

Activities and Events of the Palestinian Center for Development & Media Freedoms "MADA"

(2019)

The Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA) has worked since the beginning of its establishment in the year 2006 and through its activities and projects to achieve the goals for which it was founded. MADA also sought to develop the Palestinian media, in addition to promote and defend media freedoms and freedom of opinion and expression in Palestine by monitoring and documenting violations against the Palestinian journalists.

Moreover, MADA provides free legal advice to journalists and defends them before the Palestinian courts, demands the approval of laws that guarantee their rights, promotes digital rights as a human right, fights self-censorship, and contributes to developing the Palestinian media to become a major player in promoting, and finally it protects and seeks Palestinian human rights for a democratic state and a free society.

During 2019 and within MADA's relentless pursuit of its goals, and based on its own vision "Towards a free and professional media in Palestine", MADA Center implemented many various activities. In this report, we include these activities:

(18th December 2019)

MADA organized a discussion session – as part of "A Step Forward to Strengthen Freedom of Expression" project in Palestine funded by the European Union – on the protection and promotion of digital rights in Palestine. Representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Communications, the Public Prosecution, UNESCO, the International Media Support Corporation, human rights and civil organizations, and Palestinian Telecommunications Company participated in the session.

The participants recommended the need to raise awareness on digital rights, ensure access to Internet as a human right, develop a national plan for digital

safety and a legal system that shall protect and guarantee digital rights. The participants also recommended recognizing full access to the Internet as a basic human right, amending the Cybercrime Law to ensure its suitability with the Palestinian Basic Law and international standards, monitoring and documenting digital rights violations, following up the local mechanisms and the United Nations, ensuring transparency in this sector, and raising awareness of the danger of Israeli SIM cards, and empowering collective action among NGOs.

Link of the news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1271/>







(17th December 2019)

MADA participated with a number of NGOs in a meeting with a United Nations mission to discuss the needs of the Palestinians during the election process. The meeting highlighted the issue of the Palestinian elections, the procedures and challenges they may be encountered in this regard in general. The Director General of MADA, Moussa Rimawi stressed the importance of media in covering the Palestinian elections in a professional manner, as the elections have special criteria that must be observed by journalists and the media outlets. Rimawi also stressed the need to counter hate speech during the elections period, especially since a large part of the Arab countries will witness elections soon as well. Additionally, the Director General of MADA addressed the impact of Facebook and some other programs such as Twitter and WhatsApp on the elections. He also spoke about the violations against journalists who express themselves on Facebook.

(15th December 2019)

A group of media students at Birzeit University accompanied by Dr. Rashad Tawam, visited MADA, under the course “Media Laws and Ethics”. The

Director General, Moussa Rimawi, presented a brief about the role of the center, its programs, activities and campaigns. Moreover, the center's lawyer, Firas Karajeh, provided an explanation on the law of cybercrime and comments thereof and he also shared some cases of journalists who have been pursued based on some articles of the law.



(4th December 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of November 2019. The report documented a total of 78 violations, 54 of which were committed by the Israeli occupation authorities and forces, 23 by WhatsApp Company (one of Facebook companies) which closed no less than 23 accounts for Palestinian journalists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while only one Palestinian violation was documented in Gaza Strip.

Link of the report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1270/>



(28th November 2019)

MADA issued a special report titled “Freedom of Publication and Violations against Journalists on Social Media Sites in Palestine: The Range of Violations is Growing” funded by the European Union. The report addresses the situation of freedom to publication and the violations committed against Palestinian journalists on the social media during the period between the beginnings of 2017 until November 2019. It also highlighted the violations and restriction of freedom of expression through social media platforms witnessed in the same said period.

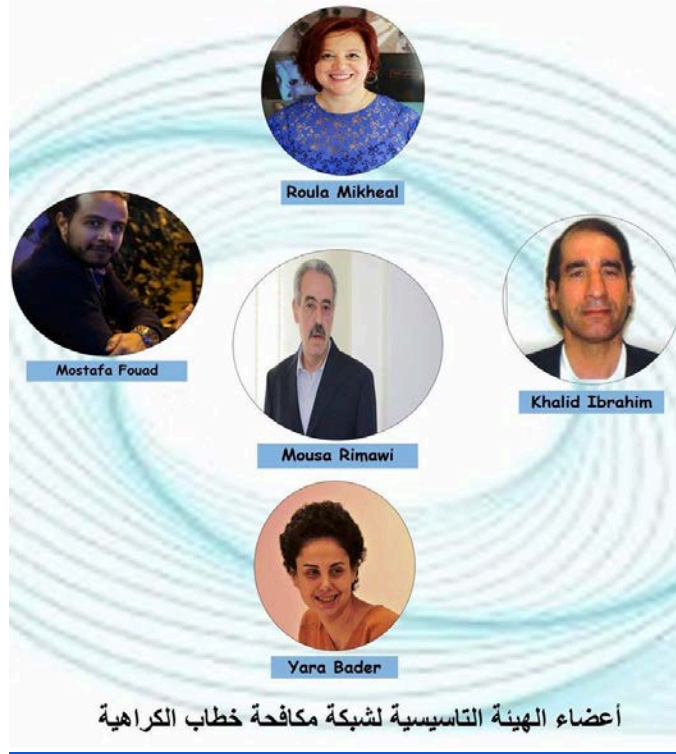
Link of the report: <https://www.madacenter.org/article/1590>



(26th November 2019)

The Director General of MADA Center, Moussa Rimawi, was chosen as the Head of the MENA Network for Countering Hate Speech, during the meeting of the Constituent Assembly in Berlin on the sidelines of the Internet Governance Forum. The constituent body consists of: Rula Mikhail - Maharat Foundation, Khaled Ibrahim - Gulf Center for Human Rights, Yara Badr - Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression, Mustafa Fouad - Humena Organization.

Link of the news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1268/>



(24-30th November 2019)

MADA participated in the Internet Governance Forum, held annually by the United Nations in collaboration with some countries. The conference was opened by the German Adviser Angela Merkel and United Nations Secretary General Gutrich. About 2000 delegations representing government agencies, NGOs, experts and private companies participated in the conference. MADA participated in launching the media development platform in parallel with the conference, and meetings were held for the administrative body of MENA Network for Countering Hate Speech, where tasks were distributed among the members of the administrative body in accordance with the approved Bylaw. Several meetings were held with representatives of international institutions to discuss joint cooperation.



(6-8th November 2019)

MADA participated in the World Forum for Democracy (2019): Is Democracy in Danger in the Information Age? The Forum took place in Strasbourg, where a number of meetings were concluded in parallel with the Forum.



(4th November 2019)

MADA issued a study titled “Challenges to Digital Rights in Palestine” with the support of the open society foundations. The study is focused on a set of digital rights and what they represent as part of human and legal rights, the reality of rights in Palestine, and the challenges such rights encounter as a result of the ongoing occupation policies and practices in pursuing journalists and media outlets, in addition to the unavailability of worldwide companies’ services to Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Link of the study: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1262/>



(3rd November 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of October 2019. The report documented a total of 107 violations against media freedoms in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 27 of which were committed by the Israeli occupation, while 61 violations, were committed by Palestinian authorities, and 19 violations by Facebook.

Link of the report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1264/>



(30th October 2019)

MADA launched a promotional video about digital rights that are considered human rights, and it was displayed on the social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube), and broadcasted through MAAN TV.

Link of video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZHrA4MWDgk&list=PLRCLPAgeUPgEOeD1YbU_6Oyx1HsGTcTRs&index=15&t=0s&fbclid=IwAR0pD6koCWkPC5q5tBK8BogOroKrjQ82X0yMgWwgmQQqD3zrXLfTB5aQX94

(29th October 2019)

MADA Center attended the meeting of the constituency group of Civil Coalition to defend Freedom of Expression in order to discuss launching the Coalition, with the participation of other NGOs.

(24th October 2019)

MADA Director General, Moussa Rimawi met with Cicilia Gad, Associate Human Rights Officer at the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. The meeting highlighted the activity of NGOs, and the violations practiced by the social media companies against the Palestinian content.

(22nd October 2019)

MADA held a press conference on the decision to block 49 websites, in cooperation with Wattan TV, and with the participation of the Independent Commission for Human Rights, the Palestinian Council for Human Rights Organizations, and the Palestinian NGOs Network, the National Authority for the Independence of Judiciary and the Rule of Law (Istiqlal).

Link of news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1260/>





(21st October 2019)

A focus group meeting was held at MADA Center to review the forms for preparing Palestine Press Freedom Index for the year 2019, where the participants gave their comments and recommendations on the forms in order to amend some of the clauses thereof.



(20th October 2019)

MADA launched a film on the Israeli violations against journalists in Jerusalem.

Link of the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVx7CjdI9Q0&fbclid=IwAR3mZ66BvEMoQZt1lvy1EMPHPQTUg_nsu2-fV3e8iyDwe7btWLdotci0JIg

(16th October 2019)

MADA broadcasted an animation clip to raise awareness of digital rights on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube) which was also broadcasted through Wattan TV.

Link of the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8RISRg-nTg&fbclid=IwAR3MD_FeLfOIdDQUQCpQ6TFvwP3OKJS5Wm5T9P6SUTdI7saa9UKZ_G_5n_s

(16th October 2019)

MADA launched a campaign on the protection of digital rights under the slogan “The Internet Is a Right, Not a Commodity” with the support of the European Union. The campaign, targeting the Palestinian public in general and journalists in particular, aimed to introduce digital rights, what they are and the relevant laws, as well as to promote public awareness of the various violations. The campaign included spreading awareness messages through social media, publications, and advertisements via local television and radio stations, and billboards in various Palestinian governorates.

Link of the news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1259/>



(16th October 2019)

MADA’s Director General, Moussa Rimawi, met with the Swedish Minister of International Cooperation, Mr. Peter Erickson and his accompanying delegation from the Ministry, the Swedish Consul in Jerusalem, Ms. Jessica Olsson, who moderated the discussion, and Mr. Suhair Othman from Sharek Youth Forum that hosted the meeting, and Ms. Sandy Hanna from the

Working Women Committees. The meeting focused on several topics, including: freedom of expression, elections, youth and women.



(14th October 2019)

MADA organized a discussion session on digital rights in Gaza Strip entitled “Digital Rights in Palestine”, with the participation of media and legal institutions. This meeting came within the media campaign on digital rights launched by the center at the beginning of October, titled “The Internet is a Right, Not a Commodity”, as part of a step forward towards enhancing freedom of expression in Palestine funded by the European Union.



(7th October 2019)

MADA attended a meeting of the NGOs Network to talk about Facebook company violations against Palestinian content. The meeting was attended by: MADA, NGOs Network, AMAN Coalition, Sada Social, Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid, and Journalist Jihad Barakat.

(3rd October 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of September 2019. The report documented a total of 53 violations against media freedoms in Palestine, 14 of which were committed by Israel, while three violations were committed by Palestinian authorities, 34 by Facebook, and one by Twitter.

Link of the report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1258/>



(3rd October 2019)

MADA submitted its contribution paper in preparing a report on the right to peaceful assembly within the context of new technologies in Palestine. This contribution was made by: developing laws, policies and programs, effective use of these techniques, the challenges accompanied with the interventions, the availability and use of technologies, the challenges imposed by the use of new technologies, and the impact of using a less destructive weapons and ammunition. It should be noted that this report is in line with the framework of paragraph 21 of Human Rights Council resolution 38/11 issued on 8th July 2018, which requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a thematic report on new technologies, including information and communications technology, and its impact on enhancing and protecting Human rights in the context of rallies, including peaceful protests.

(1st October 2019)

A delegation from the MADA Center, headed by Dr. Ghazi Hanania, met with the Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission, His Excellency Counselor Dr. Ahmed Barak, where they discussed ways of joint cooperation, and the need to coordinate efforts to approve the law of the right to access information.



(26th September 2019)

MADA's Director General, Moussa Rimawi, welcomed a British delegation and introduced it to freedom of expression in Palestine, the challenges human rights face, especially the attacks committed by the Israeli Occupation authorities.



(26th September 2019)

MADA organized the Conference “Freedom of Expression Is Important to All of Us” with the support of the open society foundations. The conference, which was organized to coincide with the International Day of the Right to Information, was divided into two sessions that focused on the reality of media freedoms, media legislation, and the role of the judiciary in enhancing freedom of expression. The conference recommended that it is necessary to work on developing and updating the Palestinian laws on the media, passing the law on the right to information, and strengthening professionalism in journalistic work, as one of the most important pillars and ways to protect media freedoms.

Link of the news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1235/>







(18 - 24th September 2019)

MADA Director General, Moussa Rimawi, participated in the 42nd Session of Geneva Human Rights Council. He delivered a speech on the escalation of the Israeli Occupation violations against media freedoms, within the context of its policy of silencing the media in Palestine.



(21st September 2019)

The network to counter hate speech in the Middle East and North Africa was established by: MADA Center, the Gulf Center for Human Rights, Maharat Foundation, and the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression. This was announced at a session which was held on the sidelines of the Human Rights Council session in Geneva, on hate speech, in which Ma'ali Hazaz from UNESCO also spoke.

Link of the news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1227/>



(11th September 2019)

MADA, along with other NGOs, participated in the meeting of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers at the headquarters of the General Secretariat, where the relationship between both parties and the foundations on which they are based were discussed. In the meeting, some urgent demands from the government were presented, and the mechanisms of processing complaints at the Council of Ministers were addressed.

(4th September 2019)

MADA published the monthly report of August 2019. The report documented a total of 31 violations during August 2019, 19 of which were committed by the Israeli occupation while 6 violations were committed by Palestinian authorities. Facebook Company closed 8 pages of Palestinian journalists and news agencies.

Link of the report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1246/>



(3rd September 2019)

MADA's representative, Sharif Haj Ali, participated in a meeting to discuss the indicators of sustainable development goals, especially Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16, to work on the issue related to access to justice, in the Independent Commission for Human Rights headquarters.

MADA Center participated in most of the meetings that were held as part of the series of national team work meetings to implement Goal 16, which aims to encourage the establishment of peaceful societies where no one is marginalized in order to achieve sustainable development, provide access to

justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The attendees participated in discussing the goals, amending the indicators, sources of information and terms of reference.

(29th August 2019)

MADA welcomed a delegation from the Spanish Consulate in its headquarters in Ramallah, consisting of: Uma Garcia de Andoin Martinez, and the General Council Deputy, Sofía Ruiz del Arbol, to discuss the means of joint cooperation.



(21st August 2019)

MADA launched the campaign “Female Journalists Have Rights that Must Be Protected” with the support of the open society foundations. The campaign was aimed at highlighting the assaults and violations the Palestinian female journalists were subject to in their work, introducing the reality they work in, especially in connection to stereotypes of some jobs in the media sector, and addressing the impact thereof on the total number of working female journalists.

Link of the news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1244/>



In the 1st half of **2019**, the violations affected 264 persons, 247 of which were male journalists while **17** were female journalists

(21st August 2019)

MADA conducted the annual meeting of its general assembly, which was attended by: Moussa Rimawi, Dr. Ghazi Hanania, Dr. Taleb Awad, Majed Arouri, Ghazi Bani Odeh, Nihad Abo Ghoush, Amal Juma, Samia Wazwaz, Lubna Al-Ashqar, and Hassan Shabana. The agenda of the meeting included discussing and approving the administrative and financial system of 2018, as well as the internal affairs of MADA.





(6th August 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of July 2019. The report documented a total of 38 violations, 18 of which were committed by the Israeli Occupation while four were committed by Palestinian authorities. On the other hand, Facebook Company committed 16 violations represented in closing pages of journalists and media institutions.

Link of the monthly report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1247/>



(29th July 2019)

MADA issued its semi-annual report of 2019 on media freedoms in Palestine. It documented a total of 330 violations against media freedoms during the first half of 2019. The Palestinian authorities committed 115 violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while the Israeli Occupation committed 150 violations, and Facebook Company committed 65 violations represented in closing pages of Palestinian journalists.

Link of the report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1249/>



(24th July 2019)

MADA participated in the meeting of Civil Coalition for Judiciary Reform, along with the High Judicial Council, as a response to the invitation of Mr. Issa Abu Sharar, the President of the Transitional High Judicial Council. The meeting concluded several recommendations, the most important of which were: the High Judicial Council must preserve its independency in performing its duties and exercising its powers and it must refuse being subject to pressures. It must also ensure that the Executive Authority, security services, partisan organizations and other community authorities shall not intervene in the judicial work. It must as well ensure that the new appointments and promotions in the judicial positions must be based on transparency and integrity. The meeting also recommended strengthening community participation in the judicial reform process and speeding up the formation of judicial authorities to enable courts to perform their work as quick as possible.

(24th July 2019)

MADA launched a campaign to end the exclusion of photojournalist Mustafa Al-Kharouf, and release him. The Israeli Police arrested Al-Kharouf on 22nd Jan. 2019, and transferred him to “Givon” Prison located in Ramla, which is a prison dedicated for the cases of deportation of foreign “unlawful” workers. The Israeli Police is still arresting him and excluding him from Jerusalem and the Palestinian territories even though he does not hold any nationality or residence of any country around the world.

It should be noted that the Occupation Authorities have been rejecting his family reunion for 20 years now and they refuse to give him residence or “visa” card, which makes him an “unlawful resident” with no legal residence of any other country or place, not even the West Bank or Jordan. His family members, including his wife and daughter hold Jerusalemite identity cards (residents of Jerusalem). Mustafa tried several times to appeal before the Israeli Court against the decision of the Ministry which is based on allegedly “security reasons” issued on 21st Jan. 2019. The Ministry of Interior claimed that there is “a confidential security file of Shabak on his relations and connections with terrorist organizations” and accordingly his reunion application was denied, and he was being expelled from Jerusalem and Palestinian Territories. However, his family confirmed that everything the Occupation Authorities are doing is related to his work as a photojournalist.

Ever since Al-Kharouf was arrested, MADA worked on launching an international campaign to stop the occupation authorities’ procedures of excluding the photojournalist Mustafa Al-Kharouf and call for his release. Furthermore, MADA Center contacted the United Nations coordinator for freedom of expression, Mr. David Kay, through letters. Al-Kharouf’s case was also raised in many official meetings with official and local international institutions, to pressure the Israeli occupation government to stop its efforts and attempts to expel the journalist and release him.

Links of the news:

<https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1254/>

<https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1250/>

<https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1238/>



(9-11th July 2019)

MADA's Director General, Moussa Rimawi, participated in the meeting of the International Alliance for the Safety of Journalists, representing MADA in the alliance, before the World Press Freedom Conference was launched in London, with the initiative of UK Foreign Office and in collaboration with the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting closed with a statement addressed to the countries participating in the conference, stressing the necessity of taking immediate measures, the most important of which is the release of imprisoned journalists, stop killing them and end the violations against them, as well as calling for investigations into all murders of journalists and holding those responsible accountable. It is worth mentioning that MADA Center also participated in the aforementioned conference and many other meetings on its sidelines.

Link of the news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1242/>



(4th July 2019)

MADA concluded its participation in the 41st Session of Geneva Human Rights Council. It addressed the Israeli violations against Palestinian journalists committed during the first half of 2019.

Furthermore, MADA participated in the seminar which took place in the Human Rights Council headquarters, organized in partnership with Maharat Foundation and Gulf Center for Human Rights, titled “The Challenges faced by Journalists in the Middle East and North Africa”. A group of Arab institutions spoke before the IFEX-International Network for Freedom of Expression as well as a representative of UNESCO. MADA speech focused on the major violations against Palestinian journalists, especially those committed by the Israeli occupation, which has been practicing the most serious violations for decades.

MADA praised the decrease in the Palestinian violations witnessed during the past two months, especially in the West Bank where no violations were documented during the preceding month. This corresponds to the directions of the new government chaired by Dr. Mohammad Ishtayya of ending all forms of violations, which is stressed by the Prime Minister himself in his meeting with MADA delegation during the preceding month.

Link of the news:

<https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1242/>

(2nd July 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of June 2019. The report documented a total of 29 violations against media freedoms in Palestine, 28 of which were committed by the Israeli occupation while only one violation was committed by the Palestinian authorities.

Link of the monthly report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1252/>



(1st July 2019)

MADA met with the Swedish Cooperation Organization to discuss joint collaboration in the future. Mrs. Mino Cowfued, the International Programs Officer at the Swedish Solidarity Organization has visited MADA and met with Moussa Rimawi, the Director General of MADA, who introduced her to the nature of work at MADA and they discussed the means of joint cooperation in the future.

(23rd June 2019)

A delegation from MADA Center, headed by the Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr. Ghazi Hanania, met with the Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammad Ishtayya, at his Office in Ramallah. The delegation included the Chairman of

the Board of Directors, Dr. Ghazi Hanania, MADA's Director General, Moussa Rimawi, and a number of the Board Members. The meeting highlighted a number of the important and significant issues in relation to freedom of press. MADA delegation emphasized its satisfaction of the statements issued by the Government supporting and protecting freedom of press. This is in addition to the decrease in the violations committed in the West Bank during the preceding month compared to the ongoing rise in the Israeli violations.

Link of the news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1239/>



(17th – 18th, June 2019)

MADA conducted two workshops on building campaigns in the field of digital rights, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with the support of the European Union, under the project “A Step Forward Towards Strengthening the Freedom of Expression in Palestine”. Both training workshops aimed at strengthening and building the capacities of journalists and media students from different areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip on building the media campaign in the field of digital rights and contributing to the campaign organized by MADA to enshrine digital rights in Palestine.

Link of the news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1245/>





(9th June 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of May 2019. The report documented a total of 84 violations against media freedoms. It reflected a rise in the number of violations against media freedoms as a result of the broad closure

campaign implemented by Facebook Company. A total of 65 pages and accounts belonging to Palestinian journalists and writers were closed. On the other hand, the number of Israeli occupation violations amounted to 18, while the Palestinian violations were limited only to one.

Link of the monthly report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1253/>



(28th May 2019)

MADA Center and a number of representatives of non-governmental organizations participating in a meeting in Ramallah with the Head of the Middle East and North Africa Division of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Ann Desmour, as well as many members of the General Consul of Sweden in Jerusalem, to discuss the issues of human rights in Palestine.

(2nd May 2019)

MADA cooperated with UNESCO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Ramallah to organize a roundtable on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, under the slogan “Information for Democracy: Press and Elections in the Time of

Disinformation” with the participation of media, legal, and civil institutions, academicians, media and press students.



(8th May 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of April 2019. The report documented a total of 19 violations against media freedoms in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 11 of which were committed by the Israeli Occupation while the remaining was committed by different Palestinian authorities.

Link of the monthly report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1257/>



(18th April 2019)

The Department of Public Diplomacy & Policy at the PLO and MADA organized a roundtable to discuss the “Press Freedom Index” prepared by MADA and the means of benefitting from its output. A member of the PLO Executive Committee took part in the meeting, Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, in addition to Dr. Faisal Aranki, and the Palestinian Ministry of Information Under-Secretary, Mr. Yousef Al-Mahmoud, MADA General Director, Moussa Rimawi, the Researcher, Mr. Majed Arouri who prepared the Index, and a number of official and civil institutions. The roundtable was moderated by the Public Policy General Manager, Ms. Samya Wazwaz.



Link of the news : <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/302/>

(8th April 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of March 2019. The report documented a total of 117 violations against media freedoms. Most of which (80 violations) were committed by various Palestinian authorities, while 37 were committed by the Israeli Occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Link of the monthly report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1172/>



(19th March 2019)

MADA presented the Israeli violations and attacks against Palestinian journalists at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. MADA Director, Moussa Rimawi, confirmed in his speech that the Palestinian journalists' rights, to date, are still subject to Israeli violations and there are no deterrent measures that shall enable the journalists to freely do their work.

Link of the news: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/301/>

(5th March 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of February 2019. The report documented a total of 24 violations against media freedoms in Palestine, 19 of which were committed by the Israeli Occupation while 5 were committed by Palestinian authorities.

Link of the monthly report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1169/>



(13th February 2019)

MADA launched the Press Freedom Index of 2018 in Palestine with the support of the European Union.

The conference started with opening words from: the Chairman of the Board Dr. Ghazi Hanania from MADA Center, Representative of the European Union, Director General of the Independent Commission, Dr. Ammar Al-Dweik, and Ashraf Abouhaya from the Network of Civil Organizations.

The Press Freedom Index in Palestine, which was reviewed by the journalist Majed Al-Aroui, indicates an overall sensitive result towards the bad in the areas that were measured during the year 2018. The scale scored 484 points out of the total which is 1000 points, and this is a critical result (orange color) of the Press Freedom Index.

Link of the Index Report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/300/>





(13th December 2019)

MADA published the annual report of violations against media freedoms in 2018 with the support of the European Union. This was during the launch of Press Freedom Index in Palestine, and it was reviewed by Ghazi Bani Odeh from MADA.

MADA documented a total of 584 violations against media freedoms during 2018, 455 of which were committed by the Israeli Occupation (representing 78%) while a total of 129 were committed by Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (representing 22%). The Israeli Occupation violations became too serious and dangerous when an Israeli sniper murdered two Palestinian journalists, namely: Yasser Abdelrahman Murtaja (30 years old), and Ahmad Abu Hussein (24 years old).

Link of the annual report:

<https://www.madacenter.org/files/image/editor/2018/2019/annualrepE2018.pdf>



(6th February 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of January 2019, in which it has documented 57 violations against media freedoms in Palestine during this month, 37 of which were committed by the Israeli Occupation while 20 violations were committed by the West Bank and Gaza Strip,

Link of the monthly report:

<https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1167/>



(3rd January 2019)

MADA published its monthly report of December 2018. The report documented about 47 violations against media freedoms in Palestine during that month, 32 of which committed by the Israeli Occupation while a total of 15 is committed by Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Link of the monthly report: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1163/>



(Throughout the year 2019)

MADA's Legal Unit continued its work during 2019. The Unit consists of two legal advisers, one in the West Bank and one in Gaza Strip. The Legal Aid Program of MADA is dedicated to provide legal consultations for journalists and defend them, make visits to the detained journalists to evaluate the circumstances of their detention and ensure they are treated fairly during detention at any of the Palestinian security services in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. The Legal Unit defends the victimized journalists by receiving and following up with their complaints, providing legal aid and calling on the security agencies to respect their obligations under international human rights agreements and treaties to which Palestine acceded.

During 2019, the Legal Unit has followed up with 47 cases of journalists in the West Bank, including two female journalists whose cases were followed up in the court for months. In this regard, the case of journalist Naela Khalil is still under court proceedings and has not been closed yet. MADA Legal Adviser in Gaza Strip has also followed up with 49 cases of journalists, including 4 female journalists, three of whom were detained or arrested during the popular movement in Gaza Strip "We want to live", while the fourth journalist was dismissed from work on the background of investigative reporting and her case was also followed up.

(Throughout the Year 2019)

MADA participated in several local conferences and meetings, namely: "Transparency and Governance towards Sustainable Development" organized by the Anti-Corruption Commission, the celebration of Human Rights and Democracy Media Center-SHAMS of the "Code of Honor on Respect for the Right to Peaceful Assembly", the celebration of the World Press Freedom Day organized by UNESCO, the launching of the national mechanism of reporting on the safety of journalists and the impunity

organized by UNESCO, the workshop of strengthening partnership among the NGOs and Spanish foundations through the NGOs Network, the workshop of launching the report “The Situation of Public Freedoms in the Palestinian Authority during 2018” organized by the NGOs Network, and the event of “Debriefing on the European Union Human Rights Subcommittee” of the European Union Representative Office.

Moreover, MADA Center has also issued dozens of press releases related to the violations against journalists, the Center’s activities, and on special occasions related to freedom of press and expression, for instance: World Press Freedom Day, the International Day for the Right to Information, and the International Day to End Impunity and Crimes against Journalists.

Link of MADA’s news and press releases:

<https://www.madacenter.org/en/category/16002/1/Latest-News>