

Final Narrative Report 2021- 2022

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1. Achievements, Impact and recognitions and awards

1.1. Achievements

Over the course of this one year collaboration, from August 1, 2021 until July 31, 2022, ARIJ has successfully published 70 investigations ([EN/AR](#)), 48 in-depth reports ([EN/AR](#)), 45 podcasts ([EN/AR](#)), 3 policy papers ([EN/AR](#)), 1 study ([AR](#)) and 1 manual ([AR](#)). Executed 61 workshops, 44 webinars, one data journalism diploma (39 training sessions), one Edit and Verify Lab (9 training sessions), 497 clinics, of which 142 were digital, 91 were physical safety, 229 were psychosocial support, 21 legal support and 14 career counseling (510 attendees of which 247 were females (48%)) , and 22 total Forum sessions, in which ARIJ trained virtually 658 (48.17% females) and physically 85 (55.29% females). Further details can be found below:

The three **policy papers** aimed at providing policies for protection of journalists, whistleblowers and content makers ([EN/AR](#)), safeguarding freedom of expression in Jordan ([EN/AR](#)), as well as accountability in online media ([EN/AR](#)).

During the reporting period, ARIJ conducted **61 workshops** (approximately 1,024 training hours), in which ARIJ trained a total of **1446 journalists/fact checkers**, of which **757 were females** (52%), and **44 webinars** (approximately 77 hours) which garnered a total of **9,154 live views** on Zoom and Facebook.

On April 4, ARIJ in partnership with the University of Cape Town, published a study titled "[Meeting the Challenges of Information Disorder in the Global South](#)".

1.1.1. ARIJ 21 Forum (*Pre-Forum: 21 Oct - 2 Dec and Forum 3 - 5 Dec 2021*):

1. 5700+ from 50+ countries attended virtually and physically ARIJ21 hybrid Forum (The 2nd virtual Forum). The largest Forum in ARIJ's history (To be noted that 3000+ attended virtually the ARIJ20 Forum in 2020, and 670+ physically attended the ARIJ19 Forum in 2019).
2. More than 50 partners contributed to ARIJ21 Forum. **The Wikimedia logo was amongst the partners.**
3. A total of 136 trainers ([EN/AR](#)) from 30+ countries participated in ARIJ21 Forum. A total of 216 journalists of which 113 were females (49.6%) attended virtually. Kindly refer to the Twitter posts ([EN/AR](#)) and Facebook posts ([EN](#)).
4. All forums' sessions were bi-lingual and translated into 'Sign Language'.
5. The trainees' overall satisfaction rate with the sessions held stood at 86.4%.

1.2. Impact

During the reporting period, 10 investigations had a clear **impact** and **8** investigations got **recognition** and **awards** as the following:

- **"Adhesion contracts: Recruitment Agencies in Egypt, a Backdoor to Forced Labor"** ([AR/EN](#)) (EGYPT) [reached 200+ K](#) readership in the first 48 hours of its publication on Zatmasr. Moreover, the International Business Service (IBS) increased the salary wages of the employees outsourced by them.
- **"The Secret Behind Magdy Rasikh: The Controversial Oil Tycoon is Still in Business?"** ([AR/EN](#)). The Cairo Criminal Court decided to arrest businessman Magdy Rasekh to accuse him of seizing more than one billion pounds of gas consumers' money.

- **“Mauritania Toxic Mocha Factories”** ([AR](#))/([EN](#)). The Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, prohibited the over exploitation of fish species and catching fish that is good for human consumption. This step reduced pollution and brought back the prices of fish to normal.
- **“Farmers Loans Scammed by Dubious Bank Employees in Egypt”** ([AR](#)/[EN](#)). The [Public Fund Prosecution](#) investigated the corruption in agriculture loans given by the Egyptian Agricultural Bank. This led the bank to settle the bad debts of more than 45 thousand farmers and clients in the agricultural sector, with total debts of 4 billion Egyptian pounds.
- The European Commission [proposed a new directive](#) in December to target shell companies, 3 months after the **Pandora Papers** ([AR](#)/[EN](#)) were published.
- **“Organized Expropriation of Christian Real Estate in Iraq Through Forgery and the Use of Force”** ([AR](#)/[EN](#)) (IRAQ). The Ministry of Justice assigned committees [to return properties and lands to their original owners](#), as well as developed a [hotline to report any legal and administrative violations](#).
- After publishing **“Whistleblowers in Palestine Face Prosecutions, Isolation and Ostracization”** ([AR](#)/[EN](#)) (PALESTINE) investigation by journalist Linda Maher on December 19, 2021, several Palestinian TV programs ([Maan](#) and [Watan News](#)) discussed the mechanisms of protecting whistleblowers and witnesses after they report corruption. Moreover, the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission conducted a [round table](#) to discuss the protection of whistleblowers and witnesses and how the system operates.
- Upon the publication of the two investigations part of the **“Ericsson List”**([AR](#)) project on February 27, 2022 the Ericsson stocks dropped and fines were imposed by the U.S. Department of Justice as a result of failing to fully disclose its corruption in Iraq. The investigations were based on leaked documents shared by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) with Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) along with more than 110 journalists from 30 media organizations around the world
- On March 30, five months after publishing **“Technical Error Shuts Down Moroccan Government Portal Designed for Complaints for More than a Year”** ([AR](#)/[EN](#)) (MOROCCO) investigation by journalist Yasser Makhtoum, the National Office for the Fight against Economic and Financial Crimes had

[opened an investigation](#) with 18 officials from the Ministry of Health, 13 business owners, and employees on the orders of the competent public prosecutor's office for suspicions of fraud in the execution and awarding of public contracts in the health sector in recent years, in return for large bribes.

- On May 24, following the publication of **“Egypt Sells Infertile Land for Agriculture”** ([AR/EN](#)) investigation by journalist Sha'ban Bilal on November 26, 2021, the Egyptian President, [directed](#) all concerned authorities to study and explore any current challenges encountering the 1.5 million feddan project, in addition to the localization of other activities on the company's land to maximize the benefits of the project.
- On May 28, the Yemeni authorities started rehabilitating the worst damaged parts of the road that links the Capital Sana' and the country's main port in Al Hudayda. The project came two months after publishing the **“Sana'a- Al Hdaydah Road on the Brink of Collapse”** ([AR](#)) investigation which was published on March 2, by journalist Jamil Al-Jaadabi.

1.3 Recognition and Awards

- **“Scorpion” Prison Cells Above The Law** ([AR/EN](#)) (EGYPT) investigation, published by Egyptian journalist Moayad Bilal (pseudonym) on August 10 won ARIJ21 bronze award in December 2021.
- Several of ARIJ investigations were among GIJN [editor's pick for 2021 Best Investigations](#) in the Arab World, including:
 - **“Nepotism in Palestine: Officials' Relatives are Guaranteed a Job Upon Graduation”** ([AR/EN](#)) (Palestine) published by journalists Mariam Abdallah and Mahmoud Mohammed (pseudonym) on June 24, 2021.
 - **“Female Prisoners in Yemen: Life Sentences Aided by Family Members”** ([AR/EN](#)) (Yemen) published by Najm Al Din Qasem on November 3, 2021.
 - **Pandora papers** ([AR/EN](#)).
- **“Israel selling polluted mineral water to Palestinians”** ([AR/EN](#)) was reshared and re-posted by more than 18 platforms in addition to the 4 news platforms it was published on originally.
- On December 2, OSF published an [article](#) by DG Rawan Damen on the **“Eternal Hostages”** investigation ([EN/AR](#)). On December 9, OSF posted on its Twitter and Instagram accounts the investigation's repercussions, where the

Instagram post garnered more than 785 likes, becoming OSF's top performing Instagram posts in 2021.

- On April 7 ARIJ's investigation "[Lanes of Death in East Cairo](#)" ([AR/EN](#)), published in September 2021, by Mustafa Mansour Mohamed was one of the winners of the prestigious [SIGMA Awards 2022](#) for Best Data Journalism stories worldwide.
- On April 20, NED Fellow and investigative journalist **Eman Mounir** was [shortlisted](#) for the 2022 **Covering Climate Now Journalism Awards** under the [Emerging Journalist](#) category for 6 published environmental investigations of which one was published with ARIJ "[Black Beaches](#)" ([AR/EN](#)).
- On April 27, **Pandora papers**, which ARIJ was part of ([AR/EN](#)), won the first place award for online investigative reporting for digital partnerships in the **National [Headliner Award](#)**. On May 13, "**Pandora Papers**" won the **Daniel Pearl** prize for Investigative Reporting and an award for **Business Investigative Reporting**.
- On May 30, "**Slavery**" **Entrenched by Law: Depriving Migrant Workers of their Rights in the Gulf**" ([AR](#)) investigation published by journalist Hana Buhijji on December 13, 2021 was [nominated](#) to [Samir Kassir Award](#) for audiovisual investigations category.
- "**Nepotism in Palestine: Officials' Relatives are Guaranteed a Job Upon Graduation**" ([AR/EN](#)) (PALESTINE) investigation published by journalists Mariam Abdallah and Mahmoud Mohammed (pseudonym) on June 24, 2021 was among 100 data stories shortlisted for the 2022 [sigma](#) awards.

1.4 Published investigations targeting modern slavery, unequal access to education and employment opportunity

(based on gender and race, as well as freedom of expression)

- As mentioned above "**Slavery**" **Entrenched by Law: Depriving Migrant Workers of their Rights in the Gulf**" ([AR](#)) (BAHRAIN) which was published by journalist Hana Buhijji on December 13, 2021 on [Daraj](#), on [BBC](#) on 19 December, 2021, on [albawaba](#) on January 16, 2022, and on [Middle East Monitor](#) on January 21, 2022. The investigation documents how hundreds of thousands of migrant workers in the Gulf are denied many of their rights including wages and end of service benefits. Investigation's promo can be found here ([EN/AR](#)).
- "**Guardianship Deprives Children of Divorced Women from Education**" ([AR](#)) (EGYPT) investigation was published by journalist Ayat Khairi on February 1,

2022 on [Elmadar](#) and on February 3, 2022 on ARIJ's website and [Raseef22](#). The investigation documents twelve cases where children of divorced women couldn't be registered in private schools with the excuse that the father's approval is required. Investigation's promo in ([AR](#)).

- **“Slavery in Mauritania Patrionized by Politics and Tribes”** ([AR/EN](#)) (MAURITANIA) investigation was published on April 7 by journalist Abu Baker Salem on [Daraj](#). The investigation shows how failing to enforce the laws that criminalize slavery deprives victims of their rights.
- **“Forgotten: Dead Laborers Lay Quietly Under Football Pitches of Qatar 2022”** ([AR/EN](#)) (QATAR) investigation is a photo driven report published by journalist Mohammed Badarneh on June 5 on [Daraj](#), [the Miners](#) and [Aliqtisadi](#). The investigative report followed the stories of Nepales laborers and how their lives ended prematurely while working in Qatar in the world cup constructions. This photo-driven story reflects their lives and tragedies.
- **“Enforced Disappearance in Egypt”** ([AR](#)) (EGYPT) investigation was published by journalist Layla Mahmoud (pseudonym) on June 26. The investigation documents 15 cases of enforced disappearance without acknowledging the prisoner's accusation or whereabouts, in violation of Egyptian law or international conventions and despite the state confirming having no record of enforced disappearance.