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The 2018 Palestine Press Freedom Index

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Executive Summary

The Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA) has been working on developing indicators for measuring freedom of the press in Palestine, to be adopted in measuring the progress and decline in the level of press freedom in the country. These indicators shall measure freedom of the press in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It should be noted that a comprehensive analysis of the level of this freedom has been conducted in both geographical areas.

MADA has used the press freedom index methodology that is based on temporal comparison between one year and another in the same geographical area, taking into account the relevant international indicators, especially those developed by the Freedom House and Reporters without Borders, the indicators of media development by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The methodology also takes into consideration what has been decided by the experts as proper for the press freedom index in Palestine after redefining and formulating the indicators.

The press freedom index methodology is based on the following aspects:

1. Legal safeguards for freedom of the press
2. Legal and societal restrictions on the freedom of the press
3. Operational independence of the media
4. The media and diversity of content
5. Government Censorship and Self-Censorship
6. Financing policies
7. Transparency and access to information
8. Self-regulation and protection of male/female journalists

The press freedom index in Palestine is the outcome of the in-depth discussions among human rights organizations, academics, journalists and statisticians. These discussions, which have taken a long time, focused on the nature of indicators adapted to measure freedom of the press within the aspects and categorizations. Provided that the indicators are measurable, annually comparable, and that their findings may be processed into figures and weights. The indicators were distributed to eight areas, taking into account the weight of each area and its proportion to the overall score. All of the eight areas consist of 72 indicators.

According to the points estimation methodology, the score of each indicator ranges between (0) points, which is the lowest point the indicator can get, and (1000) points, which is the highest point the indicator can get.

Below are the points' categories:

Very bad (black): the scale index is between (0–200) points

Bad (red): the scale index is between (201–400) points

Sensitive (orange): the scale index is between (401–60) points

Satisfying (yellow): the scale index is between (601–800) points

High (white): the scale index is between (801–1000) points

Study Sample:

The study sample consists of 412 male/female journalists, (249 from the West Bank and 163 from Gaza Strip). It also consists of (70 media outlets) (45 from the West Bank and 25 from Gaza Strip). The sample of human rights organizations consists of 6 organizations divided between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The West Bank sample constitutes 60.5% of the total sample, while Gaza Strip sample constitutes 39.6% of the total sample. The distribution of the study

sample (workers in the media outlets and owners or managers of media organizations). The sample can be broken down as 291 journalists from the West Bank and 191 journalists from Gaza Strip.

The male's ratio constitutes 61.0% of the study sample, broken down as 35.1% from the West Bank and 25.9% from Gaza Strip. On the other hand, the female's ratio constitutes 39.0% of the study sample, broken down as 30.3% from the West Bank and 8.7% from Gaza Strip.

The official media professionals constitute 28.2% of the study sample, broken down as 21.6% in the West Bank and 6.6% in Gaza Strip. On the other hand, the non-official media professionals constitute 56.2% of the study sample, broken down as 30.3% in the West Bank and 25.9% in Gaza strip. In terms of the geographical distinction, the sample can be broken down as 60.4% in the West Bank (distributed as 20.7% in the North, 22.6% in Central West Bank, and 17.0% in the South), and 39.6% in Gaza Strip, including different governorates.

Table (1): Findings of freedom of the press areas in Palestine

	Area	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestine	Ratio of contribution
1.	Legal safeguards for freedom of the press	415	438	406	0.17
2.	Legal and societal restrictions on the freedom of the press	471	446	463	0.13
3.	Operational independence of the media	569	559	565	0.11
4.	The media and diversity of content	478	490	481	0.10
5.	Government censorship and self-censorship	543	465	515	0.11
6.	Financing policies	459	440	457	0.18
7.	Transparency and access to information	458	475	465	0.11
8.	Self-regulation and protection of male/female journalists	618	543	588	0.10
	Total	492	475	484	100

The score of Palestine press freedom index, in the areas measured during 2018, amounted to 484 points out of the total 1000 points. It is worth mentioning that the West Bank index amounted to 492 points, while Gaza Strip index amounted to 475 points. Thus, Palestine press freedom index is

categorized, according to the indices evaluation, as sensitive (orange) in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The 2018 index scores have revealed that the below three indicators, out of 72 indicators, constituting a ratio of 4.2%, received zero points:

1. Harmonization of domestic and national legislation after the PNA signed international treaties guaranteeing freedom of the press.
2. There are legal provisions that criminalize government officials inciting against the media
3. The number of journalists summoned by security or judicial services on the background of their presswork during 2018

On the other hand, below are the indicators which received 1000 points:

1. There are safeguards guaranteed by the Basic Law for freedom of the press
2. There have been no cases in which fines were imposed on journalists for committing publication crimes during 2018

As to the areas, below are their scores:

The area of legal safeguards for freedom of the press received 406 points as the indicator of (there are safeguards guaranteed by the Basic Law for freedom of the press) received 83 points.

The study findings showed that **the area of legal and societal restrictions on freedom of the press** received 463 points, broken down as 471 points in the West Bank, compared to 446 points in Gaza Strip.

The study findings also showed that **the area of Independence of the media** received 565 points, broken down as 569 points in the West Bank, compared to 559 points in Gaza Strip.

As to **the area of the media and diversity of content**, it received 481 points, broken down as 478 points in the West Bank, compared to 490 in Gaza Strip

The area of government censorship and self-censorship received 515 points, broken down as 543 points in the West Bank, compared to 465 points in Gaza Strip.

The area of finance policies received 457 points, broken down as 459 points in the West Bank, compared to 440 in Gaza Strip.

The area of transparency and access to information received 465 points, broken down as 458 in the West Bank, compared to 475 in Gaza Strip.

The study findings also showed that the **area of self-regulation and protection of journalists** received the highest points (588) compared with the other areas, as

the indicator (the law allows media professionals to establish representative bodies for them) received 143 points.

General Conclusions:

- Palestine press freedom Index continues to show a sensitive overall score in the areas measured during 2018, as the index received 484 points out of the total 1000 points. This is a sensitive score (orange) in connection to press freedom index.
- There are no fundamental differences in the press freedom Index between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, both of which received sensitive scores. The West Bank index scored 492 points, while Gaza Strip index scored 475 points.
- Palestine press freedom Index is based on 8 areas and 72 indicators all used to measure it. The scores of all areas were ranging between sensitive and satisfying. The index of the legal safeguards area scored 406 points while the index of financing policies area scored 457 points, and these are the least scores. On the other hand, the index of self-regulation area scored 588 points while the index of operational independence of the media area scored 565 points, and these are the highest scores.

- The indicators of (summoning and detaining Palestinian female/male journalists, the absence of a legal system on the prosecution of officials inciting against the media, assaulting the photojournalists or damaging their equipment by the local security services, and the harmonization of national legislation with the international conventions signed by Palestine) are still the worst indicators as each of them received zero points. On the other hand, the indicators of freedom of the press in Palestine and the constitutional guarantees, the absence of fines and financial compensations as a result of prosecuting journalists, are the best as they received 1000 points.
- One of the indicators negatively affecting freedom of the press is that journalists do not extensively file complaints for the attacks and violations which they are subject to, and that only few of them file complaints which are actually investigated. Not to mention that the victimized journalists are not compensated for the damages caused to them, and no punitive measures are taken against those committing such attacks.
- Self-censorship severely restricts freedom of the press. The indicator of (imposing editorial control on the issues posted by the media) received the

lowest points (49). The said indicator received 56 points in the West Bank, compared to 38 points in Gaza Strip.

- The area of transparency and access to information is influenced by severe negativity due to the absence of a law that authorizes access to information. The indicator (there is a law that guarantees the right to have access to information) received zero points, whereas the indicator (there are practical mechanisms that ensure access to information) received 13 points, broken down as zero points in the West Bank, compared to 31 points in Gaza Strip.

General Recommendations:

1. The need to establish independent Higher Media Council, to ensure respect for freedom of the press, and the regulation of the media.
2. The need for the official authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to abandon the policy of involving journalists in internal differences and division, which restricts their freedoms, and the implementation of reciprocal restraining actions against press freedom.
3. To approve Access to Information Law, and to make available the necessary mechanisms to enforce such Law.

4. To seriously investigate in the complaints filed by the media professionals related to the attacks and assaults against them and to bring the perpetrators before justice.
5. To refrain from arresting and imprisoning media professionals on the basis of their journalistic work, and to merely be satisfied with filing civil complaints in case of defamation.
6. To reconsider the governmental fees and taxes policies imposed on media outlets to prevent them from being burden on the media or threaten to shut down.
7. Female/male journalists must abandon self-censorship.
8. To run regular, transparent and free elections at the Journalists Syndicate.

Research Methodology

The Palestinian Center for Media Freedoms (MADA) has been working on developing indicators for measuring freedom of the press in Palestine, to be adopted in measuring the progress and decline in the level of press freedom in the country. These indicators shall measure freedom of the press in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It should be noted that a comprehensive analysis of the level of this freedom has been conducted in both geographical areas.

MADA has used the press freedom index methodology that is based on temporal comparison between one year and another in the same geographical area, taking into account the relevant international indicators, especially those developed by the Freedom House, and Reporters Without Borders, as well as the media development indicators of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO.

The methodology also takes into consideration what has been decided by the experts as proper for the press freedom index in Palestine after redefining and formulating the indicators, and adding a new set of indicators of importance and weight for measuring freedom of the press in Palestine.

The index relied on the monitoring of indicators related to Palestinian performance and measures to respect the freedom of the press or the measures that prevent it. The performance and measures caused by the Israeli occupation have been excluded from this measure, such as those relating to legislation and the practices of which information cannot be collected; this was replaced by monitoring the Israeli violations of press freedom in the annual report issued by the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms for the year 2018.

The methodology used for Palestine press freedom index is distinctive as it is based on the idea of comparing between different periods of time, the duration of each is one year, rather than comparing between different countries. And to limit it on the Palestinian side makes it easier to benefit from these results and to adopt policies and measures that will contribute to enhancing press freedom.

The methodology for press freedom index is based on the following aspects:

The areas of Palestine press freedom index:

- 1. The legal safeguards for freedom of the press: the scale of this area is based on 12 indicators:** the safeguards guaranteed by the Basic Law for freedom of the press, the harmonization of national legislation after the State of Palestine has signed international conventions and treaties

guaranteeing freedom of the press, the availability judicial guarantees in the Palestinian tribunals that protect freedom of the press, the existence of legal provisions criminalizing government officials inciting against the media, the existence of legal provisions imposing restrictions on addressing ethnic, religious, national or sensitive issues such as children and gender, the number of journalists who have been arrested by security or judicial agencies against the background of their journalistic work, the number of journalists who have been summoned by security or judicial services against the background of their journalistic work, stressing out the female/male media professionals by the family or the surrounding community to influence the media views or materials they have circulated, the number of journalists or media agencies owners who have been prosecuted or imprisoned due to materials they have wrote or aired, the subjugation of female/male media professionals to defamation or incitement or slander through the internet against the background of publishing sensitive reports, taking restrictive measures by the official authority such as the closure or blocking of media outlets. The number of

cases in which photojournalists or their possessions were subject to assault by the local security services.

2. Legal and societal restrictions on freedom of the press: the scale of

this area is based on 9 indicators: the availability of applicable laws on the protection of public officials from defamation or slander, the number of cases in which fines have been imposed on journalists judicial decisions for publication offences, excessive and arbitrary prosecution and criminalization of journalists on the grounds of publication, being physically assaulted by the security services or the official authority during the course of presswork, seizure or damage of journalistic equipment on the background of their work, filing complaints at the official authorities on the background of being physically assaulted or due to damaging their equipment, investigating in the filed complaints by the official authorities, compensation by the public authorities for the physical damages caused by assaults and damaging the equipment, punitive measures taken against persons who assault the journalists.

3. Independence of the media: the scale of this area is based on 8

indicators: the availability of laws related to licensing media outlets,

licensing laws which allow the government to control media outlets, the licensing procedures hinder the work and establishment of independent media outlets, the domination of country-owned media outlets on the news and information system in the country, the official media outlets enjoy editorial independence in covering the news of all sections of society, the clarity of media ownership procedures and the opportunity to establish media outlets without political discrimination, the diversity of the media in terms of ownership, the intentional concealment of the official posts media ownership as well as of their association with these media.

4. **The media and diversity of content: the scale of this area is based on seven indicators:** the legal provisions ensure the diversity of media ownership at the private, public and partisan levels, the media ownership is focused in the hands of the country stakeholders, joint media ownership for the purpose of controlling all aspects of news, production, and distribution, the country allows the concentration of media ownership into the hands of specific groups, the existence of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) monopoly or telecommunication companies monopoly, open Internet access for all with low cost, the government uses the media

ownership and frequencies as a means to pressure the independent media.

5. Government censorship and self-censorship: the scale of this area

is based on eight indicators: imposing editorial censorship on the issues published by the media, refraining from publishing press materials by the media for fear of being prosecuted by the public authorities, publishing news and articles on websites and cancelling them, the subjugation of journalists to family or social pressures on the background of information they have published, the subjection journalists to official or social threatening on the background publishing, if there are black lists preventing appearance on the official media, the closure of media outlets, and websites without court decisions on the background of publishing, if there are governmental censorship procedures on the publications pre-publishing.

6. Financing policies: the scale of this area is based on 13 indicators:

imposing high fees to obtain a wireless frequency or licensing a newspaper, imposing an added tax on the purchase of paper for printing, broadcasting equipment and other media equipment, restrictions on

foreign investment or funding or foreign support provided to the media, providing government financial support to the media operated fairly based on the market share, the public media established under public budgets receive a share from the advertising market, the allocation of advertising budgets to the media in an unfair manner, the use of advertising as a means of pressure to influence the decisions of editors, the editorial policy of the media, is subject to the influence of the advertiser, the behavioral or legal rules criminalize the media professionals who receive bribes to influence their work, offering gifts to influence the professional relationship, the average wage of working in the media is sufficient to live in dignity, and is enough to protect against any bribes or gifts that might affect the work, allowing the media to receive foreign funding without prior restrictions, the closure of media outlets for financial reasons and inability to cover expenses.

- 7. Transparency and access to information: the scale of this area is based on 8 indicators:** the existence of a law guaranteeing the right to have access to information, the availability of practical mechanisms to ensure access to information, the clarity of restrictions imposed on the

right to have access to information, the lack of information and records provided by public institutions to journalists in need of such information for their work, the official media spokespersons contribute to the provision of the necessary information to journalist for their work, allowing journalists to accompany the security services in field missions, being subjected to direct or indirect pressure to disclose the source of published information, attack journalists and seize their personal belongings such as cell phones, laptops or any other personal devices.

8. **Self-regulation and protection of male/female journalists: the scale of this area is based on 7 indicators:** the law allows media professionals to establish representative bodies for them, dismissing media personnel against the background of objecting to their work by advertising parties, running regular and periodic elections in the representative body of journalists (union), belonging to a press union established for those practicing the profession of journalism, the press union representing journalists enjoys professionalism and independence, provide women with adequate opportunities to access decision-making

positions, to establish press bodies, clubs or societies representing the interests of journalists outside the framework of the Syndicate.

Methodology of Calculating the Index:

The press freedom index in Palestine is the outcome of the in-depth discussions among human rights organizations, academics, journalists and

statisticians. These discussions, which have taken a long time, focused on the nature of indicators adapted to measure freedom of the press within the aspects and categorizations. Provided that the indicators are measurable, annually comparable, and that their scores may be processed into figures and weights. The indicators were distributed to titles, issues, and groups, taking into account the weight of each group out of the total points, as well as the information resources of each indicator to measure according to a specific methodology the weight of each indicator. The index consists of 72 indicators, and according to the points estimation methodology, it was agreed that the points of each indicator shall range between (0) the lowest point the indicator can get, and (1000) the highest point the indicator can get.

Having viewed the estimation tools, and based on consulting a number of technical experts and statisticians on the estimation tools, an estimation mechanism close to the mechanism adopted by Reporters Without Borders but slightly different, was adopted so that the scores are close to Palestinian cultural understanding.

Below are the points' categories:

Very bad (black): the scale index is between (0–200) points

Bad (red): the scale index is between (201–400) points

Sensitive (orange): the scale index is between (401–60) points

Satisfying (yellow): the scale index is between (601–800) points

High (white): the scale index is between (801–1000) points

Information Collection Mechanism:

The collection of necessary information depends on different means appropriate to each indicator. The information was obtained from its main sources, in addition to sources active in the field of press freedom in Palestine to maintain the accuracy and credibility of each indicator, notable among these sources:

- 1) The relevant government resources
- 2) The civil society organizations active in the field of press freedom in Palestine and the international organizations, especially those providing information related to qualitative indicators
- 3) The questionnaires for gathering information related to quantitative indicators.

A questionnaire was designed for media professionals and another questionnaire was designed for media outlets directors and owners.

Mechanism of calculating the weights of indicators:

The measurement indicators rely on the equal weight of the indicator (0.72=72/100). The contribution ratio of each area is calculated according to the numbers of indicators of each area as shown in the table below:

Table (2): Distribution of the indicators numbers by area, categorization and percentage of contribution to the overall area

Area	No. of Indicators		Total	Ratio of the area weight
	Legislation	Practices		
Legal safeguards for freedom of the press	2	10	12	%17
Legal and Societal restrictions on freedom of the press	2	7	9	%13
Independence of the media outlets	3	5	8	%11
The media outlets and diversity of content	2	5	7	%10
Government censorship and self- censorship	–	8	8	%11
Financing policies	5	8	13	%18
Transparency and access to information	2	6	8	%11
Self-regulation and protection of male/female journalists	1	6	7	%10

Total	17	55	72	100
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The contribution ratio of each indicator of each area is calculated depending on the total number of the indicators of the area.

Methodology of Sample Design

- Study methodology
- Study population
- Study sample
- Method of calculating the sample size
- Dissemination levels
- Mechanism of selection
- Study tool
- Statistical processing
- Tool validity
- Study procedures

This chapter addresses an overview of the study methodology, the study population, the study sample, the study tool, the validity indications of the used tool, the variables and procedures of the study, and the statistical processing.

Study Methodology: for the purpose of this study, the field descriptive approach was used to collect data from the study population and to identify its characteristics as well as the indicators of freedom of the press. This method serves the study purposes. The press freedom index methodology is based on the following aspects:

1. Legal safeguards for freedom of the press
2. Legal and Societal restrictions on freedom of the press
3. Independency of the media outlets

4. The media and diversity of content
5. Government censorship and self-censorship
6. Finance policies
7. Transparency and access to information
8. Self-regulation and protection of male/female journalists

Study Population:

There is no standard framework for the number of male/female journalists in the Palestinian territories. However, according to the data found on the website of the Journalists Syndicate, there are 900 journalists in the West Bank. One of the Journalists Syndicate members has noted that the number of female/male journalists registered at the Syndicate is 1,900, broken down as (1,300 in the West Bank, and 600 in Gaza Strip). While other resources in the Journalists Syndicate indicated that the number in Gaza is up to 750 female/male professionals in the field of journalism. Accordingly, we assumed the highest figures. **For purposes of measuring the index, the number of female/male journalists is estimated at 1,300 in the West Bank and 750 in Gaza Strip, that is an estimated total of 2,050 journalists.**

As for the media outlets, all of the active outlets in the governorates were surveyed. **Seventy active outlets were selected and monitored, during two meetings of the field researchers of MADA in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.** Given that it was not possible to rely on the records of the Ministry of Information since these records were not updated, and since there are great number of non-active registered agencies, or working in areas that are not directly related to journalistic

work which makes it not valid to adopt such records as a means to select the sample.

At the legal level, the 12 active human rights organizations were adopted. At least, **half of which (6 organizations) responded during developing the index** by filling in the questionnaire, which was sufficient as a research population.

Study Sample:

1. **The sample of media professionals:** this sample consists of (412 female/male journalists) broken down as (249 from the West Bank, and 162 from Gaza Strip). This sample was selected through the random cluster sampling in several phases.
2. **The sample of media outlets directors and owners:** this sample consists of (70 media outlets) broken down as (45 agencies operating in the West Bank, and 25 in Gaza Strip). This sample was selected through the random cluster sampling in two phases.
3. **The sample of human rights organizations:** this sample consists of 6 human rights organizations divided between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Method of Calculating the Sample Size:

The sample size amounting to **482** individuals (**412 media professionals and 70 managers and owners of media organizations**) was calculated using the following equation:

$$n = \frac{t^2 * p(1-p)}{e^2}$$

n: sample size

t: constant equals 1.96 of the confidence level 95%

p: key proportional indicator estimate (0.5)

e: the allowed margin of error (0.05)

The size-proportionate distribution: this method is used if the layers are different in size according to the following equation:

$$nh = n\left(\frac{Nh}{N}\right)$$

The sample of the West Bank constitutes 60.5% of the sample size, compared to 39.6% for Gaza Strip. The study sample can be broken down as 291 in the West Bank and 191 in Gaza Strip.

Table (3): Distribution of Sample (media professionals, directors and owners of media agencies) by Governorate, Sex and Proportional Distribution

Governorate	Sex		Total	Sex %		Total %
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
Jenin	7	3	10	1.5	0.6	2.1
Tubas	3	2	5	0.6	0.4	1.0
Nablus	25	27	52	5.2	5.6	10.8
Tulkarem	13	8	21	2.7	1.7	4.4
Qalqilya	8	4	12	1.7	0.8	2.5
Salfit	5	2	7	1.0	0.4	1.5
Ramallah & Al-Bireh	42	32	74	8.7	6.6	15.4
Jericho	4	5	9	0.8	1.0	1.9
Jerusalem	9	10	19	1.9	2.1	3.9
Bethlehem	20	16	36	4.1	3.3	7.5
Hebron	33	13	46	6.8	2.7	9.5
West Bank	169	122	291	35	25.2	60.5
Northern Gaza	23	5	28	4.8	1.0	5.8
Gaza	74	18	92	15.4	3.7	19.1
Der Al-Balah	12	6	18	2.5	1.2	3.7
Khan Younes	17	8	25	3.5	1.7	5.2
Rafah	20	8	28	4.1	1.7	5.8
Gaza Strip	146	45	191	30.3	9.3	39.6
Palestinian Territories	315	167	482	65.4	34.6	100

Dissemination Levels:

1. Palestine, at the overall level, and at the West Bank and Gaza Strip level with a marginal error by than 5%.

Mechanism of Selection:

1. The media outlets were visited in the field. The target group and the required number were randomly selected.
2. A random female ratio was selected from the sample by (34.6%), as well as a male ratio by (65.4%) according to their estimated numbers out of the total female/male journalists.

The Study Tool: the study tool has been developed to collect data related to freedom of the press index in Palestine having viewed the previous studies. Furthermore, a draft framework of indicators was developed and sent to several relevant parties such as the Independent Commission for Human Rights ICHR and the Human Rights Organizations Council, as well as experts in the field of press

freedom. After that, the measurement tools were developed according to the major aspects (legislation, practices and the legal framework), which resulted in three questionnaires addressed to the female/male journalists in order to measure the indicators related to the nature of their journalistic work. The second tool is addressed to the owners of media outlets, and it is related to the nature of work of these outlets. As to the third tool, it is addressed to the human rights organizations to evaluate the legal articles related to freedom of the press.

Sections of the Questionnaires:

First Section: the introduction of the questionnaire consisting of a set of elements that determine the objective of the study, the type of data and information to be collected from the sample population. This section also reassured the respondents the confidentiality of information and that it will only be used for the purposes of scientific research.

Second Section: demographic information of the study sample. This study includes two types of variables:

First: Independent Variables:

- **Territory Variable:** includes two levels (the West Bank including Jerusalem, Gaza Strip)
- **Governorate Variable:** includes all country governorates
- **Sex Variable:** includes two levels (male, female)
- **Age Variable:** includes five levels (from 20 to 25 years old, from 26 to 30 years old, from 31 to 40 years old, from 41 to 50 years old, and older than 51 years old)
- **Educational Attainment Variable:** includes five levels (1– high school, 2– intermediate diploma, 3–bachelor, 4– masters, 5– PhD)
- **Workplace Variable:** includes five levels (1. Official media, 2. Non–official media, 3. Arabic outlets, 4. Foreign outlets, 5. Freelance/independent press)
- **Variable of Major Media Outlet:** includes four levels (1. Written, 2. Audio, 3. Visual, 4. Electronic)
- **Variable of Number of Working Years in Journalism:** includes four levels (1. From 1 to 5 years, 2. From 6 to 10 years, 3. From 11 to 15 years, 4. More than 16 years)
- **Geographical Distinction Variable:** includes four levels (north, central, and southern West Bank, Gaza Strip)

Second: Dependent Variables:

The responses of the sample members to the performance paragraphs by fields of the study:

- 1. First area: legal safeguards for freedom of the press**
- 2. Second area: legal and societal restrictions on freedom of the press**
- 3. Third area: operational independence of the media**
- 4. Fourth area: the media and diversity of content**
- 5. Fifth area: government censorship and self- censorship**
- 6. Sixth area: finance policies**
- 7. Seventh area: transparency and access to information**
- 8. Eighth area: self-regulation and protection of female/male journalists**

Statistical Processing:

For the purpose of processing the data, the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used with the below elements:

1. Frequencies and ratios
2. Cronbach's alpha coefficient

Tool Validity: the tool validity of this study has been calculated using the Cronbach's alpha equation. The validity coefficient value amounted to (84.3%), which is a very good value that meets the scientific research purposes.

Study Procedures:

The study was conducted by the following steps:

- Finalizing the study tool
- Identifying the study sample population size
- Designing the questionnaire in an electronic form
- Collecting the questionnaires from the sample population, coding, and statistically processing their data using the (SPSS V25)

First Phase: holding an initial meeting in which the needs and objectives of the study were identified, and the questionnaires were presented in form and content.

Second Phase: Training on Data Collection

The training was conducted to cover all subjects related to the fieldwork and to complete the questionnaire. This included holding interview and completing the questionnaire to train the staff on all necessary skills required to ensure the success of the project. The training focused on the objectives of the study and its significance.

Third Phase: Data Collection

Time Reference:

This survey was conducted in the period between 2nd Jan. 2019 and 10th Jan 2019.

Mechanism of Work:

1. The Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA) has adapted eight researchers working in journalism for the fieldwork.

2. The researchers surveyed the existing media outlets according to the number specified in the framework.

Fourth Phase: Data Entry

1. Programming

During this phase, the entry programs were developed using the computerized forms on the tablet. The entry rules were also developed in a manner that ensures entering the questionnaires properly. Also, the data cleaning process was conducted to examine the data after entry as this process examines the variables at the questionnaire level.

2. Entry

The data entry began on 3rd Jan. 2019 and ended on 10th Jan. 2019, which is the data collection period.

3. Data Cleansing

Comprehensive automated clean-up rules have been developed among the questions at the questionnaire level to ensure consistency of questions with each other and responses that are out of range or irrational.

Fifth Phase: Data Processing

For the purposes of this study, the numbers and ratios of the answer options for each indicator were extracted.

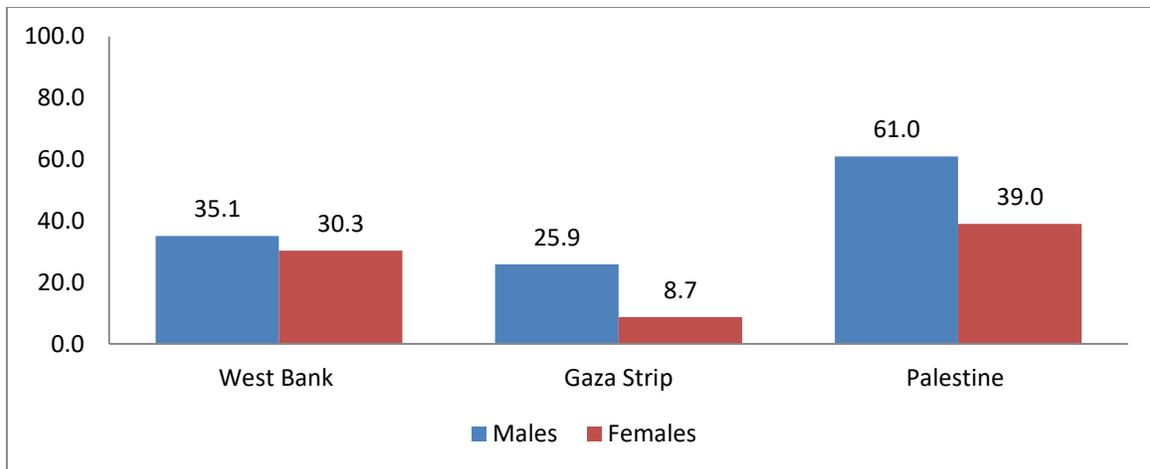
Distribution of Study Sample.

1– Sex Variable

Table (4): Distribution of the sample population by sex variable

Sex Variable	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestine
Male	169	146	315
Female	125	42	167
Total	294	188	482

Chart (1): Proportional Distribution of Study Sample Population by Sex and Territory



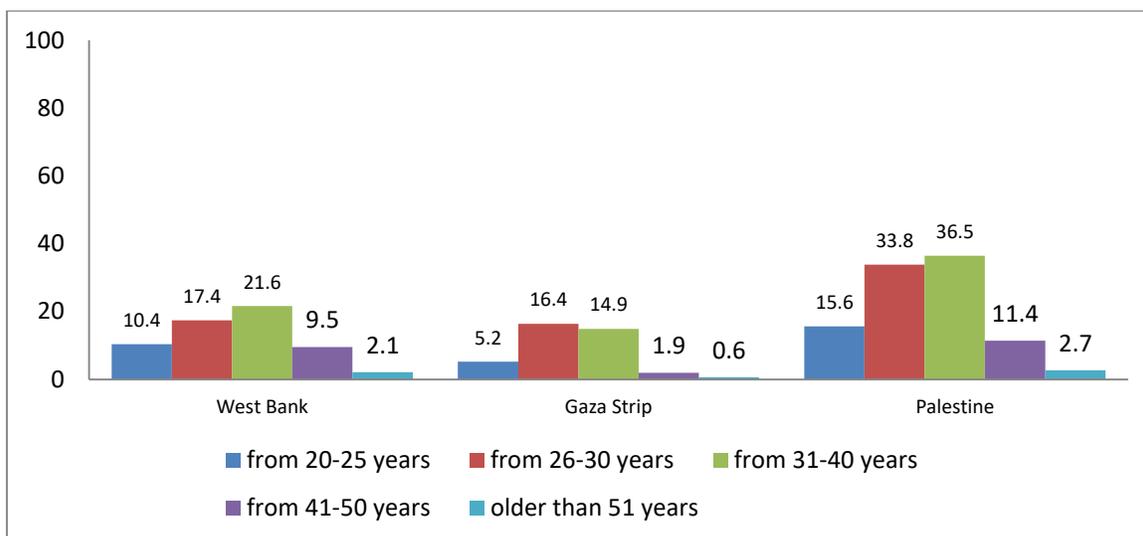
The ratio of males in the study sample constitutes 61.0%, 35.1% of which were from the West Bank while 25.9% from Gaza Strip. On the other hand, the ratio of females in the sample constitutes 39.0%, 30.3% of which were from the West Bank whereas 8.7% from Gaza Strip.

2- Age Group Variable

Table (5): Distribution of the sample population by age group variable

Palestine	Gaza Strip	West Bank	Age Group Variable
75	25	50	From 20 to 25
163	79	84	From 26 to 30
176	72	104	From 31 to 40
55	9	46	From 41 to 50
13	3	10	Older than 51
482	188	294	Total

Chart (2): Proportional Distribution of Study Sample Population by Age and Territory



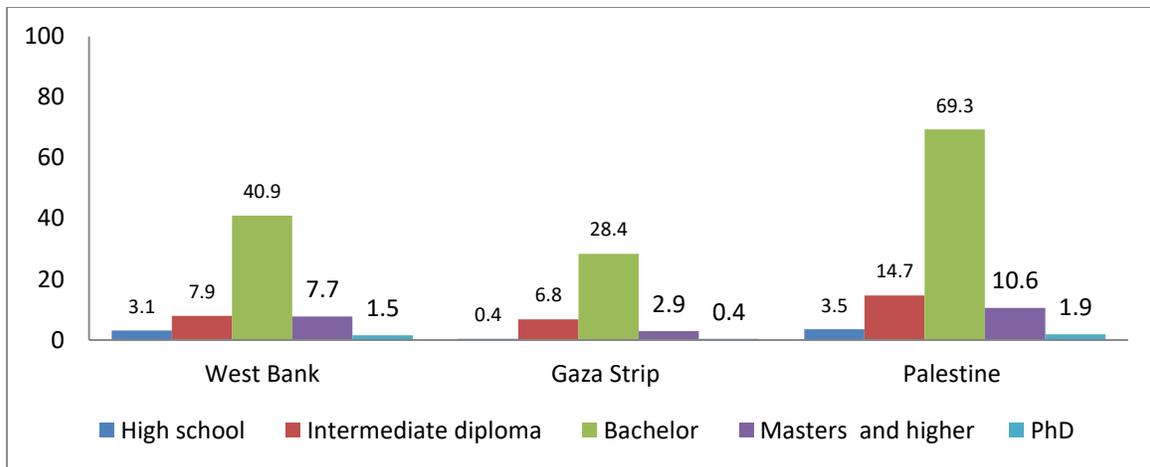
The above table shows that 36.5% of the study sample ages between 31 – 40 years old, while 33.8% of the study sample ages between 26 – 30 years.

3– Educational Attainment Variable:

Table (6): Distribution of the sample population by the educational attainment variable

Educational Attainment Variable	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestine
High school	15	2	17
Intermediate diploma	38	33	71
Bachelor	197	137	334
Masters	37	14	51
PhD	7	2	9
Total	294	188	482

Chart (3): Proportional Distribution of Sample Population by Scientific Qualification and Territory



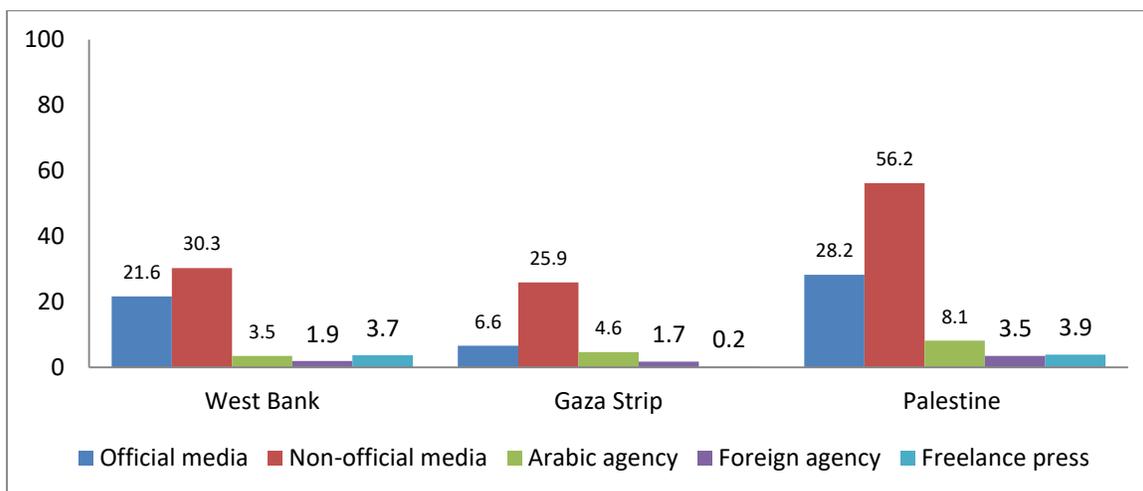
The previous table shows that 69.3% of the study sample are holding bachelor degree.

4– Work Area Variable:

Table (7): Distribution of the sample population by the area of work variable

Area of Work Variable	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestine
Official media	104	32	136
Non–official media	146	125	271
Arabic outlets	17	22	39
Foreign outlets	9	8	17
Freelance press	18	1	19
Total	294	188	482

Chart (4): Proportional Distribution of Sample Population by Workplace and Territory



The ratio of official media professionals constitutes 28.2% of the study sample, broken down as 21.6% in the West Bank and 6.6% in Gaza Strip. The ratio of non-official media professionals constitutes 56.2% of the study sample, broken down as 30.3% in the West Bank and 25.9% in Gaza strip.

5- Geographical Distinction Variable

Table (8): distribution of the sample population by the geographical distinction

Geographical Distinction Variable	Number	Ratio %
Northern	100	20.7

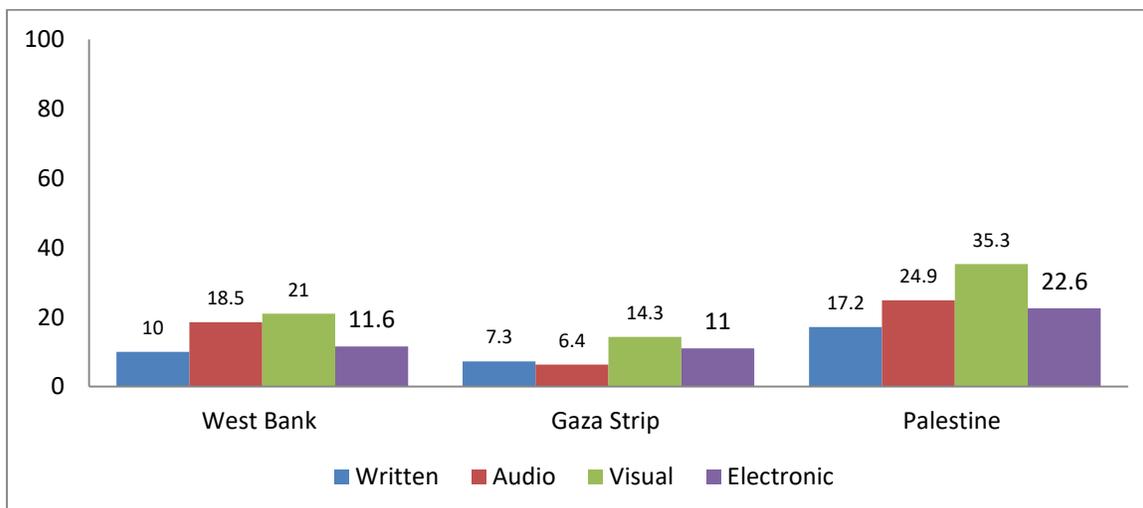
Central	109	22.6
Southern	82	17.0
Gaza	191	39.6
Total	482	100.0

The above table shows that the study sample is distributed according to the geographic distinction by 60.4% in the West Bank, broken down as (20.7% northern, 22.6% central, and 17.0% southern), and 39.6% in Gaza Strip.

Table (9): Distribution of the sample population by the major media outlet variable

Major media outlet variable	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestine
Written	48	35	83
Audio	89	31	120
Visual	101	69	170
Electronic	56	53	109
Total	294	188	482

Chart (5): Proportional Distribution of Sample Population by Media Outlet and Territory

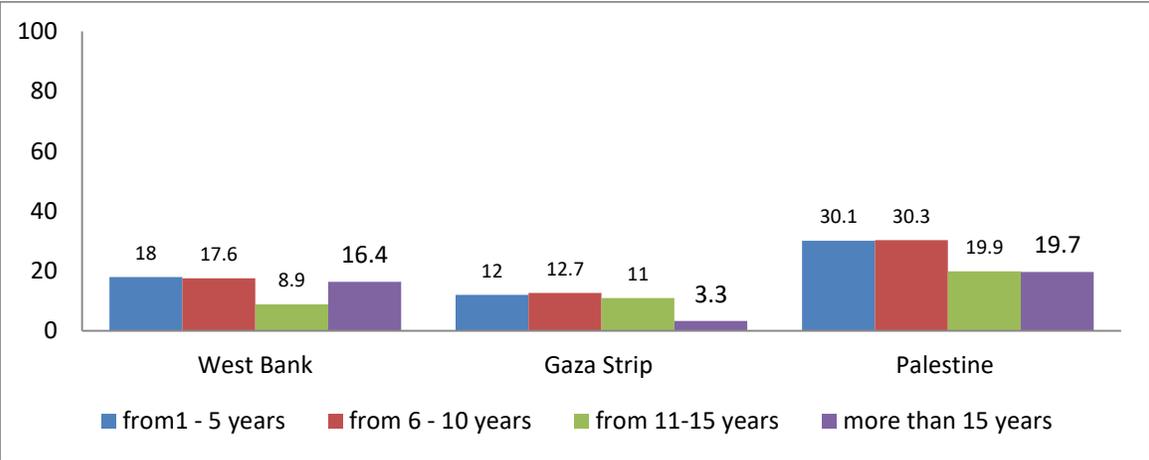


The data indicate that 35.3% of the study sample work in the visual media, while 24.9% work in the audio media and 22.6% work in electronic media.

Table (10): Distribution of the sample population by the variable of number of experience years

The number of experience years variable	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestine
From 1 to 5 years	87	58	145
From 6 to 10 years	85	61	146
From 11 to 15 years	43	53	96
More than 16 years	79	16	95
Total	294	188	482

Chart (6): Proportional Distribution of Sample Population by Years of Working in Media and Territory



The study findings show that 30.3% of the sample have worked more than five years and less than ten years in the media and press sector while 19.7% of the study sample have worked more than 15 years in the media and press sector.

Study Findings

The Palestinian Center for development and Media Freedoms (MADA), through this study, has sought to address the subject of freedom of the press in Palestine. To this end, it has developed indicators and adopted them to measure the extent of progress and decline in the level of freedom of the press in the country. These indicators shall measure freedom of the press in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip. The level of freedom of the press in Palestine has been analyzed in both geographical territories.

MADA has used the press freedom index methodology that is based on temporal comparison between one year and another in the same geographical area, taking into account the relevant international indicators, especially those developed by the Freedom House, and Reporters without Borders. And indicators of the media development by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The methodology also takes into consideration what has been decided by the experts as proper for the press freedom index in Palestine after redefining and formulating the indicators. To this end, three questionnaires were designed, and their credibility and validity were examined. After the questionnaires were

collected, they were coded and entered to the computer to be statistically processed using the SPSS. Below are the findings of the study according to the flow of questions in different areas.

1. Findings of freedom of the press areas in Palestine:

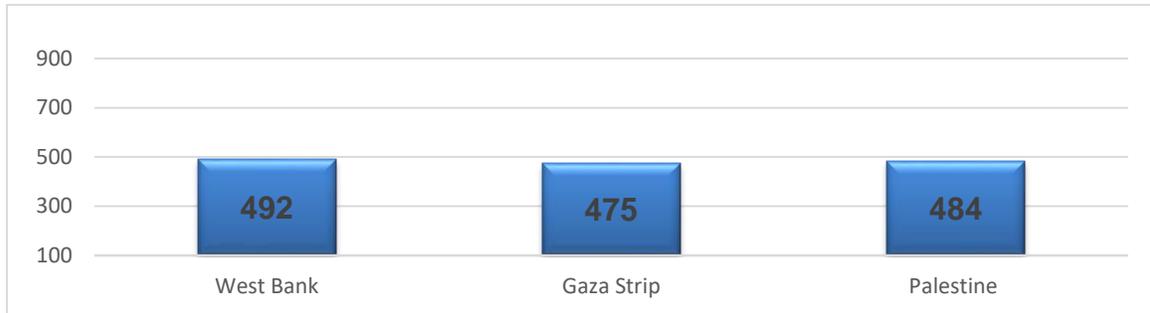
Table (11): Press freedom index by area and territory

	Area	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Pales tine	The area contrib ution ratio
1 .	Legal safeguards for press freedom	415	438	406	0.17
2 .	Legal and societal restrictions on press freedom	471	446	463	0.13
3 .	Independence of the media	569	559	565	0.11
4 .	The media and diversity of content	478	490	481	0.10
5 .	Government censorship and self-censorship	543	465	515	0.11
6 .	Finance policies	459	440	457	0.18

7	Transparency and access to information	458	475	465	0.11
8	Self-regulation and protection of male/female journalists	618	543	588	0.10
	Total	492	475	484	100

Palestine press freedom index in the areas measured during 2018 scored 484 points out of the total 1000 points. The West Bank index scored 492 points while Gaza Strip index scored 475 points. **Thus, Palestine press freedom rating, according to the indices evaluation used in this Index, is categorized as sensitive (orange), in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to the evaluation criteria adopted.**

Chart (7): Press Freedom Index by Territory



The study is based on measuring eight areas that reflect freedom of the press, namely: the legal safeguards for freedom of the press, the legal and societal restrictions on freedom of the press, the media and diversity of content, the government censorship and self-censorship, the finance policies, the transparency and access to information, and the self-regulation and protection of female/male journalists. The index of each area is based on a set of indicators used to measure the above mentioned areas. The total number of indicators of all areas amounted to 72. The index is based on using the equation of weight of each area.

The index scores of 2018 have revealed that the below 3 indicators out of 71, constituting a ratio of 4.2%, received zero points:

1. Harmonization of domestic and national legislation after the PNA signed international treaties guaranteeing freedom of the press
2. There are legal provisions that criminalize government officials who incite against the media
3. The number of journalists summoned by security or judicial agencies on the background of their journalism work during 2018

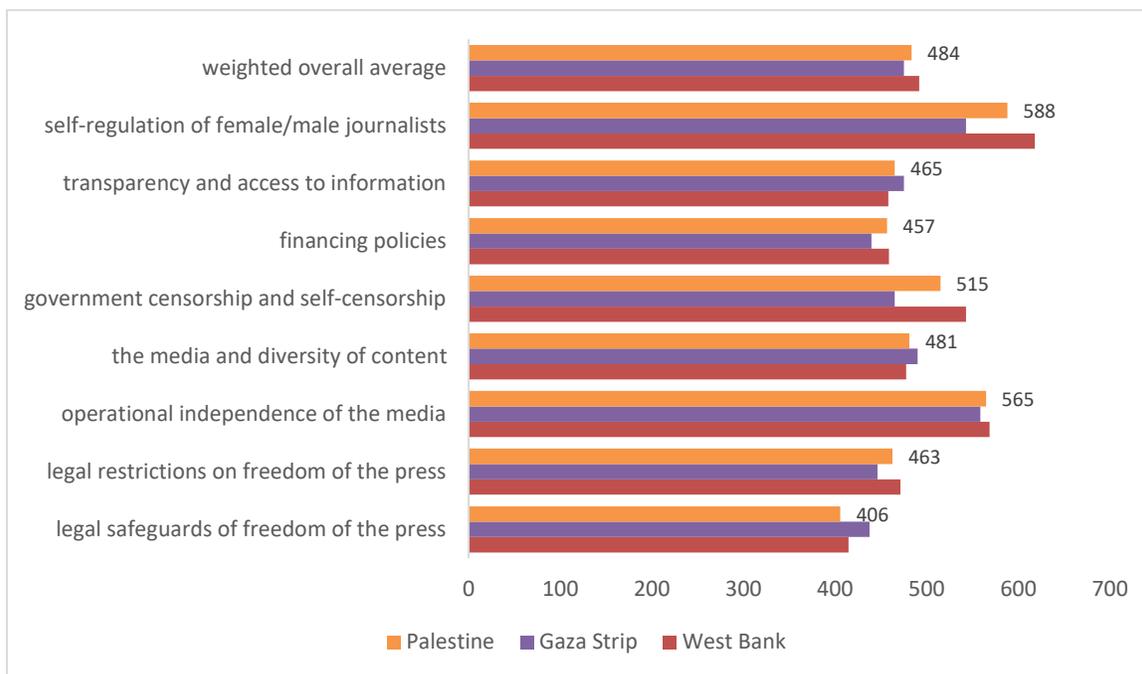
On the other hand, below are the indicators which received full points (1000):

1. There are safeguards ensured by the Basic Law for freedom of the press
2. There have been no cases in which fines were imposed on journalists for publishing offences committed during 2018

As to the remaining indicators, they received points more than zero and less than 1000.

Below are the scores of 2018 Palestine press freedom index by each area

Chart (8): Palestine press freedom index by Areas



1.1 Legal Safeguards for freedom of the Press:–

The findings revealed that **the area of legal safeguards for freedom of the press received 406 points as the indicator** (there are safeguards guaranteed by the Basic Law for freedom of the press) received 83 points. On the other hand, the indicators (harmonization of domestic and national legislation after the PNA signed international treaties guaranteeing freedom of the press, the number of journalists summoned by security or judicial authorities on the background of their journalistic work, the subjugation of

photojournalists or their possessions to assault and attack by local security services during 2018) all received zero points.

1.2 Legal and societal restrictions on freedom of the press

The study findings revealed that **the area of legal restrictions on freedom of the press** received 463 points. This area received 471 points in the West Bank, compared to 446 points in Gaza Strip. It was found that the indicator (the number of cases in which fines are imposed on journalists under judicial decisions for committing publishing offences during 2018) received 111 points, in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Followed by the indicator (I or one of my colleagues were physically assaulted by the security services or the official authority in the course of out journalistic work) received 87 points. It received 89 points in the West Bank, compared to 83 points in Gaza Strip. The indicator (I filed a complaint at the official authorities on the background of physical assaults or damaging my equipment as a journalist) received the least points amounted to 14, followed by the indicator (I was compensated by the public authorities for the damage caused to my equipment) which received 13 points.

1.3 Independence of the media

The study findings showed that **the area of Independence of the mass media** has received 565 points, 569 points in the West Bank, compared to 559 points in Gaza Strip. The indicator (the Laws on media licensing allow the government to control the media) received 94 points, compared to the lowest points received by the indicator (the official media enjoy editorial independence and reporting news for all groups of people) amounted to 40.

1.4 The media and diversity of content

The area of **media and diversity of content** received 481 points, 478 in the West Bank, while 490 in Gaza Strip. The indicator (the legal provisions guarantee the diversity of media ownership at the private, public and party levels) received 107 points, whereas the indicator (there are joint media ownerships to control all aspects of news, production, and distribution) received the second ranking by 87 points, 95 points in the West Bank and 71 in Gaza Strip. The lowest points amounted to 36 were received by the indicator (the country allows the concentration of media ownership into the hands of specific groups).

1.5 Government Censorship and Self-Censorship

The findings of the study revealed that **the area of government censorship and self-censorship received 515 points. This area received 543 points in the West Bank, compared to 465 points in Gaza Strip.** The indicator (there are government censorship procedures on publications pre-publishing) received 88 points, broken down as 93 in the West Bank compared to 80 in Gaza Strip. The indicator (the closure of media outlets and websites, without court decisions, on the background of publishing) received the second ranking by 71 points, 76 points in the West Bank, compared to 60 points in Gaza Strip. As to the indicator (imposing editorial censorship on the issues published by the media), it received the lowest points amounting to 49, with 56 points in the West Bank, compared to 38 in Gaza Strip.

1.6 Finance Policies

The area of finance policies received 457 points. It received 459 points in the West Bank compared to 440 points in Gaza Strip. The indicator (I or one of my colleagues were offered a gift in kind or in cash or a tribute to influence my professional relationship with the agency that offered the gift) received 69 points. As to the indicator (throughout my journalistic work, I noticed the

subjection of the editorial policy of the outlets I work for to the influence of the advertiser) received 49 points. As to the indicator (there is financial governmental support provided to the media operated fairly on a market share basis), it received the least points amounted to 12.

1.7 Transparency and access to information

The area of transparency and access to information received 465 points in the Palestinian territories. It received 458 points in the West Bank, compared to 475 points in Gaza Strip. The indicator (my privacy was invaded by seizing any of my personal belongings such as the cell phone or laptop or any similar device) received the highest points by 107. As to the indicator (I was subject to direct or indirect pressure to expose the resources of information I received or published), it received 101 points. However, the indicator (there is a law that guarantees the right to access to information) received 13 points. This indicator received zero points in the West Bank, compared to 31 points in Gaza Strip.

1.8 Self-Regulation and protection of Female/Male Journalists

The study findings showed that **the area of self-regulation of journalists** received the highest points among the other areas amounting to 588. The indicator (the law allows media professionals to form representative bodies for them) received 143 points. Followed by the indicator (the non-dismissal of media personnel on the background of objecting to their journalistic work by advertising parties) which received 107 points. The indicator (the representative body of journalists (syndicate) run periodic and regular elections) received 71 points in the West Bank for the option “there are no regular elections but rather significantly delayed” compared to 0 points in Gaza Strip.

2. Findings of the indicators of freedom of the Press Areas:

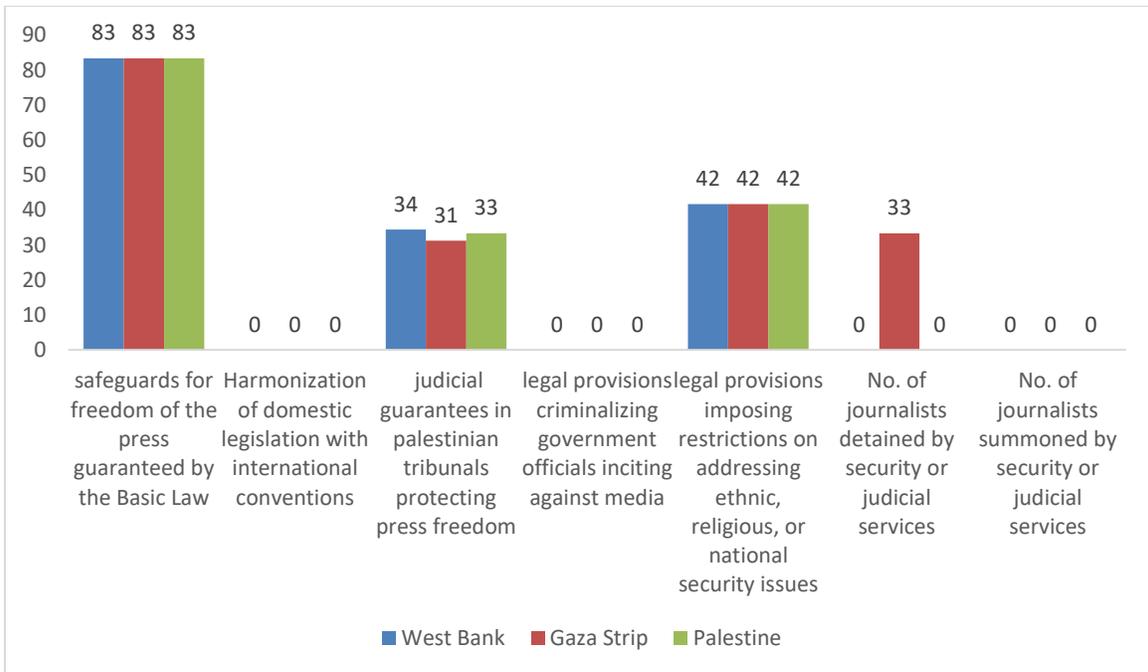
2.1 Legal safeguards for freedom of the press:

The scale of the legal safeguards for freedom of the press in Palestine received 406 points, 415 points in the West Bank, compared to 438 points in Gaza Strip. The scale of this area is based on 12 indicators. The proportional weight of each indicator of this area amounts to (0.0833) with a value of 83 points.

Below are the scores of each indicator.

Chart (9): Weighted Points of the Indicators of Legal Safeguards for Press

Freedom by Index and Territory



2.1.1 This indicator was measured by the legal aspect questionnaire. The weight of this indicator amounted to 83 points in Palestine, as the points were complete in both, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The findings of the open-ended questions were unanimous on the availability of **safeguards guaranteed by the Basic Law for Freedom of the Press.**

The Basic Law guarantees the freedom of opinion and expression and

the freedom of establishment of media outlets, and not to close them unless under judicial decision. It also guarantees personal freedom and equality before the law.

The Basic Law provides for constitutional protection rules. The establishment of newspapers and all other forms of media is guaranteed by the Basic Law as a right for all. Furthermore, the freedom of audio, visual, and written media, as well as the freedom to print, publish, distribute and transmit, together with the freedom of individuals working in this field are also guaranteed by the Basic Law. According to this law as well, censorship of the media shall be prohibited. No warning, suspension, confiscation, cancellation or restriction shall be imposed upon the media except by law, and pursuant to a judicial ruling. Article (27) Of the Basic Law.

2.1.2 The indicator **(Have national legislation been harmonized after the State of Palestine has signed the international conventions guaranteeing freedom of the press)**: all of the institutions agree that the national legislation have not been harmonized after the State of

Palestine has signed international conventions guaranteeing freedom of the press. This indicator received zero points.

2.1.3 The indicator **(there are judicial guarantees in Palestinian courts protecting freedom of the press)** received 33 points. There was consensus that there were no guarantees, and there was difference in the answers in terms of **judicial guarantees in the Palestinian courts that protect freedom of the press** in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, between poor or absent.

2.1.4 The indicator **(there are legal provisions criminalizing government officials who incite against the media)** received zero points. There was consensus that there are no such legal provisions, in both, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2.1.5 The indicator **(there are legal provisions imposing restrictions on addressing ethnic or religious or national security or sensitive issues, such as children and gender)** received 42 points. There was consensus that there are such restrictions, but limitedly.

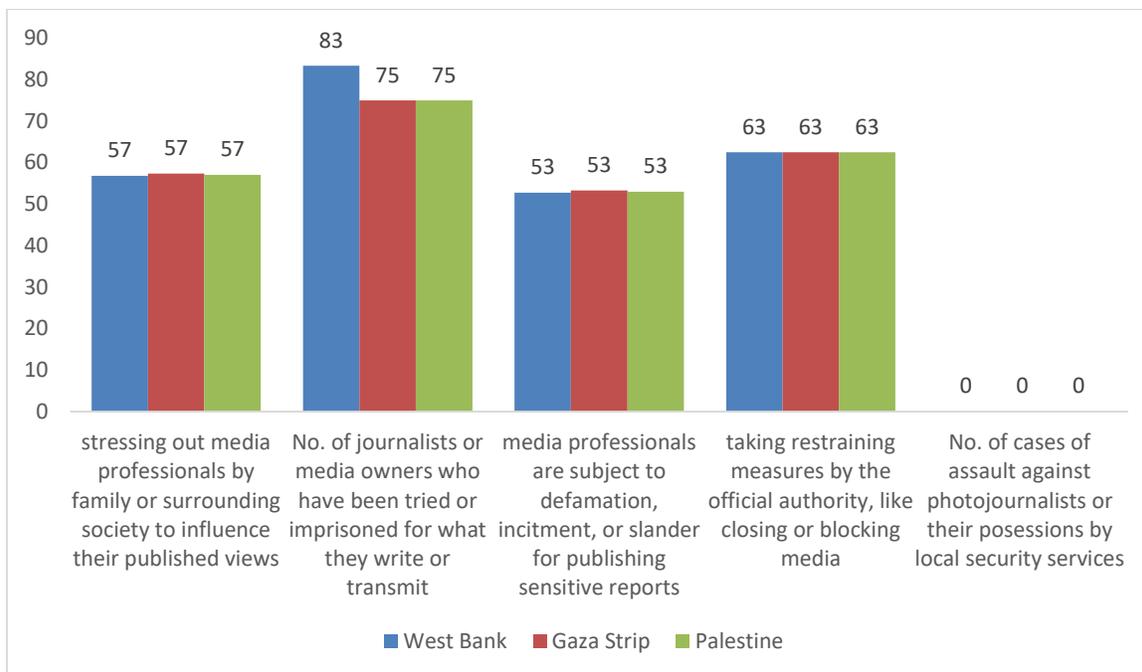
2.1.6 The indicator **(the number of journalists detained by security or judicial services on the background of their journalistic work during**

2018) received 0 points in Palestine. There was difference in the number of journalists who were detained, where the number in the West Bank amounted to (17), but since 10% of the points were deducted for each case, by a maximum of 10 cases, the number of points in the West Bank was (0), while in Gaza Strip (6) points. Therefore, 60% of the points were deducted for this indicator. Thus, the number of weighted points for this indicator amounted to (33).

2.1.7 The indicator **(the number of journalists summoned by the security or judicial services on the background of their journalistic work during 2018)** received 0 points in Palestine. There was difference in the number of journalists who were summoned, as the number in the West Bank amounted to (19), but since 10% of the points were deducted for each case, by a maximum of 10 cases, the number of points in the West Bank amounted to (0), while in Gaza Strip 20. Therefore, the number of weighted points for this indicator were (0).

Weighted Points of the Indicators of Legal Safeguards for Press Freedom by

Index and Territory (cont.)



2.1.8 The indicator (**pressuring the female/male media professionals by the family or the surrounding society to influence media views or materials they have published**) received 57 points. Option “yes, but limitedly” received 15 points, while option “no” received 42 points.

2.1.9 The indicator (**the number of journalists or media owners who have been tried or imprisoned because of what they write or transmit**) received 75 points in Palestine, 83 points in the West Bank, compared to 75 points in Gaza Strip.

2.1.10 The indicator (**female/male media professionals are subject to defamation or incitement or slander through the internet on the background of publishing sensitive reports**) received 53 points. Option “yes, but limitedly” received 17 points, while option “no” received 36 points.

2.1.11 The indicator (**taking restraining measures by the official authority such as closure or blocking the media outlets**) received 63 points. Option “yes, but narrowly” received 21 points, while option “no” received 42 points.

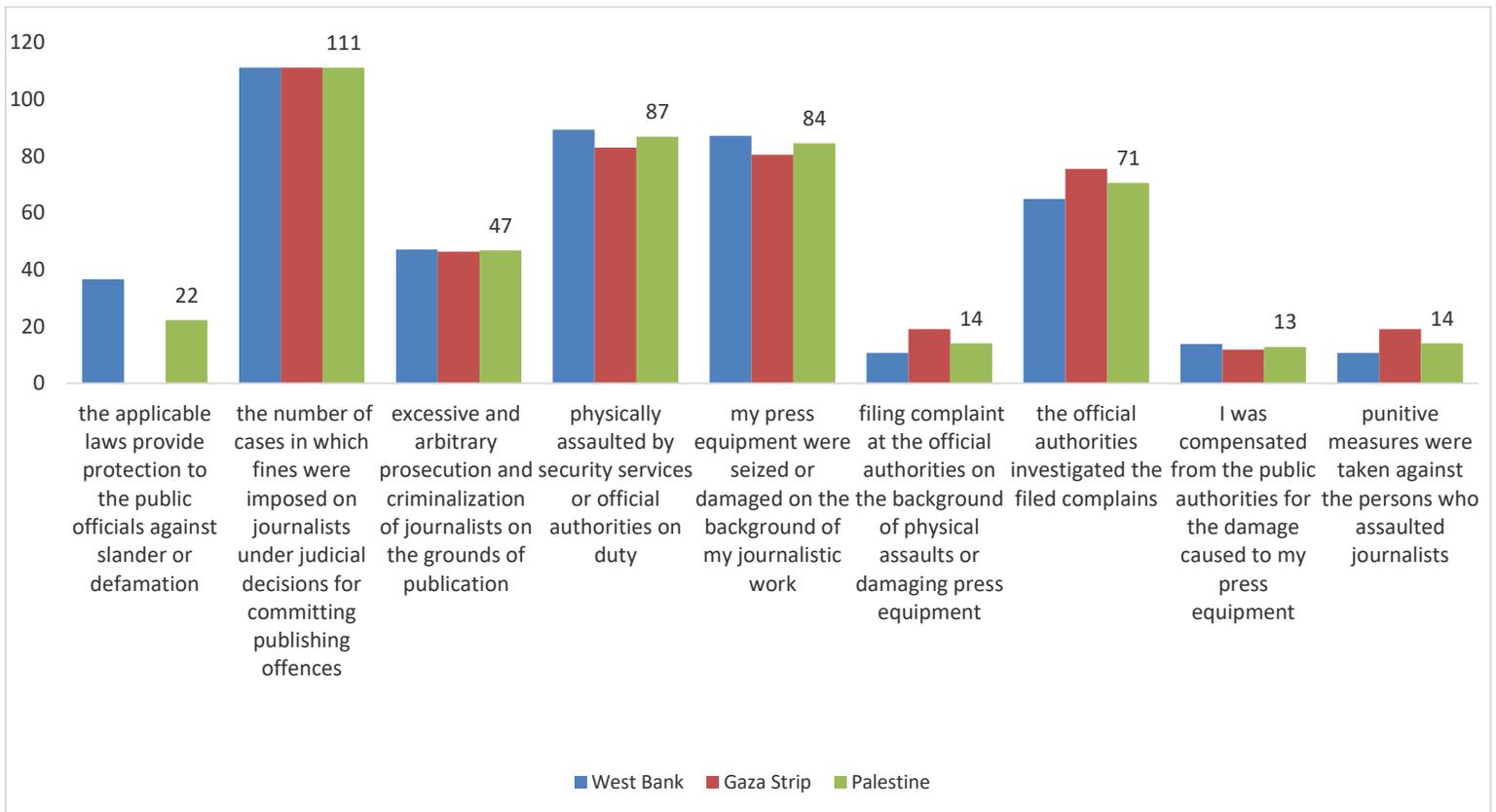
2.1.12 The indicator (**the number of cases in which photojournalists or their possessions were assaulted by the local security services**) received 0 points. The number of such cases in the West Bank amounted to (16), but since 10% was deducted from the points for each case, up to a maximum of 10 cases, the number of cases in the West Bank amounted to (0) points, compared to (20) in Gaza Strip. Therefore, the number of weighted points for this indicator amounted to (0).

2.2 Legal and societal restrictions on freedom of the press:

The scale of the legal restrictions on freedom of the press in Palestine received 463 points, 471 points in the West Bank, compared to 446 points in Gaza Strip. The scale of this area depended on 9 indicators. The proportional weight of each indicator of this area amounted to (0.1111) with a value of 111 points.

Chart (10): Weighted Points of the Indicators of Legal Restrictions for Press

Freedom by Index and Territory



indicator received (37) points and Gaza Strip in which the indicator

received (0) points. The sample in Gaza Strip agreed that the applicable laws provide protection to public officials against slander or defamation.

2.2.2 The indicator (**the number of cases in which fines were imposed on journalists under judicial decisions for committing publishing offences**) received 111 points, and these points are the total points received, in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as the number of such cases was (0).

2.2.3 The indicator (**excessive and arbitrary prosecution and criminalization of journalists on the grounds of publication**) received 47 points. The points were tightening between the West Bank (47) and Gaza Strip (46). Option “sometimes yes” received (34) points, while option “no” received (13) points.

2.2.4 The indicator (**physically assaulted by security services or official authorities on duty**) received (87) points. The points were tightening between the West Bank (89) points and Gaza Strip (83) points. Option “sometimes yes” received (17) points, while option “no” received (69) points.

2.2.5 The indicator (**my press equipment were seized or damaged on the background of my journalistic work**) received (84) points. The points were tightening between the West Bank (87) points and Gaza Strip (80) points. Option “yes, but limitedly” received (18) points, whereas option “no” received (62) points.

2.2.6 The indicator (**filing complaint at the official authorities on the background of physical assaults or damaging press equipment**) received (14) points, (11) points in the West Bank, compared to (19) points in Gaza Strip.

2.2.7 The indicator (**the official authorities investigated the filed complains**) received (71) points, (65) points in the West Bank, compared to (75) points in Gaza Strip.

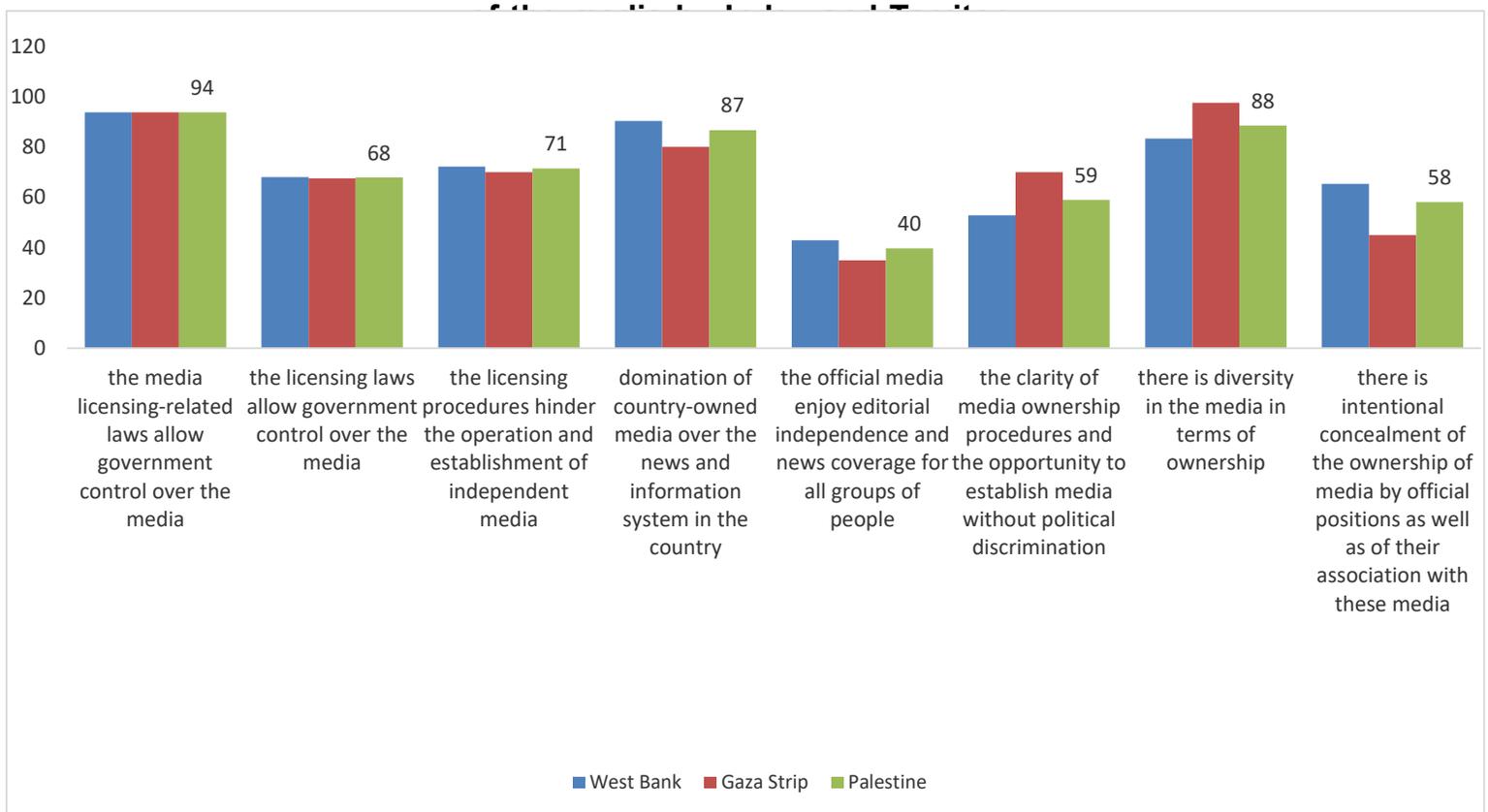
2.2.8 The indicator (**I was compensated by the public authorities for the damage caused to my press equipment**) received (13) points, (14) points in the West Bank, compared to (12) in Gaza Strip.

2.2.9 The indicator (**punitive measures were taken against the persons who assaulted journalists**) received (14) points, (11) points in the West Bank, compared to (19) points in Gaza Strip.

2.3 Independence of the media:

The scale of the independence of the media, being one of freedom of the press areas in Palestine, received 565 points, 569 points received in the West Bank while 559 points in Gaza Strip. The area scale depended on 8 indicators. The proportional weight of each indicator amounted to (0.125), with a value of 125 points.

Chart (11): Weighted Points of the Indicators of Operational independence



- 2.3.2 The indicator (**the licensing laws allow government control over the media**) received (68) points, equally between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- 2.3.3 The indicator (**the licensing procedures hinder the operation and establishment of independent media**) received (71) points, (72) points in the West Bank, compared to (70) points in Gaza Strip.
- 2.3.4 The indicator (**domination of country–owned media over the news and information system in the country**) received (87) points, (90) points in the West Bank compared to (80) in Gaza Strip.
- 2.3.5 The indicator (**the official media enjoy editorial independence and news coverage for all groups of people**) received (40) points, (43) points in the West Bank, compared to (35) in Gaza Strip.
- 2.3.6 The indicator (**the clarity of media outlets ownership procedures and the opportunity to establish media outlets without political discrimination**) received (59) points, (53) points in the West Bank, compared to (70) in Gaza Strip.

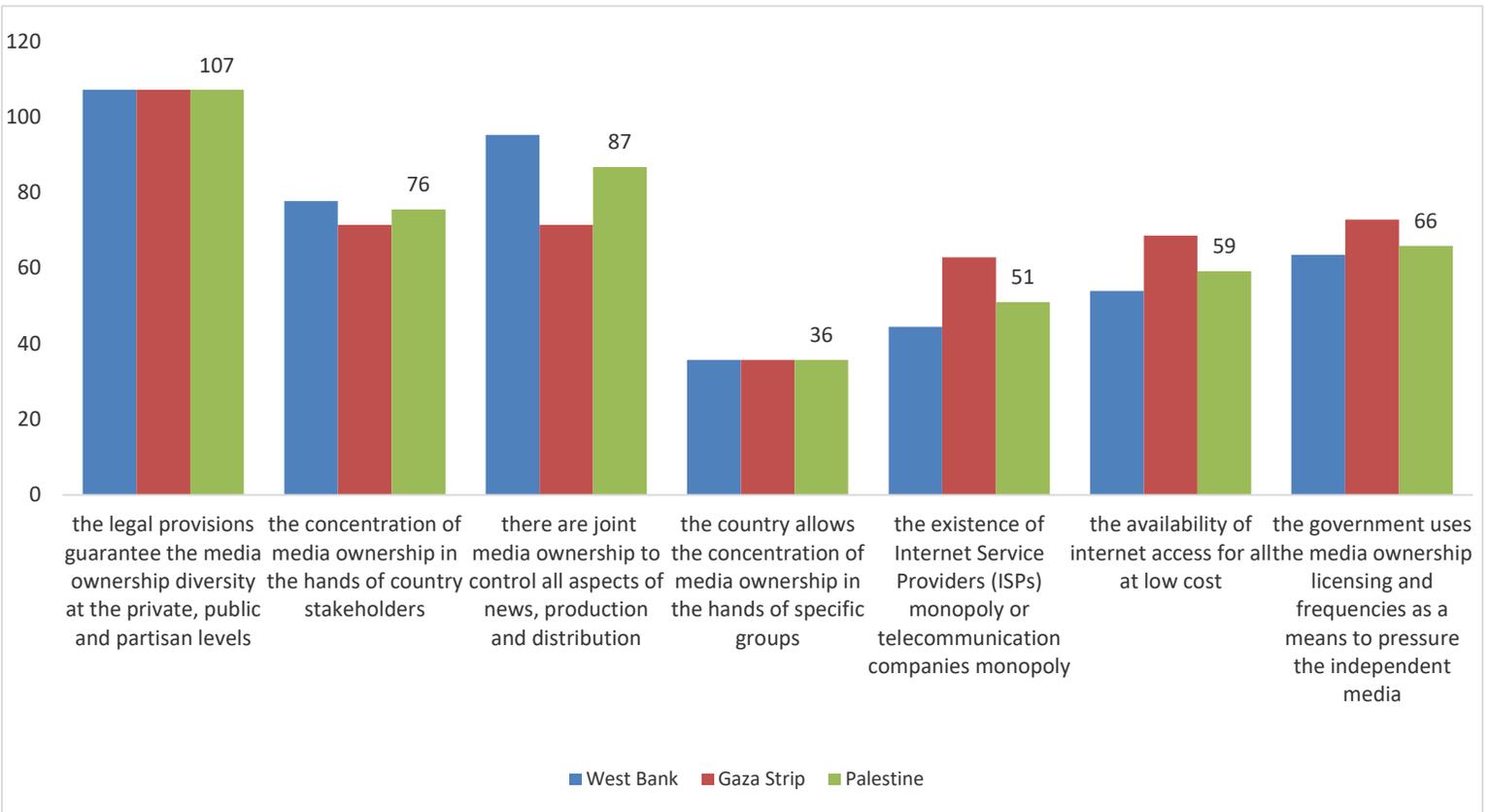
2.3.7 The indicator **(there is diversity in the media in terms of ownership)** received (88) points, (83) points in the West Bank, compared to (98) points in Gaza Strip.

2.3.8 The indicator **(there is intentional concealment of the ownership of media by official positions as well as of their association with these media)** received (58) points, (65) points in the West Bank, compared to (45) in Gaza Strip.

2.4 The Media and diversity of content:

The scale of the media and diversity of content, being one of the freedom of press areas in Palestine, received 481 points, 478 points in the West Bank, compared to 490 points in Gaza Strip. The area scale depended on 7 indicators. The proportional weight of each indicator amounted to (0.1428), with a value of 143 points.

Chart (12): Weighted Points of the Indicators of the media and diversity of content by Index and Territory



Below explained the findings of each indicator.

2.4.1 The indicator **(the legal provisions guarantee the media ownership diversity at the private, public and partisan levels)** received (107) points, equally between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2.4.2 The indicator **(the concentration of media outlets ownership in the hands of country stakeholders)** received (76) points, with (78) points in the West Bank, compared to (71) points in Gaza Strip.

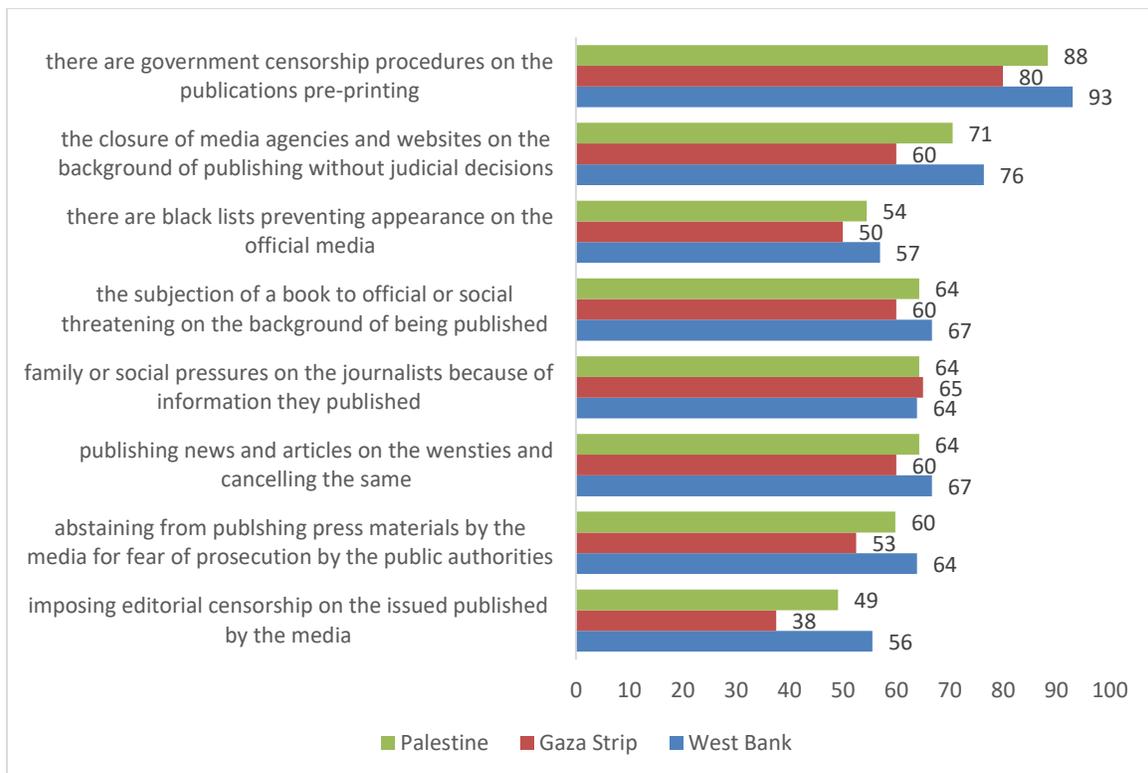
- 2.4.3 The indicator **(there are joint ownerships to control all aspects of news, production and distribution)** received (87) points, (95) points in the West Bank, compared to (71) points in Gaza Strip.
- 2.4.4 The indicator **(the country allows the concentration of media ownership in the hands of specific groups)** received (36) points, equally between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- 2.4.5 The indicator **(the existence of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) monopoly or telecommunication companies monopoly)** received (51) points, (44) points in the West Bank, compared to (63) points in Gaza Strip.
- 2.4.6 The indicator **(the availability of internet access for all at low cost)** received (59) points, (54) points in the West Bank, compared to (69) points in Gaza Strip
- 2.4.7 The indicator **(the government uses the media outlets ownership licensing and frequencies as a means to pressure the independent media)** received (66) points, (63) points in the West Bank, compared to (73) points in Gaza Strip.

2.5 Government Censorship and Self-Censorship

The scale of the government censorship and self-censorship, being one of the freedom of press areas in Palestine, received 515 points, 543 points in the West Bank, compared to 465 points in Gaza Strip.

The area scale depended on 8 indicators. The proportional weight of each indicator amounted to (0.125), with a value of 125 points.

Chart (13): Weighted Points of the Indicators of Government Censorship and Self- Censorship by Index and Territory



Below explained the scores of each indicator of this area scale.

2.5.1. The indicator of imposing editorial censorship on the issues published by the media received 49 points in Palestine, 56 points in the West Bank, compared to 38 points in Gaza Strip. The respondents agree that occasionally there is editorial censorship on the issues published by the media. Thus, option “yes, occasionally” received 35 points, while option “no” received 14 points.

2.5.2. The indicator (**abstaining from publishing press materials by the media for fear of being prosecuted by the public authorities**) received 60 points in Palestine, 64 points in the West Bank, compared to 53 points in Gaza Strip. The media agencies agreed that sometimes they abstain from publishing press materials for fear of being prosecuted by the public authorities. Option “yes, occasionally” received 42 points, while option “no” received 18 points.

2.5.3. The indicator (**cancelling news and articles after being posted on websites**) received 60 points in Palestine, 64 in the West Bank, compared to 53 in Gaza Strip. There was consensus that occasionally

the media cancels news after being posted on websites. Option “yes, occasionally” received 50 points.

2.5.4. The indicator (**the journalists are subjected to family or social pressures on the background of publishing information**) received 64 points in Palestine, 64 points in the West Bank, compared to 65 points in Gaza Strip. Option “yes, occasionally” received 43 points, while option “no” received 21 points.

2.5.5. The indicator (**the subjection of journalists to official or social threatening on the background of their publishing**) received 64 points in Palestine, 67 in the West Bank, compared to 60 in Gaza Strip. There was consensus that occasionally books may be threatened officially or socially for being published. Option “yes, occasionally” received 43 points, while option “no” received 21 points.

2.5.6. The indicator (**there are black lists preventing appearance on the official media**) received 54 points in Palestine, 57 points in the West Bank, compared to 50 points in Gaza Strip. Option “yes, poorly” received 33 points, while option “no” received 21 points.

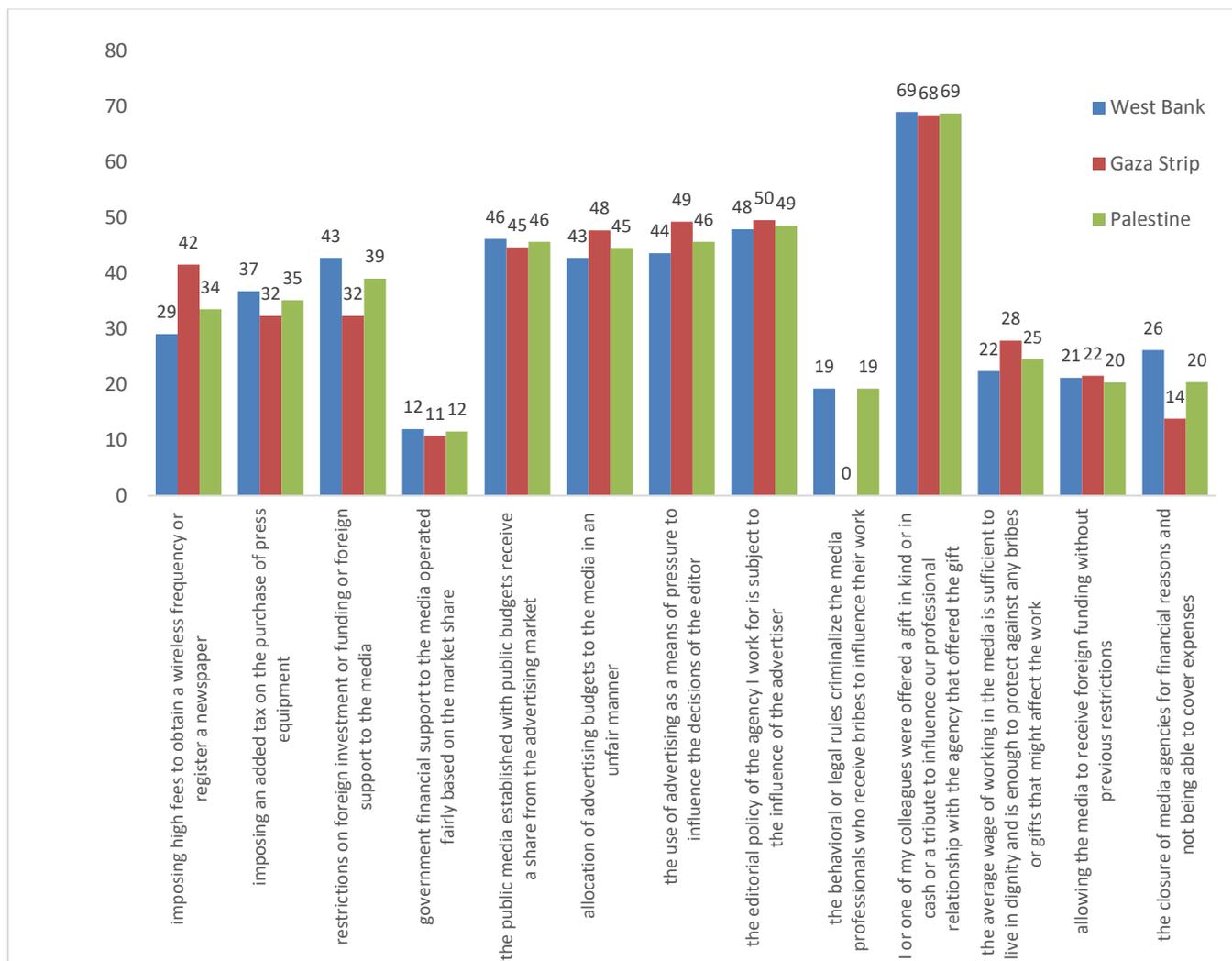
2.5.7. The indicator **(the closure of media outlets and websites, without judicial decisions, on the background of publishing)** received 71 points in Palestine, 76 points in the West Bank, compared to 60 points in Gaza Strip. Option “yes, poorly” received 31 points, while option “no” received 39 points.

2.5.8. The indicator **(there are government censorship procedures on the publications pre-publishing)** received 88 points in Palestine, 93 points in the West Bank, compared 80 points in Gaza Strip. The majority agreed that there are no government censorship procedures on publications pre-printing by 70 points. Option “yes, poorly” received 19 points.

2.6. Finance Policies

The scale of financing polices, being an area of freedom of the press in Palestine, received 457 points, 459 points in the West Bank, compared to 440 points in Gaza Strip. The scale of this area depended on 13 indicators, with a proportional weight of (0.0769) for each indicator, with a value of 77 points.

Chart (14): Weighted Points of the Indicators of Financing Policies for the Media by Index and Territory



This area was measured based on the questions of the questionnaires related to the impact of financial policies, taxes and wages on the work of the media. Below explained the scores of each indicator of this area:

2.6.1. The indicator (**imposing high fees to obtain a wireless frequency or license a newspaper**) received 34 points in Palestine, 29 points in the West Bank, compared to 42 points in Gaza Strip. The respondents agreed that “yes, occasionally” high fees are imposed on obtaining a wireless frequency or registering a newspaper by 16 points, while option “no” received 18 points.

2.6.2. The indicator (**imposing an added tax on the purchase of paper, newsprint, broadcasting equipment and other media equipment**) received 35 points in Palestine, 37 points in the West Bank, compared to 32 points in Gaza Strip. The media outlets agreed that sometimes an added tax is imposed on purchasing paper or press equipment. Option “yes, occasionally” received 15 points, while option “no” received 20 points.

2.6.3. The indicator **(there are restrictions on foreign investment or funding or foreign support provided to the media)** received 39 points in Palestine, 43 points in the West Bank, compared to 32 points in Gaza Strip. There was consensus that sometimes there are restrictions on the foreign investment or financing or support provided to the media. Option “yes, occasionally” received 16 points, while option “no” received 23 points.

2.6.4. The indicator **(providing government financial support to the media operated fairly based on the market share)** received 12 points in Palestine, 12 points in the West Bank, compared to 11 points in Gaza Strip. Option “yes, always” the support is fairly operated based on the market share received 7 points, while option “yes, occasionally” received 5 points.

2.6.5. The indicator **(the public media outlets established from public budgets receive a share from the advertising market)** received 64 points in Palestine, 46 points in the West Bank, compared to 45 points in Gaza Strip. There was consensus that the public media received a

share from the advertising market. Option “yes, always” received 31 points, while option “yes, occasionally” received 15 points.

2.6.6. The indicator (**the allocation of advertising budgets to the media outlets in an unfair manner**) received 46 points in Palestine, 43 points in the West Bank, compared to 48 points in Gaza Strip. The findings show that the majority believed that the budgetary shares are not fairly distributed. Option “no” received 29 points, while option “yes, sometimes” received 16 points.

2.6.7. The indicator (**the use of advertising as a means of pressure to influence the decisions of editors**) received 46 points in Palestine, 44 points in the West Bank, compared to 49 points in Gaza Strip. Option “yes, sometimes” received 21 points, while option “no” received 24 points.

2.6.8. The indicator (**the editorial policy of the media is subject to the influence of the advertiser**) received 49 points in Palestine, 48 points in the West Bank, compared to 50 points in Gaza Strip. Option “yes, poorly” received 12 points, while option “no” received 36 points.

2.6.9. The indicator (**the behavioral or legal rules criminalize the media professionals who receive bribes to influence their work**) received

19 points in Palestine, 19 points in the West Bank, compared to 19 points in Gaza Strip.

2.6.10. The indicator (**offering financial or in-kind gifts or tributes to influence the professional relationships between journalists and the agency which offered such**) received 69 points in Palestine, 69 points in the West Bank, compared to 68 points in Gaza Strip. The findings showed that there are no such cases. Option “no” received 64 points, while option “yes, rarely” received 5 points.

2.6.11. The indicator (**sufficiency of wages**) which refers to the sense of self-sufficiency of media professionals of their wages which shall protect them from being subjected to any bribes, received 25 points in Palestine, 22 points in the West Bank, compared to 28 points in Gaza Strip. The findings showed that the wages are appropriate and sufficient enough to protect media professionals from bribes. Option “yes, adequately” received 13 points, while option “yes, limitedly” received 12 points.

2.6.12. The indicator (**allowing the media to receive foreign financing without prior restrictions**) received 20 points in Palestine, 21 points in the West Bank, compared to 22 points in Gaza Strip. The findings

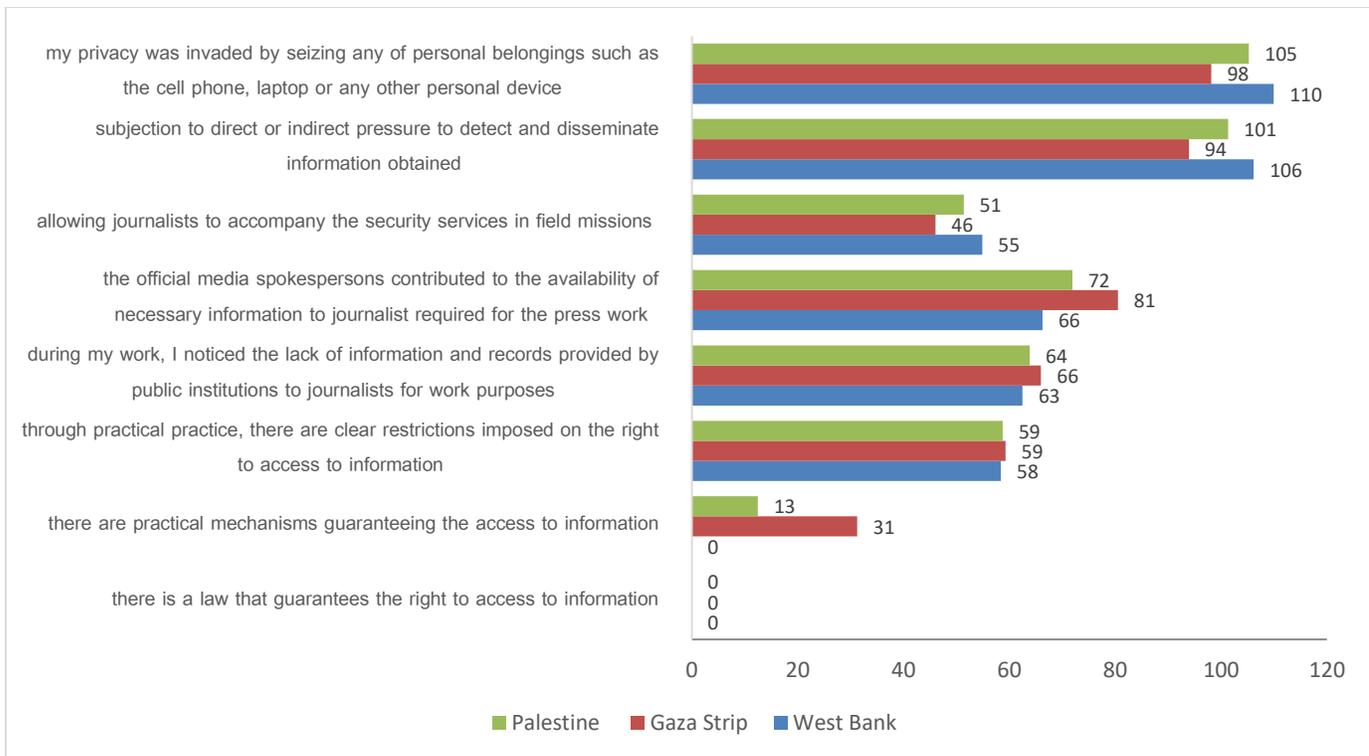
showed that there are no such restrictions on financing. Option “yes, significantly” received 5 points, while option “yes, rarely” received 15 points.

2.6.13. The indicator (**closing media outlets for financial causes and inability to cover expenses**) received 20 points in Palestine, 26 points in the West Bank, compared to 14 points in Gaza Strip. The findings showed that option “yes, limitedly” received 15 points, while option “no” received 6 points.

2.7. Transparency and Access to Information

The scale of transparency and access to information, being one of the freedom of press areas in Palestine, received 465 points, 458 points in the West Bank, compared to 475 points in Gaza Strip. The scale of this area depended on 8 indicators, with a proportional weight of (0.125) for each indicator and a value of 125 points.

Chart (15): Weighted Points of the Indicators of Transparency and Access to Information by Index and Territory



This area was measured based on the questions incorporated in the questionnaire on the transparency and access to information. Below explained the findings of its indicators:

2.7.1. The indicator **(there is a law that guarantees the right to access to information)** received 0 points in Palestine, 0 points in the West Bank, compared to 0 points in Gaza Strip. There was consensus that there is no law that guarantees the right to access to information.

2.7.2. The indicator **(there are practical mechanisms that guarantee the access to information)** received 13 points in Palestine, 0 points in the

West Bank, compared to 13 points in Gaza Strip. The respondents agree that there are such mechanisms but poorly by 13 points.

2.7.3. The indicator (**the clarity of restriction imposed on the right to access to information**) received 59 points in Palestine, 58 points in the West Bank, compared to 59 points in Gaza Strip. There was consensus that there are clear mechanisms by 34 points, compared to unclear mechanisms by 24 points.

2.7.4. The indicator (**the lack of information and records provided by the public institutions to the journalists in need of such information for work purposes**) received 64 points in Palestine, 63 points in the West Bank, compared to 66 points in Gaza Strip. There was consensus that there is indeed lack in the information and records provided by the public institution to journalists in need of such information for work purposes. Option “yes, significantly” received 33 points, while option “yes, poorly” received 30 points.

2.7.5. The indicator (**the contribution of official media spokespersons to the availability of necessary information required for presswork**) received 72 points in Palestine, 66 points in the West Bank, compared

to 81 points in Gaza Strip. The findings showed that the official media spokespersons indeed contribute to the availability of necessary information required for presswork by 38 points, while option “yes” received 34 points.

2.7.6. The indicator (**allowing journalists to accompany the security services in field missions**) received 51 points in Palestine, 55 points in the West Bank, compared to 46 points in Gaza Strip. There was consensus that the services allow journalists to accompany them in field missions by 10 points, while option “yes, sometimes” received 42 points.

2.7.7. The indicator (**being subject to direct or indirect pressure to disclose information obtained and published**) received 101 points in Palestine, 106 points in the West Bank, compared to 94 points in Gaza Strip. The findings show that option “yes, poorly” received 15 points, while option “no” received 87 points.

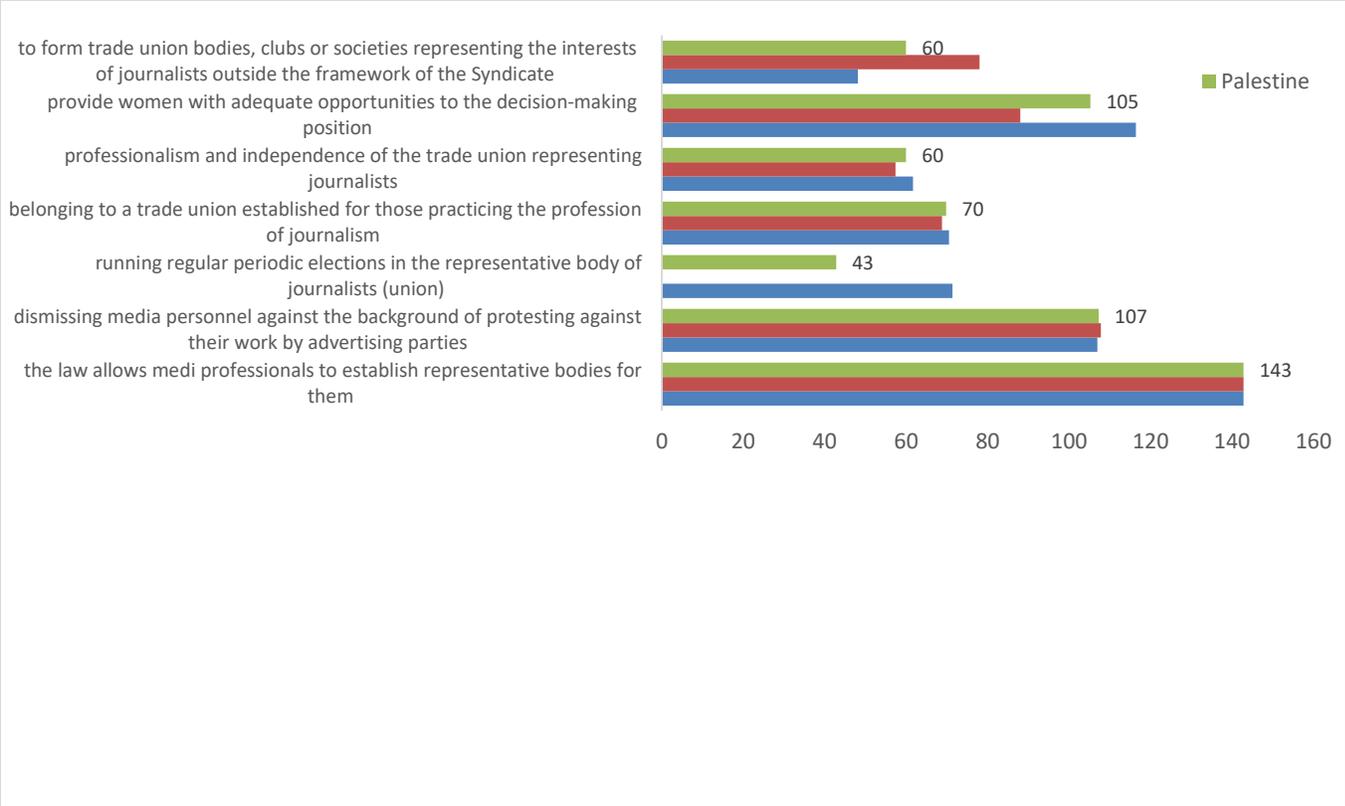
2.7.8. The indicator (**assaulting journalists and damaging their personal belongings, such as the cell phone, or laptop or any personal device**) received 105 points in Palestine, 110 points in the West Bank,

compared to 98 points in Gaza Strip. The findings show that option “yes, poorly” received 12 points, while option “no” received 93 points.

2.8. Self-Regulation and protection of male/female journalists

The scale of self-regulation of journalists, being one of the freedom of the press areas in Palestine, received 588 points, 618 points in the West Bank, compared to 543 points in Gaza Strip. The scale of this area received 465 points in Palestine, 458 points in the West Bank, compared 475 points in Gaza Strip. The scale of this area depended on 7 indicators, with a proportional weight of (0.1428) for each indicator, and a value of 143 points.

Chart (16): Weighted Points of the Indicators of Self-Regulation of Male/Female Journalists by Index and Territory



This area was measured through the related questions in the questionnaire. Below explained the indicators of this area:

2.8.1. The indicator **(the law allows media professionals to establish representative bodies)** received 143 points in Palestine, 143 points in the West Bank, compared to 143 points in Gaza Strip. The respondents

agreed that journalists are allowed to belong to legal bodies and union representing them by 143 points.

2.8.2. The indicator (**dismissing media personnel on the background of protesting against their presswork by advertising agencies**) received 107 points in Palestine, 107 points in the West Bank, compared to 108 points in Gaza Strip. The option “yes, poorly” received 21 points, while option “no” received 86 points.

2.8.3. The indicator (**running regular and periodic elections in the journalists representative body (syndicate)**) received 43 points in Palestine, 71 points in the West Bank, compared to 0 points in Gaza Strip. The findings showed that the elections are not regular but rather significantly delayed by 43 points.

2.8.4. The indicator (**affiliation to a union representing press professionals**) received 70 points in Palestine, 71 points in the West Bank, compared to 69 points in Gaza Strip. The findings showed that there is affiliation to the union by 53 points compared to poor affiliation by 17 points.

2.8.5. The indicator (**the press union representing journalists enjoys professionalism and independence**) received 60 points in Palestine, 62 points in the West Bank, compared to 57 points in Gaza Strip. The findings showed that there is high professionalism and independence of the press union by 29 points, compared to poor independence by 31 points.

2.8.6. The findings of the indicator (**providing sufficient opportunities for women to access decision-making positions**) showed that institutions do not provide sufficient opportunities for women to access decision-making positions by 105 points in Palestine, 116 points in the West Bank, compared to 88 points in Gaza Strip. The findings showed that women are provided such opportunities by 84 points. Option “No” received 21 points.

2.8.7. The indicator (**establishing press unions or clubs or societies representing the journalists’ interests outside the Syndicate framework**) received 60 points in Palestine, 48 points in the West Bank, compared to 78 points in Gaza Strip. The findings showed that journalists have the clear right to establish press unions or clubs or societies

representing their interests outside the Journalists Syndicate framework
by 34 points but poorly by 26 points.