

# CASE STUDY



The Freedom  
to Write

## ONLINE HARASSMENT FIELD MANUAL

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### A GUIDE CONTAINING STRATEGIES AND RESOURCES TO KEEP USING YOUR VOICE, ON – AND OFFLINE



Region: Middle East and  
North Africa

#### PROBLEM ADDRESSED

A notable form of online gender-based violence is abuse targeted at women in the public eye. This often manifests as death threats, doxing, impersonation, and coordinated trolling attacks that have the effect of silencing women's voices in global society.

#### STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

- PEN America
- National Democratic Institute

#### APPROACH

In order to protect freedom of expression and particularly the voices of women and marginalised groups in media and activism, PEN America and the National Democratic Institute have developed a guide to provide those affected with strategies and resources to continue having an online presence. This has been recently translated into Arabic to support Arabic-speaking communities for the first time in this way.

[The manual](#) contains advice for those being targeted, but also for allies, witnesses, and employers. The advice given includes ways to prepare for online abuse, how to respond, what legal considerations there are, and what support can be offered to help.

#### IMPACT

This tool is now available in five languages, Arabic being the most recently added. While online abuse is a global threat, those living in the MENA region face unique challenges that require unique response strategies. Having accessible and contextualised tools, based on lived experience, will enable Arabic-speaking journalists and activists to more safely use their voices online.