

***Summary of the report on
"Freedom of the Media in the Arab Countries"
2008***

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Summary of Press Freedoms in the Arab Countries in 2008 Report

Introduction

For four consecutive years, the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies [ACHRS] has been issuing its annual report on the state of press freedom in the Arab countries. These reports are compiled through voluntary and personal efforts without funding by any local or international party.

There are three conditions for the press to be free. The first is the right of the journalist to acquire, receive and disseminate information. These conditions are contained in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on the Civil and Political Rights as well as Article 32 of the Arab Charter of Human Rights, which was enforced early last year.

The conclusion of this fourth annual report is that countries like Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates enjoy a higher degree of press freedom in comparison with other Arab countries while Saudi Arabia, Syria and Libya had a very low degree of press freedom.

The report also indicated the following:

- 1- In 2008, all Arab countries exercised advance censorship on the press in some form.
- 2- All Arab countries have laws stipulating penalties of imprisonment for journalists.
- 3- The penalty of precautionary arrest on issues of the press and publication is common in the Arab countries.
- 4- One-third of the Arab countries have no charter of honor for media professionals.
- 5- The International Conventions of Human Rights to which some countries have acceded are merged with the national legislation of 13 Arab states, but there is no "strong commitment" in the practical application of these conventions in any Arab State.
- 6- The law requires newspapers to secure an advance permit before publication in all Arab states with the exception of Mauritania.
- 7- Government proprietorship of newspapers is a common phenomenon in the Arab countries with the exception of Kuwait, Lebanon and Mauritania.

Arab States rankings according to "Reporters Without Borders" (best-worst)	Arab States rankings according to the 2008 ACHRS study (1=best; 18=worst)
Kuwait	1
Lebanon	4
United Arab Emirates	3
Qatar	2
Bahrain	6
Mauritania	5

مركز عمان لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

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Algeria	9
Morocco	8
Jordan	7
Sudan	10
Tunisia	12
Egypt	11
Palestine	14
Yemen	15
Iraq	13
Syria	16
Libya	18
Saudi Arabia	17

Press Freedoms in the Arab Countries for 2008

I – Methodology of the Report:

The methodology of the report is based on the distribution of a carefully drafted scientific questionnaire to a number of journalists working in Arab daily and weekly newspapers. The number of questionnaires distributed in each Arab country ranged from 25 to 30. The Arab countries in which the questionnaires were distributed were Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan, Iraq, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Yemen.

It is noteworthy that the study excluded each of the Sultanates of Oman, Somalia, Djibouti, and the Comoro Islands for the following reasons:

- 1- The inability of the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies [ACHRS] to have a reporter in these countries to write the report and to distribute the questionnaires to a number of journalists working in these countries.
- 2- Fear for the safety of the press reporter and ACHRS' eagerness to allow him or her to avoid being targeted by the State, i.e. Oman or the armed militias in Somalia.
- 3- Lack of sufficient information on the press violations or the infringement of the laws regulating the media sectors of these countries.

The ACHRS hopes that it will become capable of providing for press reporters in these countries and adding their reports to its annual report in the upcoming years.

The questionnaire used consisted of 26 direct answers, the aim of which were to diagnose the conditions of the press freedoms from legal and professional standpoints. The questionnaire also included 10 indicators that measure the degree of press freedoms in each country according to the viewpoint of the respondent. The person giving the answer was left with the option of assessing the weight of the indicator on a scale of degrees ranging from 1 to 10, degree 1 meaning the lowest relative importance and 10 meaning the highest.

The questionnaire for each country was compiled into special lists. Then common lists were built for each state according to the question. The percentages reached were the crucial point in evaluation and in reaching conclusions. It is noteworthy that all the results reached depended on the content of the questionnaires filed by the reporters in each country.

However, we should draw attention to certain points concerning the answers:

- 1- Some respondents did not give the answers to all questions.
- 2- Occasionally, some of the answers are off the question topic.

Undoubtedly, these gaps have an important effect on the results and the accuracy of these results, thereby prompting us to focus on general characteristics without overlooking the details concerning each country. Needless to say, we should be cautious in dealing with the results because it is difficult to view these results as final or categorical.

II – Direct results of the questions:

1- Does the law provide for advance censorship of the press in your country?

Table number 1 shows the following results:

- The laws in force in 83.33%% of the Arab countries provide for advance censorship of the newspapers published in these countries.
- The laws in force in 16.67%% of the Arab countries do not provide for advance censorship on the newspapers published in these countries with the exception of states of emergency and martial law in accordance with constitutional stipulations. These countries are Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

Table number 1	
Do the laws provide for advance censor of the press in your country	
Country	Answer
Jordan	No
UAE	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes
Algeria	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Syria	Yes
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Palestine	No
Qatar	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	No
Libya	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 15
	No: 3

2- What is the degree of the exercise of advance censorship in practical terms in Arab countries?

The journalists who filled out the questionnaires in each country estimated the degree of advance censorship in practical terms, and the process of estimation depended on a six-point scale for the evaluation of the degree.

Table number 2 has shown the following results:

- All Arab countries without any exception exercised advance censorship on the newspapers during this year in one way or another.
- Lebanon was the only Arab country which exercised minimal advance censorship of the newspapers. Here we should note the political and sectarian nature of the Lebanese State and the nature of the media activity in Lebanon.

- Minimum advance censorship of the newspapers was exercised in three Arab countries out of the total number of Arab countries (at a rate of 16.57 %). These countries are Qatar, Kuwait and Mauritania.
- There were three Arab countries which exercised advance censorship of the newspapers at a medium or fair level. These were Jordan, Bahrain and Iraq (16.67 %).
- There were seven Arab countries which exercised advance censorship of newspapers at a high level (38.89 %). These were the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Sudan, Palestine, Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen.
- A total of 22.22 % of the Arab countries exercised very high advance censorship of the newspapers published in them. These countries are Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Libya.

Table number 2						
What is the degree of the exercise of the advance censor in practical terms						
Country	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	No Censorship
Jordan			3			
UAE		2				
Bahrain			3			
Tunis	1					
Algeria		2				
Saudi Arabia	1					
Syria	1					
Sudan		2				
Iraq			3			
Palestine		2				
Qatar				4		
Kuwait				4		
Lebanon					2	
Libya	1					
Egypt		2				
Morocco		2				
Mauritania				4		
Yemen		2				
Total	4	7	3	3	1	0

3- Do the laws in force provide for prison penalties for journalists in your country?

Table number 3 shows that the laws of all Arab countries stipulate prison terms (100 %). The journalists who filled the questionnaires out in each country evaluated the degree of the use of the laws stipulating imprisonment from a practical standpoint. The evaluation process was based on a five-point scale. Table number 3/A shows the following results:

- Imprisonment laws are used at a very high rate in 50 % of the Arab countries.

- Imprisonment laws are used at a high rate in the following eight Arab countries: Jordan, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Qatar, Kuwait, Mauritania and Yemen.
- In only one Arab country, namely Lebanon, imprisonment laws are used at a minimum.
- The foregoing shows beyond a doubt that Arab governments resort to the use of imprisonment laws against journalists out of a desire to place restrictions on the freedom of the media work in service of their own interests.

Table number 3	
Do the laws in force provide for prison penalties in your country?	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes
Algeria	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Syria	Yes
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Libya	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 18
	No: 0

Table number 3/A						
The degree of the use of the laws stipulating imprisonment from a practical standpoint.						
Country	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	No Censor
Jordan		X				
UAE		X				
Bahrain		X				
Tunis	X					
Algeria		X				
Saudi Arabia	X					
Syria	X					
Sudan	X					
Iraq	X					
Palestine	X					

Qatar		X				
Kuwait		X				
Lebanon				X		
Libya	X					
Egypt	X					
Morocco	X					
Mauritania		X				
Yemen		X				
Total	50	44.44		5.56		

4- Is precautionary imprisonment a common phenomenon in issues of the press and publication?

Table number 4 shows that the penalty of precautionary imprisonment on issues of the press and publication is a common phenomenon in all Arab countries (at a rate of 72.22 %). As for the Arab countries in which this penalty is not common (27.78 %), they are the six countries of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, and Mauritania.

Table number 4 also shows the number of cases of the imprisonment in each Arab country (A total of 112 cases). Iraq was number 1 in terms of the number of cases, with 20 of these cases. This was followed by Syria (16 cases of imprisoned journalists), Egypt (11 cases), and Palestine (10 cases). These figures were made available from the answers given by the journalists questioned in the questionnaires which they completed.

Table number 4		
Is precautionary imprisonment a common phenomenon in the issues of the press and publication?		
Country	Answer	the number of cases of the imprisonment in 2008
Jordan	Yes	4
UAE	No	5
Bahrain	Yes	3
Tunis	Yes	8
Algeria	Yes	7
Saudi Arabia	Yes	6
Syria	Yes	16
Sudan	Yes	7
Iraq	Yes	20
Palestine	Yes	10
Qatar	No	1
Kuwait	No	0
Lebanon	No	0
Libya	Yes	3
Egypt	Yes	11
Morocco	Yes	5
Mauritania	No	1

Yemen	Yes	5
Total	Yes: 13	112
	No: 5	

5- Does the law regulating press activity stipulate the guarantee of the right of access to information in your country?

Table number five indicates the following:

- In only 12 Arab countries (66.7% of the total number studied) do laws guarantee the journalists' right to access information%. These countries are Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Sudan, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt, Mauritania and Yemen. It is noteworthy that Jordan is the only Arab country with a special law guaranteeing access to information.
- Laws do not provide for journalists' right to access information in six Arab countries at a rate of 33.33%%. These are the remaining Arab countries.

Table number 5	
Does the law regulating press activity stipulate the guarantee of the right of access to information in your country?	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	No
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes
Algeria	No
Saudi Arabia	No
Syria	No
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	No
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Libya	No
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 12
	No: 6

6- What is the degree of the availability of information for journalists in practical terms in your country?

The journalists who filled out the questionnaires were requested to evaluate the degree of the availability of information to journalists in their countries in practical terms. The evaluation was based on a five-point scale. Table number six shows the following results:

- In 2008, there was no single Arab country in which information was available at a very high rate. Therefore, the rate was zero on this degree of evaluation.

- In Kuwait and Lebanon, information was available at a good rate (with a ratio of 11.11 %) out of all the Arab countries.
- Information in Jordan, Qatar and Mauritania was available at a medium or fair rate of 16.67 %.
- In seven Arab countries, information was made available at the poor rate of 38.89 %. These countries were the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Algeria, Sudan, Iraq, Egypt and Yemen.
- In six Arab countries, access to information was very poor at a rate of 33.33 %. These countries were Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Palestine, Libya and Morocco.

Table number 6					
What is the degree of the availability of information for the journalists in practical terms in your country?					
Country	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Jordan			3		
UAE				4	
Bahrain				4	
Tunis					5
Algeria				4	
Saudi Arabia					5
Syria					5
Sudan				4	
Iraq				4	
Palestine					5
Qatar			3		
Kuwait		2			
Lebanon		2			
Libya					5
Egypt				4	
Morocco					5
Mauritania			3		
Yemen				4	
Total	0	2	3	7	6

7- Are journalists tried by military or civil courts in your country?

Table number 7 shows that journalists are tried by civil courts in most Arab countries at a rate of 72.22 %. They are tried by military or civilian courts according to the nature of the crime committed by the press and publications in the Press Law, and this applies to five Arab countries at a rate of 27.78 %. These countries are Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Palestine. The answers to the questionnaires did not point out that journalists were tried by military courts only in any Arab country.

Table number 7			
Country	court-martial	Civil court	Both
Jordan			3
UAE		2	
Bahrain		2	
Tunis		2	
Algeria		2	
Saudi Arabia			3
Syria			3
Sudan		2	
Iraq		2	
Palestine			3
Qatar		2	
Kuwait		2	
Lebanon		2	
Libya		2	
Egypt			3
Morocco		2	
Mauritania		2	
Yemen		2	
Total	0	13	5

8- Does the law provide for mandatory membership in the Press Association of your country?

Table number 8 shows the following:

- Most laws of the Arab countries did not provide for mandatory membership in 10 countries at a rate of 55.56 %. These countries were the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon and Morocco.
- Laws of some Arab countries provided for mandatory membership at a rate of 44.44 %. These remaining Arab countries were Jordan, Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania and Yemen.

Table number 8	
Does the law provide for mandatory membership in the Press Association of your country	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	No
Bahrain	No
Tunis	No
Algeria	No
Saudi Arabia	No
Syria	Yes
Sudan	Yes

Iraq	Yes
Palestine	No
Qatar	No
Kuwait	No
Lebanon	No
Libya	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	No
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 8
	No: 10

9- Does the law state that a foreign journalist willing to practice the profession in your country should have an advance permit?

Table number 9 shows that all Arab countries make the advance permit a condition for the exercise of the press profession in these countries at a rate of 88.89 % with the exception of Palestine and Iraq. Perhaps this is due to the nature of the political circumstances existing in the two countries at present.

Table number 9	
Does the law state that a foreign journalist willing to practice the profession in your country should have an advance permit	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes
Algeria	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Syria	Yes
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	No
Palestine	No
Qatar	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Libya	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 16
	No: 2

10- Is there an honor charter for journalists in your country?

Table number 10 shows that 66.67% of the Arab countries have an honor charter for the journalists while a rate of 33.33% does not have an honor charter. These are Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, and Yemen. These conclusions were taken from the answers given by the journalists in the questionnaires which they completed.

As for the degree of compliance with the press honor charter in practical terms in these countries, the evaluation by the journalists of the degree of compliance was very poor. Other evaluations were poor, fair, good and very good. The rate of practical compliance with the press honor charter was zero. Table number 10/A shows the following results:

Table number 10	
Is there an honor charter for journalists in your country?	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	No
Algeria	Yes
Saudi Arabia	No
Syria	Yes
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	No
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	No
Kuwait	No
Lebanon	Yes
Libya	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	No
Total	Yes: 12
	No: 6

Table number 10/A					
What is the degree of compliance with the press honor charter in practical terms in your country?					
Country	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Jordan					5
UAE					5
Bahrain					5
Algeria					5
Syria					5

Sudan					5
Palestine					5
Lebanon					5
Libya					5
Egypt					5
Morocco					5
Mauritania					5
Total					12

11- Are training workshops held in your country to raise the professional efficiency of journalists?

Table number 11 shows that in all Arab countries, training sessions are held to raise the professional efficiency of the journalists. This is shown in Table number 11/A as follows:

- In the four Arab countries of Jordan, Bahrain, Qatar and Lebanon, the evaluation degree was "very useful."
- Fair evaluation of a rate of 27.78% was evident in the five Arab countries of Algeria, Palestine, Egypt, Mauritania and Yemen. The evaluation was poor in the five Arab countries of Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Morocco.
- In the questionnaires of one Arab country, which is Libya, the evaluation was very poor.
- In the three Arab countries of the United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Kuwait, the degree of evaluation given was "useful."

Table number 11	
Are training workshops held in your country to raise the professional efficiency of the journalists?	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes
Algeria	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Syria	Yes
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Libya	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes

Total	Yes: 18
	No: 0

Table number 11/A					
What is The degree of the availability of information for the journalists in practical terms in your country					
Country	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Jordan	1				
UAE		2			
Bahrain	1				
Tunis				4	
Algeria			3		
Saudi Arabia				4	
Syria				4	
Sudan		2			
Iraq				4	
Palestine			3		
Qatar	1				
Kuwait		2			
Lebanon	1				
Libya					5
Egypt			3		
Morocco				4	
Mauritania			3		
Yemen			3		
Total	4	3	5	5	1

12- Are the International Conventions on Human Rights to which your country has acceded integrated in the national legislation of your country?

Table number 14 shows that the International Conventions on Human Rights to which the concerned countries have acceded are integrated in the national legislation of 13 Arab countries. In other words, 72.22 % of the Arab countries have integrated these conventions in their national legislation while 27.78% of the Arab countries have not integrated these conventions in their national legislation. These countries are the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Libya.

Table number 12	
Are the International Conventions on Human Rights, to which your country has acceded, integrated in the national legislation of your country	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	No
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes

Algeria	No
Saudi Arabia	No
Syria	Yes
Sudan	No
Iraq	Yes
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Libya	No
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 13
	No: 5

13- What is the extent of the practical application of the International Conventions on Human Rights which your country has integrated in the national legislation of your country?

The journalists who completed the questionnaires were requested to evaluate the degree of their countries' compliance with the international conventions to which their countries have acceded and the degree of their integration into local legislation. Table number 13 shows the following results:

- The degree of compliance was very poor at a rate of 44.44 % in the following countries: the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen.
- The degree of compliance was poor at a rate of 33.33 % in the following Arab countries: the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, Palestine, Egypt, Morocco and Mauritania.
- The degree of compliance was fair at a rate of 22.22 % in Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, and Lebanon.
- No Arab country was given the evaluation of a good or very good compliance.

Table number 13					
What is the extent of the practical application of the International Conventions on Human Rights which your country has integrated in the national legislation of your country?					
Country	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Jordan			3		
UAE					5
Bahrain				4	
Tunis					5
Algeria					5
Saudi Arabia					5
Syria					5

Sudan				4	
Iraq					5
Palestine				4	
Qatar			3		
Kuwait			3		
Lebanon			3		
Libya					5
Egypt				4	
Morocco				4	
Mauritania				4	
Yemen					5
Total	0	0	4	6	8

14- Does the law provide for the right of the press to criticize the performance of public servants and not be punished for this criticism?

Table number 14 shows that the law in all the Arab countries provides for the right of the press to criticize the performance of the public servant provided that the press proves that its criticism is correct and that it is well-intentioned.

Table number 14	
Does the law provide for the right of the press to criticize the performance of public servants and not be punished for this criticism?	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes
Algeria	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Syria	Yes
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Libya	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 18
	No: 0

15- Are the court decisions issued on the crimes of publication appealed to the highest court in your country?

Table number 15 shows that the laws in all the Arab countries provide for the right to appeal rulings issued on the crimes of publication to a higher court at a rate of 94.44 %, with the exception of Saudi Arabia where this right is not available according to the information supplied by the journalists.

Table number 15	
Are the court decisions issued on the crimes of publication appealed to the highest court in your country?	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes
Algeria	Yes
Saudi Arabia	No
Syria	Yes
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Libya	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 17
	No: 1

16- According to the law in your country, is it necessary to secure an advance permit for the newspapers to be published or is a mere notification of publication sufficient?

Table number 16 shows that the law makes it conditional for the newspapers to obtain an advance permit before publication in all the Arab countries at a rate of 94.44 % with the exception of Mauritania where the law stipulates that a notification of publication is sufficient, according to the answers given by the journalists.

Table number 16		
According to the law in your country, is it necessary to secure an advance permit for newspapers to be published or is a mere notification of publication sufficient?		
Country	permit	notification

Jordan	Yes	
UAE	Yes	
Bahrain	Yes	
Tunis	Yes	
Algeria	Yes	
Saudi Arabia	Yes	
Syria	Yes	
Sudan	Yes	
Iraq	Yes	
Palestine	Yes	
Qatar	Yes	
Kuwait	Yes	
Lebanon	Yes	
Libya	Yes	
Egypt	Yes	
Morocco	Yes	
Mauritania		Yes
Yemen	Yes	
Total	17	1

17- What is the rate of government proprietorship of shares of newspapers in your country compared with the private sector?

- There is semi-total government proprietorship of the press establishments in three Arab countries: Syria, Libya and Egypt.
- Government proprietorship of the press establishments is limited and is shared by partners in 10 Arab countries: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Palestine, Morocco, and Yemen.
- Governments do not own any press establishment in Kuwait, Lebanon or Mauritania.
- In Qatar and Iraq, the principle of direct or indirect government proprietorship does not apply. In the case of Qatar, the press is connected with the ruling family and individuals belonging to the ruling family. In the case of Iraq, the press belongs to the political parties and military forces, whether they are participating in the government or not.

Table number 17				
What is the rate of government proprietorship of shares of newspapers in your country compared with the private sector?				
Country	Absolute ownership	Ownership of limited	Don't Owner	Not applicable
Jordan		2		
UAE		2		
Bahrain		2		
Tunis		2		
Algeria		2		
Saudi Arabia		2		
Syria	1			

Sudan		2		
Iraq				4
Palestine		2		
Qatar				4
Kuwait			3	
Lebanon			3	
Libya	1			
Egypt	1			
Morocco		2		
Mauritania			3	
Yemen		2		
Total	3	10	3	2

18- Do the laws in your country request that journalist attend, in person, all the sessions held by the courts?

Table number 18 shows that most Arab countries make it conditional for the journalist to attend in person all the sessions of the courts (a rate of 83.33 %). But the countries which did not make this attendance conditional were Algeria, Lebanon and Morocco (a rate of 16.67 %).

Table number 18	
Do the laws in your country request that journalist attend, in person, all the sessions held by the courts?	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes
Algeria	No
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Syria	Yes
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	No
Libya	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	No
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 15
	No: 3

19- Does the government in your country discriminate, whether positively or negatively, when placing advertisements in the newspapers?

Table number 21 shows that most governments of the Arab countries discriminate positively or negatively when placing advertisements in the newspapers at a rate of 77.78 %. The United Arab Emirates and Qatar were the two countries which did not discriminate when placing advertisements and their rate was 11.11 %. As for Libya and Syria, this question does not apply to them because they control the publication of advertisements through the monopoly of an official government establishment for the publication of advertisements in the two countries.

Table number 19	
Does the government in your country discriminate, whether positively or negatively, when placing advertisements in the newspapers?	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes
UAE	No
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes
Algeria	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Syria	Not applicable
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	No
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Libya	Not applicable
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 14
	No: 2

20- Does the government in your country curb access to international information and news?

Table number 20 shows that most Arab governments curb access to international news and information at a rate of 88.89 %. Qatar and Lebanon were the only two Arab countries which do not place restrictions to access to these information and news at a rate of 11.11 %.

Table number 20	
Does the government in your country curb access to international information and news?	
Country	Answer
Jordan	Yes

مركز عمان لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies

UAE	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Tunis	Yes
Algeria	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Syria	Yes
Sudan	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	No
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	No
Libya	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Yemen	Yes
Total	Yes: 16
	No: 2

III- Results of the questions relating to the indicators:

The journalists were requested to give a specific evaluation of each of the 10 indicators contained in the questionnaires in accordance with their own personal judgement. It was pointed out that the highest evaluation was 10 while the lowest evaluation was 1 and the results were as follows:

I- Table number 21 lists the indicators from the standpoint of the total number of degrees listed from top to bottom as follows:

- Indicator number 10 concerning the Internet and the level of government control of the indicator.
- Indicator number 8 concerning the right of people to receive information without any limits.
- Indicator number 9 concerning the free entry of the profession of journalism and refraining from placing any obstacles barring the easy entry of the journalists to the profession.
- Indicators number 5 and 6 were equal. The first involved lack of provision of legal and preferential care to the media owned by the state and the fact that the law did not guarantee the independence of its editorial line. The second involved blackmail, including slander, as an issue subject to civil law, with public officials enjoying no immunity. The party that sustained the damage should prove the wrongdoing and the damage.
- Indicator number 1 provides for the legal and social protection of the freedom of expression.
- Indicator number 3 on the free entry to the market and the fact that the taxation system of the press industry should be characterized with

neutrality and fairness, just like the conditions that apply to other industries.

- Indicator number 2 on the fair and competitive licensing of the newspapers. It stipulates that the licensing should not be subject to the standards of political discrimination.
- Indicator number 7 concerning the public news which should be easily available and the right of access to the guaranteed news on equal footing for all the media and for all journalists.
- Indicator number 4 concerning assaults carried out against journalists and the extent of coping with these assaults by applying deterrent penalties.

The following conclusions can be reached from listing these indicators in order:

A – The inability of the Arab governments to control the Internet compared with the newspapers and the traditional media despite their persistent efforts in this regard.

B- Government establishments have a poor record in providing information on the local level compared to the information available on the regional and international levels by the Internet media that is known for its professionalism, competitiveness, and the low cost.

C – Arab governments are still placing restrictions and obstacles in the way of media work in general and press work in particular. The freedoms of opinion, expression and publication is subject to several laws aimed at placing curbs on this freedom and keeping it within specific margins.

Table number 21		
No. of indicator	Indicator	weight
1.	Legal and social protection of the freedom of expression	94
2.	Licensing of newspapers is fair and competitive and is not subject to the criteria of political discrimination	88
3.	Access to the market and tax system of the press sector is fair and similar to the conditions governing the other sectors	91
4.	Assaults against journalists are replied to with deterrent penalties, but the occurrence of such assaults is rare.	83
5.	State-owned media does not enjoy legal preferential treatment and the law guarantees the independence of the editorial line	99
6.	Slander is an issue subject to civil law and public officials enjoy lesser protection. The party that sustains damage should prove the wrongdoing and the damage.	99
7.	Public news are easily available and the right of	84

	access to the news is guaranteed on equal footing for all the media and for all the journalists,	
8.	Citizens shall have the right to receive information irrespective of the borders	105
9.	Access to the profession of journalism is free and the government does not require licensing of the profession and does not place obstacles, nor does it give special rights to the journalists.	101
10.	The Internet and the level of the government control of the Internet	111
Total		955

II- Table number 24 shows the rank of the Arab countries from the perspective of the total ratios of the indicators. The listing of the Arab countries from top to bottom was as follows: Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Mauritania, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen. Syria, Saudi Arabia and Libya.

Table number 22	
Country	Total of rates
Jordan	60
UAE	87
Bahrain	69
Tunis	39
Algeria	57
Saudi Arabia	17
Syria	19
Sudan	51
Iraq	35
Palestine	34
Qatar	90
Kuwait	94
Lebanon	78
Libya	15
Egypt	48
Morocco	59
Mauritania	73
Yemen	30
Total	955

III-Table number 23 shows the degree of the available press freedom in each Arab country according to a five-point scale in the following manner:

- A- The rate of press freedom in Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates was very high compared to the other Arab countries.

- B- The rate of the press freedom in the next three Arab countries of Lebanon, Mauritania and Bahrain was high (16.67 %).
- C- The rate of the press freedom in the five Arab countries of Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan and Egypt was fair.
- D- The rate of the press freedom in the four Arab countries of Tunisia, Iraq, Palestine and Yemen was low on the scale of the press freedoms used in this report when compared with the other Arab countries.
- E- The rate of the press freedom in Saudi Arabia, Syria and Libya was very low compared with other Arab countries.

Table number 23				
the degree of press freedom in each Arab country				
Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Kuwait	Lebanon	Jordan	Tunis	Syria
Qatar	Mauritania	Morocco	Iraq	Saudi Arabia
UAE	Bahrain	Algeria	Palestine	Libya
	Sudan	Yemen		
		Egypt		

IV -Table number 24 highlights the results comparing the press freedom in the Arab countries according to the scale used in this report with the international scale used by "Reporters Without Borders" for 2008 as follows:

- 1- Kuwait occupied the first rank in the two scales.
- 2- Qatar occupied the third rank in the scale of the study [Report] while it occupied the fourth rank in the scale of Reporters Without Borders.
- 3- The United Arab Emirates occupied the third rank in the two scales.
- 4- Lebanon occupied the fourth rank in the scale of the study while it occupied the second rank in the scale of Reporters Without borders.
- 5- Mauritania occupied the fifth rank in the scale of the study and the fifth rank in the scale of Reporters Without Borders.
- 6- Bahrain occupied the sixth rank in the scale of the study and the fifth rank in the scale of Reporters without Borders.
- 7- Jordan occupied the seventh rank in the scale of the study and the ninth rank in the scale of Reporters Without Borders.
- 8- Morocco occupied the eighth rank in the two scales.
- 9- Algeria occupied the ninth rank in the scale of the study and the seventh rank in the scale of Reporters Without Borders.
- 10- Sudan occupied the tenth rank in the two scales.
- 11- Egypt occupied the eleventh rank in the scale of the study and the twelve rank in the scale of Reporters Without Borders.
- 12- Tunisia occupied the twelve rank in the scale of the study and the eleventh rank in the scale of Reporters Without Borders.
- 13- Iraq occupied the thirteenth rank in the scale of the study and the fifteenth rank in the scale of Reporters Without borders.
- 14- Palestine occupied the fourteenth rank in the scale of the study and the thirteenth rank in the scale of Reporters without Borders.

- 15- Yemen occupied the fifteenth rank in the scale of the study and the fourteenth rank in the scale of Reporters without Borders.
- 16- Syria occupied the sixteenth rank in the two scales.
- 17- Saudi Arabia occupied the seventeenth rank in the scale of the study and the eighteenth rank in the scale of Reporters without Borders.
- 18- Libya occupied the eighteenth rank in the scale of the study and the seventeenth rank in the scale of Reporters without Borders.

This means that the two scales are in full agreement on five topics in the evaluation of the rank of the press freedom. Moreover, the two scales are in semi-full agreement on the evaluation of the rank of the press freedom with a discrepancy in the names of the countries. This reveals that the answers given by the journalists in the questionnaires were to a large extent accurate. Perhaps if a larger number of questionnaires were distributed, the agreement between the two scales would be over 60 %.

Table Number 24	
Rank of Arab States according to "Reporters without Borders"	Rank of each Arab state according to the measurement used in the study
Kuwait	1
Lebanon	4
UAE	3
Qatar	2
Bahrain	6
Mauritania	5
Algeria	9
Morocco	8
Jordan	7
Sudan	10
Tunis	12
Egypt	11
Palestine	14
Yemen	15
Iraq	13
Syria	16
Libya	18
Saudi Arabia	17