

Press Freedom Advocacy Association
In Iraq

Governmental Restrictions Choke
Press Freedoms in Iraq

A Monitoring report on violations against journalists in
Iraq

Issued on Press Freedom Day

For the period
3/5/2022 till 2/5/2023

Supervised by
The Administrative Board

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جمعية الدفاع عن حرية الصحافة
Press Freedom Advocacy Association

Summary in Figures

Type of violation	Figure
Arrests and detaining	66
Death threats	2
Storming, raiding and armed attacks	21
Injuries	11
Beatings and obstructing coverage	205
Lawsuits, court sentences and warrants	14
Formal constraints	26
Total	345

Introduction

The series of constitutional violations against the freedom of expression and workers in the field of press and media in the country continues. Freedoms are witnessing a noticeable deterioration through what we recorded as the Press Freedom Advocacy Association in Iraq, where we monitored the period (3/5/2022 - 2/5/2023) as covered by this report, 345 cases of violation.

Iraqi journalists suffer from continuous harassment and the government's failure to address the obstacles facing journalistic work, as well as its failure to take any measures that contribute even to a little extent in reducing these violations, which have become part of the lives of journalists, overlooking international treaties and covenants that oblige the country to preserve freedom of expression and freedom of the press, which is one of the aspects of freedom of expression.

During the review of his government program, the current Prime Minister indicated that freedom of the press should be given priority, and pledged to promote the reality of the press, which suffers from the loss of independent journalism, and obliterating the freedom of work of journalists as one of the explicit constitutional rights. On Ground though threats and intimidation received by the media operating in Iraq continue, in addition to the participation of government agencies in restricting the freedom of journalistic work.

During the period covered by this report, the Association (PFAA) classified (345) cases of violations against journalists, as follows: (Arrests and detention, death threats and physical liquidation, armed attacks on journalists and media institutions, injuries, beating and obstructing coverage, filing lawsuits, restriction by official books).

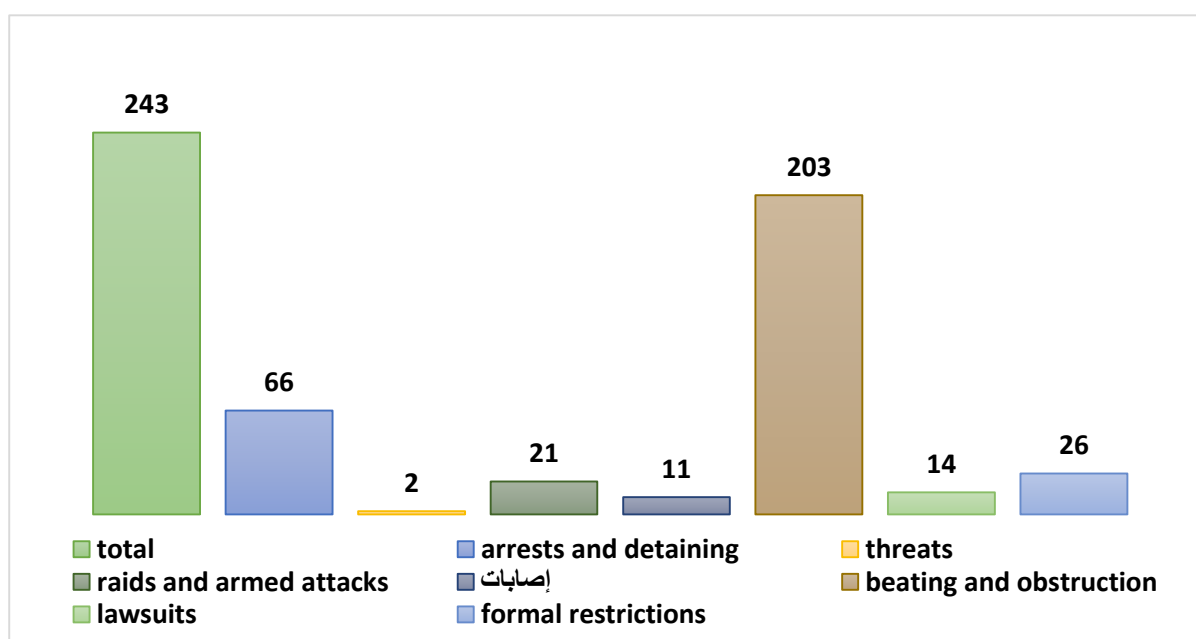
The monitoring system of the PFAA revealed a frightening rise in cases of beating and preventing and obstructing coverage by security authorities, special protections and security companies, which has

become recorded daily, and the governorate was not without the process of preventing coverage or beating assault, as the PFAA recorded (203) cases, offset by (66) cases of arrest and detention of journalists, (26) cases of government restriction of freedom of journalistic work, (21) cases of armed incursion that affected media institutions and journalists' homes, while (14) lawsuits were recorded against journalists and media institutions, In addition to the injury of (11) journalists, and the threat of two others.

Statistics according to the governorates, show that no governorate is free from recording violations against journalists and media institutions, as Baghdad ranked first in the cities with the most violations by (83) cases, and Erbil second with (74) cases, followed by Kirkuk (30) cases, Sulaymaniyah (29), Basra (27), Dohuk (20), Mosul (18), Najaf (17), Karbala (17), Dhi Qar (8), Anbar (6), (4) cases in Babylon, Diyala and Maysan, each. Three cases recorded by Diwaniyah governorate, compared to two cases in Muthanna, and one case each in Salah al-Din and Wasit.

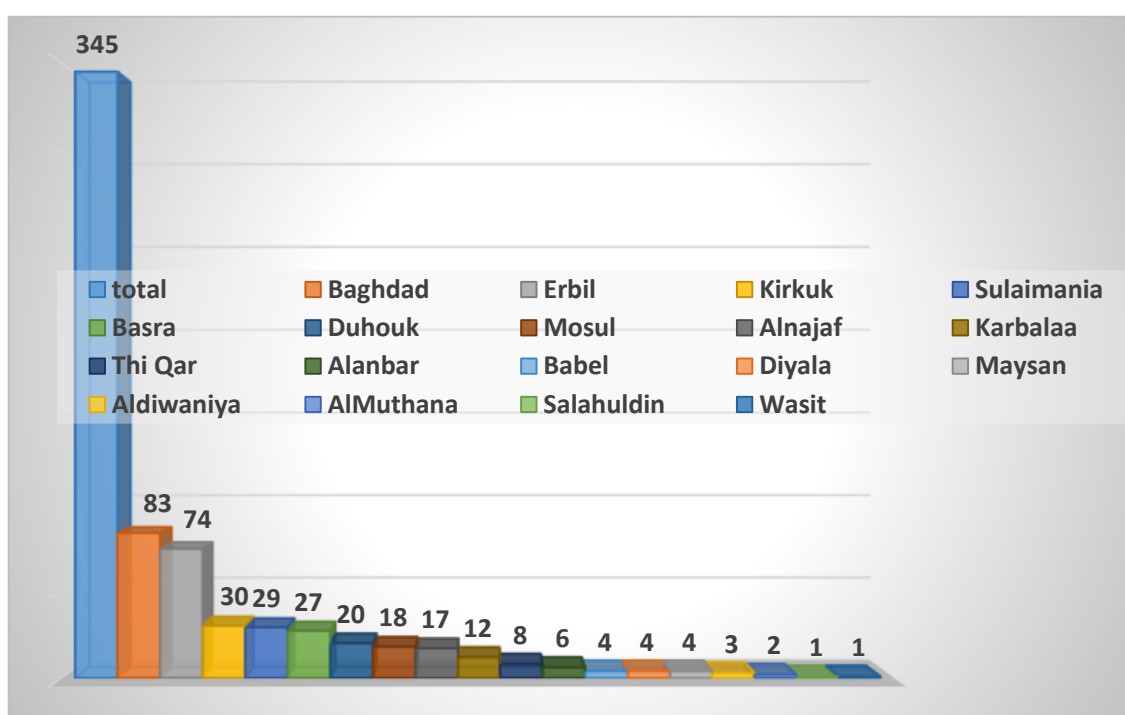
This monitoring of violations shows the extent of the decline in the level of press freedom in the country, as no city has been free from recording violations against journalists based on a legal justification, and this monitoring also explains that the vital cities in the country (Baghdad, Erbil, Kirkuk, Basra) are in continuous decline, and this can be explained by the impact of the situation and political changes upon them.

Types of violations against the press family in Iraq

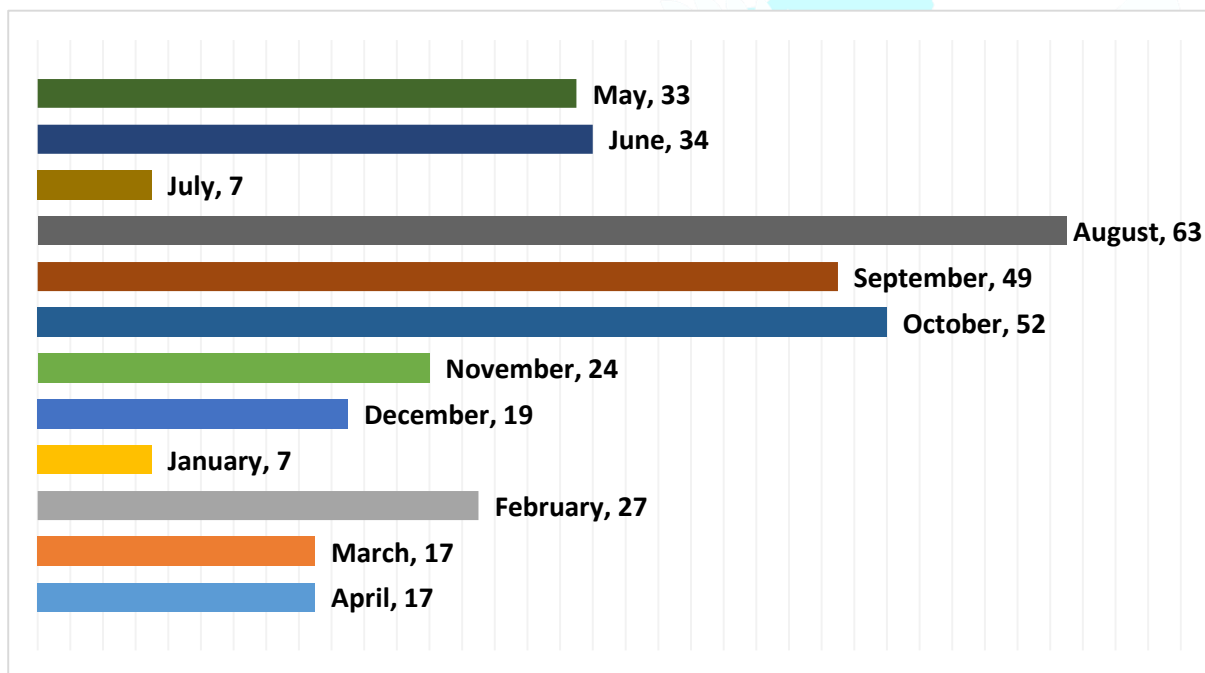


Press Freedom Advocacy Association

Map of violations



Violations chronogram



Narrative Report of Violations

Arresting and Detention

- On 24/5/2022, a security force in Baghdad arrested the presenter of programs on Al-Baghdadia TV, colleague Ali Al-Dhubhawi, inside the intelligence headquarters after veiling his head for 4 hours .
- On 25/5/2022, a security force in Kirkuk arrested the correspondent of the "Kurdistan" channel, colleague Hello Jabbari, and took him to the police station of the Daquq district for interrogation, while he was covering the incident of burning agricultural crops in the district.
- On 9/6/2022, members of the Asayish in Erbil detained the correspondent of the "Westke" news channel, colleague Nabz Rashad, for more than two hours, while he was covering an explosion that occurred between the city of Erbil and Salah al-Din resort, which resulted in human injuries and material damage to shops and civilian vehicles. The reporter was released after signing a written pledge not to return to the area for coverage .
- On 5/7/2022, members of the law enforcement forces in Basra detained the cameraman of "Watan" channel, colleague Karrar Al-Muhammadawi, for more than half an hour, and seized his press equipment to prevent him from covering a demonstration that was taking place in front of the governorate building. The demonstration was organized by a number of lecturers, to demand their appointment as permanent staff of the Ministry of Education, and forced the cameraman to sign a written pledge not to return for coverage.
- On 18/7/2022, security personnel in Erbil arrested the correspondent of the "KNN" channel, colleague Ayoub Ali, without an arrest warrant from the police station, following the registration of a lawsuit against him. the reporter immediately went to the station to inquire about the reason for filing the lawsuit, and the party that filed it against him; he was immediately imprisoned.
- On 1/8/2022, an Asayish force in Sulaymaniyah arrested the reporter and cameraman of the NRT channel, Karzan Tariq, and the cameraman Jeans Ahmed while they were asking the citizens

in the large market in the center of the city about their opinions on the calls of some politicians to protest against the ruling class in Kurdistan.

- On 6/8/2022, an Asayish force arrested the correspondent of the "KNN" channel, Ayoub Wart, from his home in Erbil, and took him to an unknown destination. This is the second arrest of Ayoub this year, after he was arrested at the Erbil police station, for exposing corruption cases to public opinion, and he was released on bail at the time.
- On 5/8/2022, the security forces in Dohuk arrested the director of the NRT channel, colleague Taif Goran, and reporter Periyar Nairwi in front of the channel's office .
- On 6/8/2022, the security forces arrested the reporter of "Nrt" in Dohuk; Sabah Sufi, while he was on his way to the Sheikhan district of Dohuk governorate, after he left his home from fear of being arrested.
- On 6/8/2022, security forces arrested NRT TV correspondents Diyar Muhammad and Soran Muhammad while covering the demonstrations in Chamchamal in Erbil .
- On 6/8/2022, the Asayish arrested four journalists from the "Westke News" Foundation; Sirwan Gharib, Arkan Jabbar, Zaniar Marwan, and Hevar Hiwa while covering the protests in Sulaymaniyah. They also arrested the director of the "Kurd News" Foundation, Abdullah Ahmed, and released him three days later.
- On 6/8/2022, an Asayish force arrested photojournalist Muhammad Idris, in front of his house in Erbil, and released him after three days of detention, despite the announcement by the authorities in the region to release all journalists on the eve of the protests that swept the region.
- On 6/8/2022, an Asayish force arrested the director of the NRT office in Dohuk, Taif Goran, and its correspondent, colleague Periar Neroy, while they were on their way to the channel's headquarters to perform their duties, and took them in Asayish cars in as police do. their press equipment was confiscated.
- On 8/8/2022, members of Saraya Al-Salam detained the cameraman of "Altaghyir" channel, colleague Mustafa Walaa, confiscated his camera, and erased the video materials kept in it before returning them to him and releasing him, while he was covering a fire that broke out in one of its headquarters in Najaf.
- On 14/8/2022, the demonstrators of the Sadrist movement in Babylon detained the staff of the "Altaghyir" channel for more than half an hour, consisting of reporter Zaid Shehayeb and photographer Ahmed Al-Ajili, and confiscated their press

equipment while covering the demonstrations. The incident took place under the pretext that the channel conveys a negative image of the protests.

- On 29/8/2022, security personnel arrested "Al-Jazeera" channel cadre, consisting of reporter Samer Youssef, cameraman Muhammad Mulla, and "Al-Rasheed" channel's staff; reporter Ammar Ghassan and cameraman Muhammad Al-Shammari, inside the government palace in the Green Zone in Baghdad. The arrests took place to prevent coverage and the cadres were released an hour later, during which they were beaten and cursed, and their press equipment was confiscated.
- On 29/8/2022, the security forces in the Green Zone detained the reporter of the "Zoom News" agency, colleague Rukan Al-Jaf, for half an hour, and confiscated all his press equipment while he was covering the protests that erupted in Baghdad.
- On 5/9/2022, security personnel from the Asayish in Erbil arrested the correspondent of the "NRT" channel, Karim Kaifi, while he was covering the incident of a drone bombing, in the Khulaifan district of Erbil, without knowing the reason for the arrest.
- On 7/9/2022, the administrative assistant at the Turkish Hospital in Dhi Qar detained four press reporters, the correspondent of the "Zakros" Ali Saleh, the correspondent of "Dijla" channel, Rasim Karim, the correspondent of the "Al-Masara" Nour Al-Saidi, and the correspondent of "Afaq", Azhar Al-Azrafi, inside one of the hospital rooms to prevent them from covering a number of injured incidents that resulted from the attack of a herd of wolves on one of the villages of the governorate. The cadres were released after they all video material was erased.
- On 11/9/2022 SWAT Najaf forces detained the correspondent of "Al-Mustaqel" newspaper, Ali Al-Sharifi, while he was reporting traffic jams, and the suffering facing visitors to reach Najaf Governorate. The detention lasted for about two hours, and the force seized his mobile phone amid curses and insults.
- On 17/9/2022, members of the Sulaymaniyah police arrested the reporters of the "Ruz News" agency, Bhutan Karmiani and Barwa Asaad, and the Cameraman "Jetr Media" company, Muhammad Aziz. The incidents took place after the coverage of the first commemoration of the assassination of PKK member Shukri Sarhat. The media persons were driven to an unknown destination, after seizing their press equipment.
- On 24/9/2022, the security forces in Erbil detained the correspondent of the "Westke" Foundation, Nabz Rashad, and the

staff of the "Diplomatic Magazine" website, Reben Sardar Abdul Qader and Saber Abdullah Ahmed, inside one of the police vehicles for more than forty minutes. The aim was preventing them from covering a demonstration near the Iranian consulate in Erbil, organized by a number of activists in protest against the killing of the Iranian young activist Mahesa Amini. they were released after pledging to leave the place, without filming.

- On 3/10/2022, members of the army forces in Sinjar arrested the "Chiratv" channel cadre; reporter "Jajar Shalaki" and cameraman Jilan Hababi, while they were crossing one of the checkpoints in the district. The arrest took place without knowing the reasons, and the detention lasted about two hours.
- On 9/10/2022, the Counter-Terrorism Service in Sulaymaniyah arrested the editor-in-chief of the "Bewar Media" Foundation, Weissi Qashqai, and its news director, Ibrahim Ali, on their way back from Sulaymaniyah to their residence in Erbil. The arrest was against the background of the publication of Ibrahim Ali a newspaper article, coinciding with the comemoration of the death of PUK leader Jalal Talabani, in which he talked about corruption and assassinations in Sulaymaniyah.
- On 10/10/2022, members of the National Security Service in Mosul arrested the director of "Hala FM" radio, Sattar Al-Mahal, in front of the radio building. The incident took place as the director arrived at work where he was taken to the directorate building. He was released on bail after about two days of detention. two lawsuits were apperantly filed against him, by the official of oil products in Mosul, Moaz Al-Nuaimi, in which he accused the journalist of defamation .
- On 29/10/2022, the security service in Sulaymaniyah arrested the correspondent of the "Washa" agency, Hoshyar Ali, while he was leaving his home, and his detention lasted for more than 24 hours .
- On 12/11/2022, the Mayor of Al-Gharraf District in Dhi Qar, Hassan Al-Khafaji, detained the correspondents of "Al-Taghyir", Salama Al-Sarheed and "Fallujah", Saad Al-Rikabi, for more than half an hour at the police station, while they were covering the areas that were drowned due to the heavy rains witnessed by the district.
- On 13/11/2022, armed elements wearing civilian clothes detained Westke News cameraman Zanyar Mariwan for more than half an hour inside one of the vehicles, and seized the channel's equipment, to prevent him from covering a student demonstration that started near the political office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Sulaymaniyah.

- On 9/12/2022, National Security arrested journalist Muhammad Wahab on charges of owning an opposition Facebook page in Kirkuk.
- On 29/12/2022, the security forces in Basra detained the staff of the "Al-Rabiaa" channel, consisting of reporter Ihab Al-Maliki and cameraman Ali Al-Masi, brutally beating them with batons, smashing their equipment, and seizing their personal phones, to prevent them from covering the demonstration of the contracted employees of the Southern Fertilizer Company.
- 23/1/2023 Members of the Asayish in Sulaymaniyah arrested the "KNN" programs presenter, Soma Khaled. she received an attendance order by the Kurdsat police station, and upon her arrival she was detained, under the pretext of filing a lawsuit against her by the management of Shar Hospital for criticizing the poor conditions in health institutions, and the judge ordered her detention in the women's prison and released her the next day after pressure from activists.
- On 15/2/2023, a security force in Anbar arrested the cameraman of the "Al-Baghdadiya" channel, Nour Thamer Al-Khikani, and his technical assistant, Munir Al-Hasani, while they were returning from Ramadi to Baghdad, and passing through the checkpoint of the AlSuqour. The arrest was believed was due to the participation of the cameraman and his colleague in broadcasting a political television episode that hosted the spokesman for the popular movement in Anbar, Harith Dhari Al-Rishawi.
- On 9/3/2023, members of the Bakhtiari Barbil police station imprisoned the reporter of "Fallujah" channel, Ali Abdul Karim, for three hours inside a cell following a press report prepared by the reporter on 26/1/2022 in which he revealed the medical errors that killed a patient without mentioning the name of the doctor or the hospital.
- On 11/3/2023, the security forces, in the Kask checkpoint near Sinjar, detained the BBC channel's staff; Jeremy Francis, Marcus John, Cara Louise, Nikki Robert on the pretext that they did not have a letter from the Joint Operations Command, despite having a letter from the Media and Communications Commission and the National Operations Center.
- On 8/4/2023, members of the Asayish Erbil arrested the staff of the "Kurdsat" channel; reporter Sirwan Hussein and cameraman Farman Abdel Qader, and prevented them from covering a demonstration organized by the residents of the Lebanese village community, after all equipment was confiscated .

- On 17/4/2023, the security forces in Dohuk arrested the director of the "Rast Media" institution, Omid Brushki, and took him to the city's police station to interrogate him about the nature of his journalistic work and the possibility of changing the work policy of his institution, in favor of the regional government, after offering him financial support for his press institution, provided that he stopped criticizing the ruling parties in Kurdistan, and released him after more than two hours after confiscating his laptop.
- On 20/4/2023, the security forces in Erbil detained the NRT channel crew, reporter Hirsh Qadir and cameraman Namu Mohammed, for an hour inside Hemrin Bank. The team was on duty performing a special coverage in front of the bank to meet retirees from the Peshmerga forces after the Minister of Finance announced, the suspension of their pension entitlements.

Threats

- On 4/8/2022, the NRT office in Dohuk received a phone call from the Dohuk police station, warning the channel not to cover the demonstrations if they erupt.
- On 2/2/2023, the crew of the program "Jaafar Talk", which is broadcasted on the German channel DW, received threats of arrest by a delegation from the Ministry of Interior informing the presenter that he could not be protected, and the need to obtain a permit from the Media and Communications Commission, otherwise he would expose himself and his staff to arrest, which prompted him to cancel his episode and leave the country immediately.

Storming , raiding and armed attacks against journalists homes and media bodies:

- On 11/5/2022, unknown gunmen on a motorcycle targeted the house of Al-Ayam TV correspondent in Basra, Kazem Al-Hawi, by Kalashnikov fire, without knowing the reasons.
- On 24/5/2022, the local radio station of (Duhok Radio and Television) in Zakho was subjected to unknown missile bombardment, causing serious damage to the building, and the station's transmitters, which led to the suspension of broadcasting.
- On 30/5/2022, the car of journalist Majid Al-Sudani, who works for "Kufa" radio, was set on fire by unknown gunmen in front of his house in Al-Zahraa neighborhood in the center of Najaf Governorate, where surveillance cameras monitored unknown masked gunmen at the moment they set fire to the journalist's car, without knowing the reasons.
- On 29/7/2022, protesters from the followers of the Sadrist movement closed the office of "AlFurat" channel in Basra, following a political conflict.
- On 6/8/2022, a security force raided the office of the "Rast Media" institution in Dohuk, on the day of its launch, as the force stormed the channel building and removed all workers, which led to the complete suspension of the institution's work.
- On 29/8/2022, gunmen targeted the "Al-Ahed" radio building in the Baladiyat area of Baghdad with mortar shells, resulting in material damage to the building, without causing any human casualties.
- On 30/8/2022, unknown gunmen in Diwaniyah governorate targeted the house of "Zakros" TV correspondent Nabil Al-Jubouri with a hand grenade.
- On 4/10/2022, the followers of the Sadrist movement stormed "Al-Rabiaa" satellite channel in central Baghdad, and destroyed part of its devices and furniture against the background of what the Sadrist movement considered an accusation of the Mahdi Army of negotiating with the US army and handing over its weapons to them in the past years.
- On 13/11/2022, "Dijla" satellite channel was subjected to a systematic campaign of threats and intimidation against the background of the presentation of the program Al-Makshoof presented by Alaa Al-Jubouri and Khamael Khalifa; the incident showed that a school chanted another

anthem than the national one on the flag-raising Ceremony, and the incitement campaign, led by political and armed parties related to storming and threatening many satellite channels and media over the past three years, caused the terrorized the staff.

- On 25/11/2022, a security force in Sulaymaniyah stormed the house of Rawa Hussein, who works for the Kurdish-language agency "Zaman Press", and took him to an unknown destination without knowing the reasons, before releasing him on bail a few days later.

- On 4/2/2023, a security force in Dohuk raided the house of the "Gly Kurdistan" programs presenter, Fakir Muhammad, after he criticized the policy and performance of the ruling Democratic Party in the region.

- On 10/2/2023, a security force from the Asayish raided the office of "Speda" channel in Dohuk, arrested six of the channel's workers, and confiscated the channel's equipment, against the background of the channel's coverage of a campaign to support the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Reporters Azad Mukhtar and Ammar Anas, cameramen Hajar Salman and Piwar Mustafa, presenter Dusky Sabri and dubbing artist Muhammad Gabriel. The staff were forced into detention for about an hour.

- On 18/2/2023, unknown gunmen riding a motorcycle targeted the office of the "UTV" channel in Baghdad, with a homemade bomb without exploding, or causing any damage to the building. the targeting came after the presenter of the programs in the "UTV" channel, Adnan Al-Taie, was subjected to a fierce incitement campaign by political parties, against the background of presenting an episode about the arrest of a group of content creators.

- On 24/3/2023, unknown gunmen targeted the building of "Al-Baghdadiya" channel in Baghdad with machine guns, causing damage in the front yard of the headquarters without causing human losses, as it was empty of journalists and workers, and there were only a few guards and cleaners. the channel's employees worked in another headquarters for technical reasons.

- On 17/4/2023, a security force in Dohuk stormed the headquarters of the "Rast Media" Foundation, arrested its director, Omid Brushki, and confiscated his press equipment, in protest against the policy of the media institution.

Injuries

- On 30/7/2022, the reporter and cameraman of "Al-Mayadeen" channel, Abdullah Badran, Zaid Khaled, were injured by shrapnel in the back and leg, while they were covering the moment when the followers of the Sadrist movement stormed the main doors of the Green Zone in Baghdad, which led to cutting off the live broadcast and transferring them to the hospital for - treatment.
 - On 1/8/2022, the cameraman of "AlTaghyir" channel, Ahmed Khudair Al-Waeli, was slightly injured in the arm, while covering the demonstration of the followers of the Coordination Framework near the Green Zone in central Baghdad, as a result of the stampede of protesters and security forces, as a result of which he was transferred to the hospital.
 - On 29/8/2022, the cameraman of the "Fallujah" channel, Saif Ali, was injured in the leg after being beaten with sticks and batons by the security forces, and the correspondent of the "Kurdistan 24" channel, Muzaffar Hamid, was injured with shrapnel in the hand, while covering the protests in the Green Zone in Baghdad, which led to their transfer to the hospital for treatment.
 - On 30/8/2022, the correspondent of "Dijla" channel, Mustafa Latif, was injured in the neck, by stray mortar fragments, while his colleague, cameraman Kamal Raad, was injured in the leg. The injuries happened while they were busy covering events near the Green Zone. They were transferred to Al-Karama Hospital for treatment.
 - On 28/9/2022, the correspondent of the "Kurdistan 24" channel, Soran Kamiran, in Kirkuk was seriously injured while he was in the "Altun Kabir" area to document the damage caused by Iranian shelling on a residential area. The correspondent was transferred to Kirkuk Hospital, and then to Erbil for being injured by many shrapnel in different areas of his body, the most dangerous of which was in his leg.
 - On 1/10/2022, Reuters' cameraman Haidar Kazem was slightly injured in his hand, after security forces throwing tear gas to end protests near Al-Jumhuri Bridge, in central Baghdad. After the injury, he returned to cover from a farther place, after dressing his wound, by nearby paramedics.
- On 17/4/2023, the KNN channel's crew, reporter Ahmed Mustafa and cameraman Omar Hassan, were injured in the head and neck by unknown persons wearing civilian clothing while covering the culture of Kurdish fashion in the Erbil Citadel Market, forcing them to stop filming and go to the hospital for treatment.

Beatings and obstructing coverage

On 11/5/2022, the Prime Minister's Office of the Kurdistan Region prevented the cadres of the (Kurdsat, Kurdistan College, Kirkuk TV, Badinan Sat, Voice of the People of Kurdistan website and radio, pukmedia) channels from coverage whereas only channels affiliated with the Kurdistan Democratic Party were allowed to cover the conference which was held by the Prime Minister of the Region in Erbil to talk about the reasons that led to the delay in handing over the salaries of employees in Sulaymaniyah.

- On 18/5/2022, security personnel in Basra prevented the staff of the "Basra News" agency from entering and filming inside a public park in the Freedom Square in the center of the governorate, based on orders issued by the Director General of Basra Municipality Ali Al-Musawi; to deny journalists filming and coverage.

- On 19/5/2022, a security officer in Kirkuk governorate prevented the crew of "Rudaw Satellite Channel", cameraman Muhammad Shakur Hamid, and the channel's correspondent while covering the gas station fire incident on Corniche Street in the center of the governorate. The cameraman was prevented from performing his work and his IDs were taken away.

- On 24/5/2022, security and protection elements of a contracting company managed by an investor in Najaf called "Amir Al-Mamouri", and his partner, "Adeeb Al-Mamouri", prevented the cadre of "Dijla" satellite channel, reporter Taher Al-Assaf and cameraman Haider Al-Khafaji, from performing their duty to reveal the reasons behind the pending status of Al-Safir housing project. The company's security and protection personnel prevented them from filming, and tried to seize the channel's camera.

- On 25/5/2022, the organizer of the signing ceremony of the book "Atraf Al-Hadith" by Dr. Majid Al-Samarrai in Ziggurat Akarkov, prevented the correspondent of the "Aray News" agency, Hussein Al-Fayez, from entering the Ziggurat to cover the ceremony, demanding authorization from the Antiquities Authority and a permit from the Baghdad Operations Command. Despite the fact that the correspondent received an official invitation to cover the signing ceremony.

- On 26/5/2022, the director of the boarding home of the Technical Institute in Kirkuk, prevented the correspondent of "KNN" channel, Eugene Ramadan, from filming the buildings adjacent to the institute, and threatened to detain him and seize his press equipment, if he continues filming, after demanding that he leave the site immediately. It is worth mentioning that the abandoned buildings are sheltering stray animals that led to the spreading of epidemics and diseases.
- On 29/5/2022, members of the Federal Police prevented the cadres of "AlTaghyir" channel, reporter Abbas Al-Mawla and cameraman Ahmed Sami, from reporting the suffering of citizens living in agricultural areas in Diyala Bridge area in Baghdad.
- On 29/5/2022, the director of Azadi Hospital in Kirkuk directed to prevent the correspondent of "Bas News" website, Ahmed Abdullah, from entering the building despite obtaining a permission from the Kirkuk Health Directorate to enter the hospital and perform his journalistic duty.
- On 1/6/2022, the commander of Kirkuk operations, Major General Ali Al-Furaiji, prevented the staff of "Rudaw" channel, reporter Hardi Muhammad and cameraman Muhammad Shakur, from covering a demonstration organized by the people of AlHissar area of the Kobri district in Kirkuk in protest against the lack of services and blackout of electricity.
- On 6/6/2022, the staff of the "News1" channel, reporter Ali Khaled and cameraman Hatem Karim in Karbala, were beaten with an electric stick by riot police, who tried to seize the camera after they smashed many of the staff's equipment. The incident took place during the dispersal of a demonstration held by a number of contract employees in Karbala Education Directorate.
- On 9/6/2022, the Asayish prevented the teams of (Rudaw, Kurdistan 24, Kurdistan TV, ISTA, KNN, NRT, GKTV) channels from covering the site of an explosion which occurred between the city of Erbil and Salah al-Din resort and resulted in human injuries and material damage to shops and civilian vehicles. The teams' equipment was also confiscated.
- On 13/6/2022, security elements in Kirkuk prevented the correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency, Mahdi Al-Rabhawi, from performing a special coverage at the Kirkuk municipal gas station, to reveal the reasons for the worsening of the recent fuel crisis. Al-Rabhawi was prevented from

entering the station and completing the coverage despite showing his IDs. The forces confiscated his mobile phone and erased all filmed material.

- On 18/6/2022, the director of the offices of Al-Iraqiya channel in Karbala, Hussein Al-Shammari, was subjected to a torrent of insults by the commander of the Federal Police in Karbala, Major General Saleh Al-Amiri, while covering the movement of terrestrial pilgrims' convoys through the Arar border crossing, in the presence of a number of officials and security leaders, and the governor of Karbala.

- On 24/6/2022, the Assistant Commander of Karbala Police, Brigadier General Ahmed Abdul Zahra, prevented the cadres of (Al-Muhafazah Radio, Al-Journal, Al-Nidaa newspaper, Al-Baghdadiya) channels from covering a fire incident that broke out in the "I and Q" restaurant located on Senator Street in the center of the governorate, and verbally assaulted the correspondent of "Al-Baghdadiya" channel, Fadel Al-Ghazi, and threatened the media teams with beatings if they continued coverage.

- On 11/7/2022, a traffic policeman prevented the staff of "Al-Ahed" channel from covering the atmosphere of Eid al-Adha in the Al-Shula area in Baghdad, demanding that they show the Baghdad operations book to allow coverage. Their IDs of the cadre were taken away, after demanding that they leave the area immediately.

- On 1/8/2022, a number of the "Coordination Framework" followers prevented the staff of "Al-Iraqiya" channel, reporter Ahmed Arram and cameraman Ahmed Majed, from covering the frame demonstration, as a number of protesters stormed the filming site and prevented the staff from covering, under the pretext that the channel is affiliated with the government of former Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kazemi, forcing them to stop filming and to back off for their own safety.

- On 8/8/2022, members of the Saraya Alsalam in Najaf prevented the reporters, Haider Farman, the cameraman of the "Al-Iraqiya" channel and the correspondent of the National News Agency, Muhammad Al-Ghalbi, the correspondent of "One News", Taher Al-Assaf, the correspondent of "Dijla", "Fallujah", Moataz Al-Aboudi, the correspondent of "Zakros", "Reuters", Muhammad Razzaq, the correspondent of "Al-Taghyir", from covering a fire that broke out in one of its headquarters, which resulted in human injuries.

- On 10/8/2022, the local government in Mosul prevented the cadres of (Al-Taghyir, One News, Al-Hurra Iraq, UTV, iNews) from covering the

visit of former Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kazemi to open a number of service projects in the governorate, and allowed only governmental channels to cover (Iraqi, Turkmen).

- On 29/8/2022, an officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel prevented the "UTV" team, reporter Haider Al-Badri and cameraman Abdul Malik Faisal, prevented them from covering the demonstrators storming the presidential palace in the Green Zone in Baghdad. The team was threatened with detention if they continued coverage.

- On 29/8/2022, a security force prevented the correspondent of the "Kurdistan 24", Rukan Al-Jaf, the correspondent of "Fallujah" Hassan Muhammad Amouri, and the staff of "Al-Arabiya Al-Hadath", and confiscated their press equipment to prevent them from covering the protests that took place in the Green Zone in Baghdad.

- On 29/8/2022, AP correspondent Hadi Mizban was beaten by the Green Zone security force while covering the protests, and all his press equipment was confiscated to prevent him from filming.

On 4/9/2022, the security forces in Halabja prevented the cadres of several media outlets (NRT, Speda, Bass News, Geli Kurdistan, Rudaw) from covering the protests of the unemployed, as the forces confiscated the equipment of journalists, and beat the "NRT" reporter, Lea Hama Karim and his team, after preventing them from covering the demonstration in front of a government building in the city. It is worth mentioning that the incident broke out on the background of accusations against the director of Halabja Health Directorate due to appointing 130 people from his relatives and acquaintances

- On 6/9/2022, the Antiquities Police in Kirkuk Governorate prevented the "Iraqi Turkmen" channel team, reporter Hussein Turkish and cameraman Sadiq Awni, from covering the campaign to clean Kirkuk Citadel, despite receiving an invitation to cover the campaign, demanding that they obtain an official approval letter so that they can film inside the castle.

- On 8/9/2022, the Basra Operations Command prevented the cadres of (Alitijah, Alahad, Aljanoubia, and Alna'im) from covering the entry of Iranian visitors from the Shalamjah border crossing for claimed orders to deny any coverage.

- On 12/9/2022, riot police in the Salhiya area of Baghdad prevented the staff of "Hona Baghdad" channel, correspondent Rawnaq Al-Janabi and

photographer Mustafa Manaf, while they were covering a demonstration organized by a number of lecturers in front of the Ministry of Education building to demand the release of their financial dues.

- On 19/9/2022, members of the Asayish prevented the correspondent of the "Westke News" Foundation, Nebz Rashad, and the correspondents of (Politic Press and Esta News) from covering a fire incident that broke out in shops in a market in Erbil, and insulted them after they tried to enter the incident area, while coverage of the incident was limited to government channels affiliated with the regional authority.

- On 26/9/2022, the security forces in Kirkuk prevented the staff of the (Iraqiya and KNN) channels, reporter Eugene Ramadan and cameraman Qais Sabah, from covering the performance of the Laylan cement plant, which press reports revealed that the filter was not used in the plant, which is a reason for the spread of incurable diseases.

- On 27/9/2022, the staff of "Dijla" channel, reporter Taher Al-Assaf, and cameraman Zaid Al-Salami were beaten by employees of a contracting company, while photographers were documenting the stages of implementing Al-Zahraa bridges of the "Neem" Contracting Company in Najaf Governorate.

- On 28/9/2022, the security forces in Kirkuk prevented the staff of the (Kirkuk and Kurdsat News) channels, Karwan Mohammed, Issa Nour al-Din, Youssef Murad, Dara and Ali from covering the images of the destruction caused to the "Elton Kobri" district as a result of the successive Iranian bombardment, and withdrew the camera equipment, which led to breaking the camera of the "Kurdsat News" channel.

- On 1/10/2022, the Soran District Police of Erbil Governorate prevented the correspondent of "Speda" channel, Younis Hamed, from covering a student demonstration organized by students of the Golan School in Soran district, in protest against the deterioration of services in public schools.

- On 7/10/2022, A number of journalists from (Westke: correspondent Nabz Rashad, Rudaw TV staff : cameraman Ahmed Younis and reporter Farhad Delamare) while they were covering a car bomb explosion on Bakhtiari Street in Erbil, were denied coverage and beaten by Erbil. Their press equipment was confiscated,

- On 23/10/2022, the management of the Electric Power Oil Company in Basra issued instructions to prevent all media from entering and covering,

- and prevented the staff of "One News" channel, reporter Atheer Al-Abdi and cameraman Ahmed Saleh, from entering and covering. This came as a result of the collapse of the electrical system in the governorate,
- On 25/10/2022, the security forces in Tahrir Square in Baghdad prevented the crews of (Al-Baghdadiya, Al-Hurra, Al-Jazeera, iNews, Al-Taghyir, Al-Iraqiya, Fallujah, TRT, NRT) from covering a gathering called "Tishreen" protesters to remember the protests that erupted in 2019.
 - On 7/11/2022, security elements of the army in Kirkuk prevented the cadre of "Speda" channel, Alan Nashat and cameraman Muhammad Ayoub, from covering the crowded queues of cars in front of the "10 April" filling station, to find out the reason for the heavy queuing at gas stations in the governorate.
 - On 7/11/2022, members of the Federal Police in Kirkuk seized the equipment of "NRT" crew, consisting of reporter Diyar Muhammad, cameraman Nabz Miqdad, and the staff of "Zoom Media", consisting of reporter Rukan Mahmoud and cameraman Karzan Muhammad, while they were returning from covering security developments in Daquq district. information was received about the activity of ISIS cells, as they were stopped by one of the checkpoints in the area, seized their press equipment, and erased all documents recorded in the district.
 - On 12/11/2022, Mustafa Salman, Correspondent of Zagros channel was beaten by an Asayish security officer, while covering the fire incident that broke out in the courtyard of a nearby restaurant in the Crystal Hotel in Erbil. The officer tried to seize the reporter's personal phone to erase the recorded materials, and when the reporter refused to hand over his mobile, he was beaten.
 - On 13/11/2022, armed elements in civilian clothes prevented KNN correspondent Periyar Namik from covering a student demonstration, which started in Sulaymaniyah near the PUK political bureau, and seized the channel's equipment.
 - On 13/11/2022, members of the security forces surrounded the vehicle of the correspondent of "Westke News", Lanya Bkhitar, and took her to a street behind the Sulaymaniyah Court, to prevent her from covering a student demonstration, which set off near the political office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

-On 20/11/2022, members of the Maysan police smashed the camera of the crew of "Al-Mirbad" Foundation, reporter Jassim Al-Ansari and cameraman Aws Al-Anzi, while covering the demonstration of educational graduates in front of the governorate's education building. The cameraman was verbally abused by the security but the demonstrators smoothed his escape.

- On 26/11/2022, members of the riot forces in the Kadhimiya area in Baghdad prevented the cadres of (Iraq Fox, Al-Sharqiya, NRT) channels from covering a demonstration organized by the people of the area to allow them to bring building materials to the "Tayy" area in Al-Kadhimiya. The colleagues were beaten with batons.

- On 1/12/2022, the staff of Al-Iraqiya channel, reporter Amin Al-Hilali, and cameraman Farhan Al-Ziyadi, were prevented from entering a school in Diwaniyah Governorate by its principle. The duty was to make a coverage on sewage rash, but despite obtaining approval for coverage from the Governorate Education Directorate access was denied.

- On 14/12/2022, a security officer prevented "Al-Sharq" channel's cadre, reporter Idris Jawad and cameraman Qusay Fouad, from covering the gathering, organized by Amanat Baghdad to transmit one of the Qatar World Cup matches, through the screens installed by Amanat Baghdad in Tahrir Square, demanding that they obtain a letter of authorization from the Baghdad Operations Command.

- On 17/12/2022, the protection of the current Prime Minister prevented the correspondent of "Al-Sumaria" channel, Farouk Saleh and the cameraman with a number of correspondents of other media outlets (Muhammad Fares, correspondent of Al-Ganger Channel, Mustafa Alloush, correspondent of Al-Rabiaa Channel, Muhammad Saad, correspondent of Al-Sharqiya Channel, Mustafa Saqr, correspondent of NRT channel) from entering the Gilgamesh Hall inside the Babylon Hotel in Baghdad, to cover the meetings of the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Engineers in its 78th session.

- 26/12/2022, members of the army in Basra prevented the teams of the (UTV channel and Time Square Radio) from entering the Olympic Port Stadium there, to cover its opening ceremony. The media in Basra received invitations from the Ministry of Youth and Sports to attend the opening ceremony, but the army forces near the stadium, prevented them from entering and only allowed Al-Iraqiya channel to enter and cover.

- On 26/12/2022, the staff of "24 Kurdistan" channel, reporter Hoshmand Sadiq and cameraman Haval Mohammed, was severely beaten by the protection of the "Lanaz" oil refineries, while documenting the refinery fire incident which is located on the Erbil-Gwer road. The forces stormed the live broadcast site, stopped the filming, confiscated the press equipment and threatened the staff to be arrested if filming continued.
- On 19/1/2023, the staff of the "Zoom News" agency, consisting of reporter "Rukan Jaf, cameraman Karzan Kake Rash", and correspondents of the agencies (Bass News and Apura News) Ahmed Abdullah and Nihad Hassan, were beaten and prevented from covering and their equipment was confiscated by members of the security forces while they were near the (Jithii Alnakhla) Stadium in Basra before preparing to cover the Gulf 25 final match between Iraq and Oman.
- On 29/1/2023, members of the Kirkuk Operations Command prevented the "Fallujah" TV cadre, reporter Abdullah Al-Ameri and cameraman Louay Karim, from entering the Rawan City residential complex to cover the crash of a spy plane inside the complex.
- On 7/2/2023, members of the movements of the ninth Anbar Emergency Regiment prevented "Al-Rasheed" channel, reporter Qatada Adel and cameraman Muhammad Odeh, from covering inside the popular Ramadi market, about the rising prices. A checkpoint prevented them from filming despite obtaining a letter of "Facilitating the Mission" from the Anbar Police Commander.
- On 19/2/2023, the manager of the Boarding homes Affairs of the Technical University of Erbil prevented the correspondents of the agencies (Bewar Media, Sharpers, Cubas, Este, Lat, and NRT Channel), namely Nabz Rashad, Hazar Anwar, Timan Rawandezi, Ayoub Saleh, Muhammad Khalil Shawani, Jumani Mahmoud, from covering a student demonstration. The manager assaulted reporters by severely beating them, breaking their equipment, demanding that they leave the demonstration site immediately, and stop filming.
- On 20/2/2023, security elements in Erbil prevented the NRT channel, reporter Joman Mahmoud, cameraman Ahmed Mohammed, and the staff of the "Bewar Media" channel, reporter Nabaz Rashad and his cameraman, from covering the suffering of citizens who need to travel outside the country and the exchange of dollars in front of a branch of RT

Bank, where the security forces stormed the filming site and prevented them from completing their journalistic duty.

- On 27/2/2023, an officer in the law enforcement forces near the Green Zone withdrew the equipment of the "Al-Ahed" channel crew, reporter Sajjad Raad, and cameraman Saddam Atwan, to prevent them from covering a demonstration organized by prisoners of the 1991 Gulf War, but an officer prevented them from covering, and ordered his soldiers to confiscate their cameras, equipment and mobile phones, despite obtaining official approvals to cover the protests.

- On 11/3/2023, Alsuqour checkpoint prevented a foreign press crew from reaching the city of Fallujah under the pretext that they did not have a letter from the Joint Operations Command as well.

- On 11/3/2023, the authorities of Baghdad International Airport confiscated one of the cameras from a Russian press team headed by "Vladimir Kothenkop", which had obtained the approval of the Media and Communications Commission, but the security forces at the airport insisted on confiscating the camera.

- On 11/3/2023, security elements guarding the PUK building prevented the crew of the "Bewar News" channel, reporter Nabz Rashad and cameraman Aras Aziz, from entering the building, to film a meeting of political parties in the region, after revealing the papers of the channel, and were demanded to leave immediately.

- On 15/3/2023, members of the riot police prevented the correspondent of the "Larsa News" agency, Khudair Al-Salhi, from covering the protests that erupted to demand the provision of safe drinking water, in the Islah district of Dhi Qar governorate.

- On 6/4/2023, security elements prevented the correspondent of the "KurdSat News" channel, Walat Hassan, from entering "Ashti" Hospital and meeting the wounded who were transferred to the hospital due to a landmine explosion, under the pretext of security directives to prevent the channel's coverage of the incident.

- On 13/4/2023, members of the security forces in Erbil prevented the staff of the "Shar Press" website, reporter Hazar Anwar and cameraman Beryar Mohammed, confiscated their press equipment and smashed their personal phones while covering the march of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the genocide of the Kurdish nationalists.

- On 20/4/2023, security personnel in Erbil prevented the filming location of the staff of the "Sharppers" media institution, reporter Hazar Anwar Gohar and cameraman Ryar Muhammad, while they were covering a gathering organized by a group of military retirees affiliated with the Peshmerga in front of the Hamrin Bank building.

Lawsuits, court sentences and warrants

- On 28/5/2022, the head of the Al-Fath bloc, Hadi Al-Amiri, filed a lawsuit against the presenter of the "People and the Homeland" program, Mustafa Al-Rubaie, against the background of its content that was mentioned by a citizen in an incident that he witnessed last year in the episode of the program, which is broadcasted on the "Al-Iraqiya" satellite channel.
- On 28/5/2022, the National Security Agency in Baghdad called on the authorities of the Kurdistan Region to hand over the presenter of the program "Clearly", which is broadcasted on the "Zagros" channel, colleague Muhammad Jabbar, based on the issuance of an order against him on (15/11/2021) without him being informed.
- On 16/6/2022, the Speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, Muhammad Al-Halbousi, filed a complaint with the First Karkh Investigation Court against the "Altaghyir" satellite channel, and its director, Najm Al-Rubaie, and the complaint was filed on the grounds that the presenter deliberately raised a question that prompted his former parliamentary guest (Mashaan Al-Jubouri) to make statements that Al-Halbousi considered to undermine security and civil peace in the country.
- On 17/8/2022, the correspondent of "Dijla" channel in Al-Muthanna Governorate, colleague Hussein Al-Khazali, received a notification to come to the Al-zab Al-Saghir Police Station against the background of a lawsuit filed by the pharmacist (Ali Ayyad) following a televised report prepared by the reporter, talking about the pharmacist committing a medical error that killed a young man.
- On 18/8/2022, the Sulaymaniyah Security Directorate filed a lawsuit against the correspondent of "NRT" in Switzerland, Karwan Mohammed, on charges of defaming the work of the security services in Sulamaniya, against the background of writing a post on a Facebook page, in which he accused the Asayish of negligence in arresting terrorist groups.

-On 9/9/2022, the Kirkuk Education Directorate filed a complaint to the Kirkuk Investigation Court and the National Security Directorate, against the news anchor in the "TERT" channel, colleague Adnan Al-Tunji, against the background of reporting the news of the Integrity Commission via social media, including the issuance of a recruitment order for three officials in the Kirkuk Education Directorate, in which it accused the integrity of manipulating the appointment file, lecturers, and not paying their financial dues.

-On 29/9/2022, the judge of the Sulaymaniyah Investigative Court issued a sentence to detain the correspondent of the "Diplomatic" media institution, colleague Bashdar Abu Bakr Baziani, for ten days pending investigation, following two lawsuits, by the mayor of Sulaymaniyah, Tuana Kamal, and the investor Mulla Yassin, against the background of the reporter's publication of a press report, which revealed in parts of it, some suspicions of corruption and manipulation of a land operation in Sulaymaniyah by the municipality manager and the investor.

- On 13/11/2022, political and armed parties related to the storming and threat of many satellite channels and media outlets over the past three years filed a lawsuit on charges of harming the sanctities on the "Dijla" channel, against the background of what was put forward by the presenters of "Al-Makshoof" program, Alaa Al-Jubouri and Khamael Khalifa, after they showed a video clip showing the Iraqi flag raising ceremony in a school in the Rusafa area in Baghdad, in which the school administration uses a foreign anthem instead of the national anthem.

- On 15/3/2023, the Erbil Court issued a second sentence of 7 months in prison on the journalist "Gohdar Zebari" on charges of (replacing the mark of his personal vehicle "Logo"), after he spent his first sentence for more than two years detention, on charges of destabilizing national security, in the Kurdistan region, and that the second sentence on the journalist came in accordance with Article (279), which is a legal article for falsifying vehicle numbers, which stipulates a fine, imprisonment, or both, while the journalist changed the vehicle's plate and not its number, and in that A fine of 15,000 Iraqi dinars only, and the fine is recorded by the General Traffic Department exclusively.

- On 21/3/2023, the Directorate of Crime at the Ministry of Interior filed a lawsuit in the Rusafa Court, against the two colleagues, the director of the "eNews" satellite channel, Ahmed Saddam Sahn, and the channel's

correspondent, Esraa Khaled, following a report broadcast by the channel of revealing corruption charges in the Police Affairs Agency of the Ministry of Interior.

- On 3/4/2023, the relatives of one of the families in Babylon file a lawsuit against the correspondent of the "Dijla" channel, Ammar Al-Taie, after he prepared a report in which he conveyed their daughter's appeal, to recover her rights after falsifying inheritance papers, and manipulating the ownership of land, as the family filed a lawsuit against the reporter because he conveyed the appeal to the authorities, to find a solution to her case, and the investigating judge ordered the transfer of the reporter to the Fayhaa police station, and his detention placement, until he submitted a financial bail of 10 million Iraqi dinars.

Restrictions by formal issuances

-On 22/5/2022, the Media and Communications Commission issued a directive to all media to prevent the appearance of political analysts, describing their statements as inciting to violence and hatred, based on freedom of expression act, paragraph 38 of the Iraqi Constitution, Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. PFAA considers the decision violating to all these paragraphs and it is only consistent with the wishes of the authority.

- On 1/6/2022, the Iraqi Media Network stopped the "Al-Muhayed" program against the background of hosting the program's presenter, Dr. Saadoun Mohsen Damad, for journalist Sarmad Al-Taie, who warned of new dictatorships in the country, criticizing the arrest warrants issued by the Supreme Judicial Council, as the Board of Trustees in the network issued its decision in the late hours of the night, and published it on one of the agencies affiliated with the Chairman of the Commission, Jaafar Al-Wanan, without any meeting or vote by the members of the Commission to stop the program, and prevent hosting the writer Journalist Sarmad Al-Taie.

- On 16/6/2022, the Media and Communications Commission issued a circular obliging all media outlets and their employees to work according to contexts set by the Commission outside the legal mandate of the

Commission's work. the circular included "the media avoiding any unprofessional content in news bulletins, talk shows and any media material that contributes to the spread of hostile negative practices that provoke civil conflicts between the components of Iraqi society, and threaten civil peace, as well as staying away from convulsive statements" since the Commission considered that expressing opinion is not a right, at the time that the Iraqi constitution guaranteed freedom of expression.

- On 18/6/2022, the Media and Communications Commission issued a directive to all media outlets to prevent the appearance of the brother of the former governor of Basra, Ismail Musabah Al-Waeli, based on the Diwani Order (65) of 2004 in force, and Article 38 guaranteeing the freedom of journalistic work, and the Commission said that it "issued a circular for violating the media broadcasting regulations, by issuing statements targeting the political and democratic process, and provoking conflict among the components of society."

- On 26/9/2022, the Qaimaqama of Khanaqin issued a circular to the Judicial Police, not to allow any reporter or media team to work within the boundaries of Khanaqin without obtaining official approvals.

- On 5/10/2022, the Media and Communications Commission warned the "Dijla" satellite channel to prevent the appearance of civil activist (Ezhar Shalal Al-Jumaili), against the background of content he released during his hosting on the political program "The Decision is Yours", with an official apology for the media violations included in the program.

- On 7/10/2022, the Basra Directorate of Education issued a directive to all school administrations to prevent any employee or teacher from talking to the media or publishing on social networking sites about the issues and problems of the educational institution, to prevent the information from reaching the public opinion.

- On 31/10/2022, the Enforcement Department of the Ministry of Justice issued a circular, preventing all media outlets from entering the department's buildings in all governorates of the country, under the pretext of maintaining security and the safety of employees.

- On 27/11/2022, the Director General of Maysan Education (Riyad Mejbil Al-Saadi) issued a circular to school administrations to prevent all media from entering school buildings, provided that they are holders of an official letter issued by the Directorate exclusively, and that satellite

channels are accompanied during their coverage by a media from the Directorate.

Conclusion

The inflated figures in many incidents of violations of the freedom of journalistic work in Iraq explain the existence of political patterns that are inconsistent with the spirit and essence of the constitution, leading to indifference to the high indicators of violations against journalists, as well as the effects of political moods on the issuance of governmental decisions that are not based on the law and the constitution.

The Media and Communications Commission (in the period covered by this report) emerged as the most prominent government agency restricting journalistic work, by issuing decisions under the title of regulating broadcasting and complying with radio and television broadcasting controls, and even went further, by stopping a television series for political and revenge purposes, in order to inflict material losses on the channel producing this series.

The Joint Operations Command and the National Operations Center also emerged as security bodies obstructing the work of Arab and foreign journalists coming to Iraq on journalistic missions, after imposing a set of conditions on them, and delaying the issuance of (illegal) permits, which made the foreign journalist consume effort and time to conduct coordination operations with the Joint Operations Command, the National Operations Center and the Media and Communications Commission, in addition to suffering from arrest and detention in checkpoints, and the practice of psychological torture to discourage them from completing their tasks.

The figures recorded in this report reveal the reasons and justifications for the continuous decline in freedom of journalistic work, and the increasing pressures facing workers in this field, and their continuous exposure at any moment to be arrested, detained, beaten or exposed to other forms of constitutional violations for performing their job of conveying the truth to citizens.

This year's violations were not limited to Iraqi journalists, but also included Arab and foreign journalists, and the imposition of restrictions that burden journalists and media institutions without a legal justification for imposing such restrictions in a country that bears the slogan of democracy and respects freedom of expression according to Article 38 of the Iraqi Constitution.

Recommendations

Based on the above, the Press Freedom Advocacy Association (PFAA) submits its recommendations to the Council of Ministers, the House of Representatives, international and UN organizations concerned with human rights, freedom of expression and the press:

- 1- Enacting the right to access information law.
- 2- Removing the Media and Communications Commission from authoritarian influences and partisan quotas, enabling it to carry out its organizational tasks, and stopping attempts to push it to suppress the freedom of journalistic work, based on clear political moods.
- 3- Activating the file of ending impunity with regard to crimes against journalists.
- 4- The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces to issue a directive to the official armed security forces not to attack journalists, and to hold violators accountable.
- 5- The intervention of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces to follow up the conditions of prisoners of conscience and the press in the Kurdistan region, and to stop the police approach adopted by the authorities in the region.
- 6- UNAMI to abide by the duties entrusted to it, to reveal the extent of repression to which journalists are subjected to in various cities and governorates of Iraq, and to reveal the real reasons for the high numbers of violations, and to reveal the results of UNESCO's efforts to end the file of impunity.