that had been absent in previous years.



# Final Remarks

## Findings and Recommendations





The report reviewed the available statistics on violations documented by the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media during 2024, as well as the activities and statements issued by the bodies responsible for regulating journalistic and media work in Egypt. The report also attempted to explore the statistical relationships between violations and the actions of these regulatory bodies.

The goal is to understand the various dimensions of these violations, along with the environment and context in which journalists and media professionals operate and interact. This understanding serves as a necessary introduction to change, the formulation of solutions to problems, and the creation of alternative paths.

**At the conclusion of the report, we highlight several recommendations:**

**Regarding Media Freedoms:**

- \* It is essential to ensure a more open public space and support freedoms, in accordance with the Egyptian Constitution, which guarantees freedom of expression under Article 65 and prohibits censorship of the media under Article 71.
- \* It is necessary to cease imposing custodial sentences in publishing cases, as mandated by the Egyptian Constitution of 2014, which prohibits any prison sentences related to publishing offenses. Additionally, efforts should be made to expand public space and support freedoms, in line with the constitutional provisions guaranteeing freedom of expression (Article 65) and prohibiting media censorship (Article 71).
- \* The issue of pretrial detention for journalists and opinion-makers must be addressed, ensuring their release and respecting the profession itself. This would undoubtedly contribute to exposing corruption and law violations, ultimately helping to build a strong and resilient state.
- \* Any individual arrested should be informed of the reasons for their arrest and allowed to contact their family, in accordance with Article 54 of the Egyptian Constitution and Article 40 of the Criminal Procedure Code, ensuring their dignity and proper treatment.
- \* Security institutions must ensure the necessary protection for journalists and media professionals while they perform their duties and facilitate their work and movement. They play a crucial role in uncovering and combating corruption. Additionally, society should be educated on the importance of journalism and media in enlightening public opinion and safeguarding people's interests.

### **Media Freedoms in the Virtual Space:**

\* There is an urgent need to develop mechanisms and pathways to protect media professionals from arbitrary and biased practices imposed by Facebook against individuals who adopt narratives different from those preferred by the platform's administrators.

### **Regarding the Economic and Social Rights of Media Professionals:**

\* A significant portion of violations against journalists and media professionals are committed by the very institutions they work for, often involving withholding financial entitlements or wrongful termination. Given the challenging economic conditions, such violations are expected to increase in the future. Therefore, media institutions must seek fairer and less harmful solutions instead of resorting to dismissals and salary deductions or making journalists bear the cost of their own social insurance contributions.

\* Media institutions must respect local and international labor laws and agreements that prohibit wrongful termination, withholding financial entitlements, or implementing discriminatory workplace policies. This includes Article 35 of the Egyptian Labor Law, which prohibits wage discrimination based on gender, origin, language, religion, or belief, as well as Article 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which guarantees equal pay for equal work as a fundamental human right for both men and women.

\* The Journalists' Syndicate and other regulatory bodies in the media industry must protect the financial rights of journalists and media professionals.

\* A new category for "Practicing Journalists" should be established within the syndicate to reduce the vulnerability of non-registered journalists to restrictions and violations and to provide them with institutional protection. This recommendation is part of a draft law proposed by the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media in 2019, which included new provisions for syndicate registration.

\* Journalists should ensure they sign employment contracts with their respective organizations to secure their rights and establish a clear framework for their work relationship. Such contracts should also allow institutions to implement accountability measures without violating the agreed-upon terms.

### **Intellectual Property Rights:**

\* Violations related to intellectual property cause significant harm to journalism and media work in Egypt. Therefore, legislation on intellectual property protection should be updated, and penalties for violations should be increased to prevent their spread.

\* It is crucial to raise awareness about “intellectual property rights” and the laws governing them among journalists and media professionals. The Egyptian legislator has already established a law for intellectual property protection- [Law](#) No. 82 of 2002, which was amended by [Law](#) No. 187 of 2020.

### **Professionalism in Journalism and Media:**

\* All necessary training programs and workshops should be provided to help journalists and media professionals develop their skills and uphold professional standards, aligning with modern technological advancements and the principles of local and international codes of conduct.

\* Media professionals must adhere to the ethical standards set by the Media Honor Code, including respecting the ethics of media dialogue, upholding community values and traditions, and refraining from using or allowing the use of offensive language or gestures.

### **Journalistic and Media Coverage of Constitutional Events:**

\* During significant national events, the organizers must receive training on effective communication and interaction with media institutions to minimize potential tensions between both parties and reduce the likelihood of journalists and media professionals facing violations while covering such events.

\* Institutions responsible for media regulation in Egypt, including the Journalists’ Syndicate, should be involved in preparing and drafting regulations for these events. This would ensure that journalists and media professionals are not merely passive recipients but active participants in shaping policies that affect their work.

يهدف برنامج الرصد والتوثيق، إلى متابعة كافة الانتهاكات التي يتعرض لها الصحفيون والإعلاميون والمؤسسات الصحفية والإعلامية في مصر. ويعتمد منهجيته الخاصة في عملية الرصد التي تقوم على 3 محاور رئيسية في رصد الإنتهاكات؛ الأول: الرصد الميداني عبر فريق العمل الميداني؛، والثاني: التواصل مع الضحايا للتأكد من وقوع انتهاكات بحقهم وتوثيق شهاداتهم، والثالث: يتم في حالة عدم توفر معلومات ميدانية أو تواصل مباشر، ويتم الرصد والتوثيق من خلال الصحف والقنوات عبر وسائل الإعلام الإلكترونية.

وبرنامج الرصد والتوثيق، بمثابة مركز الدائرة لعمل المرصد المصري للصحافة والإعلام؛ حيث يتم من خلاله إبلاغ برنامج الدعم والمساعدة القانونية بالقضايا التي يجب العمل عليها، وإبلاغ البرامج البحثية الأخرى بالقضايا الملحة في هذا التوقيت والتي يستلزم العمل عليها.

المرصد المصري للصحافة والإعلام  
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