



رِزنامة

2023

CALENDAR

Women Human Rights Defenders
standing against online violence
in the Middle East and North Africa

النساء المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان
في الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا
يواجهن العنف عبر الفضاء الإلكتروني تجاه النساء

fi FRONT LINE
DEFENDERS

f! FRONT LINE DEFENDERS

حياتنا على الإنترنت هي تمثّل لحياتنا خارجها. غالبًا ما تعزّز ديناميكيات الإنترنت ديناميكيات القوّة الاجتماعيّة والاقتصاديّة بل وتضخّمها وتعكسها. بسبب تقلّص المساحات غير المتّصلة بالإنترنت في منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا، انتقل المدافعون/ات عن حقوق الإنسان، وخاصّة منهم النّساء، إلى الإنترنت للتّظيم والمناصرة والتّعبئة. تُعتبَر منصّات وسائل التّواصل الاجتماعيّ أدوات لتحقيق حقوق النّساء في التّنمية وتوفير سبل العيش والصّحة والوصول إلى المعلومة والتّعليم والتّشبيك والمناصرة وإعلاء أصوات النّساء ووجهات نظرهنّ. إلّا أنّها استُخدمت أيضًا في التّنمر والتحرّش.

بينما استخدمت المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان والتّأشّطات والصحفّيات والحركات النّسائيّة مثل #مي تو (#أنا أيضًا) مساحات على الإنترنت لتحديّ احتكار الخطاب، أصبحت هذه المساحات أيضًا أماكن إضافيّة لإيذاء النّساء. حيث تختلف طبيعة الهجمات وتستمرّ في التّطور. قد تتعرّض المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان للمضايقات وانتحال الهويّة والمطاردة والتّشهير والشّتم الجنسيّ ونشر الصّور أو المعلومات الحميمة دون موافقة صاحبها، بالإضافة إلى إفشاء المعلومات الشّخصيّة والهجمات الممنهجة والتّهديدات بالاغتصاب والتّزييف العميق والمراقبة. إنّ لهذه الهجمات تأثير هائل على حياة المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان وأمنهنّ وعلاقاتهنّ الحميمة ونشاطهنّ، إذ أنّ الخوف والأذى الذي يُرتكب على نطاق واسع ودون عقاب، يحدّ بشدّة من حقّ النّساء في المشاركة السياسيّة العامّة في الميدان وعلى الإنترنت.

بالإضافة إلى العنف عبر الإنترنت، أصبحت المراقبة أداة قوية ضد المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان، مستفيدة من أنّ تكنولوجيا اليوم قد تغلّغت في جميع جوانب حياتنا العامة والخاصة أيضًا. يقدم تقرير فرونت لاين ديفنדרز «السلام عبر بيجاسوس» دليلًا على كيفية استهداف الصحفّيات والمدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان على وجه التحديد. يشير التحقيق الشرعي في برنامج التجسس بيجاسوس المُستخدم ضد المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان في البحرين والأردن إلى آثاره الخاصة على النوع الاجتماعيّ، مما يجعلهن «يعشن في حالة دائمة من الخوف، ويصبحن معزولات اجتماعيًّا، ويشعرن بالتقيّد في حياتهن الاجتماعيّة وعملهن ونشاطهن».

على الرّغم من حجم حالات استهداف المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان وشدّتها عبر الإنترنت، غالبًا ما يتمّ التقليل من أهمية هذه الهجمات. في حين أنّ شركات التكنولوجيا والسياسات لا تأخذ هذا العنف على محمل الجد، فإن المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان والحركات النّسائيّة والناشطات الرقمية يتخذن إجراءات لحماية أنفسهن.

تروي المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان الـ 12 من خلال هذه الرّزنامة الحائطيّة، بعض تجاربهنّ التي جعلتهنّ أكثر هشاشة، بما في ذلك الاختفاء القسريّ والاعتقال والتّعذيب والتّجريم والمراقبة والتّلبّ والهرسلة عبر الإنترنت. يمثّل كلّ شهر تذكيرًا بالحقيقة التي تمّ الكشف عنها عبر نشاطهنّ المذهل، ولكن أيضًا الأعمال الانتقاميّة الرهيبة التي كان عليهنّ تحمّلها في الفضاء الماديّ وعبر الإنترنت.

لقد تقاسمت معنا هؤلاء النّساء الملهمات قصصهنّ بجرأة ومن منطلق وجهات نظرهنّ، ومن ثمّة حوّلتها كلّ من الفنّانة والرّسامة لينا مرهج والمصمّمة مايا الشامي إلى أعمال فنيّة صمّمت لتكريمنهنّ والاحتفاء بهنّ.

احترامًا وتقديرًا لهنّ، نرجو أن يساهم هذا العمل في الاعتراف بنضالهنّ وتوفير الحماية الكاملة لهنّ.

فريق فرونت لاين ديفنדרز

Our life online is a projection of our life offline. Online dynamics often reinforce, amplify and mirror social and economic power dynamics. As a result of the shrinking of offline political spaces in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, human rights defenders, particularly women, moved to the online sphere for organising, advocating and mobilising. Social media platforms are seen as instruments for the realization of women's rights to development, livelihoods, health, information, education, networking, and advocacy, and the amplifying of women's voices and viewpoints. But they have also been used for bullying and harassment.

While women human rights defenders, activists, journalists, and women's movements such as #MeToo have used online spaces to challenge monopolized discourses, these spaces have also become additional arenas for women to be harmed. The nature of the attacks varies and continues to evolve. Women human rights defenders may experience harassment, impersonation, stalking, defamation, sexual slurs, dissemination of intimate images or information without consent, doxxing, coordinated boot and troll attacks, threats of rape, deep fakes, and surveillance. The impact of these attacks on the lives, security, intimacy and activism of women human rights defenders is immense. Widely perpetrated and unpunished, the fear and harm caused is severely curtailing women's right to online and public political participation.

In addition to online violence, surveillance has become a powerful tool against women human rights defenders, taking advantage of how today's technology has permeated all aspects of our public but also private lives. Front Line Defenders report "Peace via Pegasus" provides evidence of how women journalists and human rights advocates are specifically targeted. A forensic investigation to the Pegasus spyware used against women HRDs in Bahrain and Jordan notes its particular gendered impacts, making them "live in a perpetual state of fear, become socially isolated, and be restricted in their social lives, work, and activism."

Despite the scale and severity of cases of women human rights defenders targeted online, these attacks are often trivialized. While tech companies and policies are not taking this violence seriously, WHRDs, feminist movements and digital activists are taking action to protect themselves.

The 12 WHRDs who appear in this calendar relate some of their most vulnerable experiences, including being forcibly disappeared, arrested, tortured, criminalised, surveilled, slandered and harassed online. Every month serves as a reminder of the truth revealed in their amazing work, but also the terrible reprisals they have had to endure in online and physical spaces. These inspiring women have daringly shared their stories with us from their own perspective, which artist and illustrator Lena Merhaj and designer Maya Chami have delightfully transformed into artistic works created to honour and celebrate them.

From our profound respect and admiration, we hope this calendar contributes to the recognition of their work and the fulfillment of their protection.

Front Line Defenders team

"My name is Shaimaa Samy, I am a woman human rights defender from Egypt, working as a researcher and freelance journalist in the human rights field. In 2018, I joined the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI). I have actively used social media and online media platforms for advocacy purposes and to promote freedom of information.

For this, on 20 May 2020, I was arrested. A huge security apparatus appeared at my door: between 25 and 30 agents from the anti-terrorist section and state security forces came to arrest me. They were fully armed. My cell phone and my laptop were also taken with me. For ten days, I went into enforced disappearance in an unknown place (I later found out that it was the State Security building) where I was investigated.

On 30 May 2020, I appeared in The Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP) in Cairo, where a formal interrogation was conducted throughout the day. Then they took me to the Security Directorate of Alexandria, and put me in a solitary cell for 5 months.

In September 2020, I was victim of physical violence... I went on a hunger strike to denounce this violation and to claim my rights to have a medical care, in an attempt to prove the facts regarding the physical violence I was submitted to, but in vain... After one month, on 8 October, when all the violence traces disappeared from my body, they transferred me to Al Qanater Prison. On 23 January 2021, a decision from the court was taken to release me. But during 7 days, I was brought from a detention centre to another in different cities of Egypt, to finally found myself at the same starting point with new-old charges: they decided to put me in Al Qanater in a solitary cell. I went on hunger strike for 48 hours. After 7 days of negotiation I was brought to a regular cell where orders were given to keep me isolated from the other prisoners: no talks, no contact, no radio, no pen and paper... This situation remained the same until I left prison on 29 August 2021. At 5 p.m, I was asked to leave the cell without telling any one of the prisoners. I was driven in a micro-bus where a police agent put a fabric on my eyes... then I found myself in the central office of the State Security in Cairo, where I was allowed to call my family. The lawyers were waiting for me (and for other released prisoners).

I was finally home few hours later.

It has been an arduous and painful journey, but I have learned the meaning of freedom, comfort, tranquility, satiety and hydration. I got to know them the hard way. But in the end, I am grateful for the experience, despite everything, because it confirmed to me the value of freedom and the rights I work and live for. It has confirmed to me the value of the word that I am proud to possess... spoken or written... each word has its value that remains."

JANUARY | يناير | كانون الثاني

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
1	31	30	29	28	27	26
8	7	6	5	4	3	2
15	14 الثورة التونسية 2011 Tunisian Revolution 2011	13	12	11	10	9
22	21	20	19	18	17	16
29	28	27	26	25 الثورة المصرية 2011 Egyptian Revolution 2011	24	23
5	4	3	2	1	31	30

"I am Bouchra Chetouani. I am a well-known woman human rights defender and journalist from Agadir, Morocco. I joined the human rights movement when I was at the university. I have taken part in the struggle for equality and dignity, especially for women.

In 2004, at the age of 18, I became an active member of the National Union of Moroccan Students. I was arrested with a group of students because of our peaceful protest against the new education policies. That's how my family found out about my activism.

"Motherhood is a choice" was the first post I made on Facebook in December 2010. I wanted to express my solidarity with many women who were arrested because they did abortion. And this became a national campaign supporting the right for abortion. I kept using Facebook to advocate for women rights and to denounce the misogynist laws. In 2011, I initiated a solidarity campaign offline and online to support two young women who were victims of street harassment because they were wearing skirts, and instead of arresting the perpetrators, the police arrested them and they were brought to the court accused of "Public breach of decency". The online campaign had a huge outreach and was followed by national and international media. All the national feminist and human rights organizations came to the court in Inezgan (near Agadir) in solidarity with the two young women. 99 lawyers were there to defend them. All the women present that day were wearing short skirts, even the female lawyers. The two young women were released and the policeman who arrested them as well as 4 of the perpetrators were arrested.

My activism on Facebook was evolving along with my work as a journalist. And I have been targeted by individuals because of my feminist commitment and my defense of human rights. In 2015, I was threatened to death by violent extremists individuals who accused me of apostasy.

During the last years, in the scope of my association "Young Women for Democracy", we took advantage of the new technical possibilities provided by social media networks to make the voices of the marginalized women heard in a more direct way: we launched the campaign "Youda", an Amazigh word which means "Enough". The campaign started during the COVID19 lock-down. And we were accused of spreading fake news. Which was not true, of course. I was personally charged of "spreading fake news, defamation against state officials and encouraging women to speak up", the last charge is quite original! Then, I found out that I was under surveillance: I was targeted with Pegasus spyware.

My court case is still ongoing. But neither that, nor surveillance, nor threats and insults will make me back down. The "Youda" campaign has become the first feminist radio association in Morocco, where together with other women human rights defenders we continue the struggle to make the voiceless heard."

FEBRUARY | فبراير | شباط

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
5	4	3	2	1	31	30
12	11	10	9	8	7	6
19	18	17	16	15	14	13
26	25	24	23	22	21	20 اليوم العالمي للعدالة الاجتماعية World Day of Social Justice
5	4	3	2	1	28	27

"I am Hiba Al-Haji, I am a feminist, a women human rights defender and a civil society activist. I am part of the advisory board of UNDP gender working group and the CEO of Equity and Empowerment, an organization that aims at empowering women educationally, vocationally and politically in order to actively break the gender division. I am keen on sharing my experience with women from the inside of Syria to empower them, for which I use social media platforms, for my voice and the voices of all women to be heard. The number of defamation campaigns I have endured has shown me the importance of digital security. I am the only Syrian woman working as a trusted partner to Facebook (Meta), for whom I prepare reports regarding online violence against Syrian women and participate in revising Meta policies in the MENA region."

MARCH | آذار | مارس

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
5	4	3	2	1	28	27
12	11	10	9	8 اليوم العالمي لحقوق النساء International Women's Day	7	6
19	18	17	16	15	14	13
26	25	24	23	22	21 اليوم العالمي لمناهضة التمييز العنصري International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	20
2	1	31	30 يوم الأرض، فلسطين Palestine Land Day	29	28	27

«این واقعیت را که ما در ایران با وجود همه تلاش‌ها هنوز نتوانسته‌ایم به یک اقتصاد قوی و پویا برسیم، باید به عنوان یک شکست بزرگ در نظر بگیریم. این شکست را باید به عنوان یک درس بزرگ برای آینده‌سازان کشورمان در نظر بگیریم. ما باید از این شکست درس بگیریم و به دنبال راه‌های نو برای توسعه اقتصاد کشورمان باشیم. ما باید از این شکست درس بگیریم و به دنبال راه‌های نو برای توسعه اقتصاد کشورمان باشیم.»

این واقعیت را که ما در ایران با وجود همه تلاش‌ها هنوز نتوانسته‌ایم به یک اقتصاد قوی و پویا برسیم، باید به عنوان یک شکست بزرگ در نظر بگیریم. این شکست را باید به عنوان یک درس بزرگ برای آینده‌سازان کشورمان در نظر بگیریم. ما باید از این شکست درس بگیریم و به دنبال راه‌های نو برای توسعه اقتصاد کشورمان باشیم. ما باید از این شکست درس بگیریم و به دنبال راه‌های نو برای توسعه اقتصاد کشورمان باشیم.



“My name is Farnaz Abdoli. I am an Iranian fashion designer. I founded my own company, POOSH-e-MA, in 2011, to design and produce outdoor dress for women. I like to think out of box and I encourage women to dare wearing what they like. I combined Iranian symbols with the western items and I am a big fan of vivid colors. However, it turns out that the Iranian authorities found my sense of fashion challenging their dress code propaganda. In their eyes, I was passing redlines they had set for the dress code of the Iranian women. Like many Iranian women, I wanted to express my critique of the situation by deciding about my own body. As a result, there was a smear camping against me and my business, which has repeated on several occasions. They accused me of promoting immorality and that’s what turned me to an activist at the end. Although my difficult days started then and there were moments I hated myself for being alive and for being a woman, the fight has never stopped.”

نيسان | أبريل | APRIL

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
2	1	31	30	29	28	27
9	8	7	6	5	4	3
16	15	14	13	12	11	10
23	22	21	20	19	18	17
30	29	28	27	26	25	24

“Proud Lebanon is an NGO working on LGBTQ rights. We are dedicated to building a healthy and diverse LGBTQ+ community in Lebanon that is accepted by everyone. We also support vulnerable individuals with medical services and treatment as there is a gap for this community, as well as psycho-social support in accepting their identity and overcoming discrimination, stigmatisation and rejection. Promoting the well-being of the community and empowering marginalized LGBTQ+ individuals brings them to become agents of change.

To carry out this public advocacy and outreach and support to our community, social media has become a fundamental tool. However, social media platforms are often used to defame LGBTQ+ people in the MENA region. The smear campaigns and hate speech have a huge impact on our everyday lives. We fight for an online space that is secure for us and accepts and includes each individual in their diversity.”

أيار | مايو | MAY

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
7	6	5	4	3 اليوم العالمي لحرية الصحافة World Press Freedom Day	2	1 اليوم العالمي للعمال International Workers' Day
14	13	12	11	10	9	8
21	20	19	18	17 اليوم العالمي لمناهضة رهاب المثلية الجنسية والعبور الجنسي وثنائية الميل الجنسي وتعددية الخصائص الجنسية International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia	16	15
28	27	26	25	24	23	22
4	3	2	1	31	30	29

“My name is Dlsoz, I am a Kurdish feminist activist. I was part of the anti corruption protests that took place in front of the Court of Sulaymaniyah. I work with other activists and journalists on issues affecting women. My Facebook account was hacked when I was using it to discuss the issue of “honor killings of women” with other women. Facebook suspended my account but later it was restored. The support of other human rights defenders and organisations in addressing Facebook was crucial.

Digital and physical threats in relation to human rights work are increasing in the region. Clerics and religious extremist groups threaten us for our work in the feminist movements in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, and the authorities use their security forces and judiciary system to limit our participation in peaceful demonstrations.

Online spaces are essential for the visibility of our work, information sharing and mobilisation, so we will keep defending this space in order to carry out our work.”

JUNE | حزيران | يونيو

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
4	3	2	1	31	30	29
11	10	9	8	7	6	5
18	17	16	15	14	13	12
25	24	23	22	21	20	19
2	1	30	29	28	27	26 اليوم العالمي لمناهضة التعذيب International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

“My name is Hala Ahed Deeb and I am a Jordanian human rights lawyer and WHRD. I am a member of the legal team defending the Jordan Teachers’ Syndicate (JTS), one of Jordan’s main teachers’ trade union. I have also been supporting the establishment of a union for agricultural workers.

The JTS fight became especially relevant after it called a strike in September 2019, demanding an increase of the wages within the public sector. On 25 July 2020, the police closed the syndicate headquarters and 11 of its branch offices, and arrested its 13 board members, releasing them only after one month. On December 2020 a Jordanian court issued a preliminary ruling to dissolve the JTS and to imprison its members. The formation of a temporary governmental committee to manage the JTS was ordered.

Because of my work as a human rights lawyer with labor unions, Pegasus, a very sophisticated illegal surveillance tool, was used against me. It was installed on my personal phone, giving access to all my information. What is psychologically and mentally disturbing about surveillance is that it does not affect you alone, but also harms others, especially those whom you spend your life defending and protecting. Now you wonder how this may affect them, whether it’s by attackers publishing their information, or causing them fear and anxiety just because they are worried about you.”

JULY | يوليو | تموز

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الإثنين
2	1	30	29	28	27	26
9	8	7	6	5	4	3
16	15	14	13	12	11	10
23	22	21	20	19	18	17
30	29	28	27	26	25	24
6	5	4	3	2	1	31

"I am Mariem Bribri. I am a woman human rights defender, blogger and fashion designer. In 2011, I got involved in social movements and in human rights advocacy. Whether in the field or online, I use all the tools at my disposal to make the voice of the underprivileged heard. My journalism, my writings and even my fashion design are tools for my advocacy and public denunciation against injustice and impunity. For this, social media is very important, but it is also a constant source of threat and violence. As a woman, feminist and activist for collective and individual rights and freedoms, I am very often a target of cyber-violent campaigns. In 2020, I was one of the women activists accused of apostasy and threatened with rape and death because we marched in the funeral and carried the coffin of our beloved Lina Ben Mhenni, cyber-dissident and human rights activist who disappeared on 27 January 2020.

More recently, in 2021, I shared on facebook (like other thousands of Tunisians) a video that went viral, filmed by a citizen showing a young teenager being beaten by a policeman, and where the latter, realizing that he was being filmed, attacked the man holding the phone. I shared this publication denouncing the feeling of impunity enjoyed by police officers in the country. This made me a target of the members of the union of internal security forces - section Sfax who launched a violent campaign against me on Facebook and harassed my family. They also filed a complaint against me. Although there was a procedural irregularity, I was charged with "knowingly harming or disrupting others via public telecommunications networks" and sentenced to four months in prison and a fine of 500 dinars. Thanks to the pressure of human rights defenders and national and international human rights organizations such as Front Line Defenders, and the work of the defense team, my sentence was reduced on appeal to a small fine. Despite all the various forms of intimidation I have suffered, I will never give up and I will never stop denouncing injustice and impunity, because it is by being free that we create the path to freedom for ourselves and for others. Nor I will not forgive the injustice. #Manich_Msemha".

AUGUST | آب | أغسطس

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
6	5	4	3	2	1	31
13 عيد حقوق النساء الوطني في تونس National Women's Day in Tunisia	12	11	10	9	8	7
20	19	18	17	16	15	14
27	26	25	24	23	22	21
3	2	1	31	30	29	28

«الإنسان» حقوقه

خال في مجال مواصلة القيام بعملنا في مجال... الهرة والمراخنة والاختلال والاختلال والاختلال... هذا الإنسان، تحضرت أنا وصدقني، تحضرت أنا وصدقني، تحضرت أنا وصدقني... الحارة.

الإنسان في المجال العاصم، حيث أنشأت مساحة فعالة في ساحة عامة في المدينة مخصصة للنساء للمشيرة ومناقشة قضاياها. إنسان في المجال العاصم، حيث أنشأت مساحة فعالة في ساحة عامة في المدينة مخصصة للنساء للمشيرة ومناقشة قضاياها. إنسان في المجال العاصم، حيث أنشأت مساحة فعالة في ساحة عامة في المدينة مخصصة للنساء للمشيرة ومناقشة قضاياها.

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"My name is Amel Hadjadj, I am a feminist activist, blogger and amazigh woman human rights defender. I am the founder of Le Journal Féministe Algérien (Algerian Feminist Journal), a foundation for feminist news and initiatives. I create feminist content for many platforms, national and regional media, and speak out publicly for vulnerable communities such as political and sexual minorities.

I studied medicine but have always been inspired by art, literature and writing... Together with a friend and a coworker, we had an idea of creating a digital space where women could safely share and discuss their experiences. We created a forum called Platform which became really popular. With it my activism grew... We use digital together with physical strategies such as workshops, film projections and training for women on creating video or other types of feminist content. I have also participated in the creation of the feminist square in Algiers ("Le carré féministe à Alger"), in which we set up a physical space in a public square in the city for women to safely participate and discuss their issues during the Hirak.

For this work, my feminist friends and I have been frequently harassed. This have included physical assaults, detention, surveillance and harassment... as well as defamation and slander campaigns. We have gone through challenging times, during which we have learned the importance of protecting ourselves in order to continue doing our human rights work."

أيلول | سبتمبر | SEPTEMBER

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
3	2	1	31	30	29	28
10	9	8	7	6	5	4
17	16 انطلاقه الحراك النسوي الإيراني من أجل الحرية Beginning of #woman_ life_freedom movement in Iran	15	14	13	12	11
24	23	22	21	20	19	18
1	30	29	28	27	26	25

«الاعتناء بالمرأة في مشاغلنا اليومية».

المرأة في مشاغلنا اليومية. هذه هي القضية التي نواجهها. المرأة في مشاغلنا اليومية. هذه هي القضية التي نواجهها. المرأة في مشاغلنا اليومية. هذه هي القضية التي نواجهها.

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"My name is Ameira Osman Hamid, I am a woman human rights defender in Sudan, an engineer, and the Chairperson of the No to Women Oppression Initiative. I am fighting for democracy, human rights and women's rights. Since its establishment in 2009, the No to Women Oppression Initiative launched campaigns against the Public Order Law, which interfered in women's personal and public life. The Public Order Law would dictate what was proper for women to wear and how to act in public life whilst also allotting power to citizens to call and report such behaviours. NWO have waged several campaigns against the restricting Public Order Law while I have served as Chairperson. Because of my work in human rights, I've been the target of unfair arrests and detentions. I was charged for wearing trousers in 2002, and most recently, in January 2022, following a raid, I was taken in plain clothes by armed security personnel from my home in Khartoum to an undisclosed location before being freed on bail a week later.

In 2022, I received the Front Line Defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk. When the Award was announced, an online campaign was launched against me by anti women rights groups. These attacks didn't waver in my commitment to my goal and active participation in nonviolent advocacy and protests, and advances are moving forward."

OCTOBER | أكتوبر | تشرين الأول

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
1	30	29	28	27	26	25
8	7	6	5	4	3	2
15	14	13	12	11	10	9
22	21	20	19	18	17	16
29	28	27	26	25	24	23
5	4	3	2	1	31	30

"The Union of Palestinian Women's Committees (UPWC) is a Palestinian feminist community organization. The Union aims at empowering Palestinian women to ensure true equality between men and women and social justice through publications, programs and campaigns. UPWC advocates against human rights abuses brought on by the Israeli occupation and focuses on empowering Palestinian women so they can participate in politics and the economy in Palestine.

On 19 October 2021, the Israeli Minister of Defense, Benny Gantz, announced the designation of six leading Palestinian civil society organizations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as "terrorist organizations" under Israel's Anti-Terrorism Law, including the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees. On 18 August 2022, the Israeli security forces raided, confiscated property and closed the offices of these Palestinian civil society organisations. This comes in addition to systematic and organized smear, intimidation, and persecution campaigns against Palestinian civil society, as well as the use of surveillance cameras and spyware as a means of intimidation. Defamation, intimidation and surveillance exerts a chilling effect on freedom of expression in all spaces of civil society, but also has a particular gendered impact on women's organisations such as ours. WHRDs have felt terrified at sensing they're being watched, even in the most intimate of settings. Defamation and stigmatisation is affecting their public participation but also their personal and intimate lives: their families, children, reputation among the community..."

تشرين الثاني | نوفمبر | NOVEMBER

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
5	4	3	2	1	31	30
12	11	10	9	8	7	6
19	18	17	16	15	14	13
26	25 اليوم العالمي لمناهضة العنف ضد النساء International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	24	23	22	21	20
3	2	1	30	29 اليوم العالمي للنساء المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان International Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) Day	28	27

"I am Ebtisam Al-Saegh. I am a Bahraini Woman Human rights defender and I am part of the organisation SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights (SALAM DHR). I am known for my work on reporting and denouncing human rights violations in Bahrain, as well as for my public callings for justice for victims of torture in the country's detention centers.

In May 2017, I was detained, sexually assaulted and tortured by security officers at the National Security Agency in Muharraq. I was interrogated for 2 weeks. I was not allowed to talk to my family and was told that they were ashamed of me and had given up on me. I went on hunger strike to denounce my situation and to claim the right to see my family. I told them I wouldn't stop until I met them and make sure they are safe. I needed to make sure my family was safe. After 31 days of hunger strike, the security forces gave in and allowed me to see my family. We met for 15 minutes and I stopped my hunger strike. I knew then that the authorities took all of their phones when they arrested me.

Like many other human rights defenders, I was targeted with Pegasus spyware. Pegasus is an extremely powerful tool which is installed on your phone without your knowledge, giving it access to all the information on the device. Front Line Defenders was able to identify it through a forensic investigation. I was terrified, not only for me but for my family and for putting others at risk because of their contact with me. The smartphone is the main tool for our human rights. I need to use it all the time, despite the surveillance threats. I need to as victims and their families or NGOs can call me anytime.

I have no hesitation or shame in voicing my opinion and denouncing the violence I experienced because I want to motivate women in our region to defend their right to speak out. I strongly believe that no matter what you lose, you must not lose yourself. There is no time to be broken... the struggle goes on."

DECEMBER | ديسمبر | كانون الأول

الأحد	السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين
3	2	1	30	29	28	27
10 اليوم العالمي لحقوق الإنسان Human Rights Day	9 اليوم العالمي للمدافعين عن حقوق الإنسان International Human Rights Defenders Day	8	7	6	5	4
17 انطلاقة الثورة التونسية Beginning of Tunisian Revolution 2011	16	15	14	13	12	11
24	23	22	21	20	19	18 انطلاقة الثورة في السودان Beginning of revolution in Sudan 2018
31	30	29	28	27	26	25



فرونت لاين ديفنדרز هي منظمة دولية لحقوق الإنسان مقرها إيرلندا، مكرسة لسلامة المدافعين والمدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان والمنظمات المعرضة للخطر وحمائهم/ن في جميع أنحاء العالم. تضم هذه الرزنامة الحائطية 12 مدافعة رائعة عن حقوق الإنسان من دول مختلفة من منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا. يمثل كل شهر تذكيرًا بالحقيقة التي تم الكشف عنها عبر نشاطهنّ المذهل، ولكن أيضًا الأعمال الانتقامية الرهيبة التي كان عليهنّ تحملها في الفضاء المادي وعبر الإنترنت. لقد تقاسمت معنا هؤلاء النساء الملهمات قصصهنّ بجرأة ومن منطلق وجهات نظرهنّ، ومن ثمّ حوّلتها كلّ من الفنانة والرّسامة لينا مرهج والمصممة مايا الشامي إلى أعمال فنية صممت لتكريمهنّ والاحتفاء بهنّ.

Front Line Defenders is an international human rights organization based in Ireland, dedicated to the security and protection of human rights defenders and organizations at risk around the world. The calendar features 12 incredible women human rights defenders from different countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. Every month serves as a reminder of the truth revealed in their amazing work, but also the terrible reprisals they have had to endure in online and physical spaces. These inspiring women have daringly shared their stories with us from their own perspective, which artist and illustrator Lena Merhej and designer Maya Chami have delightfully transformed into artistic works created to honour and celebrate them.