

Media Monitor Egypt - 13

Bi-monthly report on the media situation
(June- August 2014)



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**Bi-monthly report on the media situation
During June and August 2014**



**Al Sawt Al Hurr
Arab Network for Media Support
www.asahnetwork.org**

Media Situation in Egypt: Thirteenth report for the period June and August 2014

General Developments in the Egyptian Media

Preface

The Research Section of al Sawt al Hurr, the Arab Network for Media Support, produces the Media Monitor on a bi-monthly basis. These reports document and describe developments in the Egyptian media, such as the emergence or disappearance of media outlets (including satellite channels, newspapers and news websites), as well as developments pertaining to the enabling environment for Egyptian media, such as legal, economic, political and social developments that affect the dynamism, quality and diversity of the media landscape. With these reports, al Sawt al Hurr aims to provide media workers, researchers, academics and anyone interested in the field of media in Egypt with a systematic description and analysis of the rapid developments that take place in this sector.

Each Media Monitor consists of two parts:

Part 1: General Developments

This report of the Media Monitor monitors recent developments in the Egyptian media sector, presented to readers with an interest in and some knowledge of the Egyptian media landscape.

Part 2: News websites in Egypt

This report examines the present state of the news websites in Egypt as well as the challenges they face.

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General Developments in the Egyptian Media

General Developments in the Egyptian Media

The following report monitors the state of the journalism and the media in Egypt from the 25th of June until the end of August 2014.

1. Developments in the Media Sector in General

During the past two months, the president of the republic held three meetings with the media; the first one with representatives of print media, the second one with television personalities and the last one with representatives of the Syndicate of Journalists, the Supreme Press Council and newspapers editors.

Several meetings took place to put the '*National Council of Media*' in place. In August, the '*Syndicate of Journalists*' announced the formation of a committee with representatives from the Syndicate, ERTU and the Supreme Press Council. The committee has the mission to propose another committee of 50 members, tasked with drafting the different legislation according to the constitution.

July and August witnessed an unprecedented number of local and regional crises in which presenters from both state-owned and commercial television channels were blamed for committing mistakes which prompted fierce reactions and campaigns on social media.

2. Newspapers

The president of the republic met with newspaper editors on July 6th. The president promised them regular monthly meetings and invited them to speed up the process of the formation of the National Council of the Media as stipulated in the constitution in order to... 'regulate the media and to put a code of ethics' in place. He reminded the media that he endorsed their wish to cancel the Ministry of Information and told them he expected media to come up with an alternative, which has not happened. Al Sisi stressed that he has no intention to interfere in the formation of the new Council or to 'tell journalists what to do'.

In reaction to a second presidential meeting with television personalities, Magdy al Galad, editor in chief of '*al Watan*' privately owned daily newspaper, wrote an article in his paper titled "I am ashamed", in which he described some of his colleagues who attended the meeting as 'shockingly superficiality and ignorant'. He also wrote that he 'felt ashamed of some of them who were running to secure a seat just next to the President, and by the showy attitude of others who kept talking about everyone else...' "During the meeting, I heard serious comments from the president and from some colleagues who present serious programmes on the screen, whilst I also heard silly talk from others who impose themselves on millions of people every night by force on TV. The worst thing that hurts me deeply was to realize that in Egypt some businessmen launch TV channels without any rules enabling such people to access the mind of Egyptians and to mess with it as they please'.

The independent news website '*Masrawy*' published an article with more details of the meeting and wrote that the president and his team appeared clearly annoyed with some of the attendees. Other columnists and presenters followed expressing the same feeling of

'being ashamed of their profession as media professionals' like Motaz Billah abdel Fattah, Mohamed Mostafa Shordy.

A week later, al Galad wrote another article titled "What impact has the shame had?". This time, al Galad tried to give reasons why, from his point of view, the status quo in the media is maintained, without any possibility of real reform: "It looks like there is a virus that attacks every TV presenter once he or she receives the first text message, or phone call in praise of the programme. Things aggravate because of the huge sums of money business men pay to such television personalities" 'Al Watan' published a big file discussing 'ethics' applied to TV shows with the telling title "Chaos..Live on air".

Demonstrations and Protests

--A number of the journalists working at 'Rose al Yousef' magazine presented their grievance to the Presidency, the prime minister and the Supreme Press Council asking to dismiss the new editor in chief, Fatma Sayed Ahmed. They protested against a series of decisions taken by her after her appointment, including her decision to cut one-day of salary from each journalist who does not attend the morning editorial meeting. The protesters qualified her decisions as being 'tough'.

-A number of journalists protested against the appointment of Sayed Aboul Yazid as editor of 'Aqidaty' magazine issued by 'Dar El Tahrir', state owned media house. In an attempt to ease the situation, Aboul Yazid presented his resignation. However, he withdrew it after a promise from the Press Supreme Council to mediate.

-Journalists of 'Shashaty' magazine issued by 'Dar Al Tahrir' protested against the decision of the Supreme Press Council to close down the publication.

The security forces had to interfere on the 10th of July to protect the Chairman of 'Al Ahram' state owned daily newspaper, Ahmed Sayed al Naggar, from its staff. Protests started after Naggar announced some financial measures which resulted in reducing the monthly income of the staff.

Legal entanglements

Magdy Hussein, the editor in chief of 'al Shaab' party affiliated newspaper, was arrested on the 1st of July 2014 against the backdrop of explosions that had taken place the previous day in the vicinity of the Presidential Palace, 'al Etihadaya', resulting in the death of two policemen. The 'Freedoms' Committee at the Syndicate of Journalists held a press conference to show support with Hussein with the participation of the NGO 'Institute for the Defense of the Innocent People'.

The Giza Court issued its final ruling on the 20th of August against al Sayed al Badawi, the chairman of 'al Wafd' party affiliated newspaper and the website 'al Wafd Gate' in favor of the activist/lawyer Nasser Amin. Amin accused the newspaper and its electronic site of publishing 'false news and reports' about him and some other political activists stipulating that they receive funds from foreign countries for their political activities. The same allegations were made against the leading member in the 'Doustour' Party Gameela Ismail as well as other 25 politicians and activists. Gameela Ismail filed 76 lawsuits against a number of

sites, newspapers and blogs. ‘*al Wafd*’ was one of them.

Investigations are still underway of former Head of The Syndicate of Journalists and chairman of ‘*al Ahram*’, Mamdouh al Wally, who is detained on financial corruption allegation. al Wally is faced with the charge of facilitating acquisition of public funds through finalizing a settlement with the businessman Ihab Talaat over the debt of the later to ‘*al Ahram*’ group of 61 million EGP.

The defense team hired by the journalists of ‘*al Jazeera English*’ who are detained in Egypt; Peter Gresty and Baher Mohamed has appealed before the Court against the sentences, condemning them to 7 and 10 years of prison. The International Institute for Journalism called on president al Sisi to issue a complete presidential pardon as soon as possible for the two detained journalists

3. News websites and multimedia

On the 11th of July, ‘*al Masry al Youm*’ website published a story that it had become the most visited news website in Egypt taking over the lead from ‘*Youm7*’ for the first time. ‘*Youm7*’. Immediately reacted by accusing what it called ‘big and small sites’ of buying fake traffic in order to improve their ranking on Alexa. Khaled Salah, editor in chief of ‘*Youm7*’, called for putting an end to this “illegal practice, aimed at stealing advertisers money”. He called for action of the Syndicate of Journalists and threatened of taking legal action. After only a few days, ‘*Youm 7*’ was back in the lead of all news sites. The incident highlighted the fierce race for traffic between the main news sites and the importance they give to *Alexa*’s ranking.

4. Independent news websites

see special report

5. The Egyptian Radio and Television Union - ERTU

During a second meeting of the president and the media, which took place on August 9th with a group of TV personalities representing state and commercial television channels, the president urged attendees to communicate the ‘sense of danger’ to their viewers in all programmes, which threatens the country. He commented on the way different media reported on the story of children being tortured in an orphanage in Cairo and said that such issues, important as they may be, should not take such importance at a time ‘Egyptians have other priorities’. The meeting was attended by the head of ‘*ERTU*’, Essam El Amir; Head of News in ‘*ERTU*’, Safaa Hegazy and the following talkshows hosts: Adel Hamouda, Ossama Mounir, Youssef al Housseiny, Dr. al Moataz Billah Abdel Fattah, Ibrahim Eissa, Hamdy Rizk, Khaled Abu Bakr, Mahmoud Mossallam, Rania Badawi, Gaber al Karmouty, Ossama Kamal, Gamal Enayet, Sherif Amer, Amr Abdelhameed, Magdy al Galad, Khaled Salah, Wael al Ibrashy, and Amir Radwan.

In an attempt to break the monopoly of Arab channels like MBC and Abu Dhabi on the Egyptian Premier League, Essam al Amir, Head of *ERTU*, has proposed to buy the rights for the League from the Football Association with an amount of 270 million EGP, divided

into 80 m for the first season, 90 m for the second, and 100 m for the third. The Association, however, turned down the offer in August 2014. Gamal Allam, the Head, said that *ERTU* 'did not abide' by the previous contracts while Magdy Lasheen, Head of the Egyptian TV, said that *ERTU* has paid 70% of the money due for the previous season. He added: "I truly believe that there is a conspiracy against the Egyptian TV by a number of satellite channels and advertising agencies... The Football Association is courting the private satellite channels at the expense of the Egyptian TV which has been the real sponsor of the Egyptian League since 1960". Later on, the private television channel 'CBC' owned by Mohamed El Amin bought the exclusive rights of the coming new season.

The News Sector of *ERTU* sent broadcast units to the construction site of the 'Suez Canal Axis Development Project' announced by the president on the 5th of August 2014. The aim was to cover the digging work live as well as include recorded material in different programmes. Channel 4 is currently presenting extensive coverage of the digging work while the Head of the Egyptian Radio, Abdel Rahman Rashad, set up a permanent broadcast unit on the site. He also made the two studios specialized in song production, studios 45 and 46, available free of charge for all lyricists, composers, and singers who are willing to produce songs praising the project.

The 'Quality-Control' committee of the Board of Trustees issued a report that included a number of guidelines for the *ERTU* staff especially the presenters. The report was commissioned after what the Committee described as 'mistakes that took place'. The guidelines are:

- A ban on discrimination because of gender, religion, ideology, language, dialect, appearance, color or because of any physical or psychological characteristics
- A total ban of any criticism of Religion as well as any criticism, or insult for the believers in any way. Presenters should treat all debatable issues in a neutral and objective way.
- Impartiality to be observed while reporting stories related to judges and rulers. The presenter's role should be limited to exposing all opinions and to offer to all parties equal opportunities. Presenters should at all time show respect to the dignity of all guests.
- A ban on presenting any content including advertising that could ignite religious or sectarian sedition or could threaten social peace and national unity.
- A ban on discussing any lawsuit still in courts or interviewing the antagonists before a final verdict is issued. Total ban of commenting on legal verdicts and in case of prohibiting publication, the principle that 'the defendant is innocent until proven guilty' has to be respected.
- A ban on treating private issues whether personal or familial. Banning accusing people of corruption or questioning their integrity without solid proofs.

Everyone should have the right to reply. Any form of mixing the facts with opinion should be avoided.

- Avoidance of showing violence and pornographic or obscene material or arousing any whims. The '+18' should be used to alert of any unsuitable material for young people. Copyrights should be respected as well as attribution to sources and all intellectual and financial rights.
- Avoidance of fostering intolerance among Sport fans or showing inclination to a specific team. Guests should be properly labeled.
- Attributing News to clear sources. Banning propagation of economic and political rumors such as 'an expected increase in prices' or 'large-scale outbreak of diseases' or 'selling assets of any public company' without official supporting documents.
- A ban on causing animosity from a group of people against another group or against a governmental institution without justification. Avoiding arousing a rift between political parties and currents or social and religious currents.
- A total ban on any propaganda for candidates in all kind of elections in Sport, Cultural bodies, local and parliamentary elections as well as avoiding to broadcast any result before being officially announced unless exceptions and according to the law.
- A ban on propagation of quackery, sorcery and superstitions as well as unauthorized remedies. Staff has the duty to promote the value of the Science and knowledge.
- Avoidance of mocking the elderly and those with special needs and psychological patients.
- All staff should abide by professional values, accuracy, honesty, and efficiency in all forms and elements of the produced content.

General Ahmed Mahmoud Kamel Anees, the former Minister of Information, has been appointed as director of the '*Egyptian Company for Satellites*' (NileSat) in July 2014.

Former Minister of Information, Osama Heikal was appointed head of the '*Media Production City*' after a conflict that lasted for almost eight weeks. The conflict began on July 8, when Essam al Amir decided to appoint Ali Abdel Rahman as director of the city to be Hassan Hamad's successor. Abdel Rahman was head of '*Theme channels*' before he resigned along with Essam El Amir in 2012 in opposition of what they described at the time as ERTU's adoption of an MB ideology. Despite the fact that ERTU is a major stakeholder of

Media City and has the right to appoint the Head of the Media Production City, the rest of the board members rejected Abdel Rahman and instead nominated Adel Abdelrazek. Voting resulted in a tie, with six votes for each side and accordingly a revote was called for. Abdel Rahman withdrew and the board appointed Samir Farag, head of the Cinema body as acting head of the city for a month until the new elections took place. The name of former Minister of Information Doria Sharaf al Din was strongly suggested and this caused a wave of protests from some media personalities. The conflict ended with the nomination of Osama Heikal on August 26th with full support.

Radio Director Abdel Rahman Rashad disciplined Ahlam Abu El Nour, producer of the Current Affairs department to Cultural department in Egypt's main channel because she hosted lawyer and human rights activist Gamal Eid's comment on the Human Rights Watch report on the dispersal of the 'Raba'a al Adaweya' sit-in. Rashad said that Ahlam should have obtained the approval of the channel's head especially since Eid launched a very fierce attack against the army and the police forces.

'Leomdeia Company' which sponsors Maamoun Fendy's talk show aired on Egyptian television had announced that it will launch the second season of the programme early September 2014 in a new format, without giving further details.

Gaza correspondent Maged Shiblak hang up the phone during a live broadcast, which spurred a lot of reactions. News presenter Amr Tawfik had asked Shiblak about the stance of the Palestinian factions on the truce with Israel and the correspondent, before he hung up, replied by saying: "This truce is coming from the Israeli occupation and I'm letting go of the professionalism here to say that, this is all a lie and misleading. What is happening in Gaza is war crime, thank you" Safaa Hegazy, head of the News Sector denied allegations of an investigation of Shiblak after the incident. Hegazy said that he hung up because his mother's house had been bombarded in the Gaza shelling.

7. Commercial satellite television channels

'Tahrir 2' (*Tahrir Masr*), affiliated to 'Tahrir Channel' will be launched in mid- September coinciding with the start of the Egyptian football league. The new channel will be specialized to a great extent in sports in addition to a number of variety programmes.

'Al Qahera wal Nas' channel stopped its broadcast of ' Hizb al Kanaba', presented by Naela Omara. Omara said that she was notified of the cancellation of her programme and that no reasons were given to her.

On the 18th of August, the same channel decided to suspend the programme 'al Sanduq al Iswid' presented by Abdel Rahim Ali, which became famous for its audio leaks. This decision came after Abdelraheem Ali announced his intention to broadcast a recorded phone call between businessman Naguib Saweiris and Mohamed al Baradei. The minute Abdelraheem announced this on air the channel cut the transmission and aired an old comic movie. In a statement, the channel said that "it refuses to become a public battlefield between two people". Abdelraheem Ali posted the 'banned' recording on his site 'al Bawaba news'. He was also invited by Tawfiq Okasha to air the tape on 'al Faraeen Channel'. The warfare continued between Sawiris and Abdelraheem Ali, who announced that he will launch a chan-

nel bearing the name of his suspended programme '*al Sanduq al Iswid*'. Then, Abdelraheem surprised everyone by appearing on the very channel that had suspended his programme as a guest to expand on what happened and his new channel.

'*Al Qahera wal Nas*' will launch a new show '*The Bellydancer*' early in September, revolving around the belly dancing competitions.

The Owner of *Fareen Channel*, Tawfik Okasha, announced that he will close the channel starting from the 24th of August following some earlier allegations that the '*Media Production City*' had cut off all phone lines and intends to cut-off that electricity as well.

Belly dancer Sama Elamsry announced that her TV channel '*Felool*' will go on air once again with a new name '*Tamam*'. The channel was closed last May.

Ahmad al Mislemany returned to TV with his programme '*Sawt al Qahira*' on '*al Hayat*' Channel on the 26th of August after ending his work as media advisor to the former president Adly Mansour.

Actor Hisam Selim ended his programme '*Cairo Debate*' on '*Skynews Arabia*' with the 26th of July episode announcing his imminent return with a new show titled '*Hisham and People*' but no further details were given.

Amr El Khayat, Head of Programmes of '*Sada El Balad*' channel said that 72 local and international TV stations re-transmitted the trial of Mubarak and his sons using '*Sada al-Balad's*' signal on the 13th of August. This was the day Mubarak made a speech for the first time since the beginning of the case. Sada has exclusive rights to live transmission of the trial. On that day, it made the signal available free of charge to all other channels including foreign ones. ElHam Aboul Fateh, member of the Board of Directors said that the channel refused even to take any advertisement despite the big sums that were offered. She added.. '*we wanted to make it available to everyone because it was a historical day*'. However, the channel stated that it will sue '*al Jazeera*' for '*transmitting the signal without permission*'.

On July 16th, the presenter Amany al Kahayt of '*Sabah ON*', the breakfast show of '*ON TV*', criticized the role of Morocco in the Palestinian cause and described its economy as '*an economy relying on whoredom*', adding that Morocco ranks at the top of the countries afflicted with AIDS. This comment angered the people in Morocco and one viewer tweeted to the owner of the channel Naguib Saweiris complaining about what happened. Saweiris offered his apologies and so did Amany herself on air. However, reactions continued and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had to apologize through its embassy in Rabat. The whole matter was over when the channel announced that it has accepted Amany's resignation for '*her breach of the code of conduct by insulting the Moroccan people and its wise King, who holds Egypt in high regard*'. In an attempt to calm things down, both Egyptian television and '*ON TV*' made live broadcasts of the festivities of the 15th coronation anniversary of King Mohamed the 6th. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Essam al Amir, addressed the Moroccan people and asked them to discard what happened as an unintentional mistake and said that relations between the two countries were now bigger and stronger.

Kekmat Abdelhameed, presenter of the episode of '*Sabah al Kheir ya Masr*' the breakfast show of the Egyptian state television on July 17th, was suspended for a week after commenting on the Israeli aggression against Gaza saying '*Hamas says either Egypt opens the Rafah Crossing and accept succumbing to International supervision or we fight ..what does*

this have to do with us?’

The Israeli Channel 2 aired on the 16th of July a report in which it praised Faraeen’s announcer Hayat El Dardeery and the owner Tawfik Okasha for their stance attacking Hamas during Israel’s war against Gaza.

Writer and talk show host Ibrahim Eissa was strongly attacked on Facebook and Twitter after his statements in his ramadan programme ‘*Madrasset elMoshaghebeen*’ saying: ‘there is no such thing in Islam as tomb torture, or ‘the bold snake’ adding that the objective of such ‘myths is to threaten and scare people’. El Azhar announced that it will form a committee to respond to Eissa’s statements.

Statements made by presenter Mohamed al Gheety in his programme ‘*Sah elnoom*’ on ‘*Tahrir Channel*’ saying that the Egyptian army’ had arrested one of the commanders of the Sixth American Fleet’ sparked a lot of criticism. Al Gheety said also that a high-rank military official ‘ called the American president warning him against interfering in the Egyptian affairs’. Different medias later published a total denial of al Gheety’s stories attributed to ‘unnamed sources’ in the Egyptian Army. The incident was used as an example of ‘inaccuracy’ so common in the Egyptian Medias and the very unprofessional state the Medias had reached.

Despite the much publicized suspension cases, a number of presenters have been reappointed in other channels or made a comeback to present their own programmes on the same channels.

After being sacked from ‘*Tahrir Channel*’ after hanging up the phone on the Ethiopian ambassador to Cairo, Rania Badawi joined Amr Adeeb’ s programme ‘*Al Qahira al Youm*’ on the TV channel ‘*Orbit*’. After her suspension for a while for her ‘unsuitable’ comments on the harassment instances, Maha Bahnasy came back to her programme ‘*Sabah al Tahrir weekend*’ on ‘*Tahrir channel*’. Amany Elkahayat will make a comeback on ‘*al Qahira wal Nas Channel*’ starting from September after ending her contract with ON TV.

8. Freedom of Expression and infringements on it

‘*al Hayat*’ and ‘*al Mehwar*’ commercial television channels retracted from airing the TV series ‘*The People of Alexandria*’. The author, Belal Fadl, wrote that what happened ““was worse than under Mubarak”. Fadl indicated that the decision aimed to “punish those who defend the January Revolution”. He was hinting at the presence of the actor Amr Waked who is known for his full support of the 2011 revolution, just as Belal himself.

‘*al Shorouk*’ news photographer, Ahmad Abdelgawad, and ‘*al Badeel*’ photographer, Mahmoud Abdellateef, were beaten up while covering the Anniversary of dispersal of the ‘*al Nahda*’ and the ‘*Raba’aa al Adaweya*’ sit-ins by some ordinary people before being arrested by the Police for a few hours.

“I am a photographer not a criminal” was the slogan raised by a number of photographers at a vigil on the 12th of July calling for the release of their colleague, Mahmoud Abu Zeid aka Shokan, held for more than 10 months. Karem Mahmoud, the Secretary General of the Syndicate of Journalists, promised to intervene for his release.

9. State and government institutions

Prime Minister Ibrahim Mehleb called for the formation of a committee to advise on a major restructure of ERTU. Osama al Sheikh, former head of ERTU said that he had proposed Mehleb a comprehensive study to reform it.

10. Media Councils

The supreme Press Council announced on the 28th of June the names of new editors of state-owned newspapers: these included Alla Thabet as editor in chief of ‘*al Ahram al Masaei*’ newspaper, Emad Ghoneim was nominated at ‘*al Ahram al Iqtisady*’, Mohamed Abdallah at ‘*al Shabab*’ magazine, Amal Fawzy at ‘*Nos al Dunya*’ magazine, ‘*Democratiya*’ magazine, Mohamed Ghanem at ‘*al Tawaeen*’ newspaper, Waheed abdel Maguid at ‘*International politics*’, Khaled Tawheed at ‘*al Ahram al Reyady*’, Galal Nassar at ‘*al Ahram Weekly*’, Fouad Samir at ‘*al Ahram Hebdo*’, and Ibrahim Dawood at ‘*Diwan al Ahram*’.

At the ‘*Akhbar elYoum*’ Group, Yasser Rizk was chosen as editor in chief at ‘*al Akhbar*’, al Sayed al Naggat at ‘*Akhbar al Youm*’ newspaper, Mohamed Abdel Hafez at ‘*Akher Saa*’ magazine, Alaa abdel Wahab for ‘*Kitab alYoum*’, Gamal eldin Hussein for ‘*al Masaeeya*’ newspaper, Ayman Badrah at ‘*Akhbar Reyadeya*’, Tarek elTaher at ‘*Akhbar Al Adab*’ and Howayda Hafez at ‘*Abtal elYoum*’ magazine.

At ‘*Dar El Tahrir*’, Fahmy Enaba was selected chief editor of ‘*al Gomhurriya*’ daily newspaper, Samy Hamad at ‘*al Misaa*’, Mohamed Qassem at ‘*The Egyptian Gazette*’ and ‘*The Egyptian Mail*’, Galaa Gaballah at ‘*le Progres Egyptien*’ and ‘*Le Progres Dimanche*’,

At ‘*Rose al Youssef*’, Fatema Sayed was been selected editor in chief of ‘*al Mosawwar*’, Magda Mahmoud at ‘*Hawaa*’.

At ‘*Dar al Maaref*’, Dr Hassan Abu Taleb was appointed editor in chief of ‘*October*’ newspaper.

Following the president’s comments on the delay in putting in place the ‘*National Council of Media*’, several meetings took place. In August, the ‘*Syndicate of Journalists*’ announced the formation of a committee with representatives from the Syndicate, ERTU and the Supreme Press Council. The committee has the mission to propose another committee of 50 members, tasked with drafting the different legislation according to the constitution. The process is a copy of the one adopted whilst writing the 2014 constitution. This General Committee of the 50 ‘*sages*’ is supposed to consult with sub-committees attached to it and would include senior journalists, law professors, representatives of civil society as well as representatives of the General Syndicate for Printing and Publishing and the Ministry of Telecommunications.

11. Journalism Organizations

In a meeting on August 24, the president met once more with representatives of the ‘*Syndicate of Journalists*’, the ‘*Supreme Press Council*’ and newspapers editors, during which he warned against what he called ‘a conspiracy led by Qatar, Turkey, and the International

Organization of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) against Egypt using some new media. He named one new website and newspaper operating from London '*Al Arabi al Gadeed*' owned by '*Fada'at Media Ltd*', a company registered in UK, '*Masr al Aan*' a TV channel based in Turkey and cultural website called '*Culture*', (it was understood that he meant the Qatari site *Culture*). It was the first time that the president mentioned specific media by name. '*al Arabi*' published an article commenting on Sisi remarks describing them as the 'best publicity they got so far'.

accepted a new group of journalists as ' trainees'. The group included journalists working for '*al Ahram*', '*Akhbar al Youm*', '*Dar al Tahrir*', '*MENA*', '*Rose al Youssef*', '*Dar al Hilal*', '*al Shorouk*', '*al Watan*', '*al Tahrir*', '*al Karama*', '*Hurriya wa Adela*', '*Amwal al Ghad*', '*al Mogaz*,' '*al Zohoor*', '*Alam al Mal*', '*al Nabaa*', '*Sawt al Ouma*', '*al Nahar*', '*al Sharq al Awsat*', The Saudi newspaper '*al Riyad*' and the Qatari newspaper '*al Sharq*'.

The Syndicate announced promoting the status of another group of <trainees> to <full members>. Those who were not accepted were invited to re-apply to the coming board in few months

The <Freedoms committee> organized a press conference on the 9th of August at the Syndicate headquarters in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza. The conference was attended by Board member Mohamed Abdel Qoddos, as well as a number of public figures and members of political parties and movements.

12. Attention for the media from the side of Civil Society Organisations

- On the 27th of June activists launched a hashtag on Twitter labeled '*Desk's Crimes*'. They used it to highlight the mistakes and the lack of professionalism in different media, especially in the work carried by the News Desks ex. in Headlines
- '*The Arab Network for Human Rights Information*', ANHRI, issued a statement on the 19th of August condemning the assaults against journalists while covering the Anniversary of the dispersal of the 'Rabaa' sit-in. The statement mentioned that such attacks are used by all parties as a way to go around their own responsibilities.