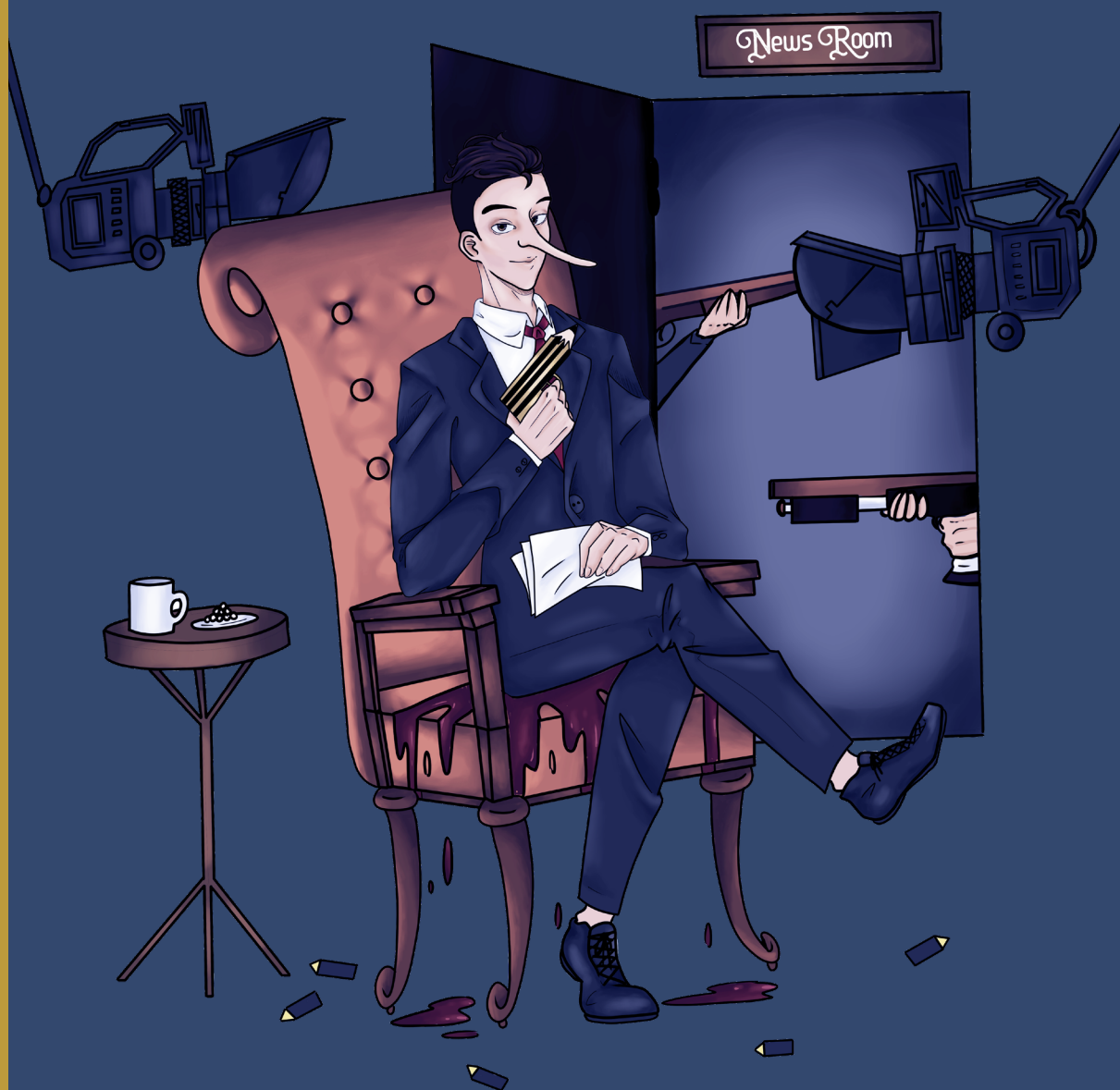# THE REPORT |

MEDIA PLATFORMS PRACTICE CRIME AND THEIR JOURNALISTS BOAST HATE SPEECH

FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2020 | RESULTS OF MONITORING HATE SPEECH AND FAKE NEWS

News Room

Supported by |

Federal Foreign Office

Monitor and Executey |

FALSØ

لرصد خطـاب الكـراهـــيّة والأخبــار الـزّائفـة

www.falso.ly

STAFF

MONITORS

Ferdaous Al-Jedidi
Manal Al Mejri
Nesrin Al Abiidi
Nesrin Al-Mahmoudi
Asia Al Gafaree

REPORTING

Khaled Alhnsher
Asia Al Gafaree
Ameen Ahmed

DATA PORTAL

Ahmed Gadmor

STATISTICAL ANALYST

Mohammed Bashien

REVIEW & SUPERVISION

Mohamed Alnajem
CEO

INDEX

INTRODUCTION ————————————————

The Libyan Center for Freedom of the Press has launched The Falso platform to monitor hate speech and fake news[1]. It is an independent digital research platform that works on media monitoring with the aim of educating the Libyan public about the situation of deep falsification practiced by many media outlets in social networks, the media plays a pivotal role in creating and steering events, and anyone who owns more sophisticated means, raises the ceiling of its impact on events positively or negatively, to the point of making the taste and culture of future individuals.

Since the outbreak of the violent conflict in Tripoli in April 2019[2], media discourse in a number of media outlets has changed significantly, and the language of incitement and hate speech has been widely used, disrupting social peace, increasing the gap between the public and the media and causing loss of confidence in its means.

Crises have taken reality to a level of exceptional interaction that disrupts the means and tools of control and oversight that are based on ensuring a minimum balanced public service for the media community, which necessitates a careful reading of the situation of transformations caused by conflicts.

The Libyan Center for Freedom of the Press watched 15 Libyan media outlets, to monitor the media discourse, which is mostly biased to the parties of the armed conflict, and the accompanying significant decline of professionalism, the slide of media platforms to support armed parties and the implementation of propaganda advertisement, So that a new type of media was established that does not necessarily adhere to the ethics of the profession, derives its legitimacy from the tyranny and the injustice of systems, so this role has evolved with the many non-professional journalists and reporters having to practice over time, consequently, we are facing a media situation that has not been stable and has not been fully formed . Hence, the criteria for evaluating the experience differ according to contexts in a way that the circle of difference within one country may expand from another region according to ethnic, racial, ideological and regional divisions.

---

1 –   Platform Falso, Foundation Statement, Link https://bit.ly/2G6UBpy
2 – Statement, media platforms that practice crime and its journalists boasting Hate speech, April 14, 2019, Libyan Center for Press Freedom, website link   https://bit.ly/3baFNlg

The most important and valuable weapon of the media to influence events is usually the ability to present a credible image even if it is not true news that earns you strength, our team has monitored 12,470 professional breaches, indicating the crude practices made by the media in covering the traumatic events of the war that the Libyans waged against each other with international support and instruction, and the increased hostilities through satellite channels and social networking sites, which reveals the extent of hostility and rivalry, lack of professionalism and the use of many methods to falsify facts to serve specific interests, Indeed, it "added fuel to the fire" in massing the Libyans to fight against each other. The media performance varies and takes a course according to the degree of conflict, and the narrower the spaces for the expression of the news and access from here, the higher the ceiling to depart from the professional ethics of the journalistic work, so that working with those ethics becomes absurd compared to the magnitude of the tragedy, and the coverage gradually slides, to become part of the scene of conflict and confrontation.

However, the positive thing about the matter is the increasing requests of the Libyan public to send press materials to the Falso platform team to verify them and uncover the facts, not to mention the gradual shift from quantitative monitoring to qualitative monitoring of these professional breaches.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ───────

The results of the first periodic report of the organization "Falso" issued that the Cairo-based al-Jamahiriya satellite channel, is the most practicing media outlet of incitement , hate speech and false news by up to 14% with 1726 breaches, while the Libyan newspaper AlMarsad, which employs multinational journalists and is believed to broadcast from Abu Dhabi and Amman with 12.4% and 1551 breaches, followed by AlTanasoh channel, which broadcasts from Tripoli with 11.5%.

When it comes to journalistic formats, news and written press reports topped the list of the professional breaches with 48%, with 5,983 recurrences, followed by images and videos broadcast with 17% from 2104 repeats, whereas professional breaches of press headlines came with 14%, with 1,735 recurrences.

Producers or source of professional breaches, Newsrooms, "Editorial Management", accounted for the largest percentage, at 50%, with more than 6,300 recurrences, while representatives of the Government of National Accord came up with 9.4% with more than 1,168 violations, while representatives of General Khalifa Haftar with 8% with 942 repetitions, followed by political activists, presenters and press editors.

There are many professional violations monitored that are related to the classification of hate speech, where direct incitement, insult and defamation increased by 66% over other classifications by a number of repetitions close to 6,000 professional breaches, while the classification of inaccuracies and objectivity in the coverage of the armed conflict amounted to approximately 14% with the number of repetitions exceeding 1200, while the call for violence and murder came up with 13% with 1165 recurrences.

As for the classification of false news, accusations without evidence were the highest among the rest of the professional breaches, with 52% and a number of breaches exceeding 1800, while the misleading and biased news was nearly 10%, with a number exceeding 350 breaches, while the rate of confusion of opinion and news was 6%, with 228 violations monitored.

72% of professional breaches that were recorded were related to hate speech, with nearly 9,000 violations, while professional breaches related to false news were 28% with 3,500 breaches.

Media monitoring shows that foreign civilians are the most targeted by hate speech and direct incitement with 30% ,with more than 2,500 professional breaches, while representatives of General Khalifa Haftar's forces were nearly 30% too, and representatives of the National Accord Government forces came up with 13% , with a number exceeding 1,600, followed by the repeated targeting of the Government of National Accord with 13% ,with more than 1,400 recurrences.

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWOR ——

1. PROBLEMATIC OF THE STUDY ||

Scientific research is an essential activity of any society; In order to develop and plan for the future to find[1] sound solutions to the problems and phenomena that may hinder the growth and progress of societies, Through the organized investigation of these phenomena, and aims to attain knowledge that can be communicated and verified through scientific testing. In order to achieve this step, the researcher must define the subject of his study, or his research problem in an accurate and clear manner[2]. The problem of this study has been identified in a main question: What are the various types of professional violations that the surveyed Libyan media have committed, and how can they be treated professionally to avoid incitement, violence, hate speech and false news stories?

OVER THE COURSE OF THE first quarter of 2020, 5 monitors worked alongside Content and Publishing Manager on the quantitative monitoring of 15 media outlets 24 hours a day for their website and Facebook pages and controlling and monitoring professional breaches in all multimedia "photos, videos, written reports, news, etc".

The result showed a significant increase in professional breaches, with 12,470 professional breaches documented, and that is considered as a very big number.

We have also been working closely to verify the rumors and false news that are trending on social media, and we have noticed the response and the great interaction from the Libyan public, which enhances the position of Falso platform as the first digital platform to monitor hate speech and fake news.

Given the high financial and human cost of quantitative monitoring, we have developed a research methodology based on qualitative news monitoring rather than quantitatively with a smaller team that can monitor and track 24 hours a day.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY |

The importance of research or study is a major and essential element in any scientific research, and this study gains its importance from its concern with monitoring false news and hate speeches in the Libyan media during the study period, as it is among the recent studies that are exposed to monitoring these practices in the Libyan media.

---

1 -   Mr. Mustafa Omar, Scientific Research, Its Concept, Procedures and Approaches
2 - United Arab Emirates, Al-Falah Library, 2002 pp (23-24-109)

1. THE STUDY OBJECTIVES |

The specialists believe that the most important and first reading in any scientific research or study are the objectives, because they are a reflection of the expected results of the research, and the more clear lysed and soundly formulated the research objectives are, the more clearly it is for the researcher to clarify his path to reach the results(1), and accordingly the objectives of this study were determined and divided as follows:

2. SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY |

A. Establishing the concept of accuracy in the work of journalism, and urging the presentation and commitment to the ethics of journalism in all media outlets.

B. Spreading the culture of legal awareness among those who communicate and promoting the dimensions and concepts of social responsibility of the media and the consequences of incitement, hate speech and false news, including legal accountability.

3. PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES |

A. Contributing to improving the quality of journalistic content, combating fake news and anti-hate speech in the local media.

B. Monitoring all professional violations of the targeted media by analytical study within the specified time period and documenting them to be held legally accountable to the competent authorities.

4. PREVIOUS STUDIES |

This study was based on several reports issued by the Center previously, including a study entitled "Ownership, Financing, Transparency and Pluralism of Libyan private media[1] field study,

as well as other related research studies issued by other centers, including local and international.

5. STUDY QUESTIONS |

This study was launched by seeking to answer the following main question: - which local media outlets are the ones that adopted the method of incitement and false news in their media discourse during the study period, and how to combat this method to reduce the inflaming within the Libyan society?

---

1 - (1) - Who owns the media in Libya?, Research Study, Libyan Center for Freedom of the Press , May 3, 2020, website link https://bit.ly/31HW6ml

6.   STUDY CURRICULUM |

The curriculum is defined as the set of mental procedures represented by the researcher in advance of the learning process that he will go through in order to reach the truth of the subject he is targeting.

In this study, we used the media survey method through the quantitative and qualitative method of monitoring the false news and inflammatory and hate speeches during the study period through a research methodology based on quantitative and qualitative monitoring to monitor the Libyan digital media based on global professional standards and ethical practices in media institutions, and the monitoring process was based on counting the number of repetitions of hate speech and armed conflicts in addition to the number of repetitions of professional breaches related to false or misleading news, where monitors fill the digital database consisting of several variables to become a database containing numbers and statistics that help calculate the ratios and the nature of violations.

7.   STUDY COMMUNITY |

The study community is made up of 15 media outlets whose programs were monitored 24 hours a day in a comprehensive survey method to achieve the study›s objectives.

8.   DATA COLLECTION TOOLS |

In this study, we used the content analysis form, one of the tools of scientific research, through which the direction and content of the media material that is analyzed and its characteristics are identified in an objective way[1],as a tool to identify false and fake news by comparing it with news that denies its validity and also to determine inflammatory contents during the study period.

9.   STUDY LIMITS |

The limits of this study were classified chronologically during the period from January 1st to March 31, 2020, during which 5 monitors were working to follow 15 media outlets, which consisted of their websites and official facebook pages, while the period of analysis and preparation of the report extended between the 1st of April and 30th of July 2020, and spatially, this study was conducted within the borders of Tripoli, where the headquarters of the Libyan Center for Freedom of the Press.

---

1 -   (1)- Dhawqat Obaidat Mohammed, Kaid Abdul Haq, Abdul Rahman Adass, Scientific research concept, tools and methods (1), Amman, Dar Arab Thought, Year 8, 2004, p. (147)

10.   CLASSIFICATION OF STUDY FORM |

i. Hate speech classification

Professional violations related to hate speech and armed conflict are classified according to the following:

A.   **INCITEMENT:** is Inviting the public, directly or indirectly, to take an action against individuals or groups, using one of the methods of advertising

B.   **ADVOCATING FOR VIOLENCE OR KILLING:** The World Health Organization has defined violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power against a person or group.

C.   **INCITEMENT, INSULT, AND DEFAMATION:** Hostility was defined as "every act based on an extreme state of mind of hatred and abhorrence towards individuals or groups.

D.   **CONTEMPT AND INSULT TO HUMAN DIGNITY:** here is meant a direct offense to people, describing them with epithets that disrespects them and harms their dignity as well.

E.   **INDECENT ASSAULT AND STIGMATIZATION:** which is the making of any name/nickname and affixing them to people in an undesirable manner.

F.   **DISCRIMINATION BASED ON COLOR, GENDER, OR RELIGION:** is every invitation or call directed to the public by any method of advertising, and any act that weakens or prevents individuals or groups from enjoying equality.

G.   **PUBLISHING PHOTOS AND VIDEOS OF THE DEAD AND THEIR FAMILIES:** It is the process of publishing or broadcasting any visual content that arouses pity for victims of war or footage of their families

H.   **PUBLISHING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF PRISONERS AND WAR VICTIMS:** It is very frequent in the context of the Libyan media, where photos or videos of families are published suspiciously without any fair trials for them.

I.   **INACCURACY AND OBJECTIVITY IN COVERING THE CURRENT ARMED CONFLICT:** inaccuracy is the publication of unconfirmed news that carries interpretations and exaggerations with distortion of facts.

-10-   More Details | www.LCFP.org.ly www.falso.ly   First Quarter Report of 2020 | "Media platforms practice crime and their journalists boast hate speech"   LCFP
Libyan Center For Freedom of Press
For the sake of free professional media

ii. Classification of misleading news

Regarding the classification of professional violations related to misleading or false news, they are as follows:

Detecting fake news is very easy by following simple steps to detect counterfeiting in the new media era, but we have to define the types of fake and false news, which are as follows:

A. **CONFUSION BETWEEN OPINION AND NEWS:** It is the easiest to recognize it. It includes mentioning an event and giving more space to direct the reader with opinions that are not related to the news.

B. **ACCUSATIONS WITHOUT EVIDENCE:** It is direct accusations against persons or groups and raising public opinion on them without any legal basis for these charges.

C. **MISLEADING OR BIASED NEWS:** This is more difficult than its predecessor to judge. It contains a real part in most cases, such as a specific fact, event or even a quote, but all are taken from a specific context, and without this context their meaning differs completely. As for the biased news, it explains facts or real news, but from a biased point of view and clearly affiliated with a specific agenda.

D. **CLICKBAIT AND FALSE HEADLINES:** These are surprising or shocking headlines that push you to click them for more information. They may be true or false, and most of them are used to mislead the reader.

E. **SPREADING RUMORS:** It is an attempt to influence or distort the reputation of others by spreading false information that has nothing to do with the truth, and aims to pressure others or harm their psyche.

F. **FABRICATING IMAGES OR VIDEOS:** It is a method that is used more frequently lately and it illustrates the case of deep faking through Photoshop for pictures or videos and showing an aura to mislead readers.

BASIC INFORMATION

MONITORING RESULTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2020, HATE SPEECH AND FAKE NEWS

1. THE NUMBER OF BREACHES FOR EACH MONTH ||

3903 March `%40`

12,470 THE TOTAL OBSERVED BREACHES

3577 February `%29`

4990 January `%31`
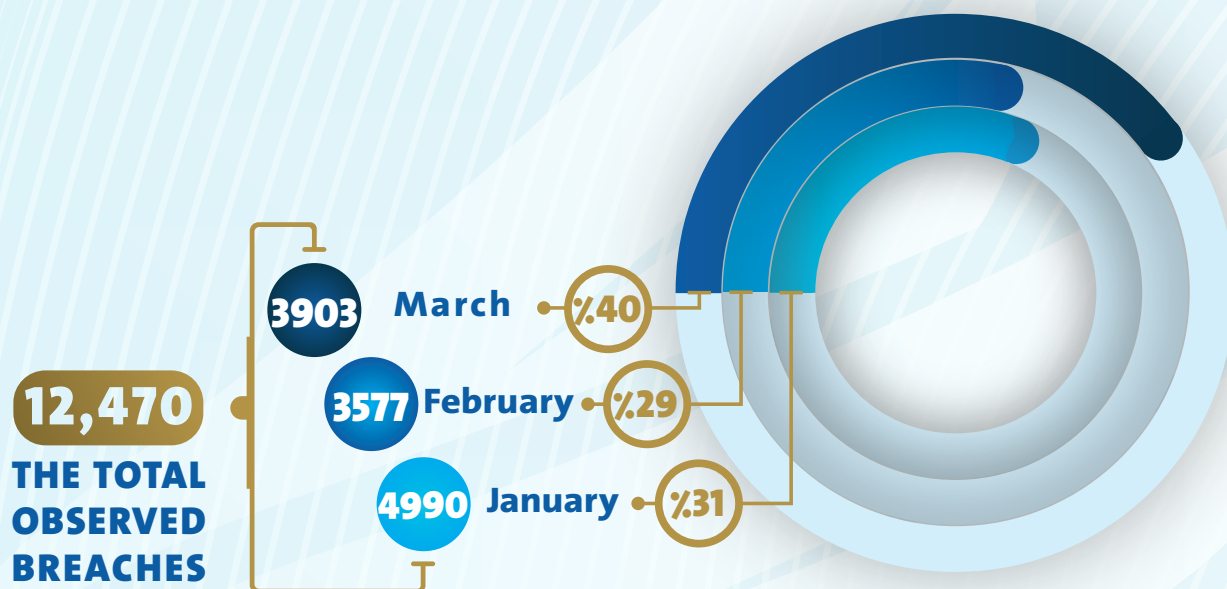
2. CLASSIFICATION OF INSTITUTIONS ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF BREACH |

Through their press output, these institutions dealt with hate speech as the highest percentage (71.85) by addressing the audience or a target group, followed by their handling of professional violations through their press productions.

8949 HATE SPEECH `%72`

3506 PROFESSIONAL DEFICIENCIES `%28`
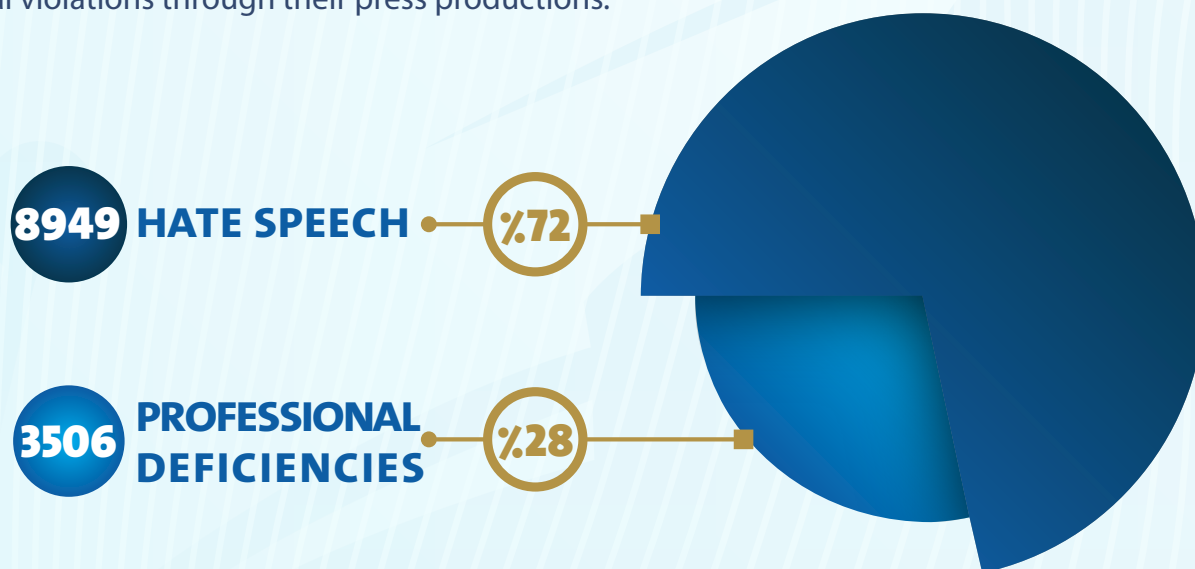
3. MONITORED MEDIA INSTITUTIONS |

Al-Jamahiriya TV topped the highest rate of "professional breaches with a percentage of 13.84%, as it works to address the most societal group to address various issues from the perspective of (the former regime) in igniting the political crisis.

It is followed by the Libyan newspaper, Al-Marsad, with 12.44%, which is run by multinational journalists from Jordan. Despite its huge funding, there is no information about the sources of funding and the mechanisms of its journalistic work.

Al-Tanasuh TV, which came up with 11.53%, which is known for adopting the Islamic approach and bringing it closer to the Grand Mufti of Libya (Al-Sadiq Al-Ghariani) comes in third place.

Alsaaa 24 news site is ranked fourth according to violations with 8.22%, and it is known that it is completely biased towards the Karama camp in Benghazi.

It is followed by the February channel with 8.00%, which is known for its bias towards the Government of National Accord

Al-Raid network with 7.38% is also aligned with the Government of National Accord, which is run from inside Libya

1726	المرصد ALMARSAD — ALMARSAD.CO	%13.84
1551		%12.44
1438	التناصح — قناة التناصح الفضائية	%11.53
1025	الساعة 24	%8.22
998	فبراير	%8.00
920	الرائد	%7.38
906	ليبيا الأحرار	%7.27
865	قناة الحدث	%6.94
662	LPC بانوراما	%5.31
484	ليبيا روحها الوطن	%3.88
472	218 NEWS	%3.79
425	أخبار ليبيا 24	%3.44
388	بوابة إفريقيا الإخبارية — Afrigatenews.net	%3.11
335	عين ليبيا	%2.69
275	الليبية The Libyan	%2.21

More Details | www.LCFP.org.ly www.falso.ly | First Quarter Report of 2020 | "Media platforms practice crime and their journalists boast hate speech"

LCFP
Libyan Center For Freedom of Press
For the sake of free professional media

4. JOURNALISTIC FORMS USED IN INFLAMMATORY SPEECH |

The news story or news report also topped the highest percentage of breaches of journalistic forms with 47.98% , because it contained complex and false vocabulary and sentences, whose editors relied on arousing and attracting attention without meaningful content.

%17

PHOTOS OR VIDEOS 2104

%48

NEWS OR WRITTEN NEWS REPORT 5983

%8

NEWS BULLETINS 994

%14

HEADLINES 1735

%6

EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE 736

%7

REPORTS OF VIDEO DIVERSE CLIPS 870

5. HATE SPEECH CLASSIFICATION |

The stigmatization of incitement, insult and defamation was taken as the highest percentage (66.14%) in the nature of breaches in terrorism, as newsrooms worked by focusing in their journalistic forms on this stigma to send messages and letters in the interest of every medium.
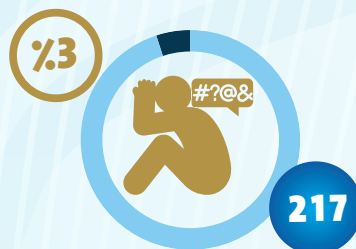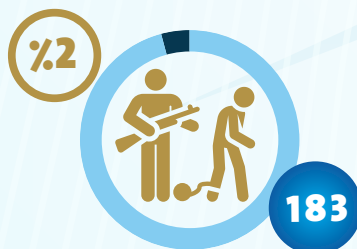
%66 — 5935
Incitement, insult and defamation
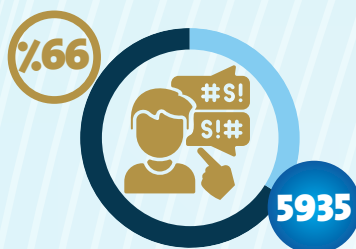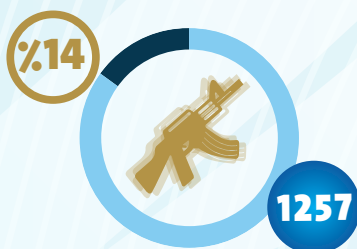
%14 — 1257
Inaccuracy and Objectivity in Covering Armed Conflict
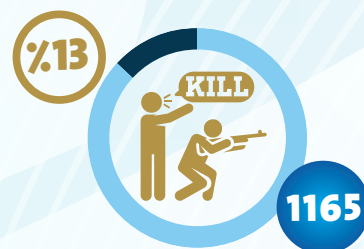
%13 — 1165
Advocating for violence or killing

%3 — 217
Contempt and insult to human dignity

%2 — 183
Publish photos and videos for victims and prisoners of war

%1 — 120
Indecent assault and stigma

%>1 — 46
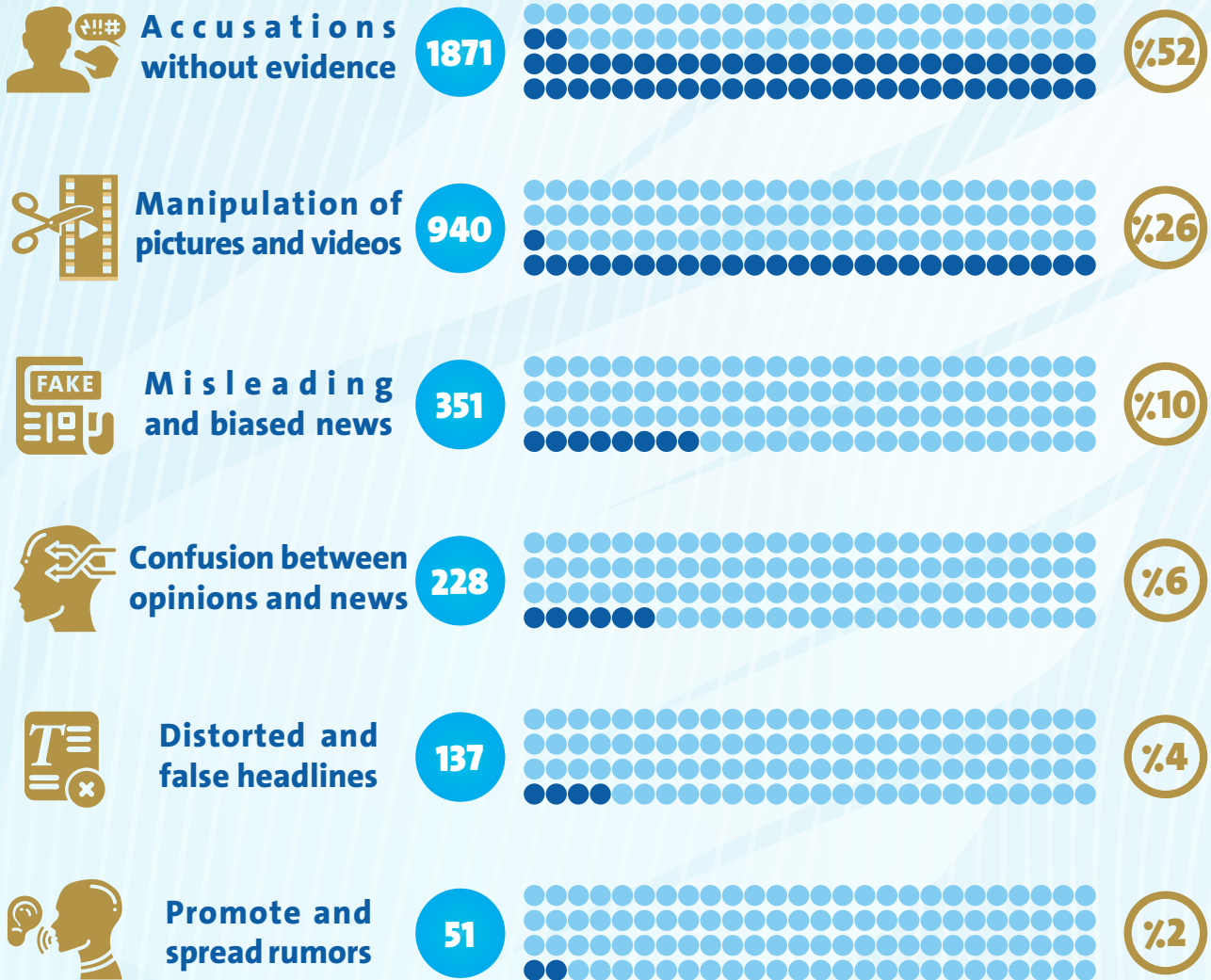**Racial discrimination based on gender, religion and skin colour**

%>1 — 31
Publish photos and videos of the dead and their families
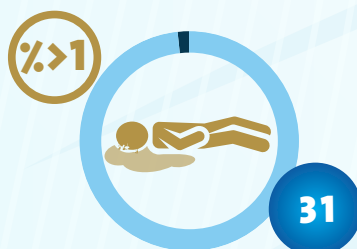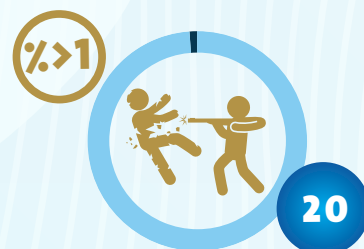
%>1 — 20
Publish pictures or videos glorifying targeting civilians

6. CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL VIOLATIONS |

The officials of these media outlets relied on directing accusations without evidence that came as the highest percentage (52.29 %) of the classification of fake or false news through their newsrooms during that period.

Accusations without evidence	1871		%52
Manipulation of pictures and videos	940		%26
Misleading and biased news	351		%10
Confusion between opinions and news	228		%6
Distorted and false headlines	137		%4
Promote and spread rumors	51		%2

"Media platforms practice crime and their journalists boast hate speech"

7. THE PRODUCER OR SOURCE OF THE BREACH |

The editorial administration is the first responsible source of the breach with a percentage of (50.71%) that is managed according to certain policies and objectives by the funders of these media outlets, which are often led by di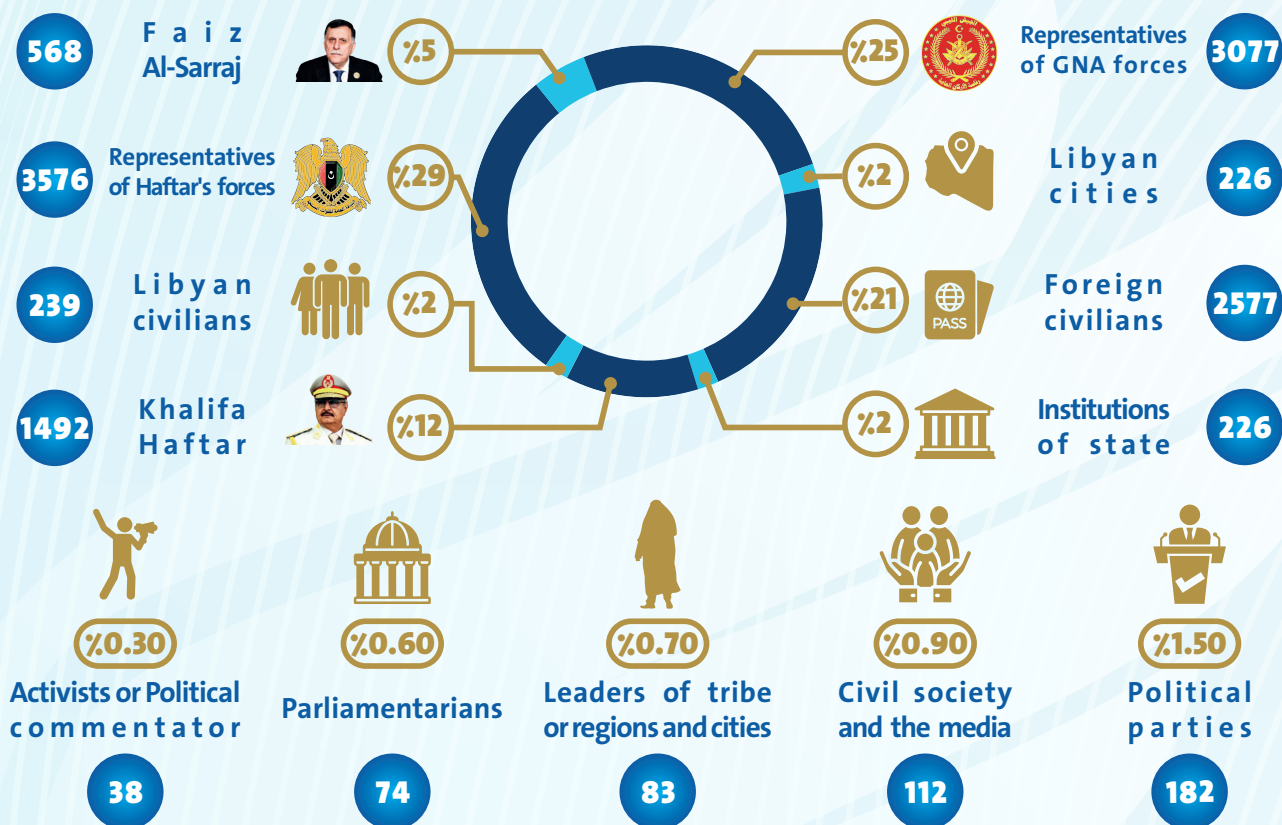rect instructions and do not depend on journalistic professionalism, as followed in second place by representatives of General Khalifa Haftar (11.84%) as a source of rags.

6324
Editorial management
%51

1477
Representatives of Haftar's
%12

1168
Representatives of GNA
%9

1040
Activists or Political commentator
%8

790
Program presenter or reporter
%6

415
Leaders of tribe or regions and cities
%3

413
Parliamentarians
%3

401
Journalist editor
%3

226
Foreign officials
%2

122
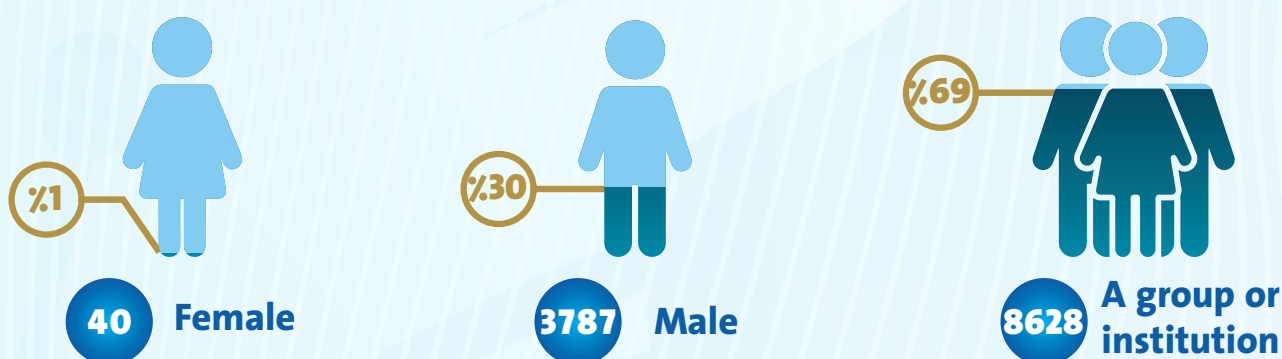Citizens
%1

94
Libyan officials
%1
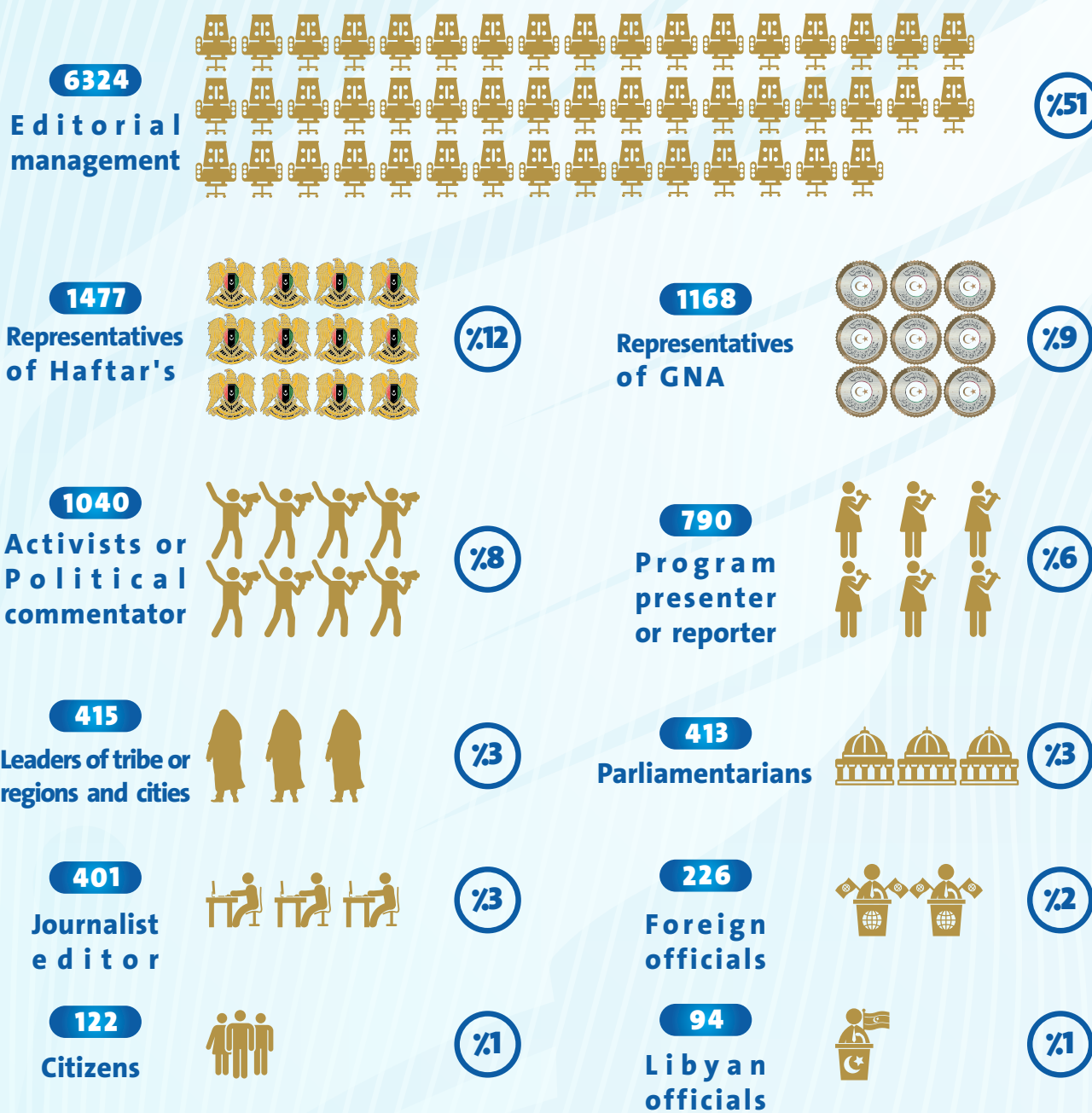
8. TARGETED PARTIES AND GENDERS |

The names of General Khalifa Haftar's forces came to the fore as the highest percentage of the target population, followed by the names of the forces affiliated with the Government of National Accord in terms of their use … and foreign bloggers came in third place

568 Faiz Al-Sarraj %5

3576 Representatives of Haftar's forces %29

239 Libyan civilians %2

1492 Khalifa Haftar %12

%25 Representatives of GNA forces **3077**

%2 Libyan cities **226**

%21 Foreign civilians **2577**

%2 Institutions of state **226**

%0.30 Activists or Political commentator **38**

%0.60 Parliamentarians **74**

%0.70 Leaders of tribe or regions and cities **83**

%0.90 Civil society and the media **112**

%1.50 Political parties **182**

9. CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO GENDER OR TYPE |

News institutions' rooms targeted groups or institutions as the highest targets with a percentage (69.27%).

%1 **40** Female

%30 **3787** Male

%69 **8628** A group or institution

"Media platforms practice crime and their journalists boast hate speech"

CONCLUSIONS

THE REASON BEHIND THE RISE IN HATE SPEECH ON SOME LIBYAN MEDIA SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES IS DUE TO A NUMBER OF FACTS, SOME OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Based on the indicators of quantitative and qualitative monitoring of the media materials, it shows that the media outlets played a negative role represented in the process of fuelling the state of political conflict between the various parties in the arena, and the failure to provide a healthy political, media and cultural environment for the political transition process, which calls for a comprehensive review of the media performance of the Libyan media

2. The absence of supervisory and legislative bodies to monitor these working methods that are not committed to the ethics of the profession, helped them to continue these violations and establish themselves as the one of the most professional.

3. Dependence of these media on publishing informative material that is not subject to professional standards of journalistic ethics. At the same time, it is also not compatible with the positive role that the media outlet is supposed to play nor the message assigned to it.

4. The editorial management of these institutions worked to direct their media materials and their guests by publishing political messages of a hate nature on the political and societal issues they address.

5. Libyan media have employed social media outlets badly in the political conflict at this stage to neutralize political opponents and root against them in order to incite public opinion against them, and to convert a large part of the published media material into material for political propaganda.

6. Most of the hate speech statements are related to political and personal incitement, insulting and abuse, by targeting their opponents from political topics and issues, and the majority of the axes around which hate speech revolved in the Libyan media.

LIST OF SOURCES AND REFERENCES

BOOKS |

1.   Mr. Mustafa Omar, Scientific Research, Its Concept, Procedures, and Methods, (2), United Arab Emirates, Al-Falah Library, 2002

2.   Duqat Obaidat Muhammad, Kayed Abdul Haq, Abdul Rahman
Adas, Scientific Research, its Concept, Tools and Methods, (1), Amman, House of Arab Thought, the eighth year 2004

WEBSITES, STUDIES AND REPORTS |

1.   Bayan, Media platforms that practice crime and their journalists flaunt incitement speech, 14 April 2019, Libyan Center for Freedom of the Press, website link: https://bit.ly/3baFNlg

2.   Falso platform, statement of incorporation,
website link: https://bit.ly/2G6UBpy

3.   Who owns the media in Libya ?, Research study, Libyan Center for Freedom of the Press, May 3, 2020,
website link: https://bit.ly/31HW6ml

4.   Falso website, the research methodology,
website link: https://bit.ly/2QEuwQL