

Annual report by Metro Center about Violations against journalists in Iraqi Kurdistan Region in 2011

Metro center to defend journalists declares that violations against journalists and media channels in Kurdistan region in 2011 is seen as a dangerous indicator. It is the highest record for violations during the last two decades of Kurdish administration.

Metro center recorded 359 cases of violations in different forms. Four cases were injured by gun fire, 8 cases of setting fire to media offices and channels, 85 cases of physical abuse, 57 cases of verbal threats, 52 cases of arrest and detention, 81 cases prevented from doing their duties, 9 breaking media equipments, 9 cases of assaults on houses of journalists and media channels. In 9 cases, journalists were shot by gun fire, 41 cases their equipments were seized, 2 media channels were targeted by gun fire, one journalist targeted by explosive bomb and finally a car of a journalist was burnt down.

Metro Center through its international made relentless efforts into contacting international organizations all over the world and held several meetings regarding unstable conditions media freedom faces in Kurdistan region.

Metro Center from the early beginning of its foundation have registered more than 200 cases of abuses against journalists starting from Kurdistan protests in Feb. 17th, 2011 including wounding by gun fire and tiny glass balls, beaten by police stick, injured by stoning of demonstrators, burning channels, arrest, physical attack, murder threats, verbal abuse, humiliation, hindering from doing their duties, breaking cameras, confiscation of journalists' equipments.

At the end of 2011, after setting mass centers on fire, six media offices of Kurdistan Islamic Union party (KIU- Yakgrtw) were burnt and seven journalists of KIU were arrested and after couple of days were released.

Metro Center statement in this regard, not only condemned these acts but also asked for legal investigations with the perpetrators. Metro said amid political tensions, every time security forces arrest journalists and take over their equipments and break it without any legal excuse. "By this act, they victimize media and expression freedom for the interest of parties involved in the political crisis," Metro center added in the statement.

In February 2011, Metro Center recorded tens of violations against journalists by security forces deployed in the cities of Sulaimaniyah and Erbil. They were banning journalists from even taking photos. They stopped reporters from media coverage in Sulaimaniyah for several days. Tens of reporters in Erbil were banned from media coverage and faced threats, physical abuse and arrest.

Metro Center announces that most of violations by security forces were done in formal and non formal uniforms yet up to the moment no one was interrogated though media law articles clearly state "Any one humiliates or abuses a journalist using his authorities, faces same penalty as assault on civil servant performing his duties."

Among these case of violations in February and April 2011, four journalists were injured by gun fire. Marks are obvious on their bodies.

Hemin Abdulatif, correspondent of Dastur website, and Ari Mohammed Nouri, correspondent of Metrography Agency, were injured by the gun fire erupted in front of Sulaimaniyah headquarters of Kurdistan Democratic party KDP known as Branch Four.

On April 19th, when security forces attacked demonstrators to put an end of Sara protests in Sulaimaniyah downtown, journalists Chinoor Mohammed Amin, correspondent of Hawlati paper, and Hawry Khalil were injured.

On March 25th, gunmen attacked Halgwrd Ahmed, editor-in-chief of Zinar Magazine, in the town of Raniyah, North of Sulaimaniyah, and after they shot him, he was injured.

Erupted violence was growing larger exceeding shooting journalists. For the first time in Kurdish ruling history, a private TV channel was burnt. Nalia Radio and Television, NRT which is a private news satellite TV channel based in Sulaimaniyah, was burnt on Feb. 20th, immediately after few hours of pilot broadcast covering Sulaimaniyah protests. TV officials said the damage caused was worth of 10 million American Dollars.

"That was a dark day for Kurdish journalism history," Metro Center described the event. "About 50 gunmen, raided NRT, shot broadcast equipments and then set fire to the whole 3-storey building," said Twana Osman, director general of NRT. A night guard was injured, he added.

Metro Center called on Kurdistan Regional Government KRG to reveal findings by the truth-finding committee of NRT case for the public. Nowadays, after ten months of burning NRT, the committee KRG appointed committee for truth-finding, is not ready yet to unveil the contents of its report.

Metro center emphasizes its call for the KRG authorities, in charge of the committee they have appointed, to declare the report findings for the public opinion to show the truth for all and to compensate NRT channel morally and materially.

"There should be no excuse for hiding the case of NRT burning since after investigations findings should be published, otherwise authorities have to explain reasons behind blackout up to the moment," Metro Centro says.

On Feb. 17th, A group of gunmen attacked Goran (Change) Radio station and Erbil office of Kurdish News Network, KNN TV channel of Goran Movement, an opposition party, in Erbil. They set fire to both offices.

Known and unknown armed forces committed many violations against party and private media channels. The Kurdish public have noticed no serious concrete efforts by the authorities like in the cases of burning down KNN office in Erbil,

shooting Yakgrtw Radio station, and shooting and besieging Payam satellite TV channel of Kurdistan Islamic Group (Komal) in Sulaimaniyah.

After putting an end to Sara demonstrations in Sulaimaniya on April 19th, a patrol of security forces were seen around Payam TV in Sulaimaniya. TV officials considered that security procedure as an "embargo" of their channel. Later, the channel was targeted by gun fire. Officials of KNN TV said broadcast of their TV faced interference for couple of days. Yakgrtw Radio station was also shot.

At 2 am, early in the morning of March 6th, several gunmen raided Dang (Voice) Radio station in Kalar town, south of Sulaimaniyah. They destroyed most of the equipments and took over part of it. Dang Radio is a private radio station in the area founded early 2010. The radio station was raided one again on 15.03.2011.

Reporters faced different forms and patterns of violations: on 01.04.2011 Alan Jalal, cameraman of Gali Kurdistan TV, a news satellite channel of Patriotic union of Kurdistan PUK based in Sulaimaniyah, was beaten by a piece of concrete block while covering clashes erupted between demonstrators and security forces. His left leg was wounded.

Zana Ali, correspondent of KNN was attacked while covering protests in Said Sadiq town, south east of Sulaimaniyah, on 15.04.2011. Medical report showed that one of his ribs was broken. Chief cameraman of NRT, Dana Bakir, was beaten and arrested while filming Sulaimaniyah protests on 19.04.2011.

A man in black uniform beat Rebin Hardi, director of Awene Company, by pistol on the head close to his office in Salim Street and injures him severely late in the evening on 29.08.2011. Hardi's head was sutured by 32 stitches for seven injuries in head, 19cm long as medical report shows. Awene Company is the publisher of Awene (The Mirror) independent weekly in Sulaiamniya in Sorani Kurdish.

Metro center met Hardi at the hospital. After medication, Hardi told Metro "this attack is part of attacks perpetrated against journalists and the intellectuals. If the perpetrator of this act is found, I am definitely sure that many of other

perpetrators of many other abuses against journalist and educated people will be found as well."

Sulaimaniyah Asayish, security forces, said on a statement on 06.09.2011 about attack on Hardi that "after launching investigations, Sulaimaniyah Asayish forces managed to find some clues." The statement added that after collecting information and follow up, a suspect involved in the assault was arrested on 05.09.2011. "He admitted committing the crime and was sent to police."

Metro Center welcomed findings of primary investigations by Sulaimaniyah Asayish for finding a suspect. We also called on judicial authorities for fair and independent procedure against suspect number one of Hardi case.

Human Rights Watch HRW about Iraq on 23.05.2011 called "Iraqi Kurdistan: Growing efforts to Silence media" revealed that "KRG officials and security forces are carrying out a growing assault on the freedom of journalists to work in Iraqi Kurdistan."

HRW also called on KRG officials to "stop repressing journalists through libel suits, beatings, detentions, and death threats."

In 2011, each of Amnesty International, Committee to Protect Journalists CPJ and Reporters without Borders in several occasions published its reports about current situation of media, human rights and freedom of expression in Kurdistan region. They all condemned the way KRG deals with reporters and freedom of expression.

Assaults on Kurdistan region journalists recorded by Metro Center:

1. On January 8th, while reporting on a football match between Dihok and Erbil clubs, Baravan Ahmed Bapir, reporter of Livin independent magazine based in Sulaimaniya, was attacked in front of Duhok Stadium by interior forces which seized his camera for two hours. "I took photo of group of police whom arrested a fan and beaten him," Bapir told Metro. "Five policemen were beating me by stick and took over my camera for two hours."

2. On 26.01.2011, reporter Nasih Rahim told Metro that after publishing a story about some members of KDP; in mid 2009 they filed a suit against him in Sayid Sadiq court. The verdict was in Rahim's favor according to press law but after that plaintiff went to cassation court, the judge sentenced me for one year imprisonment suspended because I was not member of Syndicate of Journalists so press law does not cover him, he added.
3. On 28.01.2011 guards of Erbil Emergency Hospital attacked crew of Zagros Satellite TV, affiliated to KDP and based in Erbil, while reporting on an event there. Despite getting approval from the hospital administration for taping, policemen beaten the reporter and the cameraman, Dilan Rashad and Ibrahim Wali, and took over their equipments.
4. On February 3rd, 2011, Metro Center was available at the reception of Sulaimaniyah University when a civil servant told KNN reporter "You are not allowed to go in because you cover only negative aspects." Biryar Namiq, correspondent of KNN told Metro Center, "Yesterday, a channel of PUK reported on a political issue and I am here to make a news story about the same issue but they do not let me in."
5. On Feb. 3rd, correspondent of Payam TV Wirya Hussein Habib was banned by Sulaimaniyah University reception to report from the campus. "This bureaucratic and negative act of the University management with our channel happened more than once."
6. On Feb. 3rd, Zirak Abdulrahman, correspondent of Payamner News Agency, close to KDP, told Metro that he faced same reaction from University reception. "They are not fair to all channels," Abdulrahman added.
7. On Feb, 4th, couple of policemen arrested freelancer Ali Mahmoud Mohammed at Rizgari Hospital in Erbil and after 24 hours was out on bail.
8. On Feb. 14th, Chiman Ali, reporter of Speda Channel told Metro she was reporting a meeting of Muslim scholars and the intellectuals at Saad

Abdullah Hall in Erbil when admin of the hall asked her and the cameraman Mohammed Ehsan to go out and in cooperation with Police took their cassette because they were a heat debate between the clerics and the intellectuals.

9. KNN reporter in Sulaimaniya Biryar Namiq told Metro that on Feb. 14th, Suliamaniya police took their camera.
10. Rebin Yar Ahmed from GK TV was attacked on Feb. 17th.
11. Gunmen of KDP headaurters in Sulaimaniya took the camera of KNN crew, the reporter Biryar Namiq and cameraman Tishko Sidiq, on Feb. 17th and given back to them later.
12. Dilan Shawes, reporter of GK TV, was attacked on Feb. 17th.
13. Hunar Jamal, KNN reporter, was attacked on Feb. 17th in front of KDP headquarters in Sulaimaniyah.
14. Bilal Mohammed, reporter of Radio Nawa, Sulaimaniyah-based private station, told Metro on Feb. 17th four masked guards of KDP in plain uniform in front of KDP headquarters in Sulaimaniya "arrested and beaten me, I showed them my press badge but they took my camera, memory stick and badge and tried to take me into the KDP office." Demonstrators helped Mohammed to escape and freed him from the hands of the guards.
15. On Feb. 17th, Saman Majid, cameraman of GK TV, said that several gunmen from KDP in Sulaimaniyah detained him for a short while and beaten him.
16. On Feb. 17th, cameraman of GK TV Biwar Jalal said gunmen stopped him from filming Sulaimaniyah protests
17. On Feb. 17th, Harez Jamal, correspondent of Asso Daily, issued by Khandan Foundation close to PM Barham Salih's, said some gunmen tried to take over his camera in Sulaimaniyah.

18. On Feb. 17th, reporters Mahmoud Kamal and Hawry said that interior forces attacked them
19. On Feb. 17th, Bestoon Mohammed, correspondent of Goran Radio, said that KDP gunmen in Sulaimaniyah attacked and beaten him.
20. On Feb. 17th, Sherko Salayi, reporter of CNN Arabic, said some people in plain uniform attacked him in Sulaimaniyah and took his laptop.
21. On Feb. 17th, Saman Karim, correspondent of Speda Channel, KIU satellite TV, said gunmen did not allow him to cover Sulaimaniyah protests.
22. On Feb. 17th, Kamal Nouri, reporter of Sahar TV, Iranian Satellite TV in Kurdish, and Radio Tehran, said Asayish forces did not allow him to cover protests in Sulaimaniyah.
23. On Feb. 17th, reporter of GK TV Khalid Hussein said some protestors attacked him in Sulaimaniyah.
24. On Feb. 17th, reporter of Iraqia TV Adnan Ahmed said some gunmen stopped him taking photos of KDP office surroundings in Sulaimaniyah. Iraqiya TV is a semi state-run TV based in Baghdad and broadcasts in Arabic.
25. On Feb. 17th, Zagros TV crew Rebaz Younis, Nabaz Mohammed Shukur, Soran Hama-Karim and Dana Abdul-Khaliq said they were wounded by stoning of protestors and their cameras were hit.
26. On Feb. 17th, Kurdistan TV crew Mariwan Ali, Yadgar Nawzad, Sarko Kamal and Khalid Ashkanayi said they were hurt by stoning of demonstrators.
27. On Feb. 17th, Rahman Gharib, coordinator of Metro Center and Correspondent of Sumariya News, an Iraqi news website, was attacked by guards of KDP headquarters in Sulaimaniyah.
28. Awara Hameed, director of Radio Goran in Erbil, said after burning their station and stop of broadcast, they could not get back one piece of the

equipment. "Day later when I wanted to go to the station, the Asayish in front of the building, not only banned me from going in, but also did not allow me to take photos."

29. On Feb. 18th, Kutfi Doski, reporter of KNN in Duhok, said that gunmen did not allow him to film forces besieging Goran Movement office in Duhok.
30. On Feb. 18th, team of NRT Hawkar Mohammed, Mohammed Mustafa and Mariwan Hassan said that civil activities' forces did not allow them to cover Sulaimaniyah demonstrations.
31. On Feb. 18th, both Aras Osman and Karwan Salar, reporter and editor-in-chief of Chatir paper, said that group of gunmen in front of KDP headquarters in Sulaimaniyah stopped them and forced them to delete all the photos in their cameras.
32. On Feb. 18th, reporters of Hawlati paper Ara Ibrahim and Ala Latif said they were not allowed to report from Suliamaniyah Emergency Hospital.
33. On Feb. 18th, couple of people attacked journalist of GK TV Peshawa Raouf in Sulaimaniyah.
34. On Feb. 19th, Haidar Omer who works for Metrography Agency said that gunmen took memory of his camera.
35. On Feb. 19th, Hogir kamal, works for Zhiyanewe Paper by Kurdistan women Union and Radio Madaniyat of PUK Democratic Organizations bureau, said Asayish detained him for a while and took over his camera but later gave it back.
36. On Feb. 19th, news editor of Radio Nawa Sabah Nouri was beaten by people at Kanaskan Sqaure in Sulaimaniyah during coverage of protests. "Some were Pehsmarga, in formal uniform, others were in Kurdish classic outfit and some others in fire brigade uniform," he told Metro. "They beaten me too much and took my memory and camera but later gave it back." On Feb, 20th,

Nouri was beaten by Asayish while he was on air covering Sulaimaniyah protests between Khanqa Sqare and Agricultural bank.

37. On Feb. 19th, reporter of Hawlati paper Ara Ibrahim said civil activities' forces beaten him at the hands and legs by club in Kaneskan district of Sulaimaniya and did not allow him to take photos.
38. On Feb. 19th, Kawa Ahmed and Rega Ahmed, reporters of NRT, said civil activities attacked them in Kaneskan district of Sulaimaniya.
39. On Feb. 19th, Aras Mohammed, member of Arasta magazine editorial desk and reporter of Dang Radio in Kalar, said Asayish shot in the air to frighten him and took his camera and press badge but he got it back later.
40. On Feb. 19th, reporter of GK TV Hardi Salami was beaten by stones in Kaneskan district of Sulaimaniya and his leg was hurt.
41. On Feb. 19th, Wirya Ahmed, reporter of Payam TV, said civil activities' forces beaten his hands and legs by club and broke his camera in Kaneskan district of Sulaimaniya.
42. On Feb. 19th, Asso Mohammed Shiwani, member of editorial desk of Charmw Paper, told Metro, "I was arrested and taken to Chamchamal Asayish. I was freed after two hours."
43. On Feb. 19th, correspondent of Payam TV Bakhtiyar Hussein said, "civil activities attacked and beaten me in Kaneskan district of Sulaimaniya."
44. On Feb. 19th, Payam TV staff told Metro they are getting threats by text messages from different cell numbers.
45. On Feb. 19th, Zagros TV crew Tara Bayiz Agha, Nabaz Mohammed, Hoshang Jalal and Jamal Mohammed told metro protestors attacked them more than once and banned them from covering Sulaimaniyah protests.

46. Early in the morning of Feb. 20th, about 50 gunmen aided NRT. They shot broadcast equipments and set fire to the three floors of the building. One guard was injured. Twana Osman, director of NRT, one day before the event told Metro Center they were pressed to stop broadcast.
47. On Feb. 20th, Mohammed Hashim, director of Goran local TV in Erbil, told metro Center that he was verbally abused by several phone calls asking him to leave Erbil to Sulaimaniya because "I am a troublemaker. After these threats I stayed in Sulaimaniyah for 12 days and switched off my phone. When I came back to Erbil, I was again threatened by an unknown number on March 8th."
48. On Feb. 20th, Shawqi Kanabi, former director of KNN in Erbil, told Metro he got a threat letter via email. He later got another threat message from Erbil Youth group on March 23rd.
49. On Feb. 20th, masked gunmen attacked reporter Balen Osman, hurt him and broke his camera according to KIU website.
50. On Feb. 20th, Majid Hamid, reporter of GK TV was attacked in Sulaimaniyah.
51. On Feb. 20th, Zana Hama-Gharib, reporter of Media Paper told Metro civil activity forces broke his camera at Mama Risha Square in Sulaimaniya.
52. On Feb. 20th, active member of Kurdistan journalists' union and correspondent of Kurdiu.org and Dangi Yakgrtw (Voice of KIU) Radio in the town of Raniya Mukhlis Ahmed told Metro: As a reporter I was reporting Raniya protests for a live coverage and taking photos but suddenly a group of Peshmarga beaten me with back of their guns, pulled the camera and pushed me to the ground. Many other journalists were attacked by Asayish and Peshmarga raid.

53. On Feb. 21st, an official threatened Agid Salim, NRT reporter at the campus of Sulaimaniya University and accused NRT being affiliated to Goran Movement.
54. On Feb. 21st, gunmen attacked Zimanko Ismael, reporter for Awene Weekly, at Mamostayan Street in Sulaimaniya and broke his camera. Ismael told Metro that he was several times threatened several times from 13 to 18.03.2011 via phone.
55. On Feb. 22nd, KNN team were stopped at Degala check point on Sulaimaniya-Erbil highway after reporting in the town of Koya, north west of Sulaimaniya, and were not allowed to go into Erbil after.
56. On Feb. 22nd, unknown people in Chamchamal attacked and injured Hardi Abu-Bakir, reporter for Kurdsat TV, a PUK satellite TV channel based in Sulaimaniyah. Abu-Bakir got five stitches in his hands and his ears were hurt.
57. On Feb. 22nd, unknown people in Chamchamal attacked and injured Hawkar Sayid-Gul, reporter for Kurdsat TV.
58. On Feb. 22nd, reporter of KNN Aram Najim was attacked in the town Halabja, north of Sulaimaniyah. "During the protest, people in plain uniform threatened and prevented me from covering the event," Najim told Metro.
59. On Feb. 23rd, Dahan Hashim, former Erbil director of Rojname daily by Goran Movement, told Metro he got a phone call threatening to set fire to him, his family and his house as well.
60. Barzan Ali Hama, Erbil Reporter of Rojname Paper issued by Goran Movement, received a murder threat via SMS from unknown phone number in Erbil on Feb. 23rd.

61. Journalist and writer Latif Fatih Faraj said he got a threat of murder via phone on Feb. 24th. Faraj believed that was due to his writings about late events.
62. Swara Bilal, reporter of Speda TV, told Metro on Feb. 25th he had received he got more than 10 SMS threats not to cover Chamchamal events.
63. Barzan Ali Hama, Erbil Reporter of Rojname Paper, received threats on Feb. 25th via SMS, phone calls and emails.
64. On Feb. 25th, Protesters of Chamchamal attacked Bestoon Hamid, correspondent of KTV. "They hurt me and did not let me to report."
65. On Feb. 25th, of KNN staff in got phone and SSM threats for covering Chamchamal protests. "After broadcast of a news story on our channel about Chamchamal protests, they threatened me and my cameraman Hemin Ahmed via phone calls and text messages, Ari Luqman, reporter of KNN, told Metro Center.
66. On Feb. 25th, Bestoon Zhazhiley, in charge of Payam TV office, was threatened. Payam staff Sarkawt Salam and Pishtawan Jamal were beaten and threatened.
67. Farman Mohammed, correspondent of NRT in Erbil, told Metro Center on the morning of Feb. 25th, he got a phone call from an unknown source asking him not to cover to be held that day in front of Nishtiman Mall in Erbil. On March 10th, he got a phone call from "Erbil Independent Youth." Mohammed said, "They told me I am in danger and have to quit working for NRT, otherwise they will kill me."
68. Niyaz Abdullah, producer and reporter for Radio Nawa in Erbil and Management desk member of Metro Center, said on Feb, 25th while in front of Nishtiman Mall in Erbil, to be held protests turned into KDP supporters' gathering. She said they threatened and humiliated her. "They asked me to

leave, or else we gathered all young people in the city and do worst you can imagine to you."

69. On Feb. 25th, Shiwan Sidiq, editorial member of Civil Magazine, said gunmen in plain uniform took his recorder during gathering of KDP supports in Erbil. "They were four, one in Kurdish outfit, others in ordinary dress carrying pistols. They took my recorder by force at the eyes of policemen."
70. On Feb, 25th, Journalist Ari Othman said gunmen took his camera in the gathering of KDP supports in Erbil for taking a photo of a young guy being beaten by KDP supporters. "More than 10 in Kurdish outfit and ordinary dress surrounded me and took over my camera but gave it back after three hours." The photo was deleted. "Hey wrangler, you should be grateful that we just took your camera, some of the mob told Othman."
71. On Feb, 25th, Kawa Ahmed reporter of Awene weekly told (No for Threats to Journalists' campaign) he was beaten by Peshmarga during covering Kalar protests and stayed at hospital for two days.
72. Pishtiwan Jalal, correspondent of Speda TV, his cameraman Sangar Hamid and Abdulrahman Nariman, cameraman of KNN, told (No for Threats to Journalists' campaign) on Feb. 25th, while covering Kalar protests, Peshmarga shot them and forced them away from the protests location. Sangar Hamid said he was humiliated and insulted by the same troops. "Though I was wearing my press badge, the soldiers beaten me at the chest and back and took my camera," he added.
73. Zanyar Asa'd, correspondent of Speda TV in Erbil, said on Feb. 26th with his cameraman Sayaf Ahmed went to Erbil Technical Erbil but the guards there insulted them and did not let them in. "They did not let us report and said if we do not leave, they will break our camera," Asa'd said.

74. On Feb. 25th, Kalar security forces attack correspondent and cameraman of Speda TV Sangar Hamid. They beat him and take the cassette.
75. On Feb. 25th, Kalar security forces attack correspondent of Speda TV Sarkawt Salam, humiliate and beat him and take him.
76. Unknown people in ordinary dress at the eyes of security forces attack reporter Shiwan Siddiq from Civil Magazine on Feb. 25th and take his equipments.
77. On Feb. 26th, Asayish of Sayid Sadiq town attacked journalist Twana Sharazwri and Zana Ali, reporter of KNN.
78. On Feb. 26th, reporter of Hawlati paper Soran Ahmed told metro that Asayish close to Sulaimaniya Public Park insulted him. They took his cell phone, camera and Hawlati press badge. Later, hawlati admin staff got back Ahmedd's stuff from Asayish directorate office.
79. On Feb. 26th, journalists Erfan Ahmed, Anwar Arab, Salam Haji Ali and Nasih Abdul-Rahim were detained by Halabja Asayish and police for half an hour.
80. On Feb. 26th, Bestoon Zhazhiley, in charge of Payam TV office in Garmiyan, told (No for Threats to Journalists' campaign) he received a murder threat via SMS. "Soon you will pay for over talking," the text message shows.
81. On Feb. 26th, journalist Soran Omar told Metro, "Cell phone number () threatened to kill me for participation in Sulaimaniya Sara protests."
82. On Feb. 26th, unknown men attacked Kurdsat TV Mariwan Abdullah and cameraman Govar Mohammed at Sulaimaniya Sara Square.
83. Sarkawt Salam, correspondent of Speda Tv in Garmiyan, told (No for Threats to Journalists' campaign) on 26.02.2011 Peshmarga beat him with back of their rifles in front of layla Qasim school in Kalar. "They hit me to the ground

and stepped on me. Marks of beating are obvious on my chest and back," he added.

84. On Feb. 27th, correspondent of Standard magazine, Alan Firyad Younis from Erbil told Metro Center Asayish has detained for a short while and released later.
85. Hawlati website announced that journalist Alan Sahebqiran, correspondent of Hawlati in Erbil was severely beaten by 12 people on 27.02.2011.
86. Journalist Najmadin Ali was beaten in front of Kurdistan parliament in Erbil by Asayish on 28.02.2011. They also took his camera.
87. Kurdiu website of KIU said on 28.02.2011, correspondent of Speda TV in Chamchamal Swara Bilal received murder threats for via phone for couple of times.
88. Correspondent of Kurdsat TV Mariwan Abdullah and cameraman Govar Mohammed were attacked at Sulaimaniya University campus on 28.02. 2011.
89. Mustafa Abdulla, correspondent of Payam TV in garmiayn, said on March 1st, he was covering Kalar protests when a garmiyan Asayish officer and couple of guards took his camera and gave it back after two hours and erased the tape content. On March 9th, masked troops stopped him covering protests.
90. On March 1 to 5, correspondents and cameramen of Kurdsat TV Mariwan Abdullah, Asso Ali, Ari Nawzad and Awara Jum'a were attacked by some people more than once. Mariwan Abdullah told Metro, " They are few people that we recognize. They took the tape of the camera."
91. On March 1st, Bestoon Zhazhiley was threatened via SMS. "Cell phone number () threatened me and wrote me expect your murder."

92. On March 2nd, camera man of Speda TV was threatened. Swara Bilal told Metro," the text messages I receive are murder threats."
93. As'ad Mohammed and Sangar Hameed, correspondent and cameraman of Speda TV in Kalar, said at 2:35 pm on March 3rd, Garmiyan Asayish patrol kidnapped them in front of their channel office in Kalar, insulted and taken to Garmiyan Asayish directorate. They were threatened there and later freed.
94. As'ad Ali Ismael, editor-in-chief of Bochwn magazine, said on march 4th, some gunmen of PUK threatened him after publishing a news story about NRT burning.
95. On March 4th, journalists of Speda TV Pishtiwan Jala and Sangar Hameed were attacked by gun fire of security forces. Hameed was arrested with As'ad Mohammed by security forces. They threatened Sarkawt Salam they will kill him.
96. On March 5th, Omar Mohammed and Barzan Azad, team of Sped TV, were attacked in Raniyah.
97. Shaswar Mame, KNN reporter, said on March 5th he was threatened by phone.
98. On March 5th, correspondent of Kurdsat TV Mariwan Abdullah said couple of people in plain uniform attacked him at Sulaimaniya Sara Square.
99. On March 6th, Dang Radio in Kalar was attacked and broadcast stooped. Azad osman, directr of the radio station, told Metro they were under pressure but received no direct threat while covering the area events nad particularly the protests.
100. On March 7th, Ako Karim, reporter of GK TV, was attacked in the town of Penjwen, east of Sulaimaniya.

101. In a statement published on March 8th, Radio Nawa called KRG to protect its staff from the threats they face.
102. Fariq Hama Salih, director of Dangi Yakgrtw in Garmiyan, told campaign of (No for threatening Journalists) on Amrch 7th, that staff of the station were threatened via SMS. Salih was personally threatened on March 10th via SMS.
103. Asayish raided Dang Radio in Kalar for the second time on April 9, 2011. "Couple of Asayish members stormed the station in the excuse that protestors fled security toward the station," the station director Azad Osman told Metro Center.
104. On March 9th, Mustafa Abdullah, correspondent of Payam TV, was harassed in the district of Rizgari, next to the town of Kalar. "Gunmen took my camera and cell phone."
105. Garmiyan Hamapour, reporter for KNN in Kalar, told campaign of (No for threatening Journalists) on March 9th, he was detained for an hour with the cameraman Abdul-Rahman Nariman, by Asayish during reporting Rizgari district demonstrations. They were threatened that they will be shot dead if they keep reporting.
106. Hazhar Anwar, correspondent of KNN, told Metro on March 9th his brother received threat message via SMS from (Erbil Fanatic Youth). "Since burning Goran movement office and Goran Radio, I have not stayed at home, each night stay at a different place," Anwar told Metro.
107. Reporter of Speda TV in Garmiyan area Sarkawt Salam said on March 9th, he was arrested by an Asayish patrol in Kalar. He was insulted and taken to the town outskirts.
108. Hemin Omar, presenter of Dangi Yakgirtw in Garmiyan, told the campaign of (No for threatening Journalists) while he was heading home on

March 9th, Asayish patrol of Rizgari district humiliated him. He was beaten and detained for couple of hours because he took part in the demonstrations.

109. In Sayid Sadiq protests on March 15th, Zana Ali, reporter for KNN, and Salar Mahmud, reporter for Livin Magazine, were attacked. Metro Center paid a visit to Ali at hospital. Medical report showed that one of his ribs was broken and another cracked.
110. Rangin Salam, reporter of Kurdsat TV in the town of Halabja, said she was threatened on March 15th in front of Halabja Hospital. "Some people whose relatives were wounded in the protests threatened me but the policemen protected me. I had to stay there for two hours then came out."
111. On March 16th, KNN team in Halabja was prevented from covering the commemoration of Halabja chemical bombardment. Aram Najim told Metro, "We were attacked and threatened by Special Forces in black uniform so we left the scene."
112. On March 16th, guards of Sulaimaniya residence office harassed Karwan Salar, editor-in-chief of Chatir paper, and journalist Yasir Guli while covering complaints of some Iranian people. "First we were stopped from reporting, and then we were arrested and taken to Asayish where they deleted the photos then released us," Salar told Metro Center.
113. Dana Razgayi, Hawlati correspondent in the town of SOran, said on March 16th he was threatened on the phone to be murdered and was asked to leave the town.
114. Zimnako Ali, cameraman of GK TV, said on March 18th during Friday noon prater at Haji Hassan Gilazard Mosque in Sulaimaniya, a group of the attendants said they are supporters of Goran and attacked the prayer

speaker and do not agree with such a speech. “Later they attacked us and took the tape of our camera and did not give it back.”

115. Nashmil Mohammed, reporter of Kurdistan TV, said on March 19th she was attacked by some people at Peshmarga Stadium in Sulaimaniya but policemen saved her. “I told them I am sport journalist and has nothing to do with politics but they verbally abused me and attacked me,” Mohammed said.
116. Swara Bilal, correspondent of Speda TV, said he was detained for one hour on March 19th by Chamchamal police during reporting.
117. On March 19th, Ari Luqman, reporter of KNN, was detained for 40 minutes by Chamchamal Asayish. “They told me we do not see you with your camera in the market.”
118. On March 21st, a member of Sara protests council has torn issue No. 44 of Chirka Magazine at the eyes of a mob.
119. On March 21st, during coverage of protests in front of Kurdistan Assembly, KNN team Hazhar Anwar and Amir Abu-Bakir were attacked. “Asayish detained us with the driver for two hours and did not let us cover report the event,” Anwar told Metro.
120. Barqi Islam, reporter of Speda Tv in Akry town close to Duhok province, said on March 22nd, he was heading back home from a picnic with his family when he was shot by gun fire. Islam said he was with his wife and brother and kids between villages of Shiladzy and Sery, a white sedan Hyundai turned off its lights and started shooting his vehicle. “Our car was hit with eight bullets but we escaped unhurt.”
121. On March 22nd, security forces attacked KNN team Hana Sidiq and Aram Najim in Halabja. Najim told Meteor, “after insulting and beating, they broken the camera of our channel.”

122. Hangaw Hashim, manager of Rozhnama paper in Erbil, said at night of March 23rd, was attacked by gunfire from an unknown car in Erbil. Hashim said she was heading home 10.00 pm when a white car with dark glasses holding a flag approached with full light and when she opened the way for it, they shot the car and went away.
123. Sbei news website of Goran Movement said on March 25th, correspondent of KNN in Erbil was detained by emergency police for two hours for no charge.
124. Shiwan Sidiq of Civil Magazine was stopped at Shawes checkpoint to Erbil on March 29th. He was taken to a party office, then to Shawes Asayish and interrogated for two hours.
125. Editor in chief of Zinar Magazine Halgwrđ Ahmed said at night of March 25th was attacked at Kewa Rash district of Raniya. "I do not know how many they were but I heard the shooting of three bullets, of which I received two. I have no problem with any one so I doubt no one for this."
126. Reporter of KNN Abdul-Rahman Abu-Bakir told Metro on March 31st early in the morning he was stopped at Darbandikhan checkpoint heading to cover Kalar protests. "They told us they got orders from higher authorities so we had to find another illegal way to go into Darbandikhan and from there to Kalar."
127. Sumariya news website said on March 31st Asayish of Darbandikhan checkpoint banned Sumariya staff from going to Kalar to report protests.
128. On March 31st, correspondent of Payam TV Mustafa Abdullah was attacked for the second time in Rizgari district and was banned from covering the event.

129. Sbei.com said on March 31st that during coverage of protests of some students in Duhok, its correspondent Lutfi Doski was attacked by an employee of education directorate.
130. Hazhar Anwar, director of KNN Erbil office, said on March 31st gunmen in plain uniform during coverage of protests of some students in front of Erbil education directorate attacked him and the cameraman. "They did this in front of a big number of policemen who kept quite."
131. Dana Bakir, chief cameraman of NRT, said on April 1st while covering Sulaimaniya protests, he was detained and freed the day later. "I was not a protestor, I was carrying the camera of my channel for taping but they beaten and arrested me," Bakir told Metro.
132. Alan Jala, cameraman of GK TV, said on April 1st, he was hit by a concrete bloc injured his left leg while covering Kanaskan district clashes between protestors and security forces in Sulaimaniya.
133. NRT officials told Metro on April 1st, their cameraman Avar Hameed was detained by Asayish for one hour for covering Sulaimaniya protests.
134. Website of Awene weekly published on April 1st, two members of Asayish assaulted Zhiyar Mohammed, contributor to Awene paper and website, while covering Sulaimaniya demonstrations.
135. On April 1st, security forces assaulted reporters of Chatir magazine. Each of Zanko Sardar, Asso Khalil and Aras Osman were attacked. Khalil told Metro Center he was beaten and his camera was broken. Osman said they seized his camera and press badge.
136. Ako Mohammed, correspondent of Dastur website and Metrography agency, said he was abused on April 1st by security forces. "I was taking photos, they came and seized my camera, beaten me and asked me to stop filming."

137. Ako Majid Ali, correspondent of Hawdam Magazine, said on April 1st police of Sulaimaniya Emergency Hospital kept him for three hours at their point, took his camera memory stick then released him. Ali went to get back his memory the day later but "they kept me again till Asayish patrol took him to Asayish office, interrogated, filmed and obliged to sign a declaration that he did not participate in the demonstrations. All this took five hours."
138. On April 2nd, unknown men stealthily go into the house of Shirwan Mohammed Amin, editor-in-chief of Judi News, at Zargata district of Sulaimaniya. "They took the laptop which contains archive of the website."
139. On April 3rd night, journalist Mariwan Naqishbandi was threatened via SMS.
140. On April 4th, producer and reporter of Radio Nawa and coordinator of Metro Center in Erbil Niyaz Abdullah was arrested with reporter of Hawlati Wirya Hama-Karim by emergency police when they were reporting protests by students of Salahaddin University. After an hour and half, Hama-Karim was released because he did not take any photos. After inspection of personal bag and press equipments, police took camera memory stick and recorder of Abdulla. She was released after two hours and half of detention.
141. At 2.20 am on April 9th, the car of journalist Soran Omar was burnt down. "They set fire to my 2007 Toyota Camry in front of my house in Khabat district," Omar told Metro.
142. On April 18th, people in plain dress assaulted reporter for Azadi Radio and television of Kurdistan communist party in front of Rashad Mosque in Erbil where group of people were gathering there. Hiwa Omar told Metro, "I was arrested, put into a pick-up truck. After humiliation, verbal and physical abuse, I was freed close to Yellow Hall."

143. On April 18th, security forces attacked editorial member of Civil Magazine Shiwan Siddiq in front of Rashad Mosque in Erbil. "The security forces attacked me and hit me."
144. On April 18th, people in plain dress assaulted crew of Azadi Radio and television Hogir Hussein, Samad Karim and Hiwa Mustafa in front of Rashad Mosque in Erbil. "Our press equipments were seized and freed after couple of hours," Mustafa told Metro.
145. On March 18th, photographer of Hawlati paper Chinwr Mohammed Amin was injured by gunfire at Mawlawi Street protests in Sulaimaniya. "I noticed that the one who shot me was targeting me," she told Metro.
146. On April 18th, people in plain dress assaulted reporter of Civil Magazine front of Rashad Mosque in Erbil. Bahman Ali told Metro Center he was attacked, beaten and kept for three hours at Emergency Police.
147. On April 18th, KNN team in Erbil were attacked for reporting a mob gathering in front of Rashad Mosque in Erbil where group of people were gathering there . Hazhar Anwar and Mariwan Mala Hassan were held for hours at Emergency Police later released.
148. On April 19th, a group of gunmen seized the camera of Associated Press news agency reporter at Mawlawi Street in Sulaimaniya. Yahya Barzinji Barzinji recently told Metro, "That was AP's camera and they did not give it back up to the moment."
149. On April 19th, military troops were deployed close to Payam Tv in Sulaimaniya.
150. On April 19th, journalist Shiwan Sidiq told Metro, "After broadcast of KNN interview with me, Ainkawa Asayish arrested me and interrogated about my residence and work."

151. On April 19th, Rizgar Hamad nabi, cameraman of Payam TV in Raniya, told Metro Center, "Security forces attacked me and tried to take my camera but couple of protestors stopped them."
152. On April 19th, reporter of Erbil-based Rudaw Weekly Farman Mala Hassan was banned from covering protests at Raniya Park.
153. On April 19th, correspondent of Payam TV in Raniya Ramiyar Osman told Metro Center, "While covering protests of students, security forces attacked me and cameraman of our TV Rawand Yousif and kept us for four hours."
154. On April 19th, Sulaimaniya security forces arrested journalist Sirwan Rashid in front of Sulaimaniya house of justice. "The moment we were arrested and taken by car to prison, they were beating us though all three acts of arrest, torture and imprisonment are illegal according to press law and law in general."
155. On April 19th, Sulaimaniya security forces arrested journalist Hiwa Jamal in front of Sulaimaniya house of justice. "We were arrested, then they took our cell phones and press equipments," Jamal told Metro Center. "They beat me. I was freed after 12 hours."
156. KNN Raniya reporter Shaswar Mama told metro," for filming military deployment in Raniya, security forces arrested me and kept me for 12 hours."
157. On April 23rd, crew of Payam TV Luqman Aziz and Azad Goran were attacked in Erbil. Aziz told Metro, "we were making a story about environment, rain and floods but gunmen stormed us, beat us and didn't let us finish our job."
158. Ahmed Mira, editor-in-chief of Livin magazine, told Metro Center, "at 7.46 pm on April 25th, minister of Peshamrga Ja'far Mustafa threatened over

the phone to kill me on." Mira said he has got audio tape of the conversation how he used improper words. On the other hand, Mustafa told Hawlati, "If they have taped that ..., I have not and will not threaten any one else."

159. On April 25th, reporter of Payam TV Wirya Ahmed and cameraman Nawzad Ahmed were attacked by unknown gunmen in Sulaimaniya. "We were there to cover demonstrations by students when those gunmen attacked us, took microphone, camera and stand and went away," Wirya told Metro Center.
160. On April 26th, unknown gunmen shot office of Payam TV office in Sulaimaniya.
161. On April 28th, journalist Hakim Ahmed Hamad received murder threat on the phone from cell phone number ().
162. Late evening of April 30, correspondent of AKA news website in Erbil Rostam Zuber said he was attacked by security when covering protests in front of Iran consulate in Erbil. Zuber said they arrested him, tortured him, and left him near Mahata prison in Erbil.
163. Shirwan Muhsin, photographer of Rudaw weekly, said he was attacked on April 30 by security when covering protests in front of Iran consulate in Erbil. Muhsin said they attacked him, beat him, took his camera and freed him after an hour.
164. Late evening of April 30, photographer of Warvin Magazine Rafiq Shwkri was attacked by security when covering protests in front of Iran consulate in Erbil. "They beat me in group and bruises are obvious on my body and freed me after four hours," Rafiq told Metro.
165. Ruber paper equipments were seized per verdict of judge on May 3rd but later was cancelled

166. On May 11th, KNN reporter in Sulaimaniya Biryar Namiq said he heard gunfire close to Sulaimaniya office of Kurdistan assembly and he headed there. "Couple of persons in ordinary dress attacked, beat and arrested me. They broke my hand."
167. On May 29, Aram Mala Mohammed, editor in chief of Honea Magazine, told Metro Center that KDP official of Sayid Sadiq office threatened him over the phone. "I recorded his threat which says I swear by blood of the martyrs I will behead you from the back for that article," he added.
168. On June 8th, cell phone number () sent three threat text messages to journalist Ali Mahmud. "The three SMS prove that they are watching my house and threaten me," Mahmud told metro Center.
169. On June 26th, KNN team Ari Luqman and Hemin Ahmed were assaulted when covering protests in the town of Takya next to Sulaimaniya. Luqman told Metro, "gunmen of mayor office took our camera and later gave it back to us."
170. On June 26th, Payam TV crew Ma'rouf Majid and Jala Hussein were attacked when covering protests in the town of Takya next to Sulaimaniya.
171. On July 4th, journalist Khelan Bakhtiyar told Dang Press, "due to my articles, they threatened me via SMS to murder me and my family."
172. On July 13th, security in plain uniform attacked crews of NRT, Kurdsat, GK and KTV and hurt them while they were trying to cover fire erupted in Family Mall in Erbil.
173. On July 15th, interior security forces assaulted a journalist trying to cover a mob gathering at Sara Square in Sulaimaniya. Hawzhin Gharib, editor-in-chief of Chatir (Umbrella) Magazine, told Metro "a number of them set out beating me."

174. On July 15th, interior security forces assaulted journalist Ahmed Qader reporting a mob gathering at Sara Square in Sulaimaniya.
175. On July 15th, interior security forces assaulted journalist Chenar Yasin who was trying to cover a mob gathering at Sara Square in Sulaimaniya. "Karwan Ahmed and I were arrested together. A group of the Asayish then set out beating us," Yasin told Metro.
176. On July 15th, reporter of Sbei.com Bestoon Mohammed Murad told metro Center, "group of gunmen hit me with club and plastic pipe leaving marks on my shoulder and face." They took his cell phone and recorder, he added.
177. Federation of NGOs published a statement on July 16th saying, "10 people were severely beaten at the eyes of eye witnesses from the federation for doing nothing by different forces." The statement added, "Coordinator of metro Center was taken by kicks and boxing to Asayish vehicle in front of us and threatened a member of the federation who inquired why they act in this way."
178. On July 16th, correspondent of Payam Tv in Erbil was threatened via SMS. Anwar Sabah told Metro Center he was threatened by a number he passed to Metro Center that they will kill him. "Despite the dirty words, they wrote me that (you motivated people against the government so we will kill you)."
179. At the evening of July 23rd, group of sport reporters went to cover Iraq-Yemen match at Franso Harir Stadium in Erbil but the Asayish and police were rude to them. In a letter addressed to metro Center, the reporters tell "reporters face problems at the stadium since years and several journalists were humiliated." The journalists were Aras Rawandizi, correspondent of Kurdistan new, a Sulaimaniya-based daily issued by Talabani-led PUK, Ahmed Mustafa, reporter for NRT, Hazhar Doski, reporter

of Avro Paper, Ari Abdullah, KNN correspondent, Karukh Latif got Furat and freelancer Shamal Dilan.

180. On July 30, reporter of Hawlati in Soran was attacked on Balisan-Shaqlawa highway close to Erbil. Dana Razgayi told Metro Center, "Two cars were asking me to stop in an abnormal way then they shot fire so I contacted Raniya Asayish who cooperated." Metro center contacted Raniya Asayish. Raperin Asayish chief Haydar Sa'id told metro Center, "that reporter alleged such an incident and we informed Balisan Asayish to investigate the incident in detail."
181. On August 7, KNN reporter Shaswar Mama and cameraman Shakhawan Namiq were attacked by Asayish patrol of Sarwchawa town for covering protests by drivers in the area. Mama told Metro Center, "We were kept at Asayish vehicle for 40 minutes. They took our press equipments, did not allow us to cover the strike and freed us after they ended the strike."
182. On August 19, joint forces of US troops, Iraqi Army and Kurdistan region Peshmarga drove a joint convoy to the town of Jalawla, part o Diyala province. US troops stopped TV correspondents of Hurra Iraq, GK, Iraqia and al-Rashid at Halwan checkpoint from going into the town of Jalawla. US troops told media they have not discussed issue of media escorting the convoy during their meeting. Bamo Shekhani reporter of GK TV told Metro Center "US troops told us they have not discussed issue of media escorting the convoy during the meeting so we can't allow you go to Jalawla."
183. On April 23 night, six reporters were abused by interior security forces while reporting protests at Salim Street in Sulaimaniya. Hawkar Abdul-Sitar, NRT reporter, told Metro Center, "before starting filming, they beat our correspondent and cameraman and broke our camera nad wounded the cameraman." KNN cameraman Ranjdar Omar Sa'id, "I was filming when four gunmen attacked me. They broke my camera and kept me for an hour by their vehicle." He added, "They clearly asked us not to film the

demonstration." Two cameramen of GK TV Hawry Qadir and Rawa Omar were also were stopped. Omar Karim, reporter of GK TV, told Metro, "both of our reporters were hindered by Asayish and one of them was insulted." Security asked them to give the tapes, he added. NRT cameraman Talan Kosrat told metro, "A tall man with black moustache in black dress ordered me not film so I asked why and he hit me in return." Editor-in-chief of Kilil (Key) Magazine told Metro, "without asking for badge and introduction, interior forces attacked me and took away my camera." They brought it back after an hour with no battery, he added.

184. Mohammed Othman, Sbei.com reporter, told Metro Center on August 25, Kurdistan region president Masoud Barzani was meeting with people of Qandil villages at Qaladizy Meeting Hall. "We wanted to tape yet a group of the guards came to me with kicks and boxes and took away the tape," he added.
185. Yaqwb Rasul, Kurdsat reporter, told Metro Center on August 25th a number of the guards of Kurdistan region president attacked me during Kurdistan region Masoud Barzani meeting with people of Qandil villages at Qaladizy Meeting Hall. "They hit my camera and deleted all the photos."
186. Shiwan Wasani, correspondent of Kurdistani Nwe paper, said they started reporting from Hizop checkpoint, on the way to Qaladize where Kurdistan region president was addressing the public in a hall. "After the meeting, we took some photos but they pushed us inside the meeting hall. They took my camera, deleted the photos and spoiled my camera," he added.
187. Late evening of August 29, man in black uniform severely injures Assos Hardi, director of Awene Company, the publisher of leading private weekly Awene (The Mirror) by hitting his head by back of pistol while he was opening door of his car parked in a block next to Sulaimaniya chamber of commerce at Salim Street in Sulaimaniya. Hardi's head was sutured by 32

stitches for seven injuries in head, 19cm long as medical report shows. Awene Company is the publisher of Awene (The Mirror) independent weekly in Sulaiamniya in Sorani Kurdish. Metro center met Hardi at the hospital. After medication, Hardi told Metro "this attack is part of attacks perpetrated against journalists and the intellectuals. If the perpetrator of this act is found, I am definitely sure that many of other perpetrators of many other abuses against journalist and educated people will be found as well." Sulaimaniyah Asayish, security forces, said on a statement on 06.09.2011 about attack on Hardi that "after launching investigations, Sulaimaniyah Asayish forces managed to find some clues." Metro Center welcomed findings of primary investigations by Sulaimaniyah Asayish for finding a suspect. We also called on judicial authorities for fair and independent procedure against suspect number one of Hardi case. ." The statement added that after collecting information and follow up, a suspect involved in the assault was arrested on 05.09.2011. "He admitted committing the crime and was sent to police."

188. Alan Sahebgiran, reporter of Standard paper and website, told Metro Center on September 2nd, an unknown phone number threatened him. "If you do not keep silent, we will shut your mouth and force you leave Erbil," they told Alan. "We kept silent for a while and you attack the government and Kurdistan University as you like," they added.

189. NRT reporter in Erbil was threatened and the cameraman was lashed when both were trying to cover Iraq versus Jordan football match on September 2nd. Ahmed Mustafa told Metro center they were not let to enter the stadium so they interviewed people around the stadium. Policemen assaulted some fans heading to the stadium and they filmed that. "About 20 gunmen in police and ordinary uniform with whip and clubs came to us and said what you have to do with this?" He added that they beat the cameraman with whip and his hands and legs were hurt and kept by 15 gunmen for half an hour and freed us after we deleted the footage."

190. KNN sport reporter in Erbil told Metro center he was not let into Erbil stadium to cover Iraq versus Jordan match on September 2nd. Ari Abdulla told Metro, "One of the Asayish pushed me saying you always look for trouble making so go away or else we badly treat you. Another one tried to beat me yet a colleague of mine stopped him."
191. Staff of Zoom In, a TV show covering hot events for KTV, were threatened on September 4th when they were covering a traffic accident. Rizgar Kochar, the show presenter, told Metro Center, "We headed to cover a traffic accident at Gulan Street in Erbil, someone in plain uniform said he was captain of environment troops kicked me with another guy and pushed me away. They threatened my cameraman Ahmed Hamid to stop filming or will hurt us. Later we were rescued by emergency police."
192. On August 29, security forces raided house of journalists Rizgar Shamoun and Farhad Awla, supervisor of Shaqlawa website, per judge license. They took their laptop and CDs and detained for 24 hours later were freed on bail.
193. Police raided Livin Magazine office on September 7 and arrested Ahmed Mira, the magazine editor-in-chief. He was taken to Bakhtiyari Police station then freed on bail. Representative of Metro Center was available at court to do follow up for the case of Mira. "The policemen beat me and pulled gun trigger, they also hit my brother and injured him," Mira told Metro Center. "I have received no warrant by court beforehand asking me to go to court; police immediately came and took me in this way." Mira was arrested upon a suit by KDP for publishing an article about plot for assassination of opposition parties' leaders.
194. Soran Asayish seized the camera of GK TV for reporting on gathering of a mob in front of social care office on September 8. "They deleted the filming then gave my camera," Kaka Amin Ahmed told Metro Center.

195. On September 16, Police stormed Hawler private satellite TV in Erbil with no prior warning for broadcasting reportage about uncompleted construction project in Kasnazan district in Erbil. Herish Tayar, concessioner or Hawler TV, told Metro Center, "With no prior warning by journalists' syndicate to go to court, they raided our channel. They deliberately came at that time when I was available to arrest me.
196. On September 24, journalist Soran Omar told Metro, "A bomb was planted under my car for explosin but when we found out that, Sulaimaniya Asayish defused it."
197. KNN correspondent in Soran Himdad Qadir told Metro he was hindered twice. First time was early October when Asayish took his press badge and prevented him covering protests by students so the syndicate of journalists interfered and gained his badge. Second time was prevented from filming a project at Nawpirdan checkpoint.
198. NRT reporter Nabaz Shiwani was questioned for covering a meeting about syndicate elections by PUK-supported bloc. Shiwani said he was covering a meeting late evening of October 3rd by a PUK-led bloc for participation in Teachers' union elections in PUK headquarter in Erbil. "The teachers questioned me and my cameraman and later chief guard of the office and others tried to take our camera. One of them was armed, he pushed us away and took the camera," Shiwani told Metro. They were seized for half an hour given back the camera with no tape. Metro center contacted PUK senior official in Erbil, in charge of Center 3, who denied being aware of the incident. "Tomorrow we investigate about to and find out the reasons," he promised Metro.
199. Speda TV crew were attacked in the town of Sarsang in Duhok for covering students strike on October 19. Cameraman Murad Fouad said an officer attacked him to take his camera by force. "He boxed me at my face, bruise is obvious so I filed a suit against him." Speda correspondent Mous'ab

Abdul-Aziz said the same officer insulted him and the students interfered to stop fighting. Amedi police chief colonel Jamil Khalid Salim denied that his policemen attacked the journalists. "It was just a tough conversation since the journalist threatened the officer," Salim told Metro.

200. Aras Rawandizi, Erbil correspondent of Kurdistan Nwe Stadyom sport paper, said on October 20 he was attacked while covering Handren versus Bruski football match of Kurdistan league. "Manager of one of the teams attacked me and took my camera. He insulted and took the memory stick of my camera."
201. Editor-in-chief of Zari Kirmanji weekly Ismael Ibrahim said Soran court verdict sentenced him and his paper on 31.10.2011 to pay fine of 50 million Iraqi Dinars (about 42,000 USD) for a lawsuit filed against them. Ibrahim said they published reaction of the plaintiff in his paper as Kurdistan press law states. "The fine is too much for us to be paid so we go to cassation court." Kurdish press law guarantees the right of publishing opinion of involved parties, or fine 1 to 20 million Iraqi Dinars.
202. Shaqam magazine staff said they received threats from Prime Minister Office the later denies. Najat Ahmed, editor-in-chief of Erbil based magazine, said they received text messages via unknown phone number on October 23 and 31 insulting them for criticizing the PM. Alan Ra'ouf, press secretary of PM published a statement of which Metro got a copy clarifying that they condemn such acts which "has nothing to do with the staff and the office of PM."
203. Journalist kawa Garmiyani was not allowed to cover activities by ministry of education on October 31. "I went to Kalar to cover third day activities of Nations' cultural festival but the guards were hindering me for no reason."
204. NRT reporter Hemin Mahmud was attacked while covering tension between police and people of Khewata Village close to Sulaimaniya on 3.11.

2011. "They took my cell phone forcibly and did not allow us report," he told Metro.

205. NRT reporter in Dihok Sipan Amedi was attacked by KDP students' union official (Qwtabyan) for reporting on strike by students of Duhok University, evening session on 16.11.2011. "I was severely beaten and that official insulted and threatened me in front of the students," Sipan told Metro. Sepda TV reporter Doski Sabria was also abused. "They took the microphone but the students interfered and the microphone was broken."
206. Security forces abuse Speda TV and KNN crews when covering strike of Duhok physicians on 17.11.2011. Speda cameraman was beaten severely and his camera broken. "They threatened staff of Speda TV and we both were fired," both reporters told Metro Center. "They took our badges but later when we went to get it back they asked us to delete the footage we have taken." Speda reporter added they contacted Duhok police chief who said that act by hospital police was personal not per instructions.
207. Reporter of KNN in Kalar garmiyan Hamapour and cameraman Yasin Mohammed were attacked by Asayish for covering students late evening of 17.11.11 strike in Kalar. "The Asayish tried to take our camera and forced us delete the filming of the strike," Hamapour told Metro.
208. Reporter of KNN in Kalar garmiyan Hamapour was hindered by Asayish and police for filing on a tension in a village over ownership of land on 18.11.11 in the village of Zardi Hama in Kalar. Hamapour told Metro center Asayish officer asked his men to break the camera over their heads in front of eye witnesses.
209. Party official threatened KNN reporter and cameraman in Sewsenan village of Qaradagh town west of Suliamaniya on 21.11.2011 for making a story in the area. Correspondent of KNN Mohammed Hassan told Metro

that the party official in the area insulted him and the cameraman Salar Salih and vowed to break the camera.

210. NRT presenter received murder threats for an interview. Diladar Harki, Kirmanji dialect presenter of NRT, said he received many death threats on 24.11.11, after broadcast of an interview with head of Mosul provincial council Dildar Zebari. "One of them vowed to kill me," Harki said.
211. KIU media channels in Duhok were burnt and a number of the staff were arrested on 2.12.2011, after Friday prayer mob attack on massage centers in the town of Zakho, north west of Duhok province. Nasradin Sa'id, KIU senior official of KIU in Zakho told Metro that Habur TV, Speda TV office and KURDIU radio were all burnt down and a number of media cadres were captured.
212. Speda TV correspondent in Duhok Doski Sabri told Metro that on 2.12.2011 night, fire was set to KIU TV, radio and office of KURDIU.org.
213. Reporter of Speda TV Farhad Sindi told Metro on 3.12.2011, correspondents of Habur local Radio TV of KIU in Duhok Dilbrin Yousif, Islam Sa'di, Osama Nasraddin, Dilbrin Haji, Samir Obaid and Mahir Sagvan were all arrested by security forces.
214. Habur TV presenter in Zakho Abdul-Wahid Taha told Metro Center that Bilal Jum'a, one KIU media staff arrested by Asayish, is under 18.
215. Zakho correspondent of Speda TV Abdulla Ahmedsaid on 2.12.2011 interior security forces attacked him and crashed his camera.
216. Duhok correspondent of Speda TV Murad Fouad said on 3.12.2011 interior security forces attacked and beat him and crashed his camera.
217. Metro Center found out that during Zakho events, a reporter of Bashur magazine named Baravan was arrested and freed later.

218. NRT correspondent Sipan Barwari said he was arrested and beaten by six gunmen at night of 2.12.2011 in the town of Simil in Duhok province. "I was kept under medical care for four hours due to pain," he told Metro.
219. Erbil Correspondent of Qatar-based Al-Jazeera Ahmed Zawiti told Metro center that tens of armed forces attacked and hit him and his cameraman on 3.12.11 in front of KIU office. "The gunmen were seeing us as enemies and others were shouting that is Ahmed Zawiti reporter of Jazeera beat him," Zawiti added.
220. Security forces based at Sara square in Sulaimaniya on 3.12.2011 did not allow media channels to film the area as home for February protests. The reporters were Ziryan Mohammed for Awene weekly, SAfin Ahmed for PUK news website pukmedia, NRT reporter Hemin Mahmud and cameraman Talan Kosrat, Ako Mohammed for PUK's Chawder (The Monitor) weekly, KNN reporter Hemin Khalil and cameraman of Azadi TV.
221. Security forces shoot in the air to intimidate Kaywan Baluti, cameraman of Iranian Saharan TV Duhok on 3.12.2011, and broke his camera, reporter of the TV Kamal Nuri told Metro.
222. Reporter and cameraman of Speada TV in Sulaimaniya Karwan Rahman and Abdul-Wahid Sa'id told Metro on 3.12.11 they were stopped four times and questioned while making news story downtown.
223. Correspondent of Khandan news website in Erbil Darbaz Salih was arrested by Erbil security forces on 3.12.11 for reporting. "I was reporting when police arrested me and took my equipments and told me to get it back tomorrow," he told Metro.
224. Gunmen attack cameraman of Sahar TV Faraydoon Ibrahim at Malik Mahmood round street in Sulaimaniya on 4.12.11 at night when covering burning of a massage center. "They hit me, took my camera and gave it back with no tape."

225. Asayish captured KURDIU.org reporter Diyar Faruq at Malik Mahmood round street in Sulaimaniya on 4.12.11 at night when covering burning of a massage center. "They attacked me, and took me to Bakhtiyari Asayish section and released me after hours of detention." Faruq said he showed them press badge but they were rude to him.
226. Payam website of Islamic group of Kurdistan Komal said on 5.12.11 they finally got information about their contributor Khatab Omar who covered Zakho events for Payam over the phone but was captured by Asayish and was missing for three days. He was sent to Zakho Asayish to determine his destiny, the website added.
227. On 9.12.2011, day of transparency and combat of corruption, journalist Soran Omar was threatened by phone number () after an interview at 8 pm for Payam TV about corruption in Kurdistan region. "I was threatened because allegedly I talked about corruption by a specific official so I recorded the voice of the man threatened and his dirty speech," Omar told Metro. "He was as rude as no one can imagine, even insulted PUK and KDP why they have not killed me so far."
228. Payam TV crew were attacked in a football match between Salahaddin University and Duhok University on 12.12.11 in tournament of Kurdistan universities at Sulaimaniya Stadium. Abdulla Mustafa, reporter of Payam TV, said players of Salhaddin University team attacked the referee then attacked him and the cameraman Ardalan Mohammed. "We have footage of the event," Mustafa added.
229. Khelan Bakhtiyar, editor-in-chief of Sall (The Year) Magazine was threatened via a phone number with UK international code on 18.12.2011. Bakhtiyar told Metro, "The same number threatened me on 22.12.2011 for that they will kill me and accused me of several charges."
230. Three Unknown gunmen stopped CNN reporter Sherko Salayi on 19.12.11 at night in Zerinok district of Sulaimaniya. "They were in a Taxi

chatting that this is him. They asked me to get out of the car but fled when other cars approached," Salayi told Metro.

231. A journalist of Speda TV told Metro at 7:30 pm of 20.12.2011 police forces stormed house of Speda correspondent Abdullah Ahmed in Newroz neighbourhood of Zakho and arrested him. Ahmed is active member of Kurdistan Journalists' syndicate.
232. KNN reporter Himdad Qadir was stopped by students protesting on 21.12.2011 in the town of Simelan close to Choman District of Erbil. "They put like a temporary check point so when I wanted to go ahead they hit my camera."
233. Correspondent of Kurdsat Ismael Chomani was stopped by students protesting on 21.12.2011 in the town of Simelan close. "The Asayish were worse than the students and did not let us reach the protest location," Chomani told Metro
234. Correspondent of NRT in Choman Ferhad Khidir Mir told Metro Simelan Asayish did not allow them to cover protests and were rough to them.
235. Editor in chief of Fishar (Pressure) Magazine told Metro on 24.12.1011 that his Facebook account was hacked. "Some one called me and his phone number appeared on me phone. He said hey you I hacked you. You deserve murder so we have to kill you soon or late."

Note: All these violations documented in this report were collected directly from the journalists involved. In some cases, eye witnesses were also interviewed as sources.

Recommendations by Metro Center to improve press status in Kurdistan region

- All people involved in injuring, burning and looting media channels also arrest, physical abuse, making obstacles, braking cameras and seizing press equipments should be investigated
- Press freedom as all international documents show means access to information and news sources and publicizing it with no interference by any side. Thus freedom of press is a human right and violating this right is considered as a violation of human rights. Obstacles put in front of journalists especially concerning access to information should be lifted since all information should not be classified part of state secrets. Indeed, there is a need for drafting a law for access to information by Kurdistan assembly as the best practical way to fight corruption.
- Government and party officials should be more open for criticism especially when it comes to public interest. Public sector and its duties are vital and law allows publishing abuse of power, misuse of power and crimes. We advise involved sides and personnel to reply to press via press than intimidation by lawsuits and censorship.
- Officials should bring culprits to account instead of accusing and blaming journalists. Despite all these violations documented in 2011, no member of security forces was interrogated while Kurdish press law considers violation against journalists as violation against a civil servant performing duties. Besides, Kurdistan press law also guarantees right of reporters to attend conferences and public occasions and activities.
- Judicial power has the right to determine whether an article is or not against religion, violated private personal life, publicized incorrect

information, instigated feud and planted hatred among society communities, verbal abuse, libel, slander, derived path of investigations of court. These are duties of court and no one has the right to issue a prior verdict in this regard. Any one or side in trouble with media should respond through dialogue and written form or file suit. Officials should not replace court.

- Non professionalism of private and party journalist should not be an excuse to practice violence against them. Covering protests not licensed by authorities is not a reason to violate article number 35 of Kurdistan press law in 2008.
- All media outlets should be fairly dealt with and freely cover events the public is concerned about and not to be discriminated in access to information.
- No journalist to be detained publication of journalistic material
- Article number two of part four about rights and privileges of journalists of Kurdistan press law should be the base for courts when it comes to media related cases. The article states: Views of journalists and the information he publishes should not be used to spoil his life, himself and his privileges.