86 attacks reported on media persons in one year

ISLAMABAD: At least 86 cases of attacks and violations against media and its practitioners, including journalists, took place in Pakistan over the course of one year – between May 2021 and April 2022.

While the overall number of documented violations in the preceding year have gone down several notches, there is a continuing trend of targeting journalists working for digital media, according to this research and analysis report by Freedom Network, an award-winning Pakistan-based media rights watchdog that tracks violations against journalists and attacks on freedom of expression on an ongoing basis.

The report, released in Pakistan in 2022 to mark the World Press Freedom Day marked globally on May 3 every year, reveals that the state actors continue to be the largest threat source for journalists in Pakistan in a period marked by a dramatic escalation of coercion by the erstwhile Imran Khan government resulting in murders, legal cases, assaults, abductions, detentions and threats. "As the digital media landscape is the new horizon over Pakistan, the government is more than anxious to crack down on online freedom and digital journalists are systematic target of harassment, abuses and legal threats. We must protect our borderless Internet freedom," Iqbal Khattak, the Executive Director of Freedom Network, said.

The data shows that no place in the four Pakistani provinces, federal capital Islamabad or even Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir is safe – attacks against journalists are taking place everywhere.

According to the key findings of the Freedom Network Pakistan Press Freedom Report 2022, monitored for the period May 2021 to April 2022: 'Scale of violations against media in Pakistan and their frequency.' At least 86 cases of attacks and violations against journalists and media practitioners were documented in Pakistan in the one year between May 3, 2021 and April 10, 2021 across all territories of Pakistan, including the four provinces, Islamabad, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. This is an average of over seven cases of violations a month – one every fifth day. The top three categories of violations against the journalists in Pakistan in the period under review included (a) 13 legal cases filed against them (15 percent) and 13 cases of offline harassment (15 percent), (b) 11 instances of illegal detention by the authorities (13 percent), and (c) nine cases of attempt to murder (11 percent) and nine cases of verbal threats (11 percent). These six categories of violations – legal cases, offline harassment, illegal detention, attempt to murder and verbal threats – constituted 65 percent of the 83 categories of violations against media in Pakistan in the period.

The most dangerous regions in Pakistan for journalists: Overall, Islamabad emerged as the riskiest and most dangerous place to practice journalism in Pakistan with 37 percent of the violations (32 out of total 86 cases) recorded in the federal capital. Sindh was the second worst with 27 percent of the violations (23 cases) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) the third most dangerous with 19 percent (16 cases). These were followed by Punjab with 13 percent (11 cases), Balochistan with about 2 percent (two cases) and one case each from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

The most targeted journalism mediums in Pakistan: TV and print media in crosshairs: Of the total 86 attacks and violations against journalists recorded in Pakistan in the period under review, TV medium emerged as the single largest victim of type of media with at least 39 cases (45 percent) of the cases against its practitioners compared to print, radio and internet. Print media was the second most targeted medium with 35 journalists working for it targeted (41 percent) while 12 cases (14 percent) were recorded of online journalists targeted. No targeting of a radio journalist was documented. The biggest threat actors targeting media in Pakistan: In a whopping 41 percent of the 86 documented cases (at least 35 cases) of violations against media practitioners in Pakistan – thus the biggest threat actor – in the period under review, the victims or their families suspect the involvement of the state and its authorities and functionaries in the attacks on them compared to other influential threat actors. A group of miscellaneous 'others' with 24 percent (at least 21 cases) emerged as the second largest threat actor in the period under review. **—APP**

Turkey air force pulls out of military exercise in Athens

ISTANBUL: Turkey's air force has pulled out of a military exercise scheduled to be held in Greece next month, security sources said on Saturday alleging that preparatory documents singled out Ankara. The military exercise dubbed "Tiger Meet" is intended to promote solidarity between the participating states' fleets and is held annually. This year, it will take place in Athens between May 9 and 20.

Turkish security sources said host countries draft a text each year made up of technical regulations ahead of the planned exercise and this year, Greece targeted Turkey in the said document. The sources accused Greek authorities of making additions into the document that "abuse disagreements between the two countries," without providing precise details. According to Turkish authorities, the additions were "intentional" and prompted the air force command to ask for changes. But Greece did not accept them, the sources said. Turkey decided to snub the event on the grounds that "Greece manipulates Tiger Meet for its political interests" and informed Greek authorities of its move on April 22, they added.

Greece and Turkey, Nato allies but regional rivals in the eastern Mediterranean, often trade barbs over Aegean airspace violations. Turkey on Friday accused Greek warplanes of violating its airspace over the Aegean Sea, which Turkish security sources said happened 30 times in 72 hours. **—AFP**

Australian leader decries China's interference

SYDNEY: Australia's prime minister accused China on Saturday of "form", or a record, on interference in foreign politics, after his home minister said Beijing's unveiling of a security deal with the nearby Solomon Islands was timed to influence an election.

With most polls showing Scott Morrison's conservative coalition headed for a loss in the May 21 election, it has sought to highlight its national security credentials, such as a tough approach to China.

"We are very aware of the influence the Chinese government seeks to have in this country," Morrison told reporters in Tasmania. "There is form on foreign interference in Australia."

He was replying to a query about evidence for a radio statement by Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews that the timing of China's revelation of its recent Solomon's deal was a form of foreign interference in Australia's election. China has said the pact was not targeted at any third party and urged Australia to "respect the sovereign and independent choices made by China and the Solomons". News of the security pact with the Pacific nation sparked concerns at the prospect of a Chinese military presence less than 2,000 km (1,200 miles) from Australian shores, casting the national security efforts of Morrison's coalition in poor light.

After Australia's opposition Labour party this week called the deal a national security failure by Canberra, Morrison's government has toughened its remarks. He cited a ban on foreign political donations and a register of foreign representatives, saying, "Any suggestion that the Chinese government doesn't seek to interfere in Australia, well, we didn't put that legislation in for no reason." In the Solomon Islands a day earlier, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare told parliament the country would not participate in any militarisation in the Pacific, and had signed the China deal as a security pact with Australia was

RAWALPINDI: A labourer on the way while pulls a handcart heavily loaded with carpets to be delivered at shops at Raja Bazaar, as world observed International Labour Day.

My words my talk

MUDASSAR QADEER

Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif's visit to Saudi Arabia marks the beginning of a golden age. In the context of close fraternal relations between Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Shahbaz Sharif, visited Saudi Arabia on April 28-30, 2022.

After receiving the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Shehzad, Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Sood held a formal official meeting of the delegations of the two countries.

Ways to further strengthen were considered. The Saudi-Pakistani Supreme Coordination Council emphasized the importance of strengthening business relations, diversifying trade exchanges between the two brotherly countries and enhancing contacts and dialogue between the two countries' private sectors.

During the meeting, Saudi Arabia reaffirmed its commitment to not only continue to support Pakistan and its economy, but also $3 3 billion deposited in the central bank.

He also reiterated his commitment to continue expanding the country through the extension of its term, exploring the possibilities of further enhancing the financing of petroleum products, and continuing to support economic reforms in the interest of Pakistan and its people.

He paid tribute to Saudi Arabia for its continued support.

The high-level meeting agreed to further deepen investment cooperation between the two countries, enhance partnerships and increase the potential for joint investment between the two countries' private sectors.

The two sides emphasized the importance of enhancing and strengthening cooperation in the fields of industry and mining in their strategic interest in the light of the vision of the leadership of the two countries, which aims to enhance cooperation between the two countries. Government delegations expressed their intention to hold investment forums to bring to the fore the opportunities available in the business sector of the countries, urging them to form investment partnerships in various fields of investment through meetings of the Saudi-Pakistan Business Council. Work together to address the challenges that investors face.

Under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, economic transformation programs emphasize the potential for cooperation between the two countries and the importance of harnessing the experience and expertise of eminent Pakistani experts in various fields to benefit each other's economies. The two sides also agreed to increase cooperation in the field of media cooperation, increase cooperation in the fields of radio, television and news agencies and exchange experiences in this regard so that the media can be formed on a joint basis.

Appreciated Saudi Arabia's valuable efforts and initiatives to address climate change, environmental issues and improve living standards, and agreed to cooperate in this area.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan welcomes Saudi Arabia's initiatives for "Green Saudi Arabia" and "Green Middle East". He also emphasized the need to forge an environmental agreement focusing on materials, while in the energy sector, Pakistan welcomed Saudi Arabia's decision to extend the agreement on financing the export of crude oil products and supplying oil.

The two countries agreed to develop smoke-free technologies for hydrocarbons, electricity, hydrocarbon resources, energy efficiency, local manufacture and supply of energy-related products, work on renewable energy projects and develop projects that include solar and wind. It was agreed to find ways of joint cooperation in various fields, including power generation, which can undoubtedly be called the beginning of a golden age in Pak-Saudi relations.

The writer is a freelance contributor

Dutch dock workers refuse ship with Russian diesel cargo

THE HAGUE: Dutch dock workers on Saturday refused to unload a tanker with a consignment of Russian diesel in Amsterdam, a day after a similar action kept the ship from entering Europe's largest port. The Sunny Liger, a 42,000-tonne tanker was currently lying at anchor off Amsterdam, while port companies were mulling her entry into the Dutch capital, a day after dock workers in Rotterdam also refused to handle her cargo. "Late last night we requested all parties in the port of Amsterdam not to let the ship dock and not to (handle) it," the FNV trade union's harbour worker branch chairwoman Asmae Hajjari said. "The ship will not enter the Amsterdam port," she added in a tweet. Sailing from Primorsk near St Petersburg a week ago, the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker's final destination was Amsterdam, according to the maritime website MarineTraffic.com. "At the moment the ship lies at anchor in the North Sea. **—Reuters**

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF WASEEM HASSAN CIVIL JUDGE OKARA

SUIT FOR DIVISION OF PROPERTY

MUHAMMAD ALI VS MEHMOD ALAM ETC

NOTICE TO :- MASOD ALAM LATE THROGH LEGAL HIGHER UZMA DAUGHTER, AZRA MASOOD WIDOW CAST RAJPOOT R/O Loisin 22983 Brambleton V A . 2 0 1 4 8 USA.MODOD ALAM S/O MEHBOOB ALAM CAST RAJPOOT R/O 134-Lakeland DR Sterling VA 20160 U S A . M U S A W A R ALAM LATE THROGH LEGAL HIGHER HABIB MUSWAR SON, NOOR ALAM DAUGHTER , NIGHAT ALAM WIDOW R/O 2282 White Cornus LN. Reston VA.20191 USA.MAOOD ALAM S/O MEHBOOB ALAM R/O 21836 Regents Park CiR. Sterling VA 20166 USA.MRS MUSARAT AFTAB D/O MEHBOOB ALAM R/O 7524 Snowpea CT. Unitin.G Alexadria VA 22306 USA.

Where as service of defendant /respondent is not going to be effacted through ordinary means .so service of defendant /respondent is effected through proclmation in the newspaper you defendant /respondant are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 12-05-2022 at 08:00 am failing which exparte proceeding shall be initiated against you.

No sanctions, but US wants Delhi to break from Russia

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken has suggested encouraging India to voluntarily disengage from Russia instead of slapping sanctions on New Delhi for buying oil and weapons from Moscow.

"Where we can, it is far preferable to get countries to voluntarily not engage in these practices, and that's where our diplomacy is focused," Mr Blinken said at one of his several congressional hearings in Washington this week.

Democratic senators urged Secretary Blinken at these hearings to put more pressure on India for continuing to do business with Russia despite its invasion of Ukraine. "They go buy oil from Russia. They buy the S-400 [anti-missile system]. They abstain at the United Nations [on votes criticising Russia]," said Senator Bob Menendez, who heads the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

"But they are a member of the Quad," he said, referring to a US-led alliance of like-minded nations for containing China's influence in the Indian-Pacific region. "So, at some point messages that we send globally here are inconsistent. When we say we're 'troubled' and 'disappointed,' that doesn't cut it." Secretary Blinken, who was defending the State Department's fiscal 2023 budget request, acknowledged this 'uncomfortable reality' but also urged lawmakers to see the broader picture.

"We're at a very important strategic moment as various countries … are possibly reconsidering some of their other relationships, including with Russia," he said in his first of four appearances in Congress this week. "As a strategic proposition, I think it's very much in our interests to encourage that and work with that and see what we can do to … take advantage of other strategic opportunities that may present themselves as a result of Russia's aggression." In another hearing at a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, Secretary Blinken told the lawmakers that India's relationship with Russia goes back decades.

"Russia, for India, was out of necessity a partner of choice when we were not in a position to be a partner," he said in response to a question from Senator William Hagerty. "Now, we are investing in that effort. I think there is a growing strategic convergence between the United States and India," Mr Blinken said. "And of course, China is a big part of that," as Beijing's growing influence in the region brings India closer to the United States.

Mr Blinken said US President Joe Biden had spent "a lot of time directly engaging with Prime Minister Modi and India's leadership". At the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Menendez criticised the State Department for not forcefully calling out India's decision to increase oil purchases from Moscow just as other US allies are curtail their own energy imports from Russia.

Senators said they could suggest sanctioning India if it didn't stop buying Russian defence equipment, on which India has long relied. The US media, while reporting their remarks, noted that before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, US lawmakers were more open to giving India a waiver for purchasing a Russian anti-missile system. The US media reported that since the Russian invasion, India has imported more than double the amount of crude oil from Russia that it did in all of 2021. "Why aren't we applying secondary sanctions against countries … that are increasing their imports from Russian commodities?" asked Senator Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat.

"There are countries that are taking advantage of discounted Russian oil prices … which only helps (President) Putin." Secretary Blinken said Washington has "engaged with some countries" that are taking advantage of Russia's discounted commodity exports." But applying individual sanctions was inadvisable, he added. **—Agencies**

Blasts cut power to millions in Afghanistan

KABUL: Millions of people across 11 provinces in Afghanistan faced blackouts on Saturday after two power transmission towers were blown up just west of the capital, authorities said. Two pylons in the province of Parwan were bombed late on Friday, cutting off electricity to the capital and neighbouring provinces. "The enemies... have blown up two electricity pylons with bombs," Hekmatullah Maiwandi, a spokesman for the state-run DABS electricity company, said in a video statement. Five teams from the firm have been deployed to carry out repairs, he added. "The pylons are installed on top of mountains and our teams are trying to fix them," Maiwandi said. Temporary repairs would be performed to partially restore power by Saturday night. **—AP**

پبلک نوٹس

ہاؤسنگ گارڈن بلاک 53 فیز آر ہاؤسنگ اتھارٹی لاہور کو حلفیہ بیان دیا ہے کہ مالک ڈاکٹر ساجدہ
کنول زیدی اور وحید رشید اعوان شناختی کارڈ نمبر 31104.1634132-4 مکین 53 فیز آر ہاؤسنگ اتھارٹی
لاہور ہاؤسنگ گارڈن آباد بلاک نمبر 53 فیز آر کنال 1 مرلے 98 کنال 13 مرلے خانہ نمبر 38 کھتونی نمبر
82 مربع نمبر 27 کیلہ نمبر 3 کیلہ نمبر 13 کنال 13 مرلے کیلہ نمبر 14 تا 24,17،
25 پر مشتمل ہاؤسنگ گارڈن کی منظوری کے لیے درخواست گزار دی ہے اس کی تفصیلات مندرجہ ذیل
ہیں

1۔ ساجدہ کنول زیدی وحید رشید اعوان 98 کنال 13 مرلے شناختی کارڈ نمبر
31104.1634132-4 مکین 53 فیز آر ہاؤسنگ اتھارٹی لاہور

اس کی بابت اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنی تحریری اعتراض کی حمایت میں ثبوت کے
ساتھ اس اشتہار کی اشاعت کے 15 یوم کے اندر اندر مجھے تحریری طور پر مطلع کرے اگر
مقررہ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی اعتراض موصول نہ ہوا تو

دستخط: ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر ہاؤسنگ اتھارٹی لاہور