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Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA)

# Violations of Media Freedoms in Palestine



ANNUAL REPORT

# 2020



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## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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# **Violations of Media Freedoms in Palestine**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

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The Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms MADA

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                               |           |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Introduction:</b> .....                    | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Israeli Violations</b> .....               | <b>8</b>  |
| The Most Serious Israeli Violations .....     | 9         |
| Physical Assaults.....                        | 10        |
| Arrests.....                                  | 13        |
| Targeting Media Agencies .....                | 15        |
| Prevention from Coverage .....                | 16        |
| <b>Facebook Company Violations</b> .....      | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Palestinian Violations</b> .....           | <b>20</b> |
| Palestinian Violations in the West Bank ..... | 21        |
| Palestinian Violations in Gaza Strip .....    | 22        |
| Physical Assaults.....                        | 24        |
| Arrests and Torture.....                      | 25        |
| Summoning and Questioning.....                | 27        |
| <b>Recommendations</b> .....                  | <b>28</b> |
| <b>Details of Violations</b> .....            | <b>29</b> |



# INTRODUCTION

Despite the decline in the number of violations that were monitored and documented during the year 2020, the state of media freedoms in Palestine has not witnessed any real positive and tangible developments that would serve to move away from the path of practices and trends that prevailed during the preceding years. The decline in the number of violations that were recorded this year was not a result of conditions that reduced the contact between the media, journalists and perpetrators of attacks, but rather, it was a result of the spread of the pandemic, and the measures to combat it through lockdowns and limiting movement. Another reason is also the halting of Gaza's "Great Marches of Return" which are peaceful protests that took place near the separating fence in the Gaza Strip.<sup>1</sup>

The year 2020 began with a nearly full closure, during which citizens were locked home for nearly two months. Therefore, all aspects of activity and potential contact were almost completely paralyzed, which led among other results to reducing the chances of violations against journalists that occur mostly in the field and decreasing them to almost zero.

The same applies in varying degrees over most of the months of the past year, as almost every month of the year 2020 has witnessed various lockdown measures depending on the overall situation, this included complete closure of certain governorates. The pandemic has also led to a general decrease in the number and size of various popular protest activities which usually entail interaction and direct contact with journalists that often lead to attacks against journalists who cover them.

In addition to the repercussions of the Corona pandemic and the measures it imposed, the stopping of the Great Marches of Return in Gaza Strip has led to a reduction in the Israeli violations in the Gaza to reach zero, unlike previous years, due to the absence of almost any opportunity for contact, as well as the continuous blockade on the Gaza that reinforces the "absence of direct contact".

With regard to social media companies, they have continued the same approach in fighting Palestinian content; which is portrayed in closing and blocking dozens of pages of journalists or media institutions, with various arguments related to what they call "violating their publishing standards" or claiming that this is a result of what they consider "incitement."

## ► Violations:

The year 2020 witnessed a decline in the total number of violations against media freedoms in Palestine. This was a result of three main factors as the following:

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<sup>1</sup> The Peaceful marches of return were launched on 3/30/2018 and continued to be organized on a weekly and semi-regular basis with the participation of thousands of citizens until they stopped at the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020. The marches witnessed widespread attacks affecting dozens of journalists and that were covering the event, which amounted to the death of two journalists who were covering the marches by the Israeli soldiers.



First: The decrease in popular activities against the occupation and settlements in the West Bank, and the cessation of popular marches at the borders of the Gaza Strip, which led to the disappearance of the Israeli occupation’s attacks there, knowing that the Israeli Occupation is considered the primary perpetrator and one with the most dangerous attacks committed against journalists and the media in Palestine.

Second: The lockdown measures that have been taken as part of the public endeavors to combat the Corona pandemic and the consequent reduction in the opportunities for direct contact between journalists and security services.

Third: The operations of fighting Palestinian content carried out by social media networks, foremost of which is Facebook, and what it has done during the past years in terms of blocking and closing the pages of hundreds of journalists, pushing Palestinian journalists to practice self-censorship over what they publish; out of fear and anticipation of closing their pages or banning them from publishing through them, which led, in one of its results, to a decrease in the number of violations committed by Facebook against Palestinian journalists, compared to what it was in the previous year.<sup>2</sup>

*(Violations against media freedoms in Palestine in the year 2020 based on the party that committed the violation)*

| Party  | Israel (WB) | Israel (GS) | Palestinian parties (WB) | Palestinian parties (GS) | Social Media Platforms | Others | Total |
|--------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------|-------|
| Number | 210         | 5           | 37                       | 59                       | 95                     | 2      | 408   |

2 Note: Facebook’s violations against media outlets and journalists decreased relatively from last year, despite the fact that the general total number against various Palestinian groups increased, indicating that the decline did not come from Facebook as much as it was the result of extra caution by journalists and their practice of self-censorship for what they post.

*(Violations against journalists and media freedoms in Palestine during the past ten years)*

| Year         | Occupation's violations | Palestinian Parties' violations | Social media platforms violations | Others   | Total       |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| 2011         | 100                     | 106                             | 0                                 | 0        | <b>206</b>  |
| 2012         | 164                     | 74                              | 0                                 | 0        | <b>238</b>  |
| 2013         | 151                     | 78                              | 0                                 | 0        | <b>229</b>  |
| 2014         | 351                     | 114                             | 0                                 | 0        | <b>465</b>  |
| 2015         | 407                     | 192                             | 0                                 | 0        | <b>599</b>  |
| 2016         | 249                     | 134                             | 0                                 | 0        | <b>383</b>  |
| 2017         | 376                     | 154                             | 0                                 | 0        | <b>530</b>  |
| 2018         | 455                     | 129                             | 0                                 | 0        | <b>584</b>  |
| 2019         | 297                     | 200                             | 181                               | 0        | <b>678</b>  |
| 2020         | 215                     | 96                              | 95                                | 2        | <b>408</b>  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2765</b>             | <b>1277</b>                     | <b>276</b>                        | <b>2</b> | <b>4320</b> |

During the year 2020, the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms “MADA” has monitored and documented a total of 408 violations in the West Bank (including occupied Jerusalem) and Gaza Strip, of which the Israeli occupation committed 215 attacks (equivalent to about 53%)<sup>3</sup> while various Palestinian parties committed a total of 96 violations in the West Bank and Gaza (about 24%), and social media companies committed 95 violations (about 23%), while other parties committed other violations.<sup>4</sup> These attacks affected a total of 250 people, including 230 (male) journalists, 20 (female) journalists, and 6 media institutions employing dozens of journalists, making such attacks that are targeting media institutions among the most serious violations of press freedom; due to its direct, indirect or far-reaching results and repercussions. For example, the Israeli occupation authorities closed off the offices of Palestine TV in the city of Jerusalem and continues to prevent it from operating there, as well as prohibiting the work and appearance of all its staff members there for the second year in a row.<sup>5</sup>

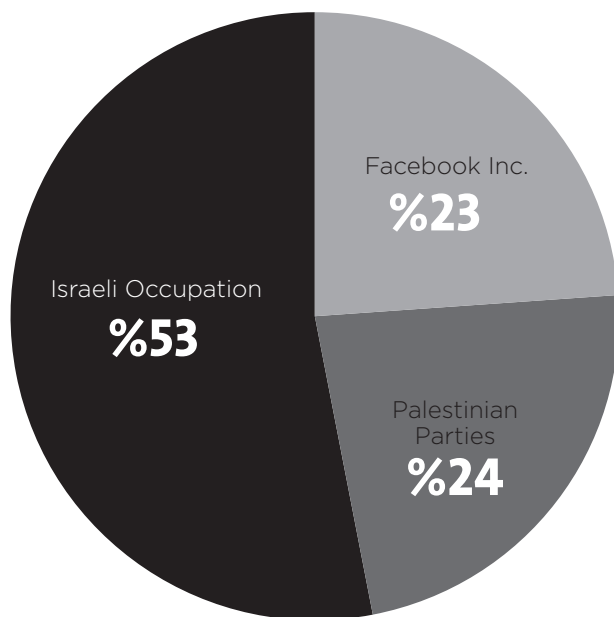
<sup>3</sup> When calculating the percentage of violations by each side, the fractions were rounded to the nearest whole number.

<sup>4</sup> These two violations are: the burning of the car of the writer, Nadia Harhash, while it was in front of her home in Jerusalem by an unknown party, and the second is the dismissal of journalist Iyad Hamad by the administration of the Associated Press.

<sup>5</sup> On November 20, 2010, a force of the Israeli occupation police and intelligence raided the Palestine TV office in Jerusalem, which is hosted by the Al-Arz Company, searched it, confiscated its contents, interrogated and summoned television workers, and closed it by a decision issued by the Israeli Minister of



### Violations in 2020 based on the party that committed the violation



Despite the general decline in the total number of violations committed by various parties during the year 2020, but a look at the distribution of the rates of decline shows that it came mainly as a result of a tangible decrease in the number of Palestinian violations as well as the decrease in the number of violations by social media companies. Therefore, it was not primarily the result of the decline of Israeli occupation violations, as the violations committed by the Israeli Occupation alone constitute the largest bloc of the total number of violations in Palestine (53% that is over the half).

The number of Palestinian violations decreased during the year 2020 by 48% (about half) compared to the year 2019, and Facebook violations decreased by almost the same percentage, while the rate of decline in Israeli violations was approximately 26%.

While the general average of all violations over the past ten years was 36 violations per month, the violations that were documented in the year 2020 remained at approximately the same rate, as over the past year an average of 34 violations were recorded per month. The Israeli occupation committed an average of 18 violations of them every month, while Palestinian parties in the West Bank and Gaza Strip committed an average of 8 violations per month, and an average of 8 violations were committed by social media companies.

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Interior for six months, it was renewed twice after its completion. Note that the last renewal of the TV shutdown was delivered to TV reporter Christine Rinawi after being summoned on 11/2/2020, meaning that the closure and the ban on work will continue until May 2021, making it a year and a half of the closure if it is not renewed as expected.

Over the past ten years, the Israeli attacks accounted for 64% of the total violations that were monitored and documented by “MADA” Center, while the Palestinian violations accounted for about 30% of them, and the violations of social media companies accounted for 6%, noting that monitoring and documenting social media companies’ violations have only been reported as a violating party of the media freedoms in Palestine few years ago.

ISRAELI VIOLATIONS

The number of Israeli attacks against media freedoms in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (including the city of Jerusalem) decreased during the year 2020, by approximately 26%, from 297 violations in 2019 to 215 violations in the last year (2020).

As indicated in the introduction of this report, this decrease does not reflect an improvement or a positive development in the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation forces and authorities towards freedom of journalistic work in Palestine or respect to their rights, but rather, it is a natural result of the pandemic and its related closures and lockdown measures that led to the reduction and limitation of Palestinian-Israeli direct contact, where most violaionts usually take place that It usually witnesses attacks against journalists. This is also comes as a result of the stopping of the popular Great Marches of Return at the borders of the Gaza Strip.

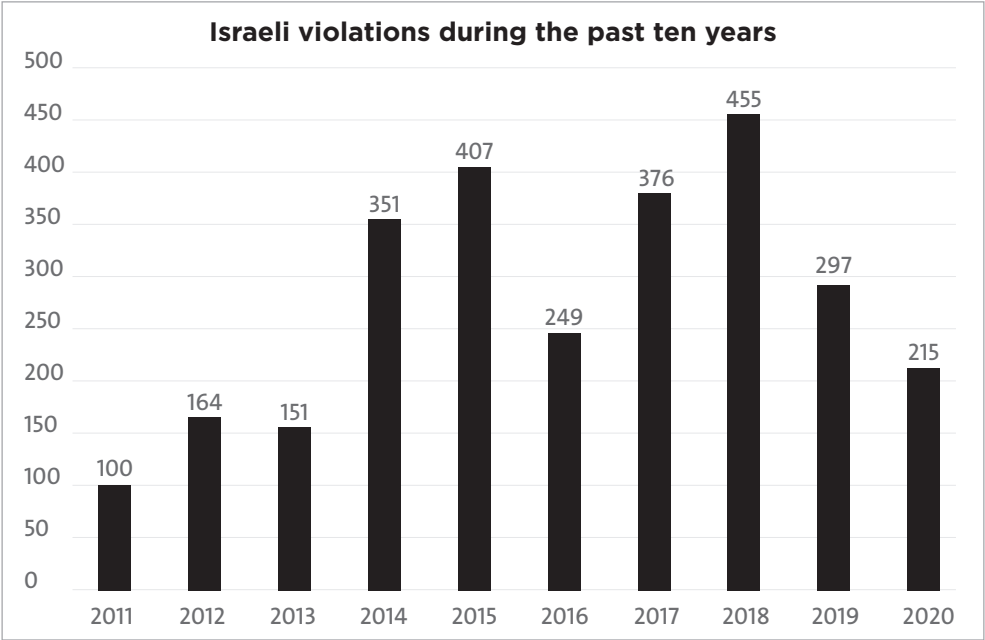
A look at the map of the distribution of Israeli violations shows that no real positive change has occurred from the side of the Israeli occupation authorities regarding respect for media freedoms in Palestine. This can be seen in the level of violence and gravity that characterizes many of the Israeli attacks, among which are physical injuries, the arrest of journalists and the closure of institutions (which still constitute the largest bloc of all Israeli attacks). In addition to those violations that clearly demonstrate the absence of any respect for freedom of journalistic work, such as the prevention of coverage, the prevention of journalists from reaching the places of events, or their detention as well as other attacks.

*(Israeli violations during the past ten years)*

| Year   | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Total |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Number | 100  | 164  | 151  | 351  | 407  | 249  | 376  | 455  | 297  | 215  | 2765  |

» **The most dangerous Israeli violations**

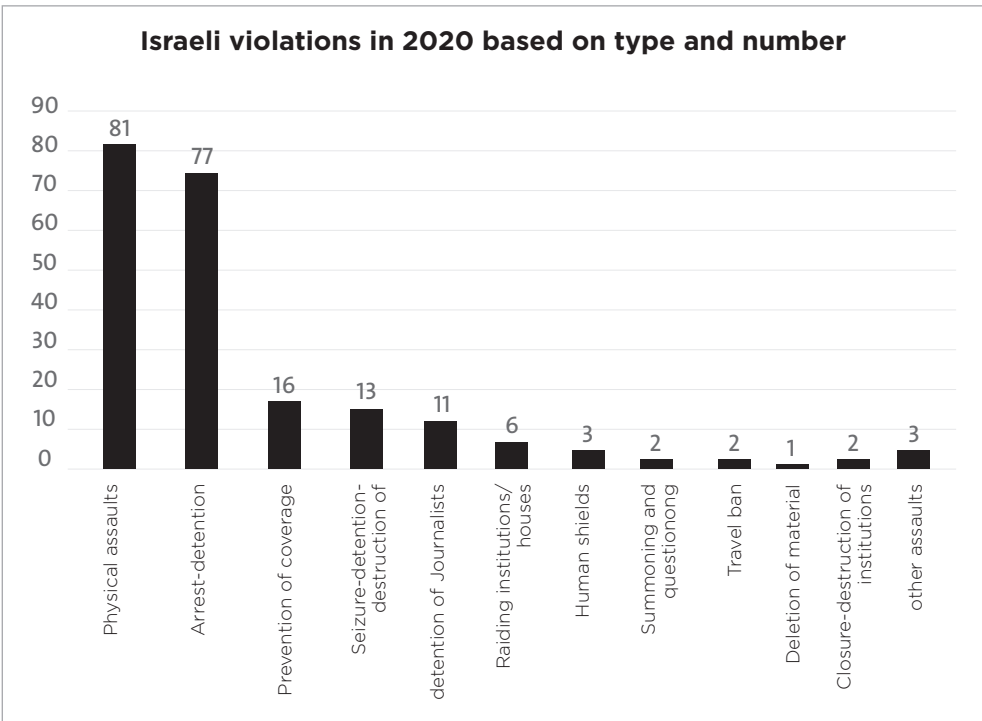
The Israeli attacks during the year 2020 came in 10 types, (in addition to several other different attacks that were included under the heading “other attacks”), driven by one idea, and all led by one general goal, which is to obscure and prevent coverage, and withhold the image of what is imposed and implemented by the occupation forces policies and attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



Among these types, four types can be noted to be considered the most dangerous to the lives of journalists and media freedoms, which are: physical attacks and injuries (including targeting and injuries with live ammunition), arrests, closure of institutions and confiscation, and detention or destruction of work equipment.

*The total of attacks that fall within the four mentioned types amounted to 101 violations, which together represent 47% of all Israeli attacks during the year 2020, which is about the half.*

| Israeli violations during 2020 based on the type of violation |                                                                |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Number                                                        | Type of violation                                              | Total |
| 1                                                             | Prevent coverage - targeting to prevent coverage               | 81    |
| 2                                                             | Injuries - physical assaults                                   | 77    |
| 3                                                             | Arrest - detention - administrative transfer                   | 16    |
| 4                                                             | Detention (often interspersed with interrogation) 13           | 13    |
| 5                                                             | Summon and interrogation                                       | 11    |
| 6                                                             | Confiscation- detention- destruction of equipment and vehicles | 6     |
| 7                                                             | Delete material and content                                    | 3     |
| 8                                                             | Shut down and destroy an institution                           | 2     |
| 9                                                             | Banishment from Jerusalem                                      | 2     |
| 10                                                            | Raid a foundation- house                                       | 1     |
| 11                                                            | Others                                                         | 3     |
| Total                                                         |                                                                | 215   |



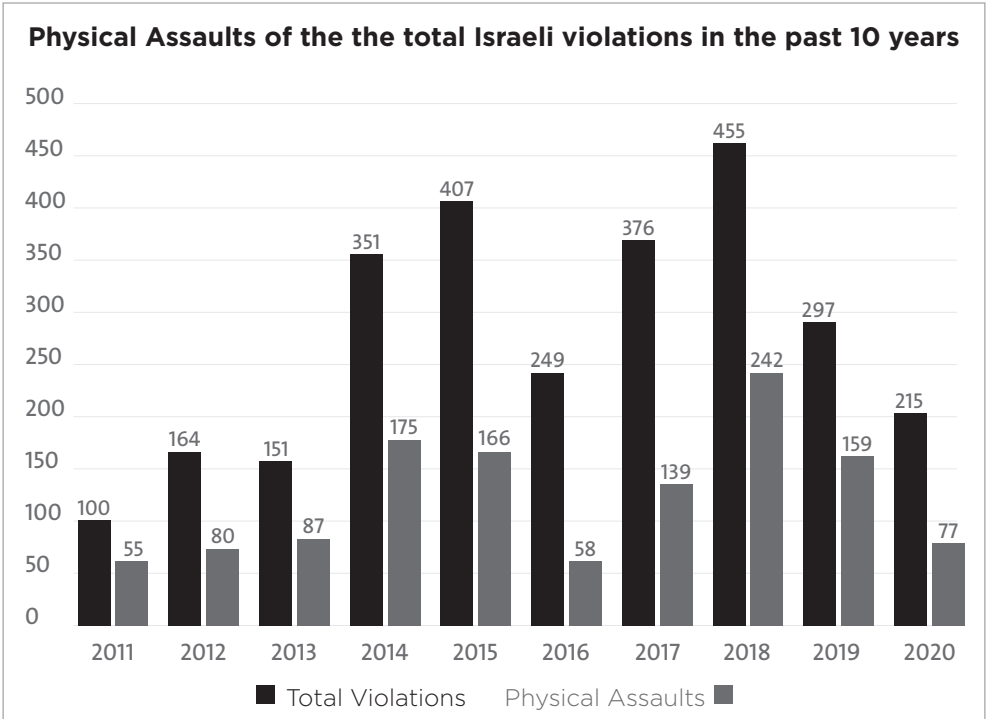
## ► **Physical Assaults**

Physical attacks targeting journalists are considered the most serious among all other types of violations that affect or may target media freedoms, despite a relative decline in their number and percentage from the general total of Israeli violations, due to the circumstances witnessed last year, especially the stopping of the popular Great Marches of Return in the Gaza Strip<sup>6</sup>. However, during the year 2020, a total of 77 physical attacks and injuries (some of them with live ammunition) were recorded among journalists while they were carrying out their work, or 35.8% of all Israeli violations, noting that physical attacks formed over the past ten years a rate of 44.7 of the total number of documented Israeli attacks.

<sup>6</sup> Most of the Israeli attacks that were recorded during the previous years were part of the physical attacks, and this matter stopped or almost stopped during the year 2020 due to the stopping of the popular marches, which reflected a decrease in the number and rate of recorded physical injuries.

*Israeli Physical Assaults during the past 10 years and its percentage of the total Israeli violations*

| Year  | Total Israeli violations | Physical assaults            | Percentage |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 2011  | 100                      | 55                           | 55%        |
| 2012  | 164                      | 80                           | 48.7%      |
| 2013  | 151                      | 87                           | 58%        |
| 2014  | 351                      | 175 including 17 murders     | 49.8%      |
| 2015  | 407                      | 166 including one murder     | 41%        |
| 2016  | 249                      | 58 including one murder23.3% |            |
| 2017  | 376                      | 139                          | 37%        |
| 2018  | 455                      | 242                          | 53%        |
| 2019  | 297                      | 159                          | 54%        |
| 2020  | 215                      | 77                           | 35.8%      |
| Total | 2765                     | 1238                         | 44.7%      |



Of the total number of physical injuries amounting to 77 attacks committed by the Israeli occupation forces against journalists during the year 2020, 29 of the victims of these attacks were wounded with live bullets, metal and rubber bullets and teargas canisters fired at their bodies, meaning that the occupation forces used live ammunition or the most violent, dangerous and lethal means in about 38% of its physical assaults against journalists, in addition to other group of physical attacks that are no less dangerous.

The firing of suffocating gas bombs used by the occupation forces on a large scale in the suppression of Palestinian demonstrators and targeting journalists may be seen as a “simple” type of physical attack that journalists are usually exposed to in their various field coverage. However, the way in which the occupation forces use this type of weapon often brings it to the same danger as the army’s use of live and metal bullets, as soldiers often fire gas canisters directly at the bodies of journalists or throw them in front of them, which causes them to have serious injuries and severe suffocation, which often led to loss of consciousness and severe injuries.

For example, the photojournalist Tariq Youssef Sarkaji, and while he was covering a peaceful march against settlement in the northern town of Asira on 07/17/2020, was hit by a teargas canister in his left leg; and the bomb was one of 7 bombs that the soldiers fired next to him, while he was only about 20 meters away from them. The bomb shrapnel penetrated his pants and wounded him in the leg.

Many direct casualties indicate an intentional targeting operation to harm journalists, as photojournalist Nidal Shtayyeh was hit, for example, with two metal bullets, one in the right side and the other under the armpit, fired by the occupation soldiers at him while covering a demonstration against settlements in the town of Kafr Qaddum on 9/25/2020.

Additionally, journalist, Sari Jaradat, was also injured on December 29, 2020, with a rubber-coated metal bullet in his left shoulder. He was shot by an Israeli soldier while covering a house demolition in the city of Yatta, knowing that the journalist Jaradat was present at a visible distance of 80 meters to the soldiers, from where the soldiers were.

## ► Arrests

During the year 2020, there were a total of 16 arrests of Palestinian journalists, a decrease of 10 points from the year 2019, which witnessed 26 arrests of journalists. This decrease is due to a general decline in the number of violations due to the exceptional circumstances that accompanied the spread of the Corona pandemic.

Among these detainees is journalist, Bushra al-Tawil, who was arrested on 11/8/2020 at the Israeli army checkpoint near Nablus while she was returning from Jenin to the city of Al-Bireh, where she lives. Noting that the journalist Bushra al-Tawil was arrested by the Israeli occupation administratively for seven months and a half, as she was released on July 28, 2020 (that is, only about three months before her last arrest).

### *Israeli arrests of journalists during the past ten years*

| Year   | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Total |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Number | 12   | 13   | 13   | 13   | 20   | 46   | 33   | 41   | 26   | 16   | 233   |

Some of these arrests were accompanied by severe assaults, similar to what happened, with the presenter of Palestine TV, Thaer Abdel Nasser Al-Sharif, who was arrested and taken to an Israeli army base at the entrance to Al-Aroub camp, where he was subjected to physical assaults that continued throughout his detention, which lasted about 5 hours in the cold weather.

The presenter of the programs on Palestine TV, the journalist Thaer Abdel Nasser Sharif (28 years old), arrived on the evening of 01/25/2020 to his family's home, located 10 meters away from the bypass road (60) in Al-Aroub refugee camp, north of Hebron, and upon his arrival there was two occupation soldiers and an officer in front of his family's house, and they were detaining two Palestinian youths.

The officer asked journalist, Thaer, to move towards him and to show his identity card, so the journalist obeyed and showed his identity, but the officer asked Thaer to bend and place his identity on the ground, which was rejected by the journalist Thaer al-Sharif, and after minutes of argument, the officer began to count .. 3-2-1, then one of the soldiers attacked Thaer and punched him with his hand on the neck, and then the other soldier attacked and dropped him on the ground while the officer pressed his neck with his knee, the two detained youths started screaming at the soldiers.

Then the two soldiers pointed their weapons towards the two young men, while the journalist started shouting at his family, and immediately his father and three of his sisters rushed to him, while the journalist was able to push the officer away and get up. Then the officer took a bottle of pepper gas from his pocket and started spraying the journalist and his family, and forced them to enter the house, while his father, who spoke fluent Hebrew, remained arguing with the soldiers.

Minutes later, the officer handcuffed the journalist who was suffering from suffocation as a result of spraying him with pepper spray, punched him with his fist on his neck and took him towards the military tower about 50 meters away from the place, while the two soldiers followed him and beat Al-Sharif with their hands on his head, back and sides, until they reached the military tower.

There, the officer made the journalist enter a narrow corridor, blindfolded him, walked for several meters and pushed him hard, so he hit his head against a concrete wall, and he forcefully kicked the Al-Sharif on his knees several times, dropping him to the ground, and continued hitting him on his feet while the Al-Sharif was screaming from the severity of the pain in his feet and in his right hand (as he suffers from amputation of his fingers as a result of an old work injury).

Half an hour later, the beating stopped, but the soldiers kept cursing him. One of the soldiers asked the Al-Sharif to stand, but he could not because of the pain in his legs and right hand as a result of beatings and the severe cold,

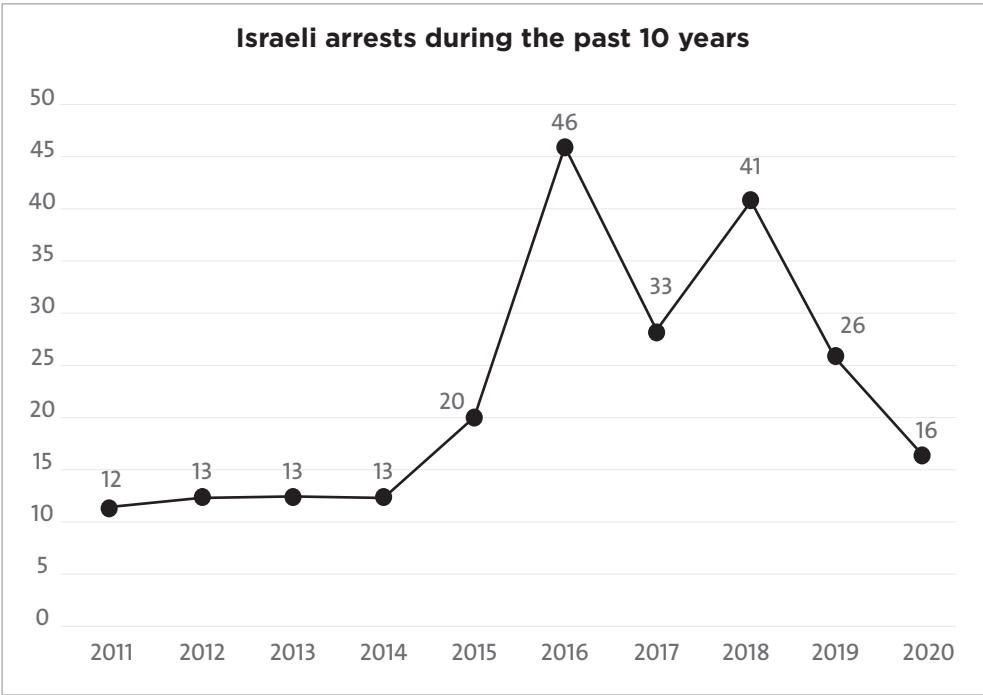


so two soldiers helped him to stand and then asked him to sit again, so the journalist tried to sit slowly because of the pain, but one of the soldiers hit him violently again. He kicked his legs and fell on the ground, after that, the journalist was beaten by a soldier on the stomach, head, and back, slapped with hands. At around 7:00 pm, one of the soldiers took him to a small room and made him sit on a chair with a plastic seating. The journalist was able to look from under the cover fixed on his head, and found himself in a bathroom, and after a short time he started screaming at the soldiers from the severity of the pain in his feet and hands, so one of the soldiers opened the door and began to insult the journalist and hit him on the head several times. After a few minutes, the journalist began to feel a state of collapse from the severity of the cold and pain, so he shouted at the soldiers, and one of them came and spat on him several times and hit him again.

The insults and spitting by the soldiers continued intermittently for about an hour, after which the soldiers took the journalist out of the bathroom, and they walked for several meters, and sat him on a tin plate that was very cold and wet, and after a short time the journalist tried to stretch his legs to comfort them, so he felt something hit him hard on his testicles, so he screamed from the severity of the pain, while the soldiers continued to beat him with hands and spit on him several times, and the journalist was hearing in the meantime the sound of taking pictures from the phone of one of the soldiers as if he was photographing him while assaulting him.

At around 10:00 pm, one of the soldiers helped him get up and walked for several meters and removed the blindfold from his eyes, and he removed the plastic handcuffs from his hands, and asked him to go to the officer who was standing on the other side of the road. The journalist was unable to move, and he felt dizzy so one of the citizens approached him in the street and helped him pass, blocking the road until he reached the officer who started his speech threatening him with arrest and beatings if he “violated the soldiers’ orders.” The journalist returned to his family home at ten o’clock, and was in a state of exhaustion as a result of beating and exposure to severe cold.

The arrests involve clear targeting and abuse of journalists, especially the administrative detentions, similar to what happened with the journalist Bushra al-Tawil and the journalists Mujahid al-Saadi, who was arrested from his home at dawn on 6/24/2020, six days after he was transferred to administrative detention for six months, and Osama Shaheen, who was arrested on 7/9/2020 and transferred to administrative detention for four months, in addition to the abuse and unjustified attacks that sometimes accompany the arrests, similar to what happened to Thaer Al-Sharif, and others, such as Muhammad Osama Melhem, who was beaten by soldiers while covering a march against the deal of the century on 2/2/2020, then the soldiers arrested him and transferred him to Kiryat Arba settlement center, to continue his detention for 11 days until he was released on bail of 5,000 shekels.



On 2/2/2020, after the demonstration began, the soldiers began chasing the demonstrators, while journalist Muhammad Melhem was standing close to the soldiers, so about six soldiers approached him, shouting at him: “Give yourself up”. The journalist did not move and told them that he was a journalist, but the soldiers started hitting him with their hands, legs, and rifle butts on his face, neck, and back, which caused bruises and broken teeth.

Melhem took out his press card and showed it to the soldiers and the officer, so the officer took it and arrested him and transferred him to the “Kiryat Arba” settlement in the center of Hebron, and from there he was transferred to the “Etzion” detention center, and two days after his arrest he was brought before a military court that ordered his release due to the absence of any evidence on his participation in “acts of sabotage,” as the soldiers claimed, “but based on the prosecutor’s request for an extension, his detention continued for 11 days (until 2/13/2020), when the Israeli Military Court decided to release him on bail of 5,000 shekels.

There is a wide and varied range of pretexts for the occupation to arrest or prosecute journalists and the conditions of their detention. For example, journalist Tamer Obeidat was arrested from his home in Jerusalem at dawn on 5/5/2020 and he remained detained until afternoon hours. In the meantime, he was subjected to investigation on the charge of “providing assistance to the needy under the measures of Corona.”

The occupation forces arrested the journalist Mujahid Mufleh, on 26/2/2020 who was at the Za’tara military checkpoint on the Ramallah-Nablus road

while he was accompanied by his wife and two children while they were on their way to where his family resides, and that is under the pretext of incitement via social media, where the journalist Mujahid stayed in prison for 9 days, during which he was investigated about some of what he published on his Facebook and Twitter pages, claiming that he was “inciting”, and in particular he was investigated about a comment he had written about calls by Israeli settlers to storm Jabal Al-Arma area in his home town and seizing it, what the Israeli authorities considered incitement necessitating his arrest while ignoring the settlers ‘calls and their storming of the citizens’ lands in the town with protection from the army, despite the ensuing confrontations and injuries among the Palestinian citizens.

## ► **Targeting Media Institutions**

Targeting media institutions is considered one of the most dangerous attacks on media freedoms, given the fact that these attacks directly and indirectly affect large numbers of journalists in a single action or attack, as well as their long-term impact in undermining or weakening the general capacity for the continuity of media activity. Investing in or going into this sector is a matter fraught with prosecution and targeting, and thus to quit that, and it is the essence of what the Israeli occupation authorities aim to target and pursue Palestinian media institutions and journalists in general.

For the second year in a row, the occupation authorities continued to close the Palestine TV office in Jerusalem, preventing it and all its staff from working in Jerusalem, and forbidding its crews to even provide any messages or coverage to television from there, at a time when summons for many workers with the TV continued under various pretexts.

The occupation authorities, by a decision of the Israeli Minister of Interior, closed the office of the (official) Palestine TV for six months, after they stormed the headquarters of AlAraz Media Services Company, which hosts the TV office in its offices in occupied Jerusalem, and summoned a number of TV workers and the aforementioned company and interrogated them.

After the end of the first closure period (lasting 6 months), the occupation authorities summoned Christine Rinawi on Monday 11/5/2020 to “Room No. 4” and there, an Israeli investigator photographed and fingerprinted her, and then handed her a decision issued by the Israeli Minister of Internal Security Gilad Erdan. The decision stated the renewal of the closure of the Palestine TV office and the banning of all its activities everywhere in Jerusalem and the interior for another 6 months, which was followed on 11/10/2020 by calling the TV reporter Christine Rinawi again, as she was informed of the extension of the TV shutdown period and preventing her from working in Jerusalem for the third time, as before, and the period is six months as well.

As a direct result of this, the television activity and its team completely stopped operating in Jerusalem, which is one of the most important centers of events and local and international media attention, for the second year in a row, noting that Palestine TV is the largest Palestinian media institution among the Palestinian institutions operating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

*Violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (including Jerusalem) during 2020 by month and by party*

|           | Israeli Occupation |     | Palestinian Parties |    | Facebook Inc. | Other parties           | Total |
|-----------|--------------------|-----|---------------------|----|---------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Month     | WB*                | GS* | WB                  | GS | WB & GS       | WB & GS                 |       |
| January   | 22                 | 1   | 0                   | 4  | 0             | 0                       | 27    |
| February  | 31                 | 0   | 6                   | 1  | 1             | 0                       | 39    |
| March     | 4                  | 0   | 2                   | 9  | 16            | 0                       | 31    |
| April     | 1                  | 0   | 5                   | 2  | 0             | 0                       | 8     |
| May       | 18                 | 0   | 4                   | 5  | 46            | 1<br>(Associated Press) | 74    |
| June      | 45                 | 3   | 2                   | 7  | 1             | 1 (Unknown)             | 59    |
| July      | 4                  | 0   | 1                   | 12 | 3             | 0                       | 20    |
| August    | 3                  | 1   | 1                   | 5  | 1             | 0                       | 11    |
| September | 13                 | 0   | 9                   | 6  | 3             | 0                       | 31    |
| October   | 31                 | 0   | 2                   | 0  | 5             | 0                       | 38    |
| November  | 22                 | 0   | 3                   | 2  | 8             | 0                       | 35    |
| December  | 16                 | 0   | 2                   | 6  | 11            | 0                       | 35    |

\*WB: West Bank.

\*GS: Gaza Strip.

## ► Banned from Covering:

The blocking or prevention of coverage is the goal and the main driver of the various types of Israeli attacks targeting media outlets and journalists in Palestine, and to achieve this goal, the occupation forces and authorities resort to physical attacks, arrests, prosecutions, targeting of journalists in the field, the closure or destruction of media institutions, and other sorts of violations. When the mentioned attacks do not succeed in deterring and stopping journalists from reporting on the ground of the practices of the occupation, it is often resorted to direct prevention of coverage and to remove journalists and the media from the places of the event in order to prevent the transmission of what is happening.

During 2020, the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms “MADA” monitored and documented a total of 71 Israeli violations related to the direct prevention of the occupation forces from covering various events in the field.

In addition to this, during the past year, a total of 32 other violations were monitored, represented by deleting materials after photographing them, destroying or confiscating equipment, and detaining or targeting journalists

to prevent them from covering in the field.

In addition to that, two cases of banishment from Al-Aqsa Mosque, in order to prevent coverage of what is happening there, and this measure is considered one of the serious attacks, especially since the number of journalists who cover events there is relatively limited (due to the general Israeli measures in this regard), and given that the prevention process does not end with the end of a specific event, but rather extending for weeks and sometimes months, with what these long periods of events witness, what is happening in them is indirectly obscured, through the prior absence of the media and journalists from the location of the event.

In other words, last year witnessed no less than 105 Israeli attacks, directly related to the prevention of coverage or the attempt to conceal the image of what is happening on the ground in terms of practices and events.

### ► **Facebook Inc. Violations**

During the year 2020, a total of 95 violations against media freedoms were monitored and documented in Palestine, which were committed by social media companies, specifically Facebook, targeting the closure, blocking, or banning of publishing for different periods of time, private pages of journalists or media institutions, under the pretext of “violating Facebook standards” or what the company considers “incitement”.

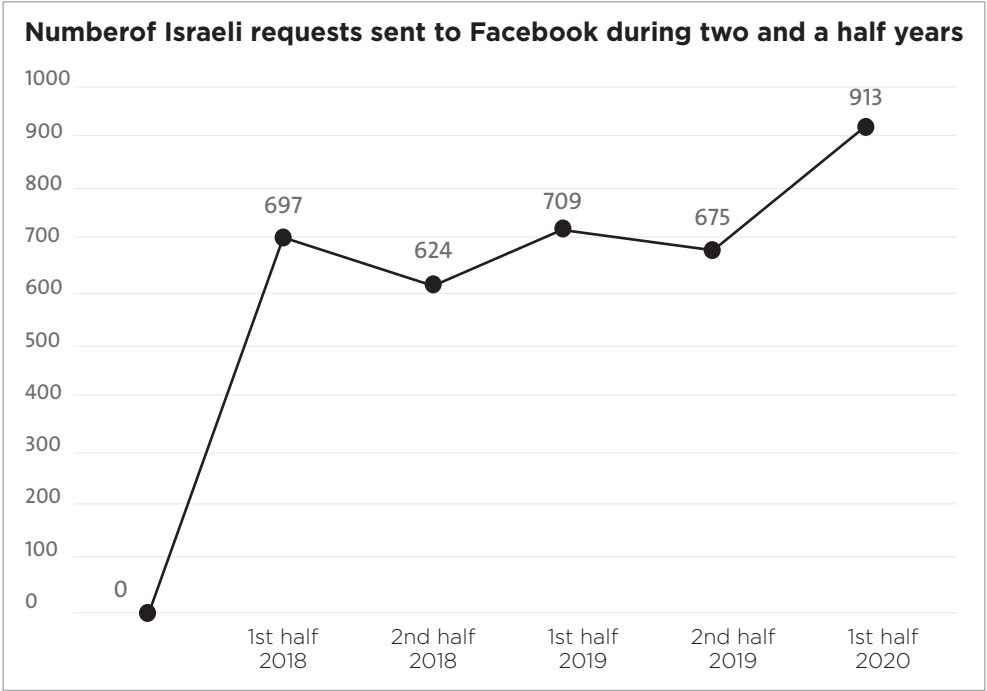
Many of these violations came in connection with publications dating back to previous periods, in addition to the fact that many of the violations are taking place automatically through electronic programs linked to some “key” terms and vocabulary, according to which any texts or comments that appear in these terms are of an inflammatory nature incites “terror”, such as the names of some political parties, leading figures or armed Palestinian formations, without any consideration to the axiom that many of the news contain such terms, which makes their circulation (regardless of the context or the nature of the text) sufficient to close this account or block it and consider its owner “inciting” terrorism according to the custom of Facebook company, which adopts the Israeli definition of incitement and terrorism or relies on it in its procedures.

In addition to this, hundreds of other pages that belong to other Palestinian citizens have been affected by closures and prevention of publication, in the same way and for the same arguments.

The number of violations committed by Facebook against journalists during the year 2020 is quite similar to what various Palestinian parties committed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

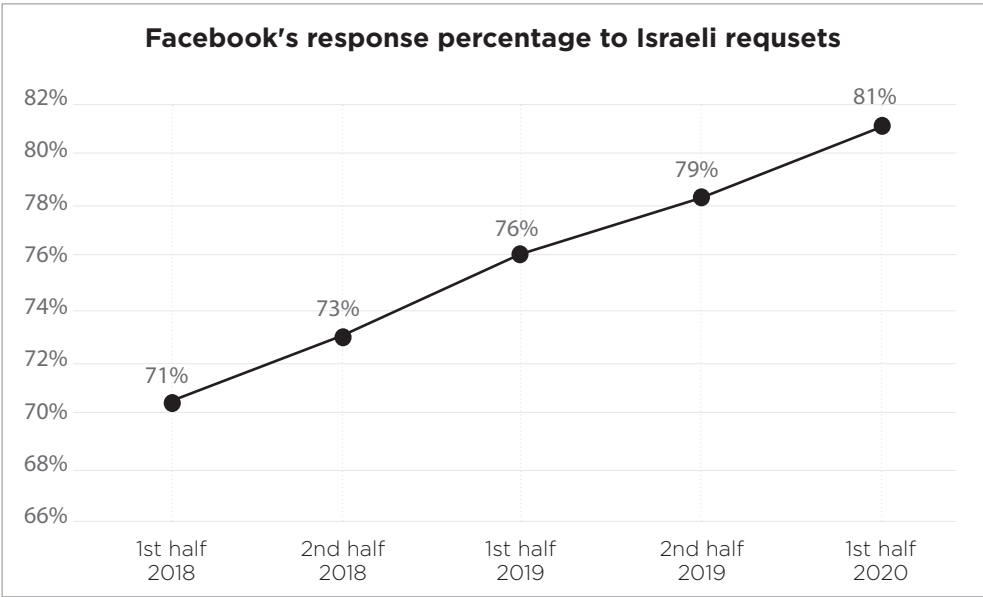
Table7 showing the Israeli requests to Facebook and the percentage of accepting these requests

| Time period                  | Number of Israeli requests | Facebook's acceptance percentage |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2018 | 697                        | 71%                              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2018 | 624                        | 73%                              |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2019 | 709                        | 76%                              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2019 | 675                        | 79%                              |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2020 | 913                        | 81%                              |
| Total                        | 3618                       | 75%                              |



Last year, Facebook turned into a major violator of media freedoms in Palestine, following the understandings reached by the Israeli government with Facebook in 2016, under the banner of fighting “incitement” through social media, which made media freedoms and freedom of expression in Palestine since that time subjected to three main parties targeting it, the first and most dangerous of which is the Israeli occupation forces and authorities, and secondly social media networks and companies, in particular Facebook company, which has become another (almost direct) gateway to more Israeli violations against Palestinian content and media freedoms in Palestine. The third party is represented by the various Palestinian parties in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

7 The figures in the table were taken from the transparency report issued by Facebook periodically - The statistics related to the second half of the year 2020 have not yet been announced, so they did not appear here.



Additionally, the violations of Facebook do not target only Palestinian journalists and media outlets, but rather they target Palestinian content in general, and therefore they have become a direct and severe threat to freedom of expression in Palestine, especially since social media platforms, specifically “Facebook”, have become the most prominent, important and widely used platform. Between Palestinians to communicate, express and publish their views, especially if we remember that about two million Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which number about five million, have private accounts on Facebook.

The transparency report issued by the “Facebook” company itself on some of its business shows part of the size of this problem, as the report indicated that Facebook received during the first half of 2020 a total of 913 Israeli requests to delete or block sites / pages on Facebook network or to take any other measures against it, and Facebook dealt with 81% of the total of these requests by accepting them.

According to the same source (the transparency report issued by Facebook), and going back to the previous two years, the observer notices a significant increase in the number of Israeli requests directed to Facebook, as well as the high rate of Facebook response to what the Israeli occupation authorities requested from them.

Regarding the year 2019, Facebook had stated in its report that during the first half of 2019 it had received a total of 709 Israeli requests, and that it “dealt” with 76% of them, and during the second half of 2019 it received a total of 675 other Israeli requests, and dealt with 79% of them.

Going back to the previous year (2018), Facebook received during the first half of it a total of 697 Israeli requests to delete or block websites / pages on the Facebook network, and that Facebook handled with 71% of these requests (it responded to them and implemented them). In the second half



of 2018, Facebook received 624 other Israeli requests that “dealt” with 73% of them, as stated in its report.

The comparison shows that Facebook used to receive every six months (every half year) of the years 2018 and 2019 an average of 676 Israeli requests, but this number witnessed a clear jump during the first half of the year 2020, as the number of Israeli requests received by Facebook increased to 913, an increase of 237 requests above the previous rate, or an increase of 35%, which was accompanied by an increase in Facebook’s response to these requests which reached 81%.

It is clear from the foregoing that, over the course of two and a half years (between early 2018 and mid-2020), Facebook was receiving more than 120 Israeli requests in this regard every month, and it was responding to three out of every four Israeli requests it received.

It is also noticed that the response rate of Facebook to what Israel requests from it in this regard rose by 10 degrees within two years and jumped from 71% in the first half of 2018 to 81% in the first half of last year 2020.

► **Palestinian Parties’ Violations**

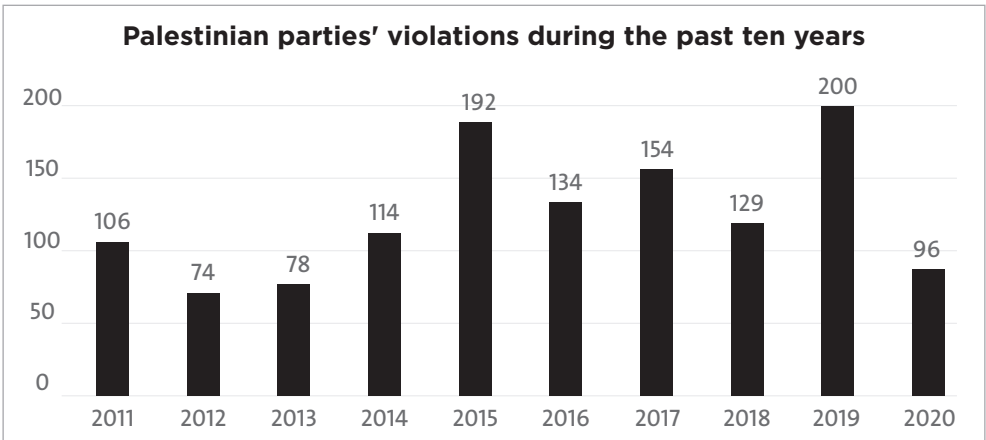
The number of Palestinian violations of media freedoms in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the year 2020 witnessed a significant decrease, dropping to less than half of what they were in the year preceding 2019.

During 2020, MADA monitored and documented a total of 96 violations committed by Palestinian parties in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a figure equivalent to only 48% of all Palestinian violations in 2019, which amounted to 200 violations.

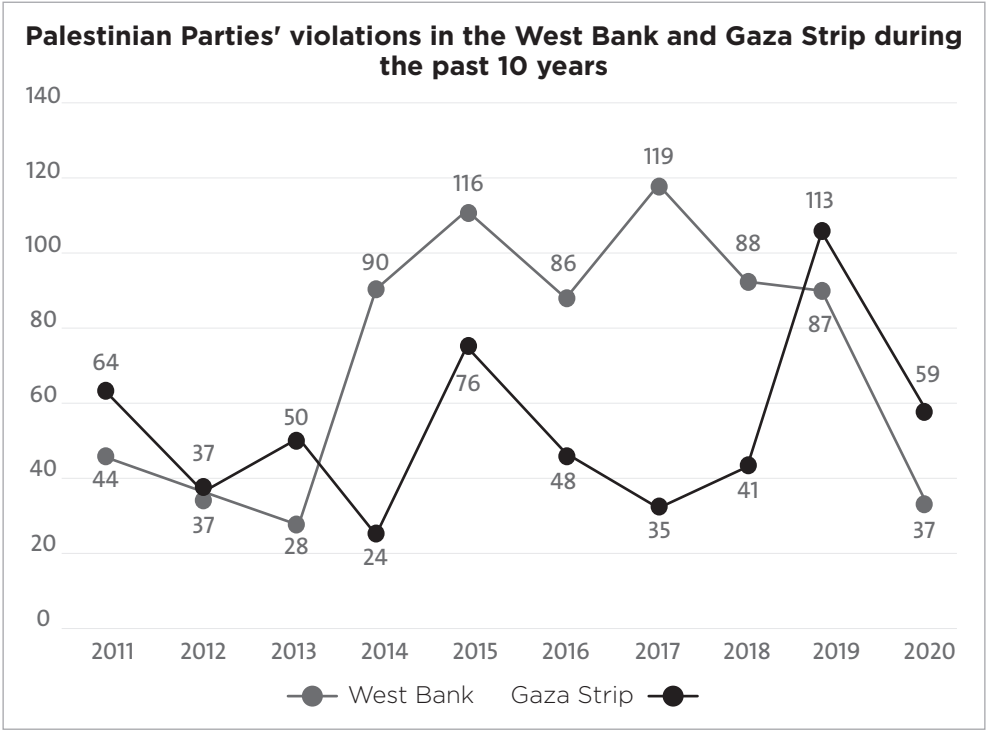
*Palestinian parties’ violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the past ten years*

| Year   | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2010 | Total |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Number | 106  | 74   | 78   | 114  | 192  | 134  | 154  | 129  | 200  | 96   | 1277  |

In other words, the number of Palestinian violations has decreased by about 52% from what it was in the year 2019, despite its importance, but it did not bear significant indications of different trends or policies, as there has been



no change in several important files related to media freedoms, most notably the adoption of the law on the right to obtain information, which the current Palestinian government (for example) announced that it had “put it on the table” and will work towards its endorsement. In addition, no amendment has been made to the Cybercrime Law, in addition to the continuation of violations, albeit at lower rates, although this decline is partly due to the general situation associated with the spread of the Corona pandemic, and in the other part to a better understanding from the current government of the issue of freedoms and the need to maintain them.



The Palestinian violations during the year 2020 came within 11 types that were presented as usual by the summons and interrogations, which amounted to 37 cases recorded in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which constitutes about 38% of the total Palestinian violations, followed (in terms of number) the arrests and arrests, which totaled 17 cases. The ban on coverage and deletion of media materials amounted to 13 incidents that were recorded in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

► **Palestinian Parties' Violations in the West Bank**

In the West Bank, a total of 37 violations of media freedoms were recorded during the year 2020, equivalent to about 43% of what was monitored in 2019, which witnessed 87 Palestinian violations in the West Bank.

While the blocking of dozens of websites (49 websites) in 2019 constituted the largest block of the total of violations at the time, the year 2020 did not witness any new blocking process, which was also accompanied by

a significant decrease in the various other types of violations that were detected in the West Bank.

*Palestinian Parties’ Violations in the West Bank during the past ten years*

| Year   | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2010 | Total |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Number | 44   | 37   | 28   | 90   | 116  | 86   | 119  | 88   | 87   | 37   | 732   |

The Palestinian parties’ violations that were monitored in the West Bank were distributed into several types, most notably the summons and interrogations, which amounted to 13 cases, arrests, which amounted to 4 cases, and the prevention of coverage and deletion of materials that amounted to 6 cases, in addition to one physical assault and one case of torture that Ayman Faisal Qawareq on the hands of Preventive Security officers during his arrest because of charges of “defaming the authority” due to his posts and comments on Facebook, as his detention lasted for three days, during which he was beaten and ill-treated.

During the past year, it was noticed that the threats against journalists from different and unknown sides continued, as the West Bank witnessed three cases. The most prominent and most dangerous of which was the exposure of the “Ma’an” TV channel journalist and head of the Freedoms Committee of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, Muhammad al-Lahham, to threats of kidnapping and murder by citizens of Al-Ja'bri family, following the broadcast of a video clip related to one of the elders of the family mentioned in his program “Text by Text”, which he presented on the satellite screen “Ma’an” on December 10, 2020.

**Palestinian Parties’ Violations in Gaza Strip**

The number of Palestinian violations committed by Hamas agencies in the Gaza Strip during the year 2020 decreased by 41% compared to the previous year 2019, when it decreased from 113 violations to 59 violations.

Despite the decline in the number of violations in the Gaza Strip, it did not reflect any real trends related to the respect and maintenance of media freedoms by the ruling authority there, in addition to the fact that the frequency of violations and when compared to their counterparts in the West Bank remains relatively high, especially if one takes into account the difference in population, number of journalists and media institutions in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip<sup>8</sup>.

Perhaps the decision that was addressed to journalists issued by the Ministry of the Interior in Gaza on 12/11/2020 regarding the curfew on Fridays and Saturdays as part of the anti-Corona measures in the Strip, reveals part of the authority in place there for journalistic work and media freedoms, as the decision stipulated preventing the movement of journalists and the media, as well as preventing any field coverage during that time.

Soon after this statement was issued and its content was translated on the ground, clearly showing the status of the press and media freedoms as well

8 The population of the West Bank constitutes about 60% and the Gaza Strip about 40% of the total Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

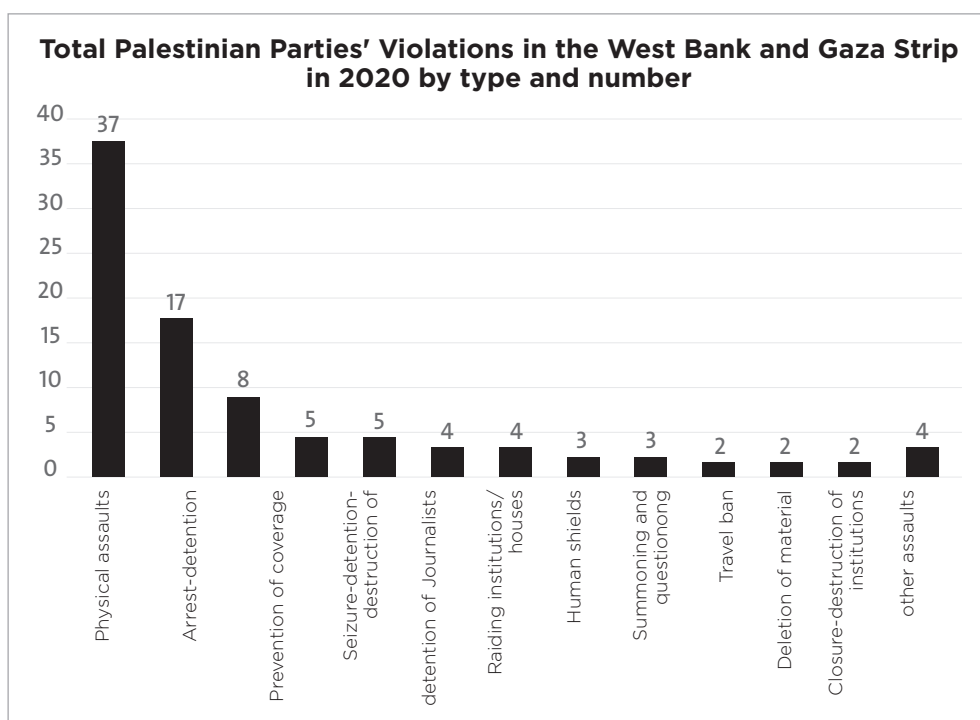
as the respect and concern of these freedoms; as the police in Rafah in the Gaza Strip arrested the journalist, Muhammad Omar Qandil, while he was photographing an empty street of pedestrians near his home (Friday afternoon) - 11/12/2020), under the pretext of violating the curfew imposed as part of the anti-Corona measures, after he left his home and began to take pictures of the street without pedestrians, and pictures of cats on the road. The photographer was taken to the Tal al-Sultan police station, and there he was admitted to a cell measuring 1 x 1.5 meters, which smelled extremely bad, and was held for about 7 hours, after which he was handed over his camera and phone, and he signed a pledge not to go out and photograph under the curfew, otherwise he would expose himself to arrest and pay financial bail; then he was released.

*Palestinian Parties' Violations in Gaza Strip during the past 10 years*

| Year   | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Total |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Number | 62   | 37   | 50   | 24   | 76   | 48   | 35   | 41   | 113  | 59   | 545   |

*Palestinian Parties' Violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 2020 based on the type*

| Number | Type of Violation                                                     | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total     |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1      | Physical assault                                                      | 1         | 3          | 4         |
| 2      | Arrest                                                                | 4         | 13         | 17        |
| 3      | Detention -often accompanied with interrogation and ban from coverage | 1         | 2          | 3         |
| 4      | Summon and Interrogation                                              | 13        | 24         | 37        |
| 5      | Confiscation - seizure of equipment                                   | 3         | 1          | 4         |
| 6      | Incitement-Defamation                                                 | 1         | 1          | 2         |
| 7      | Raiding a house or institution                                        | 1         | 1          | 2         |
| 8      | Institutions' closure                                                 | 0         | 2          | 2         |
| 9      | Ban from coverage                                                     | 5         | 3          | 8         |
| 10     | Delete material and content                                           | 1         | 4          | 5         |
| 11     | Torture and mal-treatment                                             | 1         | 2          | 3         |
| 12     | Threats                                                               | 3         | 2          | 5         |
| 13     | Others                                                                | 3         | 1          |           |
|        | <b>Total</b>                                                          | <b>37</b> | <b>59</b>  | <b>96</b> |



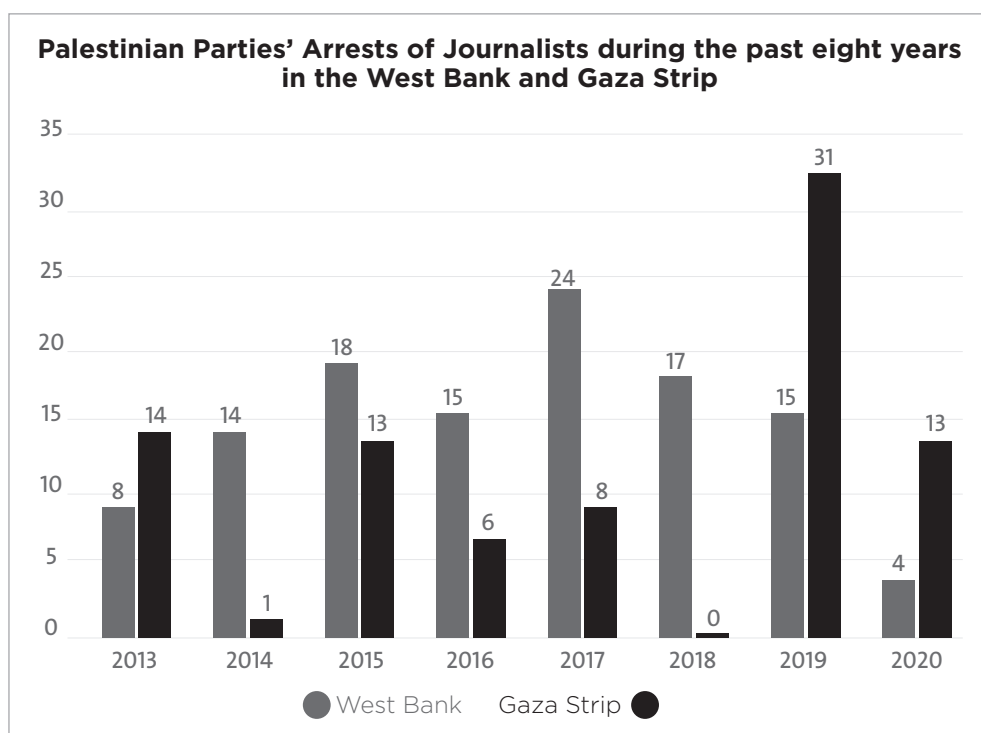
## ► Arrests and Torture

During the year 2020, a total of 17 arrests and detentions were recorded (4 of them in the West Bank and 13 in the Gaza Strip), three of whom were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during their detention (one in the West Bank and two in the Gaza Strip) and they are: Amin Khaled Al-Hajin and Ismail Fayez Al-Bazam in the Gaza Strip, and Ayman Qawariq in the West Bank.

For example, journalist Amin Khaled Al-Hajin, who was arrested by Internal Security in Gaza on 9/20/2020, a day after he was held in a cell, was interrogated by three interrogators about his writings on the general situation in Gaza Strip, and during that time he was beaten with a piece of leather “falaka” and he was forced to call his brother Ahmed and ask him to delete a post in which he indicated that he had been arrested, and that evening he was transferred to Kamal Adwan Hospital due to his sudden fatigue (shortness of breath, dizziness, emaciation, and cramps), and there he was examined and given the necessary treatment, and then he was taken back to the Internal Security headquarters and placed in the cell again, and in the afternoon of the third day, he was released.

### *Palestinian Parties' Arrests of Journalists during the past eight years*

|              | 2013      | 2014      | 2015      | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      | 2019      | 2020      | Total      |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| WB           | 8         | 14        | 18        | 15        | 24        | 17        | 15        | 4         | 115        |
| GS           | 14        | 1         | 13        | 6         | 8         | 0         | 31        | 13        | 86         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>46</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>201</b> |



## Summon and Interrogate

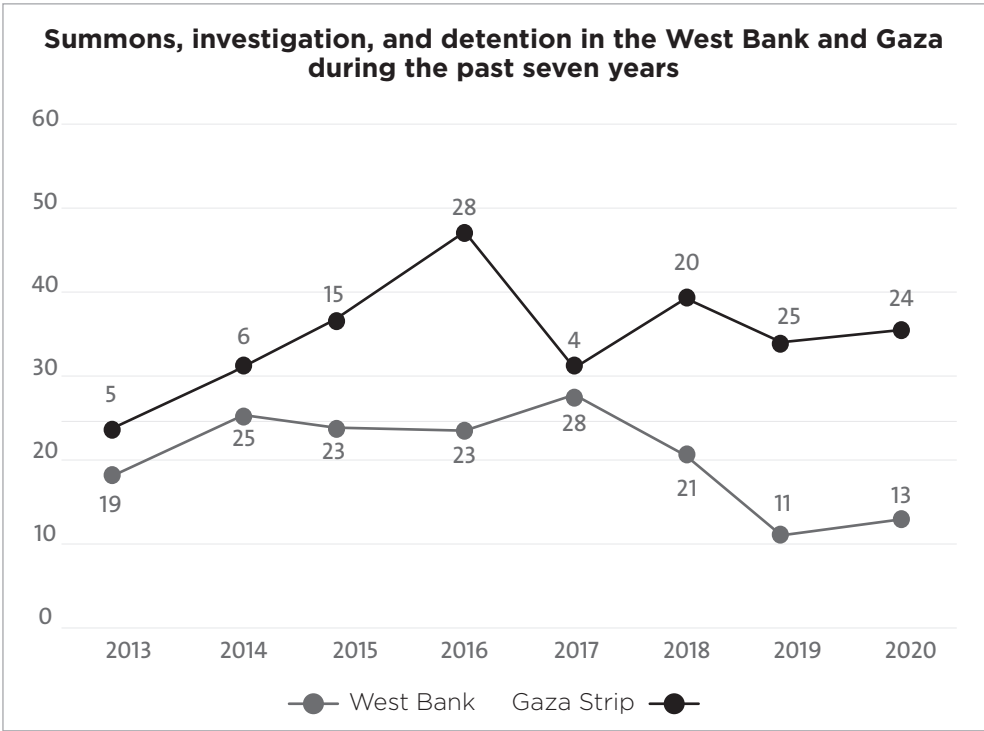
As in past years, the summons and interrogations of journalists, most of which are accompanied by detention operations that extend for several hours and sometimes until the hours of the night, have remained unchanged in terms of what they represent as one of the most prominent and widespread types of Palestinian violations.

There has been no change in the number of summons and interrogations that were recorded in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the year 2020, reaching a total of 37 cases, which is similar to what was recorded in the year 2019, when there were 36 cases.

Summons and interrogations in the year 2020 constituted about 38% of all Palestinian violations, noting that the largest part of them (24) took place in the Gaza Strip compared to 13 summons and interrogations in the West Bank.

*Summons, investigation, and detention in the West Bank and Gaza during the past seven years*

|              | 2013      | 2014      | 2015      | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      | 2019      | 2020      | Total      |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| WB           | 19        | 25        | 23        | 23        | 28        | 21        | 11        | 13        | 163        |
| GS           | 5         | 6         | 15        | 28        | 4         | 20        | 25        | 24        | 127        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>51</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>36</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>290</b> |



### Closure of Institutions

Among the most severe and prominent violations that were recorded in the Gaza Strip during the year 2020, was the banning of Al-Arabiya and Al-Hadath news channels by the Ministry of Interior in the Gaza Strip, on 7/15/2020, from working in the Strip, and prevented any journalist from appearing on the screen of the two channels, and its threat to pursue any party providing media services to the two channels in the Strip, following the publication of information by the Al-Arabiya channel that it obtained information related to the issue of the escape of a field commander from the Hamas movement to the Israelis, although the channel offered Hamas leaders to comment on the news, as they refused and did not deny it at the time, but Hamas issued a statement later (7/12/2020) in which it considered what had been published “fabricated news” and accused the channel of “practicing deception and working to spread rumors and lies.”

On Wednesday (15/7/2020), the official of the Al Arabiya channel office in the Gaza Strip, Adel Al-Zanoun received a phone call from the Ministry of Interior in Gaza to close the office of the “Al-Arabiya” and “Al-Hadath” channels, and to inform companies and advertising institutions to ban dealing with the two channels. Ziad Al-Halabi, director of the Al-Arabiya channel office in the Jerusalem office, received a text message on his phone, via the WhatsApp application, with the same content.



## DETAILS OF VIOLATIONS:

### ► January:

(6th Jan.) The occupation soldiers assaulted a number of journalists and prevented them from covering a Palestinian protesting march organized at the entrance of Nabi Ilyas Village, eastern Qalqilya.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, a peaceful demonstration was organized to take place on the afternoon of 6th Jan. 2020, on the settlement street 55, that passes near the entrance of Nabi Ilyas Village, eastern Qalqilya, and that many journalists and media agencies arrived to cover the demonstration. In the meantime, at around 12:00PM on that day, while ROYA TV staff, consisting of the West Bank reporter Hafeth Mahmoud Abu Sabra (32 years old), his coworker the cameraman Ashraf Mohammad Saleem Dar Zaid (35 years old), was presenting a live statement during the newscast, a group of soldiers approached and one of the soldiers pulled out the cable of the live broadcasting device while the staff was going on air, and thus cut the feed to the TV studio. Not only this, but the soldier also pushed the reporter Abu Sabra and ordered them to stay away by a distance of no less than two hundred meters claiming that it is “a closed military zone”. Furthermore, the occupation soldiers also prevented the remaining journalists from covering the demonstration which involved assaulting some demonstrators and citizens by settlers. The prevention from coverage escalated to pushing the following journalists very hard

and ask them to stay away:

The Syrian News Channel Staff consisting of the reporter Jeries Khaleel Azer (30 years old), the Channel cameraman Mutasem Sameer Saqf Al-Hait (32 years old), Palestine TV reporter in Qalqilya Ahmad Othman Shower (33 years old), and the freelance photojournalist Mahmoud Fawzi Ismail (30 years old), the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission cameraman Mohammad Jihad Hamdan (29 years old).

(6th Jan.) The occupation soldiers assaulted a number of journalists and prevented them from covering the demolition and dismantling of a number of houses and facilities of Palestinian citizens in Al-Auja Village, northern Jericho.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, a force of the occupation army arrived in the morning on Monday corresponding 6th Jan. 2020 to Al-Auja Village, northern Jericho, and started demolishing three bricks and dismantled more than 15 housing units of citizens in the village. A number of journalists arrived to cover the events, including Reuters Cameraman Adel Ibrahim Abu Neima (52 years old), from Jericho. At 9:30, while the journalist Abu Neima was alongside a number of colleagues who were filming the demolition (was not wearing the PRESS helmet and vest), and they were next to a number of the village residents, while the Israeli soldiers were firing gas bombs, rubber coated metal bullets and live bullets at the residents not to mention they arrested a number of them including journalist Adel Ibrahim Abu Neima. One of the Israeli soldiers

handcuffed Abu Neiman and took him by force to one of the military jeeps, detained him in there for two hours, preventing him from covering the demolition. At around 2:30PM on the same day, one of the soldiers arrested three journalists, pushed and prevented them from covering the events, namely: WAFA Agency cameraman Sulaiman Mahmoud Sulaiman Abu Srou (37 years old), who was threatened by the soldiers to be arrested if he did not leave the area forcing him to move away by 700 meters from the event location. They also impeded the arrival of his coworker, WAFA reporter Nadeem Ahmad Mousa Alawi (25 years old). Furthermore, the soldiers assaulted Al-Awda TV reporter, and employee of Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission Mohammad Jreir Tawfiq Hamdan (40 years old), as one of the soldiers sprayed a number of citizens with pepper spray including Hamdan resulting in his suffocation.

(13th Jan.) The Israeli Intelligence summoned the photojournalist Abdelmuhsen Tayseer Shaladeh and threatened him with murder if he continued filming around the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the photojournalist Abdelmuhsen Tayseer Shalaldeh (28 years old), from Hebron, works for G Media and Al-Jazeera Documentary, received at around 6:00PM, on Sunday 12th Jan. 2020 a phone call from an Israeli officer who informed him of the need to come to Gush Etzion Settlement Cluster, the Israeli Intelligence Investigation Center, at 10:00AM, on the following morning Monday corresponding 13th Jan. 2020. The journalist Shalaldeh went on the said schedule to Etzion Investigation Center, southern

Bethlehem, where an intelligence officer detained him for half an hour. The Israeli officer told Shalaldeh that filming around the Ibrahimi Mosque and the detainees bothers the (Israeli Intelligence Services and Army), and threatened him to stop and that this was his last warning. When Shalaldeh left the headquarters, another officer threatened with murder and told him that it was the last he will be questioned, next time he will be "assassinated". Abulmuhsen asked the officer whether he was serious or not, and the latter replied that he was serious and things might end up with assassination.

(14th Jan.) Doctor at Jordan Hospital informed the cameraman Attia Mohammad Darwish who was injured by a gas bomb in the face fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers a year ago that he completely lost sight in his eye and there is nothing that can be done about it.

According to the investigations of MADA field researcher, Attia Mohammad Ali Darwish (32 years old), a freelance photojournalist working for several institutions including AL-Ray Agency in Gaza, has arrived in the afternoon of Friday corresponding 14th Dec. 2018 to Malka eastern Gaza to cover the peaceful return march organized weekly in Gaza Strip. At around 5:00PM on that day, and while he was 300 meters away from the separation fence on the other side of which the Israeli soldiers were deployed, taking photographs of the demonstrators, he was injured by a gas bomb in the face (lower his left eye) fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers. It should be noted that Darwish was in the known Press uniform (helmet and vest). Upon his injury, he was immediately

transferred by an ambulance to Dar Al-Shifa Hospital, where he was taken to the ICU. Two days later (Sunday, corresponding 16th Dec. 2018) he underwent a surgery to remove the fragmented bone and place platinum in his face. He stayed in the hospital until 21st Dec. 2018, and then he was transferred to the Palestinian Red Crescent Al-Quds Hospital, where he stayed for a week under supervision. Then he was discharged and returned home on 28th Dec. 2018. Given his inability to clearly see post the injury, and since his attempts to get a medical transfer to the Eye Hospital in Cairo have failed, he traveled in February 2019, at his own expense, to Egypt, where the doctors informed him that there is nothing that can be done to his eye given the fragmentation caused to it as a result of the injury not to mention that a relatively long time passed since he was injured. He returned to Gaza Strip. On Wednesday, corresponding 15 Jan. 2020, he left Gaza Strip through Rafah Land Crossing and went to Jordan to receive treatment, after he got a medical transfer through the Palestinian Authority. On 18th Jan. 2020, he was admitted to Jordan Hospital in Amman, and once he was diagnosed, the doctors informed him that “there is not hope to treat his eye” and that he completely lost sight and it will always be like this. Darwish stayed at Jordan Hospital for one month as it was decided to perform a plastic surgery to his face and hearing since it was affected by the injury.

(15th Jan.) The Palestinian Authority Security officers have assaulted the journalists Mohammad Awad and Mohammad Al-Masri while they were in what is known as “Point 5/5”

in Beit Hanoun/Erez checkpoint, Gaza Strip to cover the release of prisoner Alaa Abu Jazar from the Israeli Occupation Prisons, through Beit Hanoun Checkpoint.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Dunia Al-Watan e-Newspaper reporter, Mohammad Mahmoud Shaban Awad (30 years old), and the cameraman of Gaza Media Agency Mohammad Hazem Sami Al-MAsri (22 years old) have arrived on the afternoon of Wednesday 15th Jan. 2020, to what is known as (5/5) Point of the Palestinian Authority Services, at Beit Hanoun Checkpoint, Gaza Strip, to cover the arrival of prisoner Alaa Abu Jazar after he was released from the Israeli occupation prisons where he spent 17 years of his life. At around 2:30PM, the security officer evacuated the citizens and journalists given the limited space. This resulted in altercation between the journalists (Al-Masri and Awad) and one of the security officers where one of the Palestinian Authority Security officers and three of his colleagues assaulted the journalists Awad and Al-Masri by beating and cursing, even though the journalists entrance was coordinated by the Palestinian Authority competent bodies to facilitate their mission. Their cell phones were seized by one of the police officers when they tried to contact the Crossings General Director Nathmi Muhanna. They were taken out of (5/5) point to the external gate. At that moment, the Director of Intelligence (Abu Ibrahim Al-Zaanain) came, and ordered the journalists to be taken to listen to their statements to find out what happened. After about half an hour, members of the National Security Agency came and asked the

Director of Intelligence “Al-Zaanain” to take the journalists to another investigation room where 4 security officers of the intelligence and preventive security were present. They talked to them about what happened, and in the meantime the security office (with whom the altercation took place along with three of his colleagues) entered. His colleagues took him out of the room and continued questioning the journalists about what had happened and then took them out to continue their coverage of releasing the prisoner Abu Jazar. However, the security officer who assaulted them tried to come in their way again, which forced the intelligence director to ask the National Security officer to accompany the journalists Awad and Al-Masri on their way out to the gate of Point (3/3) of Hamad Security, where two Hamas security officers questioned them about what happened with them at the Palestinian Authority Security point, but they refused to respond unless in their institutions or in the presence of the Syndicate, and then they went home.

(21st Jan.) The occupation forces arrested the journalist Yazan Abu Salah, on his way back from Ramallah City to his house in Arraba, southern Jenin.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, at 2:00PM, on 21st Jan. 2019, while Yazan Jafar Fawzi Abdullah Abu Salah (24 years old), from Arraba, Jenin, a reporter of Ramallah News Newspaper, and Al-Hadaf Magazine on Facebook, was on his way home from Ramallah to Arraba, two Israeli military jeeps followed the vehicle Yazan was riding on the road after Zatara checkpoint, southern Nablus, pulled over the

vehicle and arrested Yazan. Yazan’s family contacted the complaints office in Jerusalem and learned that “currently” he was at Jalama Investigation Center.

(22nd Jan.) Preventing Palestine TV staff from preparing a press report on the death of a citizen whose house roof fall above her due to the heavy rain and other losses caused by the depression by officers who said they were from the “Internal Security” in Khan Younes, Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Palestine TV staff, consisting of: reporter Mohammad Salim Abu Hatab (48 years old) and cameraman Hossam Attia Al-Masri (43 years old), both of whom are residents of Khan Younis camp, have arrived at around 9:30AM in the morning on Wednesday 22nd Jan. 2020, to the house of citizen Hind Kassab, who died as a result of the collapse of her house roof in Khan Younis, due to the rains, to prepare a press report, after asking the neighbors for permission. During filming (approximately at 9:45AM in the morning - that is, fifteen minutes after their arrival in the place), two civilians, dressed in civilian clothes, arrived and said that they were officers of the “Internal Security”, and they asked Palestine TV staff to stop filming and leave the place immediately. The security officers asked the TV reporter, Mohammad Abu Hatab, for his identity card. The latter refused at first, asking them to show proof of being officer of the internal security, but they refused to respond to him. So the journalist Abu Hatab showed his card and gave it to one of the officers who checked it and gave it back. One of the security officers showed a card that did not clearly reveal the identity of holder.

They asked the staff to leave the dead citizen's house and the staff responded. While the staff was leaving the house, one of the security officers made a phone call, and immediately asked the cameraman Hussam Al-Masri to delete whatever he has filmed in front of him. The cameraman responded and deleted the filmed material. Meanwhile, journalist Abu Hatab informed one of the security officers that he and his colleague intend to go to Salah El-Din Street near the European Hospital in Khan Younis, to prepare a report about an area that was drowning in rain water, for the sake of their report that they were trying to prepare about the weather conditions, but one of the officers told him: "you are not allowed to film anything in Khan Younis at all, neither you nor the TV, if you want to film, go see the Internal Security Office in the governorate and ask for authorization to film". This forced the staff to stop working and cancel the report they were about to prepare. The reporter then informed the TV Management -Gaza Strip Office of the incident, and they left the place at around 10:10AM on the same day. (24th Jan.) Israeli security officers assaulted the photojournalist Iyad Abu Shalbak, while he was covering the participation of hundreds of citizens at Al-Fajir Prayer, Al-Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Iyad Hassan Abu Shalbak (39 years old), the cameraman of ROYA TV, arrived at an early house, on the morning of 24th Jan. 2020, to the square of Al-Aqsa Mosque to cover the participation of thousands of citizens in the prayers of Al-Fajir on Friday as part of the campaign "Al-Fajir Al-Atheem"

launched by activists to perform Al-Fajir prayers. This is all part of Palestinian attempts to suppress semi-daily attacks by settlers in Al-Aqsa Mosque. At around 6:15AM, and after large forces of the Israeli occupation security and police raided several places in Al-Aqsa squares, the cameraman Abu Shalbak went from the square of the farthest mosque to the Dome of the Rock square (150 meters away from where he was at) and there he saw dozens of soldiers carrying weapons in the square forcing the prayers and women to leave and assaulting them by beating and firing rubber bullets. While he was doing his work there, one of "Al-Yasam" Israeli military unit approached the cameraman Abu Shalbak and smacked him with a stick on his right leg. Then another security officer approached and smacked him again while yelling "do not film... do not film... get out of here...het out of her". Note that these officers of the Israeli unit were smacking prayers violently and hysterically in the meantime. After about a minute, a third security officer attacked the cameraman Abu Shalbak, slapped him with his hand on his face and pushed him toward the stairs leading to the farthest mosque square, amid threatening him of arrest if he continued filming. The cameraman Abu Shalbak suffered bruises and scratches in the face and leg as a result of this attack, and he received first aid in the field by volunteer paramedics who were in the squares of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the meantime.

(25th Jan.) The Israeli occupation forces arrested journalist Thaer Abdel Nasser Al-Sharif, 28 years old, and detained him for several hours, during which they subjected him to

severe abuse, after they sprayed him and his family with pepper.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Thaer Abdel Nasser Ahmad Sharif (28 years old), from Arroub Refugee Camp, northern Hebron, a show presented at Palestine TV, arrived at 5:30PM, on Saturday, corresponding 25th Jan. 2020 to his family house 10 meters away from the bypass road (60) in Arroub Refugee Camp, northern Hebron, to meet one of the persons working at his place in the second floor of his family house. When he arrived the house, two of the occupations soldiers and one officer were in front of his family house detaining two young men, the officer asked Thaer to step forward and show his personal identity card, and Thaer responded and showed his ID. However, the officer asked Thaer to bend and put his ID on the floor, but Thaer refused to do so. After few minutes of argument, the officer counted 3-2-1, and one of the soldiers assaulted him and punched him on his neck. Then he was assaulted by two soldiers who grabbed him from his hands and dropped him down on the floor while the officer squeezed his knee against Thaer's neck. The young men started shouting at the soldiers and the latter pulled their weapons at the young men. The journalist Al-Sharif started shouting for his family, and immediately his father and three of his brothers rushed to him. In the meantime, the journalist managed to push away the officer and got up. Then the officer pulled out of his pocket a bottle of pepper gas, sprayed the journalist and his family, and forced them into the house, while his fluent Hebrew-speaking father remained arguing with the

soldiers. Few minutes later, the officer asked the journalist Al-Sharif, who was suffering from suffocation due to inhaling gas (pepper) and his family, to step against the wall and raise his hands up to be searched. The officer searched him and then handcuffed his hands to the back with a plastic cuffs, and tried to bend him down, but the journalist refused to respond. So, the officer punched him on his neck and took him to the military tower 50 meters away. While the two soldiers followed him, and beat him up with their hands on his head, back, and sides, until they reached the military tower. The officer walked the journalist Al-Sharif into a narrow corridor, and the soldiers started arguing, then the officer began insulting the journalist with humiliating words, and then blindfolded him with a piece of cloth, walked several meters and pushed him forcefully, until his head hit a concrete wall, and then asked him to sit on the floor. As soon as the officer finished talking, one of the soldiers kicked Al-Sharif strongly on his knees several times, until he fell on the ground, and continued beating him on his feet while Al-Sharif was screaming in pain of his feet and right hand, whose fingers are amputated as a result of an old work injury. Half an hour later, the beatings stopped, but the soldiers continued to insult him. One of the soldiers asked the journalist to stand up, but he could not, because of the pain in his legs and right hand, as a result of the beating and severe cold. Two soldiers helped him stand up and asked him to sit down again. Al-Sharif tried to sit down very slowly due to the pain he was feeling, but one of the soldiers violently kicked him on his legs and he fell on the



ground. After that, the journalist was assaulted with hands by one of the soldiers on his abdomen, head and back. At around 7:00PM, a soldier took him to a small room and sat him on a chair with plastic flooring. The journalist was able to look from under the cover fixed to his head, and found himself inside a bathroom. Shortly after, he started screaming at the soldiers because of the pain in his feet and hands, and one of the soldiers opened the door and began to insult the journalist and slapped him on his head several times. Few minutes later, the journalist Al-Sharif began to feel a state of breakdown due to coldness and pain, so he shouted at the soldiers, and one of them came, spat on Al-Sharif several times, and beat him again. The insults and spitting by the soldiers continued intermittently for about an hour, after which the soldiers took the journalist out of the bathroom, walked him several meters and sat him on tinplate that was very cold and wet. Shortly after that, Al-Sharif tried to spread his legs to relieve them, but he felt something strongly smacking his (testicles), he screamed in pain while the soldiers continued to assault him with hands and spitting several times on him. In the meantime, the journalist was hearing pictures being taken from one of the soldier's cell phones, as if the soldier was filming the assault. At about 10:00PM, one of the soldiers helped him get up and walked several meters by him, removed the blindfold from his eyes, removed the plastic cuffs, and asked him to go to the officer who was standing on the other side of the road. Al-Sharif was unable to move, and he felt dizziness, until one of the citizens in the street approached him and helped him

pass the road until he reached the officer who started threatening him with arrest and assault in case of "violating the orders of the soldiers." Al-Sharif returned to his family house at 10:00, and he was exhausted and tired as a result of being beaten and subjected to severe cold.

(29th Jan.) The occupation forces detained three press staffs and prevented them from reaching Al-Maleh area in the northern Valleys to cover a peaceful event organized there to protest against Washington deal of century, which included enabling Israel to annex the Jordan Valley region. They also prevented the press staffs to cover another protest taking place in Al-Auja, on the same day.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the journalist Fathi Khaleel Barahma and Omar Ahmad Hassan Abu Awad, who work for Palestine TV, as well as the journalist Adel Abu Neima who works for Reuters Agency, and journalist Sulaiman Mahmoud Sulaiman Abu Srou, who works for WAFA News Agency, all from Jericho, have took off, at 9:00AM, on Wednesday corresponding 29th Jan. 2020, from Jericho towards Al-MAleh area (eastern Tubas), northern Valleys, to cover a peaceful popular protest called for by the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission and Tubas Governorate against the deal of century announced by Washington under which the Israeli occupation can annex to its territories the Valleys. At 9:40, the journalists who were together in the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation vehicle arrived to Al-Jiftlik Village (located on the road to Al-Maleh area where they were heading). The Israeli soldiers who had set up more than



one checkpoint to prevent the citizens from going to Al-Maleh area to participate in the protest, stopped the journalists and asked them for their press and personal cards, and a soldier photographed the same on his mobile phone, and then he returned the cards of the journalists, Adel Abu Neima and Fathi Brahma. He asked the journalists, Sulaiman Mahmoud Abu Srou and the journalist Omar Abu Awad, to get off the vehicle and forced them to sit in a place about 25 meters away from the vehicle. The soldier was accompanied by an Israeli policeman and three people in civilian clothes. The two journalists, Abu Awad and Abu Srou, were pushed and threatened with arrest by the soldier and his companions if they saw them in the Valleys region. They seized WAFA Agency press card from Abu Srou, and the Journalists Syndicate card of Omar Abu Awad claiming they are invalid (expired on 31st Dec. 2019) and forced them all to go back to Jericho and prevented them from arriving to Al-Maleh area where they heading. On their way back, when they approached Fasayel Village, which is adjacent to Jericho, at approximately 12:00PM, they watched a popular march of Palestinian citizens at the entrance to the settlement of "Maali Ephraim", which is adjacent Fasayel Village. They stopped and got off the vehicle to cover the march, but the occupation forces that were in the place prevented the cameramen Omar Ahmad Abu Awad and Sulaiman Mahmoud Abu Srou again to cover the march. While an Israeli police officer tried to seize the camera of Palestine TV, and prevented the journalist Fathi Brahma from covering the event. About 20 soldiers gathered

at the location of the journalists and ordered them to leave the place and not to film, claiming that the place is a "military zone", and the soldiers threatened the driver of Palestine TV vehicle Samer Asaad Issa Abu Salman, to seize his driver's license, and the vehicle, and give him a ticket of 1000 NIS if he did not leave the place, which prompted him to leave the place immediately.

(30th Jan.) The cameraman Rabee Hassan Mouneer was suffocated until he passed out while he was covering a demonstration at Al-Bireh entrance that the soldiers attacked more than once with a barrage of suffocating gas bombs.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, at around 1:00PM, on Thursday corresponding 30th Jan. 2020, a march called for by the national and Islamic forces was launched to condemn "the deal of century" announced by the American President Donald Trump. About 200 people took part in the march, which was launched from the medical products company in Al-Bireh, and headed towards "Beit El military checkpoint, located at a distance of about 200-300 meters away from the launching location. When the march arrived "City INN" Square at around 1:30PM, three Israeli military vehicles came from the DCO gate and started firing a barrage of tear gas bombs at the demonstrators causing multiple cases of suffocation among them. The heavy firing of gas bombs wounded the cameraman of "Al-Arabi" TV, Rabee Hassan Mouneer, (38 years old), with a state of severe suffocation, as he was transferred by paramedics to an ambulance of the Palestinian Red Crescent, which was parked at a distance

of about 30 meters, and there he was provided with first aid until his situation stabilized, and he returned to continue his work and cover the events of the demonstration again. At around 2:30PM, a large force of the occupation army raided the site again and fired heavy gas bombs at the demonstrators and journalists, resulting in dozens of cases of suffocation among the demonstrators. The journalist Rabee was injured again with suffocation, and shortness of breath until he passed out (fainted) which forced the ambulance staff in the area to quickly transfer him to Al-Mostaqbal Hospital, 2 kilometers away from the demonstration, where he received first aid and a respirator (Oxygen) was placed for him until he regain consciousness. At about 4:00PM, he was transferred to the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah, as he was suffering from chest aches as a result of this injury. He received further aid, examinations, Electrocardiography, and x-ray images to check his status that the doctors described as minor. He stayed in the hospital until 6:30PM and then he was discharged. The doctors recommended him to go see a pulmonologist and cardiologist.

(31st Jan.) The occupation soldiers assaulted and prevented Palestine TV staff from covering the clashes taking place in Arroub Camp, northern Hebron.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Palestine TV staff, consisting of the journalists: cameraman Fadi Taleb Khilaf (33 years old), cameraman Thaer Yousef Arjan (38 years old), and reporter Azmi Waleed Banat (24 years old), went to Arroub Refugee Camp, northern Hebron, at around

12:00PM, on Friday, corresponding 31st Jan. 2019, to cover a peaceful march called for by the national forces in the camp to condemn "the deal announced by the American President Donald Trump". Once Friday prayer ended, the march moved and arrived the Distribution Center of UNRWA where the demonstrators started throwing stones at the occupation soldiers and the latter responded with sound and gas bombs randomly at them and the journalists who arrived to cover the events. This forced Palestine TV staff to go to one of the buildings near the clashes, and they went up on its roof on the third floor to cover what was going on. Meanwhile, the soldiers fired a gas bomb at the building where Palestine TV staff was located, resulting in suffocation. Minutes later, the staff returned to transmit the events live, during which three soldiers went up to the roof of the building, and they asked the staff to stop broadcasting. The soldiers tried to prevent them from broadcasting by placing their hands on the camera, the soldiers continued to harass the staff until they forced them to leave the building after they threatened the staff to use force, should it not obey the orders. Meanwhile, journalists were forced to leave the camp due to the heavy tear gas bombs.

## ► February:

(1st Feb.) The two cameramen, RajiAsfour and Abdullah Fawadleh, were suffocated by gas bombs by the Israeli occupation soldiers while they were covering clashes at the entrance of Al-Bireh.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Al-Jazeera TV cameraman, RajiOdehAsfour

(38 years old), his assistant the cameraman Abdullah Fawadleh (42 years old), have arrived at 10:00AM in the morning of 1st Feb. 2020, at the entrance of Al-Bireh, where clashes were taking place between groups of Palestinians and the Israeli occupation soldiers. They began to take pictures of these events after they wore safety equipment while the occupation jeeps were firing heavy gas bombs towards the Palestinian demonstrators. Their coverage lasted for several hours, during which the occupation soldiers were harassing and screaming at journalists, demanding that they leave the area, and they targeted them more than once by firing sound bombs and rubber-coated metal bullets at them without causing any injuries. At 3:10PM, the situation calmed down and there were no clashes, but the two journalists, Asfour and Fawadleh, were surprised by the occupation jeeps firing heavy gas bombs automatically towards them, as they were unable to put in the masks to protect themselves from suffocation. As a result, they suffocated severely, and the soldiers' heavy gas firing hindered the arrival of the staff of the Red Crescent Society who came to take them. They were transported by the staff away from the location, where they were provided with the necessary aid in the ambulance in the field.

(1st Feb.) The Israeli Intelligence Service detained the freelance journalist Sami Al-Saei twice on his way to and from Jordan, and questioned him.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the freelance journalist Sami Saed Abed Al-Saei (40 years old), also a field researcher at MADA, has arrived at around

9:30AM, on Saturday 1st Feb 2020, to the Israeli section at Al-Karamah crossing (bridge), on his way to Jordan, where he was detained for an hour without being questioned before letting him continue his way to Jordan. Two days later, (Monday 3rd Feb. 2020), on his way back from Jordan to the West Bank, the Israeli Intelligence seized the passport of the journalist Sami Al-Saei again about three hours, during which he was questioned by an Israeli intelligence officer, who asked him about his work, and the party he works for, to where and why he traveled to Jordan and where he stayed there and which places he visited. The interrogator said to him: "Sami, why were you imprisoned in 2016 and sentenced for 6 months?" Sami replied that this was on charges of "incitement". The investigator told him: "so, you remember". Sami replied yes, and then the officer threatened him by saying: "It is clear that you do not remember, because your file is ready for a new arrest - and I advise you, to take care of your wife and daughters, and do not write. If you stay like this, you will come back to us once again (we will arrest you)". He took the name of Sami's page on Facebook, and then allowed him to continue his way back to the West Bank.

(2nd Feb.) The Journalist Abdelmuhsen Shalaldeh was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the head, while he was covering a peaceful march in Ras Al-Jora area northern Hebron.

According to the investigations of "MADA" researcher, Abdelmuhsen Tayseer Abdelmuhsen Shalaldeh, (28 years old), a cameraman for "J Media" Office for media services, a resident of Sa'ir, north of Hebron,

went to a peaceful march organized by Hebron University students, at 11:30AM on Sunday, 2nd Feb. 2020, in condemnation of the “Deal of the Century” announced by US President Trump, and the demonstrators went towards Ras Al-Jora area, northern Hebron. When the march arrived the area of Al-Shaarawy Mosque, large forces of the Israeli occupation army were deployed there, and the journalist Shalaldeh, who was wearing his complete press uniform, came with a number of his fellow journalists to the place where the soldiers were located, so a number of soldiers approached the journalists and began shouting at them in Arabic asking them to leave. One of the journalists spoke to the officer that they wanted to be in a place that keeps them safe from fire, and the officer replied “The last thing I care about is your safety” and forced the journalists, including Shalaldeh, to move away to a place where they were visible to the soldiers. Meanwhile, some of the protesters began throwing stones towards the soldiers, a number of whom passed by the journalists, and approached towards the demonstrators, and fired gas bombs randomly towards the stone-throwers. In the meantime, the journalist Shalaldeh placed his camera on the ground and wore a gas mask, so one of the soldiers from an estimated distance of 30 meters, fired a rubber-coated metal bullet in the direction of the journalist Shalaldeh, injuring the left side of his head. Shalaldeh fell immediately to the ground, and he suffered from seizure and loss of consciousness. The two journalists Sari Abdel Ghaffar Jaradat and Ahmad Halayqa, rushed and took him to a private vehicle all the way to Al-Ahli Hospital

in the city. There he underwent medical examinations and x-rays, which showed the presence of a diastolic fracture in the skull, while the doctors stitched the place of the injury in his head with 5 stitches and placed him under observation for 24 hours.

The cameraman Abdelmuhsen Shalaldeh intends to file an official complaint against the occupation army soldiers for being targeted and injured after he was threatened to be killed when he was summoned to investigation on 13th Jan. 2020 by the Israeli Occupation Intelligence.

(2nd Feb.) A force of the Israeli occupation army arrested the journalist Mohammad Osama Melhem for 11 days after assaulting him while he was covering a peaceful march in Halhoul protesting against the century deal.

According to MADA researcher, Mohammad Osama Melhem (30 years old), from Hebron, a reporter of “Al-Marah” Radio and works in the sound engineering section, went on Sunday 2nd Feb. 2020, to Halhoul to cover a peaceful march organized to protest against the deal of the century, through voice messages forwarded from the field to the radio station. After the march began, the soldiers started chasing the demonstrators, while the journalist Mohammad Melhem was standing near the soldiers, as about six soldiers approached him, shouting at him, “Turn yourself in”. The journalist did not move from his position and told them he was a journalist, but the soldiers started beating him with their hands, legs, and rifles, on the face, neck, and back, which caused him bruises and broken teeth. Melhem took out his ID and press cards, and

showed them to the soldiers and the officer. The officer took the card and arrested Melhem in the jeep. While he was being transferred to KiryatArba settlement located in the center of Hebron, to the intelligence center, Melhem was subjected to verbal abuse and humiliation by the soldiers, and when they arrived to KiryatArba Center, the journalist Melhem tried to persuade the investigator that he is a journalist, and that he holds a media certificate and is working to cover the events. He asked them to bring his papers from the house and the radio office to prove his journalistic work but they did not pay attention to that as they transferred him to Etzion detention center. He did not see anyone in the first two days, as he was detained for two days. Journalist Mohammed Melhem was brought before the court on Tuesday 4th Feb. 2020, when the judge ordered his release, as there is no evidence that the journalist participated in «sabotage» as the soldiers claimed. However, the military prosecution requested that his detention be extended for 72 hours, which was repeated subsequently (the extension of his detention) at Ofer Prison Court until Thursday 13th Feb. 2020, when the Israeli military court decided to release the journalist on a bail of 5,000 NIS, and a trial session was set for him on Sunday (8th March 2020).

(3rd Feb.) Facebook Company closed Al-Hurriya Media Network claiming that it publishes material violating Facebook's General Policy. According to MADA researcher, Al-Hurriya Media Network, is an advertising socio-political media organization, that has a Facebook page created in 2019, followed and

liked by 30,000 users. On 3rd Feb. 2020, the page received a warning from «Facebook» Company about a number of posts claiming they «violate the general policy of Facebook». Soon later, the page was closed as the admins reported, knowing that during 2019, three pages belonging to Al-Hurriya Media Network were deleted by Facebook, claiming they violate the content policy.

(6th Feb.) The journalist and cameraman Mohammad Zaki Abu Ghania was injured by a metal bullet in the abdomen, which was fired by an Israeli soldier while he was covering a raid and clashes in the city of Bethlehem.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Mohammad Zaki Abu Ghania (47 years old), a cameraman of Reuters, from Bethlehem, along with a number of journalists, at around 7:30AM, in 6th Feb. 2020, went to cover a raid carried out by the occupation army to several areas (including the surrounding of Al-Arja Factory, the presidential headquarters and the Ducks Garden in Beit Jala). They first went to cover the raiding in the Garden area, and there the soldiers did not encounter them, the soldiers tried to prevent the journalists from filming when they raided the house. However, the journalists refused to comply with their orders and told them that the area is not closed military zone to prevent them from filming, and after the raiding ended in that area they left. At 10:00AM in the morning that day, the journalists went to cover the raiding in the presidential headquarters, where clashes erupted. Groups of Palestinian demonstrators threw stones at the Israeli army's patrols, while soldiers

fired sound and gas bombs as well as rubber bullets. During their coverage of these events, the journalists were standing in a central area between the soldiers and the stone throwers who were separated by about 100 meters (about 50 meters away from each side). They wore the press uniforms and helmets on their heads. In the meantime, one of the soldiers fired a metal bullet towards Reuters cameraman Mohammed Abu Ghania, injuring him directly in the abdomen. Immediately, a Palestinian Red Crescent crew in the area rushed to provide him with first aid in the field.

The journalist Mohammad believes that the soldier targeted him deliberately especially since he was wearing the press uniform which makes it obvious for the soldiers what was he doing.

(7th Feb.) The journalist Tareq Yousef Khaled Sarkaji (34 years old), was injured by two metal bullets in the thigh, fired at him by the occupation soldiers while he was covering events that erupted in Azoun town, eastern Qalqilya.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Tareq Yousef Khaled Sarkaji (34 years old), works for Jmedia Agency and Al-Jazeera Live, has arrived at 14:25PM, on Friday 7th Feb. 2020, to Azoun town, eastern Qalqilya, to cover the events taking place there after funeral procession of 1st Sergeant of PCP Tareq Badwan who was shot by the occupation soldiers bullets. Sarkaji was wearing the helmet and vest marked Press. There was great number of demonstrators in the town, dozens of them went to the entrance of the town (Azoun), and began throwing stones at the

Israeli occupation soldiers, while the occupation soldiers were firing gas and sound bombs, metal and live bullets, heavily towards the demonstrators, wounding a number of them with live bullets. At around 15:10PM, while he was covering these events at a distance of about hundred meters and on the other side of the corner, clashes were taking place in the first square area in the town (about 200 meters away from the center of the town).

As soon as Sarkaji tried to approach the clashes not surrounded by demonstrators, he was injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the left thigh. Shortly after he was injured by another metal bullet in his left thigh as well, only few centimeters away from the place of the first injury. He realized that he was targeted by soldiers and retreated to the back next to the rest of his colleagues who were standing near the square directly behind the demonstrators. One hour later after his injury (almost at 16:15) Tariq left the site of the clashes without going to the Red Crescent's ambulance. After he arrived the house and took a rest, Tariq began to feel severe pain in the place of the injury which was heavily reddened. So, he went to Rafidia Hospital at 7:30PM, and there he was provided with the necessary treatment as compresses were placed on his injury to relieve the pain. The doctors recommended him to rest for three days.

(10th Feb.) The Internal Security Service summoned the journalist Loay Nahed Al-Ghoul and questioned him for several hours about his work at the Palestinian Syndicate of Journalists.

According to the investigations



of MADA researcher, LoayNahed Mohammad Al-Ghoul (40 years old), the Director of the Palestinian Syndicate of Journalists in Gaza Strip, has received on 12:00PM, on Sunday 9th Feb. 2020, while he was at his house located in Al-Shate' Camp a notification from the Internal Security Service. His brother Saleh Al-Ghoul received the notification and it says that Loay must go to the headquarters of the Internal Security at 8:00AM, in the morning, on Monday 10th Feb. 2020 and to bring along his cell phone and identity card, without clarifying the reasons. Indeed, on the said schedule, Al-Ghoul went to the headquarters of the Internal Security where he first encountered a police officer who took his identity card, cell phone, and the money he had. He wrote down all of his information and after ten minutes, he took him to a place called "Bus/Al-bas" where individuals are detained. He stayed there for an hour and a half, along with another four persons.

At around 10:30AM, a police officer came and took Loay to the investigation room where an officer in civilian clothing was waiting. He started questioning him about his work, the central movement office of journalists, the activity of the Syndicate in Gaza and his political affiliation. The officer was recording the answers and the session lasted for an hour. The officer then took him to another room where he stayed for 40 minutes. At around 12:10PM, the policeman brought him back to the same officer who re-questioned him again about the journalists' central movement office, who to contact in case of a certain event. The officer showed him photos of some of the office personnel (11) and asked him

about each one of them. The session lasted for an hour and then he was taken back to the "Bus/Al-bas". Twenty minutes later, he was taken back to the detention room and stayed until 2:30PM on the same day when he was released after his identity card, cell phone, and other belongings were given back to him.

(10th Feb.) The Israeli occupation soldiers detained a media student of Al-Khadouri University, named Ihab Al-Alami, for several hours, and deleted the material he filmed of the soldiers closing the entrance to Al-Aroub camp in the West Bank and preventing people from entering or leaving the camp.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the media student at Al-Khadouri University, Ihablssa Mahmoud Al-Alami (22 years old), from Beit Ummar, northern Hebron, was on his way home at around 11:00AM, on Monday 10th Feb. 2020, after he finished classes at the college. When he arrived the main gate of the college, the one leading to the settlement bypass road (60), across the western entrance of Arroub Camp, northern Hebron, Al-Alami saw two of the Israeli soldiers standing at the entrance of the mentioned camp which was closed by an iron gate, to prevent citizens to come in and out. Al-Alami approached to see what was happening, and he saw the soldiers preventing an old woman to pass through an opening next to the gate. Al-Alami called a number of his journalist friends and asked them to come to Arroub Camp to film the events. He opened his cell phone and started filming the soldiers' harassments of citizens. While he was filming, one of the soldiers shouted at him, approached him and

asked him to stop filming. Al-Alami inquired about the reason but the soldier refused to talk to him. He took the cell phone and asked Al-Alami to follow him to the entrance of the camp 20 meters away from the college's entrance. When Al-Alami got closed to the soldiers, one of them asked him to sit on the ground. Half an hour later, Al-Alami started feeling pain in his back as he had a condition in the spine vertebrae. He asked the soldier to let him stand up, but the soldier refused. Two minutes later, he allowed him to stand up for less than a minute and then asked him to sit on the ground again. In the meantime, Al-Alami was listening to the conversation of the soldiers in Hebrew, which he knew. One of them addressed the other "just release him, why do you even have him?" the other soldier answered "let's just have fun". Soon after, the European Agency cameraman Abdelhafeeth Al-Hashalmoun, arrived and told the soldiers that Al-Alami is a journalist and asked them why were they detaining him but the soldiers refused to reply. At 1:00PM, Al-Alami's parents arrived after they saw photos of their son through the social media. His father addressed the soldiers in Hebrew: "why didn't you take him to a detention center if he is arrested, otherwise release him". The soldier replied "I am sending him to your God" and asked the parents to stay away. Shortly thereafter, a military vehicle arrived at the checkpoint, and the soldier handed over Al-Alami's cell phone to one of the soldiers inside the vehicle, and around 2:00PM, the soldier asked Al-Alami to leave the place, and gave him back his cell phone. After he left, Al-Alami found that they had opened his cell phone

and deleted all the materials related to the soldiers and they also deleted the filmed material he made at the entrance of the camp.

(11th Feb.) Six journalists were severely suffocated and injured by rubber bullets while they were covering a demonstration organized at the entrance of Al-Bireh City.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, at around 12:00PM, on Tuesday 11th Feb. 2020, a march was launched from the center of Ramallah in which 200 persons were involved, to condemn and protest against the "deal of the century". The march headed towards Beit El Military Checkpoint, at Al-Bireh entrance, 4 kilometers away from the center of Ramallah. The demonstrators approached the "City Inn" square, 300-400 meters away from the checkpoint, and a number of journalists accompanied them in the march to cover it, while another number of journalists arrived later. Once the march arrived to "City Inn" square, several Israeli patrols near the military checkpoint fired a barrage of tear gas bombs and rubber bullets at the demonstrators, which resulted in the injury of two of them by rubber bullets and 8 with suffocation.

Some of the demonstrators started throwing stones at the army patrols that continued firing tear gas bombs and rubber bullets at the demonstrators and journalists. At around 2:30PM, while the journalist FatenAref Abdullah Alawan (38 years old), Al-Hurra TV reporter, was a live broadcasting from the field to the TV, several Israeli patrols approached the demonstrators and fired a barrage of tear gas bombs. Due to several bombs falling



near her, she was injured and so her cameraman Nidal Mohammad Ramadan Hassan (32 years old), with severe suffocation. She stopped broadcasting and moved quickly towards the Red Crescent ambulance which was parked 50 meters away from her. She got in the ambulance and was provided with the necessary first aid. Shortly after, at around 3:15PM, while ROYA TV reporter, Hafeth Mahmoud Abu Sabra (32 years old), was near a gathering of journalists transmitting to the channel live along with his colleague, the cameraman Wisam Abed Rabu, things escalated in the area and in the West Bank in general. The occupation patrols started firing a barrage of tear gas bombs at the demonstrators who were relatively far from the journalists. Suddenly, one of the military jeeps directed the vehicle towards the journalists and started randomly firing bombs one of which injured the foot of journalist Abu Sabra after hitting the floor. Other bombs fell near him and made him severely suffocate. He was shouting and calling his colleagues for help, as he was feeling dizzy and threw the microphone. Soon later he lost consciousness and when he woke up, he found himself on a carrier surrounded by a number of Red Crescent volunteers providing him with first aid. He had a headache after that for several hours. In the meantime, Mohammad Jreir Hamdan (30 years old), a cameraman who works for the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission arrived at around 3:00PM the entrance of Al-Bireh to cover the events. He was wearing the Press mask. Ten minutes upon his arrival he started filming the incidents, and then he was injured by a rubber bullet in the left shoulder

fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers. Immediately, the volunteer paramedics transferred him to the ambulance and gave the necessary first aid. He later came back to cover the events and did not go to the hospital. But during the night hours he felt severe pain, so he went to the Palestine Medical Complex and imaged the injury, and the doctors reassured him, gave him a painkiller and then he was discharged. Moreover, Palestine TV cameraman Ahmed Manasra was also slightly suffocated while he was covering the events.

(16th Feb.) A force of the Israeli occupation Army prevented Palestine TV staff to access DeirNitham Village to cover an event taking place there.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Palestine TV staff, including the reporter and journalist Haneen Al-Helo (29 years old), and the cameraman Mohammad Radi (35 years old), went on 16th Feb. 2020 to DeirNitham Village in Ramallah, across the street close to "Halmeesh" settlement, where a military checkpoint is established by the Israeli army since the occupation forces closed the village entrances, even though the mentioned checkpoint used to allow vehicles to pass. The staff arrived to the checkpoint at around 11:30, and when the soldiers saw they were journalists, they asked them to show their press cards, seized the key of their vehicle, told them they were not allowed to access, and detained them for more than an hour. While they were detained, the occupation soldiers provoked the journalist Haneen and her colleague Mohammad, when they started the alarm of the vehicle more than

once, by pressing the vehicle's key they seized earlier, and by cursing and insulting the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, kicking the front of the vehicle. One of the soldiers threatened the cameraman Mohammad Radi addressing him "if we see you in the area, we will beat you up" claiming that he films the soldiers. While one of the settlers approached the detained journalists' vehicle but the soldiers asked him to move away. During their detention, the soldiers seized the cell phone of journalist Haneen Al-Helo for about 15 minutes when they saw her calling the TV Administration to inform them of what had happened claiming that they thought she was filming the soldiers. After one hour of their detention, the Palestinian DCO intervened and released them.

(19th Feb.) A force of the Israeli occupation forces detained «Al-Jazeera Live» staff and prevented them from coverage, while the staff was carrying out live broadcast about settlement and settler attacks in Tormusaya, West Bank.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, journalist Alaa Al-Rimawi (41 years old), and cameraman Mohammad Shukri Awad (32 years old), from Tormusaya, have arrived at around 11:30PM, on 19th Feb. 2020, to live broadcast for Al-Jazeera Live, with a citizen from Tormusaya, who possesses lands in the eastern part of the town threatened to be seized and confiscated by the occupation authorities. About 25 minutes after the live broadcast to Al-Jazeera started, three Israeli military patrols arrived and the soldiers were accompanied by members of the Israeli intelligence, who immediately asked them for their ID cards and press cards, and

seized their equipment and private phones, detained them in the rain and interrogated them about the reason they were in the place and for what agency they work. They remained in detention for an hour in the cold and rainy conditions, and then they released and instructed them to leave the place.

(20th Feb.) The Preventive Security Service summoned the photojournalist Nidal Al-Natsheh and questioned him about his press work.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, at around 10:00AM, on Thursday, corresponding 20th Feb. 2020, "France 24" TV photojournalist Nidal Mahmoud Abdelhafaeth Ashmar (32 years old), from Hebron, learned from a relative, through a phone call, that the Palestinian preventive security service came to his house and delivered a written notification to his family. The notification stated that Nidal must appear at the headquarters located in Hebron, on Sunday 22nd Feb. 2020, at 10:00AM. Accordingly, Nidal went to the headquarters of the Preventive Security in Hebron, and when he arrived they took his personal card and took him to a detention room, where there were a number of wanted persons waiting. Nidal waited until 12:00PM, and one of the guards took him to a room where one of the investigators was. The investigator started his conversation with journalist Nidal, about the nature of his work, the media agencies with which he works as a cameraman, how he receives his salary and its value, the people working with him in the same job, how to communicate with workers in the channels he works for, and the emails he uses to send the

filmed material. Nidal answered that he works with known agencies and that the Preventive Security Service can inquire about anything from the Prosecution if it wants as it is the sole party having the right to investigate with him about that. After that, the investigator asked Nidal about a post on his Facebook page, about his nephew Mutasem who was arrested by the Service Security four months earlier, claiming that Nidal emphasized on the word (abduction) in the post which is inappropriate coming from a journalist. Nidal replied that he posted what exactly happened which was not arrest. The investigation session lasted for 15 minutes. Then the journalist went back to the waiting room, which was very small considering the number of persons who were waiting and which exceeded 20 persons. Journalist Nidal stayed until 2:15PM, after which he was taken again to an investigation room in which another investigator was present. He asked him the same questions that were discussed during the preliminary investigation session, but this time focusing on the nature of the press reports he prepares, how he receives his salary, and how he communicates with the media agencies he works with. During the investigation, the investigator told Nidal that his cell phone was monitored, and Nidal replied "The Preventive Security has no right to monitor my phone" and that if he managed to be certain that indeed his phone is monitored, he will go to the judiciary. The session lasted about 30 minutes, and before the journalist left the investigation room, the investigator asked him about his belongings they kept from the time of his previous arrest about 3 years ago: a laptop. 4

hard disks, 2 cell phones, and 8 USBs. The investigator informed him that he will contact him the next week about the said belongings. Nidal left the headquarters at 3:15PM.

(20th Feb.) A force of the Israeli occupation army detained the freelance photographer Mahmoud Mutan on his way to his town at night, for five hours, and questioned him.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Mahmoud Mohammad Mutan (34 years old), a freelance journalist and cameraman, at 11:30PM on Thursday 20th Feb. 2020 was on his way to his town Burqa eastern Ramallah where he lives. When he arrived DeirDebwan bridge, there were Israeli military patrols. They stopped him and the soldiers asked him to show his identity card. They got him off the vehicle, searched it thoroughly and fifteen minutes later, the soldiers handcuffed and blindfolded him. They took him to one of the military vehicles and detained him for five hours under investigation.

The occupation army arrested the cameraman Mutan on 17th April 2019 for 11 days in Ashkelon prison, and during his arrest, the Israeli soldiers seized computers and an amount of 11,000 NIS from his home at the time and he was unable to return the amount of money.

(21st Feb.) The journalist Mohammad Mahmoud Inaya (28 years old) was injured with rupture and bruises in his feet when the occupation bulldozer pushed large rocks at the demonstrators and journalists during a demonstration in KufrQadoun, Qalqilya.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Mohammad

Mahmoud Inaya (28 years old), Palestine TV cameraman, arrived at around 11:40PM, on Friday, 21st Feb. 2020 to KufrQadoun to cover the weekly march organized every Friday against the closure of the village entrance and the settlement. He was wearing the helmet and blue vest marked Press, and there was great number of demonstrators. Immediately, Mohammad Inaya started filming the events between the demonstrators and the occupation soldiers. Dozens of citizens were in the march that was moving towards the closed street at the town's entrance (the street overlooking Qadomem settlement in KufrQadoun territories), and there the occupation soldiers attacked the demonstrators with gas and sound bombs as well as rubber-coated metal bullets heavily and randomly which resulted in the injury of a number of demonstrators. In the meantime, when it was 12:30PM, the demonstrators retreated dozens of meters to the back because they were suppressed by the army.

The cameraman Mohammad Inaya and a number of journalists were close to these events. Forty minutes later (at around 1:10PM), while he was at 100 meters away from Omar Bin Al-Khattab Mosque, where the marches usually begin, an Israeli military bulldozer raided the area and attacked the demonstrators driving very fast and pushing large rocks at them. The cameraman Mohammad was standing few meters away from them filming what was taking place. Then he was surprised with the bulldozer pushing one of the rocks at him which made him fall to the ground. His camera completely smashed as well as the camera tripod. Some of the demonstrators

rushed to move him away and take him to the ambulance that was close to them. It was found later that both of his feet were injured. He then was immediately transferred to Darwish Hospital, Qalqilya, where he was imaged an x-ray. He stayed at the hospital until Sunday 23rd Feb. 2020 to make sure he does not feel any complications. A CT scan was done for him and it showed ruptures in both of his feet. The doctors recommended him to avoid walking for a week as he could not stand up of pain.

(25th Feb.) Around five journalists were suffocated by gas bombs fired deliberately at them by the occupation soldiers while they were covering a peaceful march against settlement eastern Tubas, northern valleys, West Bank.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission called for a march in solidarity with the families of the northern valleys to protest against settlement. On 25th Feb. 2020, several busses, in a peaceful march, went to that area located eastern Tubas. The Israeli occupation army closed the road to the demonstrators near the checkpoint and suppressed the march by firing a barrage of rubber bullets and tear gas bombs towards the demonstrators in the march, which was attended by a number of journalists. The occupation soldiers deliberately fired gas bombs at the media staffs while they were covering the suppression of the army to the peaceful march. This seemed flagrant to an Israeli officer who approached Mutasem Sameer Hamdi Saqf Al-Hait (31 years old), the cameraman of the Syrian News Channel, while he was few meters away from the gathering

of demonstrators.

Without warning, the Israeli officer sprayed pepper spray directly and deliberately at the face of the cameraman Mutasem, which resulted in severe suffocation, his colleagues rushed to transport him to an ambulance, knowing that this assault was documented by a video clip. Moreover, Al-Ghad Channel cameraman Hazem Imad Husni Nasser (30 years old), was injured by a gas bomb in the right thigh, while he was filming an interview his coworker the Channel reporter Khaled Saleh Mahmoud Budair (31 years old) was conducting with one of the demonstrators when the occupation soldiers fired several bombs at them, one of which injured the cameraman Hazem in the right thigh directly, which is why he was taken to the Turkish Hospital in Tubas to receive treatment. His coworker Budair was severely suffocated and he received the field first aid by the Red Crescent crews. In similar circumstances, while Palestine TV cameraman, Loay Abdel Hafeez Aref Al-Samhan (40 years old), and his colleague Ameer Shaheen were preparing a report about the march in the same place, the occupation soldiers fired several gas bombs towards them, which caused Loay to severely suffocate and suffer shortness of breath and fall to the ground. He was given first aid and was taken to the Turkish Hospital for treatment.

(25th Feb.) The Preventive Security Service arrested the reporter of «Sanad» News Agency, Mohammad Anwar Muna, detained him for about 20 hours, and re-summoned him more than once after he was released.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Mohammad Anwar Fathi Muna (38 years old), a reporter of Sanad News Agency, received at around 12:00 midnight, 25th Feb. 2020, a phone call to his house phone in Zawata Nablus. The moment he asked the caller his name, the latter hung up. Fifteen minutes later, he received another call, and the caller who introduced himself to be from the “Preventive Security” asked him to open the house door, and he immediately did. He saw an officer in military uniform who gave him a paper and told him it was “an authorization from the prosecution to search the house”. He informed him that there is an arrest order against him and asked him to bring his identity card and cell phone. The officer seized the laptop, cell phone and identity card of journalist Muna. While other Preventive Security officers, in 20 minutes, searched the house except for the children’s room. Furthermore, his wife’s (who is a teacher and uses the laptop for her work) laptop was searched as well. They arrested the journalist Muna and took him to Junaid Prison in Nablus. He arrived there at 1:00AM. He was brought before the medical services to be medically examined. Then he was taken to the Preventive Security headquarters in Nablus, where he signed a paper on what has been seized from his house, including the laptop, two cell phones, and a Sony video camera. They took him to a cell where he stayed until 10:00AM the next morning, and he was not allowed to go out to use the toilet, as no one answered his calls regarding this. At ten in the morning, he was questioned by a person called Jihad Bani Odeh (legal adviser) who asked him about the reason for his

arrest without explaining anything to him, and then he was returned to the cell. At around 5:00PM that day, an officer who was in a civilian dress called him and took from him a statement about his name, the names of his children and their ages, the name of his wife and her work, the nature of his work, the agency he works for, how much he received as a salary, the agency's orientation, the names of his brothers and sisters and their work, and about his arrest by the Israeli occupation and the reason thereof, and his arrests by the Palestinian Authority and the reasons. After about three hours (at around 8:00PM) they summoned him again and handed him a notification to go to the Preventive Security Service at 10:00AM in the morning on Thursday 27th Feb. 2020 and released him after an arrest that lasted for 20 hours. On the mentioned date (Thursday 27th Feb. 2020), the journalist Muhammad Muna went to the headquarters of the Preventive Security Service in Nablus and there he was detained until 5:30PM without even seeing him by anyone. Then he was given a new appointment on Sunday 1st March 2020 at 10:00 after they took his identity card.

(25th Feb.) A force of the Israeli occupation army detained Palestine TV staff and prevented it from accessing DeirNitham Village, where it was about to record an episode of «Today's File» program, claiming that Palestine TV was inciting in its programs against the Israeli occupation.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, a large staff of Palestine TV included 13 employees: the program presenter, journalist Salam Al-Deek, the

director SuhaibFuad, the preparer OsaidSbaih, the broadcast engineers IyadHadeebandHishamMughannam, the cameramen OdayHarbeyat, Mohammad Al-Arouri and Ahmad Habiba, the lighting engineer Ahmad Al-Nashef, the sound engineer MutazShehada, the transportation personnel Mohammad Rawashda and Mohammad Radwan, arrived at around 1:00PM, on 25th Feb. 2020, the entrance of DeirNitham village in three vehicles, to film the episode of the program with the families of the village. When they arrived the entrance, near Halmesh settlement, the Israeli soldiers, who were setting up a military checkpoint in the area, stopped them, detained them and seized their personal cards, took copies of the same. After about 40 minutes of their detention, Ahmad Al-Nashef spoke to one of the officers and asked him about the reason for their detention. The officer told him that Palestine TV crews are “inciting against the Israeli army” and showed him on his cell phone some pictures and reports that were broadcasted on the TV, claiming that they “incite against the Israeli soldiers”. While the staff members explained to the officer that they cover the practices of the Israeli army as part of their press coverage, and that they have the right to move freely and do their professional work as necessary. After more than two hours of their detention, Harbeyat said they told the officer that they will not film. The officer photographed all of the staff members and told them that he will share their photos at all military checkpoints to prevent them from access. Accordingly, the army released the staff members, provided that they return to the city of Ramallah and stop their filming,



but the TV Administration insisted on filming the episode and the episode was filmed from an area in the neighboring village Nabi Saleh close to Deir Nitham, but instead of conducting interviews with the people of the village of Deir Nitham as decided, it was sufficient to host the head of the village council, who was able to reach the location of filming in Nabi Saleh.

(26th Feb.) The Israeli occupation police arrested the journalist Mujahid Muflih at a military checkpoint on Ramallah-Nablus Road, while he was accompanied by his wife and two children.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the occupation soldiers stationed at Za'tara Checkpoint, on Ramallah-Nablus Road, have stopped, at about 5:00PM, on 26th Feb. 2020, Mujahid Mohammad Bani Muflih (30 years old), who works as an editor for Al-Quds.com Website, and AltraPalestine News Website, on his way to his town Beta along with his wife and two children. They arrested him, seized his cell phone, and his wife's cell phone, took him to the Ariel settlement police station, while his wife and two children remained in the car until one of his relatives (his uncle, Islam Al-Shurafa) came and drove the car and brought Mujahid's wife and two children to the family's house in Beta. He then learned that the journalist Mujahid contacted the Palestinian Prisoner Club from the investigation center in Ariel settlement and told them that the occupation police was questioning him on charges of "incitement through his social media page". On Sunday 1st March 2020, the journalist Mujahid Muflih was brought before the Israeli Military Court in Salem.

His detention was extended. And his trial was adjourned until Thursday 5th March 2020.

(28th Feb.) A Preventive Security force raided the family house of the freelance journalist Ayman Qawarek at night, in order to arrest him, but he was not home at the time, and told him to come by himself to the headquarters the next day.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, a force of the Preventive Security, after the middle of the night, on 28th Feb. 2020, raided the house of the freelance journalist[1] Ayman Faisal Mahmoud Qawarek (33 years old) with the intention to arrest him. But at the time, he was in Howarah town to cover an assault carried out by settlers there. He received a phone call from one of his brothers while he was in a live broadcast to Quds News Network. He did not pick up and dismissed the calls many times. But at 12:05, he received a call from a number not registered in his cell phone, so he stopped the live broadcast, and answered the call. The caller introduced himself as a preventive security officer and that they were in his family's house, to arrest him. Qawarek said that he was in Howarah to cover the assault carried out by settlers against the citizens there. The Preventive Security told Qawarek family that Ayman should come by himself to the headquarters and they seized two cell phones and two computers from the house. When the journalist's father asked to be given a document proving that they had seized the devices, they wrote a handwriting paper but did not give it to him. Journalist Qawarek did not go the next day to the Preventive Security headquarters in Nablus until Sunday

3rd Feb. 2020. It should be noted that he posted about the raiding of his family house on his personal page.

(29th Feb.) The Institutions Security Department summoned the reporter of WAFA Agency, but the latter did not respond, as the summons was later canceled after the Journalists Syndicate intervened.

According to the investigations of “MADA” researcher, the Administration of WAFA News Agency, on Saturday 29th Feb. 2020, contacted the journalist Rami Samara, one of its employees, and informed him that the Institutions Security Department at the Palestinian General Intelligence contacted WAFA on Thursday 27th Feb. 2020 and summoned the journalist Samara to come on Sunday 1st March 2020. At around 2:00PM on Saturday (29th Feb. 2020), the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate contacted journalist Samara and informed him that it had contacted the Institutions Security Department and canceled the summons. Journalist Rami Samara said that he does not know what is the reason for summoning him by the Institutions Security Department, and that no one from the Department contacted him to inform him about the matter after the Syndicate canceled the summons.

### ► **March:**

(1st March) Photojournalist Mohammad Zuhair Sayeh was injured by a rubber bullet fired at him by one of the Israeli occupation soldiers directly and deliberately while he was covering the raiding of settlers and occupation forces to Mount Al-→Arma in Beta, southeast Nablus.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Mohammad Zuhair Yousef Sayeh (34 years old), from Nablus, the cameraman of An-Najah TV, has arrived before Sunday afternoon corresponding 1st March 2020 to Mount Al-→Arma located in Beta to cover clashes that have erupted between the families of Beta and the settlers who were seeking settlement in the territory and were protected by the occupation forces. Al-Sayeh was in his press uniform. At around 11:30, along with his coworker, An-Najah TV reporter, Othman Jamal Othman Al-Shuaibi (28 years old), the anchorman and preparer of programs at the TV, they were at 15 meters away from the soldiers broadcasting a message to An-Najah TV on the events taking place there in live broadcast, while the Palestinians demonstrators and protestors were 150 meters away. One of the Israeli Army patrols approached them quickly and suddenly, and when it reached 4-5 meters away from them, one of the soldiers shouted at them and cursed them to leave the area immediately and fired a tear gas bomb at them. They ran away, as far as they could from the soldiers. Only few seconds later, one of the soldiers looked at them, shouted and cursed them and asked them to leave again. Al-Sayeh pointed to the soldier that he is walking away but the latter pulled up his gun immediately and fired a rubber bullet deliberately and directly at him. Al-Sayeh was injured in his right leg (tibia). The moment he was injured, Al-Sayeh tried to move away but fell to the ground and remained on the ground for five minutes waiting for the ambulance. However, one of the occupation soldiers fired two gas bombs directly



at them which resulted in the injury of Al-Sayeh and his coworker with severe suffocation. Five minutes later (at around 12:00PM), the soldiers moved away from them for 200 meters. The demonstrators were able to reach them and move them in an ambulance. Al-Sayeh and his coworker Othman Al-Shuaibi were transferred to An-Najah Hospital after they were given the first aid. In the hospital, Al-Sayeh was imaged an x-ray and he was given the pain killers and medications. He was discharged after two hours of hospitalization.

(2nd March) The security services in Gaza Strip raided the headquarters of Sawt Al-Watan Radio to execute an imprisonment order against an employee working as the sound technician in the Radio.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Baha Al-Deen Fathi Ismail Al-Ruzi (32 years old), the sound technician at Sawt Al-Ghad Radio in Gaza Strip, located in Dawoud Tower, 14th Floor, has arrived to his workplace at 12:00PM, on Monday 2nd March 2020 to continue his work. At around 2:45PM on the same day, four officers of the Internal Security Services in Gaza (who were in their official uniform carrying clubs) raided the Radio headquarters without clarifying in the beginning why they were there. In the headquarters, Al-Ruzi was accompanied by his coworker Reem Al-Sakani. When the four security officers entered the Radio headquarters, they asked Al-Ruzi about his coworker Fayege Kuhail against the imprisonment order is issued, Al-Ruzi told them that he was not there and that he was in the morning present but then went home, but they did not believe

him. Without showing any official document or notification, they searched the Radio and raided the entire headquarters. They seized the cell phone of Baha Al-Ruzi by force and took the number of his coworker Fayege (who is wanted according to the imprisonment order). Before leaving, they explained that they came due to an order by the Public Prosecution given the imprisonment order against Fayege, noting that the raiding took half an hour and then they left.

(2nd March) The Preventive Security Services arrested the journalist Ayman Qawareq from Aurtat for three days during which he was questioned about his posts on the social media even though a force of the Preventive Security raided Qawareq's house on 28th Feb. 2020 at night to arrest him but he was not home then and notified him to surrender himself on the following day but he did not until he was arrested after few days in Beta.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Ayman Faisal Qawareq, a teacher and freelance journalist working for Quds News Network and Arab 48 Website, while at around 11:30PM, on Monday 2nd March 2020, was in Beta, a person in civilian clothing approached him and asked him to stop and accompany him when a blue civilian vehicle approached them immediately. There were two persons inside the vehicle in addition to the driver. He pushed him towards the vehicle and quickly drove away. After driving 50 meters, the vehicle stopped next to another vehicle to which the journalist Qawareq was transferred. Inside the vehicle, his hands were tied to the front and he was taken to the Preventive

Security headquarters in Nablus. He was taken inside an office where his handcuffs were removed and he received his personal belongings. Two minutes later, officers (tall and black skin) started beating him up violently on his shoulders, chest and head. At the same time, other officers also were involved in beating him, one of them tried to suffocate him by pressing his hands to his throat. He was beaten for several minutes and then “drawn along behind on the ground” by force between the corridors of the offices; they even stepped on his body while laid on the floor screaming. After that, the person who first saw him in Beta the moment he was detained sat on him to allow his coworkers to tie his hands painfully and tightly. Then one of the officers pushed him to the ground floor where they sat him on a chair and tied his hand behind and transferred him to Al-Junaid Prison. The moment he arrived the prison, he was taken to the medical clinic and then to a (meter/meter) cell. Few minutes later, he was taken to another cell that was very cold, with not mattress or cover, and with iron beds only. He stayed in that cell until the evening hours during which he was questioned three times by an investigator who introduced himself as “Abu Al-Majd, the Director of Investigation in the Preventive Security of the northern area”. He was questioned about his press work and his personal views posted on Facebook especially that a number of his posts must not be published even if according to the law, because the “law is not always correct”. He was questioned about three posts, one of which about Oslo Accords and the other about the Century Deal while the

third post criticizes the chief justice Mahbmoud Al-Habash and other posts. Qawareq replied that he is a journalist and he is expressing his view according to the law and Basic Law, after each investigation session they took him back to the same cell. On the following day, he was summoned at 11:00PM before “the legal counselor of the Preventive Security Services” who introduced himself as “Captain Asem Ramadan”. The legal counselor asked Qawareq what he was asked and questioned in the previous day while Qawareq asked about the charge attributed to him and the counselor told him that he was accused of “contempt of authority” and he was writing down the answers of journalist Qawareq on a piece of paper that was in front of him. Then he was asked to sign the statement, but Qawareq refused to do so and asked to read it. However, the investigator considered that Qawareq “did not want to sign and no need to read the statement”. After 12:00PM, he was taken and brought before the Public Prosecution in Nablus after waiting for two hours. MADA’s lawyer Majd Qirmaz who was defending him was also present. The Public Prosecution accused him of “contempt of authority” and showed several posts of his on the social media including “plant Oslo and you will reap the century deal” and the post of criticizing Palestine partition map. The journalist Qawareq denied all of the charges attributed to him and told them that he was violently assaulted by the Preventive Security officers and that the abuse impacts were still evident on his body. He was then taken back to the Preventive Security headquarters to a cell where he stayed until the evening. He summoned again to investigation

and felt like throwing up so they took him to the restroom and then back to the cell where he stayed until the third day of his arrest (Thursday – 5th March 2020) when he was brought before the court where the Public Prosecution requested to extend his detention for 15 days but MADA lawyer objected and presented what justifies his release rather than extend his detention. The judge refused the Public Prosecution's request and issued his release decision. Qawareq was then taken back to Al-Junaid Prison. Three hours later, he was summoned to investigation and asked him to give urgent statement about his personal posts and views. He replied the same as the previous investigation session. Then he was taken to the Preventive Security headquarters where he met one of the officers and they discussed together the freedom of opinion and publishing. At 6:30PM on the same day, he was release.

(11th March) The journalist Mohammad Sabah Abdelhaq was injured by a rubber bullet fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers while he was covering a sit-in against settlement in Mount Al-ʿArma, Beta.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Baker Mohammad Sabah Mamdouh Abdelhaq (30 years old), the reporter of Palestine TV at Nablus, has arrived at around 8:30PM, on Tuesday 10th March 2020 to Mount Al-ʿArma to cover a sit-in that landlords of Mount Al-ʿArma and the families of Beta have organized to take place up the Mount to protest against the threats of the settlers to occupy the Mount for settlement purposes. He was sending short reports about the peaceful sit-in and he stayed in the place. At 5:00AM, at dawn, on

Wednesday 11th March 2020, the occupation army patrols and the settlers stormed Mount Al-ʿArma while the occupation soldiers were firing a barrage of gunshots, metal bullets as well as sound and gas bombs to disperse the protesting landlords and families up the Mount. At 6:10, while the journalist Abdelhaq was standing near the Red Crescent tent to present a report to the TV on the updates, his coworker shouted and told that one of the soldiers is pointing his gun at him but he could not move then as the distance was very close to the soldier, about one meter. He was injured in the left leg, and one of the Red Crescent paramedics rushed to provide him with medical assistance but the soldier forced them to leave the area. Abdelhaq was unable to walk on his left leg due to the injury while the soldiers continued firing gas bombs at them. Abdelhaq was taken by one of the paramedics walking 2 kilometers. They were followed by the soldiers, and when they became close to them, one of the soldiers approached Abdelhaq and spit on his face and gave him the finger. Abdelhaq tried to talk to the officer, but the latter refused to listen to him and threatened him to fire a sound bomb at him if he would not move away. The journalist Abdelhaq along with other injured persons were taken via an ambulance to Rafidia Governmental Hospital to which they arrived at 7:00AM. Abdelhaq was out of consciousness and he received the first aid, oxygen and ventilation (due to the gas he inhaled). It was found that the gas caused him severe infection in the respiratory airways as to the rubber bullet fired at his leg, it caused minor fracture to his tibia. He stayed at the

hospital until 11:00AM, and then went home after receiving the necessary treatment.

(13th March) A force of the police of Jabalia Al-Nazlah Center in Gaza Strip arrested the author Abdullah Mohammad Abu Sharkh at his house located in Al-Saftawi towers, near UNRWA agency/northern Gaza. He is still under arrest until the present time (1st April 2020).

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, a force of the police of Jabalia Center, at around 10:30PM, on Friday 13th March 2020, arrested the author, Mohammad Abdullah Abu Sharkh (56 years old), married with three children, lives in a house located in Al-Saftawi towers northern Gaza Strip, without warning, and without showing any arrest order according to the rules and law. The author Abu Sharkh used to work as a teacher. He was subject to assault and detention more than once as well as threatening by anonymous parties on the background of his posts on the social media and new media on issues of democracy, social and political development. The moment he was arrested, his wife (Basma Shehda AlBayari/Abu Sharkh) contacted several parties including MADA center represented by its lawyer Ihsan Abu Sharkh, to follow up on his case, visit and contact him in prison. His family learned from MADA lawyer, who was defending him, that he was arrested in Jabalia Center (later he was taken to the Central Prison northern Gaza known as "Abu Obaida" central Beit Lahia) as requested by the Public Prosecution for charges of writing essays and publishing them on his Facebook page, especially the post he copied and pasted for three minutes on his page about Al-

Nusairat fire and deleted it later. The Prosecution and Judiciary extended his detention for 15 days. This is not the first time Abu Sharkh is arrested. He was before arrested by the security services in Gaza more than once due to his writings. According to MADA lawyer, the Attorney General of Gaza issued a detention order against the author Abdullah Abu Sharkh on the background of his post about Al-Nusairat fire. His detention was extended for 48 hours. On 16th March 2020, he was brought before the detention judge who extended his arrest for 15 days even though the Public Prosecution accused of "misusing the technology means" according to Article 262 repeated Of 1936 in addition to the charge of "passing along rumors and lies disrupting reassurance" in contrary of Article 62 of Law Of 1936. It started investigation and questioned him about his "post" that was circulated by dozens of pages even though he deleted the mentioned post several minutes after posting it and asked his friends to do the same and delete it the moment he realized "it did not make sense". MADA lawyer attended the investigation sessions of Abu Sharkh at the General Investigations in Jabalia Al-Nazlah Center and so the investigation sessions before the prosecutor of northern Gaza Prosecution Office. He asked for his release since he denied the accusations attributed to him and since there shall be neither criminalization nor punishment unless under a provision, not to mention that the above mentioned articles do not apply to the incident, the subject of investigation. Furthermore, the author Abu Sharkh did not have the deliberate intention

as stated in Articles 62 and 262 – h 36. The lawyer further presented a legal memo to object on the detention order to the Attorney General and did not receive any response until the moment. He also filed for a bail according to the rules to Northern Gaza Magistrate Court. The special hearing took place on 23rd March 2020, however, the judge denied the request and accordingly the lawyer appealed the issued decision before Gaza Court of First Instance in its appeal capacity and renewed the appeal request. A hearing was scheduled on 9th April 2020, MADA lawyer reported that he intends to start food strike starting from the morning of Wednesday 1st April 2020 and asked him to officially announce this to the public.

(13th March) The cameraman and journalist Jafar Ishtayya was injured by a rubber bullet fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers while he was covering the weekly march events against settlement and closure imposed on Kufr Qadoun in Qalqilya.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Jafar Zaher Hussein Ishtayya (52 years old), works as a cameraman for the French News Agency, northern the West Bank, went on Friday 13th March 2020 to Kufr Qadoun, eastern Qalqilya to cover the weekly march organized by the families several years ago protesting against settlement and the closure of their town's entrance by the occupation army. After the march was launched in front of Kufr Qadoun mosque at around 12:00PM, the Israeli occupation soldiers intercepted it east of the village where the demonstrators were heading to protest against the closure of their entrance which has

been closed since 2003. The soldiers started firing tear gas bombs, rubber bullets and sound bombs at the demonstrators to disperse them while the demonstrators were throwing stones at the occupation soldiers. In the meantime, the journalist was standing near the demonstrators 60 meters away from the soldiers (the firing and stones). After he completed taking pictures of the events, he went back to the area where the march was launched at around 1:30PM. On his way back, one of the soldiers who was hiding in the olive trees fired rubber bullet at him intentionally without any reason. The cameraman Ishtayya was injured in his leg from the back (behind the knee) even though he was wearing the press uniform and the safety press means. Immediately, he was taken by an ambulance where he received the first aid in field and was taken to his house. He completed the treatment with a specialized doctor who lived next door.

(15th March) Some of the security and police officers in Rafah, Gaza Strip assaulted the journalist Yasser Abu Athrah, seized his cell phone while he was filming a protest against using two schools as centers for corona virus patients in Gaza Strip.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the journalist Yasser Sulaiman Abu Athrah (33 years old), from Al-Shabourah Camp in Rafah, a cameraman and reporter for Kanan News Agency, arrived at around 3:00PM, on Sunday 15th March 2020, Al-Nasser Village eastern Rafah to cover the sit-in there protecting against the government procedure of turning Ghasan Kanafani and Marmarah Schools to quarantine centers for corona virus patients. When the

journalist Abu Athrah arrived, he did not see any security officer in the location of the protest in front of the schools and he immediately started filming the protestors and conducting interviews with them on the cause of their protest and their demands. Twenty minutes later, while he was interviewing one of the protestors, he saw a number of citizens running from security officers in military uniform carrying weapons and sticks. They were running towards him, so he stopped filming immediately and suspended the interview he was conducting. He closed his phone, moved away and stopped 50 meters away from the security forces (in Salah Al-Deen main street overlooking the buildings of the schools). In the meantime, a person in civilian clothing, unarmed, approached him, and without introducing himself, attacked the journalist and tried to seize his cell phone even though Abu Athrah loudly said that he is a journalist. Soon after, five police officers came, pushed Abu Athrah and assaulted him with their hands on his chest and back without even considering the fact that he is a journalist. He was injured with bruises and suffered pain in his chest. They seized his cell phone by force, and left him in the location and went to the protest to join the remaining of officers who were trying to disperse it. Abu Athrah tried to contact the administration of the institution he works for, and with some of the officers to give him back his cell phone. He also contacted the Head of the Palestinian Media Assembly Alaa Salamah for the same purpose but could not reach him. At 4:00PM, the police officers forced him to leave the area. On the following day (Monday 16th March

2020) he retrieved his cell phone and received a phone call from a person who works at the Interior Media Office in Gaza, he asked him to come see someone working in the Ministry Media Office-Rafah Office to get his cell phone. He went there and indeed took his cell phone, and he found the material he filmed of the protest near the quarantine center deleted. Days later, the Interior Media Office asked him to come, and a representative of the Office, Iyad Al-Bazm apologized to him for what had happened.

(25th March) The General Investigation and the Police northern Gaza arrested the caricaturist Ismail Al-Bazm from his house located in Jabalia Camp, Al-Falouja, twice in a row.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, and based on the statements of his brother (Rabah), the caricaturist Ismail Fayez Mohammad Al-Bazm (36 years old), married with two children, a caricaturist, was arrested by the Investigation Services at his house in Jabalia, at around 8:00PM, on Friday 20th March 2020, by two persons who arrived his house in civilian clothing and then took him to Jabalia Police Center. On Saturday, at around 8:30PM, the prison attorney was treating the detainees and prisoners very badly, repeating to them "I do not want to hear any of you", addressing them with profanity. Ismail intervened and objected, and one of the police officers assaulted him violently. After that, the prison attorney ordered to take Al-Bazm to a solitary confinement, that was filthy, with dirty water and with no lighting. He remained there for twenty minutes, and then was taken back to a cell that was 5 meters with 11 prisoners



inside. During his detention, he was not questioned, and he was released on Sunday 22nd March 2020 at around 2:00PM, without returning his cell phone or personal belongings. But he learned that he was arrested under a complaint by the Attorney General without knowing the reason of the complaint. Two days later, specifically at 1:00PM, on Tuesday corresponding 24th March 2020, Ismail Al-Bazm went to the Police Center to receive his personal belongings and indeed he took them and left the center heading home. In the evening of Tuesday corresponding 24th March 2020, at around 8:00PM, the police sent him a notification to come again to the police center. In the morning of the following day, Wednesday 25th March 2020, he received another notification from the police center to come again. His brother, Rabah, received the notification and called Ismail and told that he is wanted and must go to the police center. At 12:30PM, on Wednesday, 25th March 2020, a police force (composed of three jeeps with 30 police officers) stormed the house violently searching for Ismail. He was arrested and they did not allow him even to change his clothes. His brother, Rabah, followed them to the police center with some clothes for Ismail, and to ask why his brother was arrested again. The police officer told him that it was because "of an old Facebook post" without clarifying the reasons. On the same day, his family contacted MADA center, represented by its legal counselor in Gaza Adv. Ihsan Abu Sharkh, to follow up on the case of arresting Ismail and release him. At 11:00PM on Thursday, 27th March 2020, someone called Ismail's

brother and introduced himself as a police officer of Jabalia Military Center. He asked him to open Ismail Facebook page and post an apology to the Attorney General as follows "I apologize to the Attorney General for the misunderstanding that had happened in the earlier incident". His brother asked the police officer why should he post such an apology and what had Ismail even done to the Attorney General? And whether Ismail was arrested under a complaint by the Attorney General? And what offence he had committed? The Police officer replied that once this post is shares, Ismail will be released. Once the apology was posted, the Attorney General's attorney contacted Al-Bazm and told him that he will be released after the apology. Al-Bazm tried to know what was the reason and mistake did he do to the Attorney General whom he does not even know personally (as he stated) but he did not receive any answer or explanation and remained in detention without even knowing the reason and without being questioned during his detention. He was released at around 2:30PM on Sunday 29th March 2020 and his cell phones as well as his personal belongings were given back to him as they were seized when he was arrested.

(29th March) The journalist Mutasem Daloul was subject to a series of prosecutions and summons by security and official authorities in Gaza due to posting a comment on the fall of a girl at her school. He was notified that he will be arrested if he does not bring a waiver from the Ministry of Education on a case it filed against him on this regard.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the journalist

Mutasem Ahmad Ibrahim Daloul, who works for “Al-Monitor” Website, received on Sunday morning 29th March 2020, a phone call from “Al-Tufah Al-Daraj” Police Center in Gaza telling him the need to bring a waiver from the Ministry of High Education in Gaza on the case filed against him to close his file, otherwise, he will be imprisoned on the background of a complaint the Ministry has filed against him for defamation in connection to the death of Rahaf Zaino at Fahed Al-Sabah School, in February 2020, who fell from the 3rd floor at her school. Journalist Daloul posted on his Facebook page a comment on Wednesday 12th Feb. 2020 asking the Ministry of Education to open serious investigation in the case of the mentioned girl, Rahaf Zaino. On the following day 13th Feb. 2020, he received a phone call from the spokesperson of the Ministry of Education, Mutasem Al-Minawi, informing him that the Ministry of Education has nothing to do with the case and that the girl’s family is the party to be held responsible as the Ministry of Education has evidence. He summoned him to come to the Ministry to have a look at the details. On the following day, Daloul went to the Ministry after deleting the post as requested in the aforementioned phone call. In there, they talked to him in general that the girl “was suffering from psychological issues with her family and attempted suicide several times, and that the Investigation Police opened a serious investigation and informed her family that they caused her suicide, and that we do not wish to make this huge although we have the evidence but we are ashamed to tell her family the truth”. Daloul replied

that what the Ministry said made no sense and that an investigation committee has to find out the circumstances of the incident. The Ministry spokesperson threatened him “if you do not delete the posts I will beat you up”. When Daloul came back to his house, he reposted it (after he had deleted it earlier). Two days later, Daloul received on 15th Feb. 2020 a phone call from the Attorney General’s Bureau Director Daa Al-Madhoun, who praised the efforts of journalists and asked Daloul to delete the post and come to the headquarters of the Attorney General’s Office to have a look at the details. Indeed, journalist Daloul went on 16th Feb. 2020 where they told him that the Prosecution opened an investigation in the incident under the supervision of the Attorney General, and once they complete the investigation, her family will be notified and the details will be published. When Daloul came back to his house he posted a new comment saying that there might be hope to reveal the truth after he met with the Attorney General in Gaza. Then he saw some comments of officials at the Ministry of Education on their personal pages “defaming” the girl. On 19th March 2020, Daloul received a phone call from “Al-Tufah Al-Daraj” Police Center asking him to come to the police center in Al-Zayton Neighborhood. When he arrived, he was questioned about what he had posted on Facebook on the case of the student Zaino and that he is accusing the Ministry of Education for her death. He replied that he commented that Zaino was murdered at her school by falling from the 3rd floor and that he demanded to open investigation to find out the truth of the incident. He



was told that a case is filed against him by the Ministry of Education at the Prosecution and the police asked him to bring a waiver paper from the Ministry to close his file but he told them that he is not going to the Ministry and came back home.

Last Sunday, 29th March 2020, he received another phone call from the police telling him to bring the paper otherwise he will be arrested because the case file is not closed yet.

(23rd March) Facebook Company has executed a broad campaign of preventing posting and live broadcast. This has affected not less than 16 accounts of the below journalists claiming they violate the criteria of Facebook without clarifying to most of them the direct cause of preventing them from posting and broadcasting:

1. Journalist Najeeb Farraj, from Bethlehem, a reporter of Al-Quds Daily Newspaper, prevented from publishing and commenting through his account for a month starting from 23rd March 2020. He received a notification that said "you cannot post or comment for 30 days, since your last 34 posts have not followed Facebook criteria". This is not the first time he is prevented from posting "which represents part of my job as a journalist as I post news and reports away from views" as he stated.
2. Journalist Ameen Abdelaziz Ameen Abu Warda (5 years old), from Nablus, works for Asda Press Website. He was prevented from posting at his account on 26th March 2020 without clear warning even though he received notifications on violating privacy and Facebook policies. Abu Warda tried to activate the account with the assistance of specialists but with no use. Furthermore, the live broadcast was also shut down at his account for 7 days (starting from the abovementioned date) without any clear reasons.
3. Journalist Hafeth Abu Sabra (31 years old), a reporter of ROYA TV, received a message from Facebook Company Administration preventing him from posting or reacting through his account on Facebook starting from 26th March 2020 until 29th March 2020 claiming that he violates the posting policies. The journalist did not create any alternative account as the prevention period was short as he believes.
4. Journalist Aseel Subhi Eid (28 years old), from Qalandia, northern Jerusalem Ramallah, works for Palestine TV, a volunteer at Qalandia Media Center, prevented from reacting and live broadcasting through her personal account for a week starting from 26th March 2020. The Facebook Administration did not contact her but she received a message claiming that she "violates the Facebook criteria". She was also prevented from scheduling news on the news pages she is admin in, including the page of Qalandia Media Center which was closed three times in varying periods during the past years even though it is followed by tens of thousands of users.
5. The freelance journalist Bilal Al-Taweel (29 years old), from

- Hebron, prevented from posting for a week as well as from live broadcasting for six months, starting from 26th March 2020. He received a message that he violated “Facebook criteria in the news, images and names he posts” for some martyrs. Furthermore, his Youtube Channel was also closed on 6th March 2020 for unlimited period and without prior warning.
6. Journalist Raed Ramzi Al-Shareef (35 years old), from Hebron, a reporter of Al-Ghad News TV. He was prevented to comment and post on his page for a week starting from 26th March 2020 claiming that he violates “Facebook” policy.
  7. Journalist Dana Ghazi Mohammad Abu Shamsiya (32 years old), from Jerusalem, works for Palestine TV, prevented from posting on her page on 23rd March 2020 for 7 days. Just like the rest of the journalists, she received a message that she violates Facebook policy in posting the news.
  8. Journalist Ameer Sami Dweikat (38 years old), from Nablus, works as anchorman at Tareq Al-Mahaba Radio broadcasting from Nablus, prevented from posting on his page for three days starting from 26th March 2020, and he is also prevented from live broadcasting on his page for several months due to old posts, some of which were posted several years ago.
  9. Journalist Qusai Yacoub Al-Halaqa (36 years old), from Hebron, the owner and publisher of “Watan Weather Website”, an anchorman at Al-Hurriya Radio in Hebron, prevented from live broadcasting through his page for three months starting from 26th March 2020. He received a message from Facebook Company explaining the reason which was violating Facebook policy. He contacted Facebook Administration and filed an objection but did not receive any reply on this regard.
  10. Journalist Rami Samarah (35 years old), from Ramallah, works for WAFA News Agency and Ajyal Radio, prevented from posting and commenting for three months not to mention blocking him from using live broadcast noting that this was not the first time.
  11. Journalist Thaer Abu Alfellat (27 years old), from Halhoul, works for Al-Hurriya Media Network in Hebron, prevented from live broadcast on his page due to an old post he shared which was an image of the funeral of a Palestinian martyr. Abu Alfellat was notified to close the live broadcast on 26th March 2020 without specifying the term.
  12. Journalist Abd elrahman Abd elkareem Mohammad Hassan (32 years old), from Bethlehem, works as a reporter of An-Najah TV and Al-Quds Today as well as a freelance photographer. Facebook Administration prevented him on 26th March 2020 to post on his page without sending him a message clarifying the reasons.
  13. The Media Student at Birzeit University Naem Saed Miqdadi (19 years old), works for “Eye Palestine News” and “Palestine Times”, received

on 1st Jan. 2020 a message from Facebook Administration preventing him to live broadcast for 90 days claiming he violates the policy of Facebook and that his account will be closed if he does not respond.

14. Journalist Sami Saed Abdelsae, from Tulkarem, works as a reporter for An-Najah TV in Nablus, and a field researcher for MADA, received on 26th March 2020 a message from Facebook Administration preventing him to post and comment through his page for 90 days, however the prevention did not take place. Soon afterwards, he received another message extending his prevention to live broadcast for 90 days claiming that “he violates the Facebook Policy” and apparently the fault was in the wording of the message only. He did not contact Facebook Administration or any other party to solve the problem.
15. Cameraman and journalist Issam Rimawi (36 years old), from Ramallah, works as a cameraman and journalist for Anatolia News Agency, and as a field researcher for MADA, prevented from live broadcasting through his page for 56 days starting from 26th March 2020 claiming that he violates Facebook criteria as explained in the message he received on this regard, noting that he was prevented from live broadcasting several times and his prevention was renewed and extended several times the last of which was on 17th Dec. 2019.
16. Journalist Imad Jabreen (38 years old), from Bethlehem works as a freelance journalist,

prevented from commenting and live broadcasting through his page for 90 days starting from 26th March 2020 claiming that he violates the criteria and policies of Facebook noting that this was not the first time his reaction through his page is restricted.

## ► April:

(11th April) WAFA News Agency issued a decision on referring two journalists working for it, namely: Jafar Sadaqa and Rami Samarah, to an investigation committee, following the end of the state of emergency. Their salaries were also suspended claiming they breached the state of emergency, according to the correspondence both Sadaqa and Samarah received, but they believe that it is related to their posts on the Facebook.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the economic journalist Jafar Sadaqa, received on 9th April a copy of the investigation committee letter through WhatsApp, since he was at the time in Jenin, sent to him by the Agency Management, signed by the Director General of the Financial and Administrative Affairs of the Agency, Ayman Al-Thaher. The letter was basically a notification to the journalist that an investigation committee will be formed “for not abiding by the emergency instructions” provided that committee initiates its work once the state of emergency ends. It seems that what they mean by breaching the state of emergency is what Sadaqa posts in his Facebook, as he was told by Ahmad Assaf, the Official Media Officer, some of the close people Sadaqa knows. Two days later, (11th April), the

Journalist Sadaqa sent a message to the Prime Minister, Mohammad Ishtayya, through the Government Spokesperson, Ibrahim Melhem, to inform him of the decision he received. The Government Spokesperson contacted Sadaqa, and told him that it was not accepted or approved by the Prime Minister Ishtayya, and that it will be resolved. On 14th April, Sadaqa found out, through one of his friends, that his salary might be suspended, and he contacted the Head of the Financial and Administrative Affairs at WAFA Al-Thaher, who refused to give him any details on breaching the instructions of the state of emergency. Even when he insisted, Al-Thaher told him that he did not know any details and it is the Director General, Ahmad Assaf who knew everything about this matter. As to the salary, Al-Thaher was surprised to find that Sadaqa knew about this especially he was not informed about it. He told him that a letter was issued on the 9th of April to the Ministry of Finance asking the latter to suspend his salary, and asking about the legality of this procedure even though there were no results by the investigation committee. Al-Thaher told Sadaqa "there are now laws, we're in an emergency state". Sadaqa contacted the Ministry of Finance and it confirmed that it indeed received the letter, but it was issued by Ahmad Assaf not the Personnel Affairs Bureau. "Sadaqa", who is working from home, received assurances from the Government Spokesman Ibrahim Melhem that the matter was with Dr. Ishtayyeh, which is unacceptable. Also, on April 15, Melhem, in a press briefing in which the Minister of Finance Shukri Bishara participated, asked the Minister not

to suspend the salary.

As to the journalist Rami Samarah, on 13th April he received a phone call from his Line Manager in the Department Khaled Al-Khaldi, informing him to come to the Agency to receive a letter on forming an investigation committee for him. Samarah went to the Agency headquarters, specifically to the Director General of the Financial and Administrative Affairs Ayman Al-Thaher, to receive the letter. There were two more persons other than Al-Thaher at the office, Samarah Line Manager Khaled Al-Khaldi, and a security officer Fadi Al-Na'san, of the Presidential Guard. Before Samarah received the letter, Al-Na'san asked Samarah several questions about his Facebook posts, it was more like an investigation with him, mostly about his posts related to Palestine TV, even though Samarah did not post anything about Palestine TV (neither critical nor offensive). The discussion between them escalated, until Samarah received the letter and left the Agency headquarters. After he left, Samarah contacted one of those working at the President Office to inquire about Al-Na'san's job and capacity that authorize him to come to the Agency and question Samarah (noting that it was the second time he did that). Shortly thereafter, Al-Na'san contacted Samarah and told him that his issue with WAFA Agency is administrative rather than security, which means that what Al-Na'san acted alone not by commission of the Institution. Few minutes later, Samarah received a phone call from the officer Fadi Al-Na'san, who apologized to Samarah, and told him that he was there by personal capacity and informed him that his issue with WAFA is

administrative not security. The next after receiving the letter (13th April), Samarah asked his coworker Jafar Sadaqa, who received a similar letter earlier, to make a phone call with the Ministry of Finance to check whether the Ministry received a letter on suspending their salaries. Indeed, Sadaqa made that phone call, and found that the Ministry received a letter on suspending Sadaqa's salary while with regard to Samarah, the Ministry did not receive anything yet. To make sure, Samarah then contacted Ayman Al-Thaher, to inquire about his salary and whether there was a decision to suspend it or not, Al-Thaher told him that a decision was issued to suspend his salary and it will be sent to the Ministry of Finance. After that, Samarah went to some friends and acquaintances, including the Government Spokesman Ibrahim Melhem, who gave him oral assurances that the salary would not be suspended, and that the investigation committee is an administrative procedure that the employee must be subjected to, but without any penalty before the committee's results are issued.

(25th April) The Security Officers in Gaza Strip prevented Palestine TV staff to conduct interviews with the citizens for a TV report on Ramadan in Gaza Strip in light of the spread of Corona epidemic. They took them to the Investigations headquarters and detained them for several hours. They were forced to sign a pledge not to work in the field without a prior authorization, before they were released.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Palestine TV reporter in Gaza Strip, Mohammad Saleem Salama Abu Hatab (48 years old), and his coworker, the

cameraman Mohammad Ziad Issa Nassar (42 years old), at about 12:00PM, on Saturday (25th April 2020) were conducting interviews with some citizens in Al-Tars area, northern Gaza Strip, as part of a report they were preparing on Ramadan in Gaza in light of Corona pandemic. They were detained by three of Hamas security officers, after an argument and altercation between the staff and the security officers on the nature of their work and why they were in that area. They were prevented to complete their work claiming that they do not have a prior authorization. The security officers asked them to go to the Investigations Center at Jabalia Military Police via the TV vehicle accompanied by one of the security officers. Indeed, they responded, and when they arrived, the TV staff contacted the Management and the latter contacted the Syndicate of Journalists. The security officers contacted one of the officials who told them that the TV staff has to sign a pledge not to work again unless under a prior authorization. After they signed the pledge, they were released, after staying two and a half house at the police headquarters.

(16th April) The Israeli Occupation Intelligence summoned Palestine TV reporter in Jerusalem, journalist Christine Rinawi, and questioned her about working for the TV even after its office was closed by the Israeli Occupation and prevented from working in the City of Jerusalem.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, Palestine TV reporter, journalist Christine Khaled Waleed Rinawi (31 years old), from Beit Hanina, Jerusalem, received at 10:00AM, on Thursday corresponding 16th April 2020, a

phone call from one of the Israeli Intelligence officers, who asked her at first where she was at, Christine replied that she was at home, and he replied that he was in front of her house and that he came to arrest her because she was “wanted”. Rinawi asked him to tell her what he wanted through the phone, as she was with her mother who is sick in their family house located in Ramallah since the start of closing the roads due to the spread of Corona virus, but he refused to tell on phone. At 11:00, Christine went to Al-Mascobiya investigation Center in Jerusalem, where she waited until 2:30PM. At first, she was questioned about “prejudicing the Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem and breaching the decision of the Minister of Internal Security”. Since it was the fourth time Rinawi is summoned for the same charges, she replied “you’ve summoned me for the same charges which you can accuse Jerusalem Governor of or Jerusalem Minister since they exercise political activities, but I am a journalist and I do media activities. Therefore, you cannot accuse me of that just because I was doing my job as part of Palestine TV staff, which is an institution of the Palestinian Authority”. They also questioned her about breaching the decision of preventing Palestine TV to work in Jerusalem, and she told them that the last services she did for Palestine TV office in Jerusalem were on 5th Dec. 2019. Even though the decision issued by the Israeli Minister of Internal Security Jelaad Ardan, under which Palestine TV office in Jerusalem was closed and its activities were suspended for six months, was signed on 13th Oct. 2019, which means it expired on 13th April 2020. During the

investigation, the Israeli investigator showed Rinawi a video clip of her live broadcast transmitting news about Jerusalem in light of Corona pandemic. She replied that it was filmed from her family house located in Ramallah, and even if it was filmed inside Jerusalem, no one can hold her accountable. The investigator replied: “yes, I can hold accountable, it is prohibited to work for Palestine TV within the borders of Jerusalem City, even if it was filmed from the inside of your house”. Since she proved that she was in Ramallah not Jerusalem, she managed to drop the charges, after she remained in detention until 5:00PM on the same day.

It is worth mentioning that this is the fourth time the journalist Christine Rinawi is questioned ever since the decision of preventing Palestine TV from working in Jerusalem was issued and its office was closed. The first time was on 20th Nov. 2019, when Palestine TV office was stormed in Al-Sowanah, Jerusalem, and closed.

(26th April) The Preventive Security officers detained Jana for Media Production staff, the journalists: Yousef Hasanah (42 years old), and Haitham Warasnah (29 years old) after searching their vehicle. They were taken to the headquarters in Yatta, southern Hebron.

According to the investigations of MADAresearcher, a person belonging to Fateh Organization, at around 1:00PM, on Saturday, corresponding 26th April 2020, stopped a vehicle of the Islamic Society for Orphans Welfare, central Yatta, southern Hebron, while it was distributing bins of food to the orphans families. The journalists, Yousef Ibrahim

Shehdah Hasasnah (42 years old) the Director of Jana for Media Production, and the cameraman Haitham Yousef Warasnah (29 years old) were inside the vehicle covering the event. After the vehicle stopped, the member of Fateh organization had a conversation with the society employees on the mechanism of distributing the bins of food. In the meantime, other members of Fateh came and asked the society employees to accompany them to Fateh headquarters in the city. The journalists accompanied the Society staff to the headquarters, but Fateh officers asked them to leave the headquarters and they went to the vehicle, but before they moved away, a vehicle of the Preventive Security Service arrived, and a number of officers stepped off the vehicle towards the journalists' vehicle and asked for their personal cards. The journalists tried to clarify what happened to the Preventive Security officers who searched their vehicle and seized a laptop, bag of papers, their cell phones, their press cards and asked them to accompany them to the headquarters in Yatta. When they arrived the Preventive Security headquarters, some officers seized the cameras and filming equipment, in addition to the vehicle's keys and asked them to sit inside the vehicle. At around 6:30PM, after 4 hours of detention, the officers gave them back their cell phones and cameras and asked them to leave. The journalist Hasasnah asked them about the remaining of seized objects, and one of the officers informed him to go to the headquarters in Hebron. When the journalist asked for their personal identity cards since there were barriers of the occupation army on the roads, the officer replied "it

your own problem". The journalists left the headquarters in Yatta. In the following day (27th April 2020), the journalist Yousef Hasasnah went to the Preventive Security headquarters in Hebron to receive their seized objects. He arrived at 10:00AM, and he was asked to wait outside. Four hours later of waiting outside the headquarters, the guard asked him to leave and come back the following day to take the seized objects and be questioned by the Institutions Security, he also told him to bring the laptop charger. The journalist Hasasnah left the headquarters in Hebron, contacted the Syndicate of Journalists, and he was told that a representative of the Syndicate will attend the interview with him. At around 10:00AM, on Monday 28th April 2020, Hasasnah went to the Preventive Security headquarters in Hebron by himself, after the representative could not make it. Hasasnah was taken to a room where two investigators were waiting: they started with personal questions, and then asked him about the nature of his work, about Jana for Media Production, its staff, the parties he works for, and the TV channels he works with. The journalist refused to answer these questions and asked to be told why was he there in the interview. In the meantime, the other investigator was going outside the room for a little bit and coming back asking about some of the files on the seized laptop. Hasasnah then figured that they accessed his personal laptop, emails and Facebook account. The interview lasted for an hour and a half. The investigator asked him about people he knew and worked with as his agenda book showed in connection to his press work as this



book was seized from the vehicle. At 12:00PM, Hasasnah took his belongings which were seized and left.

## ► **May:**

(4th May) Some Palestinian police officers have assaulted the journalist Nizar Habash and prevented him from filming a disabled citizen who arrived to the Prime Minister building located in Ramallah to attend the daily press brief on the updates of Corona Virus.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist Nizar Edmon Habash (34 years old) who works as a reporter for Watan Media Network, while he was at about 5:20PM on Saturday, corresponding 4th May 2020, in front of the Council of Ministers in Ramallah, accompanied by a group of journalists covering the daily press brief of the Government Spokesperson on the updates of Corona Virus, saw a disabled person heading towards the Prime Minister headquarters protesting. The journalist Habash went to him to find out what was he protesting against (he was 20 meters away from the press brief). However, three security officers in police uniform started shouting at the journalist asking him to stop filming. One of them grabbed his cell phone down to prevent him from filming while the other pushed him to the chest and shouted at him: "you cannot film here and you are not allowed to be here and you can never come back again to cover the brief".

The Palestinian Ministry of Interior subsequently issued a statement on what happened, in which it said that what had happened was by miscalculation, it stated in the statement, "In rejection of any

action that would disrupt the work of any Palestinian journalist, the Ministry of Interior, following its full responsibility to maintain security and public order, emphasizes that every citizen has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and explains that what happened was not intended towards the journalist, and that it resulted from a miscalculation by some security officers, thus the Ministry expresses its respect for the journalist and the institution for which he works".

(5th May) The Internal Security Services in Gaza summoned the journalist Izz Abu Shanab and questioned him about the reasons why he was in Egypt even though he went for treatment purposes.

According to MADA researcher, Izz Abdelaziz Ahmad Abu Shanab (36 years old), a journalist who works for a number of Egyptian media outlets (Al-Ahram Newspaper, Al Gomhuria Newspaper, Al-Rai Newspaper, Egyptian Democratic), has received on Tuesday corresponding 5th May 2020 a summons from the Internal Security Services in Gaza Strip, to come to the Passports headquarters without identifying the reason of summoning him. On the following day, Wednesday 6th May 2020, the journalist arrived at 10:00AM in the morning to the Internal Security headquarters (passports), where he was questioned by one investigator on the reason why he stayed in Egypt for nine months. Abu Shanab informed the investigator that he stayed in Egypt for that long to receive treatment as he was injured during the return marches. He was also questioned on a number of known persons including (Nabeel Tamous, Ayman Abu Al Hatal, Safwat Rahmi, Zaki Al-Sakani) who have



left Gaza Strip following the fight that ended with Hamas movement controlling Gaza Strip in July 2006. He was also questioned about the nature of his work for Egyptian media outlets, his connection with the National Party of Egypt, and his appointment by the Party as the Goodwill Ambassador claiming that “no titles are given without anything in return”. Abu Shanab denied his connection with any party or activity and that he only been there for treatment. At 2:00PM on the same day he was released. A week later, on Tuesday 12th May, the journalist Abu Shanab was surprised that he was summoned again by the Internal Security Services. In response, on the following day, Wednesday 13th May 2020 he went to the Internal Security headquarters, and arrived at 9:00AM. Immediately he was taken to the investigation room where five persons were there, and the officer who questioned him last time was not among them. The investigators re-asked him the same questions that were asked in the first investigation session, and the journalist Abu Shanab denied his relationship with any of the people whom he was asked about. He reiterated that he was in Egypt for treatment only, and at about 2:00PM that same day he was released.

(5th May) The Israeli occupation forces arrested the journalist Mustafa Obeidat from his house, detained him for hours in the afternoon and questioned him for the charge of providing in-kind aids during the time of Corona pandemic and released him on several conditions.

According to MADA researcher, a force of the occupation intelligence and the Israeli Police, as part of the arrests campaign of several

Jerusalemite leaderships and figures, raided at 5:50AM on Tuesday 5th May 2020 the house of the Programs Presenter of MAAN TV and Al-Ghad TV, journalist Tamer Mustafa Mohammad Obeidat (33 years old), located in Beit Hanina in the occupied city of Jerusalem. They searched the house and missed its contents for almost an entire hour. Then they arrested the journalist Obeidat and took him to what is known as “Rooms No. 4” at Moscobiya Investigation Center in Jerusalem. He arrived at 7:00AM, and two hours later (at 9:00) the journalist was subject to an investigation about his relationship with some people who have been arrested on the same morning, providing aids and food supplies to the needy during Ramadan given the spread of Corona pandemic and the party financing such aids. At exactly 12:00PM in the afternoon, journalist Tamer Obeidat was released on conditions including: Not to communicate with a number of Palestinian figures in the city of Jerusalem for a month, and to respond to the Israeli intelligence request to him at any time for a decision and attend at it if he was asked to attend for investigation or trial, and that he would pay a fine of 10,000 NIS (about 3000 USD) if he breaches these conditions.

(6th May) Some Palestinian police officers prevented Mohammad Ayyad from covering the events that have taken place in Abu Deis and deleted the material he had filmed.

According to MADA researcher, Mohammad Jamal Mohammad Al-Halabiya-Ayyad (30 years old), from Abu Deis, in Jerusalem, works as a freelance journalist, at around 12:15 after midnight on Tuesday/

Wednesday 5th June 2020, arrived the crossroads of Abu Deis University, after hearing heavy fire shooting. He saw a gathering of 50 young man and 10 police officers. He started filming to make a report to "Al-Qastal" Network. One minute later, an additional force of the police arrived (more than five police and civil vehicles), while Ayyad continued filming and the police started demanding the citizens to clear the streets. Ayyad was the only journalist in the location, and while he was standing on a relatively high spot, 5 meters away from the citizens and police filming the events, a police officer in civilian clothing and small military hat on his head approached him and took his cell phone. When Ayyad told him he was a journalist, the officer asked him to show his press card but he did not have it then. The officer stepped away towards the gathering of the police officers while the journalist Ayyad followed him to take his cell phone back. In the meantime, one of the volunteers of the emergency committee members intervened knowing both parties (journalist Ayyad and some of the police officers). He confirmed to the officer that Ayyad was a journalist indeed and the officer addressed him "you just want to film things the way you want" and soon later he asked him to see the video clips he filmed. After seizing his cell phone for five minutes, he gave it back after he watched what he had filmed and deleted it.

(10th May) The Israeli occupation police and intelligence summoned the journalist Christine Rinawi and gave her a decision issued by the Israeli Minister of Interior on renewing the closure period and preventing Palestine TV from working in the

occupied city of Jerusalem for another six months in addition to questioning her on the work of some of her colleagues.

According to MADA reserahcer, Christine Khaled Waleed Rinawi (31 years old), from Jerusalem, a reporter of Palestine TV, has received on 10th May 2020 a phone call from "Captain Baseel" at Moscobiya Israeli Police Center to come to what is known as "Rooms No. 4" at 4:00PM on the same day. The journalist Christine Rinawi asked to postpone the date because it was late for her, and the Israeli officer asked her to come at 10:00AM on the following morning (11th May 2020). After the phone call, Christine Al-Rinawi (on the same day, Sunday 10th May 2020) contacted the lawyer of the Prisoners Club, Mufeed Al-Haj, who tried to find out why she was summoned by the Israeli police and intelligence. The captain refused to tell him on the phone and asked him to tell Christine to come at 10:00AM on the following morning as she was informed. At 10:00AM, on Monday, 11th May 2020, Christine Rinawi arrived to "Rooms No. 4" where an investigator took a picture of her and collected her fingerprints then gave her a decision issued by the Israeli Minister of Interior Gilad Erdan on renewing the closure of Palestine TV Office and banning all of its activities across the city of Jerusalem for another 6 months. After she was given the decision, another Israeli investigator questioned her about the Jerusalemite journalist Lana Kamel and the nature of her relationship with Palestine TV since she was broadcasting programs on Palestine TV screen. Rinawi replied that the journalist Lana works for a production company and that this

company sells some programs to Palestine TV. Then the investigator asked for Lana's phone number from Christine and registered it. Having finished all questioned about Lana completely, at 11:45, the journalist Christine Rinawi was allowed to leave.

It should be noted that this summons is the fifth that Christine Rinawi had received since December 2019, as Palestine TV office was closed and prevented from working and operating in the city of Jerusalem.

(11th May) The photojournalist Kareem Khamaisa was injured by a rubber bullet fired at him by the occupation soldiers while he was covering the withdrawal of the occupation forces from Kobar, Ramallah after raiding some of the houses there.

According to MADA researcher, Kareem Khamaisa (21 years old), a freelance photojournalist, headed at an early hour on the morning of 11th May 2020 to Kobar in Ramallah to cover the raiding of the occupation forces and demolition of the family house of Birzeit University lecturer Widad Al-Barghouthi (the mother of prisoner Qassam Al-Barghouthi). Khamaisa headed up a hill overlooking the main street of Kobar to cover the withdrawal of the occupation forces from the town that witnessed clashes between the citizens and the occupation soldiers especially when they were withdrawing. The young men threw stones at the occupation forces as well as Molotov cocktails while some of the soldiers stepped out their vehicles and fired gas bombs, rubber bullets and sound bombs heavily towards the young men to disperse them. While he was filming

the events, he got shot in the left knee and as a result headed to Palestine Medical Complex where he stayed for half an hour to receive the necessary treatment and do some checks to make sure his health condition was stable and leave the hospital.

(11th May) The Islamic Jihad Movement arrested the journalist Yousef Khalil Hassan twice and questioned him in connection with a press report he had prepared on the corruption of distributing aids to the poor families in Gaza.

According to MADA researcher, the freelance journalist Yousef Khalil Naem Hassan (25 years old), from Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, received on Monday 11th May 2020 a summons from the Internal Security Services in Gaza, on the background of publishing a filmed investigation (video) on Sunday 10th May 2020 on his Facebook page, on suspicions of corruption in the aids coming to the poor families in Gaza Strip (especially about some of the persons belonging to the Islamic Jihad Movement that handles the distribution of humanitarian aids in Rafah). Khalil Hassan, the father of journalist Yousef, confirmed that his son was arrested in an anonymous place by Al-Quds Brigades, the Military Wing of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Rafah on the background of the same investigation, on Monday 11th May 2020, before he went to the Internal Security headquarters (on the same case that day). On the following day, the father received a phone call from the Internal Security asking him to come to the headquarters and bring along his son's cell phone. At 4:00PM, he went to the headquarters and brought the cell phone. He sat outside the

investigation rooms and shortly after went back home without seeing or knowing anything about his son. It was found later that he was handed over from the “Brigades security” to the “Internal Security Services”. He was detained again by the Brigades Security in an anonymous place. On the same day at night, as he learned later from Yousef, he was forced to record a clip of video in which he apologizes for the content of the press investigation he prepared and published. The Brigades Security accused Yousef that he mentioned one of the Brigades leaders in the press investigation and accused him of corruption, although he did not refer to any specific person directly or explicitly. Yousef remained arrested by the Brigades Security for four days, and he was released without any intervention from any security or governmental party on the grounds that he is a member of Al-Jihad Movement (which arrested him) and the Movement will protect him. On Tuesday night, 26th May 2020, Yousef received a phone call from an officer who works for Al-Quds Brigades Security, asking him to turn himself in. At 9:00AM on the following morning, (Wednesday 27th May 2020), he was detained and did not go back home until his wife tweeted on Facebook on the evening of that day saying that he was abducted and asking for intervention to know his place of arrest. Yousef remained in detention until the evening of Thursday 28th May 2020. On the afternoon of that day, a group of Al-Jihad Movement arrived Yousef’s family house to close his case. The Brigades Security referred Yousef to the Attorney General in Gaza. On Monday 1st June 2020, Yousef posted on his Facebook page

a 6-minutes video clip showing the details of his arrest.

(12th May) One of the Occupation soldiers assaulted the photojournalist Nasser Ishtayya, not to mention preventing him and the cameraman Majdi Ishtayya from covering events in Yabod.

According to MADA researcher, Majdi Mohammad Ishtayya (33 years old), a cameraman who works for the American Press Agency, and the cameraman, freelance journalist Nasser Sulaiman Ishtayya (50 years old), have arrived at around 10:00AM on Tuesday morning, corresponding 12th May 2020, to Yabod in Jenin, northern the West Bank, to cover the raiding and demolitions of some houses in the town carried out by the Israeli occupation forces, in search of a Palestinian that believed to have thrown stone from the roof of a building at one of the soldiers leading to his death. The moment the cameramen Majdi and Nasser arrived the town, they stopped at 100 meters away from the occupation soldiers and their vehicles, stepped out off their vehicle, put on their uniform marked with Press that is internationally recognized, they started taking pictures of the military vehicles from that distance. The soldiers saw them and shouted at them to leave the location. The cameramen Nasser and Majdi stepped back a little bit, and began taking pictures again. A group of soldiers approached them and one of the soldiers fired a sound bomb at them. In the meantime, Majdi has arrived near one of the houses entrances, while a soldier approached the cameraman Nasser and assaulted him, started kicking him which made him fall to the ground and get bruises in the

chest and shoulder. In the meantime, Majdi tries to film and document the assault against his colleague, but the soldier stopped the assault when he saw him and started shouting at them to leave the location and stop filming.

(12th May) The occupation soldiers fired sound and gas bombs deliberately and directly at four of the journalists while they were covering the raiding of Yabod on the evening of 14th May 2020 which led to their suffocation.

According to MADA researcher, the journalists Tareq Husni Sulaiman Abu Zaid Al-Horani (38 years old), the cameraman of Palestine TV in Jenin, Mahmoud Younes Ibrahim Samoudi (41years old) the reporter of Palestine TV in Jenin, Mujahed Mohammad Saed Al-Saadi (31 years old) a freelance cameraman, and Mohammad Ali Abdelqader Ateeq (28 years old) a freelance journalist as well, have arrived at 10:00PM on Tuesday to Yabod in Jenin to cover the raiding carried out by the army. They headed to one of the houses' roof in Al-Salamah Neighborhood in the town noting that the occupation forces were 20 meters away from them. The journalists informed the soldiers more than once than once about themselves while they were at the roof not to mention they were in the press uniform. After about ten minutes, the soldiers pointed their guns at the journalists as their laser lights were pointed towards their chests. They started shouting and asked them to leave the area. Few minutes later, the soldiers again pointed their laser lights at the journalists from several directions. The four journalists lay down on the ground, and immediately the soldiers fired several sound bombs

towards the house roof directly. The journalists shouted in Arabic, English and Hebrew that they were journalists and the soldiers fired several gas and tear gas bombs at them. The journalist Tareq Al-Horani tries to throw away the gas bombs from the house roof, but there was a lot of heavy gas he could not do it which led to their severe suffocation. The journalist Tareq fainted and fell to the ground (on the roof), his camera also fell and its exterior screen broke as well as the camera holder (he was transmitting the events live). Tareq was treated in the field by the house owners who were on the roof and they left the location half an hour later after the occupation forces withdrawal.

(13th May) A force of the Israeli occupation army detained the cameraman Musab Shawer and deleted the pictures he had taken for a march that took place in Hebron.

According to MADA researcher, the photojournalist Musab Shawer who works for Al-Hadath Newspaper, went on the evening of 13th May 2020 to the old town in Hebron, to film a peaceful protest organized by the Palestinian citizens against the seizure of the occupation lands around the Sanctuary of Abraham by the occupation authorities, as a prelude to the establishment of routes for settlers to have access to the Sanctuary of Abraham. The march was launched in front of Al-Takya at around 9:00 and headed towards the Mosque, then to the old municipality building in Hebron. In the meantime, the occupation soldiers started warning the citizens and asking them to move away and disperse. Soon after, a group of soldiers attacked one of the citizens and assaulted him, then took him to a

military point of the army in the city. While the journalist Musab Shawar was filming the march and the events, a group of soldiers headed towards him and ordered him to stop filming. They took him to a military checkpoint established by the army in that area, where one of them, in a military uniform, informed him that he was an intelligence officer and introduced himself as “Captain Mousa” and told him that “the law prohibits filming”. He asked Musab to delete the filmed material, but the latter refused and the soldiers pulled him camera and deleted the material, and then asked him to leave.

(19th May) The journalist Alaa Al-Zaro was directly threatened by the Palestinian Police to stop raising the arrest of journalist Anas Howari, who was arrested by the police, through the social media.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist Alaa Al-Zaro, from Hebron, works for Al-Hurriya Radio and Watan Agency, a member within a whatsapp group of journalists called “The Journalists Club”. Among the members of this group is the police media spokesperson, Coloner Loay Irzeqat. As a result of arresting the journalist Anas Howari by the police, there a discussion in the group between the journalists and the police media spokesperson that ended with a serious demand to give a reasonable reason why the journalist Howari was arrested. Days after that discussion, the journalist Alaa asked the same question about Anas Howari and the reason behind his continuous arrest. The discussion started again between the journalists and the police spokesperson. Three days later, the Palestinian police spokesperson called Al-Hurriya Radio Board Chairman, the line

manager of journalist Alaa, and asked him why would she raise the subject of Anas Howari and defend him, the Chairman replied that this is her work and profession and that he will never tell her what to write or how to express her opinion. At the same time, the police contacted one of Alaa’s colleagues in the radio to send her a message that arresting the journalist Anas has nothing to do with him being a journalist, and that the matter is partisan and he explained to her that the police asked about her political belonging and intentions and advised her (because he cared about her and did not want her to get in troubles) to stop asking about such cases. This caused pressure even to her family as they did not want their daughter to get in troubles.

(1-30 May) Facebook Company blocked and closed several pages and accounts of media websites, as well as some pages belonging to Palestinian journalists claiming “they violate the Facebook privacy criteria”.

***This series of closures has affected the journalists listed below:***

1. Samer Ameen Saed Khwaira (38 years old), from Nablus, works as an anchor for “Hayat” Radio, based in Nablus, he was prevented from posting on three Facebook pages he is an admin in: Journalist Samer Khwaira, Hayat Radio, and Holy Quran, without a prior and clear warning. He was also prevented from live broadcasting on his official account, as well as from sending messages through the Messenger between 5th May – 21st May, 2020, claiming he posts prohibited news and terminology



- according to the Facebook policy, such as news including the terms (prisoner or wounded). Later, he was allowed to live broadcast but is still prevented from posting on the above mentioned pages and also from sending any messages through the messenger, noting that his personal account has 900 followers.
2. Ameer Sami Dwaikat (38 years old), from Nablus, works as an anchor for Tareq Al-Mahabba Radio based in Nablus. The Facebook Administration prevented him from posting and commenting or even sending messages through messenger, between 5 and 16 of May, 2020, without any prior notification. It should be noted that this is not the first time he is prevented from live broadcasting, due to old posts he published more than five years ago. The block also included his personal account which has 5000 followers and the official page which has 22500 followers.
  3. Sami Saed Abdelsae (36 years old), from Tulkarem, a reporter of An-Najah TV based in Nablus, and a field researcher for MADA. The Facebook Company has closed more than one account belonging to him. The first which had 5000 friends and 17000 followers was permanently closed on 5th May 2020. Four days later, (on 9th May 2020), two other accounts for him were also closed permanently. This made him create a new account named (Abu Ibrahim Alsae) and avoided posting any news or political material so that it would not be closed.
  4. Emad Jabreen (38 years old), from Bethlehem, a freelance journalist. Facebook Company closed his personal account which has 5200 followers permanently on 5th May 2020 without prior notification.
  5. Zaher Abu Hussein (65 years old), from Nablus, the director of the Media Department at the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission. Facebook Company has closed his personal account on 6th May 2020, as he received a message from Facebook Administration asking him to confirm his identity. It should be noted that the closed account had about 5000 friends and 25000 followers. This is the sixth time this account is closed.
  6. Mahmoud Barham, from Nablus, the Director of MAAN TV, northern West Bank. Facebook Company has closed his account for a month starting from 6th May 2020. This included not receiving and sending messages through the Messenger noting that the closed account had about 1000 followers. This is the third time this account is closed.
  7. Ali Sadeq Saleem Samoudi (53 years old), from Jenin, a reporter of Al-Jazeera TV and Al-Quds Newspaper, and a cameraman of Reuters. His account which had 108,000 followers was closed on 5th May 2020, for three days, claiming he violates the policy of Facebook. This is the fourth time his personal account is closed.
  8. Firas Ahmad Taninah (45 years old), from Ramallah, the Director of An-Najah TV. His verified account was closed by Facebook on 6th May 2020 claiming he



breaches “Facebook” standards and policy. Later, the Company claimed that the account was closed due to “default in algorithms” but it was not activated noting that it has 4998 friends and 1200 followers.

9. Mujahed Salem Al-Saadi (38 years old), from Jenin Camp, a reporter of Palestine Today TV, his account was closed on 6th May 2020 claiming he violates Facebook policy and criteria. His account is still closed until the moment (end of May).
10. Muhannad Mohammad Hafeth Al-Sharif (31 years old), from Hebron, works as an anchor for Manbar Al-Hurriya Radio based in Hebron. He received a message from Facebook Administration on 6th May 2020 that his account will be permanently disabled (for the first time) claiming that he violates Facebook criteria. His closed account had 4000 followers.
11. Mohammad Ali Abdelqader Ateeq (28 years old), from Burqen, Jenin, a reporter and freelance journalist who works for several parties. His account was closed on 4th May 2020. He received a message from Facebook Administration asking him to verify the user identity. A week later, he was officially notified that his account is permanently closed claiming he “violates Facebook criteria”. After a while, Mohammad Ateeq tried to create more than one account but they were all disabled few days after. His account had 5000 friends and 10,000 followers.
12. Sari Jaradat (34 years old), from Saeer, Hebron, a reporter for

Refugees Gate. His account was disabled on 27th May 2020, as he received a message from Facebook Administration asking him to verify his (the user’s) identity. Then his account was disabled permanently noting that his account had 5000 friends and 2700 followers.

(1-30/May) Facebook Company has closed not less than 31 accounts and pages belonging to journalists and local media institutions. This has also taken place in Gaza Strip, claiming they “violate the privacy criteria of Facebook”.

According to MADA researcher in Gaza Strip, Facebook Company closed the accounts of these journalists without any prior notification. Some have received messages through the email and through Facebook stating that closure or restriction on posting, as a result of “violating the privacy criteria of Facebook”.

The closures implemented by Facebook Administration, during May, included a number of media outlets pages followed by thousands, namely: Palestine Media Facebook Page followed by (22,000), Palestine Online Facebook Page, followed by (10,000), and Pictures of Palestine Instagram Page followed by 10,000, without receiving any prior notification of closure.

The campaign of closures affected a great group of journalists in Gaza Strip: Alaa Abdelfattah Al-Namla (freelance journalist), Mohammad Majed Abu Duqqah (cameraman of Sharq Media Network), Saeed Al-Taweel Radwan (freelance journalist), Abdelhakeem Abu Rayyash (freelance cameraman), Ahmad Al-Naqah (freelance journalist),

Mohammad Abu Redah (freelance journalist), Wael Abu Omar (freelance journalist), Mohammad Farawnah (freelance journalist), Mohammad Jarbou (editor of Sabaq 24 Agency), Mohammad Al-Jamal (reporter of Al-Ayyam Newspaper in Rafah), Rabee Abu Nagerah (reporter of Palestine Newspaper in Rafah), Mahmoud Al-Khawaja (coordinator of Palestine Today TV programs), Mohammad Washah (reporter of Al-Jazeera Live TV), Mohammad Abdelaziz Al-Najjar (freelance journalist), Ismail Al-Ghoul (freelance journalist), Ismail Abu Omar (reporter of Al-Aqsa Radio), Abdelqader Al-Sharef (freelance journalist), Osama Al-Kahlout (reporter of An-Najah TV), Mahmoud Hanniya (editor of Al-Risala Newspaper), Jihad Baroud (director of Eid Media Network), Rami Abu Taima (reporter of Al-Quds Today TV), Bilal Awad (freelance cameraman), Muath Miqdad (editor of Al-Aqsa Media Netowkr), Mohammad Abu Hayyah (editor of Al-Aqsa Network), Hussein Zaqout (Monitor for Al-Aqsa Network), Mahmoud Bassam Al-Jamal (freelance cameraman), his posting was restricted for three days, Atiya Darwish (cameraman of Al-Rai Government Agency in Gaza), Amer Al-Amour (reporter of Al-Shaab Radio in Khan Younes), his posting was restricted for 60 days, Mohammad Najeeb Al-Jbour (editor of Kanan News Network), Iyad Hassan Abu Reedah (editor for Al-Aqsa Radio), Abdelraouf Sameer Shaath (freelance cameraman).

(25th May) The journalist Ihab Al-Jariri, the Director of FM24, based in Ramallah, was subjected to incitement and defamation through a Facebook page close to the Palestinian political system in the

name of “Salaries and Promotions in the State of Palestine-Main Page” on the background of his opinions and criticism of the Palestinian Government performance with connection to the outbreak of Corona Virus.

According to MADA researcher, the page “Salaries and Promotions of the State of Palestine – Main Page”, on 25th May 2020, posted “To Ihab Al-Jariri: a misguided person is nothing but desecrate and miserable” attached with a photo of journalist Ihab Al-Jariri. The post included incitement insulting and offensive statements such as “the paid broadcaster: and “the one with the known agendas who works only for the Shekel”. Furthermore, the page also attacked FM24 Radio and described it as “part of the team instructed by the Coordinator (the Israeli Occupation Army Coordinator in the West Bank) to start internal battles between the people and the Government so that Netanyahu can annex the lands and implement the deal of the century”. The said page continue to attack Al-Jariri in the same post and accused him of receiving information from the Israeli Coordinator, as well as receiving the financing of “the internal unrest”. It also described Al-Jariri as the “drunk” and the radio he works for as “the radio of strife and corruption”. On the same day (25th May) the page attacked Al-Jariri with another post titled (questions for Al-Jariri ... Will he answer?!) saying that what “Mr. Al-Jariri is doing is following the instructions of specific parties aligned with the occupation, and the horn of the coordinator in attacking the Government, which we may disagree with but never on”. The page accused Al-Jariri of

receiving funding of 800,000 Euros from the Europeans and Americans to open 24FM Radio in Jerusalem, considering it a city of peace. It also accused him of signing a document describing the Palestinian factions of being terrorists. The page continued attacking the journalist Al-Jariri as it posted on the following day (26 May) a new inciting post accusing him of mocking the Late President Yasser Arafat and President Mahmoud Abbas as well as the security services and Palestinian Government. On 27th May, it posted a video of Al-Jariri thanking the personnel and security officers, which was basically a positive post for Al-Jariri, but it attached it with a comment “after those words .... Thank you ... and if you any rights ... you will always find our address with the Judiciary!”

The attack against Al-Jariri came as a result of a post Al-Jariri published on May 23 under the title “A Government that is always against the norm” in which he criticized the performance of the Palestinian government in light of Corona crisis, whether in relation to the file of Palestinian workers in Israel, or Wakfet Izz Fund, which was established to compensate the affected, or in connection with the checks of the workers, and the performance and management of the health minister of the case.

The incitement and attack against Al-Jariri across many closed groups has outpaced the WhatsApp application, as previously mentioned. It was not known who was behind the incitement and the attack on Al-Jariri, or who is running the page, especially since the admins of the page that launched the incitement campaign are in 3 different regions, Gaza Strip, Palestinian territories 1948 and abroad specifically France,

but they’re definitely groups close to the Palestinian Political System”. Al-Jariri went to the Public Prosecution in Ramallah on 27th May to file a complaint and follow up with the case legally, even though he is not so sure this will lead to a result since the officials are outside the West Bank, according to the knowledge of the Public Prosecution, where the prosecution promised to do its best in this matter, knowing that the matter is not under its control.

(24th May) Some settlers have attacked the staff of “Russia Today” TV while covering the appearance of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is accused of corruption cases, before the Israeli Central Court at Salahuddin Street in the occupied city of Jerusalem, where he made a statement before his supporters and the media before entering the courtroom.

According to MADA researcher, great numbers of the Israeli police and security forces have closed today 24th May 2020 the surrounding of the Israeli Central Court, eastern Jerusalem, before the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appears before the Court. They built iron roadblocks behind of which great numbers of settlers, the far-right politics and the journalists have gathered to cover the event. The staff of Russia Today TV, composed of the TV reporter Dalia Esam Al-Nimri (36 years old), and the cameraman Ashraf Ayed Dawoud Al-Shwaiki (33 years old), was also present. The TV staff asked the occupation police to pass the barriers placed by the Israeli police, but it refused and asked them to remain behind the barriers amid the crowds of settlers and extremists. They stayed from 1:00PM until 3:00PM, when the trial

ended and Netanyahu left the court. When the journalist Al-Nimri tried to document the closure of her report, some of the settlers started disrupted and provoking her by covering the camera lens with the Israeli flag and hold it above her head, not to mention cursing her and her coworker the cameraman Ashraf Al-Shwaiki. Moreover, some of them attacked her, pushed her and asked her to leave the location. Dalia Al-Nimri tried to move them with her hand, and some of them assaulted her coworker Al-Shwaiki with their hands and legs forcing him to use the tripod to move them away. Although this assault before some Israeli police officers, they did not intervene until they were called by Russia Today TV reporter Dalia Al-Nimri asking them to open the iron barriers so they can be able to exit amongst the settlers. One of the police officers approached and asked her how was she and her colleague assaulted, and asked them to go to the Israeli police center in Neve Yaakov to file a complaint. He told them that once they arrive (the officer) will explain to everyone in the center the circumstances of assault. At 3:30PM, on that day, Ashraf Al-Shwaiki and Dalia Al-Nimri went to the Israeli Police Center located in Beit Hanina, northern Jerusalem, to file a complaint against the settlers who assaulted them. However, the police claimed that it did not know of the incident and that it will open the cameras in the area to find out what happened in details. The reporter and cameraman of Russia Today will follow up the matter legally and will file an official complaint at the Israeli court against the settlers who assaulted them.

(27th May) Associated Press Agency

has dismissed its cameraman in the occupied Palestinian Territories, Iyad Hamad, "due to a complaint filed by the Palestinian police against him at the Agency, alleging that he incited against the security services and attempted to cause chaos", as Hamad said, which appears to be linked to his participation in a protest organized in Bethlehem against the arrest of the journalist, Anas Howari.

According to MADA researcher, the cameraman of Associated Press in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Iyad Nimr Abdelqader Hamad (63 years old), from Bethlehem, along with a group of journalists have organized a sit-in on Tuesday 19th May 2020 in front of the President Headquarters in Bethlehem, after receiving information from the Agency he works for that "the Palestinian Police has filed a complaint against him". Shortly before this, an intense argument took place in the whatsapp journalists' group, journalist Iyad Hamad was member in the group, with the Palestinian police spokesperson Loay Irzeiqat who is also a member in the group, on arresting the journalist Anas AL-Howari in Tulkarem. Days after this incident, specifically at 3:30PM on Wednesday 27th May 2020, the journalist Iyad Hamad received a phone call from the Agency Management through which he was informed that he is suspended for good from the Agency based on a "Complaint filed against him by the Palestinian Police". According to their claim, the complaint included "acts breaching public order". On the same day (Wednesday 27th May 2020), the journalist Hamad received an email from the Agency accusing him (according to the police claims) of several violations, including

attempting to cause chaos and incitement and threatening to set in fire rubber tires in front of the court in Bethlehem in objection of the trial Anas Howari who was arrested by the Palestinian police after he was assaulted at the entrance of Anabta in Tulkarem. It also included accusing him of calling for a protest in front of the security services in Bethlehem, as well as inciting against the security services and their work. The Colonel Loay Irzeqat, the police spokesperson, denied this claim categorically in a word he had with MADA. It is noteworthy that the journalist Iyad Hamad worked with the aforementioned agency for nearly 20 years, during which he covered events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in the Libyan, Tunisian and Egyptian Republics, and during his career path he was subjected to numerous assaults by the occupation army.

(29th May) The photojournalist Nidal IShtayya was injured by rubber bullet fired at him by one of the occupation soldiers while he was covering events in Kafr Qaddum, Qalqilya.

According to MADA researcher, Nidal Shafiq Taher Ishtayya (50 years old), from Salem Village, Nablus, a cameraman at Xinhua News Agency, has arrived at around 12:10PM, on Friday afternoon to Kuft Qaddum in Qalqilya to cover the weekly march on protesting against the settlement and the continued closure of the entrance of the town by the occupation army for years. When he arrived Kufr Qaddum, the occupation soldier have already raided the village half an hour before the usual march started. They sieged the Mosque located in the middle of the village where the march

usually begins. There were around ten soldiers firing rubber coated metal bullets and tear gas bombs. The soldiers started chasing some of the young men of the town who threw stones at them. When they approached the Zakat Committee headquarters in the village, the young men started throwing stones again at the soldiers who fired back randomly. This resulted in the injury of journalist Nidal Ishtayya with a rubber bullet in his left thigh. Note that at that moment he was at a distance of about 100 meters away from the soldiers and about 50 meters away from the demonstrators. Immediately, three young men took him to one of the houses waiting for an ambulance because there was no vehicle or ambulance in the place. He was given the first aid, but the cameraman Shtayyeh was still in great pain, which prompted him to leave the place and go to Rafidia Hospital in Nablus, where he was provided with the necessary treatments. The doctor dressed the place of the injury and advised him to rest at home for three days.

(31st May) The Israeli occupation forces gave journalist Rose Al-Zaro a summons for investigation while she was covering a sit-in in the city of Jerusalem on the occasion of memorial of Faisal Al-Husseini.

According to MADA researcher, the occupation police and intelligence raided on 31st May 2020 a sit-in organized in front of the Orient House, Sheikh Jarrah Neighborhood, on the 19th memorial of Faisal Al-Husseini. The occupation police, when raided the sit-in, arrested Jerusalem Governor Adnan Gaith, the Prison Club Director Nasser Qaws, and member of Jerusalem Fateh Movement Awad Al-Salaimah,

as well as one of those taking part in the event, the former employee of the Orient House Isaq Al-Qawasmah. The police also gave the others summons for investigation by the intelligence claiming they breach the Israeli sovereignty and attempt to impose the Palestinian sovereignty. The summons was given to journalist Rose Al-Zaro, the preparer of programs at Voice of Palestine Radio in Jerusalem, to go to the Israeli intelligence for investigation purposes on Tuesday 2nd May 2020.

(31st May) The occupation police prevented journalist Sondos Owais from covering the events of opening Al-Aqsa Mosque after it was closed for 69 days due to Corona Pandemic. They told her she was arrested and summoned her to the police center in Jerusalem and prevented her to access Al-Aqsa Mosque for a week.

According to MADA researcher, the Islamic Waqf Department, at 3:00AM, on 31st May 2020, reopened the doors of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the occupied city of Jerusalem after it was closed for 69 days due to corona pandemic. Three gates of Al-Aqsa Mosque were opened: the Gates of Chain, Hattah, and Al-Majles. At 7:30AM, the Occupation Police opened Al-Magharbah Gate for the Israeli settlers who usually raid Al-Aqsa Mosque starting from there. When Al-Magharbah Gate was opened, the prayers started exclaiming Takbirs to the lens of journalists who were documenting the moment. On the other hand, the occupation soldiers were trying to keep the Palestinian citizens away from Al-Magharbah Gate and the Mosque squares to allow settlers to perform their Talmud rituals. They also tries to prevent the journalists to film the events. The freelance

journalist Sondos Abdelrahman Owais (23 years old), who was there, asked an officer of the occupation police to let her film the events at Al-Qibli Mosque after she informed him that who she was and showed him her press card but the Israeli officer refused to let her film. He asked her to leave the area and go to the squares of the Dome of the Rock, and told her that he does not recognize her international card and only recognizes the Israeli press card. Sondos tried to talk to him to allow her to film but he refused and addressed her "you are under arrest now". Sondos Owais tries to clarify things for fear of being arrested, however the occupation officer asked her to go to Beit Al-Yaho Police Center located in the Gate of Chain at 8:30AM on the morning of that day. Indeed, she immediately went to the police center where she waited for fifteen minutes. She then met an occupation intelligence officer called Yuram who informed her that she was accused of incitement and causing riot inside Al-Aqsa Mosque, and this is why she was asked to come to the police center. The Journalist Sondos explained to the officer the facts and details of what had happened and that she had only requested to film, but the Israeli officer ended the investigation with her within fifteen minutes and ordered her to sign her statement and released her on condition that she return again to the police station on Saturday (6th June 2020), for investigation. He also informed her she is prevented from accessing Al-Aqsa Mosque, its halls, and gates for a week, and threatened her with further period of being prevented from accessing the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which may last for six months.



## ► June:

(3rd June) The Israeli occupation forces summoned four journalists while they were covering a sit-in protesting against the removal of Sheikh Akrama Sabri from Al-Aqsa Mosque, questioned them on their press work, and the coverage of the events and activities in Jerusalem.

According to MADA researcher, a sit-in was taking place in Al-Sowanah Neighborhood in Jerusalem on 3rd June 2020, to protest against the removal of Al-Aqsa Mosque orator, Sheikh Akrama Sabri, by the occupation authorities. Many media outlets went to cover the sit-in, and in the meantime the police and security officers raided the area, and handed over four of the demonstrators and journalists summoning orders for questioning, with different dates, namely: the cameraman Ahmad Othman Ahmad Jalajil (40 years old), a freelance journalist from Jerusalem and works for several institutions, Al-Jazeera TV cameraman Murad Mohammad Farouq Isaid (47 years old), from Beit Hanina in Jerusalem, the reporter of Al-Arabi TV Ahmad Nayef Hammad Jaradat (29 years old), from Al-Tour, Jerusalem, Russia Today TV cameraman, Ashraf Ayed Dawoud Al-Shwaiki, from Silwan, in Jerusalem.

At 10:00AM, the following morning (Thursday corresponding 4 June 2020), Isaid went to "Room 4" for questioning purposes at Al-Mascobbiya Center, where he waited for two hours until was summoned to an investigation session that lasted 20 minutes only (between 11:50 until 12:10PM). The investigator started the session by addressing him "Why don't I see you or know you?" he continued by inquiring

about his present workplace and where does he see himself in ten years? Then moved on to ask him about the journalists he knows and how do they pass information about the events and their locations, and why wasn't he present a few days earlier in another sit-in organized in front of the "Orient House" in commemoration of the 19th anniversary of the death of Faisal Al-Husseini, on Sunday, May 31, 2020. He was also questioned about the "PA" party he works for which was denied by journalist Isaid, and then he was allowed to leave.

Upon summoning him, the journalist Jaradat, arrived at 4:00PM, on Thursday, corresponding 4th June 2020 to the Investigation Center. His questioning lasted only for ten minutes where he was questioned about his whereabouts (while he was covering the aforementioned sit-in) and how he received information about this protest and its date. He answered that he knew about the incident by chance when he was coming back to his office at Al-Tour from a fieldwork, noticed the gathering, and stopped to film it.

As for the journalist Al-Shwaiki (based on the summons), he arrived at 4:00PM on Sunday corresponding 7th June 2020, to Room \$ for investigation, where he waited for 15 minutes until the investigation started and lasted for half an hour. The investigator asked him about the journalists he knows and about the way of circulating news in the field, as well as about the type of reports they make when covering the events. He mainly focused on asking him about the journalists he knows, how he knows them, how he knows about the events and activities taking place in Jerusalem.



Based on the summons, Jalajil went to Al-Mascobiya Investigation Center in Jerusalem, at 12:00PM, on 10th June 2020. Half an hour later, he was questioned about his presswork of covering different events taking place in Jerusalem. He was also questioned about his role in broadcasting news about the activities of Jerusalemite institutions, especially those funded by the Palestinian National Authority, which is prohibited and not allowed by Israel in Jerusalem. However, journalist Jalajil replied that he has been covering the political, artistic, and cultural news of Jerusalem and the different institutions there for more than 20 years, and that this is his job. The Israeli investigator threatened him that he will make every possible effort to take his Israeli press card, noting that Israel does not recognize any other cards. He addressed Jalajil and told him that he is able to suspend him from work permanently and prosecute him. The investigator told him that he is not allowed to cover the news of Palestinian institutions which Israel considers supported by the Palestinian Authority. At around 4:00PM, Jalajil was released even though he refused to sign the statement of the investigation he was subject to.

(3rd June) The Israeli occupation soldiers detained the Syrian News TV staff after they prepared a report on the demolition of tents in a Bedouin cluster in Jericho by the occupation forces, and they deleted some of the material that was filmed.

According to MADA researcher, the Syrian New TV staff, including the reporter Jeries Khaleel Dawoud Azer (30 years old), and the cameraman Mutasem Sameer Hamdi Saqf Al-Hait

(30 years old) were heading to Deir Hejla, eastern Jericho (Al-Dawahik Cluster) to make a TV report on the demolition of the village tents by the occupation forces and their attempts to evacuate the population. After they were done filming, they left the cluster and moved away by 200 meters. An Israeli occupation army patrol stopped them, and the soldiers asked them about their connection with the Bedouin cluster. Jeries and Mutasem replied that they are journalists and they went there to make a report. The soldiers seized their cards and asked them to follow them and drove towards the Bedouin Cluster. When they arrived, the soldiers detained them claiming they have filmed in a banned area and told them that they will be released only if they delete the material. The journalists replied that they were only doing their job and they have the right to film in their capacity as journalists. One hour and a half later, their IDs were given back to them and the material that was filmed on Mutasem's cell phone was deleted but the material on the camera was not. They were released two hours later of being detained.

(5th June) The Israeli occupation soldiers have arrested the cameraman of Palestine TV Ahmad Hababa after assaulting him on his way back to Beit Ikksa, northwest Jerusalem, where he lives.

According to MADA researcher, at around 4:30PM, on Friday, 5th June 2020, the journalist Ahmad Kamal Hassan Hababa (28 years old), from Beit Ikksa, northwest Jerusalem, works at the photography section in Palestine TV, on his way back to his house located in Beit Ikksa via his vehicle, through the military barrier established by the Israeli army at its

entrance connected with Bido (Ras Bido[2]), the soldiers stopped him, started stalling him and even allowed for the other vehicles behind him to pass. It should be noted that this isn't the first time he is being provoked by the soldiers who deliberately stall him and harass him by making things up. Hababa pulled out his cell phone to film the soldiers' harassments, a female soldier approached him and asked another soldier to stand behind him to take his cell phone. They seized his cell phone and smashed it, then handcuffed him, and took him to a private room. They took him in the police vehicle to Ofer Prison, near Ramallah, where he stayed handcuffed for four hours and was subject to repeated assaults and beatings. Then he was taken to the investigation and promised him that he can ask a lawyer to come. His indictment was given to him in Hebrew, which he cannot understand and could not comprehend but one charge that said "assaulting the soldiers". He remained in detention until 12:00 midnight. An application on his trail at Ofer prison was submitted on the morning of Thursday corresponding 17th Dec. 2020. He asked them to take him back to the place he was arrested from at the barrier because his wallet and money remained in the vehicle and he does not have any money to call a taxi to come and pick him up. They refused and took him to Qalandia barrier, 9 kilometers away from the place he was arrested in and his place of residence in Beit Iksa. He could not but wait in the road until he found someone to help him to go back home in Beit Iksa. Some photos shared on Facebook show the bruises on his body when he was assaulted the moment he

was arrested.

(6th June) The Israeli occupation authorities removed the journalist Sondos Abdelrahman Owais (23 years old) from Al-Aqsa Mosque for three months claiming "she causes riot" in the Mosque.

According to MADA researcher, the occupation police, on 31st May 2020, stopped Sondos Abdelrahman Owais (23 years old), a freelance journalist from Jerusalem, while she was covering the re-opening of Al-Aqsa Mosque for prayers after the closure that lasted for 69 days, as part of the preventive measures taken to restrict the outbreak of Corona Virus. They took her to Al-Yaho Police Center at Alsilsila Gate, Jerusalem, where she was given a removal order from Al-Aqsa Mosque for a week, provided she shall go to the Police Center again on Saturday (corresponding 6th June 2020). Indeed, she arrived at 9:15AM on Saturday 6th June 2020 to Al-Yaho Police Center, at Alsilsila Gate, where she was not allowed to enter. An officer gave her an order of removal from Al-Aqsa Mosque, and when Sondos asked about the type of paper he gave her, he answered: it is a removal order from Al-Aqsa Mosque for three months, and that this decision was ready the moment she was arrested a week ago and that she must not access Al-Aqsa Moaque squares, its gates, arcades, and the roads leading to the Mosque.

(6th June) The Israeli occupation forces have fired live bullets at a number of Palestinian journalists while they were preparing a press report on the Wheat Harvest season, eastern Khan Younes, Gaza Strip.

According to MADA researcher, the journalists: the freelance cameraman

Hasan Abdelfattah Islaih (33 years old), Ashraf Abu Amra (APA) Agency cameraman, Mohammad Al-Mashharawi (Sky News Arabia Reporter), and his coworker the cameraman Ayman Al-Rozi, have arrived eastern Khuza'a, at around 10:20AM, on Saturday 6th June 2020, via a jeep that was marked in both Arabic and English "Press" to prepare a report on the wheat harvest season. They specifically arrived at a wheat field in an area known as "Jakar street", 300 meters away from the (border) separation fence, eastern Khuza'a, carrying cameras and filming equipment. Ten minutes after they started filming seven workers in the wheat field, at around 10:30AM, they saw some Israeli soldiers on a sandhill on the other side of the separation fence. The soldiers started firing gunshots at them, without prior alarm, which forced the journalists to lie on the ground. Fifteen minutes later (at around 10:45AM), they were able to get out and leave the area to their Jeep. They had to move away and film from another location in town that was 700 meters away from the separation fence.

(9th June) Some officers of the Preventive Security have arrested Sami Saed Al-Sae, from Tulkarem, and detained him for three weeks.

According to MADA researcher, a force of the Preventive Security has arrested, at around 7:00PM, on Tuesday (9th June 2020) Sami Saed Abdelsae, an independent journalist and a field researcher for MADA, while he was at his mother's juice shop, at Jamal Abdelnasser Square, central Tulkarem City. The moment he was arrested, the security officer seized his cell phone, and at midnight that day, his wife learned of his

arrest and was shocked with posts she saw on the social media about arresting someone who is managing a Facebook page called "Bint Tulkarem" that aroused indignation among citizens because of the scandalous defamatory material it posts. Two days following his arrest (Thursday morning 11th June 2020), Sami was transferred to Tulkarem Magistrate Court, and the Preventive Security Services informed the Public Prosecution officially that the investigation was over with Sami Al-Sae. However, the Prosecution decided to extend his arrest for 15 days claiming they need to complete the investigation for the charge of publishing news and information in violation of the Cybercrime Law through "Bint Tulkarem" Page. On a phone call, Sami informed his family on the same day (11th June 2020) that the police has officially informed him that General Investigations wants to question him and that he is accused of running a Facebook page called "Bint Tulkarem". He denied these charges, and he was transferred to the prison at Tulkarem Police directorate. On Friday corresponding 12th June 2020, Sami's wife and his mother were allowed to visit him. He expressed to them his fears of being subject to physical assault and psychological pressure to get a confession from him. He told them that he has not been questioned as of the moment he had been at the Police Directorate and that he was only questioned about what happened at the Preventive Security headquarters and it was done by a committee composed of the Preventive Security and the General Investigations. On Tuesday, 15th June 2020, Sami was visited by his wife, his health condition

was good, but his psychological condition was bad. He informed her that he was going on a food strike. On Thursday 17th June 2020, MADA Lawyer visited Sami and learned he was on a food strike and taken to a solitary cell. On the same day, his wife visited him, in coordination with the lawyer, and asked him to stop his strike, and he responded. On Sunday 21st June 2020, the Preventive Security officers arrived to Sami's house with a search warrant. They searched the house, seized the cell phones of some family members, an old computer, a laptop that belongs to Sami, and two tablets, one for the wife and another for his children, an old Nokia, and a new mi6. On Monday 22nd June 2020, Tulkarem Magistrate Court denied MADA's lawyer request to release him, noting that it was the 8th request the lawyer has filed and was denied since the decision of extending his detention for 15 days was issued. On Thursday 25th June 2020, Tulkarem Magistrate Court again extended his detention for another seven days, noting that the Prosecution has requested to extend his detention for 15 days. After that, MADA's lawyer filed for three requested for his release on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday corresponding 28th, 29th, and 30th June 2020. The first two requests were denied and the third will receive a response on Wednesday 1st July 2020, which is the last day of his detention after being extended for the second time. (12th June) Three journalists were injured with three bullets by the Israeli occupation army while they were covering the weekly march protesting against the settlement in Kufr Qadoun, Qalqilya.

According to MADA researcher, the journalists: the French Agency

cameraman Jafar Zahed Hussein Shtayyah (51 years old), WAFA Agency cameraman Ayman Ameen Ibrahim Nobani (34 years old), and Palestine TV cameraman Fadi Methqal Fayez Al-Jayousi (40 years old) who was injured by a metal bullet in his right-hand fingertips, have all arrived in the afternoon, on Friday 12th May 2020, to Kufr Qadoun, eastern Qalqilya, to cover the weekly march, organized after Friday prayers regularly since 9 years, to protest against the settlement and demand to open the main entrance closed by the occupation army for the interest of the settlers. The three journalists, along with another number of journalists who have arrived to the town wearing the Press uniform (the blue helmet and vest marked PRESS), were getting ready to start filming the march that started as usual after the prayers. When the demonstrators started getting closer to the closed street, at a distance of 200 meters away from it, the soldiers started suppressing the march by firing rubber-coated metal bullets at the demonstrators. In the meantime, the cameraman Ayman Al-Nobani was standing at an equal distance approximately away from the soldiers and demonstrators. There were three other journalists near him while the soldiers were firing bullets resulting in the injury of Ayman with rubber-coated metal bullet in the right thigh, even though he was 100 meters away from the soldiers at that moment. The moment he was injured, some demonstrators rushed and took him to the ambulance that was parked 200 meters away. He received the necessary aid but had to stop working due to the severe pain he was feeling. While the cameraman

Ayman Al-Nobani was receiving the aid, the French Agency cameraman Jafar Shtayya was injured by a metal bullet in the left thigh, by the soldiers who were barricading inside water well on the closed road 500 meters away from the central village. The soldiers asked him to move back while he was moving forward to cover the events. Even when he responded and immediately moved back, one of the soldiers fired metal bullet at his left thigh. As a result, the clashes erupted between the demonstrators and the occupation soldiers who stormed the town firing metal bullets and gas bombs, which forced the demonstrators to move back towards the central town. While Palestine TV Fadi Al-Jayousi was filming the events standing in one of the towns' alleys 300 meters away from the occupation soldiers, close to the demonstrators, he pointed his camera at the soldier to film him, but the later soon fired metal bullet at him injuring his right hand fingers. He received the field medical aid, but his fingers swollen as a result of the injury.

(12th June) The Israeli occupation forces detained 5 journalists after seizing their cards and the camera memory of one of them. They interrupted their work while they were preparing a documentary and covering a peaceful march in Al-Zubaidat Village, Central Valleys.

According to MADA researcher, the freelance journalist Ameen Ibrahim Mohammad Naifa (32 years old), from Tulkarem, has arrived at 12:20PM, on Friday 12th June 2020, along with the Producer Ahmad Al-Biz, to Al-Zubaidat Village, central valleys, to complete a documentary he is preparing on the Valleys for "Russia Today" TV, under a commission from

the TV. Several press staffs coming from Jericho have arrived to the same Village whose population were about to organize a march after Friday prayers. Before Naifa and his colleague arrived at the Village, a military barrier established by the occupation soldiers at Al-Hamra conjunction in the Valleys stopped them, their IDs were checked and they were asked where they were going and whether they were going to Al-Zubaidat Village, but they told the soldiers they were heading to Jericho. Fifteen minutes later, they allowed them to keep going their own way. After Friday prayers, Al-Zubaidat village population launched the peaceful march towards the main street where the occupation soldiers established barriers near the village entrances. Soon after the march was launched, the occupation forces started suppressing the demonstrators by firing sound bombs at them, while three male soldiers and four female soldiers stopped all the press staffs which were covering the march, asked them for their press cards and seized them. This included the journalists: Sulaiman Mahmoud Sulaiman Abu Srour (48 years old) works for WAFA News Agency, the journalist Mohammad Jawad Issa Zaghab who works for Dunia Al-Watan Agency, journalist Omar Ahmad Hassan Abu Awad who works for Palestine TV, journalist Adel Ibrahim Abu Nima who works for Reuters Agency, and the freelance journalist Ibrahim Mohammad Naifa. After seizing their press cards, at around 1:45PM, one of the soldiers asked all of the journalists to leave and move away. Journalist Sulaiman Abu Srour asked for his press card that was seized, but the soldier refused to respond to

him and started pushing him to the back and even threatened him with arrest. A group of demonstrators pulled Sulaiman to the back, Abu Srour was not wearing the Press uniform. At around 2:00PM, one of the Israeli police officers returned the cards to the journalists and asked them to leave, and they immediately left the Village, except for the journalist Ameen Ibrahim Mohammad Naifa who was waiting for his colleague Ahmad Al-Biz, in a location relatively far from the demonstrators' gathering to bring their vehicle. When one of the soldiers approached the journalist Naifa, and asked him for his personal identity card and press card, Naifa showed him a letter issued by "Russia Today" TV clarifying that he is a journalist working on producing documentaries. However, the soldier did not actually care and told him that he was "arrested" and even seized his camera. He also started pushing him towards the military jeep and addressed him "tonight you're coming with me and you're sleeping in a very nice place" referring to the prison of course, and detained him next to the military jeep. 45 minutes later of being detained there, the soldiers gave him back his card and camera after they seized the memory card where the filmed material is saved. He was released without his camera memory card.

(June) Facebook Company Administration has closed the account of journalist Sari Jaradat (33 years old), 7 times since the beginning of May in 2020.

According to MADA researcher, Facebook Administration has closed the page of Al-Mayaden TV reporter, journalist Sari Sharif Abdelghaffar Jaradat (33 years old), for the

7th time in a row, since the beginning of May 2020. The closure of accounts belonging to Jaradat started after the suspension of journalist Iyad Hamad, the cameraman of Associated Press World Agency (which, according to Hamad and the Agency, occurred based on a complaint filed against him at the Palestinian Police). The journalist Jaradat contacted Facebook Company several times and received a message stating that there is a room for governments in all countries to suspend accounts for people that are considered to violate the standards and policies. Jaradat also contacted the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology in Palestine, and he was informed to file an application at the Palestinian Syndicate of Journalists and to the Ministry to follow up with his matter. However, he did not receive any positive response on this regard. During that period, Jaradat tried to create a new account on Facebook through different internet service providers but soon the account was deleted without any alarming messages.

(18th June) The Internal Security of Hamas in Gaza arrested the journalist Tawfiq Abu Jarad on the background of covering some activities and events of Fateh in Gaza Strip.

According to MADA researcher, on Thursday, corresponding 18th June 2020, the journalist Tawfiq Abdelaziz Mohammad Abu Jarad (38 years old), was summoned and called to come to the Internal Security headquarters on Sunday morning (21st June 2020). Two hours later after his summons, a police vehicle came to his house to inform him that he has to immediately come to the Internal Security headquarters but he was not home then. Two hours



later, the security officers came back to his house but he was not home either. He came back home later on that day and learned that the security officers asked about him. He went by himself to the Internal Security headquarters northern Gaza Strip, where his cell phone was seized as well as his personal card. He was transferred to a cell without any questioning until Saturday evening on 20th June 2020 when he was released provided he shall come the following day (Sunday 21st June) at 8:00AM. Accordingly, on Sunday morning he went to the headquarters and was questioned at 11:00AM for an hour. The questions were about his coverage of marches and events related to Fateh, and his Facebook posts about the political situation in general. After his questioning ended, he was taken to the cell where he remained in detention until 5:00PM, when he was released and was informed again to come to the Internal Security Center on Tuesday 23rd June 2020. At 9:00AM. On Tuesday morning, Abu Jarad arrived at the headquarters northern Gaza Strip, and he was taken immediately to the Investigation Room. At around 10:30AM, he was questioned about the content on his cell phone seized by the Internal Security, which includes images of events and an interview he conducted with a leader of Fateh Movement Fayez Abi Aita. At around 3:00PM on the same day, the Internal Security officers gave him his cell phone and personal card, and then he was released.

(19th June) The Israeli occupation forces detained three journalists and interrupted their work while they were covering a peaceful march in Susia, southern Yatta.

According to MADA researcher, at

around 12:00PM, on Friday 19th June 2020, the journalists: Al-Ghad Al-Arabi TV reporter, Raed Mohammad Sameer Al-Shareef (30 years old), the cameraman Jameel Hashem Salhab (28 years old), and WAFA Agency cameraman Mashhour Hassan Mahmoud Al-Wahwah (36 years old), have arrived at Susia Village, southern Yatta, Hebron, to cover Friday prayers that was taking place outdoors to express diatribes against the decision of the occupation authorities on annexing parts of the lands of the West Bank in the beginning of July this year. The moment the three journalists arrived at the location, there were forces of the occupation army that has arrived at the village, and approached the gathering of citizens. Two soldiers approached the three journalists and asked for their personal identity cards for security check as the officer claimed, and they were prevented from filming for 10 minutes until their IDs were checked. After the prayers ended, the soldiers prevented the three soldiers to film the peaceful demonstration and tried to remove them from the location. They even disrupted their movement continuously to prevent them from covering the events while one of the officers was demanding them to leave the location. Before the demonstration ended, the journalists left the location for fear of being assaulted again especially that a group of settlers have arrived at the location.

(19th June) The Israeli occupation forces prevented several journalists and media outlets to access Arab Al-Malihah, northern Jericho to cover a peaceful sit-in that was taking place there to protest against Israel's endeavors to annex parts of the



West Bank.

According to MADA researcher, the journalists: Reuters cameraman Adel Ibrahim Abu Nima (52 years old), the photojournalist Mohammad Jawad Zaghab, and WAFA Agency cameraman Sulaiman Mahmoud Sulaiman Abu Srour, via Abu Nima's vehicle, at around 10:50AM, on 19th June 2020, were heading to cover a peaceful protest Fateh has called for as well as Jericho and the Valleys Governorate in Arab Al-Malihah area to protest against the annexation plan of Israel with American support. When the journalists arrived at Al-Auja entrance, adjacent to Jericho, the occupation soldiers stopped them at the military barrier they established there, noting their vehicle was not marked PRESS. One of the soldiers asked them where they were going, and they informed him that they were heading to Al-Auja spring. The soldier searched the vehicle, and when he saw the filming equipment and the cameras, he learned they were journalists, and asked for their IDs. He asked the journalist Abu Nima to turn off the vehicle's engine and indeed he responded. Half an hour later, the soldier gave them back their cards and ordered them to go back to Jericho claiming "this is a military closed area and they have to go back to Jericho". The three journalists returned to Jericho and the same happened with the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation that was in the Corporation's vehicle behind them. After they came back to Jericho, the journalists had to take a bumpy road with the help of a young man that has an SUV to reach the location of peaceful protest in Arab Al-Malihah. The protest was covered quietly without any clashes

given the location (threatened to be annexed along with other broad areas) is far away from any contact with the Israeli army.

(19th June) A police force in Gaza arrested the journalist Mahmoud Allouh from his house claiming he filmed an old lady being assaulted in Bureij allegedly by the Police.

According to MADA researcher, three persons have arrived between 4:30PM - 5:00PM, on Friday afternoon, corresponding 19th June 2020, to the house of Mahmoud Omar Allouh (30 years old), the presenter of programs and the reporter of Sawt Al-Shaab Radio, located in Al-Da'wa area, Al-Nusairat, without even searching the house, and without introducing themselves except being police officers. They arrested the journalist Allouh after seizing his cell phone, and took him to Al-Nusairat Police Center. The moment he arrived at the center, all of his belongings were seized and he was taken to a cell and reported to be arrested for investigation purposes (higher authorities' decisions). He remained detained in the cell for an hour and a half, and then he was transferred by bus to "Al-Breish" Police Center, where he was taken to a small cell. After that, he was taken to the Investigations and questioned about filming the incident in Bureij about the citizen Om Jabr Washah who was assaulted. He was accused of filming her and taking her to the hospital which he denied and said "even if this happened, then I have only documented the incident as a journalist, but I never was there, so I did not document anything". At 11:30PM on the same day he was arrested, after the contributions of several authorities (Independent Commission for Human Rights, the

Popular Front, Sawt Al-Shaab Radio for which he works) he was released provided he shall come back the following morning, Saturday 20th June 2020. Indeed, he went to Al-Nusairat Center at around 10:00AM, and he was questioned again about Bureij incident and filming Om Jabr Washah. One hour later, at around 11:00PM, he was allowed to leave the center.

(22nd June) The Israeli occupation forces prevented a number of journalists and media outlets to cover a demonstration and events that have taken place at the southern entrance of Jericho as part of Palestinian protests against the Israeli endeavors to annex the Valleys.

According to MADA researcher, a group of journalists have arrived between 7:00PM - 7:30PM on 22nd June 2020 to the Israeli military barrier located at Jericho southern entrance after they learned about the demonstration of dozens of young men who were throwing stones at the occupation soldiers. These journalists were: the freelance journalists Mahran Sulaiman Barham Barahma (32 years old), WAFA Agency cameraman Sulaiman Mahmoud Abu Srour (38 years old), Pal News Agency cameraman Mohammad Jawad Zaghab (38 years old), the cameraman Mutasem Sameer Saqf Al-Hait (37 years old), and Palestine TV staff: the cameraman Omar Ahmad Abu Awad, the journalist Fathi Khalil Barahma, and the vehicle's driver Samer Asad Abu Salman. Soon, the journalists started covering the clashes until the soldiers ordered them to leave the area claiming it is a closed military zone. When the journalists started leaving, the soldiers took advantage

of them and used them as "shield" to cover themselves from the stones. One of the soldiers intentionally fired a gas bomb at journalist Abu Srour but did not injure him, not to mention threatening him with arrest by the soldiers if he does not leave the location immediately. Furthermore, the journalist Mohammad Zaghab was threatened and pushed by the soldiers and so Saqf Al-Hait and the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation vehicle driver was forced to leave before being detained after the TV staff was prevented to cover the events that have taken place after the popular festival in which Palestinian officials and diplomats have taken part against the annexation of the valleys that have taken place earlier that day.

(24th June) The Israeli occupation forces have prevented a number of journalists to access Fasayel Village, in the central valleys, to cover a festival that was taking place there, in support for the Valleys population and in denial of the Israeli plan of annexation.

According to MADA researcher, Zeidan Zakaria Mohammad Al-Razem (41 years old), a freelance journalist, the reporter for WAFA News Agency in Jericho Abdelrahman Mahmoud Saleh Al-Qasem, the journalist Doaa Mazen Jaber Al-Damnahouri (29 years old), works at the Media Department in Jericho, the freelance journalist Nidal Abdelmajeed Ahmad Fatafah, and the freelance journalist Salamah Mohammad Salamah Sataria (31 years old), were heading, at around 3:00PM, on 24th June 2020, via the vehicle of journalist Zeidan Al-Razem, to Fasayel Village, next to Jericho, to cover a meeting of the Council

of Ministers and the PLO Executive Committee, that was announced to take place there, to be followed by a festival to protest against the Israeli plan of annexing the valleys area. When the journalists arrived to Jericho northern entrance, the Israeli Occupation forces established a military barrier at the city entrance, and saw dozens of vehicles in front of them at the barrier as the soldiers were stopping all of the vehicles, to check the identity cards of all passengers. When their turn came, one of the soldiers asked them for their personal identity cards, and saw the cameras with them, he said to them "Palestine TV going to Fasayel, turn around and go back". Zeidan tried to convince them that they were not Palestine TV, however the soldier insisted they go back to Jericho. As a result, the journalists went to the other entrance of Jericho, connecting to Al-Auja, but found out that the Israeli Occupation army has established a barrier there as well. The soldiers prevented them to pass and forced them to go back to Jericho. Therefore, they went to King Hussein Bridge area known as (The Yellow Gate) to be able to access the event location (they arrived there at 4:25PM). At 6:10PM, Zeidan and Nidal decided to leave and go back to Jericho City. When they approached their vehicle parked near the Local Council, they saw a group of young men throwing stones at a force of the occupation army that arrived at the village, while the soldiers were using a vehicle dedicated for spraying the Palestinian demonstrators with sewage. The soldiers were deliberately spraying the sewage water at the vehicle of Zeidan holding plate No. (9.4076.94) and smashed the back glass of the vehicle and

thus drowned it with sewage water (while Zeidan and Fatafta were approaching the vehicle). They had to go back to Jericho to go through a quick cleaning operation causing suffocation to journalist Fatafta. She was treated in the field by her colleagues and was not taken to medical center.

At 4:20PM on the same day, the Israeli occupation forces also prevented the journalist Mohammad Jawad Issa Zaghab (32 years old) the cameraman of PalNews Agency, to access Fasayel to cover the event, and ordered him to go back when he arrived at the barrier at the northern entrance of Jericho. Mohammad could not reach the event location he was heading to cover.

(24th June) A force of the Israeli occupation army, at 3:00AM, on 24th June 2020, has stormed the house of journalist Mujahed Mohammad Saad Saadi (32 years old), located in Al-Saadah Neighborhood, Jenin, a freelance journalist who was arrested without searching his house. They only entered the living room. Mujahed asked them to let him wear his clothes, and they asked him to bring along his identity card and his cellphone. They took him to an unknown place. On 28th June 2020, the Red Crescent informed his family (as his wife, Raya Imad Husni Zakarnah, stated) that the army moved Al-Saadi to Howarah Military Camp, southern Nablus, and that he will be brought before trial on Tuesday (corresponding 30th June 2020), and on that day he was transferred to administrative arrest for six months and his family did not know why was he arrested or what is he accused of or what is condition in detention.

(24th June) The Israeli occupation forces targeted four journalists by firing rubber bullets, sound and tear gas bombs at them while they were covering the demolition of a house under construction in Betunia, western Ramallah.

According to MADA researcher, a huge force of the occupation army, accompanied with three bulldozers, raided, at around 6:00AM, on 24th June 2020, the southern area of Betunia, surrounded the area and started the demolition of a house that was still under construction. The house belongs to the citizen Abdelaziz Froukh, and they claimed it was not licensed. A number of journalists went to cover the demolition, and while they were filming the event that lasted three hours, the occupation soldiers prevented them to approach the house and cover the demolition. They threatened them with arrest if they would not move away and leave the area. They even fired tear gas bombs, sound bombs and rubber bullets at them more than once, especially in the moment when the army was withdrawing from the area after completing the demolition at around 9:00AM. This assault and prevention from coverage was against the journalists: Mohammad Jreir Hamdan (30 years old), from the Public Relations Department at the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission, Reuters cameraman Mohammad Ali Turkman (50 years old), G-Media Agency cameraman Mohammad Hamoud Turkman (22 years old), and the cameraman Issam Huda Al-Rimawi (36 years old).

(28th June) The Internal Security Services in Gaza summoned the cameraman Omar Fafous and questioned him about his comments

on the Facebook.

According to MADA researcher, Ihab Omar Yousef Fafous (46 years old), from Khan Younes, a freelance journalist, at around 11:00PM, on Thursday corresponding 25th June 2020, received a summons from the Internal Security Services in Khan Younes, through a security officer in civilian clothing that showed up to his house. The summons was headed "Summons to Testify" asking him to come to the Internal Security headquarters in Khan Younes, at 9:00AM, on Sunday, corresponding 28th June 2020. Indeed, Fafous responded to the summons and went to the Internal Security on the said day. The moment he arrived, before going to the investigation session, one of the security officers asked him to hand over his cell phone and open his Facebook account. Indeed, he gave them his cell phone and shared his Facebook data. In the meantime, the security officer addressed him "every time you show up here, you cause troubles ...". Fafous replied "what are the troubles I caused so we can discuss them" but the security officer did not answer him. When he entered the investigation room, one person only met him, and started questioning him by asking him whether he knows why he was summoned. Fafous replied "I came to testify as the summons dais", the investigator replied "no, you are here because you're active, you liked the Israeli Coordinator Facebook Page, and commented on one of his posts saying (take the dollars but give us peace)". However, Fafous denied this, and the investigator replied that he is a journalist and can follow any page he wants but not an Israeli. He asked the investigator to prove what he claimed earlier but the investigator

replied “I have a report in my hands that proves you have shown activity on the Coordinator’s page”. Again, Fasfous denied and demanded to see the proof, the investigator replied “you might have done it by mistake”. The investigation with Fasfous lasted for 45 minutes. He was then asked to leave the investigation room, but stayed in detention until 2:00PM when a security officer handed him his cell phone and allowed him to leave.

(26th June) The journalist, Hajar Mohammad Harb, was subject to incitement through the social media “Facebook” on the background of commenting on the statement of Hamas Military Wing spokesperson.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist Hajar Mohammad Ibrahim Harb (26 years old), from Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, currently in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for treatment purposes, was surprised that she was subject to incitement on the Facebook, even inciting to kill her, on the background of a post on Facebook, she shared commenting on the statement of Abu Obaida, Al-Qassam Brigades Spokesperson, Hamas Military Wing. Her post read “let us all agree that we are emotional, we have great capability to be influenced in the moment, but we a fish-memory. Announcing war will not change the Annexation decision at all, we are the first and last loser in this, this is what the logic says. Therefore, we should avoid such war instead of seeking to cause one or even suggest that it might be the best choice”. As a result, someone named “Mohammad Shuqair” shared on a Facebook group called “Gaza Commercial Market” on Friday 26th June 2020 “does anybody has an RBG we can shoot the one called

Hajar Harb with”. Journalist Harb considered this incitement to kill her. She found later that the account that was inciting against her was holding a fake name and she could not file an official complaint at the security authorities.

The Israeli officer went to the patrol then came back with a ticket he issued for Shadi by (200NIS) even though some of the soldiers and journalists who were near the police were not wearing masks at the moment. The same happened with the cameraman Nasser Ishtayya, as the moment he stepped out his vehicle at around 11:45PM, one of the Israeli police officers approached him and asked him about his mask, Ishtayya pointed to the press mask (the gas mask) around his neck, and pulled the other medical mask from his pocket to put it on his face. The police officer asked for his ID card, took it and went to the police vehicle. Ishtayya followed him and found out that he was issuing him a 200NIS ticket for not wearing the mask. Ishtayya told him that he was about to replace the press mask he had on his neck with the medical one he pulled from his pocket and that he had not moved that far away from his vehicle. He also told him that some of the soldiers in the area were not wearing the masks as well. The police officer replied “this is none of your business” even though he was not wearing the mask on mouth and nose, he had it around his neck. As to the cameraman Mohammad Ishtayya, he arrived at Hares Village with the cameraman Jamal Raed Jamal Hasssan (24 years old). They were prevented in the beginning from entering the village, which is why they attempted to enter from the olive fields, after parking the

vehicle at the village's entrance. When they done with covering the events, they were prevented to leave from the main entrance, they had to leave from among the houses, until they reached the main street where they were surprised with the Israeli police, and one of the police officers asked them to show the vehicle's papers, and the driver's license of Jamal Hassan whose driving Palestine TV vehicle. A ticket of 250 NIS was issued for him claiming the vehicle was parked next to the road above the yellow line even though it was far from the said line and "it is clearly a vexatious ticket" as they expressed "to prevent the media staffs from covering the protest".

(30th June) Unidentified people burn the car of the journalist, Nadia Harhash, while she was parked in front of her house in the town of Beit Hanina in occupied Jerusalem, in connection with what she writes about criticisms of the Palestinian public performance.

According to the Mada researcher's follow-up, at 2:45 a.m. on 06/30/2020, a masked person burned the vehicle of journalist Nadia Harhash, a Nissan type, after he broke its glass and threw two Molotov cocktails inside it, which led to set it ablaze immediately before Harhash can contact the Israeli police and fire brigade to extinguish the fire, as the surveillance cameras in Harhash's house showed. Harhash was awake at the time of the attack, as she was able to see the aggressor the moment he attacked the vehicle, which enabled her to call the police and firefighters quickly before the fire spread, expanded and caused the vehicle to explode or reach the house. The attack took from the beginning of the attacker's arrival

from the side of the building until the moment he fled to the mountain opposite the building, after crossing the main street only 4 minutes. The attacker was carrying a bag containing various tools, as he quickly broke the vehicle's rear window (the seat glass behind the driver) and threw two Molotov cocktails inside it, which resulted in the burning of the car. The attacker appeared to be a young man in his thirties, and Harhash seemed certain that the reason for the attack was the articles she writes on public affairs, and on the performance of the Palestinian Authority and the inconvenience it caused (the articles) to many parties, as this attack was preceded by indirect warnings for her from official authorities, through some of her acquaintances, as she reported, because of her articles.

These warnings and threats have begun to increase and become serious since she published an article under the title "Press Briefing ... Poetry, Preaching or Responsibility?" On March 28, 2020, at "Watan" news agency in which she criticized the spokesperson for the Palestinian government. The content of these warnings was for Harhash to avoid coming to Ramallah or any area of the Palestinian Authority or being in it (She lives in Jerusalem), and she received an official and direct threat from a Palestinian security authority.

## ► July:

(7th Feb.) The Preventive Security Services arrested the journalist Tareq Abu Zaid while he was filming. The Police attempted to disperse a gathering of welcoming the released



prisoner in Jenin.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist Tareq Abdelrazeq Abu Zaid, a freelance journalist, at around 5:00PM, on Thursday 2nd July 2020, was near the house of released prisoner Wasfi Qabaha, in Al-Iskan area, Jenin, to cover the event of welcoming him. In the meantime, a private police unit arrived and attempted to disperse the gathering, removed Hamas flags which were on the building and the sidewalk, which made the journalists move away. When the police officer tried to arrest some of the people there, Tareq Abu Zaid started filming this using his cell phone, and one of the security officers approached and asked him why was he filming, Tareq replied that he was doing his job as a journalist. The police officer ordered him to get on the police vehicle next to other arrested persons,

Abu Zaid and four other people were transferred in the same vehicle to the Preventive Security headquarters in Jenin. The security officers seized Tareq's personal cell phone and his identity card, and they handcuffed him, which was what they did with the other four arrested persons. When they arrived to the headquarters, Abu Zaid and the four arrested people with him were taken to a cell that had a mattress on the floor and a desk only. Two hours later, they were summoned by one of the security officers and the latter informed them to sign on pledges to commit to the state of emergency announced across the Palestinian territories and never breach the same. Then they were released and asked to leave the headquarters. However, Abu Zaid requested his cell phone back before leaving and they informed him to come back later

to take it. After he left, Abu Zaid contacted the Director of Journalists Syndicate in Jenin, MR. Atef Abu Al-Rub, to help him get his cell phone back, but he couldn't. One week later, the Preventive Security contacted Tareq and told him to come get his cell phone, and he found that they deleted what he filmed the time he was arrested.

(4th July) General Investigation officers in Gaza have detained a TV staff that was preparing a report on suicide and seized the material they filmed.

According to MADA researcher, some officers of the General Investigation Office in Gaza, at around 1:00PM, on Sunday corresponding 4th July 2020, have detained a press staff of the Palestinian Media Group Company (PMG), including the cameraman journalist Hilmi Iyad Ashour Al-Ghoul (27 years old), and the cameraman assistant (Producer) Ahmad Al-Ras (29 years old), while they were filming a press report for Roya TV on "The Economic Situation and its impact on youth in Gaza Strip" in front of the house of Sulaiman Al-Ajouri in Beit Lahia, who attempted to commit suicide by shooting himself, claiming that the press staff "does not have an authorization from the Ministry of Interior to film". The Investigation officers seized the camera memory, and took them to the Police Center in Beit Lahia, detained them for two hours and asked them not to talk or address the suicide, until the investigations by the security services are done. The material they filmed was deleted from the camera memory, they seized the IDs of Al-Ghoul and Al-Ras. On the following day (Monday, 5th July 2020), they were summoned by the Investigation



Services through a phone call to come to the Police Center in Beit Lahia. Al-Ghoul and Al-Ras went immediately to the Center (at around 12:00), and their IDs were given back to them, as well as the empty camera memory. They informed them that the case has not ended and the file has been transferred to the Government Media Office, to figure out the Company's political intentions and for whom it works. They left the Center after almost one hour.

Roya TV reporter, journalist Muna Talal Okal, stated that the security services in Gaza are claiming that there is a decision prohibiting addressing suicide, to justify detaining the press staff and prevent it from coverage, even though there are no official decisions issued in this regard.

It should be noted that recently Gaza Strip has witnessed four suicide attempts that have raised the public opinion and pushed the media outlets to address the same looking for the reasons and motives that may lead the youth to suicide.

(8th July) The Internal Security in Gaza has detained the journalist Loay Al-Ghoul, the Director of the Journalists Syndicate Office in Gaza, twice, and questioned him about the Syndicate's activities, the journalists movement office, and other issues.

According to MADA researcher, some Internal Security officers went to the house of journalist Loay Al-Ghoul, the Director of Journalists Syndicate Office in Gaza Strip, and the Secretary of the Journalists Movement Office of Fateh, located in Al-Shate' Camp, and they in civilian clothing in an Internal Security jeep, to give him a summons. However,

Al-Ghoul was not there at the time. On the following morning (Thursday 9th July 2020) he went to the Internal Security headquarters (the passports headquarters) in Gaza City, and the moment he arrived, at around 09:00AM, one of the security offices searched him thoroughly, kept his personal belonging (ID, cell phone, and wallet) and took him to a room with an area of 1.5mx3m approximately. There were five persons in the room, which was extremely hot without any ventilation. One hour later, a police officer called him and took his personal information (name, place of residence, work, the party he works for) and then took him back to the room. At around 11:00AM, he was taken to another room for investigation purposes. Half an hour later, the police officer blindfolded him and took him to the investigation room, where two officers were waiting. They asked him to take a seat and assured him: "this is a friendly session, there's nothing against you". They started questioning him on the nature of his work at the Journalists Syndicate and the Journalists Movement Office, as well as about a political symposium organized by Fateh Movement Central Committee Member Ahmad Hals. Al-Ghoul explained that the symposium addressed the risks of the Israeli annexation plan, affirmed the national unity to face such risks that may harm the Palestinian cause. He was also asked about his conviction of Fateh Movement to which he belongs, and about the Journalists Syndicate Chairman Deputy Dr. Tahseen Al-Astal, his Facebook posts described as "extreme". At around 12:15PM, the officer told him that he will be released now, as his

cousin has passed away and there is a funeral home for him. He gave him the option either to send him a summons again or to call through the phone and come again. Al-Ghoul replied that they may choose the way they want. They gave him his belongings and he left the headquarters at around 12:30PM.

At around 12:00PM, on Thursday corresponding 16th July 2020, the journalist Loay Nahed Mohammad Al-Ghoul received a phone call from the Internal Security Officer, asking him to come immediately, to the headquarters located near the Qatari Embassy, in front of Gaza sea beach. He was questioned this time in the square of the Internal Security headquarters, adjacent to the Qatari Embassy. The investigator's questions were mainly about the journalists syndicate activity, the way the money is transferred, the movement office of journalists and its members, in addition to asking him about other journalists, such as journalist Tawfeq Abu Jarad, journalist Tahseen Al-Astal. During the investigation, the officer told him that "this session is friendly", there is no need to announce anything through the social media. Al-Ghoul replied: "I, as a representative of the Journalists Syndicate, hereby call all journalists to immediately report about any summons they receive from the Security, so how about when I am personally summoned?". He told him that his work requires telling the Syndicate about any summons. At around 2:00PM, he was released and left the headquarters.

(10th July) The police in Gaza Strip arrested the freelance journalist, Osama Al-Kahlout, from his house located in Deir Al-Balah, in connection his post about a young

man's attempted suicide, and detained him for three days for the charge of not preventing a suicide.

According to MADA researcher, "a police jeep arrived at around 10:00PM on Friday evening corresponding 10th July 2020 the house of Osama Sharef Mohammad Al-Kahlout(36 years old), from Deir Al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, a freelance journalist, and took him to Deir Al-Balah Police Center, where his cell phone was seized and accessed. He was asked about his relationship with the young man who threatened to commit suicide, and took his statement, even though Al-Kahlout met him few days earlier and posted on his Facebook that this young man has some serious family issues and may commit suicide if his problem is not solved. Few days later following what Al-Kahlout posted, particularly on Friday corresponding 10th July 2020, the young man threatened in a live broadcast that he will commit suicide and threatened to post the name of people involved in his problem. The security services arrested him and did not allow it to happen, noting that the Ministry of Interior in Gaza issued a statement on the following day corresponding 11th July 2020, through the spokesperson Col. Ayman Al-Batneji reading "the police arrested a cameraman who encouraged a citizen to hurt himself, and agreed with him to film him while he burns himself in Deir Al-Balah Camp central Gaza Strip, and that the police arrested the citizen (A, S) 35 years old before he could hurt himself after pouring gasoline all over himself. The cameraman (O, K) 36 years old, and the citizens were referred to the Public Prosecution, to complete the legal proceedings

against them". Al-Kahlout spent 3 days in Deir Al-Balah Police Center (he was released under a bail on Monday corresponding 13th July 2020). During his detention, Al-Kahlout was not harmed by anyone or any person.

(15th July) The ministry of Interior in Gaza Strip prevented Al-Arabiya and Al-Hadath TV Channels to work in the Strip and prevented any journalist to be on their screens, not to mention threatening to pursue any party that provides them with media services.

According to MADA researcher, Al-Arabiya TV obtained information and details about the escape of a field leader from Hamas to the Israelis. It published the news, and placed it to Hamas leaders for any comments. However, the refused that and did not deny the news at the time. On Sunday corresponding 12th July 2020, Hamas issued a statement addressing the "false news" and accused the girl of misleading people and promoting rumors and lies". On Wednesday, on the 15th of July 2020, Al-Arabiya TV Office official in Gaza Strip, Adel Al-Zaghnoun received a phone call from the Ministry of Interior in Gaza to close the offices of Al-Arabiya and Al-Hadath, and inform the media companies and institutions not to work with them. This decision includes preventing the journalists to be on their screens. The Director of Al-Arabiya TV Office in Al-Quds, Mr. Ziad Al-Halabi, a text message on his cell phone through WhatsApp with the same content.

(16th July) The security services in Khan Younes detained the journalists Muthanna Al-Najar and Tareq abu Isaq, for seven hours, and after

three days, they were arrested for publishing a video of a student who has forged her high school diploma and talked about a mistake made by the Ministry to her diploma.

According to MADA researcher, Muthanna Al-Najjar (36 years old), Al-Quds Radio and Al-Hadath Newspaper reporter, and Tareq Abu Isaq (35 years old), works for a news page called "For Media" were summoned by the security services of eastern Khan Younes in Gaza Strip today corresponding 16th July 2020, and detained due to a complaint filed by the Ministry of Education against them for posting a vide for a girl who's saying that her diploma was forged, "without referring to the ministry". They questioned and detained for 7 hours, when they were released on bail of 1,000 shekels, provided that they return on Sunday morning (19th July 2020) to Al-Sharqiya Police Center again to complete the investigation. Indeed, they went to the police center on time, and the moment they arrived at about 12:00PM they were detained for a period of 24 hours, and later (the same afternoon) the Public Prosecution informed them that there detention is extended for 48 hours, and upon their detention they were held in the cell in which there is a number of detainees on various charges, and they were not taken to a private place. On Monday (the day following their arrest (20th July 2020) and after they announced a hunger strike, the center's administration transferred them to another independent room, and they were not subjected to any torture during their stay at the police center and during their interrogation.

(17th July) The cameraman, Journalist Tareq Sarkaji, was

injured by a gas bomb fired by the occupation soldiers while he was covering a peaceful march.

According to MADA researcher, Tareq Yousef Khaled Sarkaji (34 years old), a cameraman of JMEDIA, arrived on Friday corresponding 17th July 2020 to Asira ash-Shamaliya, in Nablus, to cover a peaceful march against settlement and confiscation of land on the summit of Mount Ebal, organized by the townspeople at 12:30PM every Friday since several weeks. As soon as the demonstrators gathered, the occupation forces that arrived began firing tear gas and sound bombs at them intensively, and at around 12:55PM, while he was covering the march in a live broadcast for “Al-Jazeera Live” channel, seven tear gas bombs fired by the soldiers fell near the cameraman Sarkaji, one of them injured his left leg, knowing that he was about 20 meters away from the soldiers, and the bomb caused his pants to burn, due to the fragments injuring him with burns and scratches, and he received first aid from an ambulance crew who was in the area and left.

(17th July) The occupation soldiers targeted Palestine TV staff by gas bombs while it was live broadcasting an interview from the field about settlement resulting in the injury of the reporter, cameraman and their guest with severe suffocation.

According to MADA researcher, Palestine TV staff, including the reporter Baker Abdelhaq (31 years old), cameraman Samer Habash (65 years old), both from Nablus, have arrived to Asira ash-Shamaliya to cover a peaceful march against establishing a settlement outpost at the top of Mount Ebal, northern Nablus, at around 1:00PM, on Friday

corresponding 17th July 2020. The soldiers tried to intercept them and prevent them from filming and broadcasting the events of the march more than once, and while Palestine TV staff was interviewing the coordinator of the factional coordination committee, Naser Abu Jaish, in a live broadcast, the soldiers fired a gas bomb towards them from several meters, which resulted in the injury of them and their guest, the coordinator of the committee with severe suffocation. The live broadcast was cut off for about 10 minutes before it was resumed again. Due to the absence of any ambulance crew in that area, which is a rugged mountainous area, the soldiers tried to rescue Naser Abu Jaish (who was speaking on television and were attacked along with the journalists, Abdelhaq and Habash), but he refused.

(20th July) The occupation soldiers detained the journalist Qais Abu Samra for about three hours, handcuffed and questioned him, at a military checkpoint, western Ramallah.

According to MADA researcher, the occupation soldiers, at around 3:00PM, on Monday corresponding 20th July 2020, detained the Anatolia Agency reporter, Qais Omar Darwish Abu Samra, 40 years old, at the Israeli army checkpoint near the settlement of «Hallamish», west of Ramallah, while he was returning from his workplace in Ramallah to his village in the Qalqilya, and after they saw his identity card and searched the vehicle, they told him that he was “wanted” for the “Israeli intelligence service”. They detained him in the place for three hours after they handcuffed him and removed the muzzle that he was putting on

his mouth and nose (as prevention and protection from Corona virus) and covered his eyes with it during his detention. During that, they questioned him about what he was writing and an officer asked him if he was writing about Israel's plan to annex parts of the West Bank, so the journalist Qais told him that he was writing about the official and popular Palestinian position of the situation, so the officer asked whether he was writing about the Israeli position as well, and Abu Samra told him that there others in the Agency writing about that section. After about three hours of being held handcuffed and with his eyes covered, he was released at about 6:00Pm in the evening after they returned his identity card and phone to him.

(July, 2020) Facebook Company Administration threatened three Palestinian journalists with closing their accounts, as they received messages that "the account will be closed if the identity is not confirmed" noting that Facebook Company has closed the accounts of two of them.

***Below are the journalists who have been threatened to closed their accounts:***

1. Journalist Mohammad Ali Abdel Qader Ateeq (28 years old), who lives in the village of Burqin in Jenin and works as a freelance journalist, received on 4th July 2020 a warning message from Facebook Company Administration to close the alternate personal account, after closing his verified account suddenly on 4th May 2020, under the pretext of violating the standards and policy of

«Facebook», which prompted him to create the new reserve account through which he received a warning message to close it.

2. Journalist Sari Jaradat (34 years old), a resident of Sa'ir in Hebron, working as a reporter with the «Refugee Gate»: On 8th July 2020 he received a warning message from «Facebook» administration to close the alternate account he had created after his verified account was closed on 27th May 2020, knowing that «Facebook» administration had asked him to confirm the identity, and he did that indeed, but it was closed anyways, which prompted him to create a new account, through which he received a new warning message to close it «in the event that the identity is not confirmed» as stated in the message he received .
3. Journalist Munqith Ragheb Mohammad Salah (known as Saddam Abu Salah), a resident of Burqa Village, in Nablus, works as a cameraman for the local Adwa' TV, received on 4th July 2020 a warning message from Facebook company administration, "in case the identity is not confirmed" the account will be closed. It is not the first time that he has been subjected to such measures by the administration of "Facebook", as the company had previously banned him from posting and commenting through his personal page several months ago, and when the ban expired, it was renewed automatically.

## ► August:

(02/08/20) The General Investigations of Gaza summoned the freelance journalist Muein Tayseer Al-Dabbah and questioned him about images he posted on his personal account. He was forced to sign a pledge not to post anything about charitable societies in Gaza.

According to the investigations of MADA researcher, the freelance journalist Muein Tayseer Ahmad Al-Dabbah (32 years old), from Al-Shujaiya, has seen some individuals of a charitable society at 10:00AM, on Sunday morning, corresponding 2nd August 2020, distributing some aids (meat) that they have given to a group of children, and they wanted to take pictures of these children holding the paper of aid (meat), among these children was his nephew, so he intercepted them and took a picture of the society members and posted it on his Facebook account criticizing them and why would they film some children without their families knowing. About half an hour after posting this photo, one of the employees of that society came to Al-Dabbah's house and threatened him with internal security, and left. At about 2:30PM in the afternoon he received a call from a person who introduced himself as an Investigation officer, and asked him to come immediately to the investigation center in Al-Shujaiya. Indeed, he went to the center where he arrived at 3:00PM, and the moment he arrived he was questioned based on a complaint filed against him by one of the Society staff members the picture of whom he posted on his account. The investigation and questioning lasted for 45 minutes, and before he

left, he was asked to sign a pledge that includes a condition that he must remove anything related to the charitable society and to come back to the Investigations Center on Wednesday corresponding 5th August 2020. Muein went again to the center and arrived at 3:00PM, along with MADA center lawyer, Ihsan Abu Sharkh. When the Center's Director learned about the lawyer, he asked Muein to leave while MADA's lawyer stayed for a while and then left the Center. Muein was taken to the investigation room and questioned again about the image he posted. He was again forced to sign another pledge (other than the one he signed the first time he went to the Center) that he would not post any photos or information about the work of charitable societies in Gaza. He was then released at 4:30PM.

(15/08/20) The journalist Ibrahim Abu Shaar was severely suffocated while covering a night demonstration at the separation fence eastern Gaza.

According to MADA researcher, Ibrahim abdelmajeed Abu Shaar (36 years old), a reporter of the Iranian TV, has arrived at 10:15PM on Saturday corresponding 15th August 2020 to the border area eastern Gaza City/Malka area, to cover the night protests referred to as "the night confusion" as part of the peaceful return marches, and he was in his press uniform. At about 11:15PM, while Abu Shaar was at 500 meters away from the separation border fence, the occupation soldiers randomly fired gas bombs and he was severely suffocated, and fainted for few minutes. He received first aid by the ambulance staff in the area and fifteen minutes later went home. But on the following morning (Sunday 16th August 2020) and as



a result of inhaling a large amount of gas, he suffered from symptoms and complications such as shortness of breath and a respiratory disorder, which required a visit to a private doctor who gave him some medicine to treat the effects of the injury.

(15/08/20) Facebook Company Administration closed PAL+ page claiming “it violates the criteria of Facebook community”.

According to MADA field researcher, the creator of PAL+ page, Fadi Al-Sheikh Yousef, has noticed on 14th August a decrease in the number of views and followers of the page that coincided with a notification from Facebook Company warning to close the page, which was done on the following morning, corresponding 15th August 2020. Hours later, the page’s founder and his team filed a direct challenge against this measure and contacted the support team at Facebook in an attempt to recover the page. After 4 days of contacting, the team succeeded in recovering the page, with «offences» still pending against it, as Facebook Administration refused to remove the same.

According to Fadi Yousef, the threat to close the page by Facebook started when the page began covering the return marches in Gaza Strip since 30th March 2018. The page was transmitting the march live including all the events and updates and documented all of the Israeli Occupation violations. Since that time, the page started to receive notifications to delete some contents (such as the video of the martyr Razan Al-Najjar and the martyr Yasser Murtaja, where Facebook restricted access to these videos after the number of

views exceeded one million). Then the «Israeli» coordinator’s page entered one of the live videos and commented. This was followed by Israeli websites targeting the page, especially the English PAL+ page, and restricting access to its contents.

(20/08/20) The journalist Main Shehadeh was severely suffocated due to a gas bomb fired at her by one of the Israeli occupation soldiers while she was covering a march against settlement in Tulkarem.

According to MADA researcher, a number of journalists including Mai Farhan Shehadeh (29 years old), a reporter of “Aswar Press” have joined a peaceful march that started on 11:00AM on 20th August 2020 to Shufah Village, southeast Tulkarem, protesting against the confiscation of hundreds of donums of lands there by the Israeli occupation authorities, while she was in her press uniform. The demonstrators started to gather near the confiscated lands, holding up slogans denouncing the occupation policy, while the soldiers who were there prevented them to have access to the confiscated lands, and when the demonstrators tried to reach their confiscated lands at 11:30, along with journalist Main Shehadeh, the soldiers started firing sound bombs at the demonstrators, and journalist Shehadeh moved away to continue covering the event. One of the soldiers fired a sound bomb at her but did not hit her, which made the same soldier fire another gas bomb directly at her, one of the demonstrators shouted her name to avoid the bomb, while it landed near her, causing her severe suffocation until she fell to the ground. Some of the demonstrators around her took her away and helped her recover her consciousness using alcohol



especially that the occupation forces prevented the ambulance to reach the journalist Mai who returned home in Anabta with the help of some of her colleague journalists.

(22/08/20) An Israeli settler prevented the journalist Mashhour Al-Wahwah from covering a peaceful march that was taking place eastern Yatta, Hebron.

According to MADA researcher, at around 12:00PM, on Saturday, corresponding 22nd August 2020, a number of journalists, including WAFA cameraman, journalist Mashhour Hassan Mahmoud Al-Wahwah (36 years old), arrived to Sadet Al-Thaghlah, located in Yatta City, southern Hebron, to cover a peaceful event called to by the national forces with the participation of some families, protesting against the decision of the occupation authorities that allowed one of the settlers to construct a road in their lands and expand the settlements projects claiming "they are confiscated lands". Once the demonstrators arrived to the location where a number of soldiers have arrived, the journalists started filming and documenting the assaults of settlers against the citizens' properties, one of the settlers, with a gun on his side, approached and started shouting at journalist Mashhour Al-Wahwah, and prevented him from filming. When Al-Wahwah tried to move away to continue his work, one of the settlers stopped him, grabbed a gun and threatened him in Hebrew which he does not know or understand. He had to move away for fear of being subject to any assault especially that the soldiers did not interfere to move away the settler, but rather deployed in the area and announced it as a

closed military zone, and ordered the demonstrators to leave.

(24/08/20) The security services in Gaza prevented the Journalists Movement Office to conduct an event of signing a memorandum of understanding with the Lawyers Movement Office, at Al-Zaytoun Sports Club.

According to MADA field researcher, the Journalists Movement Office in Gaza was about to conduct an event to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Lawyers Movement Office, at Al-Zaytoun Sports Club in Gaza City. However, the Head of the Club received a phone call from Hamas security services informing him to prevent the event scheduled to take place at 5:00PM on Monday corresponding 24th August 2020 at the Club's headquarters without explaining the reasons. It should be noted that the agreement provides for cooperation between journalists and lawyers in eastern Gaza, to train and educate journalists about legal matters while carrying out their journalistic work, in return journalists are supposed to train lawyers on some media issues such as drafting and disseminating news about their activities, as stated by the secretary of the Journalists Movement Office, Ahed Farwana, to Mada's researcher.

(26/08/20) The Israeli occupation forces arrested the journalist Musab Saed from his house located in Birzeit, northern Ramallah.

According to MADA researcher, an Israeli military troop, consisting of 40 soldiers, at about 3:00AM, on Wednesday 26th August 2020, raided the house of the freelance journalist Musab Ibrahim Saed (29 years old) in Birzeit, northern

Ramallah, after surrounding the house, smashing and exploding the main entrance. It searched the house, messed up its contents and arrested the journalist Musab, after detaining him for half an hour in one of the house rooms. This was followed by handcuffing his hands and informing his family he was under arrest. He was taken to the Israeli military patrols that arrived at an area close to the house fifteen minutes after they stormed it. The following day (Thursday 27th August 2020), Musab's family learned that the occupation forces had transferred him to the «Etzion» detention center near Bethlehem, and that a trial session had been held for him in «Ofer» camp in Bitunia, Ramallah. His detention was extended in absentia for a period of 6 days, and a new court session will be held for him on Tuesday (1st Sep. 2020).

(27/08/20) Preventing the Administration of MAAN TV to host a guest of "Kilimten o bas/ two words only" program, presented by Nahed Abu Taima, due to pressures exerted on the Channel by some of the Executive Authorities parties, forcing Abu Taima to cancel the episode in protest.

According to MADA researcher, it was scheduled to present an episode at 7:00PM on 27th August 2020 of Kilimten o bas/ two words only" program by Nahed Abu Taima, on repairing the judiciary, its problems, and the performance of the Transitional High Judicial Council. It was supposed to host: Amnah Hamarsha, the Supreme Court Judge, Osama Al-Kelany the former Supreme Court Judge, the former Judges Club Head, the legal advisor at Al-Haq Institution Ashraf Abu Hayya, due to pressures exerted by

officials at the Executive Authority to prevent the hosting of one of the guests, namely Advisor Osama Al-Kelany. However, Abu Taima refused to do so and preferred to cancel the episode rather than doing this which was never done before at MAAN TV. No guest has ever been prevented to appear on MAAN screen and no subject matter has ever been blocked or changed. This proves that the pressures were exerted by a party with powerful influence.

It should be noted that "Kilimten o bas/ two words only" program presented by Abu Taima has raised broad arguments and interests and was subject to denigration and ill-treatment, given the issues it discusses and addresses, to the extent a complaint was filed against it at the Attorney General's Office. However, MAAN Administration handled the pressures and refused to issue a statement for public opinion announcing it is not supporting CEDAW, and confirmed that it will forever defend CEDAW and women rights as an approach and goal.

(28/08/20) The General Investigations in Khan Younes summoned the journalist Mohammad Al-Haddad for his Facebook posts.

According to MADA researcher, the freelance journalist Mohammad Ismail Al-Haddad (31 years old), from Batn Al-Samen, western Khan Younes, Gaza Strip, on Friday evening, corresponding 28th August 2020, received summons from the General Investigations, to come on Saturday corresponding 29th August 2020, to the headquarters. The Investigations vehicle came to his house at 11:00PM on that day, gave his brother the notice ordering Al-Haddad to come to the Investigations headquarters

on the following morning (Saturday 29th August 2020) the Technical Sources Section, and to bring a copy of his identity card. Indeed, when Al-Haddad arrived to the headquarters, he was immediately taken to one of the investigations rooms for questioning. He asked why he was asked to come and the investigator replied that it's because his Facebook posts accusing him that he incites against the Government in Gaza, addressing him "this isn't the time to express opinion". The investigator started reading him a post he believed inciting against the Government "It is a shame to see the corrupt and the exploited being glorified at this time". The journalists asked: "And what is wrong with this?" the investigator replied "you are accusing us of corruption". He read another post saying "Gaza Government and the Electricity Company honestly the people no longer have energy and we cannot sleep or sit or anything, the floor tile marked out bodies, you want the people to stay strong, please bring out what is hidden and you will be for sure compensated later". The journalist replied "How is that inciting? This is my personal opinion which I have the right to say". Before the questioning ended, the investigator asked the journalist to turn off his cell phone and give it to him, and to leave the room and wait outside.

Al-Haddad waited until 6:15PM (noting that the investigation only took 10 minutes). Two police officers came and asked him to come with them on foot to the investigation room in the nearby police headquarters. Indeed, he went with them and the investigator took his statement on the same subject,

prepared an arrest protocol for him, with the guarantee of one of his colleagues. He left the headquarters at about 6:40PM, provided to come back at 8:00AM on the following day (30th August 2020) to be brought before the prosecution. He appeared on the scheduled day and waited until 2:30PM, while the prosecutor did not show up. The investigation inspector asked him to come at 9:30AM on the following morning (31st August 2020), he went and waited until 12:30PM when he met with the prosecutor who asked him about inciting against the government and read some of his Facebook posts and said "There's nothing". He asked him to support the Government and left the room. He asked the journalist to sit outside the room and come back in ten minutes. When the journalist came back, the prosecutor said "I've seen your page and there's nothing, but anything you would post against the Government or you want to post let us know first, or do not write anything". He also asked him to sign the pledge of "Respecting the public order and the Law". He gave him back his cell phone, and left at about 1:00PM on the same day.

## ► September:

(1st Sep.) The Occupation soldiers assaulted Palestine TV cameraman Fadi Yasine while he was covering a demonstration against the settlement.

According to MADA researcher, Fadi Abdelraheem Ibrahim Yasine (42 years old), from Tulkarem, Palestine TV cameraman, went with his coworker Ihab Al-Damera and a group of other journalists to Shoufa Village to cover a peaceful protesting sit-in organized by the

families above the lands threatened with confiscation by the Israeli Occupation. Yasmine was wearing the Press mask, holding his camera, tripod, and live streaming device while covering the sit-in. At around 12:30PM, while he was filming the demonstrators making a report along with his coworker on the event, clashes took place between the demonstrators and Occupation soldiers. The soldiers started suppressing the demonstrators and assaulting each other violently, especially the old man Khairi Hanoun, who was knocked out by the soldiers, one of whom pressed his knee to Khairi's neck and almost suffocated him making a scene that widely spread and caused outrage. Some journalists tried to jump in to stop the assault which almost resulted in the death of the mentioned citizen. Yasmine approached, just like the remaining journalists, the citizen on the ground to film him and document the assault. Meanwhile, more soldiers arrived and started dispersing the journalists and shouting at them. At that moment, Yasmine heard one of the officers asking a soldier to arrest him (arrest Yasmine), so the cameraman Yasmine moved away, and the soldier followed him trying to catch him, but he managed to escape from him, so a group of soldiers ran after him and grabbed his clothes trying to knock him to the ground, and seize his camera, but he managed to escape again, so they continued to run after him, and they caught and beat him, which resulted in bruising him in both hands, left leg and neck around which one of the soldiers wrapped his hand strongly. Immediately a number of his fellow journalists intervened and took him away from the soldiers who were after him

while they were under gas bombs while they were moving away.

(1st Sep.) The Palestinian Preventive Security Services subjected the cameraman and director of An-Najah TV, Kanan Sabri Kanan to a series of summons and detention after he was questioned about his work for An-Najah TV.

According to MADA researcher, Kanan Sabri Hassan Kanan (36 years old), from Nablus, a director and cameraman for An-Najah University TV, on Tuesday, corresponding 1st Sep. 2020, received a phone call from a person who introduced himself as an officer of the Preventive Security Services and informed him to come to the headquarters at 10:00AM on Thursday, corresponding 3rd Sep. 2020, and confirmed to him that he must show up on time to avoid being arrested should he fail to show up or meet the scheduled time. On the said date, Kanan went to the Preventive Security headquarters in Nablus, and there he was sent to the Political Security Department at the headquarters, and after waiting for about 4 hours, he was taken to an office in which there was an investigating officer, who questioned him about his relationship with Hamas and his activities therein, but Kanan denied his affiliation with any party. He was also questioned about his relationship with people about 15 years ago, so he told them that he had known them a long time ago and that he was previously questioned about that when he was arrested for several days in 2012 without being charged with any charges. One of the investigators asked him about his current work and what he is filming, and his relationship with his co-worker, director of An-Najah TV, Abdelrahman Al-Thaher,

so he told them that it is a collegial relationship based on work. He was also asked about a “Promo” he filmed with Abdelrahman Al-Thaher and was broadcasted on ROYA TV, and whether he was filming media materials in partnership with Abdelrahman for any local or foreign stations. After that, he was taken from the investigation office, and about two hours later, they took his personal belongings and told him that he was under arrest. He was taken to one of the cells, and he was never questioned again. At 11:30PM on the same night, Kanan was released, provided one of his family members shall come to collect him, and before his departure, they informed to come back on 7th Sep. 2020. Accordingly, at 9:00AM on 7th Sep. 2020, Kanaan arrived at the Preventive Security Services in the city of Nablus, but he was not asked or questioned, and after he was detained for several hours, he was released and given a new schedule to come again, so that the scenario of summoning and detention for several hours happens again without any interrogation, on 14th, 20th, and 30th Sep. 2020.

(4th Sep.) The General Investigations in Jabalia, northern Gaza summoned journalist Ahmed Al-Borsh against the background of his writings on social media including Facebook, addressing the suffering of citizens of Gaza from poor economic conditions, increasing poverty, and unemployment rates.

According to MADA field researcher, Ahmad Atef Ahmad Al-Borsh (26 years old), from Jabalia, works for “Al-Hayat Press” website and a reporter for the Republic of Yemen Radio, received on Thursday corresponding 3rd Sep. 2020 a

threat on the phone from the Internal Security Director Ameen Awad that he would abduct him and cause him a permanent disability if he would not stop posting about the real citizens of Gaza are facing in light of the difficult economic conditions unless he deletes his posts. On the following day, (Friday 4th Sep. 2020) a police jeep with 9 officers inside it arrived at around 10:00AM to his house. He escaped without anyone noticing him, the police officers left him a summons under which he has to go to the Internal Security headquarters. On the following day (Saturday 5th Sep. 2020), he went alone to the police station. Upon his arrival, he was taken to a cell where he stayed from 7:40AM to 7:00PM without being questioned. While he was in the cell, he asked the cell guard to allow him to make a phone call, and after negotiations between them, the guard asked him to pay for it, and Al-Borsh complied and gave him 100 shekels that he had with him, the guard took 25NIS and returned the remaining to him. Al-Borsh contacted his colleagues, Alaa Salama (broadcaster for Palestine Today TV) and the reporter of the same Channel Akram Daloul, asking them to intervene, but they advised him to contact the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate Chairman, Tahseen Al-Astal, and he did. The latter promised he will intervene and contact the Minister of Interior to release him on the same day. At around 7:00PM, Al-Borsh was summoned to the Investigations Office where he was asked to immediately unlock his cell phone and delete all of the posts on the suffering of Gaza citizens. They also asked him to sign on several papers including a written pledge not to

write or post again about anything related to Hamas Government and not to object to the living standard in Gaza, and he responded, as he was threatened with imprisonment and financial fine payment, then he was released.

On the following day (6th Sep.) Al-Borsh cousin, a policeman in Hamas Government, visited him in his house, forcibly took the cell phone from his hands, and smashed it.

(5th Sep.) The Palestinian Police prevented journalist Kholoud Fatafta from filming a march organized by the “Mass Mobilization to bring down CEDAW” in Ramallah.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist Kholoud Mohammad Fatafta (31 years old), works for “Madar Al-Sa’a” Jordanian News Agency, has seen, around 5:00PM on Saturday 5th Sep. 2020, a protesting march against CEDAW heading from Al-Quds Street towards Al-Manarah Square, central Ramallah City, and started filming the march and broadcasting it live on her Facebook page. The security officers, who were in military and civilian uniforms, intercepted the march and tried to prevent it from moving forward. In the meantime, Fatafta was filming and broadcasting what was happening from the balcony of a cafe overlooking Al-Manarah Square and Jerusalem Street, where two people who introduced themselves as Palestinian intelligence officers approached her, prevented her from filming, took the cell phone from her, and deleted the video she filmed. At about 5:30PM, she headed to Al-Manarah Square and started filming again, several people (from the intelligence services) came to her and asked her to stop filming, but

when she showed them her press card, they left her, and after a minute, someone came back and pulled her phone from her by force and handed it over to a policewoman who was there.

When she showed her press card, they left her, but a minute later, someone came back and forcibly pulled her cell phone, cursed and shouted at her, and gave her cell phone to a policewoman who was present there. The journalist demanded her cell phone back but the policewoman denied. A few minutes later, a police officer came and returned her phone and asked her to step back (away from the demonstration) and stop filming, but she started filming again and broadcasting live, until one of the security officers (in civilian clothing) told her to stop filming and addressed her: “put your phone down, you cannot film here”.

(5th Sep.) Facebook Company closed no less than three news pages belonging to Palestinian journalists during September.

According to MADA researcher, Facebook Company has closed the page of freelance journalist Imad Ali Issa Jabreen, from Taqou, southern Bethlehem, on 5th Sep. 2020, suddenly and without sending him any prior warnings or messages stating that he has published things that violate Facebook’s public policies and standards. Journalist Jabreen has been running the aforementioned page for about ten years, and it included full documentation of his various works, including filming, videos, correspondence, or links related to his journalistic work. On 7th Sep. 2020, he contacted Facebook



Company about the closure, but he did not receive any response. As a result, the journalist Jabreen created another account on Facebook on 10th Sep. 2020, but it was closed two days later. After that, journalist Jabreen created another account in the period between 15th – 20th Sep. 2020 and did not publish anything related to news or anything else, but it was closed again after three days.

On 10th Sep. 2020, Facebook Company also closed “Taqou Al-Hadath” Page, a sociopolitical news page that posts events and news about Taqou Town, and in which journalist Imad Issa works as an “admin”.

On 5th Sep. 2020, Facebook Company closed “Ultra Palestine” website the publishes social, and cultural news as well as journalistic investigations, in addition to various news about the world.

During 2019, the “Ultra Palestine” website received several warning messages by Facebook Administration about published materials that violate the content of the basic publishing standards, as claimed. The admins of the page were unable to post detailed news and were only allowed to post by the link. At the end of August 2020, Ultra Palestine page received a warning message from Facebook Administration stating that there was news published in 2017 that violated the standards of publishing, and the news related to a Tunisian citizen who was assassinated. On 5th Sep. 2020, the page received a message that I cannot post due to “not observing publishing standards” and without explaining the reason, noting that the page has been on Facebook for about 4 years,

and it has hundreds of thousands of followers, and it has been promoted greatly on Facebook.

(7th Sep.) The Occupation Army has arrested journalist Osama Shaheen from his house located in Imreish Village, southern Hebron, and transferred him, a few days after, to administrative detention for four months.

According to MADA researcher, a force of the Israeli Occupation Army raided, at around 3:00AM, on Monday corresponding 7th Sep. 2020, the house of journalist Osama Hussein Yousef Shaheen (39 years old), who works as a reporter for Bilset News Website. The soldiers smashed the house main door with the equipment they brought for this purpose, and around 10 soldiers spread out inside the house, detained journalist Shaheen along with his wife and three kids (the oldest is ten years and the youngest is four) in one room. The soldiers asked Osama to bring his identity card and personal cell phone, and they began a thorough and violent search inside the rooms of the house, during which the soldiers threw the closets on the floor and scattered the kitchenware. The search continued inside the house until 4:00AM, after which the soldiers drove the journalist Shaheen to his family's house, about 50 meters away from his house, where another force of soldiers was searching the house. At around 4:30AM, the force withdrew from the house after arresting the journalist Shaheen and seizing his cell phone. Journalist Shaheen was transferred with more than 20 other citizens who were arrested that night to an army camp in «Otniel» settlement, east of Dura, and there Shaheen stayed for about two



hours with the rest of the detainees. Then they were taken to “Telem” settlement, western Hebron, where they stayed for 5 hours. Several detainees were released, while journalist Shaheen, accompanied by other detainees, was transferred to Ofer prison, west of Ramallah. Three days following his arrest, he was transferred to administrative arrest for 4 months, and then he was transferred to Negev Desert Prison. His family learned from his lawyer that the soldiers have assaulted him in detention.

(7th Sep.) The Palestinian Police prevented a group of journalists from covering a protest sit-in and a press conference for a group of judges and lawyers in front of the courts complex in Al-Bireh City.

According to MADA researcher, the Palestinian Police placed iron barriers in front of the courts complex building which is housing the High Judicial Council. Hours before the start of a protest sit-in and a press conference that was scheduled to take place there at 10:00AM on 7th Sep. 2020, the sit-in was prevented and so the conference was scheduled to take place there. Journalist Jihan Awad, who provides news service for “Al-Jazeera Live”, arrived to prepare for the live broadcast of the event. Upon her arrival, she managed to take a picture of the security personnel who were setting up barriers in front of the courts complex and posted it on social media.

Jihan, from far away, and after she got out of the vehicle, managed to take pictures of security officers placing the barriers in front of the courts complex from all sides. Her colleague noticed some officers pointing at her while she was taking

the pictures. A few minutes later, the security officers announced that there is a decision preventing filming and stopping the event inside and outside the courts complex. Al-Jazeera Live staff had to wait on the opposite side of the police officers, but two officers followed them and stood beside them to watch whether they were going to film anything secretly. More journalists and media outlets started to arrive, including Watan TV staff. Watan TV reporter, journalist Nizar Habash, upon arrival, grabbed the cell phone and began filming. Immediately, one of the security officers told him it was not allowed to film there. In the meantime, another security officer approached the journalists and asked them if anyone had taken any pictures, and told them to delete anything that was filmed, without anyone answering him. The press crews waited to see if they would be allowed to cover, to no avail, and the police justified this that the preventing the event or filming it is decided by “higher bodies” that were not specified, which forced them to go outside the iron barriers where the lawyers and judges were standing. Some of the officers approached them also there and told Watan staff not to film the security officers and put down the camera when he saw Watan cameraman trying to film one of the security officers.

(10th Sep.) The Occupation forces have arrested journalist Abdelmuhsen Shalaldah after raiding his house in Sa’ir, Hebron.

On 10th Sep. 2020, the Occupation soldiers have arrested the cameraman and journalist of (j-media) Abdelmuhsen Shalaldah, 29 years old, from Sai’r, Hebron.

According to MADA researcher, a force of the occupation army, at 4:00AM, on Thursday, corresponding 10th Sep. 2020, raided the house of Abdelmuhsen Shalaldah (29 years old), from Sai'r, and works for (j-media). He was arrested and taken to one of the Army sites in Al-Fureidis Mount (a territory between Bethlehem and Taqou). He stayed there until 8:00AM without taking any procedures against him and then he was taken to Etzion Investigation Center, where he was questioned about his journalistic work. An officer told him not to focus too much while filming the events (clashes, suppressions, demolitions, and other procedures done by the Israeli Army in Hebron) and to film all sides and aspects. At around 11:00AM, he was released.

It is noteworthy that journalist Abdelmuhsen was wounded by a rubber bullet in the head, fired at him by one of the Israeli soldiers on 2nd February 2020, while he was doing his normal job. The process of arresting him and asking him to stop filming the soldiers' attacks is the fourth time by the Army.

(18th Sep.) The journalist Mahmoud Fawzi Abdelghani was injured by a metal gunshot while covering the peaceful march against settlement in Kufr Qadoun.

According to MADA researcher, Mahmoud Fawzi Mahmoud Abdelghani (35 years old), a freelance cameraman, arrived at Kufr Qadoun, at around 11:30AM, on Friday, corresponding 18th Sep. 2020, to cover the weekly peaceful march demanding the opening of the village street which has been closed for years. It should be noted that this march is usually

suppressed by the Israeli Army. When the march launched after the midday prayers, clashes erupted with the occupation soldiers who were hiding between the trees. At about 1:45PM while Abdelghani was about 50 meters away from the soldiers, and about 200 meters away from the demonstrators, accompanied by his colleague, the photojournalist Abdullah Qaddumi and other journalists, while they were wearing their press uniforms, was shot by a rubber-coated metal bullet in his right shoulder. Several young men helped him and took him to an ambulance that was parked 150 meters away, and there he was provided with the first aid, and the paramedics advised him to go to the hospital to follow up on his injury.

(18th Sep.) The occupation soldiers and settlers assaulted several journalists, while they were covering an event organized by the national forces and events to plant trees in the lands of Asira Al-Qibliya village in Nablus, which is threatened with confiscation.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist Jafar Zahed Ishtayya (52 years old), a cameraman for the French Agency, arrived at around 10:30AM, on 18th Sep. 2020, in the morning. There was a great number of Israeli soldiers and settlers, and they immediately tried to push him away and prevent him from filming or getting close to the event, which made him unable to take any of the photos he wanted. As a result, Ishtayya and several journalists were able to go up to a location higher than the event's location to film the assaults of the soldiers and settlers against the demonstrators in the peaceful march. Soon later, several settlers headed towards

the journalists and one of them assaulted Ishtayya with a big stick, not to mention that others have assaulted him and his colleagues by beating them with their hands which resulted in the injury of Ishtayya with bruises in his right hand and left shoulder until he received first aid in the field. During that, one of the soldiers threw a sound bomb at Palestine TV cameraman Samer Mustafa Abdel Hadi Habash (36 years old), which fell next to him but did not cause him any harm. The soldiers also prevented him and his colleague, TV reporter Baker Mohammad Sabah Abdul-Haq, from coverage while settlers pushed them away from the place.

Meanwhile, Reuters cameraman, Adel Ibrahim Abu Nimah, from Jericho who had arrived at the same place to cover the event, was assaulted by several settlers, who tried to beat him with sticks they were carrying while filming the event, which prompted him to flee quickly as his foot slipped into a hole and he fell to the ground the moment he escaped from them, while one of the soldiers prevented settlers from approaching him (after his fall), and as a result, he suffered a sprain in the ankle of his right foot and scratches in his left hand, knowing that he was far from the citizens participating in the event of planting trees at that time.

(20th Sep.) The Internal Security in Gaza Strip arrested the journalist Ameen Khaled Al-Hajeen after he was summoned.

According to MADA researcher, Ameen Khaled Al-Hajeen (27 years old), lives in Beit Lahia, northern Gaza Strip, a reporter of Al-Shorouq Algerian Newspaper,

received on Sunday, 20th Sep. 2020, a phone call from Beit Lahia Investigations, asking him to come to the Investigations headquarters at 6:30PM "only for ten minutes ... it's important". When he went to Beit Lahia Investigations, he was taken after fifteen minutes via a military vehicle to the Internal Security Headquarters in Al-Sheikh Zayed (Education Square). Upon his arrival at around 7:00PM, he was taken to solitary confinement and detained until the next day (Monday 21st Sep. 2020). Then he was taken out of the cell to the interrogation room where three investigators were waiting. The interrogation lasted about two hours and focused on his posts on Facebook, in which he criticizes the general situation in Gaza Strip. During the interrogation, he was insulted and beaten with **بقطعة جلدية فلكة**. At about 2:00PM, he was returned to his cell, and they asked him to call his brother Ahmad and ask him to delete the post on his page in which he announced his arrest, as a condition for his release. Indeed, he called his brother and the post was deleted, but they did not release him. In the evening hours, he was transferred to Kamal Adwan Hospital due to a sudden fatigue condition (shortness of breath, dizziness, emaciation, and cramps), and there he was examined in the hospital and given the necessary treatment, and then he was returned to the headquarters of the Internal Security Services and placed in the cell again. On the third day, at around 12:00PM, he was released after his belongings were returned to him (the cell phone and personal card).

It should be noted that Al-Hajeen was arrested three times by the Internal Security Services and he

was asked to sing on pledges not to stir up public emotion by criticizing the general situation in Gaza Strip.

(22nd Sep.) The Palestinian Preventive Security summoned the journalist Samer Khwaira and questioned him about his posts.

According to MADA researcher, Samer Ameen Saed Khwaira, from Nablus, a reporter and program presenter at “Hayat” Radio, received at around 9:00PM, on Tuesday corresponding 22nd Sep. 2020, a phone call asking him to come on the following morning (Wednesday) to the Preventive Security headquarters in Nablus. The caller told him “Come have a cup of coffee with us”, and Khwaira answered that he is a member of the Journalists Syndicate and if they want him to come they have to summon him through the Syndicate. The caller replied that it is only “a chat not summoning” and that he could go next week, on Sunday, corresponding 27th Sep. 2020, but it was deferred to the following day (Monday 28th Sep. 2020). At 10:00AM, on Monday corresponding 28th Sep. 2020, Khwaira went to the Preventive Security headquarters in Nablus, and after waiting for a few minutes, he was taken to a room of the Institutions Security where he was questioned for two hours about the institutions in the city, in particular Nablus Municipality. He was also questioned about the news he published on the Municipality and his sources of information. He was told that some of his posts “cause disturbance in the city” and it would be better if the Institutions Security Services is informed because it helps in controlling such disturbance and prosecuting corruption within the Municipality, and the city in general. Most of the questions revolved

around his Facebook posts. The officer asked him to cooperate in any corruption issue or case, as his role as a journalist is to help them end any problems that may happen in the city.

(23rd Sep.) The occupation authorities have arrested journalist Mujahed Mardawi at Al-Karamah Bridge, on his way back from Malaysia where he was completing his studies.

According to MADA researcher, Mujahed Hamdallah Mujahed Mardawi (27 years old), from Habla in Qalqilya, on his way back from Malaysia where he was completing his higher studies in Public Relations, at Al-Karamah Bridge at around 9:00AM, on 23rd Sep. 2020, was informed by one of the Israeli intelligence officers there that he was under arrest. He was allowed to call his family and inform them of what happened. His father said that he had received a phone call from a strange number, but turned out to be Mujahed who informed him that he was being detained by the Israeli intelligence without knowing the reason, and he could not tell him any other details, or identify the location of his detention and ended the call.

Mardawi’s family was able to learn from his lawyer later that he was arrested at “Petah Tikva” Investigation Center and that a court session was scheduled for him on 29th Sep. 2020 but was deferred to 6th Oct. 2020 in Al-Jalamah.

(25th Sep.) The photojournalist Nidal Ishtayya was shot with two metal bullets fired at him by the occupation soldiers while he was covering a demonstration against settlement in Kufr Qadoun.

According to MADA researcher,

Nidal Shafeeq Taher Ishtayya (50 years old), a cameraman of Xinhua News Agency, arrived on Friday 25th Sep. 2020, to Kufr Qadoun, Qalqilya, to cover the weekly march organized there against settlement and to close the town's entrance that has been going for years. Upon his arrival, he began filming the march that started from Omar Mosque in the center of the town and crossed several hundreds of meters heading towards the entrance to the town. Meanwhile, clashes were taking place between the demonstrators and the occupation soldiers who were deployed in the neighboring fields, and who were firing metal bullets and tear gas bombs at the demonstrators. At about 1:15PM, the confrontations intensified and the journalists covering these events dispersed in different places, while Nidal and Palestine TV reporter Anal Al-Jada, Palestine TV cameraman Mohammad Inaya, and cameraman Jaafar Ishtayyah remained in the same location, but when they saw the soldiers approaching a few meters, they retreated (the Journalists) to the back, and in those moments Nidal was injured by two metal bullets, one in the right flank and the other in the right armpit. His colleagues rushed to help him move away to a safe place, knowing that he and his colleagues were wearing protective vests.

(25th Sep.) The journalists Adel Abu Nema and Nasser Ishtayya, as a result of direct targeting by soldiers during their coverage of a tree-planting event in an area, threatened with confiscation in Asira Al-Qibliya, south of Nablus.

According to MADA researcher, Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission and the National Forces

called everyone to go on Friday 25th Sep. 2020 to one of the citizen's lands in Asira Al-Qibliya threatened with confiscation and settlement, to plough the land and plant tree, which attracted many journalists to cover this peaceful event. As the people gathered on their lands, an Israeli army force stormed the gathering and began firing a barrage of tear gas and sound bombs to disperse them and drive them away from their lands. Meanwhile, journalist Adel Ibrahim Mustafa Abu Nema (52 years old), who works as a cameraman for Reuters TV, accompanied by a number of his colleagues, was far from the gathering and was wearing the press uniform and a gas mask. The soldiers fired tear gas bombs heavily towards the journalists' gathering. Abu Nema tried to move away from the bombs, but he was very close to the extent the gas leaked into his mask, causing him suffocation that he had to take it off. One of his colleagues (Fadi Al-Jayousi, Palestine TV cameraman), laid him down on the floor and tried to give him the aid he needed, including CPR, especially the firing of gas bombs continued targeting them that he had to move him away. After Abu Nema regained consciousness, he left and returned to his home. When the 48-year-old journalist Nasser Sulaiman Ishtayya, a cameraman with the Israeli Agency Flash and Associated Press, saw what happened with his colleague Abu Nema, and the soldiers' deliberate targeting of journalists, colleague Shtayyeh withdrew, moved a few meters away from the demonstrators, he retreated and stood next to a wooden electric pole in an attempt to shelter from any targeting. At about 11:30AM, one of

the soldiers fired a gas bomb (the type of a missile - which is a cylindrical tube) at him, injuring him directly in the upper back, even though he was about 300 meters away from the soldiers' gathering. An ambulance took him after he received the field aid, and after about an hour he left to return to his home.

(29th Sep.) The occupation forces have seized a vehicle of Palestine TV in Yarza Village, Tubas, while the TV staff was covering a demolition of one of the houses by the Israeli Occupation.

According to MADA researcher, Palestine TV staff, including the reporter Ameer Shaheen, the cameraman Loay Samhan, and the driver Sulaiman Hajjah, have arrived at around 10:00AM, on 29th Sep. 2020. To Yarza village, where a force of the occupation army was deployed not to mention the military bulldozer that started demolishing the houses of citizens in the Village. When the staff arrived and stopped at 100 meters away from the military force, the soldiers approached them and one of the officers asked who were they and whether they were from the Palestinian Authority. Journalist Ameer Shaheen stated that they are Palestine TV staff and they were there only to cover the event. The officer asked them to leave claiming that "it is a closed military zone" due to the demolishes. The staff tried to tell them that they will only film the event and leave, but the officer seized their IDs and job cards, and detained them for half an hour, and prevented them from filming. After that, an official of the so-called Israeli "civil administration" (his name is Avi) came and asked them about their work, and told them that the vehicle (TV vehicle) belonged to the

Palestinian Authority, and ordered them to empty the vehicle of their personal belongings, cameras, and equipment, and told them that the vehicle is seized for entering a closed military zone. Then he gave the vehicle's driver (Sulaiman Ghassan Hajja) the decision of the confiscation order, and it said (violation ... a government vehicle entered a closed military zone). It should be noted that Palestine TV vehicle is still seized until this day (1st Oct. 2020).

## ► **October:**

(1st Oct.) The Israeli Occupation Forces have arrested journalist Tareq Abu Zaid from his house located in Nablus.

According to MADA researcher, a force of the occupation army, at 3:30AM, on Thursday, corresponding 1st Oct. 2020, has raided the house of Tareq Zbdelrazeq Dawoud Abu Zaid (45 years old), who is a freelance journalist, located in Nablus, after blowing up his front door and raiding the room where he and his wife sleep. The force searched the house for half an hour, seized a number of official documents for journalist Abu Zaid, his cell phone, laptop, his kids' Ipad, arrested and transferred him to Petah Tikva Investigation Center, where he stayed until a closed court hearing was held for him on 4th Oct. 2020 at Salem Court. His detention was extended for 9 days, and on 12th Oct. 2020 he was again brought before Salem Court and his file was referred to Prosecution. His lawyer requested to visit him on the same day (12th Oct. 2020) but her request for the visit was denied. She was allowed to visit him on the following day (13th Oct. 2020). His lawyer told his wife that the investigation with



Tareq is about his journalistic work, and that he was brought again for questioning. On 18th Oct. 2020, the Military Occupation Court at Salem extended Abu Zaid's arrest for another 8 days, to refer his file and search for the possibility to place an indictment against him.

(2nd Oct.) Five journalists were injured while covering clashes following a march organized in Kafr Qaddoum, Qalqilya, against settlement in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of Al-Aqsa Intifada. According to MADA researcher, on Friday afternoon, 2nd Oct. 2020, once the weekly organized march against settlement was launched, while it was being covered by many journalists, the occupation soldiers, who were deployed in various locations around the town, started firing rubber bullets, tear gas bombs, and sound bombs to suppress the march, resulting in the injury of several journalists.

While journalist Abdullah Bahsh (23 years old), a reporter of Al-Quds News Network, was covering the march, 200 meters away from the demonstrators, he was injured by a rubber bullet in his right foot. He received field treatment, and left to his house. At around 2:00PM, while Hassan Khaled Hassan Nafe' (Dabbous) (29 years old), a freelance cameraman, and a volunteer at Btselem Organization, was at 50 meters away from the soldiers, trying to move away from the clashes to a secured area, was injured by a rubber bullet in his hand fired at him by one of the soldiers. He was transferred via a Red Crescent Ambulance to Rafidia Hospital in Nablus, where he was imaged and the x-ray images showed that he

had bruises, infection and swelling in his hand. Furthermore, journalist Ameer Zayed Ahmad Shehadah (33 years old) Al-Arabi TV reporter, was injured by a rubber bullet in his right elbow from the back, causing him swelling and cramping. He went to the hospital where he was imaged and underwent some examinations that showed bruises. He received the necessary treatment and was discharged. In the meantime, the photojournalist Ahmad Talaat Fawzi Hassan (27 years old), a freelance cameraman, was injured by a stone in his knee while the demonstrators were throwing stones at the army. He was taken to Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah, where he underwent x-ray images and found to have bruises. He received the necessary treatment and left to his house. At around 1:30PM, WAFA Agency cameraman, Ayman Ameen Ibrahim Nobani (34 years old), was injured by a rubber bullet in his right shoulder while he was covering the events, and he was also injured by a stone in his leg by one of the demonstrators who were throwing stones at the soldiers.

(11th Oct.) No less than 15 journalists were injured after being assaulted by the Occupation Forces while they were covering the attempts of citizens in Burqa, Ramallah, trying to access their lands for olive harvesting close to an outpost constructed on the village's lands, along with a number of volunteers.

According to MADA researcher, dozens of farmers from Burqa, east Ramallah, went on Friday morning, 11th Oct. 2020, to their lands located to the west of the village, near an outpost that is constructed there, to harvest their olive trees, accompanied by a number of journalists and



media crews. Before they arrived to their lands, they were surprised with groups of soldiers deployed in various locations near their lands. They assaulted the farmers and fired tear gas bombs and rubber bullets at them. They also tried to prevent the citizens and journalists from being present there. They directly assaulted them, pursued and kicked them out claiming it is a military zone. This resulted in the injury of dozens of citizens with suffocation, including a number of journalists. They tried to arrest some of the journalists and seize their equipment, while some of them were injured by rubber bullets and others were assaulted and pursued not to mention preventing them from coverage. These violations have affected: the cameraman of Anatolia Agency Hisham Abu Shaqra (rubber bullet in the neck), the French Press Agency cameraman Abbas Abulwahhab Al-Momani (pushed and assaulted), Reuters Agency cameraman Adel Ibrahim Abu Nema (pushed and assaulted), Iranian Iribnews reporter Khaled Sabarnah (attempted arrest and kicked out), Al-Jazeera Live report Alaa Al-Rimawi (assaulted, attempted seizure of equipment and scratches due to throwing a sound bomb at his feet), Associated Press cameraman Imad Mohammad Saed (pushed by one of the soldiers deliberately while he was on a 2.5-meter wall, which made him fall and got injured with bruises), BBC Network cameraman Jimmy Moris Michel (two gas bombs were fired from zero distance directly at him causing him and his colleague suffocation, he was also prevented from coverage while being injured from the soldiers who threatened him at gunpoint, but one of the

ambulance volunteers managed to get to him even though the soldiers prevented him from getting closer at the beginning), Al-Hayat Al-Jadida Newspaper and Anatolia Agency cameraman Issam Huda Al-Rimawi (injured twice by a gas bomb fired directly at his shoulder). They were all suffocated, threatened, pursued, kicked out and prevented from coverage by the soldiers, even though they were wearing the press uniform. Furthermore, the following journalists were prevented from coverage and got kicked out from the location of events not to mention suffocated due to the tear gas bombs: Reuters cameraman Mohammad Ali Turkman (50 years old), Al-Arabiya TV and Quds News Network cameraman Mutasem Saqf Al-Hait (27 years old), the cameraman Samed Tawfiq Baghdadi (28 years old), the cameraman of Associated Press Naser Naser, the journalist Abdelrahman Younes, the European Agency cameraman Alaa Tawfeq Badarnah, and Al-Jazeera Live cameraman Mohammad Awad.

(13th Oct.) The settlers and occupation soldiers prevented Palestine TV staff to cover the establishment of an outpost in Beit Dajan, detained them along with two other persons from the village to be interviewed within the report from the place.

Palestine TV staff (composed of reporter Baker Mohammad Sabah Mamdouh Abdelhaq, cameraman Samer Al-Habash, and driver Abdullah Sawalmah), went at 11:00PM, to cover the assaults of settlers and the establishment of an outpost above the lands of Beit Dajan, eastern Nablus, northern West Bank, accompanied by Naser Abu Jaish, the Chairman of the

Popular Committee to Defend Beit Dajan Lands, and Abdelraheem Hanini, Beit Dajan Council Chairman, to show them the relevant location and be interviewed about it.

While the staff was live broadcasting the assaults, a number of armed settlers approached them and attempted to prevent the staff from filming and broadcasting, by threatening and cursing them. Fifteen minutes later, another group of settlers showed up and informed the staff that they are under detention. Immediately after that, a force of the occupation army came and seize their IDs to be checked. Ten minutes later, one of the officers returned their IDs and told them they were under arrest. Abo Baker told them that the staff is only doing its job and will leave eventually, so the officer told them to leave the location (except for the activist Naser Abu Jaish who was with them, to kidnap him) but the staff insisted to leave altogether as they came. After one hour of detention, they were released and left the location.

(16th Oct.) The journalist working for Ajyal Radio Network, Firas Al-Taweel was exposed to a series of threats through the social media sites by a group of lawyers, after he posting a press investigation on 16th Oct. on the illegal charges the lawyers and their Bar collect for endorsing legal documents and powers of attorney, but forcing the notary public not to authenticate any document unless after the seal of the Bar Association, as came in the investigation. Al-Taweel, on 16th Oct., posted the first material of the press investigation on the social media sites, and two hours later, it was the entire investigation was published by Ajyal Radio Network, ROYA TV, and Areej

Network for Press Investigations. Once the press investigation was first posted and then the entire investigation, the threats and curses would not stop against the journalist Al-Taweel, on his personal page as well as some of the lawyers closed groups. It escalated to the extent that one of the lawyers threatened Al-Taweel with the same horror fate as of that of the Jordanian young man whose hands were chopped off and eyes gouged by a local Jordanian criminal gang. Therefore, Al-Taweel, on 20th Oct., filed a complaint before the Palestinian Attorney General's Office, along with the Journalists Syndicate Board member Omar Nazzal, to pursue these threats and curses and take the necessary legal action, noting that the threats varied and ranged between chopping off his hands, gouging his eyes, fighting with him if he goes to Jericho, legally prosecute him, and others. None of these threats have actually addressed anything related to the contents of the investigation. rather, they targeted him personally, as he attached some of these threats and comments with the complaint filed at the Public Prosecution.

(16th Oct.) The photojournalist Issam Al-Rimawi was injured by a gas bomb in his shoulder while he was covering events in Beit Dajan.

According to MADA researcher, the photojournalist Issam Huda Al-Rimawi (36 years old), words for Anatolia Turkish Agency and Al-Hayat Newspaper, before Friday noon, 16th Nov. 2020, went to Beit Dajan, eastern Nablus, to cover a march against the outpost established above the lands of the village. While a number of journalists were covering the march 200 meters away from the demonstrators, the

occupation soldiers threatened them more than once and asked them to leave. In the meantime, the soldiers fired sound and tear gas bombs directly and heavily at them to force them to leave. One of the gas bombs injured the journalist Al-Rimawi in his shoulder causing him surface wounds that was treated in the field by the Red Crescent Ambulance staff that was present there.

(16th Oct.) The occupation soldiers assaulted Palestine TV staff while it was covering clashes in Kafr Qaddoum, amid their live broadcast to Palestine TV even though they were far from the soldiers and demonstrators, resulting in their suffocation.

According to MADA researcher, Palestine TV staff, composed of the cameraman Mohammad Mahmoud Hassan Inaya (28 years old), and the reporter Anal Basem Aref Al-Jada' (31 years old), has arrived Kafr Qaddoum, Qalqilya, at around 12:20PM, on Friday 16th Oct. 2020, wearing the blue press uniform, the helmet and the mask to protect themselves from the tear gas. They started covering the weekly march taking place every Friday since more than ten years against the settlement and closing the village entrance. Once the demonstrators crossed 500 meters away from the Village's center, where the march usually starts, clashes erupted with the occupation soldiers who were hiding under the olive trees. At that moment, Palestine TV staff and four other journalists were standing at a house corner 100 meters away from the soldiers, and few meters away from the demonstrators. The soldiers started firing metal bullets, sound and gas bombs randomly at them. At 12:45PM, the

clashes escalated and the soldiers approached the demonstrators to suppress them and stationed themselves at the corner where the journalists were standing, forcing four journalists to step back while the cameraman Mohammad Inaya and the cameraman Jafar Ishtayya continued documenting the events two meters away from the soldiers who asked them later to leave. Shortly after, while Mohammad Inaya and his coworker Anal Al-Jada as well as the cameraman Mohammad Inaya were close to the olive mill at the closed street corner, and Al-Jada' was broadcasting to Palestine TV Live, and the soldiers were 200 meters away, they started firing gas bombs at the staff even though no demonstrators were around them, resulting in the injury of Anal Al-Jada with severe suffocation, and vomiting which required taking him by the ambulance. He was injured severely because he took the mask off while he was live broadcasting, and his coworker was also suffocated.

(27th Oct.) The Israeli Police detained the journalist Moath Amarna while he was going to his treatment in Jerusalem City after being transferred to one of its centers even though he had an Israeli permit to receive treatment in Jerusalem.

According to MADA researcher, at around 10:00AM, on Tuesday, 27th Oct. 2020, the journalist Moath Ibrahim Atiya Al-AMarnah, 30 years old, arrived to (AL-Misrara) vehicles parking at Bab Al-Amoud, Jerusalem, to head to Hadassa Hospital, to underwent medical examination and receive medical reports on his injury by gunshot fragments fired at him by one of the Israeli Borders Police while he was covering a peaceful march western Souref, western

Hebron, on Friday 15th Nov. 2019. One of the Israeli police officers stopped Moath and asked for his ID card and entry permit to Jerusalem, and indeed he responded to the officer's orders. Ten minutes later, the police informed Moath that there is no permit allowing him to enter to Jerusalem City and Amarnah replied that he entered the city (300) times through the checkpoint, under a medical permit that was issued for him (despite the security prevention) as he has been receiving medical treatment at Hadassa Hospital for a long time. The police officer asked Moath to accompany him to the police vehicle that took them to the Israeli police center in Salah Al-Deen street, where the journalist was taken to a room inside of which the police investigator was waiting. He was questioned about the reason he was in Jerusalem without having a permit to enter. After an argument, journalist Amarnah asked the police officer to bring his cell phone and he contacted the Israeli Liaison at "Gush Etzion" settlement where the permit was issued and informed them that he was detained by the police in one of its centers claiming he does not have a permit. After two-hour argument, Amarnah was released.

It is worth mentioning that Amarnah lost his left eye due to an injury by gunshot fragments that have settled near his brain cavity as the doctors fear it may move at any moment especially, they could not remove it given the gravity of the operation. Not only he had lost his eye due to injury, he also lost his job at the news agency he used to work for.

(27th Oct.) The occupation forces have arrested the journalist Abdelrahman Asad Aref Al-Thaher from his house located in Nablus.

According to MADA researcher, a force of the occupation army, arrived on Tuesday 27th Oct. 2020, at dawn, to the house of the director, producer and presenter of programs at An-Najah TV, Abdelrahman Asaf Aref Al-Thaher (38 years old), knocked on the house door and when he opened the door for them, they asked for his ID. When he went to bring the ID, around 20 soldiers entered the house after him and were all over the living room searching it. One of the officers asked him if he was taking any medication to bring it and asked where was his office the house but he answered that he has no office other than that at his workplace. The officer told him that he is going to come with them, they seized his cell phone, handcuffed and arrested him. Later, his wife contacted HaMoked, the Israeli Human Rights Organization and learned that in 24 hours that he was at Howara Camp.

(23rd Oct.) The Occupation soldiers have prevented journalist Mashhour Al-Wahwah from filming and threatened him with arrest.

According to MADA researcher, journalist Mashhour Hassan Mahmoud Al-Wahwah (39 years old), from Dora, southwest Hebron, a photojournalist who works for WAFA Agency, has arrived at about 1:00PM, on Fridat, 23rd Oct. 2020, to Bab Al-Zawiya, central Hebron, to cover the clashes between the Palestinians who were throwing stones and the Israeli occupation soldiers, where the Palestinian demonstrators have closed the road leading to Wadi Al-Tuffah street and Beir Al-Sabe' old street. The soldiers were few meters away from the military checkpoint in Al-Shuhada' closed street on the opposite side. Journalist Al-Wahwah was in a nearby location close to

the soldiers, who were firing sound and tear gas bombs randomly at the Palestinians who were throwing stones and chased one of them. Once the soldiers arrested one of the demonstrators who were throwing stones, Al-Wahwah approached to film it, but two soldiers assaulted him, started shouting and asked him to move away. When he tried to talk to them, one of the soldiers pushed him to back and threatened him with arrest if he would not leave and stop filming. Al-Wahwah tried to take pictures from far away, but the soldier came after him and kept shouting at him, forcing him to move farther and leave the site of the events. No one except him was present with the journalists at the site.

(October) Facebook Company has closed no less than 4 news pages belonging to Palestinian journalists claiming they violate the publishing/posting criteria.

According to MADA field researcher, Facebook Company has blocked, for one month, all of the accounts of the Israeli affairs activist and journalist Mohammad Abu Alan Daraghme, starting from 1st Oct. until 1st Nov. for the claim of "incitement" and violating the posting criteria noting that all of the page's posts claimed to have violated these criteria are only news, and translations of the same. The block included all of his accounts including the main page that is followed by 7000 users, and when he activated a back up account after 48 hours, it was closed as well.

On Wednesday, 28th Oct. 2020, the main page of "Quds Today" TV was closed. It is a Palestinian page that posts daily news as well as social and political programs and other news

about prisoners (broadcasts a total of 26 programs through the Facebook page), based in Al-Shorouq Tower, Gaza City, and followed by 60,000 users, verified by Facebook. It was closed claiming that it posts "issues violating the public policies and criteria of Facebook". The page received notifications on this regard as stated by the Executive Director of the TV channel Eng. Wael Rajab Naseem Fannounah. Most of the notifications received by the Channel were about its program broadcasted about the case of the prisoner Maher Al-Akhras, who has been on food strike inside the Israeli Occupation prisons for 97 days, in addition to the program "Hona Al-Asima/the Capital is Here" which addresses Jerusalem city and Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Israeli violations against the same. The TV channel administration contacted Facebook Company on the closure immediately but did not receive any response and thus created a new page.

It should be noted that Facebook Company has previously closed the TV official page twice. The first time was in November 2018 and the second was at the end of 2019. The third closure was after one year post the last one.

On 5th Oct. 2020, Facebook Company has closed the account of freelance journalist Imad Issa Jebrel, claiming it violates the posting criteria. This was the fourth time his page was closed since the beginning of September 2020 when it was closed and journalist Jebrel could not create any new page for being linked to his personal email address and personal cell phone number.

On Sunday, 25th Oct. 2020, the social networking site Facebook

suspended, for three renewable days, the page of the Jordanian channel “ROYA” reporter in the West Bank, journalist Hafez Mahmoud Abu Sabra, from publishing and commenting on for allegedly publishing content that violates Facebook standards, according to Facebook’s claim. The block for posting on Abu Sabra page came after it published a comment about the Palestinian prisoner on hunger strike (Maher Al-Akhras), on the 92nd day of his hunger strike in the Israeli prison, and he received a message from Facebook several minutes after posting, in which he was informed that he was blocked from posting and commenting through his page. After he contacted Facebook Company, he was informed that he had published content that violated Facebook standards, and his activity on his page was suspended for a period of three days, subject to renewal.

Furthermore, Facebook Company has closed “Dora Media Network” website, which is a social news website, run by journalist Issa Abu and followed by 80,000 users, claiming it violated the posting criteria. It is believed that this closure is linked to listing the names of Palestinian martyrs and organizations. He was forced to create a new page (Dora Media) noting that in 2018 and 2019 Dora Network Page was also closed. (30th Oct.) The Occupation forces have arrested the freelance photojournalist Abdelafou Bassam Al-Zughair while he was covering a demonstration in Jerusalem City, who was alienated from Al-Aqsa for one week, and summoned him to another investigation after the expiry of his alienation.

According to MADA researcher, on 30th Oct. 2020, after Friday prayers, at Al-Aqsa Mosque, in Jerusalem, a demonstration was launched to protest against the offense of the messenger Mohammad - All Prayers and Blessings of Allah be upon him- in which thousands of prayers have taken part. The occupation forces have assaulted the demonstrators and some of the journalists who were covering the demonstration, and arrested the freelance photojournalist Abdelafou Bassam Abdelafou Al-Zughair (28 years old), and took him to “Al-Yaho” Investigation Center at Bab Al-Silsilah, where he was taken by the police vehicle to Al-Qashla Investigation Center at Bab Al-Khaleel. He was questioned about the demonstration and those who planned it, as well as about the parties who organized the same and the figures that took part thereof, noting that he informed them from the beginning that he is only a photojournalist. The investigator showed him some pictures of him while he was at Al-Aqsa Mosque and asked him about the person in the pictures and he replied that it was him and he was there doing his work. He was released from Al-Qashla Center at about 5:00PM provided he stays away from Al-Aqsa Mosque for one week as of the date of arrest (until Thursday 5th Nov. 2020) and visit the center afterwards (Thursday, 5th Nov. 2020) to be questioned at Al-Qashla Center. He was threatened with another alienation order for a period of six months.

## ► **November:**

(2nd-10th Nov.) The Israeli occupation intelligence services summoned the journalist Christine Rinawi twice. She was questioned the



first time, and the second time she was given a decision on extending the closure of the Palestine TV office in Jerusalem and preventing it from working for another six months.

According to MADA researcher, the Israeli Intelligence Services summoned Palestine TV reporter in Jerusalem, Christine Khaled Waleed Al-Rinawi (31 years old), as the Prisoner Club Lawyer Mufeed Al-Haj was contacted by telephone, at 1:00 PM, on 2nd Nov. 2020, so she comes to Moscobiya Investigation Center at 3:00 PM, on 2nd Nov. 2020. Indeed, she went on the said schedule, and the investigation with her lasted for two hours and a half for suspicion of violating the decision of the Israeli Minister of Interior, which prohibits Palestine TV from operating in Jerusalem, which has been valid for about a year. She was questioned about the nature of the work of Palestine TV in Jerusalem and the political movement in the City. This included clues from the investigator about extending the Israeli decision on closing the Palestine TV office in Jerusalem for another six months. After the investigation with Christine ended, she was released in the afternoon on a bail (paper-unpaid bail) of three thousand shekels, and to return to the investigation center when she was summoned again to hand her over a decision on renewing the order preventing Palestine TV from operating in Jerusalem. On 10th Nov. 2020, the Occupation Intelligence Services summoned the journalist Christine again through a phone call, and she went to Mascobiya Center where she was given a new decision on extending the period during which Palestine TV must not operate inside the City of Jerusalem for another six

months.

It is worth mentioning that this is the 8th summons for journalist Christine Rinawi, on the background of her work for Palestine TV, noting that the Occupation Authorities have raided the TV Office, destroyed the filming equipment, and arrested the TV staff.

(8th Nov.) The Israeli Occupation Forces have arrested the journalist Bushra Al-Taweel, 27 years old, on Sunday evening, corresponding 8th Nov. 2020, from Al-Bireh, while she was moving between Jenin and Al-Bireh after she was detained at a hasty military checkpoint.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist Bushra Al-Taweel (27 years old), from Al-Bireh, while she was at around 6:00 PM, on Sunday, corresponding 8th Nov. 2020, with one of her friends and their children, heading home from Jenin to Al-Bireh, was stopped by the occupation soldiers while passing through a movable checkpoint the soldiers have set up at Yitzhar settlement street. They searched the vehicle she was riding and then one of the soldiers asked for her personal identity card and her friend's. Then he asked her to dismount the vehicle and made her wait for 45 minutes. After checking the IDs, one of the soldiers came to tell Bushra she was arrested and to ask her friend to leave. Bushra then called her mother and told her she was arrested. She was taken to a detention center and was prevented to contact or communicate with her friend. On the following day, Monday 9th Nov. 2020, Bushra's family learned she was arrested at Hasharon Prison and that the occupation authorities have tested her for COVID-19, to be



questioned two days later, as the lawyer informed her family. It should be noted that Bushra was arrested administratively before for seven months and a half and was released on 28th July 2020.

(8th Nov.) The Preventive Security Services in Nablus summoned the journalist Mohammad Anwar Fathi Mona and questioned him.

According to MADA researcher, Mohammad Anwar Fathi Mona (38 years old), from Nablus, a reporter for SANAD News Agency, received at around 10:30 AM, on Sunday, corresponding 8th Nov. 2020, a phone call from someone who introduced himself as an officer of the Preventive Security Services and that he would like “to have him” come to the Preventive Security Services HQ. Mona asked whether this was a summons only or arrest, the caller said it was just “a summons”. So, Mona said he could not come on the said day but could show up on the following day. At around 10:00 AM, on the following morning (Monday, 9th Nov. 2020) Mona arrived at the Preventive Security Services HQ where they took his personal card and had him wait inside a caravan outside the HQ for half an hour. A military officer then came and took him to the investigation room, where two other officers were waiting to question him. He was questioned about his study, the type of press field he works in, with who has he worked since graduation, and what he does currently (and about SANAD News Agency offices he works at currently), his salary and how he receives it, the transfers he receives, the colleagues he works with at the Agency in Nablus, and some of the press coverages he had done including covering some events

at Balata Camp. The Investigation lasted for half an hour, then he left the room. An hour later, the officer told him to bring evidence of employment at the Agency he works for, and another from the Journalists Syndicate. This is in addition to another summons another officer gave him to come back at 10:00 AM on Thursday 12th Nov. 2020. On the aforementioned schedule, the journalist arrived at the HQ and after handing over his ID, he waited until noon when the officer took his papers that he was asked to bring in the summons and then he left the HQ. Mona asked the investigators and officers about equipment that was seized from him by the Preventive Security Service HQ when he was arrested on 25th Feb. 2020 (a laptop, 2 cell phones, and a small camera). The officer told him that he will check with the HQ in Ramallah and will contact him once they receive the equipment.

(13th Nov.) The photojournalist Hazem Bader (52 years old) was injured by a gas bomb fired at him by an Israeli soldier while he was covering clashes in Hebron City.

According to MADA researcher, at around 12:50 PM, on Friday, corresponding 13th Nov. 2020, the photojournalist Hazem Jameel Ragheb Bader (52 years old), arrived to the French News Agency, Bab Al-Zawiya area, central Hebron City, to cover clashes between the soldiers and stone-throwers. Upon the arrival of journalist Bader to the area opposite the military checkpoint at the northern entrance of Al-Shuhada' closed street, a group of soldiers were standing behind the concrete blocks, 20 meters away from journalist Bader who was in his press uniform, and while a group of

young men were on the other side throwing stones at the soldiers, one of the soldiers fired gas bomb that injured the journalist, Bader, in his right leg, forcing him to slowly walk to a hallway that leads to one of the nearby houses where he sat to rest from the severe pain. Bader checked his leg that swollen so quickly while the photojournalist Mamoun Wazwaz arrived and provided him with first aid. Bader left 20 minutes later to Al-Ahly Hospital in Hebron in his vehicle. He took some medical tests and was imaged. The x-ray image showed a rupture in the right leg muscle. He was given the needed treatment and prevented from moving on his right leg for a week.

(18th Nov.) The Occupation Army stormed the house of journalist Raed Abu Rmailah in Hebron and searched it.

According to MADA researcher, at around 9:00 PM, on Wednesday, 18th Nov. 2020, a force of the Israeli Occupation soldiers, stormed the house of freelance journalist Raed Jihad Abu Rmailah (47 years old), located near the military checkpoint (Abu Al-Reesh) at the southern entrance of the old city of Hebron City. Abu Rmailah and his family were detained in one room while the force searched and messed around the house. The search lasted for 15 minutes, then the soldiers left the house after completing the search and did not take journalist Abu Rmailah with them. At around 10:00 PM on the same day, the same force stormed the house again, detained the journalist and his family in a room, and searched the house again without allowing the journalist to witness the search. They checked the surveillance cameras installed around the house while one of the

soldiers dismantled the recording device of the surveillance cameras to seize it. However, Abu Rmailah intervened and prevented the soldiers from doing so. The officer addressed Abu Rmailah “you cause troubles in the area” and they left the house 10 minutes after the search was done. Abu Rmailah works in documenting the violations of the occupation army and settlers in the old city of Hebron and Sanctuary of Abraham where journalists are prohibited.

(19th Nov.) “RAYA FM Radio” deleted from its website an episode of “Panorama Program” presented by journalists Aseel Salman Reehan (22 years old), a diverse entertaining radio show presented by Aseel through RAYA FM, between Saturday until Wednesday each week.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist Aseel, at the beginning of that episode, has intensely criticized the Palestinian Authority's decision on complying again with the agreements signed with Israel. This introduction, which was first posted on Aseel's Instagram, raised broad interaction through social media.

Therefore, after the video surfaced, much debate stirred up on the Administration of RAYA FM Radio referring the journalist Aseel to an investigation committee and dismissing her from work, which turned out to be wrong later on. The journalist Salman did not receive any letter under which she should be transferred to an investigation committee by the Radio Administration or that she is dismissed, or that any other procedure is taken against her. she was asked to stick to the introduction of the program and make sure it is in

line with the diverse content of the topics she presents in the program. The journalist Aseel did not receive any calls and was not contacted by the security services, noting they contacted and communicated with the Radio Administration to find out what happened, as the radio administration, in turn, contacted Aseel's father to inform him of what had happened, while the director of the radio and Aseel's father received phone calls from figures of Fatah Movement, talking to them about the program and what had Aseel said in the opening. (19th-21st, Nov.) The General Investigation Services in the northern governorate of Gaza Strip summoned journalists Yousef Fares and Mohammad Al-Khalidi to the Cybercrimes Department of the Investigation Services, to interrogate them on charges of defaming workers in Al-Falah Charitable Society.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist at Naba' Press News Agency Yousef Mohammad Hussein Fares (30 years old) received a notification on 9th Nov. 2020 to go to the Investigations Services HQ in the North Governorate as soon as he receives the notification, but he refused to obey their orders. Ten days later, on 19th Nov. 2020, another notification was sent to his house located in Tal Al-Za'tar, northern Gaza Strip, but he wasn't at home then. One hour later, after the notification was sent, a major from the Cybercrime Department of the Investigation Services contacted him to inform him that he must come to the department immediately. At around 11:30 PM, on the same day, the journalist Fares arrived at the department, where he

was questioned on the background of "defaming Al-Falah Charitable Society for republishing a report he had prepared 4 years ago through "Naba' News Agency" when he used to be the Editor-in-Chief then. Note that the report revolves around the death of a child in Al-Falah Society gymnasium, and the negligence and carelessness on the part of the administration and workers of the Society in dealing with the incident. In his defense, the journalist Fares indicated that the Society's Director is the complainant but he passed away about two weeks ago. Thus, the case is dropped with the death of its complainant, but the officer promised him to transfer the case to the Public Prosecution to complete the investigation, and after about half an hour of the investigation, the journalist Fares signed the record of his statements and left the headquarters.

On 21st Nov. Misbar Website Reporter, Mohammad Abdelhameed Hassan Al-Khalidi (33 years old) received summons to go to the Cybercrimes Department at the General Intelligence Services in the North Governorate, for the charge of defaming Al-Falah Charitable Society. Immediately after receiving the notification, the journalist Mohammad went to the department, and there he was questioned about the case of "defamation" against Al-Falah Society, through his own Facebook account, accusing its director and employees of "corruption and exploitation of aid money that comes to the poor for their personal interests." The journalist Al-Khalidi responded to those accusations that what he published about the Society falls within the exercise of his right to

freedom of opinion and expression, and the officer threatened him to transfer the case file to the Public Prosecution to take legal measures against the “accused in this case”. After Al-Khalidi signed his statement upon the request of the officer, he left the headquarters.

(24th Nov.) The journalist Ameer Shaheen was injured by a gas bomb fired at him by the soldiers while covering a march against settlement in the Northern Valleys.

According to MADA researcher, Ameer Hilmi Mohammad Shaheen (29 years old), a press reporter for Palestine TV in Tubas, went at 12:30 PM, on Tuesday 24th Nov. 2020, to cover a march against a settlement that was heading towards Kherbet Hamsah Al-Foqa in the Northern Valleys demolished by the occupation three weeks earlier. When the march reached the military checkpoint located near the village of Tayasir (5 km east of Tubas), the soldiers prevented the march and suppressed it with tear gas bombs to disperse the demonstrators. Meanwhile (around 01:20 PM), while the journalist Shaheen, who was wearing the press uniform and covering these events, was on a live broadcast and interviewing one of the demonstrators, the soldiers prevented him from continuing his work and someone pushed him. Twenty minutes later, while Shaheen continued covering these events, one of the soldiers fired a tear gas bomb directly at him, injuring him in the right foot, causing him a slight injury, and he left the place without going to any health center.

(30th Nov.) Israeli settlers and soldiers have assaulted no less than 13 journalists while covering a

peaceful march against settlement and prevented them from coverage.

According to MADA researcher, a peaceful march started at around 10:30 AM, on Monday 30th Nov. 2020 against the settlers for leveling the land at “Al-Ra’s” area, western Salfeet, and initiating the construction of a new outpost there. About half an hour after the demonstrators arrived at the site, a great number of settlers arrived and began verbal and physical attacks against the demonstrators and assaulted some of them with batons. This resulted in hand-to-hand fighting with the demonstrators, and about 10 minutes after the settlers arrived, an army force arrived as well. Soon the soldiers began firing a barrage of tear gas bombs at the Palestinian demonstrators to disperse them and drive them away, so the settlers, some of whom had dogs with them and were armed, were not allowed to show their weapons in the face of demonstrators and journalists alike. While the journalists were filming the soldiers’ assaults against some demonstrators and their attempts to arrest them, settlers attacked the journalists and tried to seize the equipment of some of them, threw stones at them, chased them, and kicked them away, and prevented them from reporting. As a result, three journalists were injured with the settlers’ stones, namely: Anatolia Agency Cameraman Hisham Abu Shaqra (injured by a stone in the right leg), “Al-Ghad TV” cameraman Hazem Imad Husni Nasser (30 years old), injured by a stone in his leg too, the French News Agency cameraman Jafar Zahed Ishtayya (51 years old), injured by a stone on his left shoulder. This forced all journalists to move back and away from the

settlers' assaults who prevented them from coverage and chased them. This affected the journalists: GMedia cameraman Tarek Yousef, the cameraman AlaaBadarnah (48 years old), "Al-Ghad" TV reporter Khaled Saleh Mahmoud Budair (32 years old), Reuters cameraman Raneen Sawafta, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida Newspaper cameraman Issam Huda Al-Rimawi, Xinhua News Agency cameraman Nidal Shafeeq Ishtayya (49 years old), the American News Agency cameraman Majdi Mohammad Ishtayya (37 years old), the journalist Mohammad Turab, Flasha Israeli Agency cameraman Nasser Sulaiman Ishtayya (48 years old) and Palestine TV reporter Mohammad Abdelqader Hassan Ishtayya.

(November) Facebook Company has blocked and closed accounts for several journalists during November claiming "they violate the Facebook Community criteria".

According to MADA researcher, Facebook Administration has suspended, closed, and restricted the accounts of "five journalists and media professionals" from Gaza Strip during November 2020, namely:

1. Restricting the account of freelance journalist Mohammad Al-Najjar for one month claiming "he violates the Facebook criteria" noting that Al-Najjar has 9,000 followed on his account.
2. Closing two pages for the freelance journalist Hassan Islaih, one of which is followed by 100,000 users and the other by 3,000 users without sending them any notification.
3. Closing the page of the freelance photojournalist Mariam Abu Duqa, followed by 23,000

users claiming "she violates the Facebook criteria" after posting an image of a military show for one of the Palestinian factions.

4. Restricting the page of Al-Aqsa Radio Editor, Iyad Abu Raidah, followed by 5500 users, after tweeting the hashtag "#حَد\_السيف" /edge of the sword, for 48 hours.
5. Closing the account of freelance cameraman Mohammad Shbair on Instagram after posting a story of images for martyrs of "Al-Qassam" Brigades.
6. Closing the page of "Palestine Today News" followed by half a million users, on 11th Nov. 2020 after posting images of Palestinian martyrs.
7. West Bank, on 11th Nov. 2020, Facebook Company suspended the live broadcasting feature on Facebook for the freelance journalist Yousef Kamel Ibrahim Amro (26 years old), from Dura, Hebron, for 90 days, after posting media content of a march on the anniversary of the former Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, claiming it "violates the criteria of posting on Facebook".
8. On the same day, 11th Nov. 2020, Facebook Company suspended the work of journalist Yousef Kamel Amro, in his capacity as (the admin) of Dura City News Page, with the consideration that the page is liked by 34.684 users, and it has been suspended until September 2021 claiming that "it violates the criteria of posting on Facebook". The block also included suspending the work of journalist Amro, in his capacity as the "admin" in another two pages, the first belongs to Fateh

Movement southern region, and the second is a commercial page that he has been running (but refused to say its name) since 15th Sep. 2020.

## ► **December:**

(4th Dec.) An Israeli soldier assaulted the journalist Mashhour Al-Wahwah while he was covering clashes in Hebron.

According to MADA researcher, at around 4:00PM, on Friday, corresponding 4th Dec. 2020, the photojournalist of WAFA News Agency, Mashhour Hussein Mohammad Al-Wahwah, 37 years old, from Dura, southwest Hebron, arrived to Bab Al-Zaweya, central Hebron, to cover clashes that were taking place near the military checkpoint at the northern entrance of Al-Shuhada' closed street, known as the (56) military checkpoint. Upon the arrival of the journalist Al-Wahwah, a number of soldiers were standing behind the concrete blocks near the checkpoint, and one of the soldiers pointed with his hand at the journalist Al-Wahwah threatening him not to approach, the journalist did not care, and the young men started throwing stones at the soldiers who in turn started firing gas bombs at them and chasing them. The journalist followed the soldiers to film what was happening, and few minutes later, the soldiers returned to their positions while the same soldier who threatened Al-Wahwah approached him, started yelling at him and cursing him. Al-Wahwah tried to talk to him, but the soldier kicked him twice in his feet and continued cursing him. Al-Wahwah started shouting at the officer who was at the (56) checkpoint, while the soldier moved away. When the

officer arrived, the journalist Al-Wahwah explained to him what happened, and the officer said: why would you approach the soldiers? Al-Wahwah replied, I was 10 meters away from them, and this is my job, I am going to file a complaint against these soldiers. The officer did not care about what the journalist said and walked towards the checkpoint, while Al-Wahwah left so he would not be assaulted again.

(12th Dec.) An Israeli settler assaulted the cameraman Mohannad Qafishah while he was crossing a checkpoint to Hebron.

According to MADA researcher, at around 11:30AM, on Saturday, corresponding 12th Dec. 2020, the freelance journalist Mohannad Mustafa Mohammad Qafishah (28 years old) (works for Palestine Sports TV), arrived to the military checkpoint "Gilbert", at the southern entrance to Tel Rumeida in Hebron, coming from his house located in Johar Mountain, going to the center of the city, to film a report on Corona Pandemic. When the journalist Qafishah stopped near the checkpoint, a group of settlers were standing close to him, and he heard one of the settlers speaking in Hebrew, which he understands, saying that he is going to beat him up, and they even made a bet on it. The journalist approached one of the soldiers at the abovementioned checkpoint and told him what he heard. At that moment, the settler approached and hit his head with Qafishah's head. The journalist filmed the assault of the settler and the population around the checkpoint started gathering to watch while the soldier was yelling at them to stay away, and did not care what the settler did. The settlers



left, and after about 15 minutes, an Israeli police patrol arrived at the aforementioned checkpoint, and the journalist Qafishah told them what had happened, showed them a picture of the settler who had attacked him, and filed a written complaint with the policeman, and then the journalist Qafishah left the checkpoint headed home.

At 1:00PM, the journalist Qafishah received a phone call from the Israeli police asking him to go to “Gilbert” checkpoint again. When he arrived there, he found a police patrol waiting for him and the policeman asked him to go with him to the Sanctuary of Abraham Police Center, to identify the settler who assaulted him. Indeed, the journalist went with the Israeli police officers to the mentioned police headquarters, where he waited for half an hour, and while waiting he requested a lighter to smoke. However, the policeman replied to him “you are under arrest here under a complaint filed by a settler against you”. He argued with the policeman about what happened, and at around 2:30PM, another policeman showed up and informed Qafishah that he will be transferred to the investigation center in “Gush Etzion” settlement but no investigators were there, therefore, he will be transferred to “Beitar Illit” Police Center, southern Jerusalem. Indeed, the journalist was transported in the Israeli Police Vehicle to “Beitar Illit” Police Center, where he waited inside the headquarters square until 6:00PM, until one of the investigators came and asked Qafishah to accompany him to his room where they talked about what happened and Qafishah showed him the video on the camera he filmed at the checkpoint showing

the settler who assaulted him. On the other hand, the investigator showed Qafishah the testimony of the soldier at the checkpoint and the video the cameras filmed there showing the settler while assaulting journalist Qafishah. The session lasted for an hour and a half, then the journalist was taken out of the room to the waiting square, until one of the Israeli police officers brought the settler to the investigator’s room, and their session lasted for two hours. Then the investigator took the settler out of his room and he was handcuffed, and asked the police to take him, while he told the policeman to have the journalist Qafishah sign on an unpaid financial guarantee amounting to three thousand shekels, and then he was asked to leave the police center, while the journalist Qafishah asked for a ride in the police vehicle to the city of Hebron, due to the lack of vehicles as a result of the closures, but the investigator told him that there was only one vehicle in which the settler would be transported. The journalist waited until 11:30PM at night, until friends arrived in their private vehicle and took him back to his home.

(10th Dec.) Journalist Mohammad Allaham was threatened with kidnapping and murder by citizens belonging to Al-Ja’bari family, after broadcasting a video clip about one of the notables of the aforementioned family.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist of MAAN TV, Mohammad Allaham, and the Head of the Freedoms Committee of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, has presented in his show “nos bi nos”, broadcasted on MAAN TV, on 10th Dec a video clip showing



Abu Khader Al-Ja'bari, one of Hebron tribes notables, threatening and rejecting the Palestinian Government's decision on closing Hebron (among other governorates) as part of the procedures taken to face the outbreak of Corona Virus. Allaham followed the video clip of Al-Ja'bari, with another old video clips of him, in which he appears in meetings with Israeli officers and settlers. Allaham commented on these images that Al-Ja'bari is expressly declaring that there is relationship (with the Israelis). Upon the end of the episode, threats against Allaham were flooded through social media by members of Al-Ja'bari family, but the most serious of these threats appeared in a gathering of the Ja'bari family held in front of the family's Diwan the next day (December 11), after a clash between gunmen and the Palestinian security services in Hebron took place. The participants in the meeting chanted against the journalist Allaham, and threatened him, accusing him of seeking to stir up sedition, and promised to sue MAAN TV before Israeli courts.

Allaham denies that he has insulted or cursed anyone in the press material that he broadcasted during his show, and that he left it to the viewers to interpret what he had presented, and that he was surprised by the intensity of the reaction represented in shooting and public threat of killing, kidnapping and insulting his family, which prompted him to transfer those threats (whether the videos or posts on social media) to the Public Prosecution Office to be legally pursued. Allaham expressed his readiness to be held accountable for his press material and its compliance with the conditions

of professional work within the framework of the Journalists Syndicate or the Palestinian judiciary, and emphasized his rejection of any tribal or family reconciliation of this issue, or compliance with the Israeli judiciary in the event of a complaint against him, according to what Abu Khader Al-Ja'bari threatened.

Threats against Allaham were limited to posts through the social media, but he did not receive any direct threats through the cell phone, or his personal accounts on the social media or face to face.

Allaham intends to submit an official and written complaint to the Public Prosecution soon, attached with a complete file of the threats issued against him.

(18th Dec.) The occupation soldiers have assaulted the photojournalist Mohammad Mahmoud Inaya while covering the clashes taking place in Kufr Qadoun, eastern Qalqilya.

According to MADA researcher, the cameraman of Palestine TV, Mohammad Mahmoud Hassan Inaya (28 years old), who was wearing his press uniform, has arrived at around 11:20PM, on Friday, 18th Dec. 2020, to Kufr Qadoun Village, to cover the weekly march against settlement that has been taking place every Friday in the village for years. After the families marched about 500 meters away from the center of the village towards its entrance closed for the benefit of the settlers, clashes erupted with the occupation soldiers hiding among the olive trees, while the cameraman Inaya and a number of his fellow journalists began to document what was happening, standing next to "Al-Ma'sarah" building about 100 meters away from the soldiers and a few meters from

the demonstrators, the occupation soldiers started firing metal bullets, gas and sound bombs randomly. In those moments (around 12:30PM), the demonstrators retreated towards the center of the village, and the soldiers approached the demonstrators, and the journalists at that time dispersed in different places due to the open nature of the area. During that, the soldiers launched a drone to fire gas bombs, and the demonstrators were able to drop it in front of the journalists who documented the event. Immediately, the soldiers stormed the village from several directions, and while the journalists were retreating, Palestine TV cameraman was a little late while he was documenting what was happening, and he was surprised while retreating that a number of soldiers surrounded him and tried to seize his camera but he resisted which resulted in one of the soldiers knocking his face trying to grab the camera. However, he managed to hold it tight and ran away towards the village's houses.

(11th Dec.) In Rafah, Gaza Strip, the police arrested the photojournalist, Mohammad Omar Qindeel, while he was filming an empty street next to his house, on the pretext of violating the curfew imposed as part of anti-Corona measures.

According to MADA researcher, the photojournalist of Masdar News Network, Mohammad Omar Qindeel (32 years old), from Tal Al-Sultan, western Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, left his house on Friday, 11th Dec. 2020, at around 1:30PM, holding a photography camera, headed to a street near his house. He started taking photos of the empty street, and some of the cats on the road. He soon heard a policeman in the area

calling him. He approached him and when he arrived the policeman, the later told him that the officer wants him for a while. He walked with him for 200 meters in the street, and when they arrived the officer, he was told that he will be transported to the police center for "violating the curfew". The officer did not accept Qindeel's clarification that he was filming near his house and he was planning to get back home upon completing taking some images. He told the officer that even if he went to the center, he would be released immediately and would return home, but the officer threatened him, saying, "If you indeed go home, I will quit and tell them to take care of you". He asked him to get in the police jeep to be transported to Tal Al-Sultan Police Center. There, the director of the center seized the cell phone and camera from the journalist Qindeel upon his arrival, and refused to allow him to contact the Ministry of Interior's media or his family to inform them of the place of his detention. They took him into a cell of 1x1.5 meters, that had a small window in the door (10 x 10 cm), and it smelled so bad. He could not sit in it, and he remained standing on his feet near the small window, as he demanded the police officers to release him, but they informed him that the matter was in the hands of the director of the center. After about 7 hours of detention (at 9:00PM on the same day), he was handed his camera and cell phone, and he signed a pledge not to go out and film anything in the curfew, otherwise he would be subject to arrest and pay a financial fine. He left on foot to his home, which is about one kilometer and a half from the police center.

(18th Dec.) The Israeli occupation soldiers detained Palestine TV staff and searched their car while they were on the way returning from covering the anti-settlement march.

According to MADA researcher, the occupation soldiers stationed at a military checkpoint at the entrance to the village of Beit Furik, east of Nablus, at 1:00PM, on Friday 18th Dec. 2020, stopped Palestine TV staff, consisting of the reporter Baker Mamdouh Mohammad Abdel Haq (31 years old), the cameraman Samer Habash (65 years) upon their return from covering the anti-settlement march that was organized in the neighboring village of Beit Dajan that day (after the march ended). They forced them to get out of the car and tried to crucify them with their heads towards the wall, but they refused, so the soldiers took their cards and ordered them to sit on the ground. They searched their car, which carried the logo of the press, in addition to the fact that the journalists Abdul Haq and Habash told the soldiers from the first moment that they were journalists. After about half an hour of search and detention, they were released and allowed to leave.

(19th Dec.) The Internal Security Service in Deir Al-Balah, central Gaza Strip summoned the journalist Mahmoud Allouh.

According to MADA researcher, the journalist Mahmoud Allouh, who previously worked at Al-Shaab Radio, received a phone call on 19th Dec. 2020 asking him to go to the Internal Security headquarters. Accordingly, on Sunday, 20th Dec. 2020, he went to the headquarters and waited from 10:00AM until 6:00PM, then he was asked to come back later

on the following day (Monday, 21st Dec. 2020). He was detained from 10:00AM until 5:00PM provided he shall come back again on Tuesday (22nd Dec. 2020) when he was detained by the Internal Security Service until Thursday (24th Dec. 2020). Meanwhile, according to the journalist Allouh, he was summoned and questioned on the background of his dispute with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Sawt Al-Shaab Radio, from which he was dismissed and in connection to the account of another citizen called Shady Al-Masry. According to Allouh, who explained that he was held in a small room with two offices, and he was sleeping on the ground without being assaulted, he was questioned during the hours of his presence in the room, which made him experience a poor psychological state, and he added that during the five days of summoning, they used to provide him with food, but not regularly. Three meals were served to him during the 5 days, and he was feeling tired during the time he was arrested. His summons did not stop, as he was asked to come back to the internal security again on Sunday 27th Dec. 2020.

(18th Dec.) An Israeli settler fired with a pistol at demonstrators, who were accompanied by a number of journalists, during a peaceful march against settlement, in the villages of Kafr Malik and Al-Mughayer in Ramallah Governorate.

According to MADA researcher, a peaceful march headed on Friday 18th Dec. to Ein Al-Teen area, in Al-Mughayer Village, Ramallah, to protest against the establishment of an outpost in that area. The march was also witnessed by a number of journalists to cover the event.

When the march and journalists approached the site, one of the settlers started firing from a pistol randomly, from a close distance, towards the demonstrators and journalists, threatening their lives. But this did not result in any injury. Four journalists were covering the march, namely: (Kamel Abu Shaqra – Anatolia Agency, Hamza Mahmoud Shalash (30 years old) – WAFA Agency, Imad Mohammad Isaid (52 years old)- Associated Press Agency, and Jihad Ibrahim Barakat (31 years old) – Al-Arabi Al-Jaded Newspaper reporter). The Israeli soldiers quickly intervened and started firing bullets in the air, forcing the demonstrators (about 50 people) and the journalists to leave the site, and returning the 6 settlers to the settlement outpost they had established there, which is a tent and barracks.

(29th Dec.) The journalist Sari Jaradat was injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet while covering the demolition of a house, which included clashes with citizens in Yatta.

According to MADA researcher, at around 9:00AM, on Tuesday corresponding 29th Dec. 2020, the reporter and photojournalist of Al-Mayadeen TV, Sari Shareef Abdelghaffar Jaradat (34 years old), arrived Al-Khalideya area, eastern Yatta, southern Hebron, where the Israeli Border Police forces were present with vehicles belonging to the Israeli Construction and Organization Department in the “Israeli Civil Administration”, a bulldozer and a digger. They arrived at the site in preparation for the demolition of the house of Khalil Rabei, under the pretext of unauthorized construction. Jaradat began filming what was happening

including the soldiers’ attempts to forcibly evict the residents of the house. Citizens came to the area and set fire to the rubber tires, and tried to prevent the digging machinery from approaching the house. The Israeli soldiers began firing sound and tear gas bombs towards the citizens and the press staff that arrived to cover what was happening, which resulted in the injury of many citizens, in addition to the journalists Mamoun Wazwaz, Reuters Cameraman, journalist Raed Al-Shareef, Al-Ghad Al-Arabi TV reporter, journalist Musab Shawer, Al-Hadath Newspaper reporter, and journalist Sari Jaradat, with suffocation. They were treated in the field as reinforcements from the occupation forces arrived in the area, they began to move the citizens away by force and push them with rifles. They prevented journalists from approaching and forced them to retreat back, while the machines began to demolish the house. The presence of the forces continued in the area until 12:00 midday, and before they left the site, clashes took place between angry young men and the army forces that fired a barrage of tear gas bombs with a cannon installed above one of the military jeeps, towards the stone throwers, citizens and press staff randomly. Meanwhile, several rubber-coated metal bullets were fired at the stone throwers, and the journalist, Sari Jaradat, who was away clearly from the army, was fired, wounding him with a rubber bullet in the left shoulder, at a distance of about 80 meters away from the location of the soldiers. The journalist was forced to leave the site, and he was transferred to Hebron Governmental Hospital by a private car, where appropriate

treatments were provided to him.

(29th Dec.) The occupation forces detained Palestine TV cameraman Omar Abu Awad, and prevented him from covering the demolition of residences near Jericho and prevented WAFA Agency cameraman from coverage.

According to MADA researcher, Palestine TV staff in Jericho and WAFA Agency staff arrived Al-Kharabsheh gathering area northern Jericho, at around 11:00AM, on 29th Dec., after they learned that the occupation forces have raided the area with a bulldozer. They saw a great number of soldiers and one of them asked the journalists to stay 100 meters away, they responded and retreated to the back. However, one of the soldiers seized the camera of Palestine TV and pushed the cameraman Omar Abu Awad (34 years old) to the back. About seven soldiers gathered around Abu Awad to assault him but a group of people came and prevented them from doing so. The soldiers threatened to fire gas bombs on everyone asking them to stay away. They detained the journalist Abu Awad, and seized his press and personal identity cards. Meanwhile, a group of soldiers was dismantling three tents for the residents, and after it finished, the soldiers returned the card to the journalist Abu Awad, and released him, after being detained for about an hour without being assault. The occupation forces also prevented the cameraman of the Palestinian News Agency "WAFA" Sulaiman Mahmoud Sulaiman Abu Srouf (38 years old) from filming what is happening and threatened him with arrest if he did not move away from the place, which forced him to move about 500 meters away from the place of the

event to take some pictures during the dismantling and demolition of the housing units for the residents of Al-Kharabsheh cluster.

(29th Dec.) The Israeli occupation forces arrested the journalist Yousef Fawadleh (30 years old) from his house in Aboud Town, northwest Ramallah.

According to MADA researcher, the occupation soldiers, at around 3:00AM, on 29th Dec., sieged the house of journalist Yousef Fawadleh in Aboud, and tried to raid his house without making any noise. However, when one of the family members woke up and the journalist's father went to the front door and opened it for the soldiers, they outraged and broke the door screaming. Immediately after storming the house, the soldiers began asking the 6 family members about their names and cell phones that they had seized for a period of time, and then an army officer who was not present at the house called Yousef's cell phone and told him that they would be arrested and after he was informed of the decision to arrest him, Yousef put on his warm clothes that the occupation soldiers tried to prevent him from wearing, and he bade farewell to the members of his family, and the soldiers took him on foot from the house to the settlement of Beit Aryeh, adjacent to the town, knowing that the house of Fawadleh family is located on the edge of the town, close to the settlement. The Israeli occupation soldiers stayed in the journalist's house for about a third of an hour, and upon leaving they seized Yousef's cell phone only. Yousef Fawadleh has been working in the Media Unit in Ramallah Municipality for more than 5 years. Before that, he

worked as a journalist with Al-Hadaf magazine and MAS Center, and he is a journalism and media graduate from Birzeit University.

His family learned later that the occupation forces have transported Fawadleh to Moscobiya Camp and he underwent a court session on 31st Dec. at Ofer Camp.

(29th Dec.) The Preventive Security Organization in Nablus summoned Anas Mujir Ibrahim Hawari (24 years old), a graduate of the Electronic and Written Press Department at An-Najah University, and works as a freelance journalist in addition to his work for “Tayqan” website.

According to MADA researcher, one of the Preventive Security officers contacted Hawari family by phone, and informed them that on the next day (30th Dec.), Anas must go to the Preventive Security headquarters in Nablus, noting that Anas during that period was outside the West Bank, and no one from the Preventive Security contacted the journalist Anas directly. As a result, Anas contacted the Journalists Syndicate and told them what had happened, and after the Syndicate contacted the Preventive Security Organization, he was informed that his summoning was not linked to his press work, and by virtue of his presence outside the West Bank, Anas Hawari did not go to meet the Preventive Security based on this summons.

(December) – Facebook Company closed the below three accounts belonging to Palestinian journalists from the West Bank claiming they violate the criteria of posting on Facebook:

1. On 1st Dec. 2020, the Facebook administration sent a notification

to the journalist and presenter of the programs at Sawt Al-Hurriyah Radio in Hebron, Mahmoud Othman Mohammad Iknaibi, 50 years old, claiming that he violates the content standards for posting. The notification was about a news issued by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, “that warm water with lemon is useful for treating Covid 19 virus.” On 2nd Dec., Facebook banned the aforementioned journalist from doing any activity on his own page, posting, sending messages and commenting on posts and live broadcasts, for a period of 30 days from the date of receiving the notification for violating Facebook content criteria, noting that the journalist Iknaibi runs a Facebook page that is followed by more than 41,000, which is a social and news page.

2. On 10th Dec. the journalist and reporter of “Al-Hadath” Newspaper in Hebron, Musab Abdul Samad “Mohammad Hamed” Shawer Al-Tamimi, 29 years old, received a message from Facebook on banning him from live broadcasting, commenting and posting on the page for a period of 90 days, claiming that the journalist Musab had previously posted content that does not comply with Facebook standards, and “violates our standards regarding dangerous persons and organizations”. His post was “Palestine ... its sky is filled with the great scent of the blood of martyrs and the wounded .... May Allah have mercy on the martyrs of Gaza ... and all martyrs of Palestine. Hamas leader Sami

Abu Zuhri says: Gaza will only be a hell for the occupation”.

3. On 15th Dec. 2020, Facebook suspended the page of the freelance journalist, Amer Abdel Halim Abu Arafa, 35 years old, for allegedly having a post on his page that violates the standards of posting, including banning him from live broadcasts, messageing, commenting, and posting. The ban was based on a picture posted several years ago of the founder of Hamas (Ahmed Yassin), noting that the account of the journalist Abu Arafa is verified with a blue mark.

According to MADA researcher in Gaza, the banning, closure and restriction of accounts affected the below journalists and media professionals:

1. Closing the account of the editor-in-chief of “Gaza Post” news website, Asaad Kamel Al-Beirut, noting that it has about 3,000 followers. It was closed after posting photos of a number of martyrs.
2. Restricting the account of Al-Aqsa radio broadcaster Samira Nassar “Al-Daya” for a month, under the pretext of “not adhering to Facebook’s standards.”
3. Restricting the account of journalist Mahmoud Imad Al-Hadidi at “24 Platform” for a period of 90 days, under the pretext of “violating the standards of Facebook community,” knowing that he is followed by about 5,000.
4. Restricting the account of “Al-Quds Al-Youm” TV reporter, journalist Rami Salim Abu Taima, was restricted for 3 days, knowing that he had 5,000 followers.
5. Closing the account of the freelance journalist Mahmoud Omar Allouh and his news page, after posting news about the activities of the Palestinian factions, knowing that he is followed by 5,000.
6. Blocking the account of the freelance journalist Saba Al-Jaafrawi for three days, after she posted about the implications of the Israeli bombing that targeted sites in Gaza Strip, noting that her page is followed by more than 3,000.
7. Blocking the account of the journalist in “Nawa” news network, Sherine Khalifa, and banning her from live broadcasting for three months, against the background of old posts, including the call for recovery to Abdullah Shalah, and posting the statements by the resistance factions inside and outside Gaza, knowing that about 6 thousand people follow her page.
8. Blocking and then closing the account of the journalist at Fatah (Dahlan) Media Commission, Sahar Dahlis, due to old posts, including the biographies of a number of martyrs.