



Statistical Summary Report

Sec
Quarter
2021

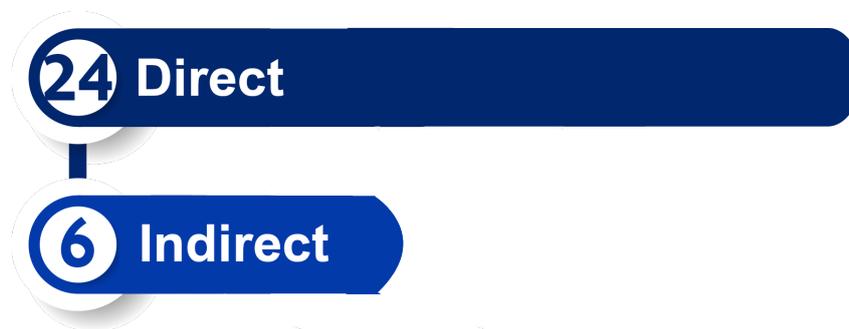
Research and Studies Unit

Prepared By
Monitoring and Documentation Unit

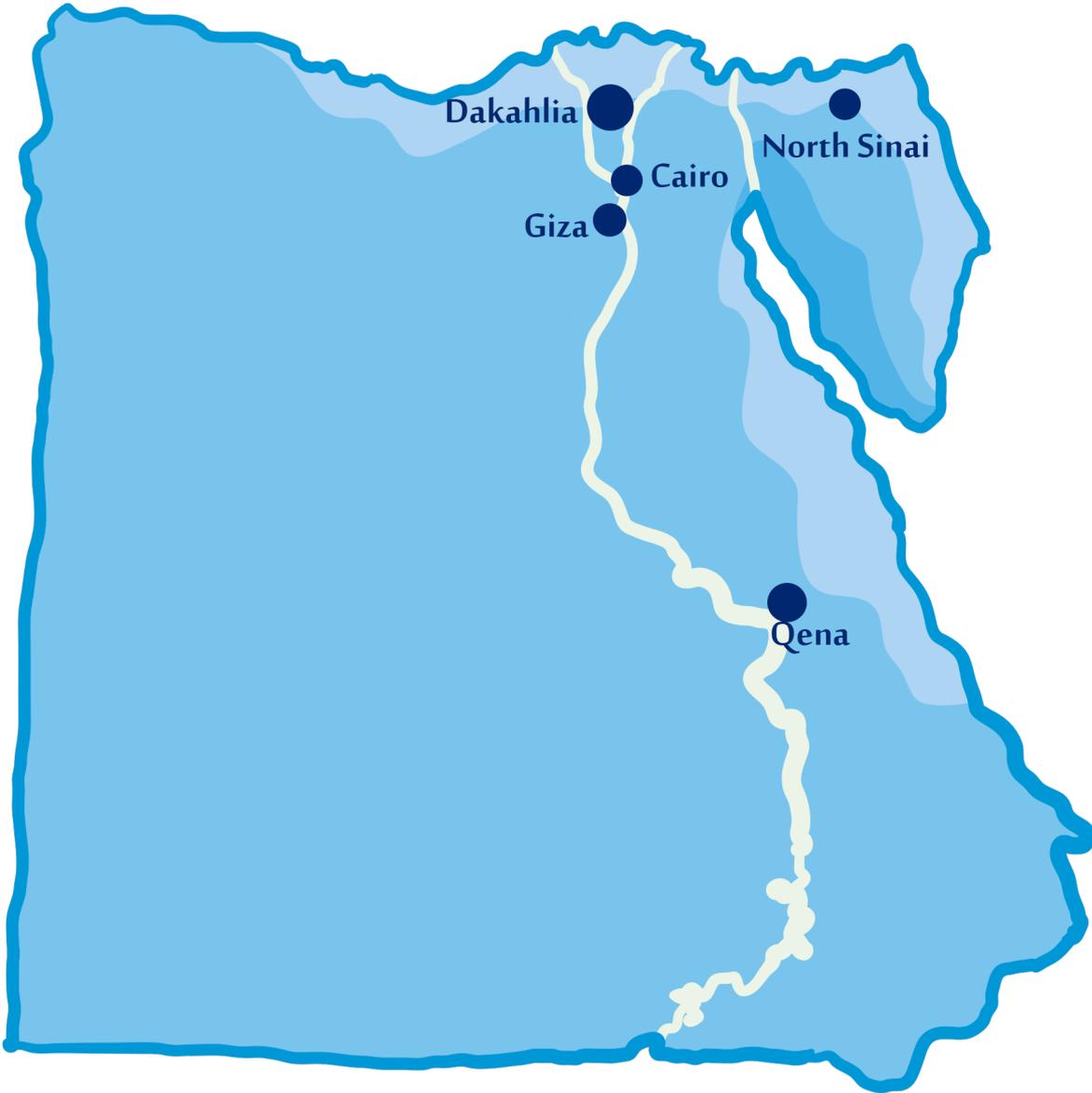
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Section One: Graphic and Statistical Presentation of Violations During the Second Quarter of 2021

During the second quarter of 2021 (April - June), the Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media (EOJM) have documented 30 cases of violations, as the monitoring unit of the institution documented 24 cases of them directly, with 80% of the total cases, while 6 cases of violations were indirectly documented with 20% of the total documented violations, within 5 geographical governorates, where the most documented cases of violations were concentrated in Dakahlia Governorate with 10 violations, representing 33.3% of the total violations, followed by Giza Governorate with 7 violations, 23.3% of the total violations and in third place Cairo governorate came with 6 cases of violations, representing 20% of the total violations. Finally, Qena and North Sinai governorates came with 13.3% and 10%, respectively.

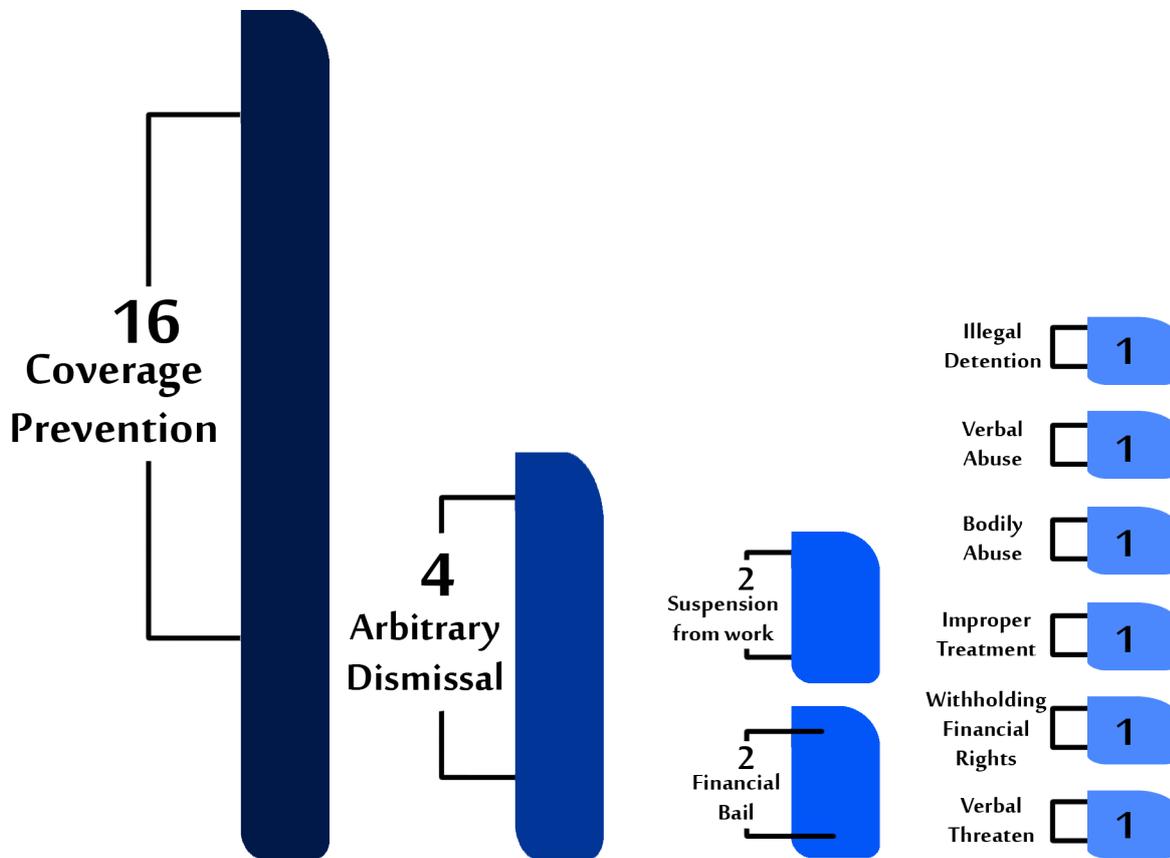


Shape (1) Distribution of violations according to the type of documentation



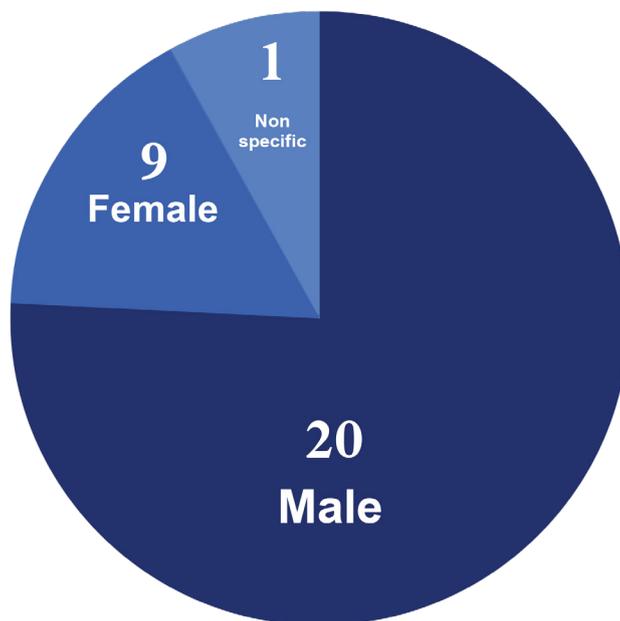
Shape (2) Distribution of violations according to the geographical scope

The monitored violations varied between coverage prevention, which ranked the first stage among violations with 53.3% of the total cases, followed by arbitrary dismissal with 13.3%, while (suspension from work and suspension of execution on financial bail) came in the third place with 6.7% for each of them, and finally in the fourth place, there were 6 separate violations with one case for each type of violation, representing 3.3% for each of them, as shown in shape (3).



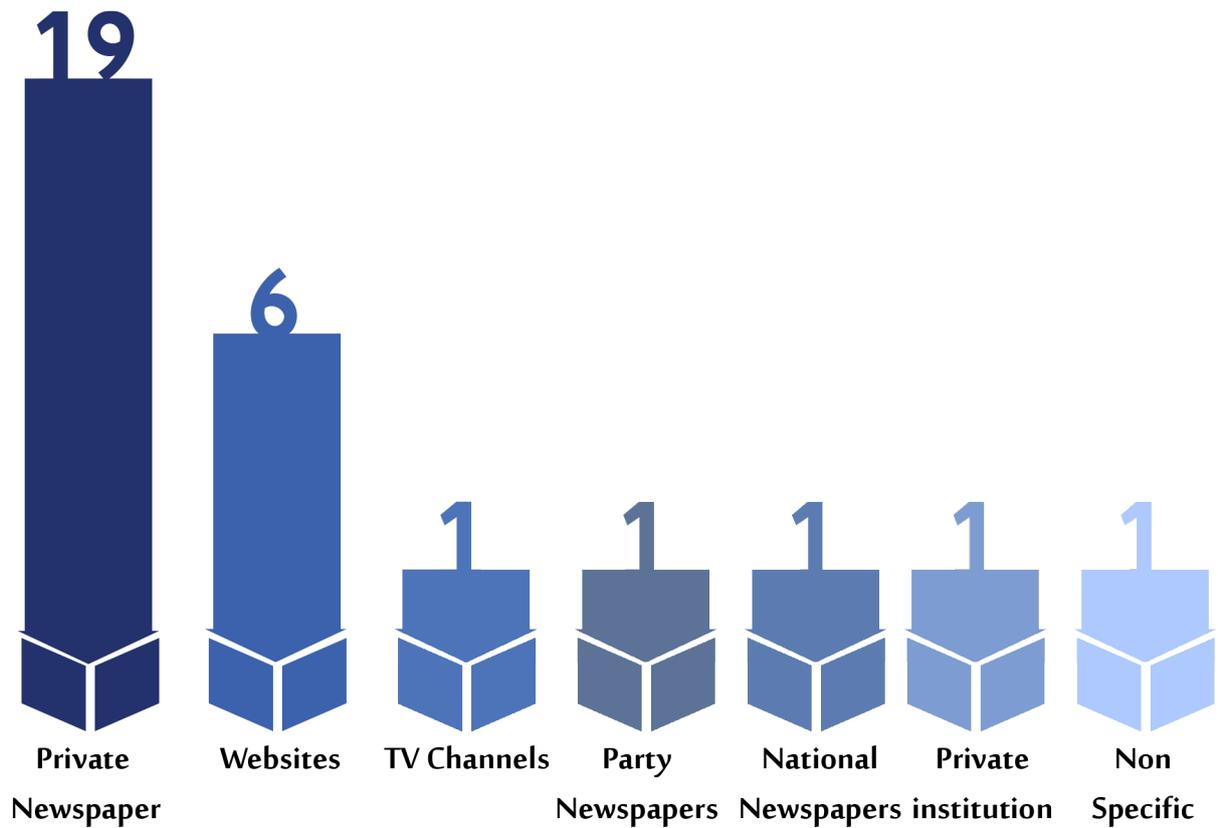
Shape (3) Distribution of violations according to the violation type

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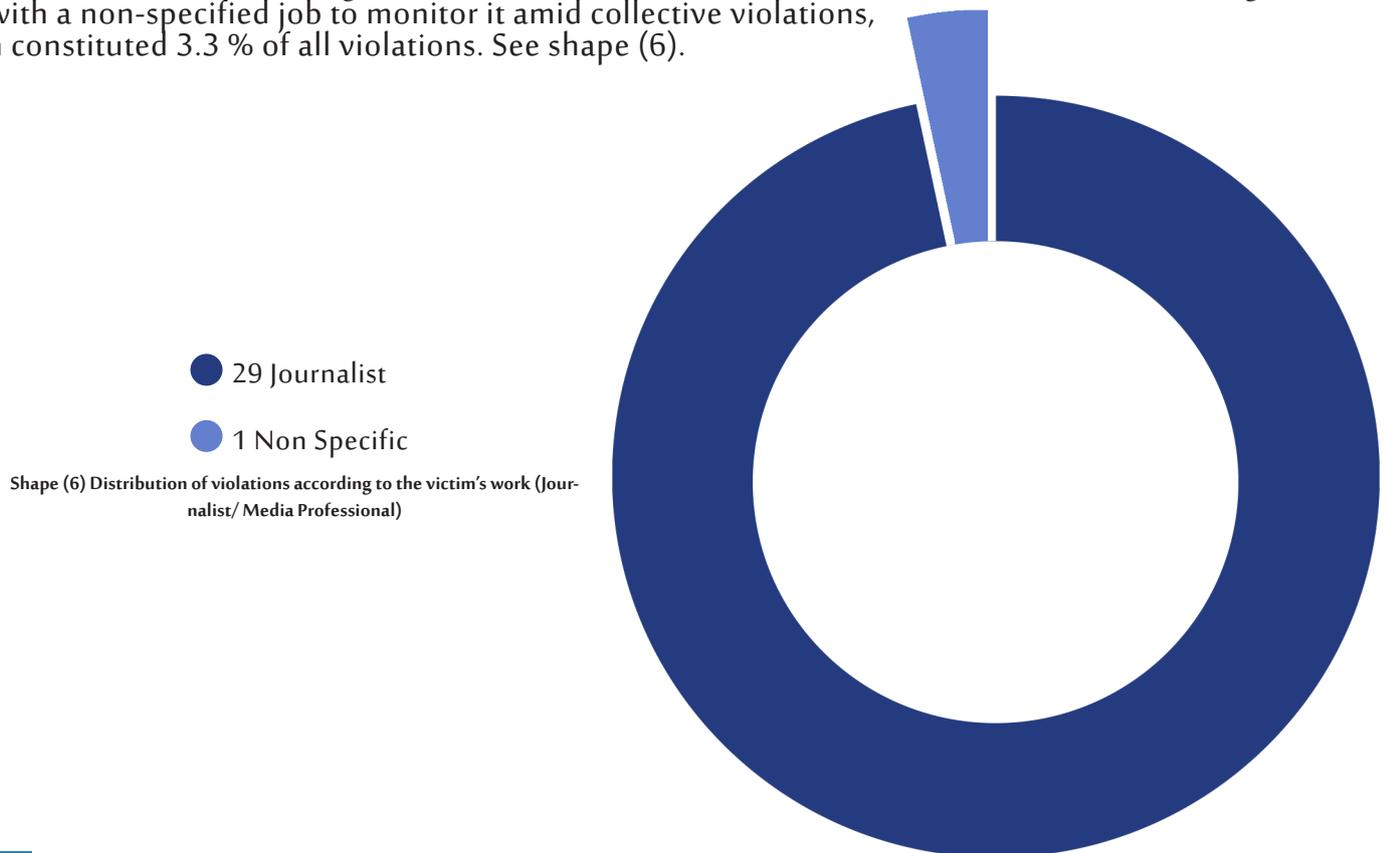
Shape (4) Distribution of violations according to journalist/ media professional gender

Journalists working in private newspapers in particular were the most exposed to violations, as 19 cases of violations against workers in private newspapers were monitored, which represents 63.3% of the total violations, 6 cases of violations against workers on websites were monitored with 20% and other parties varied as well, as showed in shape (5).



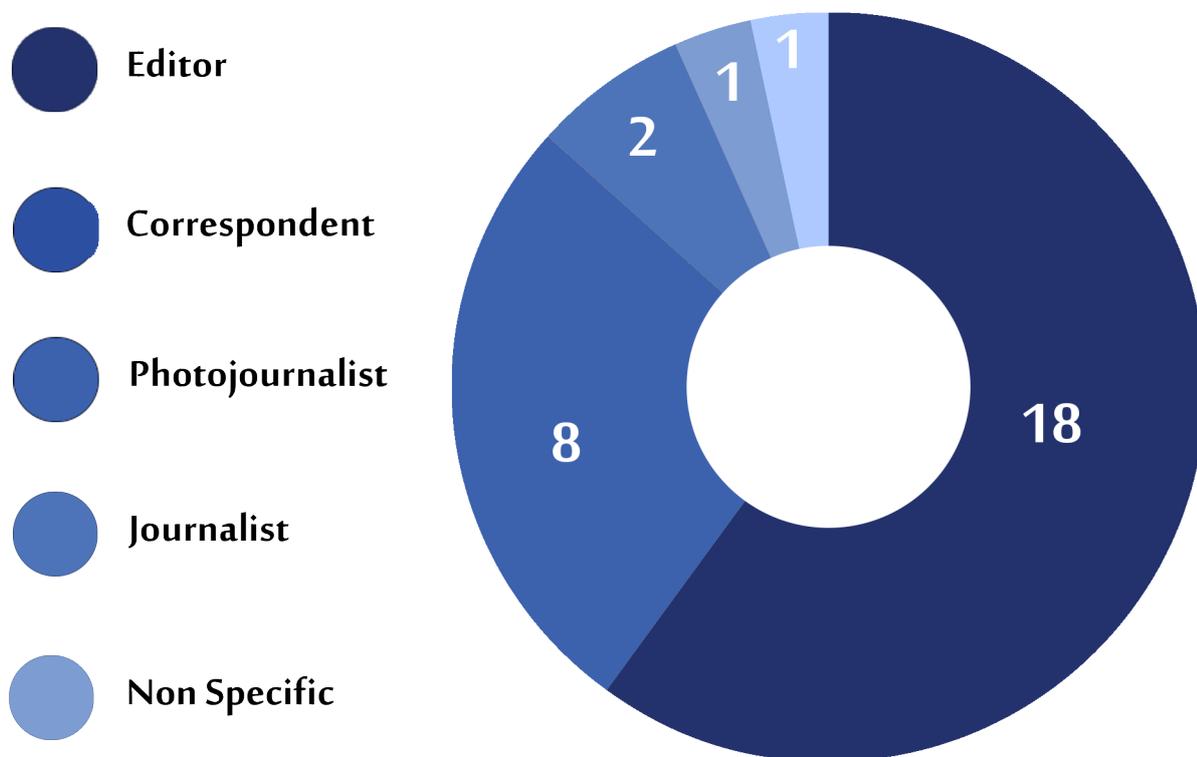
Shape (5) Distribution of violations according to the journalist/media worker's workplace

In the category of journalists, the violations were concentrated on 29 violations, representing 96.7% of the total violations, while media professionals were not exposed to any violations during the second quarter of 2021, according to the standards of the Foundation, in addition to documenting one case with a non-specified job to monitor it amid collective violations, which constituted 3.3 % of all violations. See shape (6).



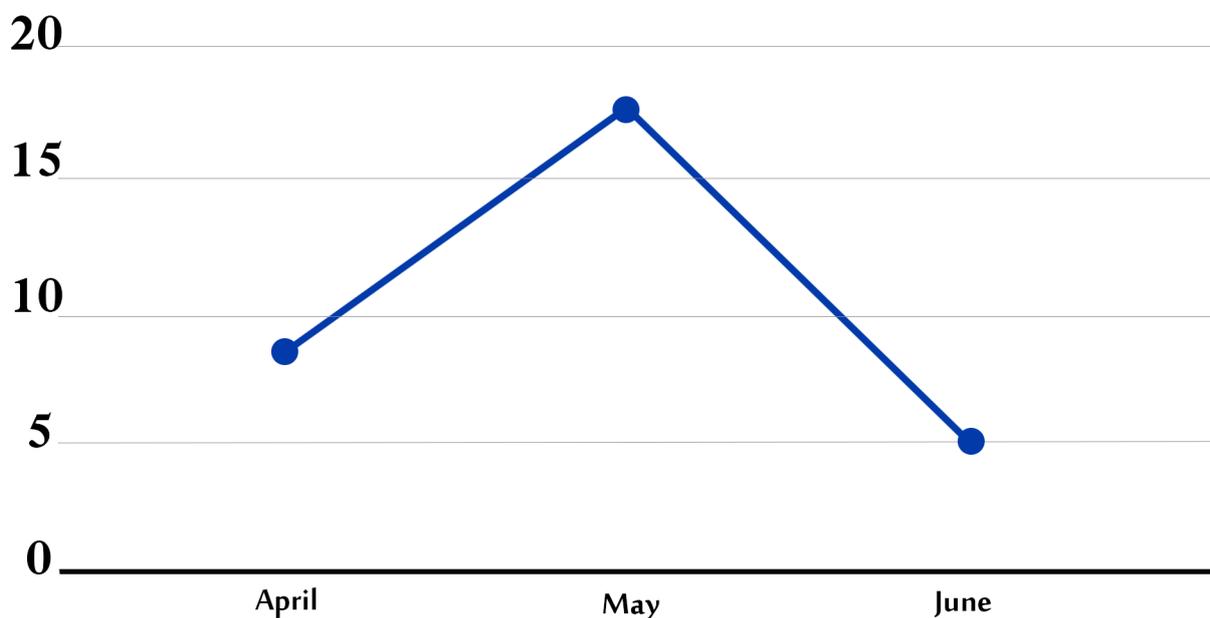
Shape (6) Distribution of violations according to the victim's work (Journalist/ Media Professional)

The violations were distributed among various press specializations, as the Foundation monitored 18 violations against press editors, representing 60% of the total violations, 8 correspondents were subjected to violations with 26.7% of the total violations, while 2 cases were monitored against photojournalists with 6.7% of the total violations. Finally, one journalist whose specialty is not known was subjected to a violation during this quarter with 3.3%, in addition to one case of unspecified specialization that was monitored amid a mass violation of the same percentage. See shape (7).

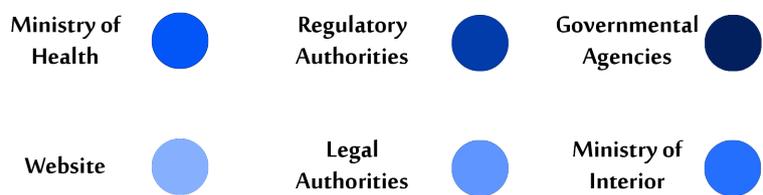
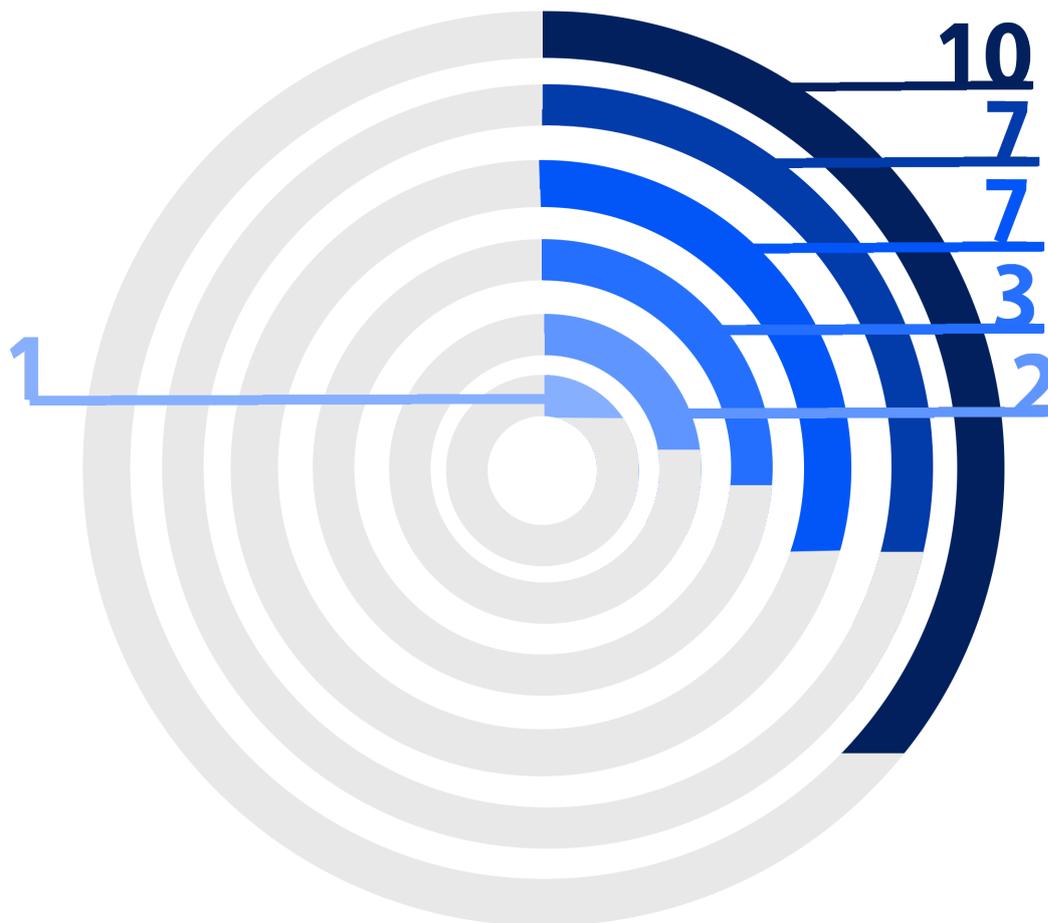


Shape (7) Distribution of violations according to the specialist

Generally; by comparing the 3 months of the second quarter of 2021 (April, May, June), we found that the majority of the violations were concentrated in May 2021 with 17 violations, while governmental agencies were the most violating groups of journalists during the second quarter of 2021 with the responsibility for 10 cases of violations, with 33.3% of the total violation, followed by the (regulatory authorities - the Ministry of Health) with responsibility for 7 violations, with 23.3% for each of the total violations. See shapes (8) and (9).



Shape (8) Comparison between the three months in the second quarter of 2021



Shape (9) Distribution of violations according to the violator side

● **Firstly: the midterm elections for the journalists' syndicate:**

The second quarter of 2021 witnessed; especially on the second of april, completing of the convening of the general assembly of journalists, as well as holding the mid-term renewal elections for the syndicate, where the general assembly was held at the teachers club in aljazeera, giza governorate, after it was postponed twice; the first time was on march 5, 2021, due to the lack of a quorum to convene the "assembly", and the second time was on march 19, 2020 due to the inability to hold elections inside the union's building only for what constitutes unavoidable damage in the light of corona pandemic, after the ministry of interior refused to establish marquee in front of the union, and the ministry of health refused to supervise the elections.

After the quorum of the general assembly was completed; the committee supervising the elections called the journalists to hold the general assembly and discuss the agenda. The assembly ended up rejecting the union's budget for the previous two years, and the members decided to renegotiate with the government and the parliament to amend the press law and abolish the pretrial detention in publishing cases.

Once the agenda has been completed; the journalists started to participate in the voting for the mid-term elections to choose a head for them from among 6 candidates who applied for the position, in addition to choosing 6 members of the syndicate's council from 55 candidates. The election resulted in the journalists' syndicate's president, diaa rashwan, remaining in his position for the second term in a row, as he won 1956 votes, and each of: muhammad kharaja obtained 1338 votes, ibrahim abu kaila 1277 votes, and hussein al-zanati 1201 votes in the council's membership seats over the age. While ayman abdel meguid obtained 1864 votes, doaa al-najjar 1078 votes, muhammad saad abdel hafeez 1045 votes, won the underage seats. With these results, the council included two new members: doaa al-najjar and ibrahim abu kila, instead of jamal abdel rahim and amr badr.

After the elections ended; a sector of journalists, including two members of the syndicate's council, announced that they submitted a memorandum expressing their observation of major violations that might invalidate the election procedures and voting results. During the syndicate's council meeting on april 12, 2021, the president of the journalists' syndicate informed the two members submitting the memorandum that the council doesn't have the authority or jurisdiction is what enables it to address the serious legal matters mentioned in the memorandum, so he has one of two options: either he transmits the memorandum in their names to the public prosecution to submit to it with everything they have, or they withdraw it officially and resort to the judicial authority that they deem competent to investigate what is stated in it. After three days have passed on board meeting; the head of the journalists' syndicate, diaa rashwan, decided to formally refer the memorandum to the public prosecutor on behalf of the journalists to take the legal measures he deems appropriate to investigate what was stated in it.

After completing the election procedures; the new council turned to arrange the internal papers of the council's committees, and the council completed the formation of the office and its various committees on april 23, 2021, in which the women's committee was approved after many demands to energizing it to support women journalists and work on their problems, headed by journalist doaa al-najjar.

Within the framework of the egyptian observatory for journalism and media's interest in following up on the elections process and the procedures for holding the ordinary general assembly for journalists, eojm submitted a full report aiming to revealing the results of its follow-up to the elections, and highlighting all the procedures for holding the general assembly, its summary in english can be viewed through this [link](#).

● **Secondly: the problems of allowance dominate the discussions of journalists in the second quarter of 2021**

"The allowance is a right or a bonus?"

The supreme administrative court ruled in late may 2021, considering the appeal lodged by the government "as if it had not been" and approving the ruling issued by the administrative court of justice in alexandria and headed by counselor dr. Mohamed abdel-wahab khafagy, vice president of the state council, regarding the entitlement of a registered journalist in the journalists' syndicate under "the employed schedule", in disbursing the training and technology allowance, as it is restricted to the syn-

dicate's schedules and the disbursement of financial differences to it as well as the consequences of that the most important of which is the obligation of the administrative authority to take measures to grant that allowance to all journalists registered in the syndicate's schedule, whatever newspaper they work for is national, independent, partisan, or news agencies and whether it was printed or digital. The administrative court of justice held that the technology allowance is not a grant from the administration if it wants to grant it at times, or if it wants to prevent it at other times, but it is a right that is closely related to the professional life of the journalist, without which the press can't put the facts before the people and make them aware of the achievements going on around them. The court appealed the legislator legalizes this allowance after it has become closely related to the journalist's professional life and re-evaluates its value. It explained that the reason for the technology allowance is to provide journalists with the opportunity to use the time tools to meet the challenges of developing the arts of the press industry, because technological armament ensures that the Egyptian press is cross-border, intercontinental and able to address the world public opinion and build the personality of the encyclopedic journalist in the world of specialization is the solid base for building an impenetrable fortress to defend the rights of society. Without technology, the journalist's movement is shackled and he turns into a mere employee whose real capabilities and professional contributions do not appear.

“Journalists rise up against the “allowance tax””

In the end of May 2021, the press group witnessed a state of controversy, due to the news circulating about the Egyptian tax authority's intention to impose a 10% income tax on the training and technology allowance allocated to members of the journalists syndicate. To face of this controversy, Dina Rashwan, head of the journalists' syndicate, issued an official statement, revealing that there was a dispute about if the allowance is subjected to tax or not in the internal periodic book of the head of the Egyptian tax authority no. (18) Of 2010.

The syndicate of journalists revealed that the syndicate continues to pay the allowance according to the same rules that have been applied to it since the beginning of its approval, which it considers not subject to salary tax, calling on the national press institutions to continue to apply the rules they have settled inside them during the past periods as well as take sides with the opinion of the union is not subjected to payroll tax and the similar.

“Organizational problems related to the allowance”

In mid-June 2021, Dina Rashwan, the head of the journalists' syndicate, revealed his success in transferring the training and technology allowance for journalists working in the radio and television magazine to the syndicate of journalists and continuing to pay them from it on an ongoing basis. This announcement came after arduous efforts that continued for long periods.

On Sunday, June 20, 2021, the members of the syndicate in the radio and television magazine went to the headquarters of the journalists' syndicate on Abdel-Khalek Tharwat Street, to disburse their training and technology allowance from the union treasury for May and June 2021, to start the procedures for extracting their electronic withdrawal cards for each of them to obtain the allowance. Thereafter monthly from the union account. In order to solve these organizational problems related to the payment of the “journalists' allowance”, the organizational and press institutions must stop paying the allowance, and then the allowance was paid to all journalists from the headquarters of the journalists' syndicate, because the allowance is granted in a syndicate rather than a functional capacity.

● **Thirdly: “Masr Al Arabiya - Opera News” join the queue of closed newspapers.**

“Masr Al Arabiya retreats in front of the harassment and violations”

On April 14, 2021, the management of the “Masr Al Arabiya” news website issued an official statement announcing the closure of the website permanently after 7 years of work, as a result of the restrictions and pressures that the site and its employees have been subjected to over the past years, including the blocking in 2017, the arrest the editor-in-chief in 2018 and his release in 2020. The statement stressed that the site has adhered, during the past 7 years, to international professional standards and the journalistic code of honor to which senior Egyptian journalists are committed, believing that the site is the property of its readers, so there is no opinion on the news, with all readers the right to Express their ideas freely within the limits of the law and the public norms.

Although the website was blocked for 4 years in 2017, and the editor-in-chief Adel Sabry was arrested for about two and a half years in charge of publishing false news translated from the “New York Times”, dealing with the presidential elections that took place this year. However, there were a num-

ber of journalists who were loyal insisted on continuing to write and publish with a voluntary effort, hoping that the state would end legalizing websites in accordance with the constitution and the law.

Before announcing the decision to close officially, the management of the “Masr Al-Arabia” website was keen to take some measures to preserve the material and social rights of journalists working in the institution, including informing them on 6th of last January the decision, in order to adjust their situation and search for another job opportunity, and decided to spend a month of the basic salary for each year, so the teamwork was divided into three groups. The first group left on January 24, 2021, and the second group left on February 10, while the third group left at the end of February, as well as 5 journalists continued to work voluntarily until the decision was announced that the website was closed officially.

“Opera News Hub” cancels its activity due to “local obstacles”

The “Opera News Hub” project - one of the services provided by “OperaNews” application - joined the “Masr Al Arabiya News” website; whose owner company announced the suspension of this service due to the presence of local obstacles that made it impossible to continue the “Opera News Hub” service in Egypt; This prompted the company to stop its activities in Egypt completely on April 30, 2021, and pledge to pay all financial dues to the writers.

Over the whole year, the “Opera News Hub” platform, which is based on the idea of writers publishing their articles in exchange for financial profits that they obtain measured according to their own accounts, after deducting the company’s profit margin, has created a state of literary and cultural activity between creative writing enthusiasts and the press community in Egypt, especially young journalists, who are looking for suitable job opportunities, in the light of the low wages of many of them. The platform has enriched the content industry in Egypt; giving writing lovers the opportunity to present their creativity and make profits from it. The experience left a deep impact on the press and media circles; even it pushed other companies and apps to emulate the idea.



المركز المصري للصحافة والإعلام
Egyptian Observatory for Journalism and Media

The Monitoring and Documentation Program aims to follow up on all violations against journalists, media professionals, and press and media institutions in Egypt. It adopts its own methodology in the monitoring process, which is based on 3 main axes in monitoring violations; The first: field monitoring through the field work team. The second: communicating with the victims to ascertain the occurrence of violations against them and documenting their testimonies. The third: takes place in the absence of field information or direct communication, and monitoring and documentation is carried out through newspapers and channels via electronic media.

The Monitoring and Documentation Program serves as the department's center for the work of the Egyptian Observatory for Press and Media; Through it, the legal aid and support program is informed of the issues that must be worked on, and the other research programs are informed of the urgent issues at this time that need to be worked on.