

Official Gazette

September 17th, 1970

Law No 76 of Year 1970

Regarding the Formation and Establishment of the Journalist Syndicate

In the name of the Nation and the President of the Republic;

The Council of the Nation hereby approves the passage of the present Law. The respective Law is hereby promulgated.

CHAPTER ONE

Establishment of the Journalist Syndicate and Membership Eligibility Requirements

Article One – Establishment of Journalist Syndicate: Formation, Mandate, and Goals

A Journalist Syndicate shall hereby be established in the United Arab Republic (UAR), and shall maintain a legal status. The headquarters of the respective Syndicate shall be based in the city of Cairo. Sub-syndicates may be established across the governorates, by the virtue of a decree to be issued by the Syndicate Board.

Article Two – Membership Composition

The Journalist Syndicate shall be composed of eligible members, who shall be enlisted in a Master Roster, and shall also be assigned to specific sub-rosters, as stipulated under Article Four, of the present Law.

Article Three – Purpose and Mandate

The Syndicate shall hereby be mandated to:

- Spread and reinforce the socialist and patriotic concepts among the members thereof, and advocate in recognition of this concepts within the press and newspaper organizations and news agencies, as well as among the target readership thereof; promote and recognize the editorial and press-related research activities and investigations; and, seek to leverage the academic and intellectual performance and professional standards of the members of the Journalist Syndicate;
- Uphold and promote the standards of professionalism; maintain the integrity of the profession; and, advocate for its own interests;
- Secure the liberty and freedom of journalists as they perform their professional duties and responsibilities and mission statement; and, ensure the fulfilment and

maintenance of such rights, especially in such instances that shall involve potential dismissal or expulsion from service, infliction of diseases, unemployment, and/or full incapacity;

- Provide job opportunities or create employment for unemployed members; and, provide unemployed members with proper compensation and unemployment benefits, in such a manner that shall enable them to lead a decent life;
- Maintain and abide by the legacy traditions, customs, professional code of ethics, and guiding principles of the profession;
- Facilitate the mediation and settlement of disputes and conflicts that may arise in correspondence with the profession, among the Syndicate members, as well as between the members thereof, on one hand, and the press organizations, newspaper trade facilities, or news agency, on another hand, within their respective areas of jurisdiction;
- Foster closer relationships and links with the Federation of Arab Journalists, as well as comparable and like-minded organizations, across the Arab World; participate in the international news agencies and press organizations that support and advocate for such issues and causes associated with the Arab World; and, forge closer partnerships with parallel and corresponding organizations;
- Facilitate the communication and interfacing efforts by and between the members of the Syndicate and the members of other labour unions that operate in the area of journalism, by means of establishing inter-organizational alliances and federations for the purpose of enhancing the professional performance and standards of journalism;

It is worth noting that the Syndicate of Journalists shall function and operate within the framework of the Public Policy of the Arab Socialist Federation.

CHAPTER TWO – MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION PROCESS

Article Four

A Master Roster shall be prepared and produced, and shall include the names of journalists. A number of sub-rosters shall be created and attached to the Master Roster. Journalists shall be assigned to specific sub-rosters, according to their professional status category, as follows:

- Employed Journalists
- Unemployed Journalists
- Affiliated Journalists
- Apprentice Journalists (under apprenticeship programs)

Both the Master Roster and sub-rosters shall be entrusted with the Registration Committee stipulated under Article Thirteen (13) of the present Law. The said

Committee shall undertake to provide copies of the master roster and sub-rosters to the Arab Socialist Federation and the Ministry of National Guidance.

Article Five – Registration Requirements

Registration of journalists in the respective master roster and sub-rosters shall hereby require the following:

- Applicant journalists shall serve and act as a professional employee; and may not be a sole proprietor, a co-proprietor, or a shareholder of a newspaper-trade organization or a news agency operating in the United Arab Republic.
- Applicant journalists shall be nationals/ citizens of the United Arab Republic.
- Applicant journalists shall be of a good reputation; may not have been previously convicted or sentenced in a dishonourable or notorious criminal act; felony or misdemeanour; and, may not have been removed from the Syndicate Roster for reasons jeopardizing or compromising their integrity.
- Applicant journalists shall hold a university degree.

Article Six

An applicant journalist shall hereby be deemed and classed as 'employed', if and when s/he shall fulfil any of the following employment provisions or arrangements:

- Journalists who engage in a regular paid employment in the field of journalism, whether in a daily or a periodical newspaper published, within the territory of the United Arab Republic, or otherwise, in a domestic or foreign news agencies operating the UAR, for which the respective journalists shall receive a regular and fixed remuneration, and provided that they shall not engage in another trade or profession.
- Translator-editors, reviewer-editors, editors, illustrators, illustrator-editors, and calligrapher-editor, who shall fulfil the requirements provided for under Articles Five and Seven, of the present Law, on the date of their registration.
- Journalists, who receive regular and fixed remuneration, whether they operate in the United Arab Republic or elsewhere, provided that they may not engage in non-media trade or profession, and that they meet the eligibility requirements established under Articles Five and Seven, on the date of their registration.

Article Seven

It is hereby stipulated that interested applicants shall be required to have completed the apprenticeship program, without intermission or interruption; to demonstrate an active engagement in press- and journalism-related tasks and activities; and, to provide a detailed track record showing their contribution to, and engagement in a newspaper organization or a news agency, where they completed the apprenticeship or induction training program.

Article Eight

Apprentice journalists shall be required to complete their apprenticeship or entry-level induction training program in newspaper organizations or news agencies that operate in the United Arab Republic. Under a special licensure, a protocol agreement may be secured from the Syndicate Board approving the possibility of completing one's apprenticeship program in a newspaper organization or a news agency, overseas.

An apprentice journalist shall undertake to inform the Syndicate Board of his/ her place of residence, the newspaper or the news agency, where s/he is affiliated to complete the apprenticeship program, and shall undertake to keep the Syndicate Board updated, as to any changes or modifications introduced in such information.

Article Ten

The term of the apprenticeship program shall be one year for graduates of the Journalism Sections, at certified universities and high education institutes; and shall be two years for graduates of other recognized faculties and high institutes. The apprenticeship term shall commence on the date of registration into the roster of apprentice journalists. The internal statutes and regulations shall define the processes and procedures associated with the registration of apprentice journalists.

All periods of employment in civil service posts, which involve a mandate to assume journalistic and press-related functions, shall be counted and credited against the apprenticeship term. The Minister of National Guidance shall issue a decree determining and specifying such functions and activities, as well as the names of those who shall perform them.

Article Twelve

Notwithstanding the provisions stated in Article Five of the present law, the Registration Committee may opt to enlist the following in the Sub-Roster of Affiliated Journalists:

- Arab journalists, who are resident in the United Arab Republic, and who are contracted by a newspaper trade organization or a news agency based in the United Arab Republic, or by a news agency that operate therein, as long as they fulfil the eligibility requirements set forth under the provisions of Article Five, with the exception of the provision stipulating that a journalist shall be a national of the United Arab Republic.
- Foreign Journalists resident in the United Arab Republic, who are contracted by a newspaper trade organization based in the United Arab Republic, or by a news agency that operate therein, as long as they fulfil the eligibility requirements set forth under the provisions of Article Five, with the exception of such provisions stipulating that a journalist shall be a national of the United Arab Republic.
- Individuals who contribute to, or engage in press- and journalism-related tasks, provided that they shall fulfil the provisions set forth under Article Five, with the exception of the provisions included therein regarding the professional practice of journalism.

Article Thirteen

A committee shall hereby be established, and mandated to undertake the process associated with the registration of journalists in the Syndicate's rosters. The respective committee shall consist of:

- Deputy captain journalist (President)
- Two members of the Syndicate Board, to be designated and selected by the Board (Members)

The respective committee shall, at least 30 days before it convenes, undertake to provide a list with the names of interested applicants to the Arab Socialist Union and the Ministry of National Guidance soliciting their input and insight thereabout. The Arab Socialist Union and the Ministry of National Guidance shall respond no later than two (2) weeks after the receipt of the respective list.

In the event that the two respective authorities shall not provide their input during the specified period, the Committee shall undertake to decide into the application requests.

The said Committee shall undertake to make its final decision, within sixty (60) days as of the date of the submission of the application request. In case an application or a request is disapproved or disqualified, the decision shall be based on warranted justifications or grounds.

The applicant shall be informed of the decision reached by the Committee, within two (2) weeks after the decision is made. In this respect, the applicant shall receive a certified/ registered mail letter, notifying the applicant of the committee's decision. In addition, the applicant shall be requested to sign off acknowledging receipt thereof.

Article Fourteen

Disqualified individuals may appeal against the decision reached by the Committee within thirty (30) days, as of the date of notification. The appeal request shall be reviewed by a committee composed of the following:

- A legal counsellor/ judge from the court of appeal, to be seconded or detailed by the General Assembly of the respective court of appeal (President)
- A senior public prosecutor (Member)
- Director of Information Authority, or his/ her delegate (Member)
- Two (2) members from the Syndicate Board, to be identified at the discretion of the Syndicate Board (Members)

Article Fifteen

The Registration Committee shall exclude from the Journalists Roster the apprentice journalists, who shall fail to apply for registration into the respective Roster, and who shall be employed within three (3) months following the expiration date of their apprenticeship term, unless an admissible and warranted reason is provided by the respective applicant justifying why s/he failed to submit the request in due course.

Applications of disqualified applicants may not be accepted in the former Roster, except after the lapse of a year, as of the date of disqualification or disapproval. In such case, the applicant shall be required to make a new payment of the statutory registration fees.

Article Sixteen

The Syndicate Board shall undertake to inform the Arab Federation Union and the Ministry of National Guidance of the decisions and resolutions reached by the respective committees identified under Articles (13), (14), (81) and (82), of the present Law. This is in addition to providing a breakdown of journalists included in the Syndicate Roster, and whose names shall be transferred from a sub-roster, to a different one, as deemed appropriate.

Applicants shall not be permitted to re-apply, unless the reasons that constituted grounds for their disqualification are removed or addressed, and after the lapse of one year, as of the date when the decision is made final.

Article Eighteen

In the event that a member shall cease to fulfil any of the registration conditions or requirements, as pertains to the Syndicate Roster, the Syndicate Board shall undertake to inform the Registration Committee to enforce the decision of excluding or removing the respective member from the Syndicate Roster.

A member excluded or removed from the Syndicate roster, may opt to appeal against that decision before the respective committee referred to under Article Fourteen of the present Law, within thirty (30) days, after the date of notification.

Excluded or removed members may submit a request to renew their registration in the Syndicate Roster. This action shall require the payment of new registration fees, as dully appropriate.

The respective Committee shall undertake to re-register the respective member, after making sure that the main reasons that constitute grounds for the exclusion or expulsion thereof are eliminated or addressed.

Article Nineteen

A member, who is employed, may request that his/ her name be re-assigned to the sub-roster of employed members.

Article Twenty

The Syndicate Board and the Minister of National Guidance may request the re-assignment of members, who discontinue to be employed in the sector of journalism and press, to the sub-roster of unemployed members. The respective members shall be informed of this request, and shall reserve the right to defend oneself before the said committee.

SECTION TWO

SYNDICATE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Article Twenty One

- Registration fees in the syndicate roster and sub-rosters
- Annual subscription fees and late payment interest rates
- Revenue collections of press stamp duties
- Revenue generated from newspaper sale kiosks, owned exclusively by the Syndicate
- Syndicate fund investment proceeds
- Contributions, donations and endowment
- Other resources

Article Twenty Two

Prior to the official registration in a relevant sub-roster, individual journalists shall agree to defray the statutory fees and charges associated with the respective sub-roster. The statutory registration fees and charges shall be broken down as follows:

- Ten Egyptian Pounds (10 EGP) for registration into Apprentice Journalist Sub-Roster
- Twenty Egyptian Pounds (20 EGP) for registration into Employed Journalist Sub-Roster
- Ten Egyptian Pounds (10 EGP) for registration into Affiliated Journalist Sub-Roster

Article Twenty Three

Individual members of the Journalist syndicate shall be required to pay the statutory annual subscription fees, as established by the internal statutes, at the Cashier thereof. Such fees shall be paid no later than the end of March, each year. Members who shall fail to pay such fees according to the specified deadline may not be permitted to submit any requests, may not be awarded any certificates from the Syndicate, and may not be provided with access to any of the services delivered thereby, pending the settlement of all subscription fees.

After the lapse of the applicable deadline, the respective Cashier shall undertake to send a notice to the members in arrears of their fees reminding them to settle their due subscription payments, or else their subscription shall be suspended or terminated by the virtue of a registered mail. Members who fail to pay their subscription fees no later than the end of June of each year, shall be excluded from the relevant Syndicate rosters and sub-rosters, as appropriate, according to the rule of law.

Members, who shall make their due subscription payment, accompanied with the specified late payment interest fees, worth six percent of the subscription fees, shall be re-enlisted into the appropriate rosters, without the need to pursue any further procedures. Worth noting is that such terms of suspension and/ or termination shall be credited and calculated into the seniority and longevity schemes as well as the retirement pension, notwithstanding the fact that any suspension, interruption, or termination of journalist membership for periods exceeding a total of five (5) years,

without the fulfilment of the payable subscription fees and late payment charges, shall constitute grounds for the ultimate cessation of membership, according to the rule of law.

Article Twenty Four

The Syndicate Board may grant a journalist an exemption or a waiver from the subscription fees, for a one-year term, as warranted and merited by persuasive reasons. Such exemption of registration fees may be renewed for additional terms, as long as the said reasons continue to exist. Nevertheless, the registration fees may not be waived or exempted.

Article Twenty Five

The fiscal year of the Syndicate shall commence on the 1st of January, and shall end on the 31st of December, of each year.

Article Twenty Six

The Syndicate Board shall undertake to manage and maintain the funds and revenue collections thereof, and shall approve and execute the disbursement of such funds, as deemed appropriate, for the purpose of managing the Syndicate functions and activities, within the boundaries of the budget projections and allocations.

Article Twenty Seven

The Syndicate Board shall undertake to prepare the closing account on the ending fiscal year, and shall draft the budget projections for the following year.

Article Twenty Eight

The funds generated by the Syndicate shall be deposited into a special account at a bank to be identified by the Syndicate Board. Disbursement of the respective funds shall be approved by the Syndicate Board. The Journalist Captain and the Treasurer shall serve as co-signatories, with regard to such disbursements.

Article Twenty Nine

In such cases where the general assembly shall not be able to convene its regular sessions due to certain exceptional circumstances, the previous budget shall hereby prevail pending the convening of the general assembly, and the approval of a new budget.

Article Thirty

The Journalist Syndicate, sub-syndicates and affiliated associations and organizations, shall hereby be exempted from all taxes, fees, stamp duties, royalties, and other

financial costs, irrespective of their type. Movable and immovable property and funds raised by the Syndicate and sub-syndicates thereof, as well as the investment operations undertaken thereby, shall be exempted from all taxes, fees, stamp duties and royalties imposed or levied by the government or any other public authority.

Article Thirty One

The property, buildings, office space, and sub-syndicates of the Journalist Syndicate may not be confiscated or seized.

SECTION THREE

SYNDICATE MANAGEMENT

Chapter One – General Assembly and Syndicate Board

First: General Assembly

Article Thirty Two

The General Assembly shall consist of all members registered in the Employed Journalist Roster, and who shall pay subscription fees falling due and payable up till the end of current fiscal year, or otherwise exempted from such due fees.

The General Assembly of the Syndicate shall convene its regular session on the first Friday of March, of each year.

The General Assembly may call for the convening of an extraordinary session, at the discretion of the Syndicate Board. In addition, the extraordinary general assembly may convene at the request of at least 100 eligible members, within one month as of the date of submission of the request.

Article Thirty Three

The General Assembly shall hereby be mandated to:

- Review and approve the status reports developed by the Syndicate Board on the activities of the preceding year;
- Approve the closing account of the preceding fiscal year;
- Approve the draft budget projections on the coming fiscal year;
- Elect the Captain Journalist, as well new members to replace the old members, whose membership term comes to an end;
- Approve the draft internal statutes and bylaws of the Journalist Syndicate;
- Approve and amend the Professional Code of Ethics, as appropriate;

- Develop retirement pension schemes and benefits packages; and,
- Examine and consider other matters of concern to the Syndicate, as recommended by the Syndicate Board

Article Thirty Four

The Captain Journalist shall undertake to extend an invitation to the general assembly to convene, by the virtue of an official announcement that shall be published twice in two separate daily newspapers widely circulated in Cairo, at least one (1) week before the meeting date.

Neither the ordinary nor the extraordinary general assembly may consider topics other than those included in the meeting agenda, unless as deemed necessary by the Syndicate Board.

Article Thirty Five

The general assembly (GA) meeting may not be deemed or considered as legally valid unless attended by no less than half the GA members. In the event that the specified quorum cannot be achieved, the general assembly meeting shall be postponed for two weeks, provided that members shall be served a new notification. The second meeting of the general assembly shall be deemed as valid, in the event that a quorum of one quarter of the general assembly members shall attend the respective meeting. Otherwise, the meeting shall be deferred, and the members shall be re-informed of a new date for the meeting, until the quorum is secured.

Article Thirty Six

The membership of the Syndicate Board shall be composed of the Captain Journalist, as well as twelve eligible members, who are entitled to attend the general assembly.

Potential candidates, who shall run for the position of the Captain Journalist, or who shall run for a seat on the Syndicate Board, shall be active members on the Arab Socialist Union. In addition, candidates running for the position of the Captain Journalist shall be required to have been enlisted in the Syndicate Roster for at least ten (10) years. Potential candidates running for a seat on the Syndicate Board shall be required to have been listed in the Syndicate Roster for at least three (3) years, and may not have been imposed any disciplinary resolutions or verdicts during the last preceding years.

Article Thirty Eight

The General Assembly shall elect the Captain Journalist and the membership of the Syndicate Board. Voting shall be held by secret ballot.

The members of the Syndicate shall be elected by majority vote of the members present. Should the elections result in a tie vote, a second ballot shall be held between the candidates with the equal number of votes in the first ballot.

The candidate obtaining an absolute majority of valid votes of the present members shall be elected President. Should no candidate obtain a majority, a second ballot shall be held between the two candidates with the largest numbers of votes in the first ballot. In this

case, the candidate obtaining a relative majority of valid votes of the present members shall be elected Captain. Should no candidate obtain a relative majority, and in the event of a tie in the election of the Captain, the following provisions shall hereby apply: If on the second ballot, two or more candidates, all of these candidates shall proceed to a third ballot, which shall be held between the candidates with the equal numbers of votes in the second ballot.

Article Thirty Nine

The counting of votes shall be conducted by tellers appointed by the Syndicate Board. Individual candidates, or a representative member from the Syndicate, provided that s/he shall be listed in the Employed Journalist Sub-Roster, shall reserve the right to attend the vote-counting and tallying process.

Article Forty

The internal statutes and bylaws of the Syndicate shall define the arrangements, conditions, and deadlines associated with the nomination and candidacy process, as well as the election organization procedures.

Article Forty One

Voting in the election process shall be mandatory. Eligible members who shall fail to attend a polling station, or to vote in elections, unless with admissible and warranted reasons, as deemed appropriate by the Syndicate Council, may become subject a penalty worth of one (1) Egyptian Pound, which shall be collected for administrative purposes, and shall be deposited into the Fund of Retirement Pension, Benefits and Subsidies.

Article Eighty Two

The Syndicate Board shall undertake to inform the Arab Socialist Union and the Minister of National Guidance regarding the outcome of the election of the Syndicate Board membership and the Captain Journalist, as well as the decisions reached by the General Assembly, within one week as of the issuance thereof.

Article Eight Three

The membership term at the Syndicate Board shall be four years. Members shall hold office for four years, with one half to be elected every two years.

The term of the Captain Journalist shall be two years. The Captain Journalist may not be elected twice, consecutively.

Article Forty Four

The Syndicate Board, under the chairmanship of the Journalist Captain, upon the election thereof, shall undertake to identify and select to deputy captains, a secretary-general, and a treasurer. The Captain Journalist shall be supported by the Executive Board.

The internal statutes and bylaws of the Syndicate shall define their respective terms of reference and responsibilities.

Article Forty Five

In the event that the position of the Captain Journalist shall become vacant, the Syndicate Board shall select one of the two deputy captains to act on his/ her behalf, in the event that the period remaining in his/ her official term is less than a year. In the event that the period remaining in the official term of the Captain Journalist exceeds one year, the General Assembly shall convene, within fifteen (15) days as of the date on which the position shall become vacant, to select the new Captain Journalist. In this case, the new selected Captain Journalist shall hold the respective position for the period remaining in the term of the initial Captain Journalist.

Article Forty Six

In the event that a member of the Syndicate Board shall cease to be a member, or if a seat on the Board Syndicate become vacant, the candidate obtaining the majority of votes in the last elections held to select the membership of the Syndicate, shall be appointed therein.

Article Forty Seven

The Syndicate Board shall be mandated to ...

- Achieve the purpose and objectives of the Syndicate;
- Develop and submit annual activity reports regarding the functions and roles of the Syndicate;
- Prepare the closing account for the preceding fiscal year, accompanied with draft budget projections of the new year;
- Manage the funds and property owned by the Syndicate; oversee the accounting system; and collect the registration fees and subscription charges payable by the members;
- Call upon the General Assembly to convene, and ensure the proper execution of the decisions made thereby;
- Oversee the membership rosters and identify and select potential candidates from the Syndicate Board to sit on the Registration Committee and Disciplinary Action Committee; and establish sub-committees, as deemed necessary;
- Develop the internal statutes and bylaws, professional code of ethics, and other draft regulations for review and approval by the General Assembly; and, monitor the proper execution of such regulations;
- Organize and facilitate the provision of social and health care services for journalists and their families;
- Receive contributions, donations, and financial assistance;

- Consider and review the complaints filed regarding the professional code of conduct and acts associated with the Syndicate members; and,
- Facilitate the mediation and settlement of disputes and conflicts that may emerge between those who qualify for retirement pensions, subsidies, etc., and the Retirement Pension Fund Committee;
- Develop a policy plan for the Syndicate, monitor the execution thereof, and act as a liaison among the range of structures and entities affiliated with the Syndicate; and,
- Organize regular meetings between representatives from the Syndicate Board and boards of the sub-syndicates, and convene two conferences at least every year, which shall gather representatives from the boards of both the Syndicate and the sub-Syndicates

Article Forty Eight

The Syndicate Board shall undertake to facilitate the settlement and mediation of disputes and conflicts that may arise among the members of the Syndicate. For this purpose, the Board shall designate a committee composed of three members, including the Captain Journalist or a Deputy Captain. This Committee shall be mandated to conduct an investigation around the dispute, and shall report on the findings and results to the Board. The verdict or resolution reached by the respective Committee shall be deemed as legally binding to all the parties involved in this dispute.

Article Forty Nine

The resolutions made by the general assemblies and/ or the boards of the sub-syndicates shall not be deemed as final and enforceable, unless ratified by the Syndicate Board. The ratification of the Syndicate Board shall be made within thirty (30) days from the date on which such resolutions shall be brought to the attention of the Syndicate Board.

Article Fifty

The Syndicate Board shall convene once every month, at a minimum, in response to an invitation from the Captain Journalist or, a written request from three (3) members, at least. The meeting shall not be deemed as valid, unless with the presence of seven (7) members at least. The decisions shall be made by absolute majority vote. In the event that there shall be a vote tie, the Captain Journalist, or his/ her representative or delegate, shall hold the casting (tie-breaking) vote.

Article Fifty One

The Syndicate Board shall reserve the right to decide to terminate the membership of members, who fail to attend three (3) consecutive sessions, without an admissible or warranted reason. However, an absentee member shall be notified to appear before the Syndicate Board to provide his/ her statement in this regard.

Article Fifty Two

The Captain Journalist shall represent the Syndicate before the judiciary and administrative authorities, and shall chair the General Assembly and the Syndicate Board. In his/ her absence, a Deputy Captain, designated by the Captain Journalist, shall act in his/ her stead.

Article Fifty

The Captain Journalist shall reserve the right, whether directly or through the delegation of a representative member from the Syndicate Board, in such lawsuits or legal proceedings of concern to the Syndicate. S/he shall reserve the right to act as a plaintiff in such legal cases that may affect or compromise the integrity of either the Syndicate or any of the Syndicate members.

CHAPTER TWO – SUB-SYNDICATES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Article Fifty Four

A sub-syndicate shall be established in each governorate, with the exception of Cairo and Giza, where the numbers of employed journalists shall be more than thirty (30). The establishment of such sub-syndicates shall be decreed by the Syndicate Board.

Article Fifty Five

The general assembly of a sub-syndicate shall be composed of the journalists employed within its area of jurisdiction, and who are eligible to attend the General Assembly of the Syndicate.

The general assemblies of sub-syndicates, each within their areas of jurisdiction and geographic control, shall perform all the terms of reference related to the General Assembly of the Syndicate, as set forth under Article Thirty Three of the present Law.

Article Fifty Six

The functions of the sub-syndicate shall be managed by a board that shall consist of a chairperson and six members elected by the respective general assembly of the sub-syndicate. The elections shall be held by secret ballot.

Article Fifty Seven

A three-member committee shall be established and designated by the Syndicate Board to manage the electoral process and the vote-counting procedures. The respective committee may not include among its membership any of the candidates.

Article Fifty Eight

Notwithstanding the previous provisions, the requirements and procedures associated with the candidacy or nomination, membership composition and term, legal grounds and reasons for membership termination, etc., in relation to the Syndicate Board; shall hereby be consistent with the provisions related to the Syndicate Board, as defined under Chapter One of the present Section, as well as the provisions stipulated in the internal statutes and regulations of the Syndicate.

Article Fifty Nine

Sub-syndicate boards, each in their respective area of jurisdiction, shall perform the terms of reference, roles and responsibilities assigned to the Syndicate Board. The sub-syndicate board shall hereby undertake to develop and present a monthly status report to the Syndicate.

Article Sixty

The resolutions reached by the general assembly and the board of the respective sub-syndicate shall hereby be reported to the Syndicate Board within one week as of the issuance thereof.

Article Sixty One

The Syndicate Board may establish a committee, within the geographic control of individual governorates, where no sub-syndicate is established, and where the number of employed journalists is more than fifteen (15) employees, at a minimum.

CHAPTER THREE – APPEAL AGAINST RESOLUTIONS

Article Sixty Two

The Minister of National Guidance shall hereby reserve the right to appeal against the membership composition of the Syndicate Board and General Assembly, as well as the right to contest the resolutions issued by the General Assembly.

One fifth of the total members present during the General Assembly shall reserve the right to appeal against the legality of the general assembly meeting, as well as the membership composition of the Syndicate Board.

The appeal process shall be carried out at the Department of Clerks, at the Court of Cassation (Criminal Circuit), within fifteen (15) days, as of the date of the convening of the General Assembly, for the General Assembly members, and as of the date of notification, for the Minister of National Guidance.

The appeal request shall be grounded on warranted basis.

Article Sixty Three

In the event that an appeal filed against the legality of the General Assembly shall be accepted by the Court of Cassation, the resolutions made by the General Assembly shall thereby be annulled and rescinded, and the General Assembly shall be re-convened, within fifteen (15) days of the date of issuing the court ruling. In such instances where the voting process associated with the election of either the Captain Journalist or the three or more members shall be ruled as annul and void, the General Assembly shall re-convene to elect the replacement(s).

Article Sixty Four

In the event that the Syndicate Board shall fail to pursue the goals and objectives identified under Article Three, and/ or the terms or reference or roles and responsibilities provided for under Article Seven, or shall act at variance with the procedures set forth under Article Thirty Two, the Minister of National Guidance may request from the President to issue a decree dissolving the Syndicate Board. In this event, an interim committee shall be formed, and shall be composed of:

- Chief Judge of Cairo Court of Appeal (President of Committee)
- Public Prosecutor (Member)
- Undersecretary or legal representative of Ministry of National Guidance (Member)
- Two representative members from the Journalist Syndicate, as designated by the Minister of National Guidance (Members)

The respective Committee shall undertake to call upon the General Assembly to convene, within the course of two weeks, as of the date of dissolution, pursuant to the procedures and processes set forth under Article Thirty Two of the present Law, for the purpose of electing a new board.

CHAPTER FOUR – RIGHTS AND OBLGIATIONS

First: Rights

Article Sixty Five

Regular individuals may not engage in professional practices or perform press-related functions unless they are registered in the Syndicate rosters and upon an approval by the Arab Socialist Union.

Article Sixty Six

The rules and regulations provided for under the present Section shall hereby apply to the affiliated members.

Article Sixty Seven

Without jeopardizing the provisions set for under Article (135) of the Penal Procedures Code, members of the Journalist Syndicate may not be arrested or detained under alleged charges brought against them, in relation to the criminal acts described under Articles (179), (181), (183), (184), (185), (303), and (306) of the Penal Code, on account of certain press-related materials or articles that shall be issued thereby as they engage in their day-to-day practices. The Public Prosecution shall hereby undertake to draw up a report detailing such incidents, and shall forward a copy thereof to the Syndicate Board.

Article Sixty Eight

It shall not be permitted to conduct any investigations or interrogations with a member of the Journalist Syndicate, vis-à-vis their press-related activities and functions, unless with permission secured from the Public Prosecution.

Article Sixty Nine

The Public Prosecution shall undertake to notify the Syndicate Board, or the respective sub-syndicate board of such complaints filed against journalists, in relation to their journalistic and reporting functions, prior to the initiation of investigation.

In the event that criminal charges, whether a felony or a misdemeanour, are filed against a journalist, the Chair or the Deputy Chair of the respective sub-syndicate, or the delegate thereof, shall reserve the right to attend the investigations conducted therewith.

Article Seventy

The headquarters, premises and office buildings that belong to the Journalist Syndicate and sub-syndicates may not searched or sealed, unless through a representative of the Public Prosecution, and in the presence of the Captain Journalist or the chairperson of the respective sub-syndicate, or the representative thereof.

Article Seventy One

The Journalist Syndicate and sub-syndicates shall reserve the right to access a copy of the court judgments and rulings issued against a journalist, as well as copies of the legal proceedings and investigations conducted with the respective journalist, on a free-of-charge basis.

Second: Obligations

Article Seventy Two

In the performance of their professional responsibilities, journalists shall be guided by the code of ethics, and shall abide by the values and principles of integrity and truthfulness. Journalists shall undertake to perform all the obligations stipulated by the virtue of the present Law, the internal statutes of the Syndicates, as well as the relevant professional rules and ethics.

Article Seventy Three

A member of the Journalist Syndicate may not pursue a legal action or initiate judiciary proceedings against another member, on account of profession-related tasks and functions, unless such an action shall be preceded by a complaint filed at the Syndicate Board, pursuant to the provisions stated under Article Forty Eight of the present Law, and after the lapse of one month, following the date on which the complaint is filed at the Syndicate Board.

Article Seventy Four

Journalists registered in the Syndicate Roster shall be required to take an oath in the presence of the Syndicate Board, before their actual engagement in the profession.

Third: Disciplinary Actions

Article Seventy Five

Without jeopardizing the right to file for a civil action or request a disciplinary proceeding, and pursuant to the provisions spelled out under Article Eighty One of the present Law, a disciplinary action shall be taken against journalists who act at variance with the obligations set forth in the present Law, the internal statutes of the Syndicate, and/ or the professional code of ethics; who fail to comply with the specified professional duties and responsibilities; who engage in any act that may compromise the integrity of the Syndicate; or, who behave or act contrary to professional rules.

Article Seventy Six

The Syndicate Board, by a two-third majority of members, may draw the attention of a journalist to such acts or behaviours that are conceived as contrary to, or in conflict with the professional conduct, or that violate the rules and systems of the Syndicate.

Article Seventy Seven - Disciplinary Sanctions

Applicable disciplinary sanctions shall include:

- A warning letter
- A fine or a penalty that may not exceed twenty (20) Egyptian Pounds, and which shall be deposited into the Retirement Benefits and Subsidies
- One-year suspension from performing the profession
- Removal or exclusion of one's name from the Syndicate Roster; which may not result in jeopardizing due retirement payments and entitlement

Article Seventy Eight

Suspension imposed on a journalist preventing him/ her from performing the professional duties shall result in the re-assignment or transfer of the journalist's name to the Unemployed Journalist Roster.

A suspended journalist may not engage in or perform the professional duties and responsibilities of journalism, or other tasks related to the press, whether accidentally or temporarily, notwithstanding the fact that the respective journalist shall remain subject to the provisions of the present Law. The period of suspension may not be counted or credited against the apprenticeship term; the number of contribution years required for pension entitlements; or the number of years required for registration in the Syndicate roster or for nomination for the Syndicate Board.

In the event that a journalist shall perform one's professional duties and responsibilities during the period of suspension, the journalist shall become subject to an ultimate removal from the Syndicate Roster.

Article Seventy Nine

A journalist may not opt to resign and may not be prevented or deterred from performing one's professional duties and responsibilities, in relation to journalism, without formal trial taking place on account of a warranting disciplinary action, for a period of three years subsequent to the resignation or prevention.

Article Eighty

Prior to the referral to a disciplinary board, due investigations in the Syndicate and the respective sub syndicates, shall be conducted by an ad hoc committee, which shall be particularly composed for this purpose, as follows:

- (A) Deputy Captain Journalist (President)
- (B) Legal Advisor, or his/ her delegate, from the Ministry of National Guidance (Member)
- (C) Secretary of Syndicate or the respective sub-syndicate (Member)

Article Eighty One

A disciplinary board of first instance shall be composed of two members designated and selected by the Board from among its members, along with a representative of the Legislation and Advisory Opinion Department at the Ministry of National Guidance.

Legal proceedings shall be filed before this respective board, pursuant to a resolution made by the Syndicate Board; the board of the respective sub-syndicates; the Public Prosecution; or the Minister of National Guidance.

The President of Investigation Committee shall be responsible to file charges before the Disciplinary Board.

Article Eighty Two

Appeals against resolutions and verdicts reached by the Disciplinary Board of First Instance may be pursued before a Disciplinary Appeal Board composed of the members of a judiciary circuit, at the Cairo Appeal Court, along with two members, the former shall be selected by the Board from among its members, and the latter shall be identified by the journalist who is the subject of disciplinary proceedings.

Article Eighty Three

The journalist that is a subject of disciplinary proceedings shall be served a notice to appear before the respective Disciplinary Board, by a registered/ certified mail. The respective notice shall detail the date and place of the expected hearing session, a brief summary of the alleged charges filed against the respective journalist, at least eight days prior to the date of the respective session.

Article Eighty Four

The respective member involved in disciplinary proceedings may appear before the Disciplinary Board in person; or may hire a lawyer to defend his/ her case. The Disciplinary Board may summon or order the appearance of the respective member in person. The respective Disciplinary Proceedings shall be conducted in full confidentiality. The details of such proceedings may not be published, unless with a prior permission or clearance from the Disciplinary Board.

Article Eighty Five

The Disciplinary Board; the respective journalist; or the delegate thereof, may order or require the appearance or presence of certain witnesses to provide statements, as deemed appropriate, and in a manner that supports the cause of each of them. Witnesses failing to appear or to provide their statements before the Disciplinary Board may be referred to the Public Prosecution, where they shall fall be subject to the imposition of the sanctions stated in the Penal Code, under the articles associated with felonies.

Article Eighty Six

The resolution or verdict reached by the Disciplinary Board shall be based on warranted grounds, which shall be stated and announced during an in-camera session.

Article Eighty Seven

In all cases, the disciplinary actions shall be communicated to the concerned journalist, through a certified letter.

Article Eighty Eight

Journalists removed from the Syndicate Roster on account of a disciplinary action shall reserve the right to submit a request to the Registration Committee, after the lapse of five years, at a minimum, requesting that their name shall be re-enlisted in the

Syndicate Roster. As deemed appropriate, and at its discretion, the Registration Committee may approve the re-registration of the respective journalist in the Syndicate Roster.

CHAPTER FIVE - RETIREMENT PENSION AND SUBSIDIES

Article Eighty Nine

A fund shall be established for journalist retirement pension and subsidies, on the corporate and personal level. The respective fund shall be represented by the Captain Journalist.

An independent bank account, as determined by the Syndicate Board, shall be opened and assigned to the respective fund.

Article Ninety

The principal capital of the Fund shall be made of...

(First) Half the remaining balance of the Syndicate Fund, as of the date of enforcement of the present Law

(Second) The remaining balance of the journalist retirement pension and subsidy fund, established under Law 61 of 1951, and the budget surplus of the kiosk sale account, as of the date of enforcement of the present Law

(Third) New registration fees

(Fourth) Half the budget surplus of the annual budget of the Syndicate Fund

(Fifth) Syndicate investment proceeds

(Sixth) Half of the membership subscription fees

(Seventh) Collections of press stamp duties

(Eighth) Government subsidies

(Ninth) Percentage of advertisement revenue collection

(Tenth) Donations, bequests, and other resources

Article Ninety One

The respective Fund shall be managed by a committee consisting of the members of the Executive Board, as well as two members to be designated and identified by the Syndicate Board, every two years. One of the two members shall be an employed member, and the other shall be a pensioner.

Article Ninety Two

The Syndicate Board shall prepare the annual draft budget of the respective Fund, for review and approval by the General Assembly. Expenditures may not exceed seventy percent of the annual revenue of the Fund. The remaining percentage shall be maintained as reserve funds.

Article Ninety Three

On the basis of the available resources of the Fund, the Syndicate Board shall determine the requirements associated with the retirement pension, as well as other rules regulating the disbursement process. Such shall be reviewed and approved by the General Assembly.

Article Ninety Fourth

A journalist shall be deemed as entitled to one's full retirement pension, upon the fulfilment of the following requirements:

(First) The respective journalist shall be registered in the Employed Journalist Roster.

(Second) S/he shall be above the age of sixty. This provision shall also apply to cases of death or full disability or incapacity.

(Third) The journalist shall be required to have paid all the payable subscription fees, unless such are waived or exempted under a decree from the Syndicate Board.

(Fourth) The journalist shall be required to have completed twenty five years, whether sporadically or consecutively, including the apprenticeship term.

Article Ninety Five

Movable and immovable property and all investment operations, irrespective of their type, in correspondence with the Fund, shall be exempted from all types of taxation, stamp duties, interest accruals, whether imposed by the government or any public authority, etc.

Article Ninety Six

Disbursement of the retirement pension shall take effect on the first day of the month that follows the date on which it becomes payable, at the request of the payee.

Article Ninety Seven

The disbursement of the retirement pension shall require that a journalist may not exercise any tasks related to the press or journalism. In addition, this shall result in the fact that the name of the respective journalist be transferred from the roster of employed journalists to that of unemployed journalists.

Having received a retirement pension, a journalist may not request that his/ her name be re-registered in the Roster of Employed Journalists.

Article Ninety Eight

The pension retirement is conceived as a right for individual journalists. In the case of death, that shall become a right to the family of the deceased, irrespective of his/ her personal income, other sources of retirement pension, etc, within the boundaries established by the internal statutes of the respective Fund.

Article Ninety Nine

In the event that a journalist shall provide any inaccurate or misrepresented information, on the account of which s/he shall have access to his/ her retirement pension, the retirement pension shall be interrupted, and all the necessary actions shall be taken to ensure the re-payment of funds obtained in an unrightfully.

Article (100)

In the event that a member, and/ or his/ her family, shall experience or encounter an emergency that may require a subsidy, the Fund Committee, as it deems appropriate, may decide to provide him/ her with a temporary subsidy in confrontation of such emergency, pursuant to the applicable laws and regulations.

Article (101)

Application requests to receive retirement pension shall be filed in writing to the Fund Committee. The respective Committee, at its own discretion, shall consider, review and decide on the respective requests, no later than thirty (30) days, as of the date of submission of the supporting documents, according to the requirements identified by the internal statutes.

Article (102)

Without jeopardizing the provisions stipulated under the Procedures Law, retirement pensions and subsidies shall be regarded as a maintenance payment, and may not be transferred, devolved, confiscated, or relinquished to another party.

CHAPTER SIX

General and Interim Provisions

Article (103)

Owners of newspaper organizations and board chairs of press organizations and news agencies may not hire, whether on a permanent or temporary basis, individuals, who are not registered in the rosters of either employed, affiliated or apprentice members.

Notwithstanding the previous provision, such press facilities may hire foreign reporters, only if necessary.

Article (104)

Without jeopardizing the rights identified hereinabove, and pursuant to the provisions of the current Law, a contract agreement shall be drawn up between the respective journalist and the owner or the legal representative of any of the press organizations, as mentioned above.

Article (105)

The contract agreement shall identify the contractual term, unless the contract shall be open-ended. In addition, the contract agreement shall clearly identify the scope and type of work designated to the respective journalist, the location of the respective work, and a breakdown of the pay/ salary level.

Article (106)

The journalist shall reserve the right to earn or receive a vacation leave, with a full pay, as explained hereunder:

(A) Up to one-month vacation, every year, in the event that s/he has been registered in the Syndicate Roster for less than ten (10) years. If the period of registration exceeds ten (10) years, the vacation leave shall be up to forty five (45) days.

(B) One-day weekend every day

(C) Up to seven-day emergency leave every year

Article (107)

A journalist shall be entitled to a sick leave of three (3) months, every three years, during which s/he shall be eligible to a full pay. In the event that s/he shall exceed the accrued sick leave credit, s/he shall be entitled to eighty percent (80%) on the full pay. In the event that the used sick leave exceeds the accrued sick leave credit, the respective journalist shall be entitled to seventy percent (70%) on the full pay.

A female journalist shall be entitled to seventy percent (70%) of her full pay, in the event that she shall interrupt her work on account of pregnancy for more than six (6) months. An owner of a press organization or a news agency, or the legal representative thereof may not terminate or suspend a female journalist during her absenteeism, as long as such shall be on account of sickness, as proved by a medical certificate, or as a result to childbearing or childbirth.

Article (108)

In the event that any of the two contractual parties shall opt to terminate the contract, the first party shall undertake to send a written notice to the second party, at least two months prior to the date of termination thereof, in the event that the contract is based on a one-year term or more; or otherwise a one-month notice prior to the date of termination, in the event that the term of the contract shall be less than one year.

Article (109)

An owner of a press organization or a newspaper trade organization, or the legal representative thereof, shall undertake to provide a journalist, at his/ her request, with a certificate. Such certificate shall exclusively state the type and scope of work assigned to the journalist, the contract start and end dates, the agreed pay/ salary level, etc, no more than two months from the date of the request submitted by the respective journalist.

Article (110)

Upon the expiration of the employment contract of the respective journalist, s/he shall receive a severance pay worth one-month pay for each year of employment.

Article (111)

without jeopardizing the provisions stated under Article (108), in the event that a press organization or a newspaper trade-organization shall decide to terminate the contract of a journalist, prior to the expiration of the contract term, the journalist shall be entitled to receive the pay earned for the remainder of the contract term, unless s/he shall find another employment opportunity. In the event that the contract of a journalist shall be terminated in a manner incompatible with the provisions of the previous Article, the respective journalist shall be entitled to his/ her pay for the remainder of the contract term.

Article (112)

A newspaper trade organization, a news agency, or the legal representative thereof, may not ask journalists to publish materials that may expose them to a legal liability, without an in-writing request. A journalist may not be designated or assigned to undertake any activity incompatible with the scope of work or mandate for which they are contracted, unless that such is undertaken with their prior consent.

A journalist may not be transferred to another post or position at variance with his/ her original scope of work.

Article (113)

An employment contract concluded by and between a journalist or a press organization or a news agency shall include all the supplementary benefits, as agreed on by both parties.

Newspaper or press organizations and news agencies shall be required to report to the Syndicate Board all the terms and conditions and all special agreements reached with the respective journalists. Such organizations and facilities shall undertake to keep the Syndicate updated of all the amendments introduced to the terms and conditions thereof.

The Syndicate Board may request that the respective press or newspaper organization or news agency amend or address any outrageous terms or conditions against journalists, at its own discretion.

In the event that the respective press or journalist organizations or news agencies shall not respond to the request made by Syndicate Board, such dispute or conflict shall be brought to the attention of an ad hoc committee, consisting of the following:

- State Advisor for Legal Opinion Department at the State Council (President)
- Captain Journalist, or his/ her official representative or delegate (Member)
- Owner of Newspaper or Press Organization or News Agency, or the respective legal representative or delegate (Member)
- Two members designated by the Minister of Justice; the former shall represent the respective press or newspaper organization or news agency, and the latter shall represent the Journalist Syndicate

The resolutions and verdicts reached by the respective committee shall be deemed as final and legally binding.

Article (114)

The term 'newspaper' shall hereby be construed to mean, in the application of the provisions of the present Law, all the range of newspapers, magazines, and publications issued under a single name, and on a regular basis. This is with the exception of such magazines, newspapers, and publications issued by public organizations, scientific facilities, and cooperative organizations.

Article (115)

Without jeopardizing any other stricter form of penalties or sanctions, journalists who act in conflict with the provisions of Articles (65) and (103) shall become subject to a prison sentence for a term that may not exceed one year and/ or a penalty rate of no more than 300 Egyptian pounds.

The revenue collections generated from such penalties and fines shall be transferred and deposited into the Pension Retirement and Subsidy Fund, at the Journalist Syndicate.

Article (116)

The provisions established under the Special Law on Public Meetings shall not hereby extend to the meetings organized by the Syndicate members, which shall discuss and investigate the Syndicate-related goals and objectives as identified herein.

Article (117)

All the funds and property owned by the Journalist Syndicate, according to the provisions established under Law (185) of 1955, shall be transferred to the Journalist Syndicate established pursuant to the provisions of the present Law.

Article (118)

The Syndicate Roster shall include all journalists, whose names are registered in the Master Roster and sub-rosters, upon the issuance of the present Law, and who are licensed to perform the professional duties and responsibilities, in the field of press and journalism, by the Arab Socialist Union.

Article (119)

The current Board of the Journalist Syndicate shall hereby continue to exercise all the terms of reference identified under the present Law, on an interim basis, pending the establishment of the new Journalist Syndicate, pursuant to the provisions of the present Law, for a period that may not exceed nine (9) months, as of the date of the promulgation thereof.

Article (120)

The current internal statutes of the Syndicate shall hereby continue to apply, notwithstanding the provisions of the present Law, and pending the preparation of the new internal statutes, pursuant to the provisions of the new Law.

Article (121)

Law No (185) of 1955 shall hereby be repealed, with the organization of the Journalist Syndicate, so shall all legal texts that may conflict with the provisions of the present Law.

Article (122)

The present Law shall hereby be published in the official Gazette, and shall hereby take effect as of the date of the promulgation thereof.

The present Law shall hereby be stamped by the State Seal, and shall be fully enforced.

Issued at the Presidency on September 10th, 1970.

President Gamal Abdel Nassr