



On the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists

2 November 2025

Journalism in Yemen: Silenced Truth and Absent Justice

On this day as the world celebrates freedom of expression and the right of journalists to work without fear, Yemeni journalists live a starkly different reality. Ten years of war has turned Yemen into one of the world's most dangerous environments for journalists, where the price of telling the truth has become abduction, imprisonment, or a bullet.

Media and human rights organizations have [documented](#) more than 3,000 violations against journalists and media workers — including **over 60 killings, hundreds of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances, death sentences, and forced displacement**. With every violation, the culture of impunity deepens, and victims' trust in the justice system erodes.

The report "[Fear Traps](#)", published by Justice4Yemen Pact (J4YP) Member, **Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC)**, revealed that **76 percent of Yemeni journalists have been subjected to electronic device searches**, while **more than half faced direct financial extortion** at checkpoints controlled by warring parties.

The findings show that merely carrying a press card is enough to make a journalist a target — despite the targeting of journalists violating both Yemen's Constitution and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR). A series of investigative reports entitled, [For the Truth](#), launched by J4YP Member **Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism** further revealed the **assassination of 12 journalists via** deliberate and premeditated methods of killing including explosions, poisoning, and direct gunfire, weaponized by the warring parties.

These cases are not isolated incidents but part of a **systematic policy to silence independent voices and suppress the public's right to truth**.

In its latest policy paper, "[The Interest of Justice for Yemeni Journalists](#)", **SEMC** reported that the war has resulted in **more than 2,629 violations** against journalists since 2015, and that **impunity has become a structural feature** of Yemen's justice system due to weak



judiciary institutions and outdated legislation.

The paper calls for the **integration of journalists' cases into transitional justice processes**,

affirming that Yemeni journalists today face not merely a crisis of freedom, but a **crisis of justice**.

Demands of the Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition

1. To the Warring Parties in Yemen:

- Immediately cease the targeting of journalists, and refrain from using media as a tool to further political or military conflict.
- Respect media freedom and freedom of expression, and increase protections for journalist safety during work and travel.
- Enable independent and impartial bodies to investigate assassinations and violations against journalists, and hold perpetrators accountable without exception.

2. To the International Community and Human Rights Institutions:

- Activate international accountability mechanisms to address crimes against journalists in Yemen.
- Support independent investigations, and fund protection, rehabilitation, and mental health programs for journalist-victims of violations.
- Exert pressure on all parties to end attacks on media workers and to ensure a safe and free working environment.

3. To Journalists and Media Professionals:

- We salute your resilience in the face of danger, censorship, and fear. You are the witnesses of truth and the voice of justice yet to come.
- Continue documenting reality — your voice remains the last guarantee that truth will stay alive.

Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition – November 2, 2025

- Yemeni coalition for the Monitoring of Human Rights Violations
- Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children
- Studies and Economic Media Center
- Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism



- Abductees' Mothers Association
- Watch4Human Rights Organization
- SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties
- Musaala Organization
- Al-Amal Women Sociocultural Foundation
- Marib Dam Foundation

