

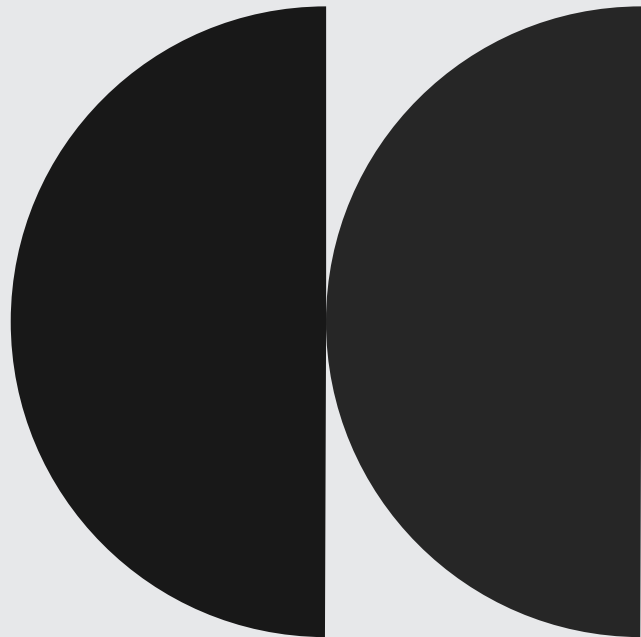


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IFF MENA
CKS Workshop

Nov 2020

Independent Media in Lebanon after the Blast



trigger warning: trauma, violence

Context

Independent Media in Lebanon
after the Blast

PRE-AUGUST 4

Public opinion shaped by mainstream media whose political economy enforces the status quo



[Media Ownership Monitor, Lebanon](#)

October 2019

a boon for independent media in the country
& an opportunity for some mainstream outlets
to co-opt the revolution's main slogans

March 15, 2020

Lebanon enforces a total lockdown, allowing
the military to manage/monitor individuals'
movements

August 4, 2020, 6:08pm

August 5, 2020

Parliament votes to declare a state of emergency in Beirut, ceding complete control to the army.

September 18, 2020

Precarity of the Business Model

A reckoning of the business model

Largely reliant on project-based external funding

Functioning under a “startup economy”

Little benefits for the few salaried employees, and even less for volunteers

Difficult/no access to press cards



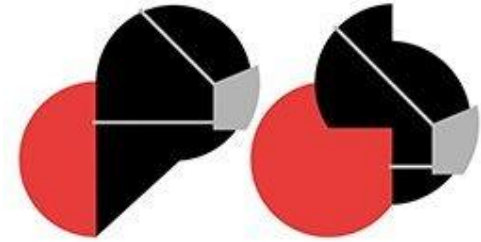
Fawra Media

[instagram.com/fawramedia](https://www.instagram.com/fawramedia)

Volunteer-based independent media,
largely made up of media students

Managed by two film/media professionals

Concerned with covering the voices of the
revolution



The Public Source

<https://thepublicsource.org/>

An independent media outlet built on a
non-hierarchical structure and mutual aid

Six permanent positions

Concerned with long-form, in-depth
accountability journalism

State of Emergency

Independent Media in Lebanon
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Impunity of state violence

Expanding the power of the military courts to try civilians under any crimes relating to “breach of security.”

Enforcing house arrest on anyone engaging in activities that impose “a danger on security” and entering anyone’s home at any given time.

Censorship over media and theatre.

Prohibiting large gatherings deemed to be a threat to security and shutting down sites of assembly.

Issuing fines and deporting “suspects” it deemed a threat to security.

Increased surveillance on devices,
content, and mobility

Violence against independent media
workers on the ground

How Trauma Shaped Independent Media Content

Independent Media in Lebanon
after the Blast

Material Damage



- Extreme damage:** Annahar, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, Megaphone, Mulhak, Nida' al Watan, Télé Lumière-Noursat
- Severe damage:** AP, Al Arabiya, Al-Araby TV, Al Jazeera, Al Modon, Asas Media, Asharq Al-Awsat, BBC, The Daily Star, The Independent Arabia, Reuters, Sky News Arabia
- Moderate damage:** Assafir Al Arabi, Aliwaa, Al Jadeed, Daraj, El Shark, Iraqi Media Network, ISOL, Labneh and Facts, The Public Source, Radio Orient

POST-AUGUST 4

Post-blast independent coverage

Fueled by anger and lack of accountability

More aggressive and urgent tone

Neutrality = complicity with the status quo



Felt consequences on journalists'
mental health

No option to switch off, take a breath

Burn out, anxiety

Vicarious/relived trauma – reminders on
the ground or in the office, in our homes,
online

What the Larger Community Can Do

Archiving support

Volunteer/propose **expertise** help in: open-source investigation skills, verification, sustainable business model

Increased **advocacy** to exert global pressure in holding those responsible accountable

Donate and spread the word!

Support Lebanese Independent Media

Independent Media in Lebanon
after the Blast



Support **the Public Source**: <https://thepublicsource.org/donate>

Support **Beirut Today**:

<https://beirut-today.com/contribute/become-a-supporter/>

Support **Megaphone** by linking them to cool people who do good work abroad:

<https://www.facebook.com/megaphone.news>
team@megaphone.com

Support **Fawra Media** by linking them to a dope website developer:

<https://www.instagram.com/fawramedia>
info@fawra.media

Donate to **the Media Recovery Fund**:

<https://www.skeyesmedia.org/en/Media-Recovery-Fund>