

## Annual report of the Office for Monitoring and Documentation of Violations in the Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network (SKJN) for 2022

### Democratic Autonomous Areas in Northeast Syria

#### **Executive summary:**

The Syrian Kurdish Journalists Network said in a report released on Monday that the grim reality of the violations committed against journalists/s and media organizations, and patterns of targeting and several violations, in scattered geographical locations from north-eastern Syria, which are under the control of different parties, indicate that all of them are involved in such violations

The report documented 36 violations against journalists and media institutions, including three cases of killing journalists, nine cases of arrest, two cases of temporary detention, three cases of temporary suspension from work, six cases of preventing press coverage and closing a media outlet's office, and three cases of beating. Three cases of kidnapping, three injuries of journalists, one case of threat, a case of smashing a journalist's car window, and a single case of targeting press crews. In its annual reports over the past three years, the network documented 50 cases of looting properties of journalists in the areas of (Afrin, Serêkaniyê -Ras al-Ain, GirêSpi / Tell Abyad), by the Turkish forces, which occupy those areas with the Syrian factions loyal to them; Being continuous violations by those parties.

The Office for Monitoring and Documenting Violations in the Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network says: "The proportion of violations has not been lower than last year, and this is even more fearful for the future of press freedom; Because they included all kinds of violations (murder, arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, detention and physical attacks, threats and restriction of their work, seizure of equipment, and finally, the most serious direct targeting of press crews) in addition to restrictions on their rights, in particular the right to freedom of expression " and affirmed that the Network has consistently stated, in all its statements and reports, that "ending impunity for crimes against journalists/ies freedom of expression and access to information, Impunity encourages more severe attacks and killings of journalists/women and civilians by perpetrators ".

The Network notes the anonymous fate of Fellow Media Officer Farhad Hamou, Correspondent of the Rudow Channel and for the ninth year in a row, He was abducted by ISIS terrorists on 15/12/2014 and his case remains pending. The Network also presents, through its documentation, violations against journalists in occupied cities, It continues, and those who have been forcibly displaced, and their property has been seized by Turkey and its loyal factions, reaching 50 cases of violations according to the Network's documentation.

The report also provides a brief explanation of violations at the global level and a set of recommendations to ensure journalists' rights and protection in compliance with their duties under international laws and standards, their role is to provide wider scope for freedom of the press to curb rather than restrict violations s self-government ", notably the cessation of violations in cooperation with independent information frameworks operating in democratic self-government areas.

To read the full report please access the attached file link:

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Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network for 2022  
Democratic Autonomous Areas in Northeast Syria**

**Introduction:**

Journalists and media professionals around the world are targeted in their areas of coverage, whether assassinations, imprisonment, arrests or work bans and according to commissions and international organizations defending their rights/they, dozens die in conflict and war zones As the periodic reports confirmed that many of them were targeted for reprisals for their work, These shocking figures are increasing, evolving and varying from state to state, and at the same time varying in the country from local to local areas. According to the distribution of dominant forces on the ground to countries that have been at war for years safety of journalists ", as in Syria, which underscores the importance of adhering to resolutions on the safety of journalists/ies Human Rights Council ", adopted by the Human Rights Council, with its defenders agreeing that the implementation of the Universal Declaration remains more a dream than a reality; Despite the Universal Declaration of Human Rights more than 60 years ago; However, official statistics and global reports produced by the competent authorities; Such as Reporters without Borders, the Committee to Protect Journalists,...

The current situation in the democratic self-administration zones of north-eastern Syria is governed by international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as signed by the Syrian Government years ago. Accordingly, it is bound by international laws and treaties in all areas of its control in the three governorates. (Hasakah, Deir zor, Raqqa) in addition to Kurdish towns located in rural Aleppo, whatever designation is given by some international organizations such as (de facto powers) or self-administration, its actions and practices, in accordance with the administrative and organizational structure, and its services, are similar to the functions of any Government according to its powers, so it is natural for it to be criticized for any violation of the right to freedom of the press, as it is obliged to respect and implement the guarantees contained in all international treaties and laws.

Here, it must be noted that some of the accusations made to journalists were circulated by some self-administered democracies or individuals. human rights ", based on erroneous interpretations of the case of the violation, and the use of legal terms contrary to human rights before the person against whom the violation was committed was a journalist and so these accusations hurt the Department in 2022 in cases that were indispensable, this could have been regulated by explicit and practical legal procedures that deny the violation's status and ease restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression.

The importance of documentation

Turkish air and land military operations caused Kurdish cities under Turkish occupation. Its armed factions, which in turn have committed numerous violations against journalists, and the detention of homes and property belonging to them/them, in addition to massive losses to the local population, the most serious violations were when Turkish aircraft, both military and marching, were targeted. Directly journalists/ies, led to the killing and wounding of many colleagues both in the past years and this year, this has increased and continued its violations due to lack of accountability and impunity.

Protecting, defending and promoting journalists' rights is therefore one of the main objectives of the Syrian Kurdish Journalists Network non-compliance with international standards for the protection of media workers, Weakens the efforts of defending organizations, which is done by the Network's Office for Documentation and Monitoring of Violations by monitoring violations in Kurdish areas. Provide facts and evidence to international organizations and public opinion with a view to changing policies, practices and behaviors that promote violation by all parties and the documentation of violations occurring in Syria, or anywhere, is one of the most important actions on which the degree of press freedom is based,

This report, which covers a full year 2022, and is produced by the Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network, the grim reality of the violations committed against journalists and media organizations in the democratic autonomous areas of northern and eastern Syria has been frequent for years. in particular, the areas where the Network's members and colleagues are present, that are difficult to access from other rights and media organizations, and that significantly restrict the operation of the press, because of the different identity of the parties to control.

The report documented 36 violations against journalists and media institutions, including three cases of killing journalists, nine cases of arrest, two cases of temporary detention, three cases of temporary suspension from work, six cases of preventing press coverage and closing a media outlet's office, and three cases of beating. Three cases of kidnapping, three injuries of journalists, one case of threat, a case of smashing

a journalist's car window, and a single case of targeting press crews. In its annual reports over the past three years, the network documented 50 cases of looting properties of journalists in the areas of (Afrin, Serêkaniyê -Ras al-Ain, GirêSpi / Tell Abyad), by the Turkish forces, which occupy those areas with the Syrian factions loyal to them; Being continuous violations by those parties.

The network documented air attacks by warplanes and marchers or missile and artillery targeting of press crews by the Turkish army, which occupies three Syrian Kurdish cities (Afrin, Sri Kanyi, Ras al-Ayn, Gree Spy and Tel Abyad). The Office for the Documentation of Violations, in accordance with its work in recent years, has also analyzed all statements and reports by the Information Service or the press associations of the Democratic Self-Administration concerning some of the violations that occurred. and the extent to which it has played a role by mitigating its size, or by releasing some detainees who have been arbitrarily and unlawfully detained for specific periods and varying periods, without formal charges and outside any judicial process.

The Network also notes that no progress has been made in the dossier of violations committed against fellow journalists/s and media/s who have been forcibly displaced from their cities and their property has been reserved, which is part of the Network's plan to document annual violations s rights and freedom of action the Syrian conflict persists, and there are still Kurdish cities occupied by Turkey and its armed factions. While insisting that rights are not statutory, Turkey's impunity has helped it to persist further in its violations against all. impunity for such crimes at the global level remains unacceptably high according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO ", which stands at 86% in 2020-2021 according to a report by Reporters without Borders.

### **Authors of the report**

The Office for Documentation and Monitoring of Violations follows the Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network, which is an independent media regulatory framework; Aims to defend press freedoms in areas of their presence away from sex, caste, ethnicity or background of institutions, where they work or the aggressor, comprising Syrian media/Kurds and other journalists of other components inside and outside Syria.

The network was founded 10/3/2012, where it initially took the name "Union of Syrian Kurdish Journalists", after a group of university/Kurd graduates of the Faculty of Information of Damascus University considered; refers to the need to improve Kurdish media realities and to address Syrian reality in general; Kurdish in particular, impartial and professional away from any political bias; Or my party. The name was changed from "Federation" to "Network", based on the decisions of the Fourth Conference, held

on 8 August 2020 with the approval of the majority of members, and thus the Network's annual report is based on its members distributed in various regions.

Through specific standards in accordance with international laws and norms for the protection of journalists, committed by various parties to the conflict in Syria, parties and others outside Syria, as well as news and press reports published by local media at the moment of the violation, and centers for monitoring and documenting violations, having analyzed and verified them professionally and transparently, and resorting to testimonies given by the abused journalist if available; or accessible.

Years ago, the Office took it upon itself to defend press freedoms impartially and independently to protect their rights. and working with international organizations and institutions concerned with the non-impunity of violators and criminals, To achieve justice under free and professional information, especially since previous years' figures confirm that violations are becoming more and more aggressive with military operations, Because of the field media coverage on the ground, on the one hand, and the protests and pickets denounced on the other, which is often prevented from being covered, not to mention other violations that are contrary to freedom of opinion and expression, It is incompatible with the rights recognized by international law in this regard for media professionals worldwide, such as arrest, detention, assault by beating and the seizure of press equipment.

### **Violations at the global level**

According to the annual RSF report, a new record was recorded in the world's tally of journalists/detainees/abuses committed against them, with 533 detainees among media actors in 2022, while 57 journalists were killed, with the tally rising again. The organization also documented at least 65 hostages and 49 missing journalists.

Last year's record was exceeded, with prisons teeming with at least 533 journalists because of their work by 1 December 2022, an increase of 13.4% over last year. RSF also set another record in the 2022 tally, with 78 journalists currently behind bars. The number rose by an unprecedented 30% over the year. Women accounted for 15% of the total journalists/detainees/detainees, while it did not reach 7% five years ago.

In its report, the organization noted that dictatorial and authoritarian regimes were filling their prisons with journalists in an accelerated manner "Affirming this new record of the number of journalists/detainees/the urgent need to withstand the unscrupulous authorities and to demonstrate effective solidarity with all those who hold the flame of freedom, independence and pluralism of the press, Stressing that since 1995 it has been issuing the report on violations against journalists/ies information, based on accurate data collected throughout the year, where the Organization receives very carefully information that would absolutely confirm or at

least through a very strong presumption that the detention, abduction or disappearance of journalists or media assistants concerned is a direct result of their media activity.

### **At the Syrian level**

The number of violations in Syria's geographical area decreased compared to previous years and this decline is due to the cessation of clashes and fighting between the conflicting parties on the one hand, the rate of arrests and killings of journalists under torture in the regime's prisons and detention centers has decreased. The war between the regime and the opposition and radical organizations was one of the main reasons for the high number of violations in the years before. and according to the periodic reports of the Syrian Center for Press Freedoms, which belongs to the Syrian Journalists' Association human rights violations ", the number of violations in 2022 was 54, while the total number of violations documented since 2011 as the start date of peaceful popular protests recorded 1,475 violations Syria is one of the countries where journalists were killed in former conflict zones,

While no longer among the most dangerous countries in 2021-2022, this decline does not preclude that Syria remains among the three countries at the top of the list if we count journalists/dead journalists in the years preceding the last two years. The most serious attacks, however, date back remarkably to the period 2012-2013, at the beginning of the war when peaceful protests became militarized. And then until 2014-2015 with the emergence of the ISIL and the Nusra , these numbers are actually still less than the real. A number of journalists disappeared after being arrested by forces loyal to the Syrian Government or after their abduction by ISIL, and in the absence of death certificates s rights ", many families still hope to be alive after years of kidnapping and being subjected to the worst forms of torture, Here, it must be noted that most journalists, 65% of whom were assassinated, are deliberately targeted and disposed of directly.

As fighting decreased in various Syrian governorates, the factions of the pro-Turkey "Syrian National Army" were no less violated than other armed groups because of their violations in the regions of north-eastern Syria in general; The cities occupied by Turkey (Afrin, Sri Kanyi/Ras al-Ayn, Gray Spy/Tel Abyad) in particular, these figures, and what has happened, would have kept Syria 171st in the World Classification of Press Freedom, published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) mid-year.

### **Violations in democratic autonomous areas**

The Bureau for Documentation of Violations in the Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network documented 36 cases of violations in 2022, distributed in predominantly Kurdish cities and other areas of northeastern Syria under the control of the SDF, as well as in

Kurdish cities under the control of Turkish occupation and loyal armed factions, as well as three violations outside Syrian geography.

- 1-The Media Department of the Democratic Self-Administration of North and East Syria, photographer of France Press Agency (AFP) Daleel Suleiman, stopped working for about 70 days from 9 January 2022 on the pretext of using the Drone to photograph the camp "Easy Girls" in Raqqa without security approval.
- 2-On the morning of Tuesday, 18 January 2022, Yekiti Media correspondent Gendar Barakat was abducted from his place in Mufti neighbourhood in the northern Syrian city of Hasakah by a masked group who were travelling in a jeep without its number plate, who returned hours later after being severely beaten and assaulted, breaking one of his fingers, and seizing his mobile and a sum of money in his possession by force.
- 3-A patrol official of the internal security forces was blocked in the Qamishli neighbourhood of Halkou, northern Syria Media outlet Bashar Idris Khalil, correspondent for Radio Arta, at noon on Tuesday, 18 January 2022, while covering a strike on taxi owners "Teksi" on the Cornish line demanding an increase in the fare price, He seized and stopped his phone near the scene of the strike, and later released him at the same place and also returned his phone.
- 4-Media outlet Basil Rasheed, correspondent for the Hawar news agency, was shot twice in the chest and in the abdominal area after he was targeted by ISIS militants on 21 January 2022 while reporting on events taking place in the vicinity of industry prison in the Ghawiran neighbourhood of Hasakah city between the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) "ISIS", following disobedience by terrorist detainees from the group, in conjunction with an attack on its sleeping cells.
- 5-On 21 January 2022, the Director of the Information Centre of the Syrian Military Council, Fayez al-Amaleh, was wounded in his hand after being targeted by an ISIS sniper while reporting on events taking place in the vicinity of the industry prison in the Guiran neighbourhood of Hasakah. Between the SDF and the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), following the disobedience of the group's terrorist detainees, it coincided with an attack on its sleeping cells.
- 6-The photographer of the Office of Self-Defence Information, Ahmed Nasser, was killed while covering the ongoing clashes between the SDF and the so-called "ISIS" organization in the vicinity of the industry prison in the Guiran neighbourhood of Hasakah, following disobedience by terrorist detainees from the group, in conjunction with an attack on his sleeping cells.

Media outlet Baran Mohammed said that he was with his colleague Ahmed Nasser, above the Commercial Bank building when he was hit by an ISIS sniper shot on top of the Civil Engineering College building near the industry prison.

7 -The sleeper cells associated with the organization of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) targeted press crews covering the events of Guerran prison, after the SDF declared near complete control of the industry prison, and the press teams followed the following channels: (Sky News Arabic, Arabic, Channel Now, Channel tomorrow), rescued and protected by the SDDF F.

8-The Rudaw Media Network team, composed of Vivian Fatah, Barzan Farman, Issa Khalaf and Ara Biju, was prevented from covering the clashes between the SDF and ISIS militants in the vicinity of the industry prison, by internal security forces in the northern Syrian city of Hasakah, and their names were placed at checkpoints at the entrances of the city to ensure that they are not returned again.

9-An afternoon security group on Wednesday, 2 February 2022, prevented media outlets Vivian Fatah, Correspondence of the "Rodao" media network, from performing its work, inappropriately taken to the Internal Security Forces Centre in Qamishlu/Qamishli, whose personal card was withdrawn During the burial of 12 SDF martyrs at the Martyrs' Cemetery in Qamishlo, She was released on the same day, with an apology from the Centre's co-chairmanship for mishandling, However, her identity card was not returned until the preparation of this report, as confirmed by the correspondence.

10-Five people from the Rodaw network, Issa Khalaf, and driver Abdullah Majdal, assaulted a place outside Qamishlo, confiscated the camera and live broadcast of the network, and released them after being tortured, beaten and threatened, during the burial ceremony of 12 SDF martyrs at the Qamishlo martyrs' cemetery on 2 February 2022. The photographer confirmed that the aggressors were not security forces; Or the police, despite wearing uniforms.

11- On 5 February 2022, the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria suspended by official decision the licensing of the office of the "Rudaw" media network in its regions. It withdrew press work from all staff working in its office in the northern Syrian city of Qamishli, on the pretext of stirring up strikes and tarnishing the image of institutions operating in northern and eastern Syria Syria.

12-On 5 February 2022, Yekiti Media correspondent Bauer Mulla Ahmed was arrested from Qamishlo and released after days of detention without charge.

13-On 5 February 2022, journalist Sabri Fakhri, correspondent of the Kurdish channel "Ark", was arrested from Qamishlu, taken to an unknown destination, and then released after about two months and 10 days of detention.

14- A masked media group abducted Ahmed Sophie, a former correspondent for the Kurdish channel "Ark", from his home in Derek/Malika on 19 February 2022, and his family was unable to find out where he was or why he was being arrested until his release, nearly two months later.

15- On 19 February 2022, a masked group abducted journalist Dara Abdou, a former correspondent for the Kurdish channel "Ark", from the city of Hasakah, and took him to an unknown destination. His family was unable to find out where he was. No security agency of the democratic self-administration announced his arrest until his release after the absence of nearly two months.

16-On 10 May 2022, the military police of pro-Turkish armed factions detained media activist Mahmoud Mohamed Khir Fawaz, known as "Mahmoud Damascus", in the occupied city of Afrin, Turkey, on charges of defaming some faction affiliates on his Facebook page, and he was later released.

17- The Media Department of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, on the date of the media 13/7/2022, stopped Hogger Majid, who is a presenter of programs at the "People's Tales" Foundation for 36 days on the grounds that he had attacked elements of the internal security forces, for more than one time in an inappropriate verbal manner, and went beyond his function beyond the morality of the media.

Media outlet Hogger Majid said: "There was a verbal altercation between him and a patrol of the internal security forces in Qamishli market in mid-July 2022, and weeks earlier there had been another verbal altercation between him and a municipal patrol in the city market."

18- The killing of media outlet Manal Saleh al-Mazal, working on the Women's Committee of the Deir ez-Zor Civil Council, as a massacre... On 15 July 2022, the inhabitants found her body in an abandoned house near the Muhaimeda town camp west of Deir ez-Zor. According to testimonies from the region, such killings are carried out by sleeping cells belonging to ISIL.

19-Unidentified people smashed the back glass of Salam Hassan's car, parked in front of his home in the northern Syrian city of Qamishli, on 21/7/2022, working as a

correspondent with Al-Arabi Al-Jadeed, several days before the incident, offensive phrases were written on the vehicle with a sharp machine, and the car's rear camera was vandalized and damaged about three months before the incident. The journalist reported the attack to the internal security forces.

20-A security force was arrested in the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, on the date of the media 30/7/2022, Amar al-Khalaf, who worked months before his arrest at the Euphrates Heritage site on the grounds that he worked with unlicensed outside media in autonomous areas in northern and eastern Syria, and remains in detention.

21-A security force was detained in the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, on the 30/7/2022 of Hawar news agency correspondent Rabi Ali, for 24 hours during a campaign of arrests of some journalists and subsequently released.

22-A security force was arrested in the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, on the date of the media 30/7/2022, Khaled al-Hassan, who works in the office of the "Education Committee Information" within the Civil Council of Raqqa, claiming that he works with unlicensed outside media in the autonomous areas of northern and eastern Syria, and remains in detention.

23- A security force in the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, on the date of the media 30/7/2022 of Tul al-Hassan, working for the Youth Media Group and Tomorrow Better, was detained for 24 hours during a campaign of arrests of some journalists.

24-A security force was detained in the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, on the date of media 30/7/2022 Abdul Karim al-Ithir, on the grounds that he was working with unlicensed outside media in autonomous areas and was still in detention.

25-The media outlet, Barzan Ferman, who worked as a correspondent for the "Rodao" media network, was arrested by a masked group on 2/8/2022, taken to an unknown location and released only 21 days after the arrest. The Network's office was prohibited from operating by a decision of the North and East Syria Information Service at the time of his arrest.

26-on the 5/8/2022 Security Forces official prevented Dara Barakat the Kurdsat News correspondent from covering the gas cylinder explosion near Mounir Habib Street in downtown Qamishlo. He was threatened with arrest if he did not stop filming and asked to stay away from the scene.

27-On 6/8/2022, members of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) attacked France Press Photographer Jihad Darvish during his coverage of a car attack by a Turkish march in the industrial zone of Qamishlu/Qamishli, and he was banned from filming.

28-On the date of the journalist's 29/8/2022, the Turkish authorities arrested Osman Ali and issued a decision forcibly deporting him, preventing him from residing on their territory under the responsibility of the deadline set for him.

29-A security force in the northern Syrian city of Raqqa was arrested on 19/9/2022 by North Press media correspondent Amar Abdul Latif on the grounds that he was working with unlicensed outside media in the autonomous areas of northern and eastern Syria, and remains in detention.

30-On 29/9/2022, a group of the Revolutionary Youth Movement assaulted the correspondent of the Russian agency "Raptley", the media outlet Ivan Haseeb, while covering the picket in front of the United Nations headquarters in Qamishlu/Qamishli, where dozens of residents of Qamishli held a protest against the decision to abolish the teaching of government curricula in private schools and institutes in democratic self-administration areas.

31-The office documented another violation, the second outside of Syrian geography, in September. The journalist Maxim al-Issa, a reporter for Arabic television in Germany, rejected the American base of Ramstein. In Germany, he was granted a consent card to cover a meeting under the name "Ukraine Support Group". on the grounds that he is of Syrian origin, and is not allowed to enter the base s rights ", although he has submitted all necessary professional and personal papers as a correspondent and resident outside Syria for more than 20 years.

32-Turkish media intelligence and Syrian Kurdish researcher Nawaf Khalil, resident in Germany, threatened to "assassinate" on 18/10/2022, the third offence on an external scale, during his participation in a television programme broadcast on Al-Arabiya Al-Jun, along with Turkish researcher Bakir Atajan, who threatened to assassinate him by saying: "Turkish intelligence is in your office and watching you and knowing what you say and claim? and that it will do its duty when necessary and not now ".

33-In Qamishlu/Qamishli on 4/11/2022, the correspondent of the European Press Photo Agency, Ahmed Mardli, was blocked by members of the internal security forces. s National Council Conference in front of the Zana Meeting Hall, The internal security forces did not allow participants to enter the conference room. The press mission was withdrawn from Ahmed's media, and he was prevented from working for about a month on the grounds that he was filming an unauthorized activity by the internal security forces, after which he returned to his journalistic work.

34-On 4/11/2022, members of the internal security forces in the city of Qamishlo/Qamishli, the correspondent of the Russian media agency "Raptley" Ivan Haseeb, was prevented from filming the gathering of members of the National Kurdish Council Conference in front of the Zana meeting room, where the internal security forces did not allow participants to enter the conference room.

35 -The killing of fellow journalist Issam Abdullah, a reporter for the Hawar news agency, on 20/11/2022, after a Turkish warplane targeted the power station in the village of "Buqal" on the outskirts of Derek/Malikia city, where the journalist Issam was filming the destruction of the station that had been hit by Turkish bombardment.

36 -On 20/11/2022, media correspondent Mohammed Jaradeh was hit by several shrapnel shrapnel by the bombing of a Turkish warplane at the "Covid-19" hospital in the outskirts of Kobani city, where fellow Mohammed was filming the destruction of Turkey.

### **Fate Unknown**

The network of Syrian Kurdish journalists, with deep regret, acknowledges for the ninth consecutive year that the fate of the media colleague Farhad Hamou, a reporter of the Roodau Channel, who was abducted by ISIS terrorists on 15/12/2014 remains unknown and his case remains pending and unresolved, despite the fall of the last stronghold of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, in Baguz Brif. The Network also stood in solidarity with his family's appeal last year eight years after his abduction, in which it appealed to the SDF and the international coalition to do their utmost to find out his fate and to put an end to this ongoing violation, which has strained us and his family from waiting.

### **Forced displacement and seizure of journalists' property**

It documented the network and over the years it occupied Turkey and its loyal faction's violations against journalists and media professionals that have been committed deliberately and with previous determination and determination, it continues, whether by forced displacement or seizure of property international, human rights and human rights instruments, making the return of journalists/displaced women forced. retreat from year to year as a result of the continuation of Turkey's illegal actions, its occupation of several Kurdish cities, which undermine any solution, relying on their armed factions that have seized the journalists' property and their parents' homes,

These violations, which played a key role in preventing the right of the peoples and components of the region to live in security and peace, and the continuing violations in the cities of Afrin, Sri Kanyi/Ras al-Ayn, Gray Spy/Tel Abyad, violate Turkey's "false" legal obligations at international meetings and meetings for Syria, as the occupying Power, and their daily bombing of these areas and their countryside are

only provocations. No international actor has abided by its legal responsibility to punish violators, which has helped with impunity for all.

According to the annual reports of the Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network, in 2019, 2020 and 2021, the Network's Office for Monitoring and Documenting Violations documented 50 cases of seizure of journalists' homes and properties by the Turkish Army and its loyal Syrian factions. The seizures were distributed as follows: In the Afrin areas 20 cases, Sri Kanyi/Ras al-Ain 29 cases, Gari Spy/Tel Abyad is a single case, distributed to the families of the militants and some Iraqi families, We will publish here the number whose names the network has been able to document and publish in previous annual reports And it must be recalled that there are some names who have been forcibly abandoned that have not been mentioned for fear of the lives of relatives of armed factions, To ensure that they are not pursued by Turkey, some of those abandoned have been handcuffed on some of their property and also avoided in order to preserve the rest of the property.

The Syrian Pro-Turkish factions known as the "National Army" detained the homes and property of the majority of journalists in the city of Sri Kanyi/Ras al-Ayn and were distributed to the families of militants and some Iraqi families. The network of Syrian Kurdish journalists was able to document the names of the journalists/journalists whose property was seized by the National Army factions:

- Sultan Mourad, a faction of the National Army, captured the family home of journalist Shirin Mohamed Ali Shakir in the city of Sri Cané and turned him into a military barracks on 17 October 2019.
- Home of journalist Sardar Mulla Darvish, General Manager of ASO News Network.
- Muhyiddin Esau's home, which works with many local, Arab and international sites, has been converted into a school to memorize the Holy Koran in the presence of the Turkish Wali Orphah.
- Home of photojournalist Rudy Said, photographer of Reuters news agency.
- Home of journalist Abdulhalim Suleiman Abdulhalim, correspondent for the Arabic section of The Independent and presenter on Radio Arta.
- Media home Orhan Kamal, correspondent of the Yazdina website.
- The home of journalist Ala al-Rabaie, correspondent for the ASO News Network and editor of the TA Connected Foundation.
- The media home of Azaldeen Saleh, who worked as a former correspondent for Radio Arta.

- The home of the photojournalist Haitham Hajji, a photographer of the channel "Kurdistan24" who was directly threatened and extorted.
- Hassan Abdullah, who worked as a correspondent for "KNN", then forcibly took refuge in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, after losing all his property, after the armed factions took over everything his family owned and burned down part of it.
- - The house of journalist Hussein Zidou, a former correspondent for KNN, and North Press, where he also took refuge in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq forcibly, after the armed factions had seized all his property.
- The home of journalist Hisham Arafat, who works as a news coordinator with many international media outlets, as well as his work as an English-language news editor on the Kurdistan 24 channel's website.
- The home of journalist Shayyar Mohammed in Sri Kanyi/Ras al-Ain, correspondent of the channel "Zagros" in Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan region of Iraq.
- Home of the media Salman Manu, correspondent of the ASO news network.
- The media home of Alan Osman, in Sri Kanyi/Ras al-Ayn, who worked in several local and international agencies.
- The media home of Leloz Hackary, in Sri Kanyi/Ras al-Ain, presenter on Radio "Washo Kani."
- Home of the media family Shira Ossi, presenter on radio "von fm" and former correspondent on television "Rojava."
- Home of the media Shirin Numan, former correspondent at the radio "ARTA FM"
- Home of Siban Moses, radio reporter "ARTA FM"
- Home Media Nouri Khalil, Sports Department Reporter for Radio "ARTA FM"
- Home Media Rudy Ayew, Radio "ARTA FM"
- The home of photojournalist Yusuf Pro.
- Home of photojournalist Azad Afadki.
- The home of photojournalist Sheikh Hamou.
- The media home of Suleiman al-Tawil, correspondent of the channel "Ronahi" in Sri Kanyi/Ras al-Ain.
- Home photojournalist Diyar Ma 'u.

- The Syrian factions loyal to Ankara seized the property of most media professionals on Radio "Washukani".
- The "National Army" factions took over the house of colleague Rizwan Rashid Osman, "Rizwan Pizar", his family home in the city of Tel Abyad/Cree Spi, as well as another house in the village of Susk and he was converted into a military headquarters. Journalist Rizwan Pizar is a reporter for Kurdistan24.
- The seizure of the house of colleague Salman Salman, a member of the Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network, on 10/10/2019, in the village of Dadudiyah of the occupied city of Sri Kanyeh/Ras al-Ayn, and his forcible displacement with his family by the armed factions of the Turkish occupation.
- Continued forced displacement under the threat of arrest and killing by the occupied Syrian National Army factions of the city of Afrin of the following colleagues:
  - The forced displacement of Muhammad Blu, a former correspondent for "Kurdistan24", and Radio Rosnen for receiving threats from armed factions and seizing his home in Afrin, and continues to receive threats to liquidate Turkish accounts on a continuous basis.
  - The continued forced displacement of media workers Jihad Abdu, a reporter for the Hawar news agency from Afrin after his life was put in danger
  - The continued forced relocation of media outlet Roj Musa, correspondent of the "Hawar" news agency after receiving threats from faction elements.
  - The forced displacement of journalist Noroz Rushe, a reporter for VOA and a reporter for the American channel "Free", continued after receiving threats.
  - The continued forced displacement of media outlet Ahmed Qatima, a former correspondent of SMART to Iraqi Kurdistan, due to threats from Syrian factions loyal to Ankara.
  - The continued forcible movement of media outlet Ahmed Shafia Bilal, who worked with a Russian news agency.
  - The continued forced displacement of media workers Norhat Hassan, correspondent of the "Hawar" news agency.
  - The continued forced displacement of media outlet Sidhu Ebo, correspondent of the "Hawar" news agency.
  - The continued forced displacement of media outlet Mezkin Gorsieh, correspondent of the channel "Ronahi", and the seizure of her home in the city of Afrin.

- The continued forced displacement of journalist Jafar Javu, a reporter for the "Hawar" news agency, and the seizure of his house by some settlers.
- Continued forced displacement of media outlet Terrast Judy, correspondent of the "Hawar" news agency and seizure of his home by militants.
- The continued forced displacement of journalist Munzir Shekho, a former correspondent for the channel "Runahi" and the seizure of his home by the militants.
- The continued forced displacement of journalist Mmo Hassan, formerly a Ronahi newspaper.
- The continued forced displacement of journalist Salah Ebo, formerly working for the newspaper Ronahi.
- The continued forced displacement of journalist Jian Haji, formerly of the Hawar Agency, and currently of the "Rodao" media network.
- The continued forced displacement of journalist Idris Hannan, who works for the newspaper Ronahi.
- The continued forced displacement of journalist Hasan Tahsin Nasser, formerly of the newspaper Ronahi.
- The continued forced displacement of journalist photographer Zakaria Shekho, who works as a photographer for the "Runahi" astronaut.
- The continued forced displacement of journalist Sharif Mohammed, formerly a "Runahi" astronaut.
- The continued forced displacement of journalist Hassan Gushu, who works with the television "Rojava".

### **Protection in accordance with international laws**

11 years later, journalists/women and media organizations continue to be directly and indirectly targeted as part of their pursuit of truth and documentation of crimes against civilians international, regional and local media blackout attempts notwithstanding As with the recent Turkish incursions that killed one journalist and wounded another directly, Without prejudice to their protection under international humanitarian law as civilians and that any attacks against them may amount to war crimes, as the United Nations annually raises a new slogan for the protection of journalists/ies International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists/Journalists, 2 November each year,

This day, which is an explicit affirmation that the safety of journalists is high on the list of rights issues and a priority given their significant and vital role in revealing the

truth, holding parties to the conflict accountable and bringing them to justice for their violations in particular that any targeting of journalists and the media and their centers is a clear violation of article 19 of the World Media on Human Rights in Situations of Peace which states that "every human being has the right to embrace whatever he wants without harassment, Every human being has the right to freedom of expression, and this right includes his freedom to seek various forms of information and ideas, receiving and transferring them to others in any mold and by any means of his choice, without regard to the frontier ",

In addition, this is a flagrant violation of the principles of article 79 of the Additional Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Convention in international humanitarian law, and of resolution 1738 of the International Security Council, which states that "journalists and correspondents shall be respected and protected, and that the installations and equipment of the media shall be considered civilian objects which may not be the target of attacks or acts of action.

Based on these laws, the Documentation Office of the Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network, since its inception, has adopted all the violations that are spread among the (assassination, murder, arrest, detention, threat, exile, arbitrary expulsion, deportation, beatings, prohibition of work, arrest without any legal basis, targeting of media organizations, and finally confiscation of press equipment) This is the classification adopted in most of the world's abuse monitoring centers, while the Syrian situation has also been characterized by the displacement and forced displacement of journalists and the seizure of the property of media professionals by Syrian armed factions loyal to Ankara.

The Network has therefore consistently called for the application of international laws on journalism during conflict and for the use of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, under which crimes against civilians and objects, which also include the media's headquarters, are considered war crimes and crimes against humanity in accordance with articles VII and VIII. These laws guarantee the rights and integrity of journalists and prevent any form of violence against them, while providing them with access to information, within their right to freedom of opinion and expression, to publish by any means of their choice and to move according to the license granted to them without objection, all of which fall within the freedom of journalism.

## **Recommendations**

The importance of freedom of the press and freedom of opinion and expression, as fundamental human rights, when we affirm our commitment to them, because we need to apply them at all times, hence the United Nations General Assembly's definition of freedom of the press as "the right to freely circulate information and opinions, without any censorship, distortion or restriction of authority.

At the same time, however, the media must remain impartial and honest. When the press is free, it protects democracy and citizens alike ". Although freedom of the press in democratic self-administration areas is better applied compared to other areas of control of both the regime and the opposition in all their names, it still does not meet the aspirations of journalists/professionals and their institutions.

All of this requires more effective mechanisms for the protection of journalists. First, the establishment of a committee comprising representatives of unions and trade union press associations; Representatives of major media organizations and civil society, within conditions and controls agreed by the participating parties in order to carry out its tasks and its recommendations independently and without pressure, The process of holding journalists accountable for any "presumed" breach of the ethics of the journalism profession is primarily left to the professionals of this Committee. freedom from any tendency outside the media, other security services and in furtherance of the Press Code of Honor for the Ethics of the Journalism Profession.

Perhaps the most important recommendation in this area is that provisions and laws other than the Media Act should not be invoked when considering infractions committed or related to freedom of expression. One of this recommendation is the need to repeal "oral communications" by the Media Service of Northern and Eastern Syria, concerning the need to join the Free Media Union, so that it can carry out its journalistic work. - If the journalist/s possesses a media mission to act - in accordance with the principles of press freedoms, and secondly to put an end to the prosecution/prosecution of journalists, and to charge them/them without compelling evidence, for exercising their right to freedom of opinion and expression, or their right to access information,

Thirdly, we end the arrests of any journalist for simply exercising their right to expression, which impedes their work and violates their fundamental rights. The Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network will therefore continue its approach by monitoring and documenting violations committed against journalists. Whether data or explanations, circulars, annual reports, and recommendations to stakeholders in the self-management areas of north-eastern Syria on their duties and obligations under international laws and standards to ensure the protection of journalists/women and human rights defenders against intimidation, attacks and arbitrary detention ". and the withdrawal of equipment and other violations, despite their small size and impact, committed by various parties to the conflict.

Syrian Kurdish Journalists' Network

Office OF Monitoring and Documentation press Violations

Qamishli North East Syria - January 16/2022

