



Yemen

Media and Telecoms Landscape Guide

February 2012

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1. Introduction

The Republic of Yemen is the poorest country in the Arab world. It is socially conservative and has a long history of armed rebellion and civil unrest.

The arid mountainous country also suffers from an acute water shortage. It is using up groundwater faster than rainfall can replace it.

According to the United Nations, nearly half of the Yemen's 24 million people live in poverty on less than US\$2 per day. Nearly a third of the population is malnourished.

In early 2012, Yemen was sliding towards full-scale civil war as a disparate coalition of opposition forces sought to end the 33-year rule of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Pressured by several months of opposition demonstrations and faced with the defection of some military units, Saleh finally agreed to resign in November 2011.

He promised to surrender most of his executive power with immediate effect and hold presidential elections in February 2012 to choose a new head of state.

However, right up to his departure for the United States on January 22 2012, Saleh still appeared to be in full control of the government and it was unclear whether a presidential election would really take place on schedule one month later.

Anti-Saleh demonstrations erupted in January 2011, inspired by the Arab Spring rebellions against long-serving dictators in Tunisia and Egypt.

The protests in Yemen were fuelled by a youthful population, frustrated by unemployment and economic hardship and angered by widespread corruption.

The government repressed the initial demonstrations in a heavy handed manner and this led several opposition groups to take up arms.

The turning point came in March when in a single day pro-Saleh snipers shot dead around 50 people who were trying to demonstrate against the president in Sana'a.

Street battles broke out in the capital in May 2011 after some tribal and army leaders sided with the opposition protesters.

Subsequent armed clashes often involved the use of mortars and artillery in Sana'a and Yemen's main cities.

In early June President Saleh was injured and at least five people killed when an explosion struck a mosque in Sana'a used by high-level government officials.

The president was flown to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment.

He returned in late September to renewed street protests. Once more, these were violently repressed by the security forces.

Faced with mounting resistance, the president finally agreed to resign in November 2011.

Saleh formally handed over executive power to his vice-president, Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi, to prepare for presidential elections on February 21 2012.

However, Saleh did not actually resign as head of state.

His government's violent suppression of opposition demonstrations continued.

Amnesty International said in November 2011 that more than 200 people had been killed in clashes between government and opposition supporters since the beginning of the year.

In the same month, UNHCR said that 445,000 people in Yemen had been displaced from their homes by fighting.

However many of these displacements were related to a rebellion in Saada governorate in the far North of Yemen which pre-dated the nationwide anti-Saleh uprising.

The government has been fighting an insurrection by the Houthi clan in Saada governorate since 2004.



At the other end of the country, in South Yemen, pressure was growing in early 2012 to end two decades of political union with the North.

Radical Islamist groups linked to Al Qaeda, the fundamentalist group responsible for crashing hijacked airliners into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York in 2001, controlled some parts of the South, including the coastal town of Zinjibar.

More than 200,000 refugees and economic migrants from nearby East Africa found themselves caught up in this turmoil.

Most were Somalis and Ethiopians who had fled across the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to seek safety and well-paid jobs in the oil-rich countries of the Middle East.

Several thousand illegal migrants make the dangerous crossing every month in overcrowded small boats and many perish on the way.

Most of those who fail to make it the Gulf end up in the refugee camps on Yemen's south coast.

The Republic of Yemen was created in 1990 through the union of two formerly separate countries.

The conservative Yemen Arab Republic, ruled from the ancient city of Sana'a in the northern mountains, joined forces with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, to the south.

South Yemen, ruled from the port city of Aden, had formerly been a British colony. It achieved independence in 1967 and went on to become the Arab world's only Marxist state.

President Saleh, who had ruled North Yemen since 1978, became head of state of the combined nation.

A civil war erupted in 1994 that left President Saleh in full control of the South as well as the North. Up to 10,000 people were killed in the fighting.

Today, the north-south divide remains a continuing source of conflict. Many southerners feel they do not get a fair share of Yemen's meagre resources.

Protests and attacks on the government's security forces have become a regular feature of life in the South.

There are also other divisions within Yemen's outwardly homogenous Arab Muslim population.

Allegiances to tribe or clan remain strong in many areas.

Many political commentators have remarked that President Saleh relied on a coalition of tribal forces to stay in power for more than three decades, rather than a strong central government.

Yemen's rugged, mountainous geography and lack of infrastructure have also worked against strong central control.

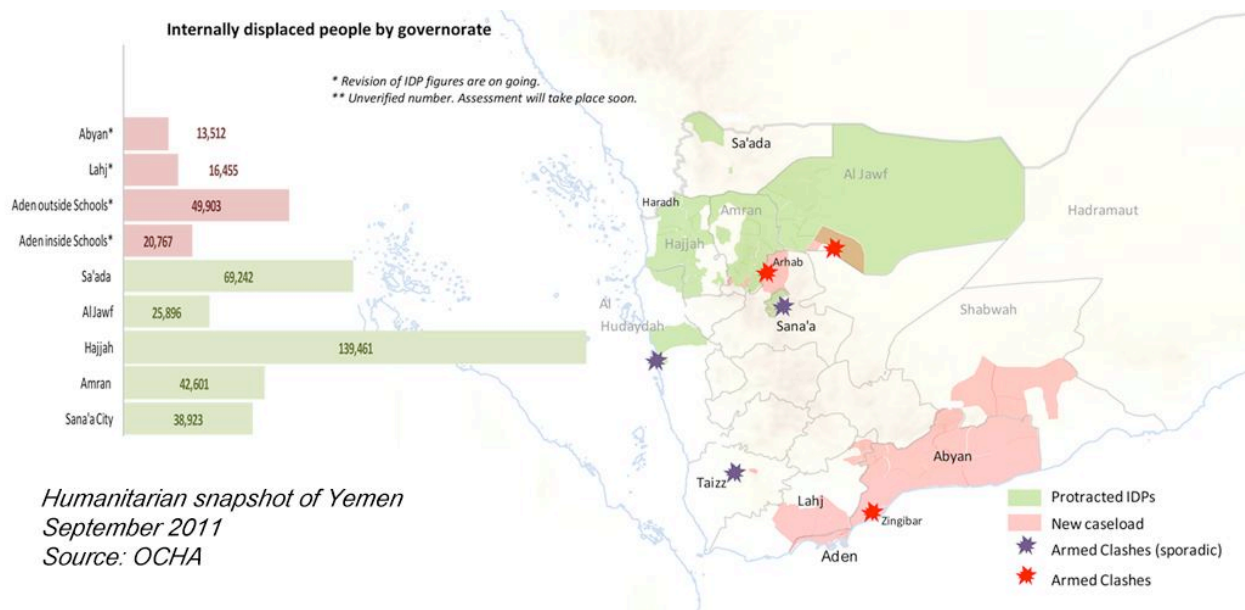
In 2004, the Houthi clan out in Saada governorate in the far North of Yemen, near the Saudi border, launched a rebellion against Saleh's government.

This uprising has simmered away ever since.

The Houthi belong to the Zaydi branch of Shia Islam, from which Yemen's hereditary

ruling Imams were drawn before North Yemen became a republic in 1962.

The last big upsurge in the Houthi rebellion came in 2009, when over 8,000 people were killed. On that occasion, the Saudi army and air force joined Yemeni government forces in attacking the rebels.



Internal displacement of people in Yemen

Source: OCHA September 2011

UNHCR said in September 2011 that 318,000 people were still internally displaced as a result of the Houthi rebellion in Saada.

Fear of reprisals and renewed fighting and the extensive destruction of houses and infrastructure have prevented these people from returning to their homes. Landmines and unexploded ordnance also remain a serious threat.

It is widely estimated that 30 to 35% of Yemenis are Zaydis.

But apart from the Houthi rebellion, there are few other signs of friction between the Zaydis and Yemen's Sunni majority.

A small dark-skinned ethnic minority known as the Akhdam are estimated to account for between two and five per cent of Yemen's population.

These people constitute an under-class at the service of Yemen's Arab majority. They are widely thought to be descended from African slaves or sixth-century Ethiopian invaders.

The Minority Rights Group, said in a report on Yemen in February 2011: "*Akhdam live largely isolated and in poverty on the margins of Yemen's cities, and face chronic societal discrimination. Few Akhdam children attend school.*" It estimated the Akhdam population at between 440,000 and 1.1 million.

Critics accuse President Saleh of trying to win US and Saudi support for his authoritarian government by misrepresenting the Houthi rebellion as part of an Iranian-backed attempt to extend Shia influence.

Saleh has also been accused of exaggerating the threat of al-Qaeda re-grouping in Yemen in order to win support from Washington.

However, he has not always been pro-American. Saleh opposed the US-Saudi alliance against Iraq following Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

At least 850,000 Yemeni expatriate workers were expelled from Saudi Arabia in reprisal. The loss of their remittances -- a traditional mainstay of the Yemeni economy -- was a severe financial blow.

Saleh's current alliance with the United States in the 'war on terror' has led to the arrival of US military advisers and the government's toleration of US drone strikes against suspected militants in Yemen.

Many Yemeni analysts believe that this policy runs the risk of further alienating the population from his government.

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs put the population of Yemen at a 24 million in 2011.

The population is growing by 3% a year and is forecast to reach 60 million by 2050.

Life expectancy in Yemen is 65, but the average age of the population is just 17.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said in early 2011 that 45% of the population lived in poverty on less than US\$2 per day. Child malnutrition is widespread

All Yemenis speak **Arabic** as their first language and Arabic is the main language of government, business and the media. Nearly two thirds of adults can read and write.

The economy is dominated by the oil sector. According to the International Monetary Fund, this generates 60% of government revenues and over 90% of export revenues.

But production has declined steeply in recent years as reserves have been depleted, putting a squeeze on government income.

Food subsidies were removed some years ago, leading to a sharp increase in food prices which most households could ill afford.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimated in early 2011 that 31% of the population was undernourished.

Access to water is huge and growing problem.

According to the Middle East Research and Information Project, Yemen's aquifers are being depleted so rapidly that groundwater levels are falling by three to six metres per year. This alarming trend has already left several major cities with inadequate supplies of safe drinking water.

Water prices rose astronomically in 2011 as power cuts disrupted pumping. They increased more than three-fold in many towns and cities.

The Yemeni government's water and environment protection agency says the

country receives less than 200 cubic metres of water per person a year in rainfall.

That is well below the internationally designated water poverty line of 1,000 cubic metres per person per year.

Compounding the problem is Yemen's addiction to qat, a mildly narcotic plant whose leaves are chewed daily by the bulk of the population. Large numbers of Yemenis are employed cultivating qat trees and distributing their fresh green leaves.

According to one Yemeni government hydrologist, qat cultivation consumes at least 30 per cent of the country's abstracted groundwater.

Yemen is still a mainly rural society. Just over two thirds of the population live in the countryside.

The World Bank says about 40% of the total population has access to electricity, but this falls to just 20% in rural areas.

Local radio and television is tightly controlled by the government, so most Yemenis prefer to tune into international Arabic language satellite TV channels for news and entertainment.

Mobile phone use is widespread. According to government statistics, 46% of the population owned a mobile handset in 2010.

Internet usage is growing fast from a low base. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) said nearly three million Yemenis - just over 12% of the population - used the internet in 2010.

Yemen at a glance

Population (World Bank 2010)	24 million
Main language	Arabic
Radios per 1,000 people (2004)	N/A
TV sets per 1,000 people (2004)	336
GDP per capita (World Bank 2011)	\$1,070
Adult literacy rate (UNESCO 2009)	62.4%
Mobile phone penetration (Government 2010)	46%
Mobile phone subscribers (ITU 2010)	11.1 million
Mobile network coverage	N/A
Internet subscribers (ITU 2010)	2.5-3.0 million
Ranking in UN Human Development Index 2011	154 (out of 187)
Ranking in RSF World Press Freedom Index 2010	170 (out of 178)

2. Media Overview

Yemenis are addicted to Arabic language satellite television channels beamed in from abroad. These provide their main source of news and entertainment.

All local radio and TV stations are run by the state-owned **Yemeni General Corporation for Radio and Television (YGCRT)** and are tightly controlled by the government.

Until recently **Al Jazeera** and **Al Arabiya** were the most popular channels for news and information about events in Yemen and the wider world beyond.

However, other satellite channels, beamed specifically at Yemeni audiences, became popular in 2011 as they began to give extensive coverage to the protest movement against President Ali Abdullah Saleh..

Foremost of these were London-based **Suhail TV** and Cairo-based **Al-Sa'idah**.

A media consumption survey of 1,000 people conducted by the BBC World Service Trust in 2010 found that 86% of respondents watched TV on a daily basis, whereas only 19% listened to radio.

Nearly all those questioned had a satellite dish at home and 65% said they watched international Arabic channels more frequently than local TV.

The most popular programmes mentioned were news and current affairs programmes, Arabic movies and comedies and social dramas.

Only 14% of viewers said they preferred to watch Yemeni state-run TV rather than international satellite channels.

The survey found that 57 % of respondents regarded international Arabic broadcasts as the best source of news about their own country, whereas only 26% thought local TV was best for this.

Nearly all the respondents said they watched television for at least one hour every day and 60% said they watched at least three hours of TV on a daily basis.

The survey found that income and social background made little difference to viewing habits.

However, women watched significantly more TV each day than men.

This is not surprising. In socially conservative Yemen, many women are confined to their house for most of the day.

The BBC World Service Trust survey found that 65% of Yemenis never listened to the radio at all.

However, radio still has some importance in rural areas of Yemen which have limited access to electricity.

The state-run YRTC runs two national radio networks that broadcast from studios in **Sana'a** and **Aden**, and a chain of 10 local radio stations based in the country's main cities.

The BBC World Service Trust survey found that nearly two thirds of those Yemenis who do listen to radio only tune in to Yemeni radio stations.

It showed there was only a small audience for international radio broadcasts.

The survey also found that radio mainly appeals to people over the age of 30.

These regular listeners mostly tune in to Islamic religious programmes, readings from the Koran and news and current affairs programmes.

Dozens of privately owned newspapers exist in Yemen, but most of the main publications are controlled directly or indirectly by the government or President Saleh's General People's Congress party.

Furthermore, newspapers only circulate amongst the educated elite in the main towns and their reputation as a source of reliable news is quite low.

Only 3% of those surveyed by the BBC World Service Trust said they regarded

newspapers as an important source of information about events in Yemen today.

Internet use has been growing steadily from a low base.

Since many news websites operate from outside Yemen, online news often circumvents the government's heavy handed controls on information and is taken more seriously than news printed in local newspapers.

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) estimated that just over 12% of the Yemeni population used the internet to some extent in 2010.

This would imply that nearly three million Yemenis use the internet to some extent.

According to YemenNet, the country's main internet service provider, there were 88,000 subscribers to high-speed ADSL internet services in the first quarter of 2011, and about 500,000 subscribers to slower speed dial-up services.

International groups monitoring press freedom say independent journalism in Yemen is severely hampered by government intimidation and harassment.

At least six journalists were killed in the violence which accompanied widespread public protests against President Ali Abdullah Saleh in 2011

Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) placed Yemen right at the bottom of its 2010 Press Freedom Index. It ranked Yemen 170th out of the 178 countries listed.

RSF said the government's repression of dissenting voices in the media grew more harsh in 2011 as it sought to crush the country's growing protest movement.

In November 2011, RSF said in a report entitled "*Upheaval in the Arab World:*"

"President Ali Abdallah Saleh toughened existing measures to prevent the publication of images of the crackdown and to impose total censorship. It was the start of a policy of systematic attacks on media workers.

All means were regarded as fair game to intimidate journalists. Telephone threats and physical attacks take place daily. Pro-government militiamen, known as baltajiyas, carry out punitive expeditions in the streets.

Since the protests began, three journalists have been killed by sniper fire while reporting on the demonstrations.....

Three other journalists have been killed since February by shellfire or while they were attending demonstrations.

Arrests are commonplace and last from a few hours to several days. They target not only independent journalists but also senior figures of the official press who support the protests. This was the case with Abdelghani Al-Shamiri, the former news director of the state-owned radio and TV service who rallied to the protesters' cause. He was abducted in Sanaa on 31 March by agents of the national security service. He was

released the next day as a result of pressure by the journalists' union."

More recently, assassination attempts have increased. A dozen journalists, several from national TV, have been targeted while they were reporting on opposition rallies."

UNESCO estimated in 2009 that just over 62% of the adult population of Yemen could read and write.

The literacy rate stood at 80% for men, but only 45% for women.

The 2010 BBC World Service Trust survey found that only 12% of Yemenis read newspapers on a daily basis and only 4% accessed the internet every day.

However, the use of mobile phones is widespread, with all major population centres covered by the country's four mobile networks.

According to government statistics, 46% of the population owned a mobile phone in 2010.

The ITU said more than 11 million mobile phones were in use in the country at the end of the same year.

The government only allows Yemen's four state-run TV stations to broadcast from terrestrial transmitters inside the country.

However, there are no restrictions on satellite television reception. Several satellite TV channels aimed mainly at Yemeni audiences have sprung up overseas.

In March 2011, **Al-Mu'tamar**, the website of Yemen's ruling General People's Congress party said a survey of TV viewers in the cities of **Sana'a**, **Aden** and **Taiz**. Showed that Qatar-based **Al-Jazeera** was the most popular TV channel.

It was watched by 61% of respondents to the survey.

Dubai-based **Al-Arabiya** was second on 47%.

London-based **BBC Arabic** was third on 37%.

State-run **Yemen TV** only came fourth on just under 37%.

However, viewing habits appear to have changed since as the conflict between government supporters and opponents has intensified.

Another online opinion poll published by **Al-Mu'tamar** in May 2011 suggested that UK-based **Suhail TV** had become by far the most popular station since the start of the anti-government protests.

Nearly 84% of the 7,000 respondents to the May 2011 survey said Suhail TV, which showed extensive footage of anti-government demonstrations, was now their most watched channel.

Only 3% said that they mainly kept their TV sets tuned to government TV stations.

Even before the 2011 crackdown on opposition protests began, the Yemeni media operated under tough government restrictions.

All radio and TV stations were directly owned and controlled by the government and privately owned newspapers were kept on a tight rein.

Four international NGOs - Article 19, the International Federation of Journalists, International Media Support and the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers - sent a delegation to Yemen in November 2010 to investigate press freedom.

In their joint report *Freedom of Expression in Yemen: A Critical State of Affairs* www.article19.org/data/files/pdfs/publications/yemen-critical-state-of-affairs.pdf, the four organizations concluded:

“Restrictions on advertising revenue, printing and distribution, as well as an acute lack of private investment, suffocate the handful of relatively successful independent publications.

The scarcity of high-quality journalism training has shown an open door to an array of financially precarious and editorially weak publications that have flooded the newspaper market.”

The report said that the forces ranged against the independent media in Yemen were simply overwhelming.

It particularly criticised the existence of special courts which can try journalists for damaging national security or for contravening the Press and Publications Law.

The Press and Publications Law prohibits the publication of anything which prejudices the Islamic faith.

It also bans the spread of ideas that are contrary to the principles of the Yemeni Revolution or which are prejudicial to national unity.

In addition, it prohibits any criticism of the person who is head of state.

The NGO report said the confiscation of newspapers, the suspension of newspaper publishing licenses and the jailing of journalists were frequent events.

Beatings, abductions, torture and killings were occupational hazards for all independent-minded journalists, who feared offending not just the government but also heavily-armed tribal groups, it added.

The report also highlighted the government's indirect influence on the media through its control of the printing and distribution of newspapers and its ability to grant or withhold large volumes of newspaper advertising.

It said foreign journalists in Yemen were also under pressure from the government.

The report noted that the correspondents of international news agencies and pan-Arab newspapers were only permitted to move around the country when accompanied by a guide appointed by the Information Ministry.

Some Yemeni journalists freely admit that as a result of all these pressures they practice self-censorship.

The conservative nature of Yemeni society was reflected in the 2010 BBC World Service Trust media consumption survey through the answers given to a series of questions about general attitudes to life.

92% of respondents described prayer as an important part of their daily lives. 79% felt strongly that religious observance was very important in modern society.

Most Yemeni women veil their faces in public and sensitivity surrounds the public discussion of subjects such as religion and sexuality.

It is not unusual for journalists to regard promoting religious beliefs and values as a key part of their professional duty.

3. Radio overview

Most Yemenis watch television for news and entertainment – particularly foreign stations that broadcast by satellite.

Only one in five listen to the radio regularly.

However, there is still a significant audience for Yemeni radio stations in rural areas.

All radio broadcasts in Yemen are controlled by the state-run **Yemen General Corporation for Radio and Television (YGCR)**.

The YGCR operates two national radio networks, with studios in **Sana'a** and **Aden**.

It also runs **Al-Shabab Radio**, a Sana'a-based radio station that broadcasts for four hours per day targeting a youth audience.

In addition, YGCR operates local radio stations in 10 provincial cities.

Three of YGCR's local stations – **Saada**, **Lahj** and **Zinjibar** – were off air at the end of 2011 after having been seized by rebel forces earlier in the year.

In 2004, the YGCR said its radio broadcasts covered about 75 per cent of the country.

Since then, the corporation has opened several new local stations and has embarked on a project to increase its broadcast reach through the construction of more FM relay transmitters.

The government has repeatedly rejected requests by the **BBC** and **Radio Sawa**, the Arabic language service of **Voice of America (VOA)**, to broadcast on FM from transmitters inside the Yemen.

A BBC World Service Trust media audience survey of 1,000 people in 2010 found that only 19% of respondents listened to radio on a daily basis..

Nearly two thirds of those questioned said they never ever listened to the radio at all.

The survey found that most radio listeners were people aged over 30 from the poorer sectors of society. They generally listened to the radio at home.

The most popular programmes mentioned were readings from the Koran and religious programmes and news and current affairs programmes.

Other research indicates that music request shows, known as “congratulation programmes,” are popular in rural areas, where radio listenership, is relatively high.

Listeners call in to the studio to greet friends and relatives on air and congratulate them on some achievement or occasion such as a birthday or their safe return from a trip abroad.

They then request a particular song to be played and dedicated to the person in question.

Women in rural areas listen to radio more than men, particularly when they are cooking or doing other household chores.

Local radio stations are commonly referred to as 'kitchen radio'.

The peak time for female listening is between 10.00 and 13.30, when the menfolk of the household are at work.

The favourite time for men to listen to the radio is during afternoon qat chewing sessions, between 14.30 and 18.00.

Both men and women prefer to listen to songs at this time.

Radio station staff also prefer the easier task of playing music recordings while the afternoon qat chew is under way!

As a general rule, children are not radio listeners.

All Yemeni radio stations have phone-in programmes.

Most cover local community affairs such as road conditions, school conditions, local health concerns, and other matters related to peoples' daily activities.

Before the 2011 protest movement began, local radio stations would invite officials to respond live on air to complaints by callers.

The challenging questions posed by callers to these programmes often contrasted with the deference shown to studio guests by the radio presenters.

The presenters were also government employees. Most felt they were not in a position to challenge prominent the prominent figures invited to speak on air.

Furthermore, there was a notable lack of follow-up programmes to check whether the promises made by officials on such phone-in programmes were actually kept.

Following training by the BBC World Service Trust in 2010 and early 2011, some local radio stations started new phone-in programmes where local officials and even government ministers were challenged by the presenters as well as listeners who phoned in.

The launch of these harder edged programmes was often resisted by station managers and the local authorities, but they rapidly became popular.

They discussed issues such as medical negligence, sanitation problems, school conditions, qat addiction, and individual cases of alleged injustice.

However once the anti-Saleh uprising began in January 2011, some of these phone-in programmes were taken off air.

Those that remained went back to staunchly defending the government.

Officials were no longer grilled on air about shortcomings in public services. Instead they were praised by presenters for their efforts to protect the country and improve the living conditions of its people.

Radio broadcasts from neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Oman are audible on Medium Wave, especially at night. However, they do not appear to attract a significant audience.

Other foreign radio stations audible on Medium Wave include **Radio Sawa** and **Radio Monte Carlo Doualiya**, the **Arabic** language service of **Radio France Internationale (RFI)**.

Both these stations broadcast from powerful transmitters in nearby **Djibouti**, just across the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

The **BBC World Service** can be heard in **Arabic** and **English** on Short Wave.

Leading radio stations

Yemen General Corporation for Radio and Television (YGCR)

www.yemenrtv.net

The Yemen General Corporation for Radio and Television (YGRTC) is the state broadcaster which owns and operates all radio stations in Yemen.

There are two national radio networks based at studios in **Sana'a** and **Aden** and a youth station, **Radio al Shabab**, which broadcasts from Sana'a for four hours per day.

There are also 10 local stations in the following provincial capitals:

Ataq

Al Hodeidah

Hajjah

Ibb

Lahj

Al Mukalla

Saada

Sayun

Taiz

Zinjibar

The local radio stations in **Lahj, Saada and Zinjibar** were all off air in early 2012 following fighting in these three cities during 2011.

YGCRT's local stations enjoy very little autonomy. All their operational costs and salaries are paid by YGCRT headquarters in Sana'a.

The local stations all produce some of their own programming. However, much of their broadcast output is simply relayed from the national network studios in Sana'a and Aden.

Local stations in the northern part of the country - including **Taiz, Ibb** and **Al Hodeidah** - carry networked programming from **Sana'a** radio.

Stations in southern Yemen - including **Lahj, Al Mukalla** and **Sayun** - carry networked programming from Aden radio.

Networked programmes take over whenever local radio broadcasts end.

Following the outbreak of public protests against President Ali Abdullah Saleh in early 2011, all YGCRT radio stations became much more staunchly pro-government.

This stance was reflected in their programme content and selection of guest speakers.

General Manager YGCRT - Dr Hussein Mukbel

Tel. +967-1-332001/2/3

Email address?

Minister for Information - Hasan Ahmed Allawzi,

Tel: +967-1-274008/9

Email address?

Sana'a Radio www.sanaaradio.net

Sana'a Radio is the government's national flagship radio station.

It broadcasts nationwide for 24 hours per day on FM, Medium Wave, Short Wave and Satellite.

Sana'a Radio started in 1947, and is the oldest and most listened to radio station in the country.

Sana'a Radio broadcasts on 91.1 and 92.6 FM in the capital.

It also broadcasts to a wider audience on 711 and 1188 KHz in the Medium Wave band.

Sana'a Radio's output includes news and current affairs analysis, entertainment, music, and sport.

The station broadcasts in **Arabic**, but it has a one hour programme in **English** every day at 21.00.

Much of Sana'a Radio's output is networked to three local radio stations in northern Yemen – **Al Hodeidah, Ibb** and **Taiz**.

General Manager - Abbas Al-Dailami

Tel: +967 1 282060

+967 1 282005

Email: yradio@y.net.ye

Aden Radio www.adenradio.net

Aden Radio is the second most popular station nationwide.

Before the union of the two Yemens in 1990, Aden Radio served as the national radio station of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

It broadcasts for 18 hours a day from 06.00 to midnight in **Aden** and **Sana'a** on 92.6 and 105.0 FM.

Aden Radio also broadcasts on 837, 792 and 1008 KHz in the Medium Wave band and on Short Wave and satellite.

Its output includes entertainment, music and news.

There is a 30-minute daily programme in **English** and 20-minute daily programme in **French**.

Much of Aden Radio's programming is relayed by the YGCRT local radio stations in South Yemen in **Lahj, Al Mukalla** and **Sayun**.

The station was originally set up under British colonial rule in 1954.

Programme Presenter - Ali Abdulwahab Ahmed

Tel. +967 2 202552

+967 2 282809

+967 2 282869

Email: adenradio@yemen.net.ye

Al-Shabab (Youth Radio) www.alshababradio.net

This **Sana'a**-based radio station targets young people with educational, religious, political and cultural programmes.

It also broadcasts special programmes on religious and national holidays.

Al Shabab broadcasts for four hours per day in two separate two-hour segments.

The station broadcasts on 96.5 and 103.2 FM and 837 KHz in the Medium Wave band. It also broadcasts on satellite.

Al-Shabab was launched in 2003

General Manager - Muteea'a AlFakeeh

Tel. +967 1 282061

Email: info@alshababradio.net

Taiz Radio www.taizradio.net

Taiz Radio serves one of the largest provincial cities in North Yemen and the surrounding rural area.

It broadcasts for eight hours per day on 88.1, 89.5 and 90.5 FM and 891 Khz Medium Wave.

The station is on air from 08.00 to 13.00 in the morning and again from 19.00 to 22.00 in the evening

Taiz Radio was set up in 1963 by the newly installed Republican government in Sana'a to allow it to continue broadcasting in the event that Royalist forces ever recaptured the capital.

General Manager - Ammar Almua'alim

Mob: 00967-734202950

Tel: +967 4 215536

+967 4 215569

Email: ammare99@yahoo.com

Facebook page: <http://facebook.com/ammare99>

Al-Hodeidah www.radihod.net

This station broadcasts from the Red Sea port of **Al-Hodeida**, which is also the centre of Yemen's oil industry.

Al-Hodeidah Radio is on air for 13 hours per day from 09.00 to 22.00 on 90.4 FM and 1125 Khz in the Medium Wave band. It started in 1968 as a community radio station.

General Manager - Mohammed Aljafri

Mob: +967 777 207 047

Tel. +967 3 207158

Email: m.h-only-306@hotmail.com

Ibb Radio www.ibbradio.net

Ibb Radio broadcasts to the South Western city of Ibb and the surrounding area on FM for five hours per day.

It is on air from 08.00 to 13.00 on 89.4 and 96.0 FM.

The station began broadcasting in 2005.

Programme presenter- Shihab Sallam

Mob: +967 777 218 811

Tel: +967 4 458301

+967 4 458393

+967 4 458302

Email: shihab_salam_7@yahoo.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000588158631&sk=info

Shabwa Radio

Shabwa Radio is Yemen's newest local radio station.

It began broadcasting from Ataq, the capital of the Shabwa governorate in East Central Yemen, in March 2010.

The station broadcasts on FM to the city of Ataq, and its immediate surroundings.

?Contact name

Tel: +967-5-200500

Email address??

Lahj Radio www.lahijradio.net

This radio station is situated in Lahj, the capital of Lahj governorate, about 50 km north of Aden.

Media reports suggest that it has been off air since an attack on Lahj town by Islamist rebels in June 2011.

In January 2012, Lahj Radio's website was streaming broadcasts from Al-Shabab Radio in Sana'a.

Contacts?

Al-Mukallah Radio www.mukallaradio.info

Al-Mukalla Radio broadcasts from the Southeastern coastal city of Al-Mukallah. It covers the southern part of the sparsely populated Hadramawt governorate.

The station broadcasts nine hours a day on 89.5 and 95.4 FM and 756 Khz in the Medium Wave band.

General Manager - Salem Ali Salem Alshahet

Tel. +967 5 302929

+967 5 315555

Email: alshahet1960@live.com

Sayun Radio www.sayunradio.info

Sayun Radio broadcasts from the North-Eastern town of Sayun and covers the northern part of Hadramawt governorate.

It broadcasts six hours a day on 89.5 and 95.4 FM and 756 Khz Medium Wave.

General Manager - Ahmed Mahfood Bin Zaidan

Contact details???

Hajjah Radio www.hajjahradio.net

Hajjah Radio broadcasts from the city of Hajjah, about 130 km northwest of Sana'a on 89.2 FM.

It is on air for eight hours a day, split into morning and evening segments

Contact details?

Saada Radio www.saadahradio.net

Saada Radio used to broadcast for eight hours a day on 91.0 and 96.0 FM from Saada, the capital of the troubled Saada governorate in the far North of Yemen.

Media reports said the radio station came under the control of Houthi rebels in March 2011. In January 2012 it was off air.

Tel: +967 7 516922.

Abyan Radio <http://abyanradio.net>

Abyan Radio used to broadcast on FM from the coastal city of Zinjibar, 60 km west of Aden.

Its coverage was limited to Zinjibar and the adjacent rural area.

Zinjibar fell under the control of Islamist rebels linked to Al Qaeda in March 2011. Media reports at the time said the rebels used the radio station to announce the establishment of an Islamic emirate in the area.

Abyan Radio subsequently went off air. In January 2012 it was no longer operational.

Contacts?

4. Television overview

Television is the main source of news and entertainment in Yemen. It is far more popular and influential than radio.

However, most Yemenis shun the local state-run TV stations, whose news and current affairs output is tightly controlled by the government.

They prefer to watch satellite channels beamed in from overseas, both for news about Yemen and the wider world and for entertainment.

The Gulf-based channels **Al Jazeera** and **Al Arabiya**, the UK-based satellite broadcaster **Suhail TV** and Cairo-based **Al-Sa'idah** are particularly popular for news and information.

A survey of media consumption habits in Yemen carried out by the BBC World Service Trust in 2010, found that 86% of the respondents watched television on a daily basis, whereas only 19% listened to the radio and 12% read newspapers.

TV viewing was equally popular amongst young and old alike.

It was also widespread amongst all social and income groups, from wealthy city sophisticates to the rural poor.

All the households surveyed had at least one television set, and most had at least two.

The BBC World Service Trust survey found that 95% of all households had access to Satellite TV and that 96% of all respondents watched international Arabic TV channels regularly.

In fact, 65% said they watched these international channels more than local TV.

Only 14% said that they mostly watched local broadcasts by the **Yemen General Corporation for Radio and Television (YGCRT)**.

The survey found that 57 % of respondents regarded broadcasts by international stations as the best source of news about their own country, while only 26% thought local TV was best for this.

Nearly all the respondents said they watched television for at least one hour every day. 60% said they watched at least three hours of TV on a daily basis.

Women tend to watch more TV than men, But this is not surprising. In Yemen's conservative society, many women remain confined to the house for most of the day.

YGCRT operates four TV channels:

- **Yemen TV (also known as Channel One)** – the flagship national TV station that broadcasts from **Sana'a**
- **Aden TV (also known as Channel Two)** – an **Aden**-based channel
- **Saba TV** – a satellite channel aimed at young people and students
- **Al-Iman TV** – a satellite channel that carries religious programmes aimed at combatting Islamic fundamentalists

Yemen TV and Aden TV reach about half the country's population through terrestrial broadcasts.

They are also available to a wider audience on satellite.

The terrestrial broadcasts of TV stations in neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Oman can be received in some border areas.

In March 2011 **Al-Mu'tamar**, the official website of the ruling General People's Congress party, reported the results of a television viewing survey carried out in the cities of **Sana'a**, **Aden** and **Taiz**.

This found **Al-Jazeera**, the Qatar-based international news channel, to be the most popular TV station.

Al Jazeera was watched by 61% of respondents to the survey.

Dubai-based **Al-Arabiya** was second on 47%.

The London-based **BBC Arabic** came third on 37%.

State-run **Yemen TV** was in fourth place on just under 37%.

The Yemeni government only allows the four state-run TV stations to broadcast from terrestrial transmitters inside the country.

However, several satellite TV channels aimed specifically at Yemeni audiences have sprung up overseas since 2007.

A second online poll published by Al Mu'tamar in May 2011 suggested that one of these satellite channels had gained a massive following since the start of the anti-government uprising because of their coverage of the unrest.

The poll showed that **Suhail TV**, which broadcasts to the Yemen from studios in London, had become by far the most popular station since the start of the anti-government protests.

Nearly 84% of the 7,000 respondents said that Suhail TV, which is sympathetic to the anti-Saleh protest movement, was the channel that they watched most.

Only 3% said that they mainly kept their TV sets tuned to Yemen's government-run TV stations.

Other satellite stations broadcasting specifically to Yemen include:

- **Azal TV**, which is owned by a religious leader close to Saleh's regime
- **Yemen Today TV**, which is widely believed to be owned by one of Saleh's sons
- **Yemen Shabab**, a Cairo-based youth channel which supports the rebellion against Saleh's regime. Some reports say it is financed by the liberal government of Qatar.

The government does not impose any restrictions on owning satellite-receiving equipment. Nor are any fees required. A satellite dish costs around US\$50.

However, the authorities have sometimes attempted to exert control over cable TV services.

Cable TV networks exist in large cities such as **Sana'a, Aden, Taiz** and **Al-Hodeida**.

In February 2011 the authorities told about 50 local cable operators in Aden to drop Suhail TV from the bouquet of channels provided to subscribers.

Cable subscriptions cost about \$3 per month.

Leading TV stations

Yemen TV (Channel One) www.yemen-tv.net

This is the government's flagship channel. It is also available on satellite internationally.

Programmes include news broadcasts, some of which are in English, dramas, religious shows, documentaries and public announcements.

The station was launched in 1975.

Programme Presenter - Mohammed Hussein Almohammdi

Tel: +967 1 353542

Email contact?

Aden TV (Channel Two) www.tvaden.net

State-run Aden TV has operated out of Aden since 1964. At that time, South Yemen was still a British colony.

It is now part of YGCRT.

Aden TV had a limited, terrestrial reach until 2007, when it launched on satellite under the name Al-Yamaniyah TV.

The channel's name reverted to Aden TV in January 2010, to distinguish it from a London-based satellite TV station broadcasting to Yemen that was also called Al Yamaniyah.

Contact details?

Saba TV (Sheba TV) www.shebatv.net

This is YGCRT's satellite channel for young people and students.

It is based in **Sana'a** and carries general entertainment, sports and educational programmes.

General Manager - Ahmed Saleh Alhawiri

Tel: +967 1 332001/2

Email: tvsheba@yahoo.com

Al-Iman www.alemantv.net

Al-Iman is a state-owned religious satellite TV channel that was launched in 2008.

At the time, Information Minister Hassan al-Lawzi said Al-Iman was intended to be "neither fanatical nor extremist".

General Manager - Abd al-Wahed Ali al-Ansi

Contacts?

Suhail TV

Suhail TV is a privately owned satellite TV station that targets viewers in Yemen. It has close links to the opposition Islah party.

Suhail TV started test transmissions from Kuwait in May 2009 but it was denied an operating licence by the Kuwaiti authorities.

It then relocated to the London, UK.

The station is operated by the UK-based Saba Media Limited Company. This is owned by a group of Yemeni investors led by Shaykh Hamdan Abdallah al-Ahmar.

His brother, Hamid al-Ahmar, has emerged as a leading contender to replace President Ali Abdullah Saleh as head of state. Some reports say that this prominent opposition leader finances the channel.

The Al-Ahmar family is a leading family in the powerful Hashid tribal confederacy and closely associated with the opposition Islamist party, the Yemeni Alliance for Reform, known as Islah.

Suhail TV's programming is largely religious in nature.

The TV station has denied having any political affiliations, but its reporting of the anti-Saleh protests in 2011 clearly favoured the demonstrators.

Suhail TV has given airtime to Hamid al-Ahmar and other prominent opposition figures such as the Islamist cleric, Shaykh Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani.

Suhail TV did not have a functioning website of its own at the end of 2011. However, its programming was streamed on several TV websites, including <http://e-btv.blogspot.com/2011/05/suhail-tv-yemen.html>

Programme Presenter - Mohammed Al-ruba'a

Mob: +967- 711417878

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1615491334>)

Job description? - Abdulrahman Al-Namer

Mob: +967- 734822787

Email: p.sound@suhail.net

Live Internet Broadcast: www.Justin.TV/SuhailTV

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SuhailTV>

Al-Sa'idah (Happy TV) www.alsaeedah-tv.com

This Cairo-based entertainment channel has increasingly covered the protest movement against President Ali Abdullah Saleh in an even-handed manner.

Al-Sa'idah was launched in 2007 as the first privately-owned satellite TV channel to start broadcasting to Yemen from overseas.

Its balanced news and current affairs coverage of the protest movement against President Ali Abdullah Saleh in 2011 has proved very popular.

Al-Sa'idah is widely believed to be owned by Yemeni investors close to the ruling General People's Congress party.

Its managing director is Hamid al-Shamiri, whose brother is Yemen's ambassador to Egypt and the Arab League.

Before the protests began, the station had broadcast interviews with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and other leaders of the ruling General People's Congress party.

But in August 2010 one of the station's Ramadan programmes, *My concern is your concern*, attracted condemnation from tribal leaders and praise from members of the public for its satirical treatment of several social issues.

Ever since then, Al Sa'idah has distanced itself from the government.

There is some evidence that Al-Sa'idah has gained in popularity at the expense of state TV.

During 2011 it began broadcasting two programmes that covered the protest movement against President Saleh.

Under the shadow of events is presented by a moderate Islamist, Mohamed Alamiri, who invites both pro-government and opposition figures to engage in debate.

This is probably the most watched programme of its kind on any Yemeni channel.

The station also broadcasts *Al-Sa'idah Platform*, a phone-in programme which features both pro-government and pro-opposition contributors.

The programme airs a wide range of views and its presenter, Sami al-Samei, is one of the best known TV personalities in the Yemen.

Programme Presenter - Sami Al-Samei

Tel: (Egypt) +20 1 083 80994

Email: info@alsaheedah-tv.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/alsaheedahchannel>

Presenter Email: s_sa711@yahoo.com

Presenter Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/sami.alsamie>

Al-Aqiq www.alaqeeq-tv.net

Al-Aqiq TV began test transmissions from Kuwait in early 2010, but the station soon moved to Cairo, where it was formally launched in May the same year.

The channel's managing director is Anwar al-Ashwal, a presenter on Yemen state TV.

Al Aqiq's shareholders are believed to include Faris al-Sanabani, President Ali Abdullah Saleh's media adviser, and a nephew of the president, Tariq Muhammad Abdallah Saleh.

Al-Aqeeq TV's website is www.alaqeeq-tv.net, but it was hacked by anti-government activists in May 2011, In January 2012 it was no longer available

Contacts?

Aden Live www.ade-tv.net

Launched in 2009 as Aden TV, this London-based satellite station supports the secessionist movement in Southern Yemen, aimed at restoring its independence from the North.

Aden Live's programming is almost entirely political.

The station repeatedly broadcasts repeated video footage of protests and rallies in southern parts of Yemen.

It is clearly run on a low budget. The most common format in its live programmes consists of an unseen presenter conducting conversations by telephone with correspondents and activists inside Yemen.

The authorities in Sana'a have made a number of attempts to persuade satellite operators to drop Aden Live.

The channel broadcasts by satellite and is streamed live from its website.

Contacts?

Al-Jazeera www.aljazeera.net

Al-Jazeera is a 24-hour free-to-air satellite news channel in **Arabic** based in the Gulf state of Qatar.

Al-Jazeera means 'the island,' a term widely in Arabic used to describe the Arabian Peninsula.

It has transformed the broadcast landscape of the Middle East and North Africa.

The station has an Arabic-speaking audience estimated at between 40 and 50 million.

Since its launch in 1996, Al-Jazeera has developed a network of TV channels in Arabic and English.

These include sports channels and a children's channel.

Al-Jazeera employs some 2,500 people in 40 countries.

It has four broadcast centres in **Doha** (the capital of Qatar), **Kuala Lumpur**, **Washington** and **London**.

Al-Jazeera was the first widely-watched Arabic channel to report freely on the Middle East and North Africa, providing extensive live coverage on the model of CNN,

The TV station not only challenged Qatar's powerful Arab neighbours. It also encouraged open debate on a wide range of hitherto taboo political and social issues.

Two events combined to make this possible.

In 1995 the Western-educated Crown Prince of Qatar, Hamad bin Khalifa, overthrew his father as Emir and embarked on a programme of modernisation and liberalisation.

At about the same time a pioneering BBC satellite news channel in Arabic was abruptly closed down after its Saudi partners objected to a documentary which it broadcast about Saudi Arabia.

Many of the BBC-trained Arab journalists and technicians laid off were promptly hired by Al-Jazeera.

Most Arab governments, and quite a few Western ones, have been offended by al-Jazeera's coverage at one time or another.

The channel's operations have frequently been hampered by the banning or arrest of its staff. Its offices in Baghdad and Kabul have been hit by US missiles.

Economic pressure from Saudi Arabia has severely restricted the channel's advertising potential, forcing it to remain heavily dependent of subsidies from the Qatari government.

Al-Jazeera is streamed live on the internet and is broadcast on the following satellites:

[Intelsat 8](#)
[Telkom 1](#)
[AsiaSat 5](#)
[Türksat 2A](#)
[Eutelsat W7](#)
[Arabsat 5A](#)
[Badr 4](#)
[Eurobird 2](#)
[Astra 1M](#)
[Hot Bird 9](#)
[Eurobird 9A](#)
[Amos 2](#)
[Nilesat 201](#)
[Atlantic Bird 7](#)
[Atlantic Bird 2](#)
[NSS 7](#)
[Intelsat 9](#)
[Anik F3](#)

Tel: (Qatar) +974 44489 6666

+974 44489 7389

Email: manager@aljazeera.net

Address: Al Jazeera Satellite Network Building, Khalifa Street, P.O. Box 23123

Doha, Qatar

Al-Arabiya www.alarabiya.net

This 24-hour satellite news channel in **Arabic** has proved the most successful of many attempts to imitate and rival Al-Jazeera.

Al-Arabiya is based in **Dubai**, in the United Arab Emirates, but the station is majority-owned by the Saudi broadcaster, MBC.

MBC is owned by Sheikh Walid al-Ibrahim, a son-in-law of the late King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

He launched the channel in 2003 as a self-styled “moderate” alternative to al-Jazeera.

Al-Arabiya’s fast-paced bulletins, glamorous presenters and high-tech sets and graphics make it the slickest of all the pan-Arab TV stations.

Critics accuse Al-Arabiya of being pro-American, but viewing figures suggest it is second only to al-Jazeera in terms of popularity across the Middle East.

Al-Arabiya is streamed live on the internet and is carried by the following satellites:

Intelsat 8

Optus D2

AsiaSat 5

Badr 4

Hot Bird 9

Nilesat 201

Atlantic Bird 7

Anik F3

Tel. +971 4 391 9999

+971 4 390 1000

Email: contact@alarabiya.net

Address: Al Arabiya, MBC Group Building No 3, PO Box 72627, Dubai Media City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

BBC Arabic TV www.bbcarabic.com

This 24-hour free-to-air satellite news channel in Arabic was launched by the BBC in March 2009 from studios in London.

Like the rest of the BBC World Service, it is funded by the British Foreign Office.

BBC Arabic is the British government's second attempt to set up an Arabic language satellite TV station.

An earlier BBC attempt to set up an Arabic TV station ended abruptly in 1996 after a dispute over censorship with its Saudi partner in the joint venture.

The Saudi partner objected to a documentary which the channel aired about Saudi Arabia, so the channel was shut down.

The current BBC Arabic TV service is controlled by the BBC alone. It forms part of a restructured BBC Arabic Service called BBC Arabic.

This brings together the BBC's radio, TV and online output in Arabic.

BBC Arabic aims to deliver multimedia content across as many platforms as possible, including mobile phones and hand-held computers.

It places particular emphasis on audience participation through interactive discussion programmes.

BBC Arabic TV boasts a brand name which has won widespread respect and large audiences throughout the Middle East since the BBC first began broadcasting in Arabic in 1938.

However, it entered a market place that was already crowded. The channel has had to compete against other satellite networks with far greater financial resources.

In 2010, a year after the launch the launch of the new BBC Arabic TV service, the BBC estimated its weekly audience at 12 million. This was substantially less than its target figure of 20 million.

However, a more recent audience survey conducted between February and July 2011, suggested that BBC Arabic TV's coverage of the Arab Spring uprisings in several countries across the Middle East and North Africa had boosted its overall audience to more than 33 million.

The future of the service appears uncertain once the current five-year British government grant to fund its operations comes to an end in 2014.

BBC Arabic TV is streamed live on the internet and is available on the following satellites:

Intelsat 8
Badr 4
Hot Bird 8
Intelsat 10-02
Nilesat 102
Anik F3

Global News Communications, BBC Arabic TV - Roxanna Shapour

Tel: (UK) + 44 7912 583 892

roxanna.shapour@bbc.co.uk

Address: Egton House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA, UK

6. Print media overview

Newspapers are the third largest source of news and information in Yemen after TV and radio.

But they only circulate in the main cities and are not widely regarded as an important and reliable source of news and information about the Yemen.

The BBC World Service Trust survey of media consumption habits in 2010 found that only 12% of Yemenis read a newspaper daily and only 3% regarded newspapers as an important source of news about current events in the country.

However newspaper articles are frequently picked up by radio stations and used as the basis for news bulletins. This gives newspapers some relevance as a source of breaking news beyond their own readership.

That said, state radio and TV mainly run anodyne news stories provided by the government-run Saba News Agency.

In 2008 the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) listed approximately nine government-controlled newspapers, 50 independent publications and 30 party-affiliated newspapers in the country.

Most are published in **Arabic**, but a handful of newspapers and magazines appear in **English**.

All privately owned Yemeni newspapers have limited resources. They cater for a small and impoverished readership, which has declined with the advent of satellite TV and the internet.

Even the elite now prefer to read news online and watch it on TV.

Some people buy English-language publications to improve their reading skills.

Government offices and NGOs often subscribe to a number of publications and expect the staff to read them.

Other people read newspapers more for the advertising that they carry than the news that they report. Advertisements for jobs, marriage and houses for rent or sale are followed eagerly.

Unlike local radio and TV, Yemeni newspapers offer a diversity of political opinions and viewpoints. Some publications are independent or affiliated to opposition parties.

However government-controlled newspapers that reflect the official line predominate.

Al-Thawra (The Revolution), the daily newspaper of the ruling General People's Congress party, is Yemen's largest newspaper. It claims a daily sale of 60,000.

Most other newspapers in Yemen sell fewer than 20,000 copies per issue.

State sponsorship secures considerable resources for the official publications, guaranteeing them wide distribution and the most impressive layout.

Most independent and opposition newspapers can only afford to publish weekly.

The average Yemeni newspaper has 16 to 20 pages and a cover price of between 30 and 60 rials (15 to 30 US cents).

The government owns most of the printing presses, including those used by most opposition papers, so production and distribution can be easily stopped when the authorities deem it necessary.

Only three independent newspapers own their own presses.

Nevertheless, Yemen does have a broad range of print media representing different political factions. And in recent years the independent and opposition press has become increasingly vocal.

The Arab Press Network describes the press in Yemen as "one of the region's most vibrant, socially critical and politically engaged".

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists takes a similar view, saying: "Yemen's outspoken press is one of the country's most important centres of dissent

and political debate and, over the last two years, it has become noticeably bolder in exposing high-level corruption and tackling sensitive political issues."

Since March 2011, a number of newspapers have been established by anti-government protestors encamped in public squares in Sana'a and other cities such as Taiz and Al-Hodeidah.

They carry titles such as **Shabab al-Thawrah** (Youth of the Revolution) and **Sawt al-Thawrah** (Voice of the Revolution). These improvised newspapers consist of four to eight pages and are generally distributed free.

However, news websites have increasingly become the main source of breaking news.

Leading newspapers and other print publications

Al-Thawra (The Revolution) www.althawranews.net

Al Thawra is the flagship official newspaper of the ruling General People's Congress party (GPC).

This **Sana'a**-based daily carries uncritical coverage to President Saleh's activities and the government's policies and achievements.

Typically, a large portion of the content is drawn directly from the official news agency, Saba, including many of the main headlines.

The newspaper claims a circulation of 60,000.

Editor in Chief - Ibrahim Alma'lami

Tel: +967 1 321528/32/33

Email: althawrah99@yahoo.com

Akhbar al-Yawm (News of the Day) www.akhbaralyom.net

This independent daily has been published in **Sana'a** since 2003.

It reports on domestic and international issues and often runs stories that embarrass the government, such as reports about opposition grievances and clashes between security forces and protestors.

The paper has a reported circulation of 20,000.

Media reports have linked Akhbar al-Yam with MajorGeneral Ali Muhsin Salih al-Ahmar, a relative of the president, who has joined the anti-Saleh opposition together with his First Armoured Division.

Editor in Chief - Iyad Albuhaire

Tel. +967 1 606711

Email: info@akhbaralyom.net

Address: Taiz Street, P O Box 3347, Sana'a,

Al-Siyasiyah (The Political) www.alsyasiah.net

This **Sana'a** based government daily was founded in 2007.

It is published by the official Saba news agency and draws much of its content from its news service.

Al-Siyasiyah generally adheres to the positions of the president and his ruling General People's Congress party.

Some commentaries that appear on the **Mu'tamar** website of the ruling party also appear in Al-Siyasiyah.

Contact details?

Saba news agency www.sabanews.net

Saba is the government's official news agency. It is the main source of news for state-run radio and television and for many pro-government newspapers.

Saba has nine branch offices in the following provincial cities: **Al-Ghaydah, Taiz, Sayun, Lahj, Zinjibar, Aden, Ataq, Al-Hodeida** and **Al-Mukalla**.

Saba also publishes its own daily newspaper in **Sana'a** called **Al-Siyasiyah** (The Political).

The news agency was established in 1970. Following the unification with South Yemen 1990 it merged with the Aden-based Aden News Agency.

Saba focuses on official announcements by the government. It also runs stories that reflect the government's opinion.

Its website publishes news in **Arabic, English and French**.

Saba also provides a photo service.

Chairman - Tariq Ahmed Mohammed Alshami

Tel: +9671 250078/83

Email? sabanet@y.net.ye

Address: Head Office, 5-story Office Building and Printing Plant, Al-Jama'ah Al-Arabia Street, Sana'a

14 Uktubar (14 October) www.14october.com

This **Aden**-based daily was run by the South Yemen government before unification in 1990. It was taken over by the Sana'a authorities after the 1994 civil war.

It is named after the date on which the armed struggle against British colonial rule began in South Yemen in 1963.

The newspaper draws heavily on the official Saba news agency and articles republished from other government-run publications.

Editor in Chief - Ahmed Mohammed Alhubaishi

Contact telephone and email?

Al-Jumhuriyah (The Republic) www.algomhoriah.net

This **Taiz**-based regional daily is one of many pro-government newspapers which delivers favourable coverage of the activities of the president, the government and the ruling General People's Congress party.

Typically, a large portion of the newspaper's content is drawn directly from the Saba news agency, including many of the main headlines.

Al-Jumhuriya claims to have a circulation of 15,000.

Deputy Editor in Chief - Abbas Ghaleb

Tel: +967 4 211844/5/6

Email: abbas@algomhoriah.net

Al-Sahwa (The Awakening) www.alsahwa-yemen.net

Al-Sahwa is the official weekly newspaper of the Islamic Islah Party/Yemeni Alliance for Reform, the largest opposition party in parliament.

It concentrates on analysing the week's news from an Islamic perspective and is well known for its criticism of the government.

Al-Sahwa is published on Thursdays. It also has an influential online presence.

Editor-in-Chief - Rajeh Badi,

Tel. +967 1 230317

Email: alsahwa@yemen.net.ye

Al-Masdar (The Source) www.almasdaronline.com

This **Sana'a**-based independent weekly is often critical of government policies and provides good coverage of southern issues.

Its website is regularly updated throughout the day with breaking news stories.

Its print edition is published on Tuesdays, but the authorities have prevented the newspaper from being distributed on several occasions.

Managing Editor (newspaper) - AbdulHakim Hilal

Tel: +967 1 465336

Address: Alribat Street, P O Box: 4693, Sana'a,

Managing Editor (Website) - Yaser Alerami,

Mobile: +967 713 141 888

Email: info@al-masdar.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/almasdar>

Al-Ghad (Tomorrow) www.alghadyem.net

This weekly newspaper describes itself as independent.

It often publishes reports that reflect poorly on the government, including reports on sensitive topics such as security.

Its editor-in-chief, Faysal Mukaram, also writes for the pan-Arab daily Al-Hayat, which is published in London and printed locally throughout the Middle East.

Managing Editor - Khaled Al-haroggi

Tel: +967-1-565100/101/102

Email: info@alghadyem.net

alghadyem@gmail.com

Al-Mithaq (The Covenant) www.almethaq.net

This **Sana'a**-based weekly is an official publication of the ruling General People's Congress party.

It reports primarily on party activities, but also includes local and international news.

Al-Mithaq appears on Mondays. It has been published since 1982.

Editor-in-Chief - Tawfeeq Othman Alshargabi,

Tel: +967 1 466128/9

Email: chief@almethaq.net

Address: Aser, P O Box: 3777, Sana'a

26 Sibtimbar (26 September) www.26sept.info

This **Sana'a**-based weekly is the official army newspaper. It is staunchly pro-government.

It is named after the date in 1962 when the Yemen Arab Republic was proclaimed in North Yemen, following the overthrow of the monarchy..

28 Sibtimbar is owned and run by the Department of Moral Guidance in the Ministry of Defence. Nearly all its staff are military personnel.

Editor-in-Chief: Staff Major Ali Hassan Shatir

+967 1 262626

Email?

Al-Ahali (The People) www.alahale.net

This **Sana'a**-based weekly newspaper was named after a left-wing Egyptian paper of the same name.

Al-Ahali says it has a print run of 24,000 copies and is distributed in all governorates of the country.

Four consecutive issues of the paper were seized by the government in May and June 2009.

Editor-in-Chief - Ali Ali Algaradi

Tel: +967 1 205285

Address: Aldaeri and Road 20 intersection, P O Box: 1687, Sana'a,

Yemen Times www.yementimes.com

This Sana'a-based English language newspaper is published twice a week.

It reports primarily on domestic issues and often carries news items that are critical of the government.

Yemen Times claims to be the most widely read English-language paper in the country. It caters mainly for the expatriate community in Sana'a.

The newspaper was founded in 1991 and was the first English language newspaper to be published in Yemen.

Yemen Times is active on Facebook and Twitter.

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief - Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Tel: +967 1 268-661/2/3

Email?

Address: Hadda St., P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

Taiz Office Manager - Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 4 217-156

Email: ytaiz@y.net.ye

Yemen Observer www.yobserver.com

This **Sana'a**-based English-language newspaper is published twice a week and is the main competitor to the Yemen Times.

It is owned by Faris Sanabani, Press Secretary to President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

He also owns the monthly **English** language magazine **Yemen Today** and is widely believed to be a shareholder in the Kuwait-based **Al-Aqiq** satellite TV channel.

The Yemen Observer reports primarily on domestic issues. Some of its coverage is critical of the government.

The US journalist Jennifer Steil wrote an entertaining account of the year which she spent as editor of the Yemen Observer in 2006/7 in her book *“The woman who fell to earth.”*

This gives a good insight to the problems of trying to run an independent newspaper Yemen and the pressures and constraints under which Yemeni journalists operate.

Telephone: +967 1 505 466

+967 1 248 444

Email: editor@yobserver.com

info@yobserver.com

Address: College of Police Street, P.O Box 19183, Sana'a

Yemen Post www.yemenpost.net

This English-language weekly is published in Sana'a on Mondays, but the newspaper's website is updated daily.

Copies of the Yemen Post are distributed throughout Yemen and in Saudi Arabia and the United States.

The newspaper was founded in 2007,

Publisher and Editor-in-Chief - Hakim Almasmari

Mob: +967 711 000 202

: +967 736 145 873

Tel: +967 1 450 263

Email: editor@yemenpost.net

The Yemen Post, Baghdad Street, P.O Box 15531, Sana'a

Yemen Today www.yemen-today.com

This **Sana'a**-based English-language magazine covers international affairs (mostly in the Arab world) and local news.

It is printed monthly and updated daily online.

The magazine is owned by Faris Sanabani, Press Secretary to President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He also owns the **Yemen Observer**.

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief - Faris Abdullah Sanabani,

Tel: +967 1 248 444

+967 1 505 446

Email: faris@yobserver.com

Managing Editor - David MacDonald

Email: David@yemen-today.com

Address: Villa 110, 23d Street – Off Police Academy Road, P.O. Box 19183 Sana'a.

7. Online media overview

Internet usage in Yemen remains low compared to other countries in the Arabian Peninsula, but it has grown steadily in recent years.

The number of internet users increased from less than one per cent of the population in 2004 to more than 12 per cent in 2010, according to statistics published by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

The latest figure implies that nearly three million Yemenis used the internet in 2010.

YemenNet, the country's main internet service provider, said there were 88,000 subscribers to high-speed ADSL internet services in the first quarter of 2011, and about 500,000 subscribers to slower speed dial-up services.

Expense is a big factor limiting internet use. Two hours of web surfing via a phone network costs 1,200 riyals (about US\$5.60).

The average Yemeni might pay about half that amount per month for mobile phone usage.

Regular internet access at home is simply not affordable for most people.

Up to 60 % of all internet accounts belong to businesses and organisations rather than private individuals.

Most internet users access the web at their workplace or at an internet cafe.

Given the conservative nature of Yemeni society, which discourages women from leaving the home unaccompanied and frequenting internet cafes, there are far fewer women internet users than men.

Survey evidence suggests that people go to internet cafes mainly to chat online, play games and visit entertainment websites.

The authorities have imposed a series of restrictions on internet cafés to make the surveillance of internet users easier.

Internet cafe owners have been ordered to remove partitions between computers and to make all computer screens visible to the café operator.

In some establishments, customers are required to submit personal identity information to the management before they are allowed to go online.

Some internet café owners also use computer monitoring software to check the surfing activities of their customers.

The Open Net Initiative, which monitors internet filtering and surveillance, says the government blocks access to opposition and independent news websites, discussion forums and blogs, as well to pornography and material deemed offensive to Islam.

The US State Department has reached a similar conclusion.

The State Department said in its 2010 Human Rights Report on Yemen that the government uses commercially available software to limit the content that internet users in the country can access.

It noted that government's ownership of Yemen's two main internet service providers, **TeleYemen** and **YemenNet**, facilitated state control over internet access.

According to the US State Department report, the Yemeni government blocked a number of independent and opposition news websites during 2009.

These included the news websites **Al-Shura.net** and **Ishtiraki.net**, **Adenpress.com** and the websites of four independent newspapers: **Al-Ayyam**, **Al-Taghyir**, **Al-Masdar** and **Al-Wasat**.

The State Department report said the Yemeni government also blocked **Yemenhurra.net**, a website that covered the Saada conflict. In addition, the government changed content on this website, it said.

Skype, which allows user to make voice calls over the internet, was banned by TeleYemen in 2010 on the grounds that it provided an "unauthorized" communications service.

A proposed new law to regulate the broadcast and online media was approved by the cabinet and submitted to parliament in December 2010. However, no progress in the passage of this legislation has been reported since then.

The draft law is principally aimed at defining the conditions under which private radio and television would be allowed to exist. However, it also aims to regulate news websites based inside Yemen.

Under the terms of the draft law, the government would charge a fee of 20 million riyals, (approximately US\$90,000) US dollars) for a licence to set up and run a news website. Few independent operators could afford such a sum.

Several political parties and news organizations have already established an online presence.

About 200 Yemeni news websites are accessible from within the country, but limited public access to computers and government filtering of internet content make it difficult for ordinary Yemenis to take full advantage of them.

Many of the news websites are government-controlled, Others are propaganda mouthpieces for various opposition groups.

But some are independent news sources. These include www.marebpress.net , www.alsahafah.net , a news aggregator website, and www.al-tagheer.com

Use of social media remains low in Yemen compared to other countries in the Arab world, but it has picked up during the unrest of 2011.

The Arab Social Media Report

www.dsg.ae/NEWSANDEVENTS/UpcomingEvents/ASMROverview2.aspx,

published by the Dubai School of Government in January 2011, found that Facebook was used by less than one percent of the population in Yemen, compared to 5% in Egypt and 17% in Tunisia.

However, since then Yemeni protesters have been using social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook to give regular updates on the situation in various cities across the country.

Among the most prolific Twitter contributors are **@YERevolution**, who tweets regular updates in **Arabic**, **@ameerah1yemenia**, who tweets in **English**, and **@KhaledHammadi**, a Yemeni journalist who reports in **English** on the situation around Sana'a.

It is not just the opposition that uses social media to reach out to the wider public. Several senior members of the Yemeni government have Facebook pages.

Most visitors to the main Yemeni news sites are people who actually live in Yemen, rather than economic or political exiles in the diaspora.

For example, 73% of visitors to the popular and independent www.marebpress.net website are from Yemen. A further 12% are from Saudi Arabia. The rest are from a number of Middle Eastern and Western countries.

Similar ratios apply to the majority of news websites.

In some cases, the number of website visitors from the United States rivals the count from Saudi Arabia for the number two spot.

Some sites, such as **Al-Mu'tamar** www.almotamar.net/news, the official website of the ruling General People's Congress party, clearly state their affiliations.

Others describe themselves as independent, but their political sympathies can often be inferred from their choice of content or language.

There are a number of professionally designed pro-government sites that concentrate on news from particular regions or governorates.

These include: **Akhbar al-Janub** (News of the South) www.alganob.net

Lahj News www.lahjnews.net **Ibb News** www.ibbnews.net and **SaadahPress** www.saadahpress.net

Several opposition parties also have their own websites which feature a combination of news and information about the organisation.

These include **Al-Sahwa** (The Awakening) www.alsahwa-yemen.net, the official website of Islah, the largest opposition party in parliament.

www.almasdaronline.info the news website of the independent weekly newspaper Al- Masdar is also very popular.

Websites reflecting extra-parliamentary opposition or dissident viewpoints tend to be based outside the country. Many do not disclose their location.

In September 2011 protestors camped out in central Sana'a in an open space they call Taghyir (Change) Square announced the launch of an internet-streamed TV channel which they said would provide "live coverage of the Yemeni revolution's events and Taghyir Square's marches, conferences, and forums".

This takes the form of the video-posting site www.ustream.tv/channel/ye-7sm

The protestors promised to set up similar channels throughout the country.

There are several websites that support the secessionist Southern Movement, which seeks the restoration of an independent state in South Yemen, with its capital in Aden.

These pro-secession websites typically post only a handful of stories a day, maybe up to a dozen in the case of **Sada Aden** (Echo of Aden) www.sadaaden.com .

Its visitor counters indicate a readership for most stories in the high hundreds or low thousands.

Other pro-secession websites include **Aden Press** www.adenpress.com which has been going since 2006, **TAJ** www.tajaden.org and **Sawt al-Janub** (Voice of the South) www.soutalgnoub.com which is controlled by opposition figure Abdallah Ahmad al-Halmi. All three sites are based in London.

The Houthi rebels in the Northern Saada governorate, also have their own website **Al-Minbar** (The Pulpit), which is frequently blocked by the government.

It is usually available at one or more of the following addresses:

www.almenpart.net

www.almenpar.com

www.almenpar.info

www.almenpar.org .

In addition, the Houthi rebels have a dedicated YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/sadahonlineorg

Although Yemenis do not appear to have taken to blogging on political and social issues to any great extent, they do appear keen to take part in discussion forums.

One of the most significant is **The Forums of Al-Dali Gateway of the South**

www.dhal3.com/vb This site is hosted by the Southern Media Centre and named after the city and province which is one of the centres of southern unrest.

The site is divided into four sections, of which the Political Forum is the most popular. It receives anything from a few hundred and more than one thousand posts per day.

Discussion focuses on issues of interest to discontented residents of South Yemen. The site hosts information on such topics as protests, leaders of the Southern Movement, and perceived government oppression of the South.

The portal's news coverage usually lags behind that of other websites, but calls for demonstrations posted on the Forums of Al-Dali occasionally precede those made through other media.

The discussions of anti-government demonstrations on Forums of Al-Dali occasionally include real-time updates - probably sent from mobile phones. These sometimes provide eyewitness accounts of the protests before the news media can report on them.

Leading news websites

Ma'rib Press www.marebpress.net

This is listed by several internet statistics sites as one of the most visited Yemeni news websites.

Established in 2005 in the town of **Ma'rib**, 170 km east of the capital, Ma'rib Press claims to be the first news site to be based outside the capital, Sana'a.

Ma'rib Press gained repute in 2007 when it exposed a fraudulent deal for the construction of nuclear power plants.

This revelation led to the sacking of several government ministers.

The site is updated frequently during the day.

Editor-in-Chief and Website Manager - Mohammed Alsalehi,

Mob: +967 733 282 910

Tel: +967 1 538 761

Email: alsalhi@marebpress.net

marebcity1@hotmail.com

Al-Sahwa (Awakening) www.alsahwa-yemen.net

This influential website is run by the main parliamentary opposition party Islah. Its content reflects that of the party's weekly newspaper Al-Sahwa.

Editor-in-Charge - Mohammed Alyousufi

Mob: +967-712 000 967

Tel: +967 1 230 317

Email: aluosfimo@hotmail.com

Sahafah (Press) www.sahafah.net

This is an influential news aggregator site that publishes content from a variety of other news sources.

Website Manager - Yusir Alathwari,

Mob: +967 734 877 050

Al-Taghyir (Change) www.al-tagheer.com

This independent news website is run by Arafat Madabish, a journalist who also works for the US-funded **Radio Sawa** and the pan-Arab daily **Al-Sharq al-Awsat**.

The site, which is updated frequently during the day, is supported by a grant from the US National Endowment for Democracy.

Arafat Madabish - General Manager and Editor-in-Chief

Tel: +967 1 302 051

Email: mudabish@hotmail.com

Al-Mu'tamar (Congress) www.almotamar.net/news

This influential website is run by the ruling General People's Congress party.

It provides general local, international, economic and social news and is updated frequently throughout the day.

Its commentaries are critical of the political opposition and reports are favourable to the president.

Editor-in-Chief - AbdulMalik Al-Fuhaidi

Tel. +967-1-208934

Email: chief@almotamar.net

Bab al-Yemen www.babalyemen.com

This opposition website is named after the landmark gateway to the Old City of Sana'a).

It often posts videos, including clips of anti-government protests.

The site also features comments critical of the government, and links to live streams of opposition satellite TV channels.

It allows visitors to post comments without registering.

Baraqish www.barakish.net

This news website, named after a historic town in Northern Yemen, was established in May 2009 by Abduh Ayish, a correspondent for **Al-Jazeera** TV.

Editor-in-Chief - Mohammed Aljunaid

Tel: ????

Email: barakish@barakish.net

editor@barakish.net

News Yemen www.newsyemen.net

This website is owned by Nabil al-Sufi, a journalist who resigned from the opposition Islah party in January 2009.

Tel. +967 1 402 513

Email: contact@newsyemen.net

Dammun Net www.dammon.net

This website, based in Al- Mukalla, the capital of Hadramawt governorate, focuses on news from South Yemen. It has an anti-government orientation.

Contacts?**Yemen Portal** www.yemenportal.net

This news aggregator site brings together news headlines from a number of Yemeni news sites, including government-owned, independent and opposition sources.

It was founded by Walid Saqaf, a Yemeni journalist living in Sweden.

The site also offers video and photo content and includes a page of news in **English**.

Contacts?

26 September www.26sep.net

This is the companion website of the Ministry of Defence weekly newspaper of the same name. It provides local and international political and economic news updates.

Editor-in-Chief - Ali Hassan Shatir

Contacts??

Naba News www.nabanews.net

This influential pro-government website has been widely linked with Brigadier General Yahya Saleh, a nephew of President Ali Abdullah Saleh who is commander of the Central Security Force.

Editor-in-chief - Alaa al-Safar.

Tel: ???

Email: chief@nabanews.net

Akhbar al-Janub (News of the South) www.alganob.net

Pro-government news website focussing on South Yemen

Editor-in-Chief - Saqr Abdulwali Almuraisi

Mob: +967 777 455 222

Email: chief@alghanob.net

Lahj News www.lahjnews.net

Pro-government news website focussing on Lahj governorate in South Yemen

Editor-in-Chief - Abdulmalik Alassar

Mobile: +967 770 787 834

+967 733 302 763

Email: chief@lahjnews.net

Ibb News www.ibbnews.net

Pro-government news website focussing on Ibb governorate

Editor-in-Chief - Mohammed Ali Aleryani

Mob: +967-770543694

Email: ibbnews@hotmail.com

maaeryani@hotmail.com

SaadahPress www.saadahpress.net

Pro-government news website focussing on Saada governorate, where the Houthi rebels are active.

Editor-in-Chief - Mansoor Hizam,

Tel: ???

Email: chief@saadahpress.net

The Forums of Al-Dali Gateway of the South www.dhal3.com/vb

This site is hosted by the Southern Media Centre and named after the city and province which is one of the centres of southern unrest.

The site is divided into four sections, of which the Political Forum is the most popular. It receives anything from a few hundred and more than one thousand posts per day.

Discussion focuses on issues of interest to discontented residents of South Yemen. The site hosts information on such topics as protests, leaders of the Southern Movement, and perceived government oppression of the South.

Although news coverage usually lags behind that found in other media sources, calls for demonstrations posted on the Forums of Al-Dali occasionally precede calls for demonstrations relayed in other media.

The discussions of anti-government demonstrations occasionally include real-time updates - probably sent from mobile phones - providing eyewitness accounts of the protests before the news media can cover them.

Al-Ishtiraki (The Socialist) www.aleshteraki.net

Website run by journalists from the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Tel: +967 1 502 756

Email: info@aleshteraki.net

Al-Wahdawi (The Unionist) www.alwahdawi.net

Website run by journalists from the Nasserite Yemeni Party

Mob: +967 711 292 383

Email: alwahdawi2004@gmail.com;

alwahdawinet@hotmail.com

Al-Shurah (The Council) www.al-shoura.net

Website of the Federation of Popular Unionist Forces opposition party.

It was unavailable in December 2011 after being hacked.

8. Traditional and Informal Channels of Communication

Mosques are sources primarily of religious information only.

The only people allowed to address gatherings of the faithful are the Imams and other clerics in charge of the mosques.

People gather five times for prayers and on Fridays, at noon. People also gather in large numbers at mosques on particular religious occasions, although women and children do not usually attend.

Some Friday sermons refer to current political events, more so since the start of the anti-government protest movement in 2011.

Most of the clerics are affiliated to particular religious and/or political movements, so they are not always regarded as a trustworthy source of 'political' information.

However, they are trusted as a source of religious information.

In the North and Southeast of Yemen, tribal structures are still important.

The tribal elders command great respect in these areas and their word is heeded by all.

However, any messages spread by aid agencies tribal elders would only reach

people belonging to that particular tribe.

In other parts of Yemen, the tribal elders are much less influential.

In recent years mobile phones and the internet have begun to have a big impact on the way information is shared in Yemen.

9. Media resources

Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate www.yejs.org

The Yemen Journalists Syndicate (YSJ) is the main journalists' trade union.

Its website lists over 1,400 members.

The Syndicate was established with the help of government funding in 1999.

It was vocal in criticising attacks on journalists during the anti-Saleh protests of 2011, but it has as yet to prove effective in upholding journalists' rights.

A member of the YSJ's elected governing council, Ahmed al-Jaber, admitted to the Yemen Times in December 2011 that the Syndicate had yet to prove its effectiveness. He said its staff had little idea of their roles or responsibilities.

The Syndicate has a "freedoms committee" that is on call to help journalists in trouble 24 hours a day.

However, one committee member, Ashraf al-Rifai, said there was little this body could do to assist journalists except issue statements and provide legal help if needed.

In February 2011 men in plain clothes stormed the YJS headquarters in Sana'a, calling those inside "traitors" and threatening to "teach them a lesson."

The Syndicate filed a complaint with the Interior Ministry, but the government denied any involvement in the attack.

The Syndicate provides journalists with a range of services and facilities, including discounts on medical services and travel.

It charges membership fees, but continues to receive government funding through the Ministry of Finance.

The Syndicate has 15 permanent employees in its Sana'a headquarters, and a similar number in its five other branches.

Director - Marwan Damaj

Mob: +96 773 200 999

Tel: +967 1 206 999

Email??

Yemeni Journalists against Corruption www.yemenjac.net

This non-profit organisation is also known as Yemen JAC. It aims to promote good governance and unite journalists against corruption.

Contacts??

RAPITA - Yemeni Union to Protect Journalists

This organisation was set up in 2002 to defend journalists and monitor press freedom.

Contact name??

Tel. +967-1-240390

Email: rapita-yemen@yahoo.com

Address: c/o Al-Wahdwy Newspaper, PO Box 12482, Sana'a

Women Journalists Without Chains www.womenpress.org

This organisation was set up to defend women journalists by the Yemeni human rights activist and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Tawakul Karman.

It campaigns for freedom of speech and the improvement of journalists' working conditions.

The organisation has published a number of books, the best known of which is *The Press in Yemen: Margins and Violations*, available at its head office.

Tel. +967-1-210523

Email: withoutchains@gmail.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/131804717671

Address: Ring Road behind the University Post Office, PO Box 12702, Sana'a

The Media Women Forum

This Sana'a-based NGO aims to promote balanced media coverage and provide media training. It was founded in 2004.

Chairperson - Rahma Hujairah

Email: rahma.hugaira@gmail.com

Project Manager - Fayadh Al Noman

Email: f_alnoman@mwfye.org

Mass Communication Training and Qualifying Institute (MCTQI)

This government-run centre in **Sana'a** is the only Yemeni institution that provides regular professional journalism training.

It mostly uses foreign trainers, both from the Arab World and further afield.

MCTQI offers courses in news editing and radio and TV production.

(The universities of Sana'a and Aden offer courses in mass communication and media studies, but a report by four international media NGOs in November 2011 described them as classroom-based and theoretical and rather divorced from the practice of modern journalism)

Dean - Abdullah Naser

Tel. +967-1-282060/61

+967 1 287754/3
+967-1-480071/72

Email mctqi@yemen.net.ye

Address: Mass Communication Training and Qualifying Institute (MCTQI), 26 September Street, PO Box 4665, Sana'a

Human Rights Information and Training Centre (HRITC) www.hritc.net

This NGO based in **Taiz** aims to enforce laws to protect journalists and raise awareness among journalists about their rights and responsibilities.

It also conducts some journalism training.

Tel. +967 4 216277

Email: hritc@y.net.ye

hritc@yemen.net.ye

Sana'a branch:

Tel. +967-1-565850

+967-1-565852

Studies and Economic Media Centre www.economicmedia.net

The aims of this **Sana'a**-based non-profit organisation include the creation of a more professional media in Yemen.

Contact name??

Mob: +967 777 103 88

Tel. +967 1 402508

Tel: +967 1 402508

Email: economicmedia@gmail.net

info@economicmedia.net

Address: Al-Bahri Building, Al-Ziraa Street, Sana'a

Equal Access www.equalaccess.org

Equal Access is a **US**-based media development organisation which works in Yemen. It has an office and radio production studios in **Sana'a**.

In 2010 Equal Access helped to launch a 30-minute weekly radio programme aimed at young Yemenis.

The programme called *Ma'an Leenkon Alafdal*, (*Let's Be the Best Together*), was created in partnership with several local radio stations operated by the state-run Yemen General Corporation for Radio and Television (YGCR).

It takes the form of a chat show which combines entertainment with the discussion of serious issues such as unemployment and corruption.

The programme promotes tolerance and civic participation. It is hosted by two young presenters, one male and one female.

It includes discussions, listener perspectives, interviews, a mini-drama segment, music, poetry, and vox pops featuring voices from across the country.

Ma'an Leenkon Alafdal is aired by seven local radio stations across Yemen. Equal Access estimated in early 2012, that it reached a regular audience of 630,000 young people. Some 300 listening clubs have been created to listen to the programme and debate its content

Equal Access has also provided digital audio equipment to local radio stations and has trained professional journalists and producers in investigative reporting, social change communications, and digital audio recording and editing.

Yemen Country Director - Binita Shrestha

Mob: +967 734282063

Tel: +967 1 427431

+967 1 428622

Email: bshrestha@equalaccess.org

BBC Media Action www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/trust

BBC Media Action is the BBC's international development arm. Until December 2012 it was known as BBC World Service Trust.

In 2010 and early 2011 it ran a series of radio journalism training courses in Yemen for selected local radio stations.

These were aimed at improving audience participation programmes and helping them to support better local governance.

Courses were run at **Tazz Radio, Ibb Radio, Mukalla Radio** and **Al-Hodeidah Radio**.

Contacts for head of BBC Media Action MENA section????

Danicom www.danicom.net

This Danish media development consultancy has provided support for the state-run local radio stations in, **Taiz, Abyan, Al-Mukalla, Hajjah** and **Shabwa**.

This has included the supply of digital equipment and training in broadcast management and journalism.

Mob: (Denmark) +45 22 47 83 16

+45 23 39 06 59

Tel: (Denmark): +45 33 25 20 01

E-mail: danicom@danicom.net

Address: Danicom, Blaagaards Plads 1, st. DK-2200 Copenhagen, Denmark

DW-Akademie www.dw-world.de/dw/0,,8120,00.html

The international centre for media development of Germany's **Radio Deutsche Welle** has run several media training projects in partnership with **MCTQI** and **Yemen TV**.

Recent projects have included:

- Modern Broadcasting Formats for Young People's Television – a workshop for television journalists, presenters, camera operators, editors and studio technicians from Sheba TV
- Securing Archive Content – Planning TV Archiving Systems, a technical workshop for technicians and archivists from the TV stations Sheba and Yemenia.

Both workshops were held in the capital, Sana'a.

Contacts??

Yemen Observer www.yobserver.com

The Yemen Observer, Sana'a-based English-language newspaper, offers a variety of media services for international journalists, observers and NGOs.

These include: reporting, research, press reviews, media consultancy, translation and interpretation.

Tel. +967 1 505466

+967 1 248 444

Email: info@yobserver.com

Zawaya www.zawaya.tv

This Taiz-based TV production company makes music videos, dramas and commercials.

Tel. +967 4 202082

Mobile +967 713 193 312

+967 777 811 225

Email: webmaster@zawaya.tv

Al-Aein Media and TV Production www.alein.com

This Sana'a-based company undertakes TV production. It also organizes media campaigns and conferences.

Tel. +967-1-534459

Fax +967-1-408517

Address: Al-Rimal Building, 3rd Floor, Kentucky Roundabout, Sana'a

Mass Advertising www.massyemen.com

This organization describes itself as Yemen's oldest and largest advertising and media marketing agency.

Based in **Taiz**, it has a staff of over 250 represented in all the country's main cities.

Mass Advertising's services include print, design, posters, banners and outdoor displays, exhibition materials, the placing of TV, radio and newspaper adverts, TV and radio production, graphics and marketing.

The company forms part of the Hayel Saeed Annam Group www.hsagroup.com, one of Yemen's largest private sector business conglomerates.

General Manager – **name?**

Tel. +967 4 218585

+967 4 218086

Email: gm@massyemen.com

Sales Manager: **name?**

Email: sales@massyemen.com

International Relations Manager **name?**

Email: mass@massyemen.com

Moon Ad Co

This **Taiz**-based printing company produces flyers and pamphlets as well as outdoor posters and plastic street banners.

Contact: Mamoon Almaqtari

Mob: +967 777 464 866

Tel. +967 4 282062

Email: moonmyq@yahoo.com

Address: Al Kawthar Street, Taiz

Sadeq Almaqtari

This **Taiz**-based photographer runs a photo agency that works through a nationwide network of free-lance photographers.

Tel. +967 777151163

Email: rasdyem@gmail.com

Rashed al-Samei

Rashed al-Samei is an award-winning and popular cartoonist who has worked for state-run newspapers.

Mob. +967 77710034

Email: amgd75@gmail.com,

amgd7720@gmail.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000013916071

10. Telecommunications overview

The rapid growth of mobile phone ownership has transformed telecommunications in the Yemen over the past decade.

According to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), there were more than 11.1 million mobile phone subscribers in the country at the end of 2010.

A decade earlier, mobile phones were virtually unheard of in the country.

As recently as 2002, there were only 32,000 mobile phone subscribers.

But government statistics show that 46% of all Yemenis owned a mobile phone in 2010 and sales were still increasing.

Most of the population is now reachable by mobile phone and the mass importation of cheap handsets from China has made them affordable for everyone.

SMS messaging has become a common way of giving and receiving information.

The fixed line telephone network remains relatively small.

All fixed line telephone services are provided by the state-run **Public Telecommunications Corporation (PTC)**.

According to the ITU, Yemen had just over one million fixed line phone subscribers in 2010.

The country only had four fixed line phones for every 100 inhabitants..

Mobile coverage is provided by four network operators:

- **MTN** – This South African-based mobile operator is the market leader
- **Yemen Mobile** – This is a subsidiary of the state-run **PTC**, which also runs the landline network.
- **Sabafon** – This company is owned by millionaire businessman Sheikh Hamid Abdullah Al-Ahmar, who is a prominent figure in the opposition Islah party
- **Y** – This small network is owned by private investors from Yemen and the Gulf.

MTN, Yemen Mobile and Sabafon each control about one third of the local market.

The Y network is much smaller.

A mobile to mobile call in Yemen costs typically about 15 riyals (seven US cents) per minute.

Calls to subscribers on the same network are cheaper than calls made to other networks.

A text message costs about 9 riyals (4 US cents).

Yemen Mobile probably provides the widest geographical coverage. It used to be the only mobile operator with network coverage in the sparsely populated Hadramawt governorate of Eastern Yemen.

However, in late 2012, MTN's coverage map claimed that MTN covered the coast of Hadramawt and some inland areas of the region as well.

Yemen Mobile offers the cheapest rates for voice calls to other users on the same network: five riyals (two US cents) per minute for post-paid subscribers and seven riyals (three US cents) for pre-paid users.

It also offers the cheapest call rates between mobiles and landlines.

However, Yemen Mobile's rates for calls and text messages to other networks are relatively expensive.

Y offers relatively limited network coverage outside the main towns and cities, but its overall charges are significantly cheaper than the other three networks for both voice calls and texts.

Many Yemenis believe that calls on PTC landlines and Yemen Mobile lines are tapped by the authorities, because both companies are owned by the government.

As a result, many people are guarded in what they say when speaking on a call connected to one of these networks.

However, Sabafon is more trusted, because it is owned by an opposition leader.

Sabafon claims that its network covers 68% per cent of Yemen's population.

Many large companies broadcast advertising messages by SMS through all four mobile operators to promote their services and products.

The mobile operators themselves also send out SMS messages to their subscribers to promote new services and special offers.

In addition, the government uses state-owned Yemen Mobile to broadcast SMS messages about the president and send congratulatory messages to subscribers on national holidays.

Leading telecoms companies

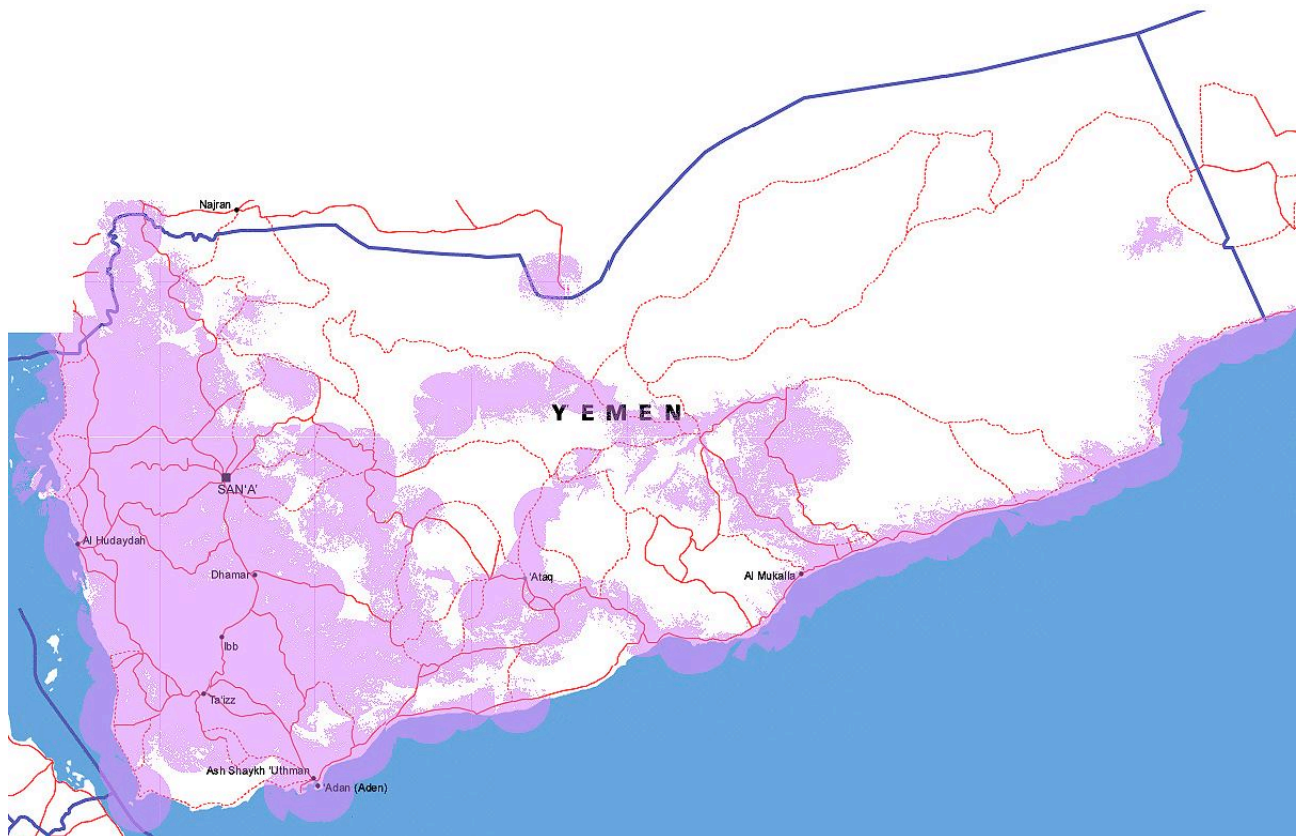
MTN Yemen www.mtn.com.ye

MTN is generally regarded as the largest mobile operator in Yemen.

According to Dubai-based research and consultancy firm Delta Partners, MTN was the biggest mobile operator in Yemen in 2009, with a 37% market market share.

The company began operating as Spacetel in 2001, but was taken over by MTN in 2006 and changed its name.

MTN is a South African-based multinational telecommunications group that operates mobile phone networks in many African and Middle Eastern countries.



MTN mobile network coverage

Source: MTN 2011

An online MTN mobile coverage map of the Yemen can be found at :

http://maps.mobileworldlive.com/network_info.php?nid=6076&org_id=5906&cid=3166

MTN also publishes the names of the various municipalities and main roads covered by its signal on <http://www.mtn.com.ye/eng/CoverageMap.html#3>

Public Relations Manager - Al Mohammed Al-shahithi,

Mob: +967-733 111 125

Tel: +967-733 333 333

Email: shahidi@mtn.com.ye

Address: MTN, Al Zaubairi Street, World Bank Building, P O Box: 4562, Sana'a

Yemen Mobile www.yemenmobile.com.ye

Yemen Mobile is a subsidiary of the state-run **Public Telecommunications Corporation (PTC)**.

The Dubai-based research and consultancy firm Delta Partners estimated that it controlled about 30% of mobile subscribers in Yemen in 2009.

Yemen Mobile vies with Sabafon for the position of number two operator behind MTN.

Its network has good coverage of most towns and cities, as well as many remote areas.

It used to be the only mobile operator in the sparsely populated Hadramawt governorate in Eastern Yemen, but MTN now claims a presence there too.

Yemen Mobile is popular because its charges for calling a landline are lower than the other mobile operators.

Chairman - Kamal Hussein Algabri

Email: kjbry@yemen.net.ye

Chief Executive Officer - Mohammed Abdullah Al Zahabani

Tel: +967 1 337555

+967 777 777 777

Email: info@yemenmobile.com.ye

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/yemenmobile.com.ye

Address: Telecommunication Technology City Building, Television Street, Northern Area, Sana'a

Sabafon www.sabafon.com

Sabafon vies with Yemen Mobile for the number two position in Yemen's mobile telecommunications market.

According to the Dubai-based research and consultancy firm Delta Partners, it had a market of 29% in 2009, just behind Yemen Mobile.

The company claims that its network covers 68% of the population.

Sabafon is owned by millionaire businessman Sheikh Hamid Abdullah Al-Ahmar, who is also prominent figure in the opposition Islah party.

Sabafon's head office in Sana'a was attacked and damaged during fighting between government and opposition supporters in 2011. It was still closed in late 2011.

Sana'a Office Manager - Moamar Thab'an,

Mob: +967 711 111 872

Tel: +967 711-111000

Address: Sabafon, Blue Building, Al-Zubairi Street, PO Box 18550, Sana'a

Y www.y-gsm.com

Y is the newest and smallest of Yemen's four mobile networks, with a market share of around five percent.

Y is the only network that offers free call hours at certain times of the day. This makes it popular with young people

The company was established in 2008 by a large group of private investors from the Yemen and other Arab countries

In late 2011, Y was promising on its website to launch a mobile news service and mobile payments service soon.

A Sana'a contact would be useful

Sales Manager for Taiz, Aden and Mukalla - Giyab Abdulrahman Alqadasi,

Mob: +967-700990113

Email: cs@y-gsm.com

internal-com@y-gsm.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Y-Telecom-Yemen/100001728421070>

Public Telecommunications Corporation (PTC) www.ptc.gov.ye

This parastatal company controls all fixed-line telephones in Yemen.

It had just over one million landline subscribers in 2010, according to the ITU.

The PTC also owns **Yemen Mobile**, the country's third largest mobile network, and the country's two main internet service providers (ISP); **TeleYemen** and **YemenNet**.

Contact name??

Tel: +967 1-331140

Email: ptc@yemen.net.ye

Address: Madar Street, Al Hasaba, P.O. Box 17045, Sanaa

TeleYemen www.teleyemen.com.ye

TeleYemen is one of the country's main internet service providers (ISP). It also offers international telephone services and sat-phone and internet services.

TeleYemen forms part of the government's **Public Telecommunication Corporation (PTC)**, but has been managed by France Telecom since 2003.

The company imposes technical and legal restrictions on the use of Internet services. These include a ban on live video and audio transmissions and the sending of messages that are 'offensive on moral, religious, communal, or political grounds'.

Chief Executive Officer - Hisham El Alaili

Tel: +967 1 752 2000

Email: Teleyemen@y.net.ye

Address: TeleYemen building 26-September Street, Al-Tahreer Area, P.O box 168, Sana'a

YemenNet www.yemen.net.ye

YemenNet is an internet service provider (ISP) that forms part of the government-run **Public Telecommunications Corporation (PTC)**.

It began operations in 2002.

YemenNet offers internet access by dial-up, ADSL, leased line and wi-max.

It also offers web hosting and email services.

Contact name??

Tel. +967 1 331 313/4/5

Email: pctamanah@ptc.gov.ye

Address: Y Telecom Building, Street 50, Haddah Area, P O Box: 16210, Sana'a