

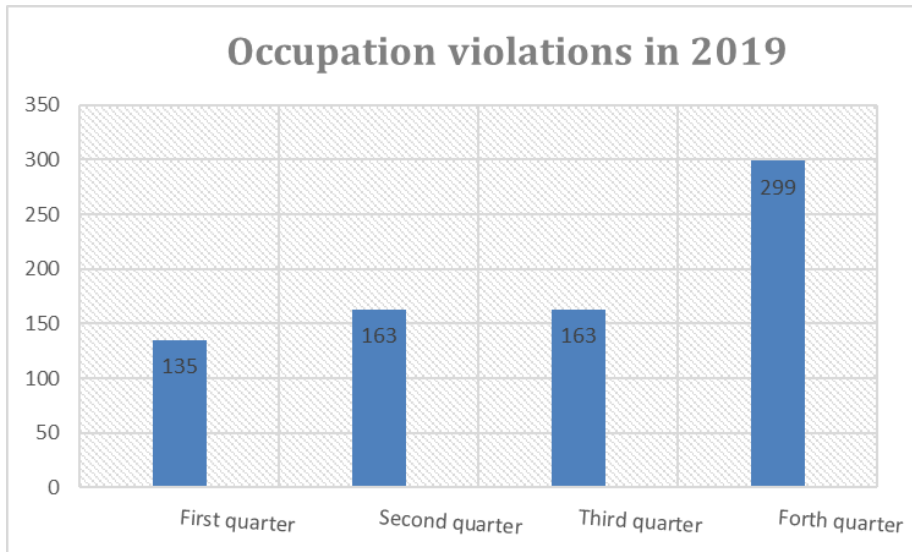


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Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate: 2019 witnesses 760 violations and crimes against journalists by Israeli occupation

According to the report issued by freedoms' committee at the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate, the year 2019 has witnessed 760 violations and crimes against journalists by Israeli occupation including 206 photojournalists and 46 female journalists.

The documentation statistics showed the sharp increase in the fourth quarter of the year where journalists were clearly targeted by occupation forces.



According to charts, the most intense violation was the electronic blocking of Palestinian journalists accounts in social media applications which reached 250 accounts, followed by 92 cases of prevention of media coverage.

Armed violations were clear by occupation forces, since 2019 has recorded 78 cases of gas inhalation, 62 injuries by rubber coated steel bullets and 12 severe injuries by live ammunition, in addition to clear intention to target journalists' bodies with gas or sound bombs with a record of 58 cases.



Moath Amarneh's case was considered as a dramatic crime since he lost his eye while he was in duty, but the fact that 4 journalists have lost their eyes this year due to severe injuries in 2018 and 2019.

As it is a global slogan “press is not a crime” occupation forces insist to deal with journalists as criminals; 20 cases of arrests were recorded, 25 were assigned to courts, 29 were detained and 19 journalists were called for summoning.

Occupation violations	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total
Prevention of coverage	21	13	5	53	92
Arrest	3	0	7	10	20
courts	7	6	11	1	25
Gas inhalation	22	20	11	25	78
rubber coated steel bullets	14	14	18	17	63
live ammunition	4	3	3	2	12
direct injuries by gas or sound bombs	25	11	7	15	58
Radio frequency breakthrough	1	0	0	0	1
Physical assault	13	10	11	36	70
Summoning for investigation	2	4	4	9	19
Exiling	1	0	0	0	1
Invading journalists homes or offices	7	2	6	2	17
financial penalties and bails	4	0	3	2	9
Social media accounts blocking	1	69	64	116	250
Threatening	2	1	0	0	3
Closure of media outlets	3	0			3
confiscation of damage of equipment	1	0	0		1
detention	2	8	10	9	29
injuries due to armed raid	2	0	0	0	2
invading of media activities	0	1	0	1	2
prevention of travel	0	1	2	0	3
House arrest	0	0	1	1	2
Total	135	163	163	299	760

PJS monitoring team has also documented internal violations as well in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The first quarter of the year was the most aggressive against journalists in Gaza strip throughout the appearance of movement “We want to live” which was suppressed by Hamas forces and this was clearly reflected on journalists, first quarter recoded 104 out of 160 violations in the year 2019.



The violations included 43 arrests, 23 invasion of journalists houses, 22 cases of summoning for investigation and 20 cases of physical assault and torturing.

After the forming of the new government in the West Bank, violations against journalists went down due to promises by the Prime Minister of increasing the level of press freedoms, but the blocking of 49 media websites increased the violations sharply in the fourth quarter in the year, which recorded 53 violations out of 94.

Freedoms Committee
Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate