



## **Annual Report**

# **Media freedoms violations in Palestine**

**2013**

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### **MADA: 229 media freedoms violations recorded in Palestine 2013**

### **151 media freedoms violations committed by Israeli Occupation and 78 by Palestinian parties**

### **The Israeli Occupation attacks on journalists in the West Bank Increased in 2013**

### **Significant and Gradual improvement of freedom of press in the West Bank and a decline in Gaza**

#### **Introduction:**

It has become difficult to generalize when discussing media freedoms status in Palestine under the current circumstances, due to the different methods of repressing journalists being committed by the various dominant authorities in Palestine. There is the dramatic and violent Israeli occupation attacks on Palestinian Journalists, which is quite different from Palestinian parties' methods for targeting journalists, and the evolution of the media freedoms status happening since 2008 in the West Bank is different from what is happening in Gaza, so the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms "MADA" prepared this year's report with two divisions: the first discusses violations of the Israeli occupation , while the second discusses violations in the West Bank and Gaza.

The total violations of media freedoms in Palestine during 2013 monitored by MADA were 229 violations, the Israeli occupation committed 151 violations, the equivalent of 66%, and various Palestinian parties in the West Bank and Gaza committed 78 violations, which is equivalent to 34%. While all Israeli occupation violations were committed in the West Bank only, the Palestinian violations were concentrated in Gaza by 50 violations, and violations reported in the West Bank were 28.

When comparing the total number of violations in 2013 with the previous year, you will find it relatively better, where violations fell from 238 to 229, and in terms of the nature of the violations, where no case reported of a journalist killed in Palestine, unlike in 2012 the Israeli occupation forces killed three journalists during its aggression on Gaza. Yet MADA has monitored disturbing trends and patterns of violations this year, such as the heavy targeting of journalists in the West Bank by the Israeli occupation, where they were exposed to the greatest number of violations since 2008, especially in the province of Ramallah and Jerusalem, in addition to the security services in Gaza campaigns against journalists which tightened a rope around the voices of freedom of opinion and expression of journalists and media outlets.

**The violations monitored in 2013 compared to the previous years:**

Year	Israeli Violations	Palestinian Violations	Total
2008	147	110	257
2009	97	76	173
2010	139	79	218
2011	100	106	206
2012	164	74	238
2013	151	78	229
Total	798	523	1221

In MADA's annual report you will find the various details of the numbers and types of violations monitored and reported, and journalists who have been exposed to violations testimonies, as well as an analyst of the reality of media freedoms in Palestine.

Palestinian journalists have suffered a lot of continuous attacks in 2013, especially by the Israeli occupation forces which committed (151) violations, while the number of Palestinian violations committed were (78) with (50) in Gaza and the rest in the West Bank. These violations embodied

in eleven types: physical assault, detention, arrest, prevention from coverage, travel bans, interrogation, threat, raiding, closing and blocking, trial, and confiscation of equipment.

Last year was distinguished by the absence of Israeli occupation violations committed against journalists in Gaza, because there was no attacks on the strip by Israel, which is usually associated with extensive and serious attacks on journalists and the headquarters of the local, Arab, and international media outlets, like what happened in late 2008 and early 2009 where Israel killed four journalists and attacked many of the media headquarters, which was also repeated in November of 2012 where the occupation forces killed three journalists.

Despite the fact that the Israeli violations in the past year decreased compared to the previous year (down from 164 to 151), the Israeli violations still constitute the largest number of total violations and the most dangerous on journalists' lives, the majority were physical attacks on journalists, the most dangerous was the injury of journalist Mohamed Alqadi, who was shot by Israeli forces. In addition, Israel commits a number that cannot be confined of violations when restricting the movement of journalists and their ability to cover the news.

On the other hand the number of Palestinian violations over the past year has slightly increased (78 violations, compared with 74 in 2012), concentrated in Gaza, (50 violations), note that the number of Palestinian violations monitored in the West Bank over the past year declined (28 violations) compared to what was monitored during 2012, which amounted to 37 violations.

The Palestinian internal division is still a main cause of the continuing Palestinian violations against media freedoms, and the events of Egypt on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and beginning of July negatively impacted the development of media freedoms in Palestine as well, because of the difference of the Palestinian National Authority opinion and stand on the events in Egypt comparing to the Hamas position.

In 2013, MADA continued its work and efforts to defend and promote media freedoms, and towards the development of media, through four programs carried out by the Centre: monitoring program, Legal Aid program, support and advocacy program, and media development program.

MADA issued dozens of press releases and monthly reports on media freedoms violations in Palestine in addition to the annual, Simi annual report, and a special report about the internet and freedom of expression in Palestine. MADA defended journalists who have been subjected to attacks and violations while exercising their profession and for expressing their opinions, and provided journalists with free legal consultation.

MADA has also launched local campaigns promoting freedom of expression, the right to access to information, and against impunity of aggressors on freedom of opinion and expression, in addition MADA demanded the international society to pressure the Israeli occupation, to stop its dangerous and life threatening violations of Palestinian journalists rights, where many journalists were shot and injured by bullets, stun grenades, and tear gas.

MADA believes that its work and that of the other civil society organizations promoting the right to freedom of opinion and expression in Palestine, has helped significantly in the decline of violations, and in the evolution of the status of freedom of expression, especially in the West Bank, which became obvious in how official bodies and officials, specially the security forces, improved its manners in dealing with journalists. It also shows in international reporting, as disclosed by " Reporters Without Borders " in their press freedom index for 2013, where occupied Palestine ranked 138 in the world, and registered an improvement of eight points from 2012, but Palestine is still in a low rank category, and does not meet the aspirations of the Palestinian community to enjoy the freedom to express themselves, their hopes, and aspirations.

### **The legal environment:**

In the framework of its activities regarding the Palestinian laws that are related to the media work and freedoms in Palestine, MADA continued the efforts in order to promote the importance of the right of access to information law, and launched awareness campaigns supported by its partners (Open Society Foundations, International Network for defending and promoting Free Expression, and Foundation for Future) to highlight the importance of this law to the various segments of Palestinian society, especially journalists, MADA utilized many means such as Billboards, radio spots, and focused on advertisements via social media platforms such as facebook.

MADA also held a wide range of meetings with government officials, including former Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad, the current Prime Minister Dr. Rami Alhamdallah, and the General Director of the Palestinian Legislative Council, who was handed a copy of the draft law, as well as a series of meetings held with civil society institutions in order to demonstrate the importance of the law, and to gain their support to the law and to join the efforts to promote the law through their own programs and activities .

The most prominent evolution regarding the Access to Information law in 2013, was when the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Commission formed a national committee to discuss the draft law, which included the representatives from the Anti-Corruption Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information, Office of the Fatwa and Legislation, Ministry of Justice, the Independent Commission for human Rights, the Palestinian Center for Development and media Freedoms (MADA), and the civil Commission to strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Istiqlal).

The committee was formed in order to produce a new draft law that was based on MADA's draft. The new draft was published in February 2014 on the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and the Anti-Corruption Commission web pages for public discussion and reception of notes, in order to enhance the draft law. In this context, MADA hopes that the

enactment of the right to access information law will happen soon and quickly, so that Palestine can join the 100 countries who adopted R2I law, including three Arab countries Jordan, Yemen, and Tunisia.

The presence of a healthy legal environment would be a definite elevating step towards the development of the Palestinian media and the promotion of freedom of expression. A study prepared by MADA on “legal regulation of media freedom in Palestine” concluded that the legal regulation of the Palestinian media had Legislative deficiencies (non-inclusive), with a lack of harmony between the various legislation, and even sometimes between per provisions of a legislation, with no correct order or distribution of provisions in a legislation, in addition to some mystery and gaps.

In addition, the Higher Media Council draft law, and the audio-visual draft law, did not undergo any positive development for the benefit of media freedom, where the frequent amendment of its provisions contributed to the loss of much of the basic principles of legislative drafting, creating contradictory and lack of harmony between the provisions. And even if the official efforts are heading towards approving these laws all at once. The adoption of modified drafts will not change anything from the reality of Press and Publications Law that is defected.

The study recommended the need to produce and adopt a media basic law, which is included in MADA’s 2014 annual work plan, where MADA will work on the formation of a national committee comprising representatives of the media, civil society institutions, government institutions, the Legislative Council, and media academics and experts, in order to reach a wider participation in the formulation of the draft, which must take into account the tremendous advances that have occurred in the media and information technology sector and the emergence of social media and to be in line with the international standards.

Last year MADA issued a study on “the editorial policies in Palestinian newspapers and their impact on freedom of opinion and expression”, the study is the first of its kind in Palestine, and aims to help those interested and the audience to learn the media policies that represent the identity of

the newspaper and the titles by which the reader and the general public judge its content and tendency, especially under the current changes and conflicts.

The study concluded many results the most prominent was that the editorial policy of the newspaper are subject to various influences, including the editor personality , the distinctive character of the newspaper, the needs of readers, the financing of the newspaper, social pressures, press laws, national loyalty, and the newspaper's periodic, which are influences and elements that paint a whole picture of what the policy that has governed this or that newspaper, The study recommended the need for media outlets to identify their mission, vision, goals, and identity and announce it to the public, and the development and declaration of standards and foundations of editorial policies.

MADA conducted a series of training workshops for journalists and media students at Palestinian universities, in order to increase their awareness about the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the domestic and international laws that protect this right, and the laws governing the media in Palestine.

### **Part One: Israeli Occupation Violations:**

#### **2013 was the year with the most media freedoms violation in the West Bank since 2008 by occupation**

Israeli occupation forces violations in 2013 seemed completely different from those monitored during 2012, a year that witnessed fierce aggression on Gaza. the Israeli occupation forces escalated its attacks on journalists in the West Bank dramatically during the year 2013, making this year the highest in terms of the number of violations in Palestine since 2008, where the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms "MADA" monitored a total of 151 Israeli violation of media freedoms distributed among the cities of the West Bank only, and no Israeli violations monitored in Gaza.

In general 2013 can be described as very difficult for journalists in the West Bank, where the number of violations on their rights increased from 101 violations in 2012 to 151 in 2013. The main reason for this is the high number of popular resistance events in a number of West Bank cities and villages, where the Israeli occupation forces suppressed and attacked journalists during their attempts to cover these events, especially when the Israeli soldiers attack the peaceful demonstrators. MADA monitored about 60% of the occupation violations in Ramallah (50 violations) and Jerusalem (41 violations).

### **Israeli violations by region**

Journalists were attacked by Israeli Occupation forces in nine Palestinian provinces: Ramallah and Al Bireh (50), Jerusalem (41), Hebron (20), Nablus (23), Bethlehem (8), Jenin (2), Tulkarem (1), Salfit (1) and Jericho (5). The distribution of violations was uneven from region to region and concentrated in four areas: Ramallah, Jerusalem, Hebron, and Nablus.

### **First: Ramallah and Al Bireh province:**

Ramallah and Al Bireh province are often at the forefront of the list of West Bank areas most vulnerable to violations, because of the large number of the Popular Resistance peaceful marches events organized and implemented in its cities and villages every week. This is in addition to the incursion of Israeli forces on regular basis into Ramallah and Al Bireh to arrest citizens. In 2013, MADA monitored over 50 Israeli violations against journalists in different parts of the province, twice the violations monitored during 2012 and the most since 2008.

### **Israeli Occupation forces violations in Ramallah province from 2008-2013**

<b>Year</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Number</b>	32	11	28	23	25	50

In Ramallah province, many journalists suffer from Occupation attacks with Gas and sound grenades, rubber bullets, and metal bullets covered with rubber, while being targeted to prevent them from covering the events and peaceful demonstrations, and sometimes they get beaten or detained until the end of the event. According to testimonies made by journalists to MADA, in most cases the Israeli soldiers deliberately targeted and injured journalists.

***“Ramallah is the center of events in the West Bank, such as protests and demonstrations, and so journalists are exposed to more violations than any other cities. In 2013, the occupation forces stepped up their attacks, because they have never been held accountable and no one ever stopped them, so they continue this approach on a larger and wider scale”. Journalist Ahmad Brahma***

## **Second: Jerusalem**

2013 was one of the worst years for journalists in the city of Jerusalem as well, where they were repressed by the occupation forces during their coverage of the many events that took place mostly in the Aqsa Mosque, especially after the end of Friday prayers, to protest against the Israeli occupation policies and procedures related to Judaizing Jerusalem, and the demolition of Palestinians houses. The number of violations monitored in Jerusalem during 2013 increased by 16 violations compared to those monitored during 2012, to be the worst year for journalists in Jerusalem since 2008.

In addition to the beatings, arrests, and detentions, the journalists in Jerusalem are also sprayed by blue water and wastewater, which is destroys their cameras.

It should be noted that the number of violations in Jerusalem occurred in 8 months during 2013, MADA did not monitor any violations in Jerusalem during the months of February, July, August, and October.

***"Whenever there were attempts to Judaize Jerusalem journalists were intensively and directly targeted to prevent them from covering the Israeli violations on the people of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque in particular. The attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque escalated because of the approaching occupation plans to divide Al-Aqsa Mosque, and therefore journalists were in the circle of targeting." photographer Awad Awad***

### **Violations of the occupation forces in Jerusalem from 2008-2013**

<b>Year</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Number</b>	16	31	31	30	26	40

### **Third: Nablus province**

The pace of Israeli violations against journalists in Nablus province began ascending and rising since 2008 and up to 2013, reaching 23 violations, what constitutes a rise of 8 violations from 2012, which might be due to the extension of the popular resistance to Nablus, especially in the village of Kafr Kadoum, where Israeli soldiers is targeting and severely beating journalists, and hitting them with tear and gas grenades and rubber bullets during their coverage of the peaceful popular movements that are conducted weekly.

MADA have noted over the past year the direct targeting of journalists who covering these weekly protests in Kafr Kadoum by the Israeli army, of course, this in addition to other violations against journalists at the Hawara checkpoint and in some other areas. MADA also noted from journalists' testimonies an increase in the level of violence used by the soldiers trying to suppress and keep all journalists from coverage.

***"The Israeli soldiers do not want us to cover their methods of oppressing the demonstrators in the city of Nablus, by targeting us***

***directly. They destroyed two of my cameras in 2013 that cost me 5600 US dollars. And as a freelance photojournalist, I paid for them from my own finances". photographer Nidal Ishtayeh***

Given the following table, which shows the continuing rise in violations of the occupation forces against journalists in Nablus, you will notice that in 2013 23 violations were monitored, which is more than three times what the occupation committed in 2008, as well as three times what was committed in 2009, and more than what was committed in 2010 and 2011 combined.

#### **Violations of the occupation forces in Nablus province from 2008-2013**

<b>Year</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Number of Violations</b>	7	8	10	12	15	23

#### **Fourth: Hebron province**

Hebron has witnessed since the beginning of 2013, events and heated confrontations that erupted between Israeli forces and Palestinians. Palestinian journalists were part of the victims of the occupation forces use of excessive violence, and intimidation to prevent them from covering the violations against Palestinian citizens. In spite of the rising of occupation forces violations against journalists from 17 violations in 2012 to 20 violations in 2013, 2013 compared to previous years was not the worst, where MADA monitored, for example, in 2010, 45 violations .

***"demonstrators in the town of Beit Ummar reach up to an area near the Israeli settlement of Krmesa Tzur, where Israeli soldiers suppress them with violence, and I think that this is the cause of high violations against journalists during the demonstrations, they do not want us to cover these attacks. The occupation believes that if they attacked us on Saturday, we won't cover the march the next week, instead we go***

***with greater Insistence". Hazem Bader***

Hebron has always been the scene for occupation violations due to the presence of Israeli settlers in the heart of the city, which puts the city's residents in semi-permanent confrontations with settlers, which always ends with the intervention of the occupation forces and the suppression of the Palestinians.

The Occupation forces committed most of the violations in Hebron during the first quarter of the 2013; some of them were very violent. Mamoun Wazwaz reported when he and a group of his colleagues were attacked while covering clashes in the old city of Hebron on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013: ***“the situation was very scary, we were beaten, hit with gas grenades, and verbally abused, and the weapons were over our heads. I've remembered my children at that moment, and I thought I would never see them again”***.

### **Violations of the occupation forces in Hebron from 2008-2013**

<b>Year</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Number of violations</b>	28	11	45	21	17	20

### **Types of Occupation violations:**

The Israeli occupation forces still uses the same methods to silence Palestinian journalists and prevent them from covering events in the West Bank, MADA did not notice any positive variance in the occupation treatment of journalists who are exercising their professional duties and covering events, which indicates the existence of a policy and clear instructions for the soldiers to suppress journalists. As mentioned above, MADA monitored seven forms of violations committed by the occupation against the journalists in 2013: physical assault (87), detention (30), arrest

(13), prevention from coverage (15), travel bans (1), interrogation (1), and trial (4).

**Violations committed by the occupation against journalists by type**

Type of violation	physical assault	Arrest	Detention	Prevention from coverage	Travel bans	Interrogation	Trial	Total
Number	87	13	30	15	1	1	4	151

It is clear that violent physical assaults were the major type of violations committed by the Occupation, and were constantly repeated, which calls for more details on it in this report.

**First: physical assault:**

As shown in the table above, the physical assault constitutes 58% of the total violations of the Israeli occupation, and it seems to be the occupation’s favored type of violation, because it achieves several of their objectives, including disabling the press from covering events, and possibly paralyze its ability to cover other events if the injury was severe, another goal and perhaps the most important is to intimidate journalists who are victims of these attacks and the intimidation their colleagues as well, and draining their desire to cover clashes or peaceful demonstrations.

In 2013, MADA monitored serious injuries in the ranks of journalists caused by physical assault by Israeli occupation forces, some were dangerous and caused some sever injuries among journalists, such as Palestine News Network photographer Mohammed Walid Alazza who was shot by rubber-coated metal bullet beneath his eye, and the injury of photojournalist Jihad Alqadi by a bullet that entered his abdomen and exited from his back, causing him sever injuries in the colon and spleen, and the minor wound of his liver, as well as bruises in the lower breastbone. The occupation forces also injured WATAN TV cameraman Amjad Shuman with a rubber bullet in

his head, and other serious injuries monitored are mentioned in details of the violations of this report.

Last year was not exceptional in this regard, where physical assaults topped the various types of violations most frequently committed by the Israeli occupation against journalists during the past years, as shown in the table below, the occupation forces committed a total of 368 physically assaults since 2008:

<b>Year</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
<b>Number of violations</b>	23	34	89	55	80	87	368

***"So far I had undergone 13 operations after I was shot by the occupation forces bullet, which entered from my stomach and exploded in my back. Since the date of 01.03.2013 up to 01.01.2014, and I cannot work, as I have not recovered yet". Journalist JihadAlqadi***

### **Second: detention**

In 2013, the Israeli occupation forces detained 30 journalists in the West Bank, what makes this type of violation rank second in terms of continuation after physical assaults. Israeli occupation forces intensified its exercise of this kind of violation, compared to 2012, where they detained 14 journalists, and also compared with the previous five years, the occupation forces detained the largest number of journalists in 2013.

The occupying forces are using detention as a means to prevent journalists from covering the events, where they are released often directly after the end of the event, detention of journalists is sometimes committed in order to review media material, and in this case they are released immediately after they erase these material or after making sure the footage does not

reveal the violent practices of the army that may hurt their image in front of international public opinion. It was noted in this regard that the period of detention of some journalists was long, and often up to more than 6 hours after the end of the event, where Israeli soldiers used this technique in order to punish journalists who show up to cover events.

The occupation forces detained journalists in several ways and in different circumstances, either they are held in the open under the hot sun or in the cold, or in military vehicles, and sometimes they are taken to interrogation centers, and there they often compel journalists to sign a paper (pledge) not to come back to the same area, or the signing of a deportation decision for a certain period for a specific area, which often happens to journalists covering the events constantly repeated in Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

***“During my coverage of the clashes in Al-Aqsa mosque, I was attacked and sprayed with pepper gas in my eye by Israeli police, and I lost sight for about two hours. It did not stop there, instead I received a call from the police station after a week and was interrogated for about three hours and then I was banned from entering Al-Aqsa for two weeks”. photographer Atta Iweissat***

It is clear in the following table a noticeable increase of cases where the Occupation army detained journalists while exercising their professional duties, where the numbers of detentions monitored in 2013 were twice the number monitored in 2012.

**Table shows the detention operations monitored by MADA over the past years**

<b>Year</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
<b>Detention cases</b>	16	16	19	18	14	30	113

### **Third: Prevention from coverage**

In 2013, MADA monitored 15 cases where the Israeli army prevented journalists from covering different events in the West Bank. the majority of incidents where prevention of groups of journalists at once, meaning that the occupation forces prevented all journalists present at event from coverage, under the alleged excuse of the so-called "security concerns", where they request journalists after they arrive at the event venue to go get prior authorization for filming without showing any formal written orders.

***“During our coverage of the evacuation of Alnawateer village, Israeli soldiers prevented journalists from coverage, we were about about 20 journalists, and they kept us in a low area, and treated us harshly and did not allow us to film”. Cameraman Iyad Hamad***

Like other Israeli violations against journalists in the West Bank, these cases have increased in 2013 compared to the past five years, reaching three times as reported during 2012, five times as reported in 2011, and five times as reported in 2010 too.

**Table shows preventing from coverage cases monitored by MADA during the past years**

<b>Year</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
<b>Number</b>	11	10	3	3	5	15	47

### **Fourth: Arresting journalists**

The Israeli occupation forces continues to arrest Palestinian journalists and exposing them to interrogation, and they continued the policy of long term

administrative detention without charges or the ability to defend themselves.

***“The administrative detention had a great impact on my psyche and my ability to communicate with the community and my family. I was arrested for two years without charges, no fair trial, and not allowed to hire a lawyer to defend me”. journalist Amer Abu Arafa***

Israeli forces have carried out a total of 13 arrests against journalists in 2013, two of whom are still in administrative detention: Walid Khalid and Mohammed Mona.

The majority of arrests were carried out during a raid on the homes of journalists by the occupation forces, the operations are usually done during the night or in the early morning hours, with the exception of the arrest of cartoonist Muhammad Saba'neh, and the correspondent of Al-Quds newspaper Mahmoud Abu Khudair, who were arrested as while returning from travel, in addition to Abdul-Ghani Al-Natsheh and Tariq Abu Zaid who were arrested while exercising their professional duties. For example, Abu Khudair reported after a month long in prison: **“When the Israeli judge my file she was stunned, and considered it strange because it contains (1111) pages they were all media and press materials, and gave prosecutors a week to justify what is the file otherwise I would be allowed to submit a formal complaint against them, but they could not prove anything and I was released on 06.12.2013”**.

There has been no change in the number of arrests of journalists reported during the last year compared to 2012, where MADA also monitored 13 arrests cases.

**Table shows what was carried out by the occupation of arresting Palestinian journalists' cases over the past years**

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	total
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<b>Arrest cases</b>	51	7	18	12	13	13	114
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### **Conclusion and Recommendations:**

The Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA) expresses its grave concern at the unprecedented escalation of the Israeli occupation forces violations against journalists in the West Bank, and MADA believes one of the main reasons that the increase in international popular support given to Palestinian people during the last year, was the efforts of the media in showing the world the true suffering of the Palestinian people and exposing the daily practices of the occupation against them. Therefore, the Israeli occupation over the past year tried to block and hide the truth from the world, by increasing its suppression of journalists and the media in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent the media from exposing the reality of what is happening on the ground.

MADA asserts that the Israeli occupation impunity from what they committed of crimes against the media freedoms in Palestine has contributed and contributes mainly to the escalation of their attacks, and encouraged and encourages them to commit more, where Israel continues to behave like a state above international law, and MADA is demanding the official international bodies to do the following:

1. Force the Israeli occupation authorities to abide by international conventions which guarantee the right to freedom of expression, in particular Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. Exercise strong pressure on the Israeli authorities to stop the attacks on freedom of the press and expression, and to end the aggressors' immunity.
3. Stop the arrest of journalists, and to exercise the necessary pressure for the immediate release of the journalists under administrative detention in Israeli jails

4. Pressure the Israeli authorities to allow Palestinian journalists freedom of movement between the provinces and the various Palestinian cities in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and Gaza strip.

## **Part Two: Palestinian Violations:**

### **Significant and Gradual improvement of freedom of expression in the West Bank and a decline in Gaza**

In 2013, various Palestinian parties committed a total of 78 violations against the right of journalists and media outlets in Palestine. 63% of the total of violations were concentrated in Gaza (50 violations), and 37% of them in the West Bank (28 violations), and so the violations monitored over the past year were more by four violations of the total monitored by MADA during the year 2012 (74 violations).

Media freedoms violations has been influenced negatively over the past year, by the repercussions of the events in Egypt, especially in Gaza, where the journalists were arrested, interrogated, and threatened simply for expressing their opinions about what is happening in Egypt in general, and in particular about the events relating the isolation of the former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, which caused a deterioration in the status of media freedoms in the Gaza. In the West Bank there is still a gradual improvement of media freedoms, but the internal Palestinian division remains one of the main reasons that lead to the continuation of human rights violations in Palestine.

### **Violations by Month:**

The beginning of 2013 was not promising for journalists, and January was full of violations (15 violations), all of which occurred in Gaza. These violations included the arrest of 12 journalists and the interrogation of two others, in addition to attacking one journalist. All cases of arrest and

interrogation were because of journalists' work in media outlets with ties to Fatah.

The month of September was also bad for journalists, where MADA monitored 14 Palestinian violations, and the reason for that was "Tamarod movement" meaning the rebellion movement that was established by Palestinian group, and inciting the public to rebel against the rule of Hamas in Gaza. In August 11 violations were monitored, most of the violations were committed because of the events in Egypt at that time, and the different positions of Hamas and Fatah movements regarding the situation in Egypt. In the West Bank violations were committed by the Palestinian security services preventing journalists from covering two protest organized by Hamas in solidarity with the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt, and in Gaza violations were committed by Hamas internal security services, with numerous violations on the right of journalists who expressed their views on what is happening in Egypt.

***I think that media freedoms in Palestine are in a continuous progress, slow but noticeable. Despite all the drawbacks that have occurred and may occur that encroach the work of journalists here and there, civic movement and the local media keeps these freedoms in constant evolution, which is what we all seek. Freedom of expression is one of the most important rights fought by journalists and activists over the twenty years under the Palestinian Authority, and will not be waived under any circumstances, even if the situation in Gaza are much worse than it is in the West Bank". Journalist Ihab Jariri***

During the last year all the months included Palestinian violations, where MADA monitored one Palestinian violation during October, two violations during June, and three violations in each February, March, April, and December.

**Table shows Palestinian violations during the months of 2013**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	15	3	3	3	9	2	6	11	14	1	8	3

### **Violations by area:**

Palestinian violations were concentrated in four major cities: Gaza (35 violations), Ramallah (11 violations), Khan Younis (11 violations) and Hebron (6 violations). Because media and journalists are concentrated in the cities of Gaza and Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip, while in the West Bank, Ramallah city is packed with popular opposition protesting some policies of the Palestinian National Authority, and the city of Hebron is considered one of the most cities with popular support for Hamas. The rest of the cities witnessed a relatively less number of violations: Bethlehem (5), Deir al-Balah (3), Salfit (3), Nablus (2), and one violation in each of Tulkarem and Rafah.

### **Table shows the distribution of Palestinian violations by place of occurrence**

City	Gaza	Ramallah	Khan Younis	Hebron	Bethlehem	Deir al-Balah	Salfit	Nablus	Tulkarem	Rafah
Number	35	11	11	6	5	3	3	2	1	1

### **Gaza strip:**

Since 2008, the number of violations against journalists and media outlets in Gaza swings between rise and fall, which reflects the impact of internal and external factors on the status of media freedoms in the sector. The Palestinian reconciliation and the events of the Arab Spring were the most prominent influencing factors.

In 2013, MADA monitored 50 Palestinian violations of 50 in the Gaza Strip, an increase of 13 violations from 2012. According to testimonies by journalists, the political events in Egypt, and the establishment of the "rebellion movement" were the shaping factors for this increase.

***“There is no freedom of the press in the Gaza Strip due to the fear of arrest and interrogations. Nor can a journalist express his views in writing, especially concerning politics and corruption, and if the journalist dared to do so, he is subjected to prosecution, detention, and interrogation”. journalist Saher Alaqra***

MADA noted, through the analysis of the number and nature of the violations that are committed in the Gaza Strip, a lack of real intentions and willingness of those concerned to improve media freedoms and opening the opportunity for journalists to express their views freely.

**Table shows the fluctuation in the number of violations that have been monitored in the Gaza Strip over the past years**

<b>Year</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Number of Violations</b>	44	27	33	62	37	50

### **The West Bank:**

The number of violations against media freedoms in the West Bank has declined over the past year, where MADA monitored 28 violations, which is a drop of 9 violations from what was monitored in 2012. Despite this decline, MADA has monitored serious violations in 2013, where they continue the imprisonment and remand of journalists and interrogating them because of their views and their journalistic work, which contrasts

with the continues decline in the number of violations monitored in the West Bank

***“As a journalist working in the West Bank, I do not ask for a reduction of violations, but I ask for an essential solution that can lead to ending these violations. this requires a clear political decision and modern and improved laws to protect journalists. The violations committed against journalists over the past years have led to the existence of self-censorship among journalists, and therefore it is natural to see a decline in violations”. Journalist Samer Khuwyr***

Media freedoms status in the West Bank continued to improve since 2008, during which MADA had monitored a total of 66 violations, and last year MADA monitored less than half this number (28 violations).

**Table shows number of violations in the West Bank over the past years and the decline**

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number	66	49	46	44	37	28

**Types of violations:**

Palestinian violations epitomized of 9 forms: arrest (22), detention (11), prevention from coverage (6), threat (5), physical assault (4), closing and blocking (2), raiding (1), interrogation (24) and confiscation of equipment (3).

**Table shows Palestinian violations committed in 2013 according to the type of violation**

Type of Violation	Interrogation	Arrest	Detention	Prevention from coverage	threatening	Physical assault	Confiscation of equipment	Closing and blocking	Raid
Number	24	22	11	6	5	4	3	2	1

## **First: Interrogation**

There was an increase in interrogation cases of Palestinian journalists in 2013, and amounted to about double what was monitored in the previous year, where MADA monitored 24 cases in 2013 compared to 13 cases in 2012. 78% of interrogation cases were in Gaza (19 cases out of 24 cases), and the remainder (5 cases) targeted journalists in the West Bank.

Most of the times the journalist was interrogated for a long period of time not less than 4 hours, where the journalist had to wait a while before the interrogation started, and at other times the security agencies would have the journalist wait for a long time, and at the end did not interrogate him and was ordered to come back another day.

***“the government in Gaza has made every journalist a self observer, because when the Journalist writes something that does not gain the approval of officials, the government interrogates him, and is often treated in a very bad manner, and there are many examples of that”.***  
***Salem Hamad***

The aim of the interrogations of journalists is either to intimidate and make them understand that they are under the control of the security services, to get information about the media outlets they work for, or to achieve all three goals mentioned above. In few cases at the end of the interrogation a quick message is given to the journalist summarizing the reason for the interrogation (example: beware, do not criticize this and that) and then they are released.

Most of the interrogations that took place in the Gaza Strip were focused on the financing of the media outlets that the journalist works for, their relationships with the “Tamaroud” movement, and the motives behind the criticism of Hamas. In the West Bank interrogation of journalists was

because of their criticizing of senior officials in the Palestinian National Authority.

**Second: Arrest**

Security forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip arrested 22 journalists during 2013, where 14 arrest cases were monitored in the Gaza Strip and 8 in the West Bank. These figures represent a significant increase in the number of arrests of journalists in comparison to reports during the past three years, and this is a serious indication of a deterioration of media freedoms and a lack of respect for freedom of expression, where journalists were arrested for exercising their professional duties, which is unacceptable and is a serious violation of freedom of expression. This the phenomenon does not exist in a lot of countries around the world that respect freedom of expression, for a journalist who expressed his opinions regarding matter that serve his community cannot be treated equal as those who commit crimes.

**Table shows the number of arrests carried out by Palestinian parties in the West Bank and Gaza over the past years**

<b>Year</b>	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Arrest cases</b>	14	5	12	22

Most of the arrests in the Gaza Strip were carried out in the first month of 2013, where Hamas internal security services launched a strong campaign against journalists and writers, and most journalists arrested spent between a night and three nights in detention and interrogation. The cases in the West Bank were committed over the months in 2013.

***“There are no standards for what’s allowed and what’s forbidden to write about in Gaza. Sometimes a journalist gets arrested or interrogated for writing something not about the government and***

***politics, and in most cases they treat the journalists with unlawful manners. Also some officials personify their handling of journalists' cases, especially with regard to giving information". Journalist Samia al-Zubaidi***

### **Third: detention**

The security forces detain Palestinian journalists in general, when they cover the protests related to some aspects of a domestic or foreign policy, security forces have detained journalists in eleven incidents, six of which occurred in the Gaza Strip and five in the West Bank. Journalists are often detained until the end of a protest, in order to prevent them from coverage, or in order to examine the media material filmed by the journalists.

***"The security services in the West Bank prevent journalists from covering protests in order to hide the truth of their violations against Palestinian demonstrators. For example, when we were prevented at the end of the year from covering the protest in Hebron, it was very clear that they do not want us to cover their method of suppressing protestors". Journalist Akram Alnatsheh***

The detention of the journalists is not a new practice by the Palestinian security services; it was and still is used to prevent journalists from covering opposition protests, especially if they intend to suppress those protests. In spite of the gradual decline in the use of this method in the past between 2009-2011, statistics from the past two years were not promising, where the security services, for example, detained 9 journalists in 2012, 6 in 2011, and 17 journalists in 2010, and 21 journalists in 2009.

**Table shows number of detention cases of journalists by Palestinian security services during the past five years**

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
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<b>Detention cases</b>	21	17	6	9	11
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**Other violations:**

MADA has also monitored other types of violations; the numbers are less compared to the types of violations mentioned above. MADA monitored 6 cases of preventing coverage (4 in the West Bank and 2 in Gaza), 5 cases of threat (3 in the West and 2 in Gaza), 4 cases of physical assault (2 in the West, and 2 in Gaza), 3 cases of confiscation of equipment all of which took place in the Gaza Strip, 2 cases of blocking web sites (1 in the West and 1 in Gaza), and 1 case of raiding a media outlet occurred in the Gaza Strip.

**Recommendations:**

The Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA) in accordance to the foregoing case on media freedoms, and its tireless efforts to protect these freedoms and contribute to the development of media, stresses the need and importance to respect freedom of expression guaranteed in the Palestinian Basic Law, and to hold those responsible for the violations accountable, and MADA calls the Official Palestinian parties to do the following:

- 1) Work to stop all forms of attacks on journalists and enable them to work freely and safely.
- 2) Allow for newspapers issued in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to be distributed in both parts of the country.
- 3) The enactment of the right of access to information law.
- 4) Stop censorship on social media.

## Details of violations:

### January

(1/12) On Saturday 01/12/2013, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) denied Palestinian News Network (PNN) crew, including Editor-in-chief *Monjid Jado* and cameraman *Joseph Saqer*, access to the village of *Bab Alshams* “Gate of the Sun”, near the city of Jerusalem. *Jado* reported that upon their arrival at *Alzaeem* checkpoint the Israeli Occupation soldiers, despite the press slogans and signs on the car, stopped the car in which they were traveling. The soldiers then asked the journalists for their identification cards and press ID, and then pointed out that the Palestinian press cards are not recognized. The occupation soldiers ordered the journalists to leave the site under threat. In addition, other press crews were prevented from entering the site such as *Al Etejah*, Saudi Arabia and Iraqi channels.

(1/13) The Israeli Occupation Forces assaulted journalists present at *Bab Alshams* Village and forcibly prevented them from covering the military mission to evacuate the village, it occurred at dawn on Sunday 01/13/2013. The soldiers also detained the journalists and prevented them from covering the military evacuation of the Palestinian and international activists present at the village.

According to testimonies of journalists present in the village during the siege and evacuation, the soldiers detained them in a low-lying place, while a number of other soldiers shone spotlights on the cameras to thwart the filming of the event.

Journalists were violently denied access to the area and Israeli forces cut the live broadcast of the Palestine TV three times during the coverage of the event.

Associated Press cameraman *Iyad Hamad* told MADA that the number of journalists present exceeded twenty and that they were treated cruelly by Israeli soldiers; he then added, "They have pushed us violently and I almost fell on the ground. They kept us in a low place like a tunnel to prevent us from covering the eviction process. I complained to the Israeli police spokesman who was present at the place, but he showed no sympathy to my complaint and insisted that the army did not treat journalists harshly". *Hamad* concluded by stating "even after the evacuation of the village, the occupation forces forced journalists to leave the area, and prevented them from sending pictures from the site".

Palestine TV correspondent *Haroon Amayreh*, whom was covering the events directly from inside the village, told MADA "I was asked by the Israeli spokesman, whom accompanied the army, to interview me, and once I refused the process of harassment targeted the crew of Palestine TV. He asked me directly to close my camera, and then I was asked to leave the area calling it a closed military zone, and then our broadcast cables were separated three times". *Amayreh* stressed that the situation was menacing with almost 1,500 soldiers present, and it was the most difficult situation he had to face during his journalistic career.

*Raya Media Network* photographer *Samer Nazzal* told MADA that three soldiers were given the task of shining lights at journalists' cameras so as to prevent pictures of the evacuation process to be taken. He then added that the soldiers

"strongly pushed us and treated us violently, which led to the fall of a female journalist *Rania Hamd Allah* from Palestine TV ". *Nazzal* confirmed that the journalists were detained in a low-lying place to prevent them from reporting on the evacuation. *Nazzal* also added that two Israeli journalists were present at site and were treated differently by the Israeli army; they were permitted to carry out their work unhindered.

(1/19) The Israeli Occupation force also detained *Alquds* TV correspondent *Samer Khowaira* and PalMedia cameraman *Ahmed Alkilani* while on their way to cover solidarity activity with the people of the valley near Jericho, it happen on Saturday 01/19/2013. *Khowaira* told MADA that he arrived at *Almalha* Checkpoint, accompanied by his colleague *Alkilani*, to cover the valley events and that is when the Israeli Occupation Forces detained them for about an hour and a half pleading they had no permission from the Israeli officer. Once they were released, the activity was over. *Khowaira* added, "Journalists who were arriving from Ramallah were also prevented from reaching the valley as they were detained at the *Aloja* checkpoint".

(1/20) an individual assaulted a journalist *Ashraf Abu Amra*, while he was covering a solidarity event on Sunday 01/20/2013. *Abu Amra* reported to MADA saying, "I received an invitation from the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine to cover a solidarity protest before the French Consulate in Gaza for one of their prisoner in French prisons. During the protest, a protester started laughing in the faces of reporters. The protestor was asked by reporters to act serious and stand away from journalists, but he began spitting at us and insulting. Other protesters

interfered and removed him, but after the event he approached me and he beat me and humiliated me in front of everyone".

(1/21) The internal security personal in Gaza arrested a group of journalist and they are the Executive Director of the Journalists' Syndicate in Gaza *Munir Almunirawi*, Chief Editor of the Palestinian Media Group *Mustafa Al-Miqdad*, and freelancer *Ashraf Abu Khsewan* on Monday 01/21/2013. The journalists were released on 01/28/2013 after a decision of Hamas Prime Minister *Ismail Haniyeh*. According to *Almunirawi's* brother, *Raed Almunirawi* who spoke to MADA, that the internal security personal came to their house in *Deir al-Balah* at eight o'clock in the evening on Monday, and told them that there is an arrest warrant against *Munir* and a home inspection. *Almunirawi* added, "They searched the house well and they confiscated a portable device, a cell phone, and work papers which belonged to my brother, then they arrested him and he was held at the internal security headquarters in Rafah."

After his release, *Almunirawi* told MADA that he was interrogated and questioned regarding: publications on Fatah sites (*Alkarama Press – Fateh Alakhbari – Wakalit Fateh*), the source of funding for these sites, and undermining the revolutionary unity. *Almunirawi* added, "They used violence during the investigation, and I was transferred to the Public Prosecution on 28/01/2013. The Public Prosecution decided to extend my detention for 15 days, but my release came as a political decision, but I have not received the items that were confiscated from my house with the exception of the Press Syndicate seal and my personal identification card."

(1/22) On Tuesday 01/22/2013, the Internal Security personal arrested *Sawt Alhureyya* reporter *Juma' Abu Shumer*. Director of *Sawt Alhureyya*, *Amjad Araped* told MADA that the Internal Security came to the family house of *Abu Shumer* in *Deir al-Balah*, but he was out so they detain his family and uncle until *Abu Shumer* made his presence at the headquarters of the internal security in Gaza City. Indeed, when *Juma'* went to the security headquarters, they released the family and left the house. *Abu Shumer* was released on Monday 01/28/2013.

(1/23) the Internal Security personal in Gaza arrested a group of Palestinian Journalists who work for *Alkarama* Press website *Omar Aldahudi*, *Moayad Alasali*, *Shadi Shaheen*, *Muhanad Alkahloot*, *Issam Madi*, *Majdi Abd Alazzis Mohamed Saleem*, on Tuesday 01/23/2013.

*Saleem* reported to MADA that the Internal Security came to his house, searched it, and confiscated some of his personal belongings such as his bankcard, syndicate card, Laptop, two cell phones, bank statements, and some personal papers. He also said that after the arrest he was taken to the headquarters of the internal security in *Ansaar*, where they put a bag over his head and began integrating him. *Saleem* then added, "The integration was about my work, my news sources, my salary, and the people I work with. They treated me with so much violence like putting a bag over my head, prohibiting me from sleep, forcing me to stand or sit on an uncomfortable chair". *Saleem* was presented to the prosecution on 01/23/2013, and he was accused of "undermining the revolutionary work by working at *Alkarama* press and interfering with the process of the reconciliation". He was released on 01/27/2013. The remaining journalists

were released on 01/28/2013 based on the decision of Hamas Prime Minister *Ismail Haniyeh*.

(1/25) The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) assaulted the Turkish Anatolia agency correspondent *Qais Abu Samra*, while he was covering the clashes between the Israeli Forces and Palestinians in the village of *Budrus* west of Ramallah, on Friday 01/25/2013. *Abu Samra* Reported to MADA that he went to the village to cover the clashes, where the IOF was heavily shooting gas bombs at Palestinians, during that the IOF shoot gas bombs directly at a group of journalists. The journalists then ran away to protect themselves, but he stumbled and fell to the ground, and was hit with a gas bomb to his back. *Abu Samra* added, "It caused me redness and bruises and I was treated in the field".

(01/23) The Internal Security personal in Gaza summoned *Aswar* news website reporter and photographer *Hussein Abdel Jawad Karsoa* for interrogation on Wednesday 01/23/2013. *Karsoa* reported to MADA that the Internal Security came to his home on Saturday and handed him a written call to go to their headquarters in *Ansar* at exactly nine o'clock on Wednesday morning. Once he arrived, they took his personal data and then asked him to return on the 01/30/2013. *Karsoa* added, "I went on the scheduled date, and my interrogation began about my work at the agency and my colleagues, then they told me that the site I work for is not licensed. My response was that I been working for 3 years and no one has notified us of that. Then they asked me for my laptop, so I made a call to my brother to bring it. They released me, but I had to come back another time. My travel passport remains confiscated".

(1/23) the Internal Security personal in Gaza summoned a correspondent of *Aswar* news website *Abdul Karim Fathi Hajji* for interrogation on Wednesday 01/23/2013. *Hajji* reported to MADA that the internal security came to his home on Saturday and handed him a written call to go to their headquarters in *Ansar* at exactly nine o'clock on Wednesday morning. Once he arrived they sat him for a quarter of an hour with his face to the wall, then they asked him for his e-mail account and password, and ordered him to return on 01/31/2013. *Hajji* added, "I've stayed at the security headquarters about four and a half hours. I was interrogated about *Aswar* news, their employees, and their sources of funding. Then I was released".

## **February**

### **Details of Violations:**

(1/2) A group of young people confiscated all copies of Bent Al-Balad Magazine in the city of Beit Sahur, disagreeing with an article critical of the Orthodox Scouts of Beit Sahur, on the morning of Friday February 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. The chief of editing Fadi Abu Sa'da reported to MADA that this month issue was distributed around 9:30 on the morning of Friday, while a group of young scouts from the city withdraw all issues of the magazine, however, a vendor who noticed the withdrawal reported it immediately. Abu Sa'da added: "I made calls to several people who admitted to the withdrawal because of my article critical of the lack of participation of the Orthodox Scouts in religious ceremonies. We have managed to end the issue after the interference of the city elders, but were unable to return the copies of the magazine, and so we were forced to re-print 500 copies, which caused us a financial burden specially that the magazine is distributed for free every month".

(2/2) The IOF attacked a group of journalists on Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013, and prevented them from covering the evacuation of "Al-nawateer Village", which is formed by a group of activists on the territory of Burin village near Nablus city threatened with confiscation by the occupation. According to Associated Press photographer Huda Al-Hodali the occupation forces were treating the journalists harshly, where one of them strongly pushed her resulting her fall to the ground, and they evicted all journalists from the region by force and prevented them from

coverage. She added: "I fell on my back on a sharp rock and I couldn't move then, until I got help from some colleagues. I suffered for two days from severe pain, and I thank god the injury was positioned near the spine and did not injure the nerve cord." And another report by the Palestinian TV correspondent Haron A'mayra stated that the IOF pushed him several times to stop the filming, and pulled the voice cord several times, and then threatened them with arrest if they didn't leave the site.

(9/2) The IOF targeted Palestinian journalists directly during their coverage of the peaceful demonstrations at "Kana'an village" in Hebron on Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2013. The IOF attacked, detained, and arrested the journalists at site and they are: Associated Press Agency photographer Nasser Al-shiokhi, French Agency photographer Hazem Bader, and two Reuters Agency photographers Ma'moun Wazooz and Yosri Al-jamal. Al-shiokhi reported to MAD: "I headed with my colleagues to "Kana'an Village" to cover the demonstration, and that's when a group of Occupation soldiers approached us and assaulted my colleagues Eyad Hamad and Hazem Bader, meanwhile they arrested me and forced me to sit handcuffed for 6 hours, and I was released once the event was over. Al Shiokhi added "The IOF targets us heavily in all events systematically; we demand a major international movement to protect us".

The French agency photographer Hazem Bader reported to MADA that the Occupation soldiers approached and hit him on the forehead with a helmet, which caused him bruises. Bader added: "They didn't stop there; instead they sprayed

me with filthy water, and pushed my colleague from Reuters Yosri Al- Jamal and Ma'moun Wazooz while shouting at them”.

**(9/2)** The IOF arrested Pal Media cameraman Abed Alghani Al-natsha while covering peaceful demonstrations at "Kana'an village" in Hebron on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 2013. Al-natsha was detained for more than 24 hours, during which he was treated terribly. Al-natsha reported to MADA that he headed to cover the demonstrations in “Kana'an Village”, and at 10 am, a group of Occupation Forces approached him by surprise then dragged and arrested him. Once he was handcuffed, he was forced to sit until 12 pm. Then he was placed in a troop carrier for an hour in the heat. Al-natsha added: “around 3:30 pm I was taken, in addition to two international activists and three Palestinian activists, to the “Kiryat Arba” settlement area. There we stayed in the cold until 2 am of the next day, and then they took us to a military barracks and recorded our personal data and our fingerprints. Soon after we were taken to jail, stripped naked for search, then we were given prison uniforms to wear while awaiting our trial at Ofar Court around the midnight of Sunday”. The judge ruled a 4-month prison sentence for Al-natsha or a bail of 1,000 shekels (app. 270 \$), he paid bail and was released. Al-natsha stressed that the treatment was very bad, whether by verbal harassment or leaving them in the cold and without food.

**(11/2)** The IOF attacked Pal Media cameraman Amer Abdeen during his coverage of a house demolition in Bait Awwa village in Hebron, where clashes erupted between Israeli forces and the people of “Beit Awwa” after the demolition. Abdeen reported to MADA that on Monday February 11<sup>th</sup> 2013 he headed to “Bait Awwa” to cover the demolition of a house there, and that’s when the Israeli soldiers shoot Rubber bullets, and he was hit in his left leg. Abdeen added: “it hit

my legs muscle and caused my leg to swollen and some light bruises, and I was treated in the field."

(15/2) the IOF attacked the photographer of Raya Media network Samer Nazal and freelance photographer Shadi Hatem during their coverage of the clashes erupted near the Israeli Ofar prison near the city of Ramallah, on Friday February 15<sup>th</sup> 2013. Nazal reported that the IOF shoot rubber bullets at the journalists where he was hit in his face, but it bumped his gas mask and broke the glass, and he was hit with another rubber bullet in his leg which caused him bruises. Nazal added: "My colleague Shadi Hatem was also wounded by a rubber bullet in his back which caused him bruises".

(16/2) The IOF detained the 34 year old Palestinian cartoonist Mohammed Fayege Saba'na, while on his way back from Jordan via the "Karamah" crossing on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2013. The IOF transferred Saba'na to "Askalan" Prison on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013, and has not been allowed visits from lawyers nor family members since detained, and his administrative detention has been extended twice. His Brother Adel Saba'na reported to MADA that they have no information on his brother's status, and he said, "We think he was detained for his cartoon drawings, he always traveled freely and never been detained".

(19/2) The IOF prevented three journalists from covering the IOF raiding of Aldoha town near Bethlehem on Tuesday February 19<sup>th</sup> 2013. Alquds TV correspondent Mamdouh Hamamra told MADA, that him and his colleagues Pal Media cameraman Samer Hamad and Alquds Dot Com Cameraman Abdulrahman Younis went to cover the IOF raiding operation of Aldoha town, and

once their cameras were turned on they were stopped from covering by the IOF, and they were checked for identifications and Press IDs. Hamamra also added, "They prevented us from continuing the coverage of the operation, and even erased any footage Abdulrahman managed to take".

**(21/2)** The IOF extended the administrative detention of Shehab Agency reporter Amer Abu Arafah for the fourth time in a row since his arrest on August 21<sup>st</sup> 2011; he should have been released when his detention was scheduled to end on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2013. However, the Israeli Ofar prison court issued a warrant for the renewal of Amer Abu Arafah administrative detention without charges.

**(21/2)** The IOF attacked the Director of Photography at Pal Media Fadi Madi while he was covering the clashes erupted in front of the Israeli Ofar prison, near the city of Ramallah, on Thursday February 21<sup>st</sup> 2013. Madi reported to MADA that he was next to a group of journalists to cover the clashes, where they were standing away from the army and demonstrators, however, the occupation forces fired at them tear gas heavily and was injured in his lower abdomen. Madi added: "The gas canister caused me cuts and bruises and I was transferred to the Ramallah Hospital where I received proper treatment".

**(22/2)** The IOF attacked Reuters Agency photographer Yosri Al-jamal and European agency photographer Abd Al-hafeth Al-hashlamoon, and detained Wafa Agency Photographer Housam Abu A'lan, during their coverage of clashes erupted between young Palestinians and Israeli forces in the city center of Hebron, on Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013. Al-jamal reported to MADA that the

Israeli forces shoot rubber bullets in his direction during his coverage of the clashes; one injured his right leg which swollen and caused a lot of pain. Al-jamal added: "I was hit from a close distance that's why the injury was severe, and I wasn't able to walk for two days. Al-hashlamoon was injured by a rubber bullet in his leg as well, and Abu A'lan was detained for some time then released".

(22/2) The IOF attacked Aljazeera English TV cameraman Joseph Handal during his coverage of the clashes erupted between the IOF and Palestinians in the "Martyrs' Square" in Hebron, on Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013. Handal's father reported to MADA that his son was hit with a rubber bullet in his right knee from a very close distance, Which led to severe pain and bruising in the cartilage. The father added: "he received treatment in Hebron's hospital and then he was transferred to Arab Care Hospital in Ramallah. His injury was severe and he was unable to walk for a week".

(23/2) Members of Israeli Border Guards assaulted the European agency photographer A'la Badarnah and the French agency photographer Ja'far Ishtayah, during their coverage of Israeli settlers attack on the people of Kosra village in Nablus. Ishtayah reported to MADA that he and his colleague Badarnah went to cover settler violence against the people of Kosra village, and while there they were approached by members of the Israeli border guards whom violently pushed them to fall on the ground twice. Ishtayah added: "They were very violent with us and they threaten to beat us with sticks and detention if we continued the coverage".

(27/2) Hamas police in Gaza prevented the Pal Today TV crew from filming in Rafah near the tunnels, and they were detained for about 30 minutes at the police station, on Wednesday February 27<sup>th</sup> 2013. Pal Today TV correspondent Akram Aldaloul reported to MADA that they were preparing a report on the tunnels, but they were prevented from filming, despite the fact that they communicated with the crossings and tunnel organization who assured them that they do not need a permit to film in the region. Aldaloul added that they waited for 3:30 hours waiting for permission with no luck, so they stepped away resumed filming from afar, yet they were approached by policemen who detained them and transferred them to the police station. Aldaloul added: "They insisted to take us down the station, and they confiscated the camera and erased everything we filmed, and we were released only after the intervention of the TV management in the Lebanon".

(28/2) The Hamas Public Prosecutor summoned the vice chairman of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate Tahseen Al- Astal for investigation on Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Gaza. Al-Astal reported to MADA that he was called in based on a complaint filed by the Public Investigation services on charges of "defamation" in an article he wrote entitled "Police against the law". Al-Astal added that the investigation lasted between 11am and 1:30 in the afternoon, and he denied the charges against him "I paid bail to be released, and I don't know if the case will be closed or not".

## **March**

### **Details of violations:**

(1/3) targeting the photo journalist Jihad Alqadi by the Israeli Occupation during his coverage of the clashes between Palestinians and the Occupation forces at the Ofar Prison, near Ramallah. Alqadi (23 years old) wounded by a bullet which entered his abdomen and exited his back, which caused him severe injuries in his colon and spleen, a mild injury in his liver, and bruises in his lower breastbone, this formed a major threat to his life and had to undertake an emergency surgery which lasted about four and half hours, according to his brother Khalid Alqadi who reported to MADA: "It was a difficult surgery and doctors were forced to eradicate part of the colon".

(6/3) the Israeli Occupation forces arrested the freelance journalist Bakir Atili from his home in Nablus. Mays Atili, the journalist's wife, reported to MADA that her husband was arrested from their home in Nablus, and until this moment no charges has been filed against him, and his arrest was extended. Mrs. Mays added: "According to Atili's lawyer, the interrogation is over, and is currently at the Jalama prison, and so far there is no specific charges against him, and they are the old files where he had been arrested in 2004 for a period of two years. "

(7/3) Hamas homeland security in Gaza released the Chief Editor of Alshola Newspaper Sahir Alakra, but not until he was forced to sign a pledge "Not to the practice journalism at all and to close Alshola news website permanently", and after the humiliating and inhumane arrest which lasted nearly three months. After

Alakra was released he reported to MADA that he has been under arrest since the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2012, during which he was exposed to severe beatings, physical and psychological torture, and humiliation so severe that he was forced to drink urine. Alakra: “I have told the Attorney General about everything that happened and he promised me to form a commission of inquiry, and I am still waiting for the results”.

(7/3) the Israeli Occupation detained Raya FM correspondent Mahmoud Abu Khudeer, who reported to MADA that on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March around 8:15 am, that the car he was riding with his friends was stopped by an Israeli intelligence car – the officers were wearing civilian clothes– near the French Hill in Jerusalem. Khudeer thought it was a regular Israeli checkpoint, the car was stopped and their I.D was requested, then they were asked to move away from the car. Abu Khudeer: “Shortly thereafter they requested me to go with them; I told the officer you're wearing civilian clothing and you should introduce yourself, he told me his name and said he had a warning for my arrest, they then handcuffed us after an altercation between my friend and the officer, I then asked the officer to release my friend, and I was transferred to the Maskobyia prison for interrogation. I was charged with “filming a demonstration without permission for filming”, even though the issuance of such permit is required for filming in military closed areas only. On the 6<sup>th</sup> March we headed to the Hebrew University to cover the peaceful solidarity stand with prisoners, the movement included several parties within the Green Lin. They considered the university a secure zone and I was forbidden to enter, even though I have graduated from this university. I was

also questioned about a photo I had published on "Facebook" with a caption "this is how we will welcome Obama", which shows how the intelligence monitors these social sites". Khudeer indicated that he was unable to call a lawyer or family until 11 am, and that the detention and interrogation lasted between 6 to 7 hours, then he was released after a decision for his banishment from Jerusalem for 50 days, in addition to a fine of 5000 NIS (approximately 1400 USD) in case he did not commit to the decision.

(7/3) at the Ofar prison in Betonia, the journalists were prevented from covering a solidarity demonstration with the prisoners. The Arabic Sky News cameraman Raed Al Hilo, reported on that day a group of journalists including (Arabic Sky News correspondent Firas Lutfi, Ma'an TV correspondent Firas Etnina, Ma'aan photographer Ashraf Kotkot, and Associated Press photographer Majdi Ishtaya) went to cover the event, and that when Occupation soldiers went to cover the event, and that when Occupation soldiers attacked them directly with gas and sound bombs. Al Hilo added: "There was a heavy presence of journalists, the Israeli officer in charge gave us only 5 minutes (journalists and protesters) to evacuate the site, and we were asked to go beyond the stone cubes, which lie approximately 60 meters from the location, they continued to fire gas and sound bombs at everyone there, while a group of 3 soldiers targeted the journalists, and that's when Ma'an correspondent was hit in the back, a gas bomb landed between our feet and another on the Agency's broadcasting vehicle, which could have burnt the vehicle if it hit the Gasoline tank, in addition the Broadcast engineer who was inside almost suffocated. I approached the officer and asked:

how was my presence an issue to him? He told me to move away or I will be arrested. He moved away when I continued my argument, the clashes lasted for a half an hour”.

Ma'aan photographer Ashraf Kotkot reported: “we were at the Ofar prison to cover the solidarity demonstration with prisoners; there were a number of peaceful protestors and a large number of journalists, it was just a peaceful protest in front of the prison gate. Then came about 10 soldiers, along with 3 officers and asked everyone to evacuate the location within 5 minutes, the request was directed to journalists before the protestors to evacuate the site. We refused to move, because it is our right to cover the event”. Kotkot added: “a soldier started counting threatening us to move, as they prepared the gas and sound bombs, and the direct targeting of journalists began when they started pushing us to the back before moving the protestors, who were only 500 meters away from the soldiers, everything that happened is on film. Once the five minutes passed 4 gas and sound bombs were shoot directly at the journalists on site,our crew were affected and the bomb broke their equipment, targeting the journalists was repeated 3 times, and each for at least 3 minutes”.

(8/3) the injury of photographer Mahfouz Abu Turk, with a rubber bullet fired by the Israeli Occupation Forces in Jerusalem. Abu Turk reported to MADA that on Friday he headed to Al-Aqsa Mosque to cover the Friday prayers, after the prayers a peaceful demonstration started against the desecration of the Koran by a member of the Israeli police, and clashes broke between Palestinians and the Occupation forces when they started firing heavily at the protestors gas and

sound bombs and rubber bullets. Abu Turk added: "I continued to follow up and cover the events, and I witnessed clashes with the police near al-Huttah gate, I filmed few scenes while standing on the right side of the gate, once the clashes settled I tried to walk to the left side of the gate, and that's when they fired rubber bullets in my direction and I was injured in my head near my right ear, I was bleeding and in pain, few young men carried me out from Al-Asbatt gate and took me to Almakaseed Islamic Charitable hospital, I was treated with three stitches, and once I rested I went home, but I was still in pain".

(8/3) Yedioth Ahronoth Newspaper photographer Atta Oweisat was injured with a hard object in his face during his coverage of clashes between the Israeli Occupation Forces and Palestinian worshipers at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, which caused him significant injuries and a broken jaw. Oweisat reported to MADA that he was hit with a hard object might have been a gas or sound bomb fired from the Israeli police direction, which caused him heavy bleeding from his mouth, and he lost balance and fell to the ground. Oweisat added: "worshipers took me to the clinic inside the mosque and there I realized the difficulty of my condition from the extreme pain and bleeding, so I asked them to take me to Al-Maghariba Gate to request the police to call an ambulance to take me to a hospital. But the police denied my request to help me, and the officer ordered them not to call an ambulance, so I went by foot to the Buraq Square to call my friend who called an ambulance. At the hospital I found out that I am suffering from a broken upper jaw and a large wound in the lip and lost five teeth. I

undergone a lip surgery and several stitches, and I need to proceed with a cosmetic lip surgery and dental implants”.

(8/3) on Friday, Alqsa TV correspondent Tareq Abu Zaid was arrested by the Israeli Occupation Forces, during his coverage of the weekly anti-settlement protest in the village of Kafer Kadoum in Nablus. His father reported to MADA that the occupation forces is charging Abu Zaid with throwing rocks on Israeli soldiers during the event, however, there is a video which documented the arrest, where he was holding the camera and filming.

(9/3) the Israeli Occupation Forces detained Watan TV correspondent Hamza Alsalayma while he was preparing a report on the suffering of a Palestinian family on the hands of settlers in Hebron, on Saturday. Alsalayma reported to MADA that they were filming in the family’s home about their daily suffering and continues attacks by settlers, and when they moved to the house roof, settlers were watching them then started cursing, sprayed waste water, and threw eggs at them. The Palestinian house owner got into an argument with the settlers. Alsalayma added: “When we came out of the house a group of Israeli border guards and army were present, I was arrested and taken to the interrogation center nearby. I told them that I am a journalist, but the officer dismissed the fact and told me that he does not care and filming in this area is not allowed, we argued, and then I was released after 4 hours”.

(10/3) the Israeli Occupation Forces arrested the journalist Waleed Khaled the Office director of “Felesteen” newspaper in the West Bank; he was arrested at his

home in Sakaka village near Salfit, north of West Bank on Sunday. His father reported to MADA that about 30 occupation soldiers came to their home around 1:30 am they searched the home then arrested him, he is now at Al-Jamala prison. The father added: "he is still under arrest with no charges. They searched the house until 3:40 am that morning, but did not confiscate anything".

(10/3) The Palestinian intelligence services arrested the journalist Tareq Alsoukarji from Nablus. His mother reported to MADA that her son, a freelance journalist at Aljazeera TV and a TV director, was arrested by the intelligence services, he was arrested at a supermarket. He was released the next day. Later he wrote in his facebook that he has been called and arrested by the intelligence several times in the past.

(20/3) The President's Special Guard and the presidential Headquarters (Almoqata'a) security prevented a group of Palestinian journalists to enter the premises to cover the USA president Barak Obama's visit to Ramallah. 18 Palestinian journalists were forced to wait at the premises gate for more than 2 hours waiting to enter, but in the end they were not allowed, despite that all the journalists had permission cards. The France Press Agency photographer Abbas Elmoumani reported to MADA: "I don't understand why they acted that way, me and my colleagues requested permission to cover and we were given permission cards and a number allowing us to enter, but the security denied our access". Watan TV manager Moad'amar Arabi reported to MADA that the security prevented the TV crew from entering, and after calling few people only one person was allowed to enter, while the rest were denied access.

(24/3) the Israeli Occupation Forces detained a group of Journalists near Beit Yashai Israeli settlement near Hebron, while preparing a journalistic report on the suffering of Sameer Abu Aisha's Family by the settlers, on Sunday(24.3.2013). The Ma'an TV reporter Abd Ala'zeez Noufal reported to MADA that Aljazeera TV crew and he headed on that day to Hebron. Noufal added: "me and the journalist Ahmed Alshiekh Khalil and photographers from a media services company from Nazareth headed to Martyrs street, then headed to Beit Hadassa, but the Israeli soldiers prevented us from continuing the journey, so we rerouted through the fields to Sameer Abu Aisha's home near Alramida Hill, which is surrounded by Israeli army camps (Human rights institutions call this house the caged house because it is surrounded by iron fences and entry is not allowed without prior permission) after we reached the house we were attacked by settlers, then Israeli soldiers took our I.Ds and detained us at the sight for 2 hours, then they released any journalist who hold a Jerusalem I.D and the Israeli journalist's house I.D. my friend Jawad Abu Aysha and I were detained for another 2 hours, then we were transferred by a police car to a nearby interrogation center near the Kyriat Arba settlement".

Noufal added: "they interrogated Jawad Abu Aysha then released him after he said he was visiting his uncle Sameer Abu Aysha, and that he visited the closed factory near his uncle home, and that he owns property there. I was interrogated based on charges of entering a closed military area, and I was asked to sign a statement on that, but I refused for 3 reasons: there is no reference point as a closed military zone, I was also attacked by settlers and when the soldier asked

me for my identity I handed it to him without discussion, in addition to my press card, and I was present in the area for professional journalistic mission. I did not break any law and therefore did not need to sign the statement, and then I was told by the officer that I will be trialed at a military court on 10<sup>th</sup> June and will have to pay 1000 NIS bail (approximately 270 USD)”.

(24/3) on Sunday, the Occupation soldiers prevented a group of journalists from covering the raid on Ahfad Younis Village near Jerusalem. The French Agency photographer Nasser Alshiokhy reported to MADA that the occupation forces prevented their cars to reach the village, and they were forced to walk about 2 km to get there. Palestine today TV correspondent said that since their broadcasting cars were not permitted to enter the village, they were unable to film the raiding live. And that the occupation forces shined large headlamp lighting on the cameras and photographers, making filming impossible. Watan TV manager Moad'amar Arabi reported to MADA that one of the soldiers pushed him to the ground during filming.

(29/3) the detaining and brutally assaulting the photo journalist Muhammad Alfateh Abu Snina by the Israeli Occupation police in Jerusalem. Abu Snina reported to MADA that on Friday he headed to cover “preventing the worshipers from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque”, “I headed to al-Silsileh gate, an area where few journalists are present since journalists usually head to Damascus gate. This was my 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday covering the area as I hold a Jerusalem I.D, and I am a resident of the old city of Jerusalem. I got through the first checkpoint and started filming from behind the policemen, and that is when I saw my younger brother and asked

him to go home, then an Israeli policeman told me to leave and not to talk to anyone. I left the area and headed towards the mosque, and once I got close to a police station (about 2 m away) a police spotted me filming and requested me to approach him then took me into the station, then 3 policemen closed the station's door and took my camera and started beating me with their fists and feet, I did not defend myself, they pulled me up from the ground and started shouting at me: why were you doing that? I answered that I was just doing my job, and I did not get in their way, but they continued to yell at me so loudly and tackled me to the ground and handcuffed me, then asked me for my I.D, all I could do was scream". Abu Snina added: "I was beaten for 3 hours, and then I was seated on a metal chair with my handcuffed tightly, then the intelligence officer asked me to introduce myself, so I asked him to release my hands and that I hold him responsible for handcuffing me, which provoked him so he extremely tightened the handcuffs. Then I was beaten again, even the police who was responsible for my safety. He hit my head to a metal door, and then I was placed between that door and a wood board, then he brought a brush made out of metal and scratched my forehead, then the handcuffs were replaced and they made sure the new ones pressured the wounds on my hands".

Abu Snina recalled that they took him to the interrogation center (the Qishleh station) near the Jaffa Gate, and he remained there for several hours, during which they accused him of incitement against the police and guiding young people in the field, and that he refused to show his I.D when the police asked for it, he denied these accusations and told the investigator that he only spoke to his younger brother which is clear in his video filming, and added: "they also accused

me of injuring my own self by beating my own body, the interrogation lasted for a very long time, then I was told by the officer that I will be detained for 24 hours, then he dropped that statement and said: your case is not worth it, so they ruled my deprivation of access to the Aqsa mosque yards for 15 days, then called my father to pay my bail and then went to a hospital for treatment ".

(30/3) the European Agency photographer Abd Alhafeez Alhashlamoun was detained during his coverage of events on the 30<sup>th</sup> March Earth Day in the town of Beit Amr near Hebron, Alhashlamoun reported to MADA that he headed to cover the event, and when the Israeli Occupation forces arrived they prevented us from filming and ordered us to leave the site, Alhashlamoun added: "I was approached by a soldier who took my I.D and my press card, then inquired if I was wanted, and I wasn't, despite that I was detained about two and half to three hours after the event ended". Palestinian Public TV cameraman Eyad Alhashlamoun reported to MADA "we were at Beit Amr near Hebron to cover the Earth day events, then clashes broke between Palestinian young men and the Israeli soldiers, that's when we were attacked; we were asked for our I.Ds, and the process to check them prevented us from covering, then they detained Abd Alhafeez Alhashlamoun, and prevented me from filming. The firing of gas and sound bombs was heavily directed towards us, and we shouted out that we are journalists, but the soldiers didn't acknowledge the fact and only asked us to leave. One of the gas bombs hit the broadcasting car".

(30/3) On Saturday, at the Israeli side of the Karamah Crossing border the occupation detained the journalist Mohammad Al-laham the presenter of a Ma'an TV show and the head of the Freedoms Committee at the Journalists Syndicate, charged with taking mobile photos of the site. Al-laham reported to Ma'an news

site that the Israeli forces stopped him at the Karamah during his trip back to Palestine, accusing him of taking mobile photos of the site, which was not allowed so they confiscated his mobile phone and detained him for 4 and a half hours. Al-laham clarified that the occupation forces returned his mobile phone after they deleted all his contact numbers and photographs, and he was subjected to a full body search in addition to searching and tempering his luggage, and then he was released.

## **April**

### **Details of violations:**

(2/4) The IOF attacked the Pal Media cameraman Abdul Ghani Al Natsheh during his coverage of clashes between Israeli Forces and Palestinians in Hebron on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013. Al Natsheh reported to MADA that he went to cover the clashes, during which an Israeli soldier shot him with a metal bullet in his hand causing it to bleed. Al Natsheh added: "It was a deliberate targeting as the bullet was fired from a distance of only 50 meters, and the soldier who shot at me knew me well. I received treatment in the ambulance stationed in the area."

(2/4) the IOF attacked a group of journalists during their coverage of a peaceful protest in Jerusalem on the death of prisoner Maysara Abu Hamed, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013. Those journalists are: Al Quds Net Correspondent Diala Jweihan, Wafa Agency Photographer Afef Omera, French Agency Photographer Jamil Qudmani, Al Quds Newspaper Photographer Mahmoud Alian, and Ranwa Agency Photographer Saeed Alqaq. Jweihan reported to MADA that they headed to cover the event where the Israeli occupation forces violently dispersed demonstrators. A soldier stepped on her foot strongly and deliberately, causing her severe pain, she went to the medical relief crew who treated her so she can be able to continue her work. Omera reported to MADA that the soldiers were so violent and they pushed and hit him and his colleagues Alian and Qudmani with sticks and their boots deliberately and with full knowledge that they were journalists. Alqaq added: "the soldiers beat us with sticks deliberately and tried to arrest me, one of

the sticks hit my shoulder, I was pulled away by a colleague Sameer Naser el Dein, and I received treatment in the field at a present ambulance, I now suffer a crack in my shoulder”.

(4/4) The Salem Israeli Occupation Military court sentenced the Palestinian cartoonist Mohamed Fayeq Sabaana (34 years old) to five months in prison and a ten thousand Shekel fine (approximately 2800 USD), on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013, Sabaana’s wife reported to MADA that her husband was charged with "Contacting a Hostile third-party". And that the IOF did not allow her to visit her husband since his arrest on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013, and that she only seen him during his court hearings.

(8/4) the IOF deliberately attacked the Palestinian News Network PNN cameraman Mohammad Waleed Alaza (23 years old), during his coverage of the clashes between Palestinian youth and Israeli Occupation Forces in Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Alaza reported to MADA that he was filming the clashes from the Refugee Institution balcony at the Aida Refugee camp, that’s when he was approached by a soldier who ordered him to stop filming. Alaza added: “I stopped filming and headed inside the premises, yet a soldier fired a rubber bullet directly at me from a distance not exceeding 10 meters, which hit my face beneath my eye”.

(17/4) The IOF attacked the editor in chief of the Hona Alquds Network for the local media at Alquds University Mazen Awad while trying to Pass Beit Eil Checkpoint On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Awad reported to MADA that upon

his arrival at the checkpoint a soldier requested his I.D, so Awad presented both personal I.D and his press card; he was then prevented from passing through and was asked to leave, the soldier only returned the personal I.D and placed the Awad's press card in his pocket. Awad added: "that the soldier denied confiscating my press card; I came out of my car to speak with him but he closed the door on my foot, so I pushed the door with force and he almost shot me that moment. Then three soldiers gathered around me one was pointing his gun at me, another hit me with his rifle on my back, and a third beat me on my leg. I continued to request my press card back, but they forced me back into my car and directed verbal insults to me, more soldiers approached so I feared they will arrest me and charge me or seriously hurt me physically, so I called the Journalists' Syndicate and spoke with Montaser Hamdan, Who told me that he would follow up my case with the International Federation of Journalists, and that they will get me a new press card, and asked me to withdraw from the checkpoint".

(20/4) the Palestinian intelligence service arrested the editor in chief of Quds Network Tareq Khames at Medicare Hospital in Ramallah at around 10 am on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Khames was at the hospital getting prepped for his surgery, but they arrested him right before and without a warrant for his arrest nor charged with any offense against him. Khames reported to MADA that he was interrogated about his work and reports he prepared on "Aljame camp" and Alnakab Media week. Khames added: "I was released around 5 pm, and was told to return on Tuesday, but I will refuse any summon by any security services".

(24/4) The Israeli Occupation Forces detained Pal Media Cameraman Abdul Ghani Al Natsheh, during his coverage of the Secretaries-General for Arab national Education and Culture committees' delegation visit to the Sanctuary of Ibrahimi Mosque in the West Bank city of Hebron, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Al Natsheh reported to MADA immediately after his release, that he went to cover the delegation's visit, during which a female Israeli soldier abusively insulted him verbally, so he asked her about the reason for the insults, and then they got into a verbal altercation. Al Natsheh added: "Then came an officer of the army of occupation and detained me under the sun for an hour and a half. He also tried to force me to sign a statement that was not exposed to such treatment, but I refused to do so."

(26/4) The Preventive Security Service arrested Quds Press Agency correspondent Khaldoun Mathloun from his home at the Janabya village near Ramallah on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Mathloun's wife reported to MADA, that when they were on their way home after Friday's prayers they found their house surrounded by members of the security services, and when they entered their home the door was immediately knocked, and khaldoun answered. They told him they wanted to speak to him at the Preventive Security headquarters, but he refused to do so, but they insisted and told him they wanted him for ten minutes only. His wife added: "After he was arrested we went to the headquarters of the Preventive Security and waited about an hour and a half, and then came out a security officer who told us that they will detain khaldoun and we must appoint a lawyer." The Preventive Security transferred Mathloun to the Attorney General on

28<sup>th</sup> April 2013, who decided to release him. Mathloun reported to MADA after his release that the investigation was only on the reports he writes for the agency and regarding his journalistic work”.

## **May**

### **Details of violations:**

(2/5) Israeli court sentenced Al-Aqsa TV reporter Tareq Abu Zeid to three months in prison and a fine of 2,000 NIS “approximately 580 USD”, on charges of “participating in a march against Israel”, a march he was covering on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013. His father reported to MADA that the occupation forces trumped up charges against his son, and that there is video evidence that the arrest took place while Abu Zeid was filming, and shows the camera on his shoulder. Abu Zeid was arrested on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013, and was released after serving his sentence on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

(7/5) The internal security in the Gaza Strip detained and assaulted five journalists while covering a solidarity march organized by the Popular Front (PFLP) on Tuesday evening 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013, in the city of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. Image Agency photographer Eyad Elbaba reported to MADA that the journalists received an invitation to cover the solidarity protest following the Israeli aggression on Syria, in Khan Younis around 6 pm, and after a quarter of an hour into the protest members of the security forces surrounded everyone and began shouting at the demonstrators to break up the protest. Then he and 4 of his colleagues were arrested; the photojournalist Adham Abu Shahma, Al Midan TV cameraman Abd El Aziz Alafifi and the correspondent Ahmed Ghanem, Palestine Today TV cameraman Mohamed AbuTaha. Elbaba added: “they put us in a tight corner and treated us like criminals, and they attacked us with punches, and detained us at the center of detectives for two hours, and then we met a

colonel detective who apologized for what happened to us and then released us. What happened was a big insult for us."

(8/5) Israeli police attacked a group of journalists during their coverage of the Palestinian march to protest the annual march organized by the Israeli settlers in Jerusalem under the name of "reunification of Jerusalem", on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013, in the occupied city of Jerusalem. Al-Arabiya cameraman George Khoury reported to MADA that he was severely beaten by police while covering the events of the march. Khoury added: "I have been working in this field for many years now, but this was the most extreme assault I been through, they were very violent with all the journalists and they had instructions not to allow us to cover the event". Al Quds Net correspondent Diala Jwehan reported to MADA that she was harassed twice by the occupation forces and that they beat her colleagues Fayez Abu Ermila and Najib Alrazm, who were detained for about an hour at the police station. Jwehan added: "they used violence with all journalists; I even saw the police hit Israeli reporters".

(9/5) An anonymous posted a video on YouTube threatening the presenter of "an eye on/ A'yn A'la" TV program aired on Palestine Public TV Ruba Al Najjar of rape and murder, On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013, after the broadcast of an episode on "the phenomenon of begging for money in Palestine", which contained an Investigation report on the topic, and revealed the involvement of persons holding public positions. Al Najjar reported to MADA that she filed a formal complaint at the Palestinian police station regarding the threat, and they immediately began to investigate in order to identify the assailant.

(11/5) In the West Bank, the Preventive Security Service in the city of Hebron arrested the Israeli affairs editor of the network "Hona Al Quds" Omar Abu Arqoub for two days on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Ayman Abu Arqoub, Omar's Brother, reported to MADA that his brother was arrested after he was called to the Preventive Security Service's Headquarters in Hebron. Omar Abu Arqoub reported to MADA that the interrogation was regarding his work on a film that captures the lives of prisoners, and they confiscated his laptop and flash memory. Abu Arqoub added: "They released me on Monday afternoon and that they will contact me within two days to get my stuff back, and they set a second interrogation date on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013". Abu Arqoub went to the headquarters again and was interrogated and then released, and his file was terminated after the intervention of several public persons.

(15/5) The occupation forces attacked a group of Jerusalemites journalists during their coverage of the Nakba march at the Jerusalem gate known as "Bab al-Amud" on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The journalists are: Al-Arabiya cameraman Tawfiq Abu Saliba, the correspondent of Al Quds Net Diala Jwehan, and the Chinese Agency photographer Muammar Awad. Abu Saliba reported to MADA that the Israeli occupation forces severely beat him with hands and sticks while he was covering the march, and they detained him for about 5 hours and then released him after they handed him a court order on charges of assaulting three soldiers. Abu Saliba added: "I did not assault any soldier, they beat me and I have clear bruises on my face." Jwehan Reported to MADA that the occupation forces were extremely violent sprayed all media crews present with water to

disperse them and prevent them from covering, and they beat the journalist Muammar Awad badly with their hands and sticks.

(15/5) the Palestinian intelligence service summoned the journalist Haroun Abu Arra for investigation, on the morning of Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013, to the headquarters in the city of Ramallah. Abu Arra reported to MADA center that he received a call on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013 from the intelligence service to go to their headquarters the next day at ten in the morning, and when he went there he was interrogated for about two hours and a half. Abu Arra added: "The Interrogation revolved around my personal life and my relationships, not my journalism work. I was treated well during the investigation and was not harmed, but they questioned me regarding my facebook post about the interrogation call".

(18/5) The Occupation Forces Attacked Quds Net Photographer Hothayfa Ali Jamous (20 years old), while covering the clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian youths in the town of Abu Dies, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Jamous reported to MADA that he went to cover the clashes that erupted between Israeli forces and Palestinian youths, after the youths demolished part of the apartheid wall in the area. Jamous came out of his office about nine o'clock in the evening and began covering the clashes, and that's when a soldier asked him to stop covering, so he returned to his office. Jamous added: "When the clashes eruption increased, I came down again from the office with my camera, and that's when a soldier targeted me by a rubber bullet that hit my upper jaws, and broke three of my teeth".

(25/5) on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013 an anonymous planted a bomb in front of the house of Nasser Abu Mayala, staff worker at "an eye on/ A'yn A'la" TV program aired on Palestine Public TV, with a threatening letter directed to him and his colleagues Al Najjar not to broadcast the episode scheduled to air on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May, which shed light on the "fortune-tellers and charlatans". Al Najjar reported to MADA that an anonymous placed a bag with a bomb inside it, and a threat letter, in front of her coworker's home Naser Aby Mayala, on the morning of yesterday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The letter stated: "if you broadcast the episode on Sunday, the bomb will explode next time and target you and your coworker Ruba". Al Najjar added that she and her coworker made a formal complaint to the Security Detectives office, which began to carry out the necessary investigations.

(25/5) The Internal Security in Gaza summoned the former Culture minister and writer Ibrahim Abrash for investigation on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013, for writing an article in which he criticized Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi's visit to the Gaza Strip. Abrash Reported to MADA that he received a summon to investigate him at the headquarters of the internal security, and when he went there he was questioned about the article, and was detained for about 5 hours, then he was released and was demanded to return the next day. Abrash added: "I did not go the next day, so they showed up at my house and arrested me, and after about an hour of detention they released me after the intervention of several members of the Legislative Council and human rights institutions".

(27/5) The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) arrested the freelance photojournalist Uday Haribat from his home in the city of Hebron on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013. His

brother Mahmoud Haribat reported to MADA that a strong occupation force group surrounded their home at about four o'clock in the morning, and then raided the house and searched it, and they brought dogs as well. Haribat added: "They inquire about my brother and arrested him. I think it has to do with the photos he take, where he had published a picture of a military jeep belonging to the occupation forces burning on several newspapers and Palestinian news websites just days before".

## June

### Details of Violations:

(3/6) the director of Radio Bethlehem 2000 George Canawati, was detained by the Public Prosecutors in Bethlehem for publishing a press release by Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades on the Radio's webpage, the press release turned out to be false, so Canawati then published a statement denying the press release.

Canawati's lawyer Osama Abu Zakya reported to MADA that his client received a summon to appear before the public prosecutor at 11:30 am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013, he accompanied Canawati to the public prosecutor office and listened to the investigation, which revolved only on the publishing of the press release of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, and what was rumored of investigating Canawati on criminal charges that was untrue. Abu Zakya added: "big pressure was put on George to disclose the source of the press release". Canawati was released the next day on judicial bail worth 5,000 Jordanian Dinar "approximately 7,000 US dollars" and a court hearing was scheduled on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2013.

(5/6) Israeli occupation forces (IOF) attacked the Associated Press photographer Nasser Shyoukhi, during his coverage of clashes erupted between the IOF and Palestinian youth in front of Ofer prison, near the city of Ramallah, and on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2013. Shyoukhi reported to MADA that he went to cover the clashes with two of his fellow journalists, and even though they were standing

away from the demonstrators and Israeli soldiers, one of the soldiers fired rubber-coated metal bullet deliberately toward them, injuring and bruising his shoulder.

**(8/6)** Israeli occupation forces (IOF) detained APA agency photographer Saeed Alqaq (26 years old) after one of the soldiers spit on him, immediately after he completed his coverage of the sit-in protest against the Festival "the Israeli lights" in the old city of Jerusalem.

Alqaq reported to MADA that he was sitting next to one of his colleagues at the end of sit-in, when a group of Israeli soldiers passed by, that is when one soldier spit at him, so Alqaq asked the soldier "why?" with anger. The soldier then started pushing and cursing Alqaq, who stated: "I tried to defend myself, but a group of soldiers gathered around and took me to the police station located in Salah Aldein Road. I stayed there for half an hour, handcuffed, during which an officer who knew me came and I explained to him the story, after a half an hour he returned and apologized to me, and said that they will release me only after I sign a paper stating that I do not want anything from the soldier who assaulted me, and that is what happen after about 4 hours".

**(21/6)** The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) attacked and arrested Palestine Public TV correspondent Ahmed Shower and the cameraman Bashar Nazzal, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013, during their coverage of Kofor Kadom village weekly March Near Nablus in the West bank.

Nazzal reported to MADA after his release on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013, that he went with a number of colleagues to cover the march, by the end a soldier ordered him to stop filming, and suddenly after less than a minute a group of soldiers attacked Nazal and his colleague Shamer, beat them severely for a long time with hands and legs, which caused them bruises throughout their bodies, along with insults and curses.

Nazal Added: "After that they handcuffed and arrested us, and we were supposedly supposed to appear at court next Tuesday, but one of the soldiers came and said that they will release us after we each pay bail of 1,800 shekels – "approximately 495 US dollars". They were released around on Monday evening 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

**(24/6)** Gaza Municipality Security Guard attacked the freelance journalist and Photographer Mohamed Ahmed Othman at the sight of police members and municipality staff on charges of filming a conversation which took place between one of his friends and the general manager of public administration of the municipality, on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

Othman reported to MADA that he went with his friend Hesham Sakik to the municipality hoping to solve an issue regarding his families land. He casually placed his camera on the desk of the Director of Public Relations and Media and the General Director of the General Administration Hatem Al Sheikh Khalil. They discussed the issue then left the office. Othamn added: "After about two minutes, my friend received a call from his father who informed us that Mr. Hatem Sheikh called him and was upset because we filmed the conversation, and that he intends to jail my friend and his father, even though we did not film and there was

no memory in the camera at all. So we headed back to his office clear things and I gave him my mobile and camera to see that we did not film anything, but he got so angry for not finding the memory, I explained that there was no memory from the beginning, but did not believe it”.

Othamn added: “he called the police, and they took me to a room in the lowest floor at the municipality, they searched me and confiscated everything I had, and suddenly after 10 minutes a person dressed as a civilian walked in, with the presence of the police members and municipality staff, he directed few punches at my chest and stomach so I would confess and hand over the alleged camera memory, and he later turned out to be the Municipality security guard. After a half an hour of detention, investigation, and beating, they found no evidence for their alleged charges, and so they took me back to the director’s office, and then released me after I verbally pledged not to publish “the alleged film”. I filed an official complain at Alshoja’ya Police center, then went to the hospital and got a medical report of physical evidence from the beating”.

## July

### Details of Violations:

(1/7) Israeli occupation forces IOF arrested Palestine News Network cameraman Mohammed Walid Al azza (23 years old), from his home in the Aida refugee camp near Bethlehem, on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013, he was released after 11 days and paid bail of 1,500 Israeli shekels (approximately 420 US dollar). Al azza reported to MADA after his release, that the IOF investigated him on charges of possessing informational materials and video on the confrontations in the Aida refugee camp, which he said that this is normal because he is a journalist and holds a legal press card.

Al azza added: "Even the Israeli judge stated in court that there was no need to arrest me and he ordered my release, but the prosecution appealed and tried to fabricate other charges on me, but I was released for lack of evidence on the charges against me." It's important to recall that Al azza was injured by a rubber bullet in the face fired deliberately by Israeli soldiers, during his coverage of the clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian youths in the Aida refugee camp on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

(2/7) The Police prevented the Palestine Public TV crew (correspondent Safaa Alhabeel and Photographer Ayman Alswesi) from preparing a report on the water crises in Khan Younis district south of Gaza Strip, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013.

Alhabeel reported to MADA that she and her colleague headed towards eastern region of Khan Younis district, to prepare a report on the water crises in the area after an appeal from Palestinian citizens, where there were many media outlets present to cover the citizens' protest in front of the municipality. After a half an hour of filming, the municipal policeman came and prevented from filming, and began to push the cameraman and forced them to enter the municipal building. Alhabeel added: "he began insulting me and the cameraman as well, then confiscated the tape from the camera, after that the police came and asked us to go to their headquarters in the eastern region. The police were understanding of our profession and apologized for what happened, and we stayed there for 4 hours in order to take the tape back".

(3/7) The IOF attacked a group of journalists when they were covering a protest demanding open Peteen village road leading to villages east of Ramallah, near the settlement of Beit El, on Wednesday 3rd July 2013.

Alhaya Aljadeda Newspaper photographer Essam Rimawi reported to MADA that the Israeli soldiers targeted journalists deliberately with gas bombs, insults, and beating. Where the IOF shot gas bombs at the journalists, where his colleague Palestine Public TV cameraman Fadi Jayyousi was hit by a bomb which caused him burns and bruises. The Associated Press photographers Imad Isaeed (45 years old) reported to MADA: "We received a call from the Popular Resistance Committee in order to cover the protest that will start from the village of Peteen towards the closed roads, and when we arrived there we started covering normally, and that's when the IOF ignored the demonstrators and began

assaulting and beating journalists, where most of the journalists fell to the ground and they are: Associated Press photographer Fadwa Hodali, she was injured after a sound bomb was shot between her legs. Reuters' photographers Mohammed Turkmen and Saed Hawari, and freelance photographer Haitham al-Khatib were pushed by the IOF". Isaeed adds: "one of the soldiers attacked and hit me and sprayed pepper gas on my back and pushed me on the ground more than once". The French agency photographer Abbas Momeni (37 years old) reported to MADA that one of the soldiers assaulted him with the back of his rifle, and beat him on his chest, and that all journalists were targeted clearly during the protest.

(4/7) Anonymous people, who identified themselves as the al-Qassam Brigades (the military wing of Hamas) threatened the director of the Chinese News Agency office Imad Drimli, and freelance journalist Majed Abu Salama with "death and to cut their tongues" if they continued to express their opinions regarding the events in Egypt.

Darimli reported to MADA that he received a call from an anonymous that told him "you have a long tongue and it must be cut", and advised him not to write about the events in Egypt, or he would be shot. The Darimli reported that he received this call after he expressed his opinion about what is happening in Egypt via the social networks. He also reported that Majed Abu Salama was contacted by anonymous people, who identified themselves as the al-Qassam Brigades (the military wing of Hamas) and threatened him not to write about Egypt, saying to him: "Pay attention to your words, we will cut your tongue and fingers until you learn to think before writing."

(11/7) In Nablus, the IOF detained the crew of Alaqsa TV and Aljazeera TV for 3 hours, while they were on their way to prepare a report on cutting 1,000 olive trees from the village of Awarta, in the West Bank city of Nablus, the occupation forces, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Alaqsa TV correspondent Tareq Abu Zeid reported to MADA that they received an invitation from the head of the village council to make a report on the cutting of olive trees. When they arrived, Israeli soldiers stopped them and confiscated their identity cards, Abu Zeid, the photographer and the head of the village council. The Israeli soldiers also confiscated the Identity cards of Aljazeera crew (Correspondence Sheren Abu Aqla, the photographer and his assistant), and they were asked to follow the soldiers to the Hawara camp. Abu Zeid added: "After we got to the camp we waited for 3 hours without interrogation, but the head of the village council was taken inside, then our identity cards were returned".

(16/7) The Palestinian Preventive Security called the writer and freelance journalist Khaled Ma'ali for investigation at their headquarters in the town of Salfit, North of the West Bank, on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013. A family member of Ma'ali reported to MADA that Ma'ali received a call from the preventive security to go to their headquarters at 10 am, and when he went he was interrogated about his articles and professional work, where his detention lasted for a period of 4 hours and a half. The source also reported to MADA that "Ma'ali was not harmed or

threatened, but the idea of calling him for investigation and interrogation caused him psychological pressure and undermined press freedoms”.

(16/7) the Israeli occupation forces attacked a group of journalists and dispersed their peaceful protest to claim their right to freedom of movement as part of the activities of the campaign "Palestinian journalists' freedom of movement", on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013, in front of the Qalandiya checkpoint near Ramallah. The Israeli soldiers threw tear gas at journalists and prevented them from completing their peaceful protest, while they pushed some of the journalists.

Nida Younis a Journalists from ministry of information reported to MADA that the Israeli soldiers shot tear gas heavily on the journalists, where she was hit by one of the bombs that caused her skin severe redness. Wafa Agency photographer Mufeed Abu Hasna reported to MADA that the journalists were targeted by the occupation soldiers upon their arrival to the Qalandiya checkpoint. Abu Hasna added: "the IOF did not consider that we are journalists protesting to demand our rights. And a sound bomb exploded near my feet which injured me and I received treatment in the field by the Red Crescent crew".

A member of the General Secretariat at the journalists' syndicate Sanaad Sahlya reported that a sound bomb wounded him in the leg which caused him medium bruises and burns, and that two female journalists were injured as well they are: Naila Khalil, and aseel Al a'raj”.

(17/7) The Internal security prevented journalists from protesting in front of the Office of the High Representative in Gaza city, demanding an intervention in order to ensure the right of the Palestinian journalists of free movement, within the activities of the campaign "Palestinian journalists' freedom of movement," on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013. A member of the Secretariat of the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate in Gaza Yousef Alostaz reported to MADA that he had received a call from internal security telling him not to allow journalists to carry out the protest, without explaining the reasons for it directly.

Noted that Hamas does not recognize the Syndicate, which is based in Ramallah, but recognizes the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate which was formed last year and based in Gaza.

(28/7) Israeli occupation forces arrested the correspondent of Hona Al Quds network for Community Media Ahmad Aruri, from his home in the village of Arura, north of Ramallah, on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Aruri's mother reported to MADA that the occupation forces came to their house at exactly two o'clock in the morning on Sunday, and searched it, also ordered all family members to stay in one room. She added: "After that, they took my son to another room to talk, and then they confiscated his computer and the hard disk, then they arrested him." Aruri's mother also reported that she received a call on the same day from an Israeli human rights organization, who informed her that her son was being held

in the Maskobyia detention center in West Jerusalem, and so far she has no other information about him.

(30/7) Hamas Security forces seized the office keys of Ma'an and Al-Arabiya, preventing employees from entering their offices, on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

According to Ma'an agency editor-in-chief Nasser Al-laham who reported to MADA that Hamas security forces contacted the director of Ma'an's office in Gaza, Imad Eid on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013, and requested to hand over the office keys, but he refused to do so. Al-laham added: "the security summoned Mr. Eid on 30 July to their headquarters and demanded him to hand over the keys, but they refused to show him any official warrant that he must hand the keys. They also prevented any staff from entering the offices or to take anything from the office not even a pen."

Al-Arabiya correspondent Islam Abdel Kareem has reported to MADA that he had received a phone call in Tuesday from Hamas security forces and was called immediately to their headquarters, and when he went there, they asked him to hand over the keys to the office immediately, and not to allow any employee from entering the offices. Abdel Kareem added: "they did not talk to me or interrogate me regarding any news, and I did not receive any official warrant to hand over the keys, but they said that it is the implementation of the Attorney General's decision to close the office."

Ma'an News Agency has stated that the Attorney-General Counsel Ismail Jabr had issued an order on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013, to close the offices of Ma'an

and Alarabia TV in Gaza, on a temporary basis. The reason was “fabricating News, spreading rumors, and transmitting false information that is not reality of truth, which threatens civil peace and harms the Palestinian people and its resistance”.

The closer of Lens Company for Media Productions also on 25th July 2013 was for its work relationship with the Israeli news channel 124NEWS, according to an earlier decision of Hamas government which prohibits working with Israeli media.

## **August**

### **Details of violations:**

(1/8) Israeli occupation forces IOF attacked a group of journalists while covering a protest near the Hizma barrier in solidarity with the Bedouin in the Negev and against "Bravar plan" which was approved by the Israeli government to seize their land, on Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. The journalists are: Ahayaat Al-Jadidah Newspaper photographer Issam Rimawi, Chinese Agency photographer Fadi Arouri, Anatolia Agency photographer Moath Meshaal, and the correspondent of Raya FM Radio Shadi Haatim.

Essam Rimawi reported to MADA that he went with his colleagues to cover the protest, but that the Israeli occupation forces targeted them by beating them with wands and strongly pushed them, even though they were carrying cameras and it was clear that they are journalists. Rimawi added: "it caused us very light bruises, but we were prevented from coverage and the protest was dispersed within a half an hour."

(1/8) Hamas Internal Security detained the Palestinian network correspondent Abdullah Obeid (20 years old) and Karbala Iraqi channel correspondent Amjad Yagi (23 years old), during their coverage of the solidarity event with the Negev Bedouin in the Square of the Unknown Soldier, on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2013.

Obaid reported to MADA that at about four o'clock pm, a group of detectives arrested him and beat him while in the car. He remained in detention in their

headquarters until six o'clock in the evening. Obaid added: "After they released me they told me that I was covering a rebel movement organized event and they are targeting them not journalists."

Yagi reported: "A group in civilian clothes came and took me to the police station and they know I am a journalist. There they held me in a cell that had no ventilation or lighting, and confiscated my laptop and my mobile phone. And apologized to me and released me at about six in the evening".

(6/8) The public prosecutor in Gaza summoned the writer Talal Sharif for investigation, August 6<sup>th</sup> 2013. Sharif reported to MADA that the investigation was about an article he wrote on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011 titled "my brother accused an intelligence officer of trying to smuggle Abu Mazen through the tunnels" an article critical of Hamas government in Gaza. Sharif added: "They accused me of going beyond my limits when criticizing the Hamas government and internal security, the complaint submitted against me was by Interior Minister Fathi Hammad. But I told the prosecutor that in my article I touched on the general condition of the government and did not offend certain people. They asked me to hire a lawyer and the prosecutor told me that the article was very sharp and he will convert the case to court, and now I am waiting for a Court date to be set".

(7/8) The Israeli occupation forces IOF arrested "Quds Press" Agency correspondent Muhammad Mona on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013, from his home in the West Bank city of Nablus. The journalist's brother reported to MADA that the occupation forces came to their house and had inquired about his brother

Mohammed; they also searched the house and then arrested him, in addition to the confiscation of his computer and personal cell phone and some papers. Mona was transferred to administrative detention for six months on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013, without any charges against him.

(10/8) Bethlehem's Governor Abdel Fattah Hamayel attacked verbally the Director of Radio Bethlehem 2000 George Canawati, and tried to prevent him from attending and covering a concert for Syrian singer Asala Nasri within the festival " Solomon's Pools nights" in the city of Bethlehem, on the evening of Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2013. Canawati reported to MADA that as he entered the gates of the festival, the governor Hamayel instructed his guards to force Canawati out, and that Hamayel said: "What is this rubbish doing here?" and then called Canawati "a dog." Canawati added that he showed his press card to the guards and they let him enter the festival concert, "I did not respond to the governor assault and did not talk to him before or after the incident, but apparently it's regarding my previous criticism of Hamayel, he also filed a formal complaint at the Bethlehem prosecutors".

(11/8) Palestinian police detained Watan Agency correspondent Hamza Salaymeh during filming a brawl that broke out between citizens and members of the security forces in Ramallah, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2013. Salaymeh reported to MADA that that he had seen the fight by chance, so he tried to use his mobile phone the only device available at hand, and when he began filming security men surrounded him and dragged him to the police station. There he was treated badly and the officer shouted in his face, Salaymeh told the officer that he is a

journalist and showed him his press card, but they did not consider it. Salaymeh added: "another officer came and he treated me better and asked me to send the video to him, and after I did they erased it from my phone. I told him this was illegal, and so the officer said that I was not respectful and asked one of the men to take me out of the station in an inappropriate manner".

(13/8) the Israeli Occupation forces IOF arrested WatanTV cameraman Mohammed Awad from his home in the village of Budrus, west of Ramallah on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013. Watan TV reported in a press release that the Israeli occupation forces arrested their cameraman Mohamed Awad from his home in the village of Budrus in the early hours of Tuesday morning, where the IOF brutally broke into his house and took him to an unknown destination. Awad is still detained so far.

(15/8) Hamas Ministry of Interior in Gaza issued a decision to arrest the writer Yahya Rabah if he returns to Gaza, for writing an article on the events in Egypt, entitled "Long live Egypt", which he published on his Facebook page, on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013. Rabah reported to MADA that he also received threatening letters and he was cursed on his Facebook. It is worth mentioning that Rabah is currently residing in the West Bank in Ramallah.

(16/8) The security services in the city of Hebron prevented journalists from covering a Hamas movement protest that started after Friday prayers from the Hussein mosque on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013, to protest the Egyptian army actions against the Muslim Brotherhood sit-in at Rabaa Adaweya and Alnahda. Quds TV

cameraman Akram Alnatsha reported to MADA that he went with a number of his colleagues to cover the protest, the security men began the suppression of the participants, and they prevented the journalists from covering and threatened and cussed them. Alnatsha added: "we were attacked verbally, and my colleagues Reuters cameraman Mohammed Abu Ghanya, Pal media agency photographer Amer Abdeen, and I were pulled by force". Alnatsha noted that he had seen members of the security forces attack the youths who were filming with mobile phones, which were confiscated. the French news agency photographer Hazem Bader told MADA that journalists were at the site before the start of the protest by about half an hour, and the security were present at the same place did not approach the journalists. He added: "But when they decided to suppress the protest, they began to prevent us from covering and the threatened the photographers, so we withdraw from the site".

(23/8) The security services in Al-Bireh city prevented journalists from covering the Hamas solidarity protest the Egyptian army actions against the Muslim Brotherhood sit-in at Rabaa Adaweya and Alnahda in front of Gamal Abdel Nasser Mosque on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2013. Trans Media cameraman Muhammad Aruri reported to MADA that he was in front of the mosque waiting for the end of the prayer and the start of the protest, but the director of operations of the Preventive Security Service approached him and confiscated his personal and press I.D and prevented him from filming for "security reasons". Aruri added: he dragged me to his car and took my camera and prevented me from filming until the end of the event, I was detained for about 45 minutes. Then I was told

that I will be released on condition of not filming on the location because I was not desired on site”.

Anatolia Agency photographer Moaath Meshaal reported to MADA that the same security person took his identity and press equipment, and told him that he is forbidden to photograph, and was asked to accompany him but Meshaal refused. Meshaal added: “security men were pushing journalists and were covering the cameras lances, so I withdrew quietly”.

(26/8) Hamas Internal Security called the director of the Arab’s Alghad channel Saif al-Din Shahin for investigation on August 26<sup>th</sup> 2013. Shahin reported that a group of internal security came to his house and handed over the call to go immediately to their headquarters, but he did not go. Two hours later the security force came to his house and took him to their headquarters next to the Islamic University, at around two in the afternoon, and stayed there for an hour and a half. Shahin added: "during the investigation they asked about the work of the channel, specifically about the skype call with one of the members of the rebel movement during a program, I told them that I do not know who this person is and I did not arrange for the call, and then I was released".

## September

### Details of violations:

(1/9) Israeli occupation authorities prevented Omar Abu Arqoub of the Al Quds network for community media correspondent from traveling through the Karama (Allenby) crossing on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. Abu Arqoub reported to MADA center that occupation authorities prevented him from traveling without any given reasons. He intended to travel to complete higher education in Malaysia, adding: "I've asked them to see the officer to know the reason, but they refused and told me to go to the Civil Liaison office, and I submitted a request to the office and set me an appointment on 11<sup>th</sup> September to know the prevention reasons and whether they will allow me to travel or not."

(2/9) The internal security of the Hamas Government called journalist Nasr Abu Al Fool to the headquarters in Gaza city on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Abu Al Fool reported to MADA that he went to the headquarters at 11:30 in the morning, where he was interrogated over a 'Tamarod' (rebellion) movement in Gaza and his work as a journalist. The investigation continued until 6:30 in the evening. He added: "I was not ill-treated, but they were talking to me the language of threat."

(3/9) The internal security of the Hamas government called journalist and blogger Hatem Abdullah Salameh (38 years) to go to the headquarters in Khan Younis on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013. He reported that the investigation was over his articles written against the Muslim Brotherhood and his social relationships with the Fatah movement. He was charged on account of being an official in

'Tamarod' in the Gaza strip, however he denied this. Salameh added: "they took my Facebook account password and they searched, and they asked me not to write for 4 months either on the blog or on Facebook, I have remained from 10:00am until 3:00pm". Salameh was called once again on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013, and was to go to the headquarters in Ansar on 15<sup>th</sup> September. He was stopped in the sun, had a bag put over his head. He was investigated over the Fateh website and his relationship with it, before being released at 4:00pm. He told MADA: "the last call was on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013, where I went there at 9:00am near the Islamic University and the investigation was about my articles and my political views this time, and I was released at 2:00pm."

(6/9) Israeli occupation forces assaulted France Press Agency photographer Ja'far Ishtayeh, and European Agency photographer Ala' Badarneh during their coverage of the Kofo Qaddom weekly march on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Ishtaya informed MADA that he was with his colleague Badarneh covering the weekly march to demand that the occupation open the main street in the Kofor Qaddom village, which closed 10 years ago. The occupation forces fired two tear gas bombs at them. Ishtayeh added: "my heel was injured and my right foot comb on my left foot, I was taken to the hospital due to a rupture in the comb I suffer from swelling and puffiness."

(7/9) The internal Security of the Hamas government in Khan Younis city called WAFA Agency correspondent Mohamad Khalil Abufayyad (40 years) for investigation on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013. According to Abu Fayyad, he had received a call on Saturday from the Qarara Investigation headquarters to go

there the following day, however he didn't because the call was illegal. As a result, a written call was sent to his home at 9:00 am on Sunday morning. He added: "I've talked with them nervously and told them that their work is to call the criminals, not journalists, one of them told me we want to know you, and they put me in a booking room, after that they called me another time for investigation asking me are you working with WAFA? Do you belong to Fateh ? I answered is it forbidden? The investigator said to me, we want you to sign the pledge, but I refused to do so, after a while I was released."

(9/9) The internal security of the Hamas government called the writer and University lecturer Yahya Ibraheem Almadhoon (35 years) on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Almadhoon informed MADA that he had received a call from security on Monday to go the following day to their headquarters in Jabalya. When he arrived at 10:00 morning (according to his appointment time) he waited for two hours before being taken into an investigation room where they questioned him over personal details and then investigated him in relation to the 'Tamarod' movement. He was charged with belonging to the group, adding: "they told me that I do inciting against them through the media and Facebook and I denied. I stayed until 9:00 pm, and refused to eat, all the time asking why I am here? Someone answered colloquially: leave 'Tamarod' movement and asked my password for the Facebook account, then released me after checking my account."

(10/9) -The internal security of the Hamas Government in Khan Younis called journalist Ra'fat Abdelra'of Toman (34 years) several times for investigation on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Toman informed MADA that he received a call from the Security service on Sunday to go to their headquarters at 9:00 Tuesday

morning. Upon arrival, they put him in prison with 15 people until 12:00pm and then investigated him on charges of distributing a statement to the 'Tamarod' movement. He denied this and was held until 3.00pm before being released on condition of returning for interview on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013. He added: "I went there and remained in detention until 4:00 o'clock. After that they investigated me about my relationship with 'Tamarod', stressed the need for respect the government and Hamas then I was released at 9:00 o'clock to be back on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013. When I went in the last time they questioned me about the same topics and I denied all the charges again. I told them I am journalist who specializes in the refugee's affairs and write about them, and they released me at noon. "

(10/9) The internal security of the Hamas government called Fathi Mahmoud Tbaill (59 years), Wafa Agency correspondent, as he was covering the weekly feminist demand to an end to the division on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Tbaill informed MADA that one of the members of the internal security approached him and requested his identity card and his cell phone, asking him to go to their headquarters located near the Islamic University. When he went, they asked him for the same identification, handed over his things and he was allowed to leave. He added: "they called me on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September and asked me to go immediately to the detective headquarters, there was questioned me about the sit-in and who invited me and about the organizer, threatened to detention and asking me to sign a pledge not to being in any unauthorized gathering, whether I went as a journalist or as a citizen, and released me after three hours ".

(11/9) Occupation forces assaulted journalists in front of “Bab Hetta” in the old city of Jerusalem covering the demonstrations in protest against the closure of Al-Aqsa Mosque by occupation forces, their prevention of prayers and their allowance of settlers to break in on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013. According to photojournalist Mahfouz Abu Turk, Israeli soldiers assaulted the journalists collectively, were aggressively pushing them in an attempt to keep them away from the event and preventing them from taking photos. Abu Turk added: “my clothes being torn, they tried to arrest me because of my objection about their treatment however, they have gone back because of the protests by other journalists.”

(12/9) Occupation forces assaulted Nadal Ishtayeh, photographer from the Chinese News Agency, and seized his cameras as he covered a leveling operation of agricultural land by settlers in Salem village near Nablus on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Ishtaya informed MADA that he went to report on the event, as confrontations has arisen when settlers opened fire on farmers who were shouting at them to leave the land. Moments later, the occupation army arrived and assaulted farmers with sound bombs which broke out in fire. Ishtayeh added: “I've documented all of these violations and when the soldiers saw it they detained me and confiscation my cameras and after intervention by civil association I was released but without cameras. I filed a lawsuit with the help of the “B'Tselem”. They confessed in destroyed the cameras and buried it under the soil, they returned it back but unusable although it cost me about 5800 US\$.”

(14/9) The Palestinian Intelligence Service arrested Thaer Alshkali, Heyad News Agency reporter in Ramallah city in his home on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Alshkali informed MADA that the intelligence agency sent him two calls, the first being on 3<sup>rd</sup> September to go to the headquarters in Hebron, and the second on 6<sup>th</sup> September to go to the headquarters in Ramallah. He didn't attend, adding: "on Saturday, six people of the intelligence services attended to my house about 8:30am and took me to the headquarters and I remained there until 11:00pm. The investigation was about my writing on Facebook and about my reports in the agency in addition to another thing such as the situation in Syria and the Palestinian youth movement. In the end, someone told me that I have to be careful while writing because the country is passing through a delicate stage."

(20/9) Ayman Idris, Ramsat Agency photographer was assaulted by the Israeli occupation forces while covering a weekly Kofor Qaddom march, that had been customized to commemorate the massacre of Sabra and Shatila on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Idris informed MADA that he went to cover the march with other journalists, but Israeli forces began firing sound and gas bombs at them. He was hit by shrapnel and a bomb in the chest, causing him bruises. He added: "I received aid in the field then was transferred from the place with the help of journalists."

(23/9) Israeli occupation forces prevented Issam Rimawi, Ahayat Aljadideh newspaper photographer, and Thaer Faqosa of Palestine Public TV from covering

three Israeli military jeeps breaking into Al-Bireh city on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2013. Remawi informed MADA that he went to cover the break in operation around 11:30am, but the Israeli occupation forces prevented him and his partner, ordering them to leave immediately.

(25/9) The Israeli Occupation Forces attacked a group of journalists, by beating them, targeting them with sound bombs, and spraying them with blue colored waste water, during their coverage of the protests against the ongoing incursions of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, at The Damascus Gate in Jerusalem yesterday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

Palestine Public TV cameraman Nader Baybars reported to MADA that no journalist was safe from the IOF attacks, and he stressed that the soldiers were brutal to the journalists, where they fired sound bombs and sprayed blue colored waste water at them. Baybars added: "the demonstrators and journalists were sprayed with blue colored waste water, and when we ran away I fell on the stairs and was bruised, many of my colleagues' cameras were damaged due to the waste water, such as Pal Media photographer Isaq Kasba (he was sprayed heavily with water) and Alquds newspaper photographer Suliman Khadir. My Palestine Public TV coworkers Khalil Khadir and Mohamed A'shoo both got injured by sound bombs in their hands and were treated on site. Journalist Ahmed Albediri suffered severe suffocation that affected his vocal cords by two sound bombs which landed between his feet, and he was transferred to a hospital for treatment".

Diala Jwehan the correspondent of Alquds Net reported to MADA that the suppression of journalists was clear and direct while we were covering the protest and during the confrontations that followed and lasted for about 4 hours. Jwehan added: "We were pushed and beaten with batons, where we stood and formed a large group. Most of the journalists' cameras were damaged due to the water they sprayed on us".

(27/9) Israeli forces attacked a group of journalists during their coverage of a weekly march in Beit Omar in Hebron on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Hazem Bader, France Press Agency photographer, informed MADA that he went to photograph the events of the march, however the Israeli army prevented them from even getting close to the event. Bader added: "they have pushing and insulted all journalists and they also tried to pull cameras from our hands, and throw sound bombs among us. The European Agency photographer Abdel-Hafiz Hashlamoun emphasized that all journalists were suppression by pushing and insulting and throwing sound bombs."

(27/9) Israeli occupation forces attacked Mousa Alsha'er, French Agency photographer while covering a solidarity event with Al-Aqsa Mosque, and against settlements in the Aida refugee camp near Bethlehem on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Alsha'er informed MADA that he went to cover the event, but at the moment of his arrival one of the Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets at him injuring his left hand and the right side of his chest. He stated: "I was taken to the hospital by ambulance and received the necessary treatment there".

(29/9) Preventive Security in Hebron city called Mustafa Alkhawaja, Al Quds TV correspondent, for investigation on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Alkhawaja informed MADA that he received a call the day before with a car. When he went,

he was questioned over his work with the channel, the news and its sources, and the official financier. He added: “in addition to that they inquired about family and personal matters too. I remained there for three and a half hours. Throughout this period, they held my cell phone outside the investigation room.”

## October

### Details of violations:

(4/10) Palestine Public TV correspondent **Ali Dar Ali** was attacked by the IOF On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Ali reported to MADA that while he was preparing to interview a Palestinian Protestor at one of the usual weekly peaceful demonstrations in bel'in village west of Ramallah city, an Israeli soldier deliberately threw a gas bomb at him, hitting his leg, "he threw the bomb from a nearby distance, about 4–5 meters away, which caused bruises and burns to my leg".

(4/10) On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013, the Turkish Anatolia Agency correspondent **Ala Hassan Rimawi** was arrested by the Palestinian Intelligence services from his home in Abu Deis. Rimawi reported to MADA that he was detained for 4 hours at the Intelligence headquarters in Ramallah, and he was asked formally to return to the headquarters on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Rimawi: "When I went there I was arrested and interrogated during several sessions about my work at the agency and how I got my salary and source of funding, they also investigated about my comments on Facebook, and I was released on Monday at noon".

(11/10) On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013, the IOF detained Wafa News Agency photographer **Mohemed Faraj** and Palestine Public TV crew (**Anal Aljade/correspondant, Mohammad Annaya/cameraman, and Ayman Alharsh/Driver**), while they were covering the Kafir Kadoum weekly demonstration. Faraj reported to MADA that Palestine Public TV crew and he

headed to the weekly demonstration as usual, but this time the Israeli soldiers detained them from 11 am until 3pm to prevent them from covering the event. Faraj: “after our release we were accompanied by a military jeep until we left the area, and we were told by a soldier that the prevention and detention was ordered by the Israeli Intelligence services”.

Aljade reported to MADA that while on their way to cover the demonstration they received a phone call about a military checkpoint at the village entrance, and when they arrived the soldiers detained them, as well as a group of international peace activists. Aljade: “at first we received a very harsh treatment and we were separated, and were forced to stay under the sun, but after an hour they allowed us to sit under a tree. While in detention they asked us why we film, and why do we post our videos on YouTube”.

(22/10) On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013, the IOF detained Wattan TV crew **Fares Almalki/correspondent and Ibrahim Hamad/cameraman**. Almaliki reported to MADA that when the crew was on their way back from Nablus to Ramallah, they witnessed a Palestinian car being searched by Israeli soldiers at the Za'tarra checkpoint, so he asked Hamad to film. Almaliki: “When my colleague began filming, he was attacked by a group of soldiers who tried to take the camera from Hamad by force, and when I intervened an argument flamed between me and one of the soldiers, so I showed my press card, but he insisted he wanted the filming tape but I refused to hand it to him, so we were taken to a special inspection area, and we were detained for an hour under the sun, and we were

released with our cameras only after they became certain that we did not film anything”.

(22/10) On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013, the IOF raided the village of Bel'in west of Ramallah, and during the media coverage of the clashes that erupted between the Israeli soldiers and the people of the village, WATAN TV crew were attacked by Israeli rubber bullets, which lead to the Injury of **Amjad Shoman/cameraman** in his head. Aysar Albargouthi, Wattan TV correspondent reported to MADA that he and his colleague Shoman were at the village covering the clashes, and that they were targeted deliberately with rubber bullets while moving their car away from the gun shots, and that's when a bullet hit Shoman, and the car back glass shattered due to the gas and sound bombs. Albargouthi: “Amjad was transferred to the ER at Ramallah's Hospital for treatment and received two stitches in his forehead”.

(27/10) Ma'an network correspondent **Raed Abu Bakir** and cameraman **Bilal Khamysa** were detained in Jenin by the IOF, where they were working on a report about the town of Ya'bad in Jenin. Abu Bakir reported to MADA that he went to prepare a report about the repeated attacks by the IOF on Ya'bad, specifically on the IOF seizure of the second floor of *Atef Khalil Abu Bakir* home a citizen of the Almalol area west of the town of Ya'bad. And when he arrived to the location he was yelled at by an Israeli soldier who prevented him from entering the home. Raed Abu Bakir: “I informed them that I was a journalist and that I wish to enter the home to speak to the owners but they strongly refused the request, and they warned me that I will be treated badly if I do not obey, at the

end they allowed us to enter the home without our cameras and accompanied by the municipality president and a council member. But we entered with our camera and prepared the report, and that's when we were threatened by an Israeli officer that we will be shot with sound bombs once we exit the home, meanwhile the soldier jeeps surrounded my car and were prepared to hit us with the sound bombs. So I contacted the Palestinian military connection, whom worked on the necessary coordination to ensure our release after an hour of detention”.

(29/10) on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013, the occupation military court rejected the appeal made in order to reduce the administrative detention of Alquds Press Agency correspondent **Mohammad Mona**. It is noteworthy that the occupation forces arrested Mona from his home on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013, and sentenced him to 6 months of administrative detention eight days after his arrest, without any charges against him. Mona is supposed to be released on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

(30/10) after midnight 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013, while journalists where covering the second release of Palestinian prisoners, the IOF sprayed waste water and threw sound and light grenades at the journalists. Alquds TV correspondent **Linda Shalash** reported to MADA that the crew was near the Offar prison gate , and while she was reporting on the prisoners' release, the soldiers began spraying everyone with waste water, the waste water praying was heavily and deliberately aimed at journalists. Shalash: “I fell to the ground by the strength of the water, and got completely wet, yet I resumed my work and went to the presidential residence at the Mokata'a to cover the entire event of the release of Palestinian prisoners, where they organized a welcome home reception”.

## November

### Details of Violations:

(1/11) In Selfit on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013, **Majdi Taha the manager of Sawt Alghad Radio station** was arrested by the Palestinian detectives' for writing a report about a missing girl near the village of bedya north of West bank, he was later accused of "Impersonating a journalist". Taha reported to MADA that he was arrested at three o'clock in the afternoon of that Friday, he was detained at the police station of the village of Bedyā until the evening, and then he was transferred to the police station in Selfit. Taha added: "I was detained until three o'clock in the morning of Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November; I was released until Sunday morning where I had to appear before the prosecution. And that is when I was charged with "Impersonating a journalist", and I was asked to prove my profession, and I was released after they reviewed the proving documents required".

(6/11) The Israeli security forces arrested **Mohamed Abu Khadeir the correspondent of Alquds Newspaper**, during his return home from a trip via the Ben-Gurion Airport, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013. After his release on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013, Abu Khadeir reported to MADA that upon his arrival at the airport, the authorities there confiscated his telephone and computer, they handed over his luggage to his son outside the airport, and then he was interrogated for 3 hours inside the airport until one o'clock in the morning.

Abu Khadeir added: I was transferred then to Ashkelon prison in the south, where they continued the investigation between 2 and 5 am, there the Judge of the southern region attended and he ordered my detention for 48 hours until further investigation. The charges against me were: “in contact with a terrorist organization (and they mean by that Hamas), make calls and transferring information and collaborating with terrorist figures, and a member in a terrorist organization.

The main theme of the investigation was my interviews with members of Fatah and Hamas in the reconciliation meeting held in Cairo in the month of June, where I interviewed each of Azzam al-Ahmad, Sakhr Bseiso, members of the Central Committee of Fatah. They also interrogated me about my interviews in Istanbul during the Palestinian Turkish Cultural Week, and especially my interview with Saleh Al-Aruri member of the political bureau of Hamas, and he was in charge of the prisoner Shalit release pact. They hysterically questioned me about the person who coordinated the interview.

Their main focus during the investigation was the interviews I made with members of Hamas which seemed like they were getting their details from my laptop, they also focused on trying to figure out my political affiliation, and how I am able to interview members of all political parties, my answer was that I am a journalist and this is my job”.

Abu Khadeir reported to MADA that he was interrogated every day between 19 to 20 hours, prevented from sleeping, and was handcuffed and isolated in a closed

cell. Abu Khadeir added: “when the Israeli Judge reviewed my file she was astonished and described it as odd, because it contained 1111 pages of media materials , and she gave the prosecution a week to justify what is in the file otherwise I will be allowed to file a complaint against them, but they were unable to anything and I was released on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013. I was threatened with deportation from Jerusalem during the last two days of my arrest and the withdrawal of my Jerusalemite identity”.

(10/11) in Bethlehem, on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013, **George Canawati, the manager of Radio Bethlehem 2000** was arrested from his home, on the background of his weekly radio show “Amar ya Bald”.

Canawati reported to MADA that the director of the Bethlehem police office accompanied by 20 police men and one police women (some wearing civil uniforms) broke into his home without a warrant, they searched his house, prevented him from making a phone call, attacked him, beat him, hit him with a stick on his head and back, verbally assaulted him in front of his wife and kids, and then arrested him.

Canawati added: “they kept beating me until I fell to the ground, the police office director pushed my mom which injured her head, I was then beaten for 5 minutes in the police car, when we arrived to the police station I was let of the car by force, and that is when two men beat me; one from the back and another from the front”.

Canawati reported to MADA that he was presented to the doctor after 3 hours of detention, but the doctor refused to give him any pain killers even though he suffered from great pain, and he remained in prison until the next morning, then he was presented to the prosecutors and they interrogated him about his radio show "Amar Ya Balad" accusing him of using vulgar words against the director of the Bethlehem police, and he was charged on two counts: first: libel and slander and second: resisting arrest. Canawati added: "I was arrested on the first charge for 48 hours by the prosecution and the second the prosecutor demanded my arrest for 24 hours, and then I was taken back to prison, and at approximately 12:30 am on Monday, I was released with the presence of the Journalists' Syndicate and by a decision of the Attorney General and the President of the Bethlehem prosecutors, with the guarantee of my residential address. And at 9 am of Tuesday I was represented before the court regarding the charge resisting the arrest, where I testified that I did not attack any police men and the court hearing was delayed until 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013", then I filed a complaint against those who attacked me".

(11/11) In Gaza, on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013, **the French Agency Cameraman Yahya Hasouna** was detained by the Internal Security in Gaza while preparing a report on the 9<sup>th</sup> memorial of the Late Palestinian president Yasser Arafat. Hasouna reported to MADA that around 10 am he headed to the gardens of Alzhar University (located outside the university campus) to work on the report, there he interviewed a few students, during which he was approached by a police men and he was asked about what he was working on and who does

he work for, another then approached him and required his journalism I.D. Hasouna added: “when the students witnessed how the police men approached me after each interview (a total of 4 interviews) they refused to speak to me, then 4 police men took my camera and belongings. I was taken by a jeep to security office. I waited for 5 minutes and there another man came and took me to the investigation room, they asked about my camera and the interviews I made with the students, I was also asked for the interview recording and they listened to them. Then came another man and told them that he had been inquiring about me and that I needed "a little discipline" then after about an hour of detention I was released”.

(13/11) In Tulkarem, On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013, **Watan TV correspondent Sami Saai** was summoned for investigation by the Preventive Security. Saai reported to MADA that he received an official summon letter to go to the Preventive Security headquarters in Tulkarim, When he arrived he was detained in solitary confinement for half an hour, and then interrogated for half an hour about his calls to the Gaza Strip, his relatives, and about Hamas and his political believes, he confirmed that he was independent and did not belong to any party. Saai added: “they took me back to the cell until 9pm, and then they asked me the same questions and about me criticizing some public figures and leaders, and then I was taken back to the cell until midnight. I was released after a detention that lasted for 13 hours, but I was generally treated well”.

(13/11) in Gaza on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013, a group of armed men broke into the home of **Al Arabyia TV cameraman and the manager of the broadcast Shabaan Mema**, they stole his car and kidnapped him. Hanan Al Masri, the Al-Arabiya correspondent in Gaza, reported to MADA that around 6:30pm a group of armed men entered the home of her colleague Mema, They blindfolded him and took him to a car garage in the Sheikh Radwan district, where the broadcasting car of Al Arabiya was parked, and they threatened him and stole the car. Al Masri added: "Until this moment the car was not returned, and Al-Arabiya TV to informed the police, and Mema gave his statement, and the police are still searching".

(15/11) on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the IOF targeted a group of journalists during their coverage of the weekly peaceful Balain protest. The associated press photographer Majdi Ishteya reported that he was attacked twice by the IOF during his coverage of the protest in Balain. Ishteya added: "In the first time they shot at me from 20 meters a Rubber pack, which is a group of 14 rubber bullets, but thank God none hit me, and the second time they broke the glass and taillight of my car, they also broke the car of Palestine TV crew and AFP photographer Abbas Momani's car ". Momani reported to MADA: "Israeli soldiers used journalists as human shields in order to protect themselves from the stones of young Palestinians, and when the journalists hid away from the soldiers, the soldiers wanted revenge especially after three soldiers were wounded by stones, so they shot rubber packs, stun grenades, and gas bombs toward us".

(21/11) On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013, **Al-Quds TV crew (Mamdouh Hamamra – correspondent and Abd Algani Natsha – cameraman)** were prevented by a group of Israeli soldiers from covering the Occupations bulldozing the lands of (Baten Al-Masi) an area south of Al-Khadir village near Bethlehem. Hamamra reported to MADA that during their coverage they were spotted by the Israeli settlement guard, who asked about the reason they were present at site, then he confiscated their personal I.D, and they were asked to wait until the Israeli forces were called.

Hamamra added: “after the IOF came they ordered us to wait until the arrival of the police. After almost an hour and 15 minutes the police came and asked again about the reason for our presence in the region. One of them told us that if you want to return to this region you should obtain a permit, even though there was no sign that prevented us from being there, and then returned our I.D and we were released”.

(24/11) on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013, members of the intelligence service's of the presidential guards **detained the crew of Watan TV; reporter Ibrahim Ankawi (26 years old) and photographer Nael Rajoub (33 years old)**, while they were preparing a report on the false companies, near the Moqata'a (Presidential headquarters) in Ramallah. Ankawi reported to MADA that him and his colleague headed near Al Jameel Center (an area near the Presidential headquarters) to work on their report about the false and pretend companies, after they arrived in two minutes they were approached by the intelligence service's of the presidential guards, who asked about why the journalists were at

the site. Ankawi added: “we told them that we were working on a report, and so they informed us that we should have requested a security clearance because we were inside the “moraba al amni” a secure neighborhood. Then they took us into the headquarters (al moqata), and we were set in a room for interrogation for 3 hours, where we were interrogated by 3 detectives each at a time, during which they reviewed our 35 minute film”.

The intelligence service's of the presidential guards pressed charges against Watan TV crew for “trespassing the secure neighborhood” and they confiscated the films and the crew were taken to the police station. In this regard Ankawi added: “we were treated nicely at the police station and we stayed in the office until 8:30pm, then a official letter from the Presidential Guard office arrived waiving their complaint against us. And according to the police it was after pressure by the Journalist syndicate”.

## December

### Details of violations:

(12/4) The Israeli Occupation Forces IOF detained **a large group of journalists and media students** during their return from a media tour of the northern Jordan Valley and Nablus to Ramallah city. They were released after about an hour and a half of standing in the cold and under the rain on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

Palestine Public TV correspondent Haroun Amayra reported to MADA: "We were on a tour with the Ministry of Information, the journalist Syndicate, and a number of journalists and media students to cover the reality of life in the northern Jordan Valley "Aljaftlak and Abu Ajaj area" and Ein Shili in Nablus. And around 5:20 pm the Israeli soldiers at Alhowara checkpoint south of Nablus city deliberately stopped our bus and ordered everyone off the bus and searched us thoroughly and in a humiliating matter ". Amayra stated that they were released after an hour and a half of standing in the cold and under the rain, and he pointed out that they informed the soldiers that they are journalists and media students and showed their press Identification cards, but to no avail.

Samer Nazal a Photojournalist reported to MADA: "We were humiliated, searched, and detained by Israeli soldiers, and they directed insults at us and pushed us during the search, it was intentional, where they did not stop any car or bus during the time of our detention".

(6/12) the IOF, **Palestine TV crew (reporter/ Ali Dar Ali, and cameraman/ Fadi Jayyousi)** suffered a severe suffocation after the IOF targeted them directly with gas grenades while they were covering the weekly peaceful demonstration in Bil'in on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Ali reported to MADA that he went with his colleague to cover the weekly march against the apartheid wall and settlements in Bil'in, and suddenly Israeli soldiers was aiming tear gas canister that were fired at deliberately towards his colleague Jayyousi but was not harmed. Ali added: "We tried to get away but they fired another bomb on us from a distance of few meters away, which caused us severe suffocation, our treatment was inside an ambulance for a quarter of an hour and then we resumed coverage of the march".

(6/12) The Israeli police attacked **the Yediot Ahronoth newspaper photographer Atta E'oissat (43 years)**, while covering clashes between Palestinians and settlers who repeatedly invaded Al-Aqsa Mosque, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013. E'oissat went to cover the clashes and then one of the Israeli policemen attacked him and strongly beat him, which led to him falling on his back and his head hit the ground, and he suffered some bruises in different parts of his body. E'oissat added: "When I tried to push the policeman who was beating me away, other policemen intervened and attacked me, and they sprayed me with pepper gas and I lost sight in my eyes for about two hours. After about a week I received a call from the police to go to their station, and when I went to there I was interrogated for about three hours and was then charged with

assaulting a on duty police officer in his official uniform, without taking into account the attack on me, and I was prevented from entering Al–Aqsa Mosque for two weeks”.

(10/12) The IOF detained **Palestine Public TV crew (Yara Alfares/ Correspondent, Salah Alhindi/ Cameraman, Iyad Albargouthi/ Driver)** while they were at Ein Yabrood Village east of Ramallah city, and after an interview with the head of the village council about village land confiscation in the village, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Alfares reported to MADA that the Israeli occupation forces stopped them and confiscated their identity cards, phones, and camera, then detained them for half an hour, then after the IOF erased all materials on the camera, they returned all their belongings and were released.

(17/12) The IOF threw a sound bomb on **Alshera TV cameraman Ahmad Qadurah (22 years)**, while covering the occupation forces raiding of Al–moqata (Palestinian Authority Headquarters) in the city of Tulkarem north of West Bank , wounding his head and needed four stitches, on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Qadurah reported to MADA that he went to cover the raid about 5:00 am, where clashes broke out between Israeli forces and Palestinian youths who tried to prevent them. Qadurah added: “one officer saw me and told me to back off and not to continue filming, and after that I took a step back one soldiers hit me with a sound bomb that hit my head, so I lost the ability to see at that moment. I was transferred immediately to a hospital for treatment, where I got four stitches”.

(19/12) On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013, the Israeli border guards detained the **Anatolia Agency photographer Moath Meshaal and Raya FM Radio**

**photographer Samer Nazal** at Za'atara checkpoint (connecting Nablus and Ramallah). Meshaal reported to MADA that their treatment was very provoking, especially after they learned they were journalists, where a soldier began insulting them by saying: "that Palestinian journalists aren't objective when covering the news and that they are evil". Meshaal added: "when I asked for the reason he is insulting us, the soldier responded because you are a Palestinian and I am a Jew". Meshaal and Nazal were released after their cameras were searched and they were detained for about 45 minutes.

(21/12) The Palestinian intelligence service in the city of Salfit north of West Bank summoned the **columnist Khaled Ma'ali** to their headquarters on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2013. Ma'ali reported to MADA that he went to the headquarters on Saturday where he was interrogated about his journalistic work and the articles he writes. He was also asked to send them his articles before publishing, but he refused, and told them that his articles are not contrary to the law and can be read on media sites. He was released after about three hours and a half. He also reported that he was summoned to headquarters by telephone without any receiving formal letter which is incompatible with the law".

(26/12) In Nablus, a person pointed a weapon at **the office manager of "Nada for press and media" Hamdi Abu Dheer (27 years)**, after a verbal altercation that occurred between them during the presence of Abu Dheer in the district office in order to cover a conference on sick prisoners, on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Abu Dheer reported to MADA that he headed to the governorate office after receiving an invitation from the Ministry of Information to

cover the conference, during which he had a verbal altercation with another guest, who then pointed the weapon at Abu Dheer's face. Abu Dheer added: "the next day we conciliated and the dispute was ended after the intervention of many parties including the Nablus governorate".

(27/12) The IOF also assaulted **Anatolia Agency photographer Moath Meshaal and the French Agency photographer Abbas Momani** while covering the weekly peaceful march in the village of Nabi Saleh on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Meshaal reported to MADA that a soldier fired rubber bullets at demonstrators and journalists, which led to his injury in his left leg "below the knee", and his colleague Momani was injured in his leg too. Meshaal added: "we received treatment at sight and didn't need a hospital treatment".

(29/12) The internal security of Hamas government in Gaza city prevented a meeting called by **the journalists' Syndicate with the official media sector employees, (Wafa News Agency, Palestine Public TV, and Al Haya Al Jadeda newspaper)** in order to discuss the last government decision in Ramallah to cut bonuses and transportation compensation for government staff in Gaza, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013. A member of the Secretariat of the Journalists' Syndicate Tahseen Alastal reported to MADA that the meeting was scheduled at exactly eleven o'clock on Sunday morning in Adam hotel in Gaza city, but two members from the Internal security came to the hotel and prevented them from holding the meeting and told them they should get a license from the Ministry of Interior.

