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Journalists killed in Egypt since 2011

The following is a list compiled on February 20, 2015, of journalists killed in Egypt in relation to their work, according to research by the Committee to Protect Journalists. For an up-to-date list, visit www.cpj.org/killed/mideast/egypt/.

1. *Mayada Ashraf, Al-Dustour, March 28, 2014, in Cairo, Egypt*

2. *Tamer Abdel Raouf, Al-Ahram, August 19, 2013, in Damanhur, Egypt*

3. *Mosaab al-Shami, Rassd News Network, August 14, 2013, in Cairo, Egypt*

4. *Ahmed Abdel Gawad, Al-Akhbar, Misr25, August 14, 2013, in Cairo, Egypt*

5. *Mick Deane, Sky News, August 14, 2013, in Cairo, Egypt*

6. *Ahmed Assem el-Senousy, Freedom and Justice, July 8, 2013, in Cairo, Egypt*

7. *Salah al-Din Hassan, Shaab Masr, June 29, 2013, in Port Said, Egypt*

8. *Al-Hosseiny Abou Deif, El-Fagr, December 12, 2012, in Cairo, Egypt*

9. *Wael Mikhael, Al-Tareeq, October 9, 2011, in Cairo, Egypt*

10. *Ahmad Mohamed Mahmoud, Al-Ta'awun, February 4, 2011, in Cairo, Egypt*

1. Mayada Ashraf

Al-Dustour
March 28, 2014, in Cairo, Egypt

Mayada Ashraf, 23, a reporter with the daily *Al-Dustour*, was shot dead while covering clashes between security forces and the Muslim Brotherhood protesters in Eastern Cairo's Ain Shams area. The clashes stemmed from nationwide demonstrations by members and supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood

who were protesting Army Chief Abdul-Fattah al-Sisi's announcement on March 26 that he would resign from the army and run for president.

Forensic reports and other eyewitnesses confirmed that Ashraf died from being shot in the head. In a video published by news channel *Masr Alarabia*, the journalist is shown being carried away by protesters after being shot. An editor at *Al-Dustour*, Abdel Kader Ismael, told Al-Hayat TV that ambulances were initially unable to reach the journalist's body amid the clashes.

Ashraf's most recent report from that day's clashes included a description of the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group. *Al-Dustour* is well-known for its criticism of the Muslim Brotherhood and its Freedom and Justice party. Ashraf had also covered previous protests for the paper, the reports said.

Ahlam Hasanin, Ashraf's colleague who was with her at the time of the shooting, told the news website of the Freedom and Justice party that Ashraf was shot in the head from the back while they, along with protesters, were running from gunfire. The gunfire was coming from behind them, which was where the police were, she said.

Mina Nader, a freelance journalist who was also present at the time of the attack, said on his social media account that security forces opened fire randomly on the protesters, who were not carrying guns.

Police denied the accusations and said protesters were responsible for shooting Ashraf. A YouTube video was circulated by media supportive of the army that showed three protesters shooting randomly, according to news reports. Demonstrators counter that the video only shows them loading birdshot into their guns, which they say is unlikely to penetrate and exit a human skull from a distance.

Egyptian prosecutors later ordered the arrest of nine individuals who they said were responsible for the shooting, according to news reports. The suspects included the three protesters seen in the video, police said.

2. Tamer Abdel Raouf

Al-Ahram
August 19, 2013, in Damanhur, Egypt

Abdel Raouf, Beheira bureau chief for the state paper *Al-Ahram*, was killed when Egyptian soldiers at a checkpoint opened fire on his vehicle as a nightly military-imposed curfew was about to begin. The

attack, which took place in the Nile Delta city of Damanhur, also wounded Hamid al-Barbary, Beheira bureau chief for the state newspaper *Al-Gomhuria*.

Al-Barbary told CPJ that Abdel Raouf had offered to drive home several journalists after a joint meeting with the new governor of Beheira. The two of them were the only ones left in the car as they approached the checkpoint. Al-Barbary told CPJ that soldiers gestured to them, telling them to leave the checkpoint, so Abdel Raouf turned the car around. The soldiers then opened fire on the car, al-Barbary said, and Abdel Raouf was hit in the head. The car swerved and hit a light pole.

An army spokesman issued a statement on the night of the attack, claiming the car had "raised suspicion by driving at high speed during curfew hours near a military checkpoint without reacting to calls or to warning gunshots in the air." The statement also said the soldiers thought the car was trying to escape from the checkpoint.

Al-Barbary disputed the statement, telling CPJ that "there were no warning gunshots or even any calls for us to stop" after the car turned around. He said the shooting occurred shortly after 6 p.m.--which was before the curfew and not after, as the army had claimed.

The curfew, which begins every night at 7 p.m., was imposed by authorities after security forces dispersed two sit-ins supportive of ousted President Mohamed Morsi on August 14, igniting a week of violence that left approximately 1,000 dead. Journalists are officially exempt from the curfew.

The Egyptian Journalists Syndicate said it received several complaints by journalists saying they were harassed by soldiers at checkpoints despite showing their ID cards. News accounts have also reported cases of Egyptian soldiers opening fire on civilians at checkpoints during curfew hours. The attack on the journalists' car took place on the same day that armed militants killed at least 25 Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai city of Rafah, according to news reports.

The military said it has opened an investigation into the incident, reports said. A day after al-Barbary spoke to the press about the shooting, the army issued another statement, accusing the journalist of opening fire on the checkpoint. The prosecutor general subsequently ordered al-Barbary to be taken into custody. He was released two days later, according to news reports.

3. Mosaab al-Shami

Rassd News Network
August 14, 2013, in Cairo, Egypt

Al-Shami, a photographer for Rassd News Network, was shot in the chest by a sniper while trying to escape gunfire from security forces dispersing a sit-in demonstration in Nasr City in support of former President Mohamed Morsi, the network's director, Smahy Mustafa, told CPJ. The Rassd network had sharply criticized the ouster of Morsi.

The raid to disperse the Rabaa Al-Adawiya sit-in sparked a week of clashes that left nearly 1,000 dead and many more injured. At least two other journalists, Sky News' Mick Deane and *Al-Akhbar*'s Ahmed Abdel Gawad, were also killed while covering the events that day.

4. Ahmed Abdel Gawad

Al-Akhbar, Misr25
August 14, 2013, in Cairo, Egypt

Gawad, a reporter for the state-run *Al-Akhbar* newspaper, was shot while covering a raid by Egyptian security forces on a sit-in demonstration at Rabaa Al-Adawiya, in Nasr City, Cairo. The demonstrators were supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood. The ensuing clashes sparked a week of violence that left nearly 1,000 dead and many more inured.

Gawad was also the editorial manager of the Muslim Brotherhood's TV station, Misr25, according to news outlets affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and Ahmed Subaie, a spokesman for the organization, who spoke to CPJ.

At least two other journalists, Sky News' Mick Deane and Rassd News Network's Mosaab al-Shami, were also killed while covering the bloody events of August 14.

5. Mick Deane

Sky News
August 14, 2013, in Cairo, Egypt

Sky News cameraman Mick Deane was shot and killed as Egyptian security forces stormed a sit-in demonstration at Rabaa Adawiya, in Nasr City, Cairo, on the morning of Wednesday, Aug, 14. The demonstrators were supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood. Around 149 people were killed in clashes in the capital and ensuing violence around the country, the Egyptian Health Ministry said, according to news reports. The Muslim Brotherhood said the death toll was much higher.

Deane, 61, had worked for Sky for 15 years, based in Washington, D.C., and then Jerusalem, the network [reported]. He had been covering the clashes in Egypt with Sky's Middle East correspondent, Sam Kiley. None of the other team members were hurt, the broadcaster said.

The BBC [reported] that Deane was born in Hannover, Germany. *The Washington Post* [said] he was the husband of former *Post* reporter Daniela Deane and that the couple have two sons.

6. Ahmed Assem el-Senousy

Freedom and Justice
July 8, 2013, in Cairo, Egypt

Ahmed Assem el-Senousy, a photographer for the Muslim Brotherhood's *Freedom and Justice* newspaper, was killed while covering clashes in Cairo, according to news reports.

El-Senousy, 26, was shot by a [sniper] after photographing security forces firing on pro-Morsi protesters, *Freedom and Justice* reported. El-Senousy had been covering [clashes] between security forces and pro-Morsi protesters at the Republican Guards headquarters, which left at least [54 dead], according to news reports. The protests came the week after the Egyptian military announced the removal of former president Mohamed Morsi.

Abeer al-Saady, vice chairman of the Egyptian Journalists Syndicate, told CPJ that his organization would be granting el-Senousy an honorary membership and would be supporting his family with a pension.

7. Salah al-Din Hassan

Shaab Masr
June 29, 2013, in Port Said, Egypt

Salah al-Din Hassan, 37-year-old reporter with independent news website *Shaab Masr*(Egyptian People), was killed by a homemade bomb thrown by an unidentified person while covering a demonstration against President Mohamed Morsi in the city of Port Said, the website reported. The bomb was hurled at protesters in Shuhada Square; Hassan picked it up to throw it away but it exploded, killing him and injuring 16 others, according to news reports. Ayda Sobh, Hassan's mother, blamed Morsi's supporters, according to the reports.

Hassan's death came as millions of Egyptians took to the streets that weekend seeking Morsi's resignation. At least 16 people were killed and 781 injured across the country on June 30 alone, news reports said, citing the Ministry of Health.

8. Al-Hosseiny Abou Deif

El-Fagr
December 12, 2012, in Cairo, Egypt

Abou Deif, a reporter for the private weekly *El-Fagr*, died in a local hospital after being shot in the head while covering clashes between anti-government protesters and Muslim Brotherhood supporters outside the presidential palace seven days earlier, according to news reports.

Hassan Shahin, an activist who was at the scene, told Abou Deif's family and the prosecutor's office that someone he knew to be a Muslim Brotherhood supporter from prior demonstrations had focused a laser penlight on Abou Deif shortly before the shooting. The laser pen tactic had been used by Muslim Brotherhood supporters and police during protests to identify activists for harassment or attack, according to news accounts.

Earlier in the day, Abou Deif had shot video showing Muslim Brotherhood supporters assaulting anti-government protesters, a colleague, Hossam Sioufi, told CPJ. (A number of reporters and others later published videos showing Muslim Brotherhood supporters beating, intimidating, and detaining protesters that day.) Abou Deif was himself struck by a rubber bullet, suffering minor injuries, earlier in the day,

Abou Deif's family and colleagues told CPJ they believed the journalist was likely targeted by the Muslim Brotherhood, and that one of his recent articles may have provided further motive. Four months earlier, Abou Deif had written a piece that said President Mohamed Morsi had included a brother-in-law in a mass July 2012 presidential pardon that encompassed 572 people. Morsi's brother-in-law, Mahmoud Aly, had been serving a three-year sentence on a bribery conviction. Morsi didn't publicly respond to About Deif's report. Soon after, Abou Deif told his brother, Salem, and several colleagues that he was being followed on the streets and was receiving threats on his Facebook page from people he identified as Muslim Brotherhood supporters, according to CPJ interviews.

The subsequent investigation and the government's response were marked by irregularities. In January 2013, Morsi spokesman Yassir Ali disputed any Muslim Brotherhood connection to the killing. In a letter to the *Washington Post*, he said "forensic reports confirmed that Abu Deif was killed by the same type of bullet that killed seven pro-Morsi protesters at the same demonstrations."

But the government's forensic report had not been issued at that point. It was released more than a month later, in February 2013, and was notable for what it did not include. The Forensics Administration said it had not received an investigative memorandum from police, a key document that would typically include witness testimony and other details from the scene. The memorandum, which investigators are normally obligated to file in such cases, would ordinarily be used by the Forensics Administration to help determine the source and distance of the shot and other salient circumstances that would guide the prosecutor in pursuing charges. As it was, the report referred only vaguely to the distance at which the shot was fired, saying it came from "more than a meter" away," and did not specify the type of weapon or bullet used, although it described the slug as having expanded after entering Abou Deif's skull.

Statements from witnesses such as Shahin and pressure from the Egyptian Journalists' Syndicate prompted authorities in April 2013 to summon three Muslim Brotherhood youth leaders for six hours of questioning. The accused were released for lack of evidence. The suspects were publicly identified as Ahmed Sibia, Abdel Rahman Ezz, and Ahmed al-Moghier. Sibia was also the director of Hamas-affiliated

Al-Aqsa television office in Cairo. The three denied involvement in the killing and said their own lives had been threatened by opposition activists, according to news reports.

The same month, Abou Deif's family hired Fakhry Saleh, former head of the Forensics Administration, to conduct its own investigation. Saleh, using the official medical report and eyewitness testimony, concluded that a gunman fired one shot at close range using a "dumdum" bullet designed to expand on impact to intensify the injury.

The public prosecutor's office reopened the investigation in late May--only to close the case a month later with the vague explanation that it could not identify the "original killer." The office referred al-Moghier for trial on charges of torturing and detaining opposition protesters during the same clashes in which Abou Deif was killed.

After Morsi's ouster in July 2013, the prosecutor general's office asked a Cairo judge to examine the case independently, a step that encouraged Abou Deif's family and lawyers.

9. Wael Mikhael

Al-Tareeq
October 9, 2011, in Cairo, Egypt

Mikhael, an Egyptian cameraman for the Coptic television broadcaster Al-Tareeq, was shot while filming violent clashes between Coptic Christian protesters and the military in front of the headquarters of the Television and Radio Union, commonly referred to as Maspero, according to the broadcaster and other news reports.

Mikhael was shot in the head, the station said. The source of fire was not immediately clear, although news accounts reported that military forces had fired on protesters during the demonstrations. The cameraman was one of at least 25 people killed in the clashes, during which hundreds of others were injured, local and international news outlets reported. Mikhael is survived by a wife and three children.

10. Ahmad Mohamed Mahmoud

Al-Ta'awun
February 4, 2011, in Cairo, Egypt

Mahmoud, a reporter for the newspaper *Al-Ta'awun*, was shot on January 29 as antigovernment protests in Cairo turned violent. His wife, Inas Abdel-Alim, told Al-Jazeera that her husband had stepped on to his office balcony to record video of a confrontation between security forces and demonstrators on the street when security forces spotted him.

Abdel-Alim said that several witnesses told her a uniformed police captain yelled at Mahmoud to stop filming, but a sniper shot him in the head before he could react. "They meant to kill him. They aimed at his head with live ammunition," Abdel-Alim said on Al-Jazeera. "The perpetrator did this to him because he was filming what was happening. They didn't want us to cover the massacre that happened that day."

Mahmoud died after six days in a hospital in Cairo. His death was the first reported media fatality during the Egyptian uprising that started on January 25.