

# LEBANESE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR



A Report by



THE SAMIR KASSIR FOUNDATION

In Cooperation with

**MIDDLE EAST**  
Strategic Perspectives



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Strategic Perspectives

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## Executive Summary

Oil and gas resources have the potential to transform Lebanon's economy. Neighboring countries – namely Cyprus and Israel – have made significant natural gas discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean, and Lebanese officials believe there are more discoveries to be made beneath Lebanon's waters. The country is in the early stages of building an oil and gas sector but still has not drilled any exploration wells. Lack of drilling means that it is very difficult to estimate how much oil and gas the country may have, but data collected so far prompted the Minister of Energy and Water at the time to declare in October 2013 that “the current estimate, under a probability of 50 percent, for almost 45 percent of our waters, has reached 95.9 trillion cubic feet of gas and 865 million barrels of oil.” While it is impossible to verify such an estimate until wells are drilled, that 52 international oil companies applied for rights to explore in Lebanon's Exclusive Economic Zone suggests many believe the country has a high potential of having oil and gas resources.

In May 2013, Lebanon launched its first offshore oil and gas licensing round. The government initially wanted exploration and production sharing contracts to be signed with international oil and gas companies in early 2014, but the process has been delayed due to the prevailing political deadlock.

Lebanon's potential oil and/or gas resources have become a larger part of the national conversation since the adoption of a law in 2010 allowing for offshore drilling and the subsequent establishment of the Lebanon Petroleum Administration. The oil and gas sector is very complex, and the technical experts most familiar with it often use terminology that is difficult for the general public to understand. In early 2014, the SKeyes Center for Media and Cultural Freedom spent several weeks monitoring the Lebanese media coverage of the country's

nascent oil and gas sector. SKeyes scrutinized six television channels, five newspapers, two news websites and one magazine. The goal of monitoring was to have an idea of what topics related to oil and gas Lebanese media was (or was not) covering, how often the sector was covered and how accurate the coverage was.

The media plays a very important role in both explaining complex issues to the public and in monitoring the government's handling of the energy sector. The oil and gas industry has a shady reputation. Rightly or wrongly, many citizens assume that international oil companies pay bribes to government officials and prioritize profit over protecting the environment and respecting local communities. In countries with poor transparency track records and high levels of corruption, revenues from oil and gas sales are often mismanaged. Lebanon, which lacks an access to information law, scores poorly on international measures of transparency and, according to a state-produced report from 2011, has a bureaucracy infused with corruption. It is therefore imperative for the Lebanese media to fully understand and accurately report on the oil and gas sector.

The results of SKeyes' monitoring show there is room for the Lebanese media to improve their coverage of the sector. A vast majority of coverage focused on politics with very little attention paid to the environmental impact the sector will have and the role of civil society in also monitoring the sector. Many of the articles and television reports monitored included factual errors and terminology was often misused. Further, SKeyes noticed that journalists sometimes quote sources that give inaccurate information or misquote sources, thus presenting misleading information. Finally, Lebanese journalists paid

very little attention to oil and gas developments in neighboring countries, such as Cyprus and Israel, even though developments in those countries could have an impact on Lebanon. If the media do not understand and accurately report on this sector, average citizens will be lost in trying to grasp this very complex subject. Therefore, SKeyes recommends that Lebanese journalists and editors do the following:

- Fact-check all information before publication;
- Seek out high-quality, reliable sources to interview;
- Report on a wider variety of topics;
- Report on developments in neighboring countries;
- Understand and train staff on oil and gas terminology in order to use it properly;
- Use slow news periods to do more in-depth, investigative reporting; and
- Research how other countries have built their oil and gas sectors to better contextualize developments in Lebanon.

# Introduction

As Lebanon moves closer to exploring for offshore oil and gas resources, the media, the general public and the political class have been struggling to find answers to critical questions. How much energy resources does Lebanon actually have? Will the energy sector exacerbate regional conflicts? How transparent will the process of exploring energy resources be? How to use oil and gas revenues?

At best, available answers have often lacked accuracy and clarity. The various stakeholders, with the exception of a limited number of technical experts, do not have the much needed scientific knowledge to understand the various intricacies of the sector, and if they did, they can rarely communicate their message simply to the general public. Also, given Lebanon's poor record in terms of transparency, there are growing fears among the Lebanese public that political leaders will seek unlawful ways to reap benefits through the various phases of exploring and extracting Lebanon's national resources.

Accountability and good governance require a well-informed citizenry, skilled civil society watchdogs, facilitated access to information, and efficient communication channels.

Within this context, the SKeyes Center for Media and Cultural Freedom (hereunder referred to as SKeyes), with the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, developed a multi-layered project to strengthen the capacity of Lebanese media outlets to report on and oversee public management of Lebanon's energy sector. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to a sustainable, socially and environmentally responsible management of Lebanon's energy

resources through mechanisms of public engagement and participatory policy making. More specifically, this project aims to help the media cover the energy sector independently and professionally, and give Lebanese citizens accurate information to better advocate for their rights.

The media plays a fundamental role in spreading knowledge about, raising awareness of and highlighting potential flaws in the management of the oil and gas sector. To this end, journalists need to understand the sector's technicalities as well as the economic and political implications of management decisions. Moreover, they need to help the general public make sense of the numbers and the technical details in an accurate, impartial, transparent and independent way.

With the right communication channels, through civil society organizations (CSOs) and the media, but also through dedicated online and offline information sharing mechanisms, the Lebanese public will be able to develop a clearer understanding of the risks and opportunities resulting from the exploitation of the country's energy resources. As a result, the public is better equipped to make more informed decisions based on priorities and aspirations, demand high levels of transparency, and hold to account the public officials who run the sector.

To conduct this project, SKeyes partnered with Middle East Strategic Perspectives (MESP), a Beirut-based consultancy focusing on strategic sectors in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), including defense, security, energy, transportation, aviation and telecommunications.



MESP brings in its acclaimed experience in reporting on the oil and gas sector, publishing regular updates and analysis on its website and a widely read bi-weekly bulletin<sup>(1)</sup>.

This report summarizes the findings of a thorough monitoring of articles and stories on issues related to the energy sector from February 1 to April 15, 2014 by six Lebanese television channels, five daily newspapers, two news websites and one business magazine. It identifies the areas of improvement and proposes specific recommendations that can help media outlets improve the quality and widen the scope of their coverage of the energy sector.

The results of the monitoring will serve as a basis to design a customized training program for journalists and media outlets. To this end, SKeyes is also partnering with the Global Center for Journalism and Democracy (GCJD)<sup>(2)</sup>, an innovative media training organization hosted at Sam Houston State University in Texas. GCJD, thanks to its proximity to the Texas oil fields and industry headquarters, is one of the best positioned institutions to line up high level international trainers and industry experts. Since 2012, and in cooperation with SKeyes, GCJD has also conducted several training workshops for journalists Lebanon and therefore has an accurate knowledge of the Lebanese media landscape, its needs and potential.

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1. <http://www.mestrategicperspectives.com/category/oilgasupdates/>  
2. <http://www.shsu.edu/global-journalism/>

# Background

## Media Landscape

In general, the Lebanese media sector is not transparent in that television stations and newspapers do not publish who their investors or benefactors are. Most are either associated with or linked in some way to major politicians or political parties.

### *Television*

In 1994, the Lebanese Parliament adopted a new audiovisual broadcasting law in an attempt to restructure the completely unregulated post-civil war media landscape. The implementation of the Audiovisual Law of 1994 established eight broadcast television stations in Lebanon, forcing dozens of others to close. This development reflected the emergence of a few powerful local and regional media tycoons, despite the fact that the same law stipulated that no individual or family is allowed to own more than a ten percent share in a television company.

**Télé Liban** is Lebanon's state-owned TV channel and was founded in 1959 by General Sleiman Nawfal. The station's current chief executive officer (CEO) is Talal Makdessi, and Nada El-Hout is its business news anchor. Télé Liban is not politically affiliated.

The **Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International** (LBCI) was founded in 1985 by the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, which is today a political party. The station's current CEO is Pierre El-Daher, and Lea Fayad is its economy news producer. El-Daher and the LF are in a legal dispute over LBCI's ownership. LBCI is not politically affiliated.

**Murr Television** (MTV) was founded in 1991 by businessman Gabriel Murr. The station's current CEO is his son, Michel Murr, and Jessy Trad is its head business anchor. MTV favors the March 14 coalition.

**Al-Manar** was founded by Hezbollah in 1991. The station's current general director is Ibrahim Farhat and does not have a dedicated economic editor. Al-Manar favors the March 8 coalition.

**Future TV** was founded by then-Prime Minister and founder of the Future Movement Rafik Hariri in 1993. The station's current general manager is Ramzi Jubayli, and Roland Barbar is the head of economic news. Future TV favors March 14.

The **National Broadcasting Network** (NBN) was founded in 1996 by the Speaker of Parliament and leader of the Amal Movement Nabih Berri. The station's current CEO is Kassem Soueid, and does not have a dedicated economic editor. NBN favors March 8.

**Al-Jadeed** (New TV) was founded in the early 1990s by the Lebanese Communist Party. It was closed in 1994 and re-launched in 2001 by businessman Tahsin Khayyat, who remains the station's CEO. Al-Jadeed does not have a dedicated economic editor. Ghada Eid is the host of the station's weekly show tackling corruption issues in the business sector and the public administration. Al-Jadeed favors March 8.

**Orange TV** (OTV) was founded in 2007 by General Michel Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement. Aoun's son-in-law Roy Hachem is the station's CEO. Joelle Bou Younes is the channel's financial news producer. OTV favors March 8.

## Newspapers

Similar to television stations, Lebanon's print news media are governed by a law (the Publications Law of 1962) that restricts their number, concentrating power in the hands of a few and shielding license-holders from new competition.

**Annahar** (The Day) was founded by Gebran Tuéni in 1933. The paper's current CEO is Beirut Member of Parliament Nayla Tuéni. Its editor-in-chief is Ghassan Hajjar, and Maurice Matta is the business page editor. Annahar favors March 14.

**Assafir** (The Ambassador) was founded in 1974 by Talal Salman, who remains the paper's CEO and editor-in-chief. Adnan al-Hajj is the paper's economy page editor. Assafir favors March 8.

**Al-Mustaqbal** (The Future) was founded by Rafik Hariri in 1995. The paper's current editor-in-chief is Hani Hammoud and Hala Saghbini is the economy page editor. Al-Mustaqbal favors March 14.

**Al-Akhbar** (The News) was founded by Joseph Samaha in 2006. The paper's current editor-in-chief is Ibrahim al-Amin, and Mohammad Zbeeb is the economy page editor. Al-Akhbar favors March 8.

**Al-Liwaa** (The Flag) was founded in 1963 by Abdel Ghani Salam. The paper's current editor-in-chief is Salah Salam, and Azza Al-Hajj Hassan is the economy page editor. Al-Liwaa favors March 14.

**Addiyar** (The Home) was founded in 1941. The paper's current editor-in-chief is Charles Ayoub, and Joseph Farah is the economy page editor. Addiyar favors March 8.

**Al-Joumhouria** (The Republic) was founded in 1924. It ceased publication for several decades and reappeared on the market in 2011. The paper's current owner is former Deputy Prime Minister Elias Murr. Its editor-in-chief is George Soulaï, and Antoine Farah is the economy page editor. Al-Joumhouria favors March 14.

**The Daily Star** is Lebanon's English-language daily newspaper founded in 1952 by Kamel Mrowa. The paper's current editor-in-chief is Nadim Ladki, and Osama Habib is the economy page editor. The Daily Star favors March 14.

**L'Orient-Le Jour** (The Orient - The Day) is Lebanon's French-language daily newspaper founded in 1971 as a result of the merger between L'Orient (founded in 1924 by Gabriel Khabbaz and George Naccache) and Le Jour (founded in 1934 by Michel Chiha). The paper's CEO is former Minister Michel Eddé, the current manager is Nayla de Freige, the editor-in-chief is Nagib Aoun, and Rana Andraos is the economy page editor. L'Orient-Le Jour favors March 14.

## Governance in Lebanon

According to its constitution, Lebanon is a parliamentary democracy. Executive power is vested in the Council of Ministers, which, along with members of parliament, can propose new legislation. Regardless of where a bill originates, all draft legislation must be approved by the parliament before becoming law.

The country's various legal codes are robust, and within the public administration there are regulatory bodies and monitoring agencies. However, laws are often selectively enforced or not enforced at all, and monitoring and accountability in the public sector is lax. A 2011 national strategy for public administration reform<sup>(3)</sup> – which has not yet been implemented – produced by the Office of

3. To read the full report, see here: [http://www.omsar.gov.lb/SiteCollectionDocuments/www.omsar.gov.lb/PDF%20Files/ICT%20Strategies%20and%20Master%20Plans/strategy%20in\\_english.pdf](http://www.omsar.gov.lb/SiteCollectionDocuments/www.omsar.gov.lb/PDF%20Files/ICT%20Strategies%20and%20Master%20Plans/strategy%20in_english.pdf)

the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR) found that in Lebanon, for “more than forty years, ministries and public institutions were established in the absence of a scientific plan for a general administrative structure.”

This lack of coherent planning “has led to the conflict of roles and duties [among public sector institutions] and thus to a weakness in policy making as well as in setting and implementing plans, it also resulted in the deterioration or absence of efficient monitoring and accountability in the public sector as a whole,” OMSAR found.

Critiquing Lebanon’s public administration, the report noted: “There is no clear governance example at public administrations which guarantees good management and excellent organizational performance.”

Reporting on the state of reforming and developing public administration in Lebanon in general, OMSAR found “there is no serious and effective political commitment to administrative development, and at many times there is no response or tardiness in passing development projects in general.”

Lebanon’s public administration is also highly centralized and most of the nation’s municipalities are underfunded, further hindering their ability to plan and implement policy based on the limited powers they have to do so, according to the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS)<sup>(4)</sup>.

According to the most recent Worldwide Governance Indicators compiled by the World

Bank Institute, Lebanon ranked just below the 30th percentile in terms of rule of law in 2012<sup>(5)</sup>. The country also ranked just below the 50th percentile in terms of regulatory quality.

In assessing Lebanon’s place globally in terms of competitiveness in 2013, the World Economic Forum (WEF) ranked Lebanon 91st out of 144<sup>(6)</sup>. The WEF’s report on the Arab World noted of Lebanon: “[i]nstitutions suffer from corruption (135th), inefficient government agencies (129th) and a judiciary that does not meet the needs of business (114th) and is subject to influence by others (131st).”

When it comes to doing business in Lebanon, the World Bank ranked the country 111th out of 189 in terms of ease of doing business<sup>(7)</sup>. The Bank found that, for several of the indicators used to assess the country overall, Lebanon has not made any progress since 2005. For example, in dealing with construction permits, registering property, protecting investors, enforcing contracts and getting electricity, the Bank found the country has not improved in eight years.

Doing business in Lebanon also often involves bribery, according to a 2013 survey by the Lebanese Transparency Association<sup>(8)</sup>. The poll found that 61 percent of business owners surveyed admitted to paying government officials bribes and 25 percent said they blackmailed officials to receive services that should be offered for free.

In the past, government institutions in Lebanon have been found to improperly award contracts for public works and development projects. A

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4. To read the full report, see here: <http://www.moim.gov.lb/Download.aspx?idf=80>

5. To download the full report, visit the World Bank Institute’s website here: <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#countryReports>

6. To read the full report, see here: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_AWCR\\_Report\\_2013.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_AWCR_Report_2013.pdf)

7. To read the full report, see here: [http://www.doingbusiness.org/reports/~/\\_media/GIAWB/Doing%20Business/Documents/Profiles/Country/LBN.pdf](http://www.doingbusiness.org/reports/~/_media/GIAWB/Doing%20Business/Documents/Profiles/Country/LBN.pdf)

8. To read more, see here: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/Business/Lebanon/2013/Jun-28/221825-survey-shows-lebanese-corruption-at-all-time-high-ashx#axzz30S8d3uHa>

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2000 study<sup>(9)</sup> by the United Nations (UN) focusing on corruption in Lebanon found that only 2.4 percent of \$6 billion worth of projects contracted by various state institutions were awarded in line with the law via the Administration of Tenders.

SKeyes could not find more recent data on this topic, but reports of public contract mismanagement surfaced in 2012<sup>(10)</sup>. The 2011 OMSAR report on reforming public administration also noted the need to “[develop legislation,] regulations and means of work according to the best standards and practices [related to, among other things] managing public contracts and reinforcing the Court of Audit post control.” The Court of Audit is tasked with overseeing public contracting. The report did not explain why contracting needs an overhaul.

Lebanon also lacks an access to information law, making it difficult for citizens, civil society organizations and journalists to hold state institutions accountable, the OMSAR report found.

With promising offshore seismic survey results and state efforts to begin hydrocarbon exploration, Canada’s Fraser Institute in 2012 and 2013 included Lebanon in an index that ranks jurisdictions based on how attractive they are as investment opportunities to high-ranking officials in oil and gas companies around the world.

In the most recent Fraser Institute report on the index<sup>(11)</sup>, Lebanon ranked 88th out of 157 jurisdictions in 2013 and 71st out of 147 in 2012. Despite this, 52 international oil and gas companies applied to pre-qualify as either operators or non-operators in Lebanon’s first licensing round. Of those, 46 qualified.

## A Hydrocarbons History

Lebanon’s history with oil and gas dates back far beyond the recent round of bids: the country was exploring onshore sites as far back as the 1940s.

Oil exploration initially focused on the eastern Bekaa region. A first well was drilled by Iraq Petroleum Company in 1947 in Terbol, followed by another in Yuhmor in 1953. More wells were drilled in the 1960s, but exploration licenses were canceled by the government as a 15-year civil war broke out in 1975.

Following the cessation of hostilities in 1990, Lebanon resumed its efforts. In 1993, 490 km of two-dimensional seismic surveys were acquired by British company GecoPrakla in an offshore area of northern Lebanon.

In the early part of the 2000s, Lebanon’s offshore received even more attention following the discovery of Noa and Mary-B, two small gas fields offshore Israel in 1999 and 2000, and the Gaza Marine gas field off the coast of Gaza in 2000. In 2002, the Lebanese government agreed a contract with Spectrum to carry out offshore seismic surveys. This was followed by a contract with Petroleum Geo-Services (PGS), a Norwegian surveyor, in 2006. By 2013, over 70 percent of Lebanon’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) was covered by three-dimensional seismic surveys.

In 2009, the Lebanese commission tasked with defining the coordinates of Lebanon’s EEZ completed its work. The coordinates were approved by the Council of Ministers in May of that year. Charts and geographical coordinates

9. To read more, see here: [http://www.meforum.org/meib/articles/0102\\_12.htm](http://www.meforum.org/meib/articles/0102_12.htm)

10. To read more, see here: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/Business/Lebanon/2012/Nov-20/195575-bassil-suspends-power-plant-deal.ashx> and here: [https://now.mmedia.me/lb/en/reportsfeatures/electricity\\_grid\\_to\\_get\\_smarter](https://now.mmedia.me/lb/en/reportsfeatures/electricity_grid_to_get_smarter)

11. To read the report, see here: <http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/global-petroleum-survey-2013.pdf>

12. Former Minister of Energy and Water Gebran Bassil, Official Launch of Lebanon’s First Licensing Round, April 30, 2013.



defining the EEZ were submitted to the United Nations between 2010 and 2011<sup>(13)</sup>.

However, in 2007, before having defined the boundaries of its EEZ, Lebanon finalized an agreement with Cyprus demarcating the maritime border between the two countries, using Point 1 as the southern limit of Lebanon's EEZ. When the Lebanese commission completed its work in 2009, it defined Point 23 – 17 km further south – as its southernmost limit, and not Point 1.

Meanwhile, Cyprus and Israel signed an agreement in December 2010, using Point 1 as the northern limit of Israel's EEZ, ignoring the geographical coordinates that Lebanon had submitted to the UN in July and October 2010. This created a disputed area claimed by both Lebanon and Israel of approximately 870

square km. The agreement with Cyprus was not ratified by the Lebanese Parliament and never went into effect.

In 2010, the parliament passed the Offshore Petroleum Resources Law – the primary text governing the sector. The law is supported by a number of application decrees that were subsequently adopted by the Council of Ministers and which provide more detailed regulations for the licensing process and other rules stipulated in the law.

Among the key stipulations is the creation of a petroleum administration, a regulatory body enjoying financial and administrative autonomy but subject to the supervision of the Ministry of Energy and Water. Its six-member board was formed in November 2012.

13. Lebanon – Originals of deposited geographical coordinates of points - <http://www.un.org/depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/LBN.htm>, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.



Broadly speaking, the Council of Ministers sets forth the state's general petroleum policy: The Ministry of Energy and Water is responsible for implementing it, while the Lebanon Petroleum Administration (LPA) is in charge of administering the sector.

In March 2013, the Energy Minister announced the names of 52 companies that sought to pre-qualify for the first licensing round, including some of the biggest names in the industry. In April 2013, 46 of them successfully pre-qualified to bid<sup>(14)</sup>. The tender was officially launched in May 2013, but the collapse of Najib Mikati's government in March 2013 – before the approval of two crucial decrees<sup>(15)</sup> – put the bid process on hold. The deadline to submit bids has since been repeatedly postponed.

The formation of a new government headed by Prime Minister Tammam Salam in February 2014, nearly 11 months after Najib Mikati's resignation, brought hope that the process would be put back on track. Yet the ongoing presidential vacancy – with President Michel Sleiman's term ending in May 2014 without a successor – has once again driven the country's politics to a standstill.

## Governance in the Sector

Lebanon's Offshore Petroleum Resources Law<sup>(16)</sup> says that “the state has the exclusive right to petroleum resources and their management.” The law grants the Council of Ministers power to “[set] forth the state's general petroleum policy, particularly that related to the management of its petroleum resources and settles differences between concerned stakeholders. It shall authorize the Minister [of Energy and Water] to

sign on its behalf the exploration and production agreements subject to this law.”

Moreover, the law states: “conditions for the invitation to participate in license rounds, terms of reference and conditions of the model exploration and production agreement and agreements between companies relevant to their pre-qualification as applicants, shall be stipulated by a Council of Ministers decree made on the basis of a proposal by the Minister based upon the opinion of the petroleum administration.”

As is clear from the law, the Council of Ministers is the most powerful body in terms of governing the emerging oil and gas sector. However, the Minister of Energy is granted, “in cases of emergency,” the power to “ensure the implementation of the petroleum policy and implement this law.” The legislation further stipulates that the Minister “shall endeavor to enhance the state petroleum capabilities, be responsible for monitoring and supervising petroleum activities, and take necessary measures to protect water, health, property and [the] environment from pollution.”

The law stipulates that the Petroleum Administration (PA) “shall enjoy financial and administrative autonomy with the Minister [of Energy] exercising tutelage authority.” As for holding the PA accountable, the law notes “it shall neither be governed by the provisions of decree 4517 nor be subject to the Council of Civil Service, and shall be subject only to a posteriori audit of the Court of Audit.”

The law enumerates eight powers granted to the PA, half of which consist of advising the

14. Petroleum Administration, Pre-qualification Results Presentation - <http://lpa.gov.lb/pdf/Pre-Qualification%20Results%20Presentation.pdf>, April 18, 2013.

15. One deals with the demarcation of the ten offshore exploration blocks, while the other approves the terms of the model exploration and the production sharing agreement.

16. To read an unofficial translation to English, see here: <http://lpa.gov.lb/pdf/OPRL%20-%20English.pdf>

Minister of Energy. Powers it exercises entirely on its own are: “conducting studies to promote the Lebanese petroleum potential,” “evaluation of plans for development, transportation and cessation of petroleum activities and decommissioning of facilities,” “management

of petroleum activities data,” and “keeping and managing the petroleum register,” a catalogue of rights in the sector. It is clear from the law that the PA is largely an advisory body while the Minister of Energy and government hold true power to manage the sector.



# Media Monitoring Study

## Methodology

As part of this project, SKeyes and Middle East Strategic Perspectives monitored media coverage of the Lebanese oil and gas sector. It was decided early on that coverage of the petroleum sectors in Cyprus and Israel would also be included in the analysis. The monitoring period extended from February 1 to April 15, 2014. Six TV channels, five daily newspapers, two news websites and one magazine were subjected to an in-depth qualitative and quantitative monitoring.

The country's leading French-language business magazine, *Le Commerce du Levant*, was not included in the monitoring due to the fact that its "oil and gas" section is managed by MESP.

The monitoring – conducted on a daily basis by MESP – focused in particular on the:

- Frequency of reporting on the topic over the monitored time period;
- Accuracy of information;
- Reliability of sources;
- Topics covered; and
- Quality of investigations.

MESP proceeded differently depending on whether the media outlet covered was a newspaper, a print publication or a TV channel.

## *Newspapers and Magazines*

MESP conducted monitoring by covering newspapers' "Local News" and "Economy" sections. The latter usually includes both local and regional business news. When applicable, MESP also covered the "Environment" section (Assafir; The Daily Star) and the "Youth" section (L'Orient-Le Jour; Annahar) for articles tackling either environmental challenges posed by petroleum activity, or new oil- and gas-related degrees offered by Lebanese universities. MESP also covered the "Israel" section (Assafir; Al-Akhbar) for articles related to the oil and gas sector in Israel. In addition, MESP covered editorials, op-eds and commentaries.

## *News Websites*

For news websites, MESP focused on content produced in-house. As it is primarily a content aggregator, El-Nashra's staff does not produce most of its material. Because its articles are mostly from other sources, El-Nashra's news updates were omitted. But El-Nashra also generates its own articles and analysis that were included in the coverage. As for NOW English, MESP covered the "NOW News" section focusing on Lebanon, in addition to the "Blog" (where most of its oil and gas contributions are published) and the "Reports" section.

TV Channels	Newspapers	News Websites	Magazines
LBCI	Annahar	NOW English	Executive Magazine
MTV	Assafir	El-Nashra	
Al-Jadeed	Al-Akhbar		
OTV	The Daily Star		
Future TV	L'Orient-Le Jour		
Al-Manar			

### **TV Channels**

For TV channels, MESP monitored the evening news for in-house reports on the oil and gas sector in Lebanon and the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as primetime political talk shows. Most evening news shows start broadcasting between 7:30 and 8:00 pm, making it challenging to follow them simultaneously live. Part of the monitoring was conducted online, relying on videos and news segments uploaded to the channels' websites.

The development of an oil and gas industry usually has vast implications for other sectors and touches on a broad range of issues that are of concern for citizens. Monitoring the variety of topics covered by local media helps measure awareness that average citizens have about the sector.

MESP identified nine topics thought to be the most relevant for media coverage:

- The Tender Process;
- Legislation;
- Politics (which includes news coverage and political debates related to oil and gas);

- Governance & Transparency;
- Environment;
- Civil Society;
- Economics, Finance & Markets;
- Infrastructure; and
- Security & Defense.

Subjects outside these nine were also noted when covered.

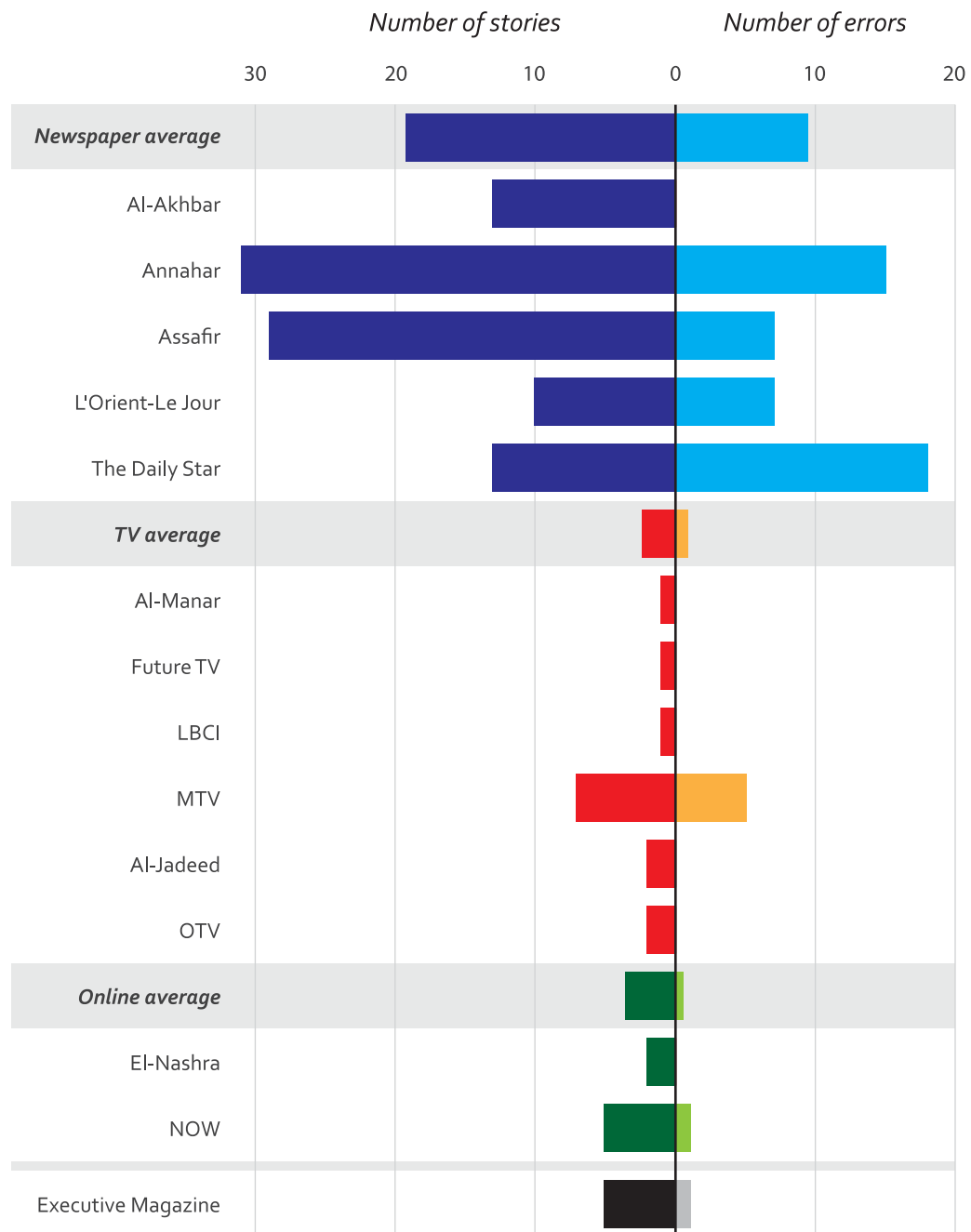
When spotted, factual errors were pointed out and explained. The same mistake repeated in an article was only counted once. It should be noted that only factual mistakes that could be verified objectively were identified. Subjective statements or personal convictions were left out.

### **Results**

A total of 122 stories were evaluated during the monitoring period, including:

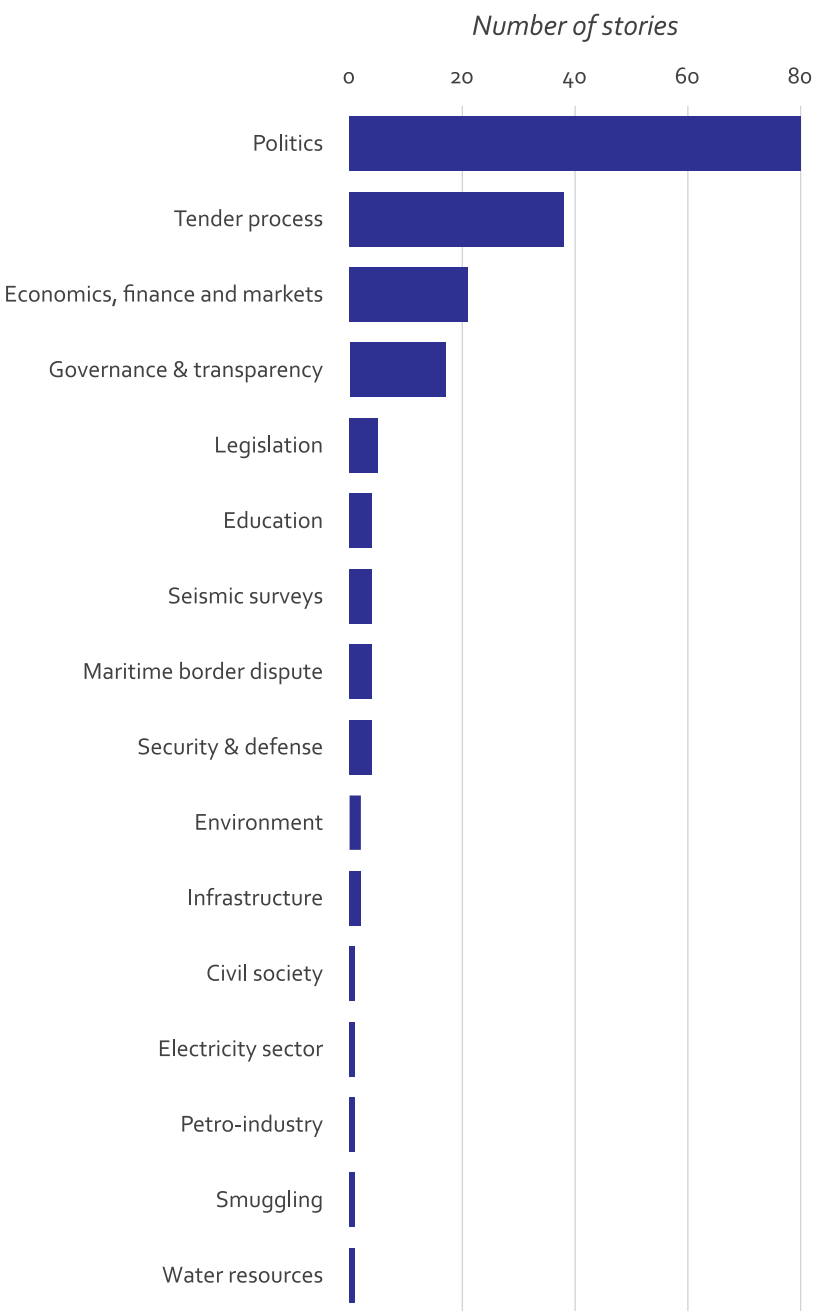
- 96 articles published in newspapers;
- 14 TV reports or programs;
- 7 articles published on news websites; and
- 5 magazine articles.

Newspapers made 47 errors; TVs 5; and online websites and magazines one factual mistake each.

**Figure 1. Number of stories & errors by outlet**

Of the 122 stories monitored, 80 discussed politics. (Since articles can cover several topics, Figure 2's numbers do not sum to 122.) Other well-covered topics included the tender process, economics and governance.

**Figure 2. Number of stories by category**

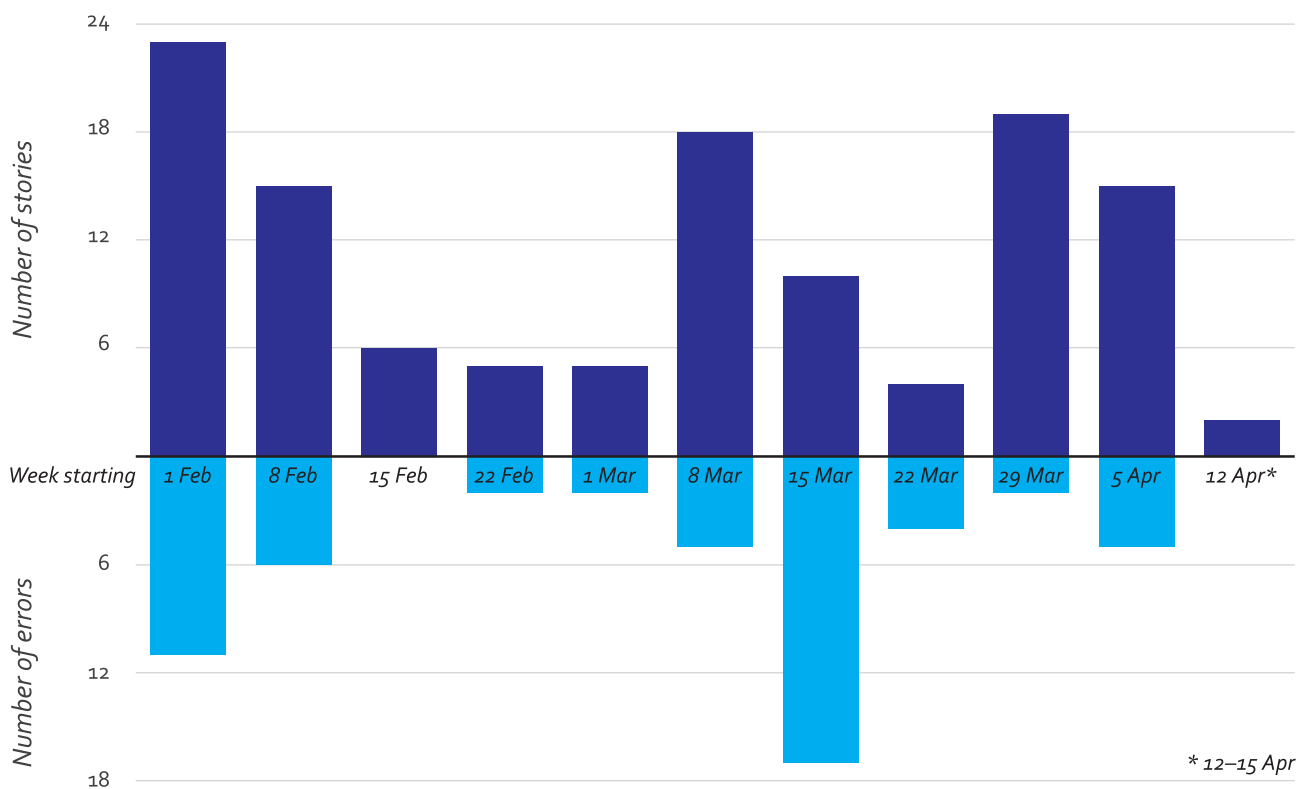


Three main news developments happened during the monitoring period:

1. The formation of a new cabinet headed by Tammam Salam on February 15.
2. The formation of a ministerial committee on April 2 to study two decrees that are essential to close the first licensing round. Much debate has surrounded the government's pending approval of the decrees.
3. The postponement of the first licensing round for the fourth time. Energy Minister Arthur Nazarian announced on April 7 that the new deadline to place bids was extended from April 10 to August 14, 2014.

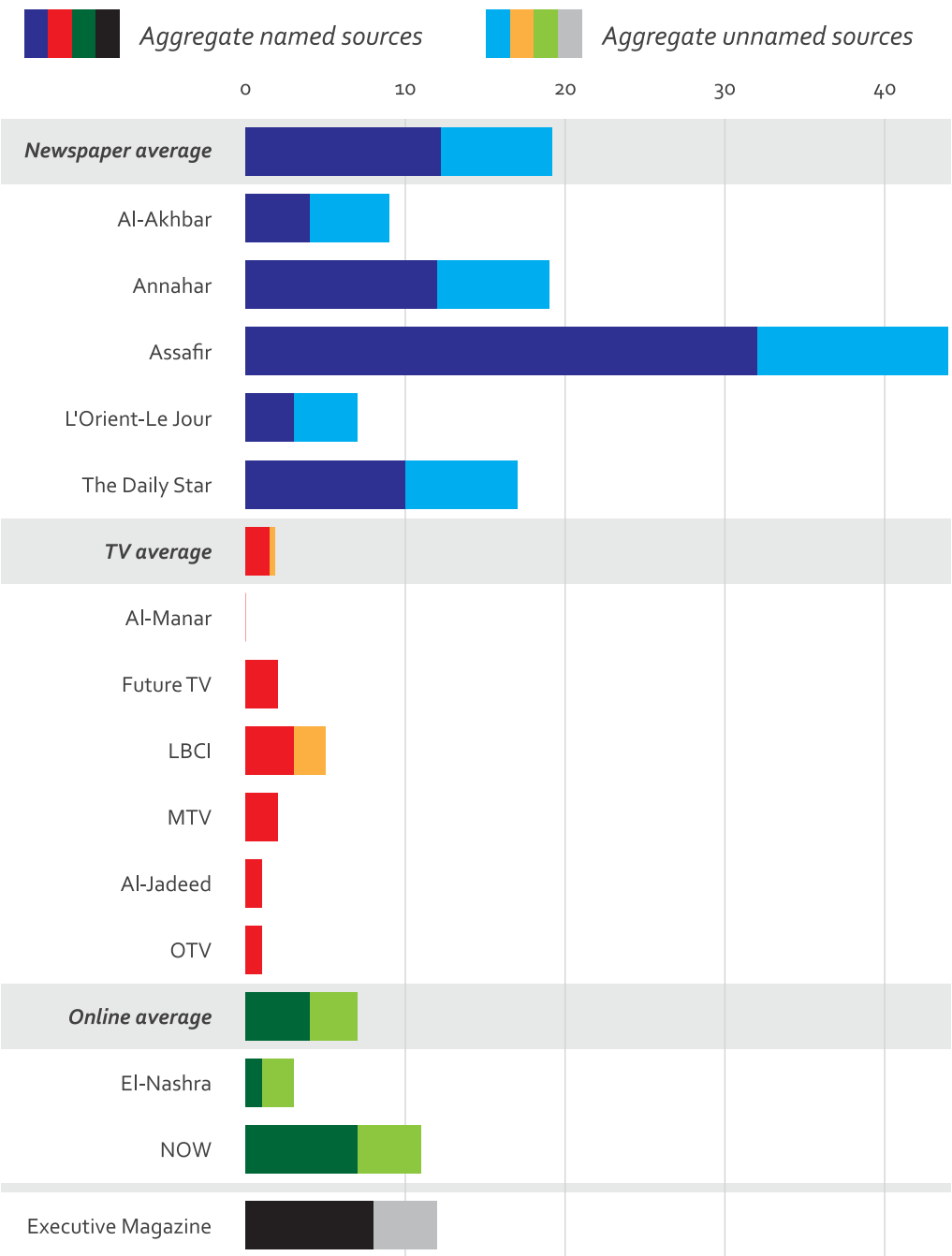
A surge in the number of articles and reports was observed during (or, in the case of government formation, before) each of these events.

**Figure 3. Timeline of stories & errors**



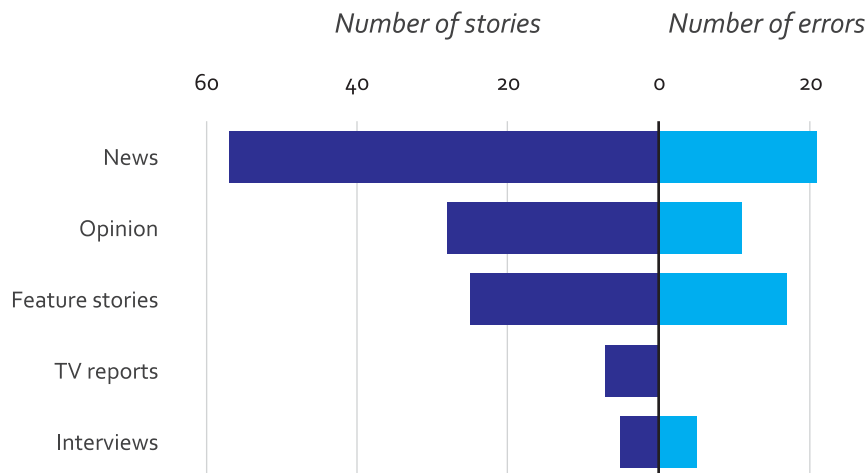
Many outlets used a combination of named and unnamed sources in their reportage. Among media types, TV reports were on average the most poorly sourced.

**Figure 4. Number of sources per outlet**



A plurality of the stories monitored was straight news reports; however, opinion pieces and features were also common.

**Figure 5. Stories and errors by coverage type**



## Analysis

### Coverage

Choosing whom to head the Ministry of Energy and Water was one of the main obstacles Prime Minister Tammam Salam encountered when forming his cabinet. For years, ministerial candidates struggled to avoid the overly complicated ministry and the burdensome work associated with it, including but not limited to Lebanon’s chronic power outages and water scarcity. But, potential offshore resources have turned it into the crown jewel all sides vie for. It is without a doubt one of the main reasons Salam and a number of political parties called for the rotation of ministerial portfolios across sects and parties. This principle was rejected outright by the Free Patriotic Movement, which had one of its own, Gebran Bassil, at the head of the Ministry from 2009. The week that preceded the formation of the Salam cabinet (from February 7 to 14) – a time period filled with speculation about the name of the upcoming Energy Minister – saw the

highest number of pieces on oil and gas during the entire monitoring period. The vast majority of these pieces were political, either covering or commenting on the news.

Throughout the monitoring period, there was a clear preference for news coverage and political analysis. Pieces covering “politics” ranked first (80), representing slightly less than half of the overall coverage (186). Pieces on the first licensing round came in a distant second position (38), followed by pieces on “economics” (21) and “governance” (17), all of which are classic themes when covering oil and gas issues. [Note that an article may cover more than one topic and as such may fall under different categories, which explains why the number of topics covered is higher than the total number of stories collected during the monitoring period]. Security was the fifth most commonly covered topic, highlighting concerns about the ability of the state to secure future offshore installations, whether in the face of terrorism, acts of sabotage or war with Israel. Surprisingly, only four pieces

addressed the maritime border dispute between Lebanon and Israel during the monitoring period. Most of these (3) coincided with the visit of U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Diplomacy Amos Hochstein – who is attempting a mediation between the two countries to settle or contain the tension resulting from the border dispute – to Beirut on March 31-April 1. Articles covering “legislation” (5) highlight the need of the moment, since some aspects of the legislative framework governing the sector have not been completed. Articles on “surveys” (4) cover seismic studies carried out on- and offshore. Over 70 percent of Lebanon’s offshore area has been covered with 3D seismic surveys so far. Spectrum announced on April 10 that it initiated its second phase of 2D surveys onshore in an event attended by new Energy Minister Arthur Nazarian, which helped in providing it media coverage. Very few articles were written on the environment (2), which reflects the media’s lack of preparedness to address these issues and raise awareness, although one could argue it is still early for an actual engagement years ahead of any petroleum activity offshore. NOW is credited for publishing the only piece about local civil society during the monitoring period, shedding light on the growing interest of CSOs in the sector, particularly on transparency and good governance.

The variety of topics covered by each media outlet is a good indicator of the overall quality of its work on the sector. The broader the coverage, the better the media outlet’s contribution to monitoring the sector and raising awareness. Not surprisingly, most media outlets focused on politics. Only a few covered more non-political issues than political issues. MTV, which had a total of seven stories, covered politics four times, and other issues (economics & finance, governance, legislation, security, and the tender process) nine times in its stories. It is worth noting that four of MTV’s stories tackled the economic

aspect of the sector, the highest ratio among all monitored media outlets (including Executive Magazine, the only business magazine included in the monitoring, which published five pieces on oil and gas, but only one covering “economics” – the others focused on governance and the tender process). NOW published three political articles, out of a total of eight, as well as three articles on the tender process; and The Daily Star covered political issues in eight stories, out of a total of 22, and focused on the first licensing round in seven and “economics” in four.

Out of the 16 topics covered throughout the monitoring period, Assafir (12 topics) and Annahar (10 topics) had, by far, the most varied coverage, although most of their coverage focused on politics (Annahar: 20 articles out of 31; Assafir: 20 out of 29). The two leading newspapers were the only media outlets to publish pieces covering how universities in Lebanon are preparing for the sector (two articles each, covering the signing of a memorandum of understanding [MoU] between the Ministry of Energy and Water and the American University of Beirut and a new Petroleum Geology major offered by the Lebanese University). In addition, Annahar was the only media outlet to talk about infrastructure projects related to oil and gas activities (in two articles), and the benefits of potential gas discoveries for the electricity sector (in one article). Annahar was also the only outlet to publish an article explaining the major components of a petroleum industry (upstream, midstream and downstream). Assafir published the only two articles on environmental issues, and the only article tackling the smuggling of petroleum products by Syrian insurgents into Turkey.

**Eastern Mediterranean:** Lebanese media showed limited interest in neighboring countries’ oil and gas sectors. Aside from stories focusing on the maritime border dispute between Lebanon



and Israel – which cannot be considered as coverage of the Israeli sector per se – only five stories were produced on the petroleum sector in neighboring countries. Two brief news reports by MTV (one on Leviathan’s export strategy and another on Russian interest in exploring for oil and gas in Syria); one TV report by LBCI investigating the possibility Israel might be stealing Palestinian gas (which did not provide any background information on the issue and relied on two unnamed and unidentified sources); and two articles by Assafir (one covering smuggling activities in Syria, and another on the signing of an MoU between Australia’s Woodside Petroleum and the Leviathan partners for acquisition of a 25 percent stake). It should be noted that Assafir’s Woodside piece, signed by Helmi Moussa, was almost entirely based on an article published by Israeli business magazine *Globes*, without acknowledging the source.

Lebanese media failed to cover news that could be important for the Lebanese authorities and the public. Most notably, local media ignored negotiations over the potential sale of two Israeli gas fields near the Lebanese-Israeli border, Tannin and Karish. One of the frontrunners is Italian company Edison International, which is among the 46 companies that pre-qualified for Lebanon’s first licensing round. Also not covered: the \$500 million gas export contract signed in February between the partners that are exploiting the Israeli offshore field Tamar and two Jordanian companies, Arab Potash and Jordan Bromine. During the two and a half months of monitoring, not a single story was published on the Cypriot gas sector.

### **Errors**

The average error per story during the monitoring period is 0.44, which indicates there is room for improvement. A closer look reveals major differences among the 14 media outlets included

in the monitoring. The limited number of reports and programs on the sector by TV channels (with the exception of MTV with its seven stories) does not allow us to draw robust conclusions. Media outlets with less than five stories will not be included in this analysis (i.e. all TV channels except MTV, and El-Nashra news website). Therefore, SKF and MESP focused the analysis on eight media outlets: Al-Akhbar, Annahar, Assafir, Executive Magazine, L’Orient-Le Jour, MTV, NOW and The Daily Star. Four among them registered an average error per story below the overall average of 0.44: Al-Akhbar had a clean record with zero mistakes; Executive Magazine and NOW had an average of 0.2 errors per article; and Assafir had 0.24. Three registered an average error per story higher than the overall average: Annahar with 0.48, L’Orient-Le Jour with 0.7, followed by MTV with 0.71 and The Daily Star with 1.38.

However, we should note that the average number of errors per article for each outlet is also influenced by the number of stories each outlet produced. Newspapers like Annahar and Assafir produced four to six times more pieces than NOW, Executive Magazine, or MTV.

Many of the mistakes repeated by journalists throughout the monitoring period are related to terminology. Stories often refer to “discoveries” and “reserves” in Lebanon, while the country is years away from any potential discovery confirming the existence of reserves in commercial quantities. Lebanon did not make a single discovery yet, and as a result one cannot, at this stage, talk about reserves. It would be more accurate to use “prospective resources” instead.

Words like “oil” or “petrol” are used much more often than “gas,” although studies indicate Lebanon’s offshore resources consist mostly of gas. In several stories, the Ministry of Energy and Water was referred to as the Ministry of Oil.

Another set of mistakes involved estimations. Before exploration wells are drilled, no estimate can be considered accurate. That said, perhaps the most common error during the monitoring period was the statement that Lebanon holds 96 (or 95.9) trillion cubic feet of gas (Annahar, Assafir, L'Orient-Le Jour, MTV and The Daily Star). This number is repeated by journalists, experts and officials. This and other numbers are based on a misunderstood declaration by (now former) Energy Minister Gebran Bassil, who told Reuters in October 2013: "The current estimate, under a probability of 50 percent, for almost 45 percent of our waters has reached 95.9 trillion cubic feet of gas and 865 million barrels of oil." This does not translate into "Lebanon holds 95.9 trillion cubic feet of gas and 865 million barrels of oil," which is how many media outlets reported it. Ignoring such small details conveys false information and will result in a flawed analysis.

Based on these numbers, many have tried to put a value on Lebanon's wealth, including experts, government officials and even one of the country's leading banks. The media then repeated these flawed valuations without scrutiny. A report by Bank Audi claimed Lebanon's wealth could exceed \$600 billion, based on the "96 trillion cubic feet of gas and 865 million barrels of oil" figure, while it is very hard to predict prices years in advance. The report, however, received wide media coverage, and none of the media included in the monitoring questioned the accuracy of the data provided, perhaps because information published by local financial institutions is automatically assumed to be credible. The \$600 billion figure is now believed to be a fact, in the same way the "96 trillion cubic feet of gas and 865 million barrels of oil" figure is thought to reflect an accurate estimation of Lebanon's resources. This led a former minister, Marwan Kheireddine, to claim, during a conference held at the Lebanese University, that Lebanon's gas resources exceed

those of Qatar and proceeds from gas extraction could easily exceed \$600 billion. The economics section of most newspapers reproduced excerpts of the minister's speech the following day, with some even highlighting his claim that Lebanon's gas resources exceed those of Qatar. None sought to verify the claim or the underlying data.

Another common mistake reflects the widely held belief among the Lebanese that Israel is stealing Lebanese gas, despite the fact that then-Energy Minister Gebran Bassil repeatedly said that Israel was not stealing Lebanese gas (yet). The former minister has claimed Israel now has the technical capability to do so.

Finally, it should also be noted that media outlets often get basic information wrong: number of offshore blocks; companies shortlisted for the first licensing round; percentage of offshore area covered with 3D surveys, etc. The fact that such information could be easily acquired or verified (most of it is on the LPA's website) indicates that fact-checking of oil and gas stories is insufficient.

**Eastern Mediterranean:** The limited number of stories on the Eastern Mediterranean does not allow MESP and SKeyes to examine the quality of the coverage. The five stories on the subject did not contain any mistakes. However, in stories about Lebanon that included references to neighboring countries, there were a few inaccuracies that reflect a poor grasp of the subject. These mostly refer to the size of reserves in Cyprus and Israel, the quantity of gas needed to justify the construction of an Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant in Vassilikos, Cyprus, and the preliminary Woodside-Leviathan agreement.

### **Sources**

Interviewing sources, regardless of whether they speak publicly or on condition of anonymity, is

one way to strengthen the quality of the reporting. The number of sources in a story does not ensure good quality, but a very important factor journalists must always consider is the reliability of the source. A number of mistakes in the stories produced during the monitoring period were made not by the authors, but by the source(s) they chose to quote in their stories.

During the ten weeks of monitoring, some media outlets seemed keener on quoting sources than others. Among those that produced five or more stories on oil and gas, English-language publications like Executive Magazine and NOW (with their five stories each) relied more heavily on sources than other news outlets, using, on average, more than two sources per story. Both outlets had, on average, 0.2 errors per story.

Assafir, with its 29 stories, came next with an average exceeding 1.5 sources per story (a total of 44 sources, 32 named and 12 unnamed). In comparison, Annahar, which produced a roughly similar number of stories (31), relied on an average of 0.6 sources per story (a total of 19 sources, 12 named and 7 unnamed). Overall, Assafir had an average of 0.24 errors per story, compared to Annahar's 0.48 errors per story.

Al-Akhbar, with its 13 stories, used an average of 0.69 sources per story (a total of nine sources, four named and five unnamed – one of only two cases where unnamed sources exceeded named sources, the other being L'Orient-Le Jour). Similarly, L'Orient-Le Jour, which produced a comparable number of stories (10), used an average of 0.7 sources per story (a total of seven sources, three named and four unnamed). The Daily Star, which also produced a comparable number of stories (13), relied more on sources, with an average of 1.3 sources per story (a total of 17 sources, 10 named, seven unnamed). However, Al-Akhbar had zero errors in its reporting, while L'Orient-Le Jour had

an average of 0.7 errors per story (a total of 7 errors), and The Daily Star an even higher 1.38 errors per story on average. This could indicate Al-Akhbar is more selective when it comes to choosing sources to back up its stories. The Daily Star in particular has room for improvement in this regard: nine errors, out of a total of 18 made in pieces published by The Daily Star, are directly attributed to sources.

### ***Top Features and In-Depth Reporting***

Four stories, among the 122 collected, deserve to be highlighted for their in-depth reporting:

“معايير ومحاذير لخيار التنقيب عن الغاز والنفط” (The Choice of Oil and Gas Exploration: Criteria and Risks), by Habib Maalouf, published in Assafir on February 11. Assafir is credited with publishing the only article dedicated entirely to the environment. The article is an overview of the discussions and main findings of a roundtable held by the Ministry of Environment, the LPA and LCPS on strengthening environmental governance to mitigate risks associated with oil and gas activities.

“الأمن يقفل شركتي غاز – الاحتكار يكشف المخاطر ومصير العمال مجهول” (Security Shuts Down Two Gas Companies – Monopoly Reveals Risks and the Fate of Workers Remains Unknown), by Mohammad Wehbi, published in Al-Akhbar on March 4. The investigative reporting reveals valuable information on the companies dominating the gas import and distribution markets in Lebanon. The extent of investigative reporting is unmatched by any other story produced during the monitoring period.

“Civil society's interest in oil and gas growing”, by Matt Nash, published on NOW on March 14. NOW is credited with publishing the only article shedding light on local civil society's increased interest in the emerging oil and gas sector and

its efforts toward more transparency and better governance.

“What’s next for oil and gas in Lebanon?”, by Matt Nash, published on NOW on March 31. The author explains what to expect from the first oil and gas licensing round and the steps that follow the completion of the tender, based on information provided by two members of the LPA. No other story produced during the monitoring period goes as far in explaining the licensing process to the reader.

### Major Trends

Based on the above, the main takeaways from local media coverage of oil and gas are:

1. The media had a clear preference for political news coverage and analysis, at the expense of other types of coverage (technical, investigative, educational/informative, etc.)
2. News coverage (whether covering political or non-political issues) amounted to nearly half of all stories (57 out of 122), possibly indicating a difficulty in producing other, more insightful, types of material.
3. Although a journalist is prone to commit fewer mistakes when simply covering the news, the number of errors in stories categorized as “news coverage” is still relatively high (21 errors in 57 stories). These mistakes were not only committed by authors but also by many of the sources the authors quoted in their stories.
4. Given the importance of opinion pieces in providing prescriptive analysis, the number of errors made in this type of coverage can also be perceived as relatively high (11 errors in 28 articles). However, it should be noted that all these errors were made in seven pieces (the other 21 did not contain any factual mistakes).
5. Few articles tackled social activism (environment 2; civil society 1) possibly reflecting limited civil society involvement at this stage.
6. Lebanese media showed a very limited interest in covering oil and gas developments in neighboring countries (five stories, out of 122, including three brief TV reports aired during the evening news). The type of errors made when covering developments in neighboring countries reflects a poor grasp of the subject.
7. The most common mistakes repeated by journalists involved the use of inaccurate terminology and reference to inaccurate estimates of the country’s potential resource wealth.
8. In addition, some basic information and official data are often inaccurate: the number of offshore blocks; companies shortlisted for the first licensing round; the percentage of offshore area covered by 3D surveys; etc. The fact that such information could be easily acquired or verified might indicate that not enough effort is being put into fact-checking oil and gas stories.
9. On average, there was just above one source per story. Some media outlets seemed keener on quoting sources than others, but this did not always ensure quality. In fact, many of the mistakes made are attributed to sources (not to the author of the story).

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# Recommendations

Understanding the oil and gas sector is challenging because it is quite complex and – like all industries – has its own terminology. Given that this is a new sector in Lebanon, journalists will play an important role in introducing the public to this field and providing citizens with accurate information on developments in the industry. To do this best, journalists and editors have to first and foremost understand the topic they are covering. The oil and gas sector has a reputation for being prone to corruption scandals and Lebanon is not particularly known for good governance. Journalists will play an invaluable role in monitoring the development of this sector and must be prepared to do so. For both journalists and editors, we suggest the following recommendations, grouped into two overarching suggestions: minimize errors in what you cover, and make sure you are covering everything.

## Minimizing Errors

1. Verify and fact-check all information in a report, whether or not it is attributed to a source – named or unnamed. While this is basic journalism, reporters are too often intimidated by the breadth of knowledge required in the oil and gas sector. This can lead to trusting so-called “experts” far too readily.
2. Seek out more and better sources. Journalists should devote significant resources to finding multiple high-quality sources. This is in part a learning process, but it also requires a basic acknowledgement of the varied fields of exploitation-related expertise: geology, petroleum engineering, civil engineering, economics, finance, planning, environmental sciences, politics, etc. An expert on one topic

may not be qualified to answer simple questions related to others.

3. Learn about and understand the topic being covered. The petroleum sector is not something one can learn about between a morning assignment and evening filing deadline. Quality reportage requires journalists who are willing to devote the time to becoming specialists in this field. It also requires editors and news organizations that will put forth the necessary resources to train and retain top talent on the beat.
4. Understand and correctly use the terminology associated with the oil and gas sector. If a journalist cannot define a term, he or she should not be using it.

## Rounding out Coverage

5. Report on a wider variety of topics related to the oil and gas sector (in particular the role of civil society in monitoring the sector and the potential environmental impact of drilling). Editors should not concentrate all of their resources into covering the political aspect of these stories; instead, they should devote at least a small percentage of their efforts to lesser-covered – but still extremely important – topics.
6. Use slow news periods to do in-depth coverage of more complex topics to educate the public. When the news and politics of the day fades into the background, editors should capitalize on the opportunity to bring lesser-known – but just as hard-hitting – information to the public’s eye. Doing so would be a win-win for news organizations looking for great content and for the public.

7. Cover developments in Israel, Cyprus and any other nearby countries that explore for offshore oil and gas in the future. What happens in one country's waters can affect the others.
8. Contextualize articles better and refer to other countries' experiences as well as international best practices. This applies to the Eastern

Mediterranean and beyond: experience knows no borders. Since Lebanon is at an early stage in the development and exploitation of its offshore resources, it is in a prime position to observe and learn from the experiences of other countries. Given that many of these lessons will need to be implemented on the political level, the public must be made aware of them.

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# Resources

In order to assist journalists in better understanding the oil and gas sector, SKeyes has compiled a list of resources on the web for reporters.

1. The Lebanon Petroleum Administration's website provides up-to-date news from the LPA as well as historical data on oil and gas activities in Lebanon:  
[www.lpa.gov.lb](http://www.lpa.gov.lb)
2. Middle East Strategic Perspectives has published numerous articles and reports in the past two years on the nascent Lebanese oil and gas sector while also shedding light on main developments in Cyprus, Israel and other neighboring countries. MESP's oil and gas section can be viewed here:  
<http://www.mestrategicperspectives.com/category/oilgasupdates/>
3. The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies has a special program dedicated to analyzing and informing oil and gas policy making in Lebanon. It frequently publishes thought-provoking commentary and valuable policy recommendations related to the sector on its website. [www.lcps-lebanon.org](http://www.lcps-lebanon.org)
4. OpenOil is a company advocating for transparency in the oil and gas industry. They published a very helpful book on understanding oil contracts that is free to download on their website. <http://openoil.net/>. Part of the book was translated into Arabic and can be viewed here:  
  
<http://www.publishwhatyoupay.org/ar/resources/%D8%B9%D9%82%D9%88%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%81%D8%B7-%D9%83%D9%8A%D9%81-%D9%86%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7-%D9%88%D9%86%D9%81%D9%87%D9%85%D9%87%D8%A7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%84-1%D8%8C2>
5. ConocoPhillips compiled a useful glossary of oil and gas terminology that is available for free download on the company's website.  
  
[http://www.conocophillips.com/investor-relations/fact-sheet-financial-data/Documents/PDF/SMID\\_392-COP-Glossary-of-Terms-External-FINAL-5202013.pdf](http://www.conocophillips.com/investor-relations/fact-sheet-financial-data/Documents/PDF/SMID_392-COP-Glossary-of-Terms-External-FINAL-5202013.pdf)
6. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) is heavily focused on the United States but also has information on global oil and gas reserves broken down by country. The EIA also produces weekly and monthly oil and gas reports. [www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov)
7. Deutsche Bank in 2010 produced a comprehensive report entitled "Oil and Gas for Beginners". It is available for free download here:  
<http://prawo.uni.wroc.pl/pliki/8381>



8. The International Association of Oil and Gas Producers has several informative fact sheets that provide background information on the oil and gas industry. <http://www.ogp.org.uk/fact-sheets/>
9. The International Gas Union similarly has a wealth of background information that is helpful in understanding natural gas formation, exploration and production as well as liquefaction and marketing.  
<http://www.igu.org/resources-data>
10. Global oil and gas major BP produces a yearly Statistical Review of World Energy that looks at global reserves, global production and global consumption. The latest version is available for free download here:  
<http://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/about-bp/energy-economics/statistical-review-of-world-energy.html>
11. The National Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) produces a resource governance index that measures the quality of governance in the oil, gas and mining sectors of 58 countries, which can be useful for journalists looking for a sense of what Lebanon should and should not be doing as its oil and gas sector advances. The NRGI also provides information and analysis on a number of issues related to the oil and gas sector on its website.  
<http://www.resourcegovernance.org/>
12. Kuwait National Petroleum Company's website provides a useful English-Arabic glossary (مصطلحات ومختصرات نفطية) that can be viewed here:  
[http://www.knpc.com.kw/SiteCollectionImages/English\\_wordbook.pdf](http://www.knpc.com.kw/SiteCollectionImages/English_wordbook.pdf)
13. Legifrance provides a list of oil and gas vocabulary (definition of terms and equivalent in English). The list can be viewed here:  
<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000020552999>



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## Appendix A

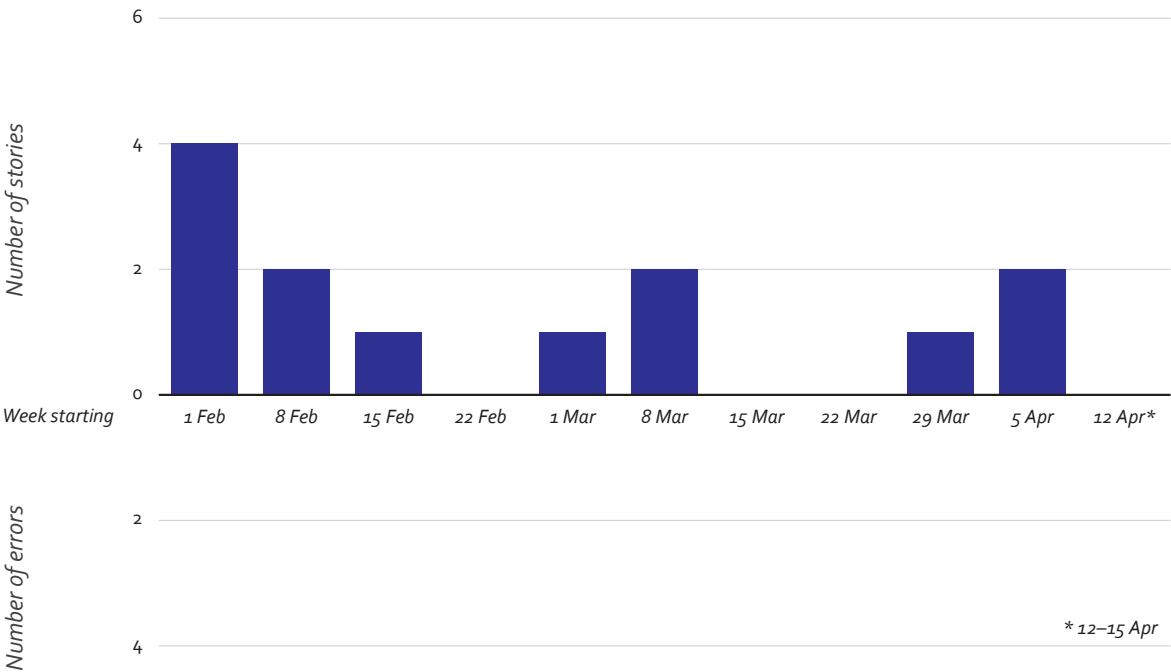
### **Selected Media Outlets**

A2	Al-Akhbar
A3	Annahar
A4	Assafir
A5	L'Orient-Le Jour
A6	The Daily Star
A7	MTV
A8	NOW
A9	Executive Magazine

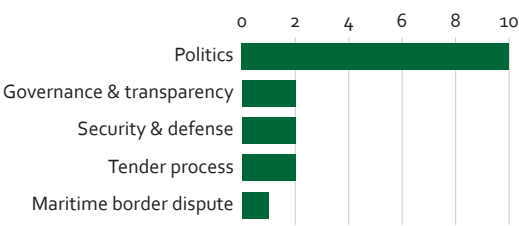
Appendix A: Media Outlets

Al-Akhbar

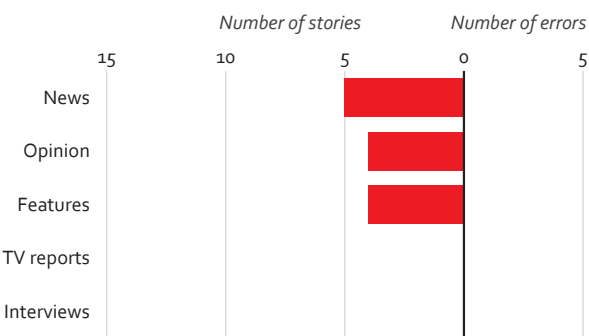
Timeline of stories & errors



Number of stories by category



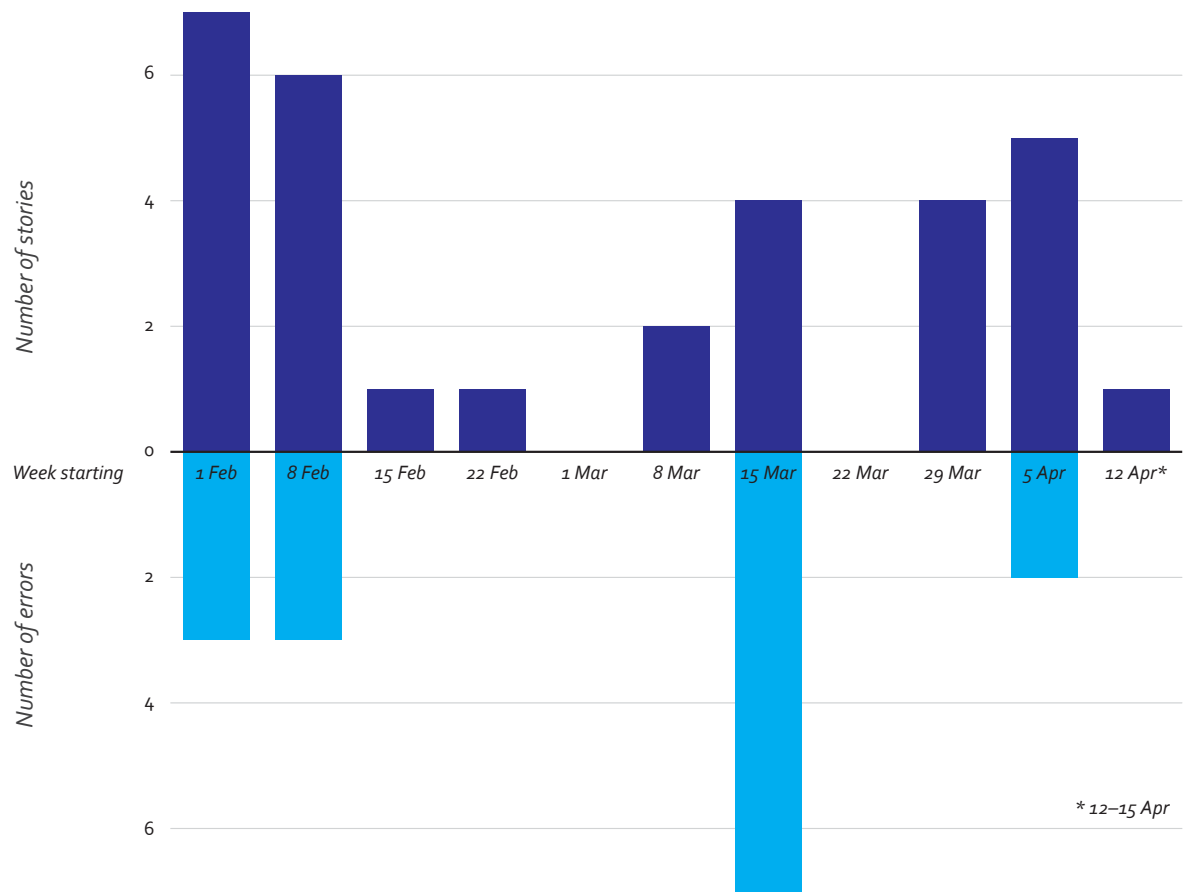
Stories and errors by coverage type



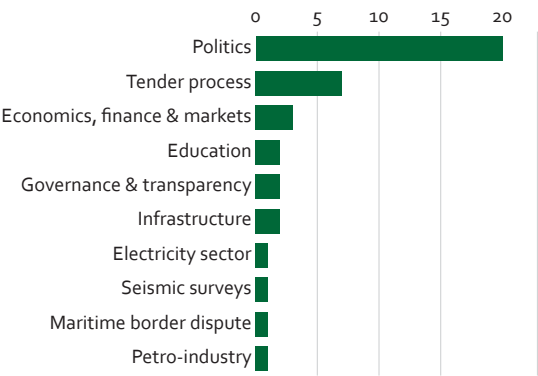
Appendix A: Media Outlets

Annahar

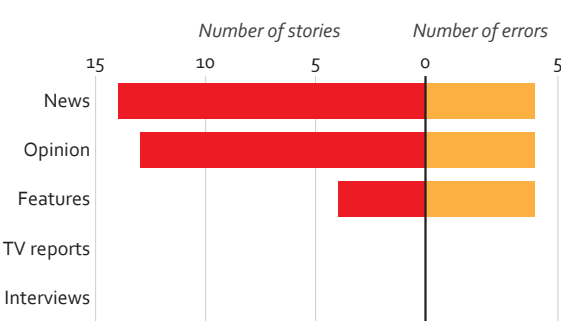
Timeline of stories & errors



Number of stories by category



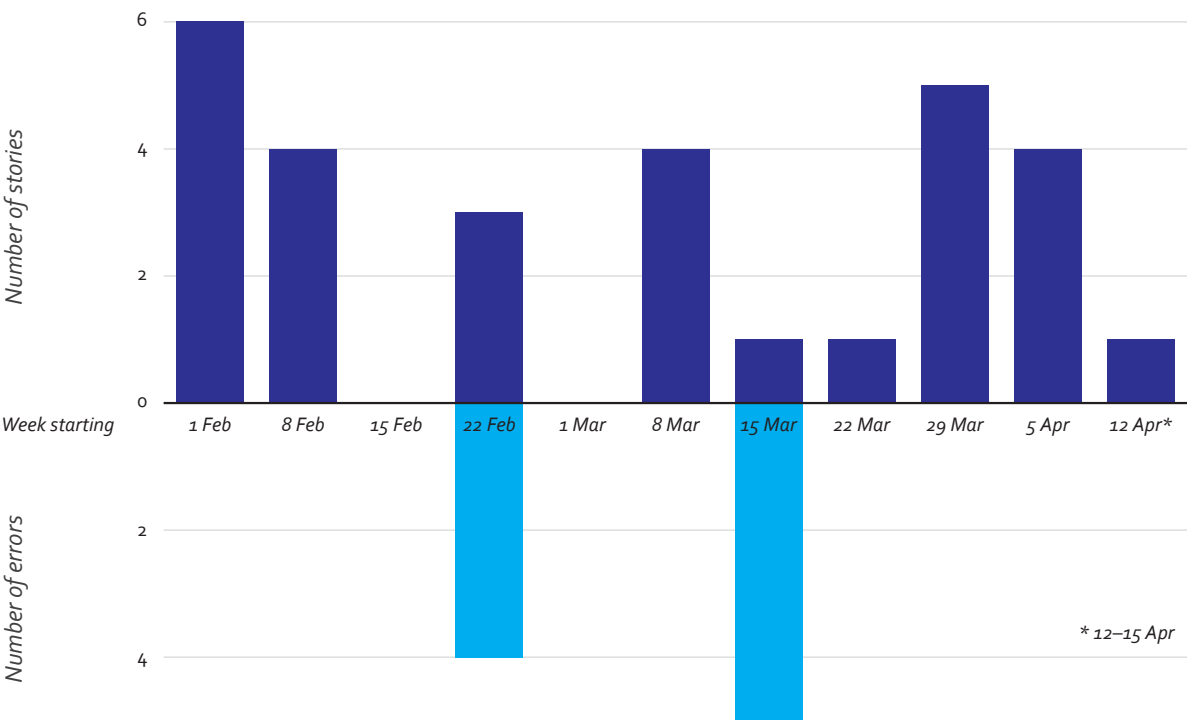
Stories and errors by coverage type



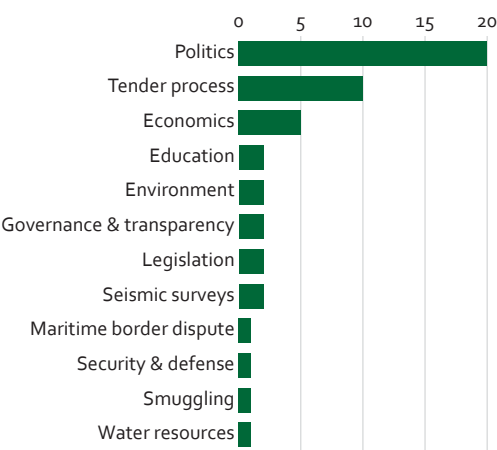
Appendix A: Media Outlets

Assafir

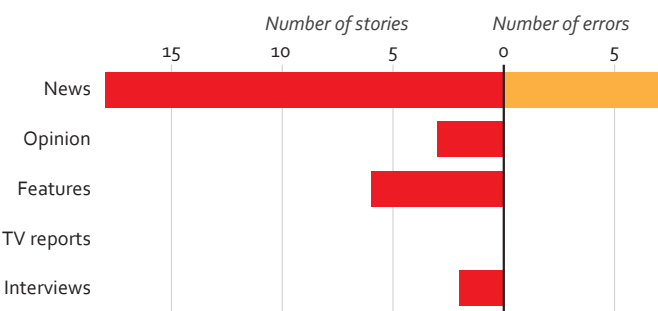
Timeline of stories & errors



Number of stories by category



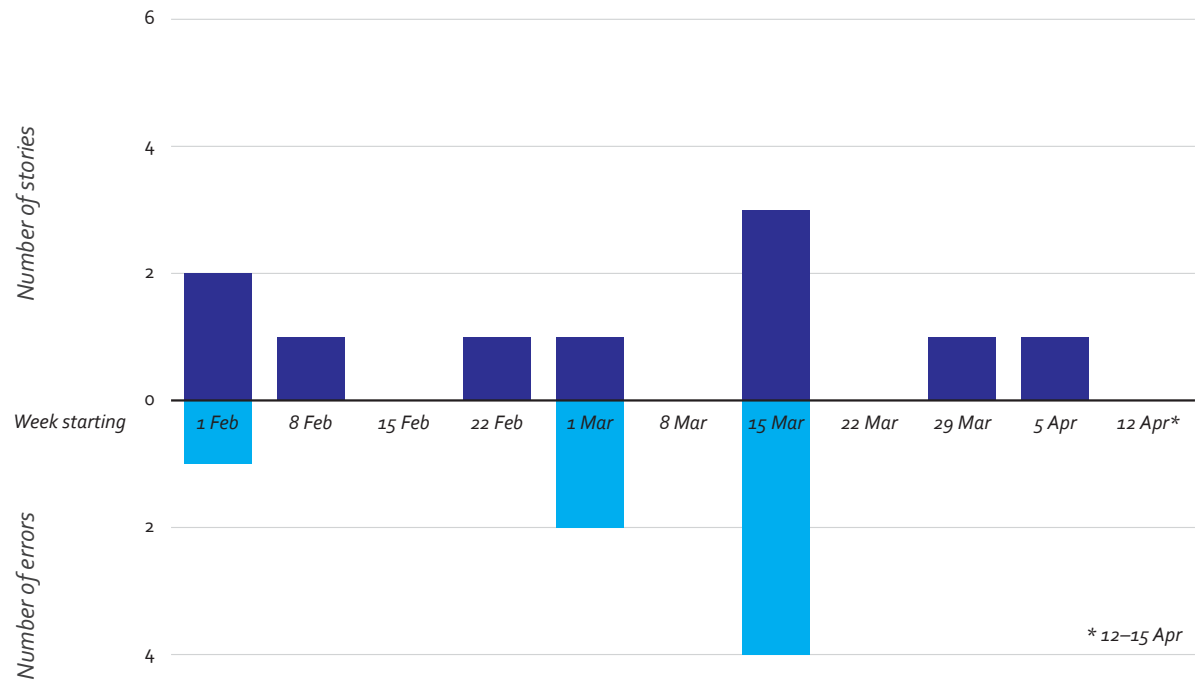
Stories and errors by coverage type



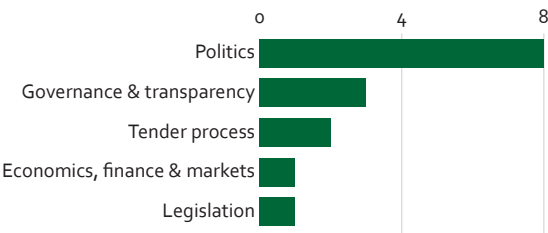
Appendix A: Media Outlets

L'Orient-Le Jour

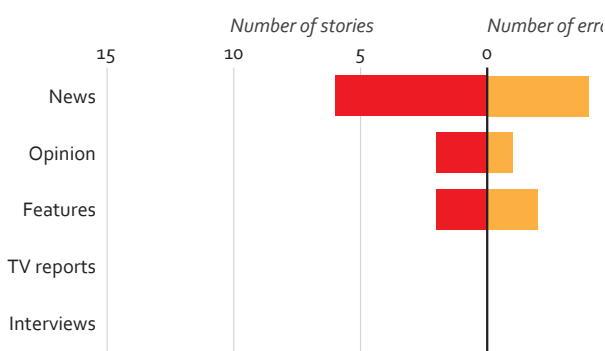
Timeline of stories & errors



Number of stories by category



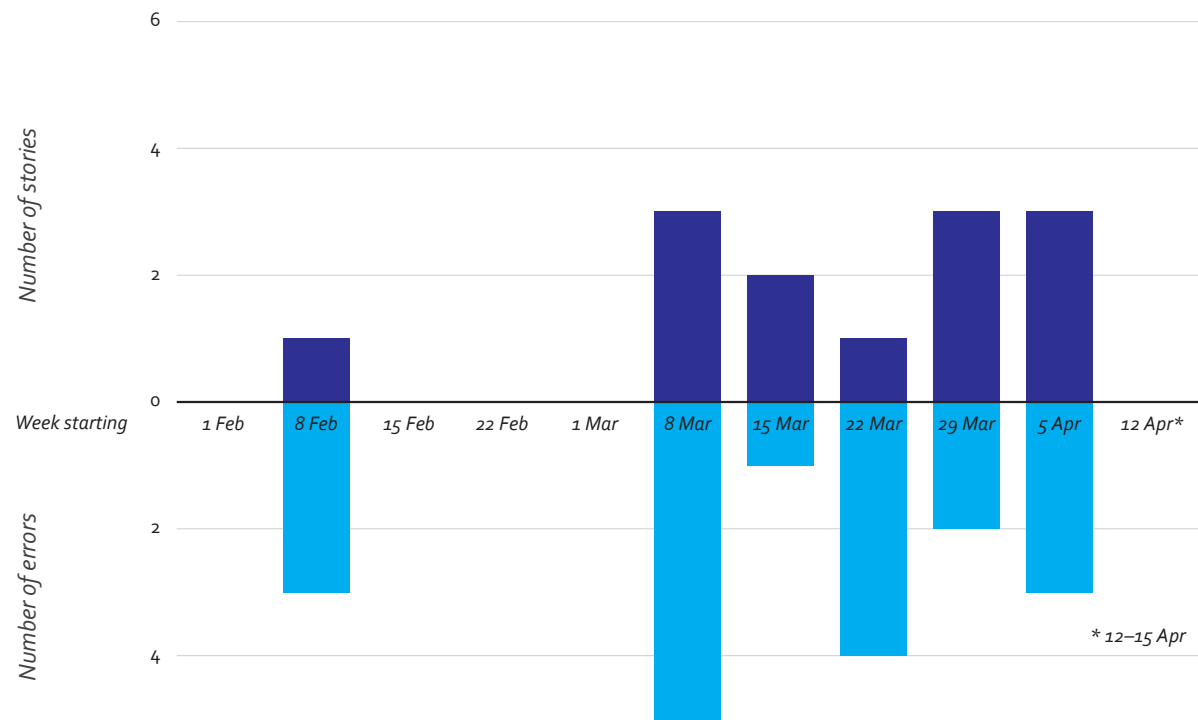
Stories and errors by coverage type



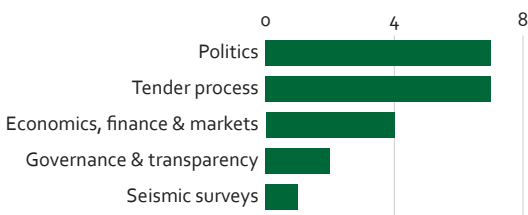
Appendix A: Media Outlets

The Daily Star

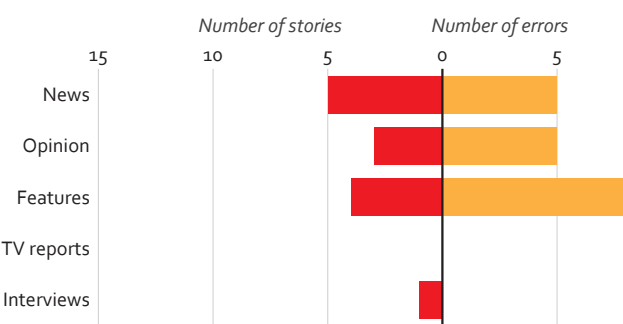
Timeline of stories & errors



Number of stories by category



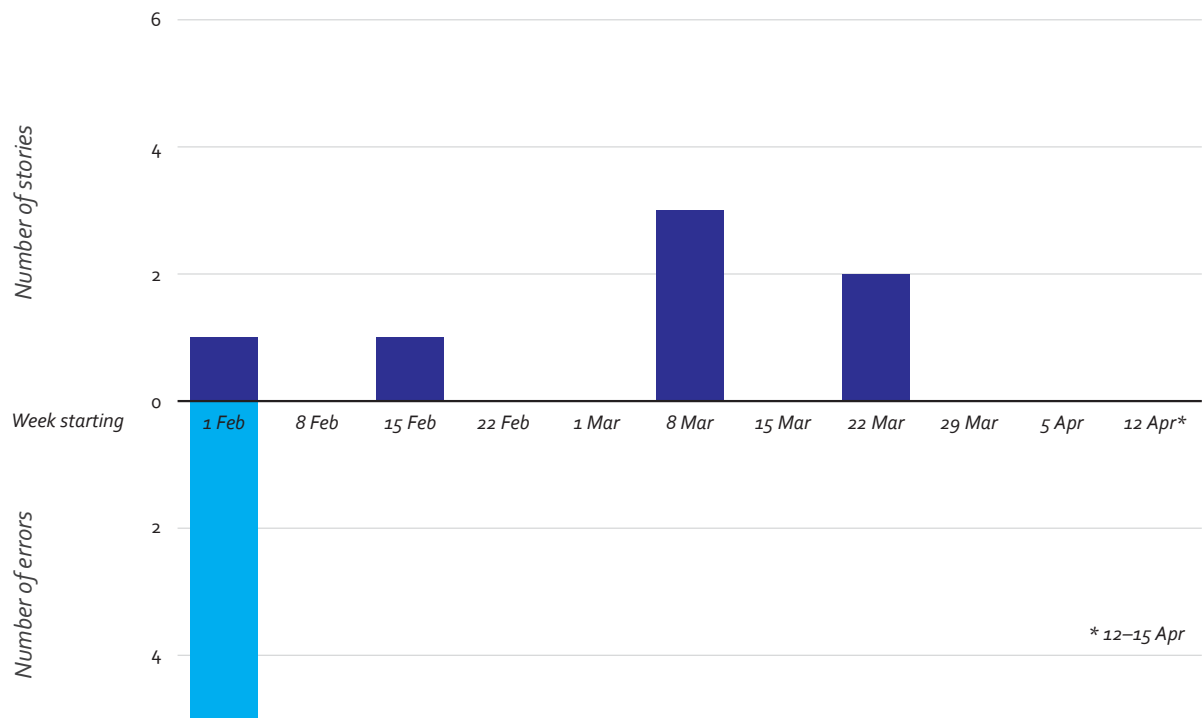
Stories and errors by coverage type



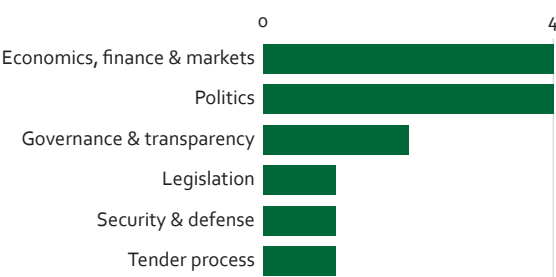
Appendix A: Media Outlets

MTV

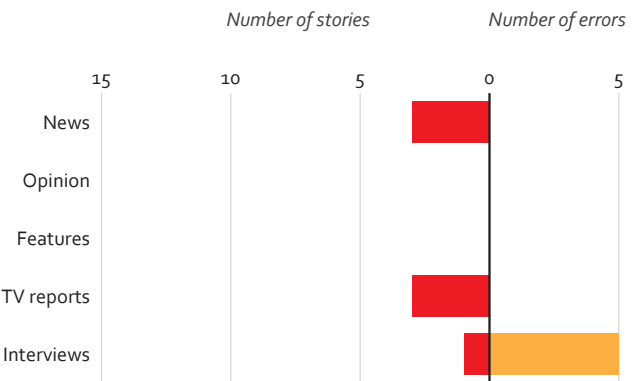
Timeline of stories & errors



Number of stories by category



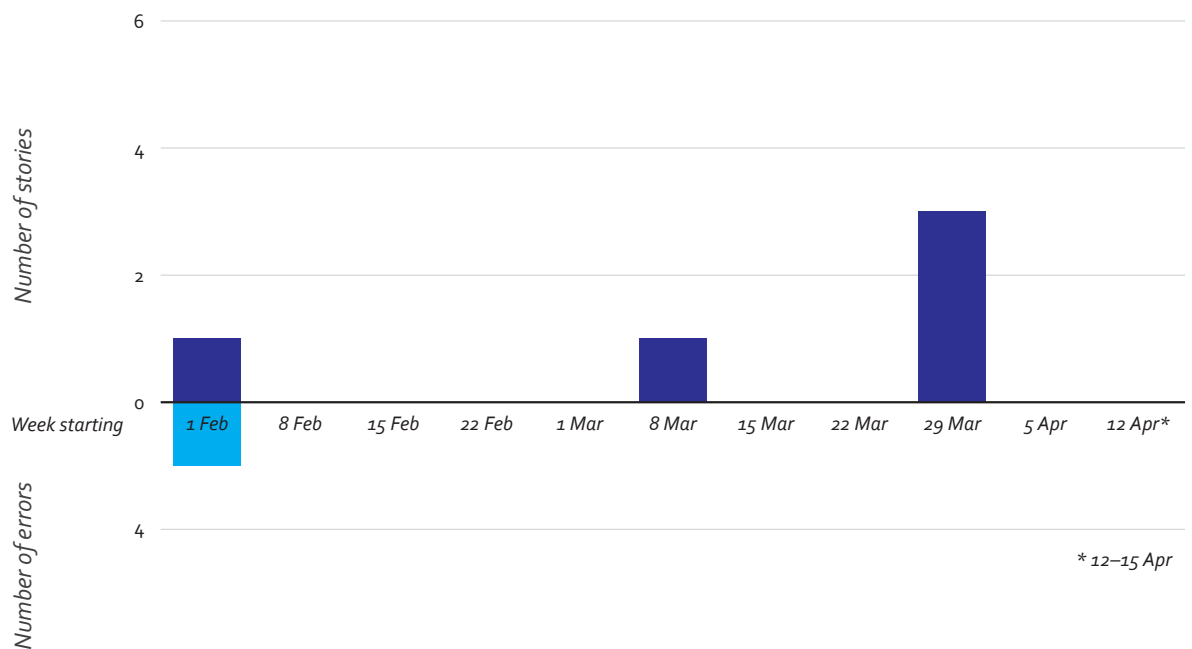
Stories and errors by coverage type



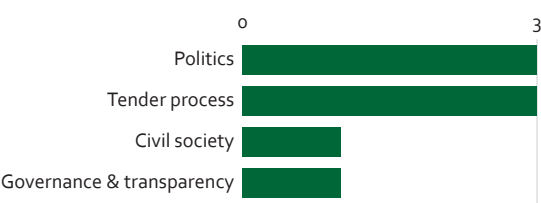
Appendix A: Media Outlets

NOW

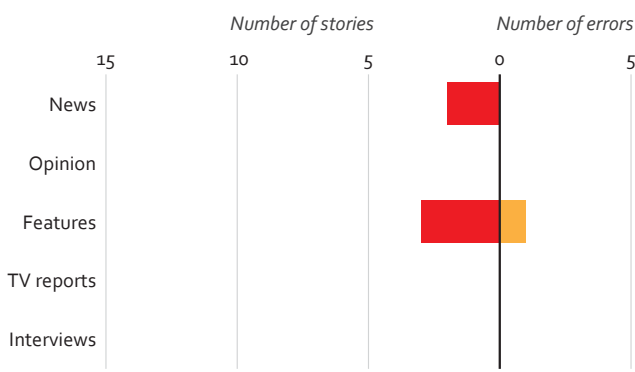
Timeline of stories & errors



Number of stories by category



Stories and errors by coverage type

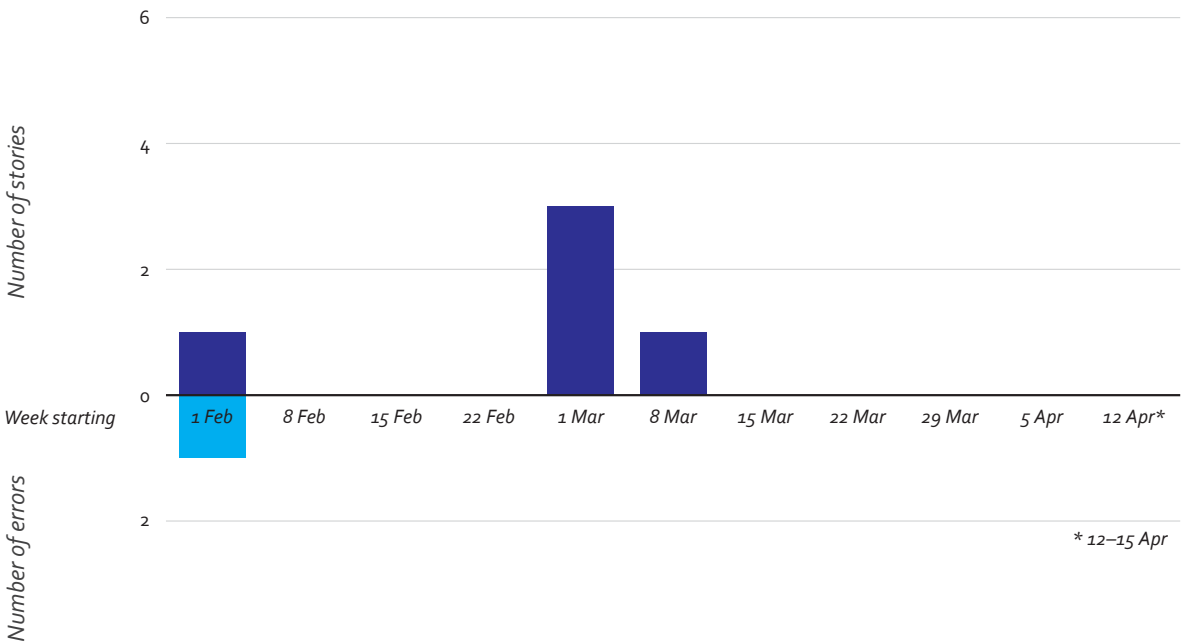




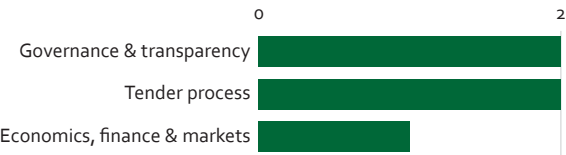
Appendix A: Media Outlets

Executive Magazine

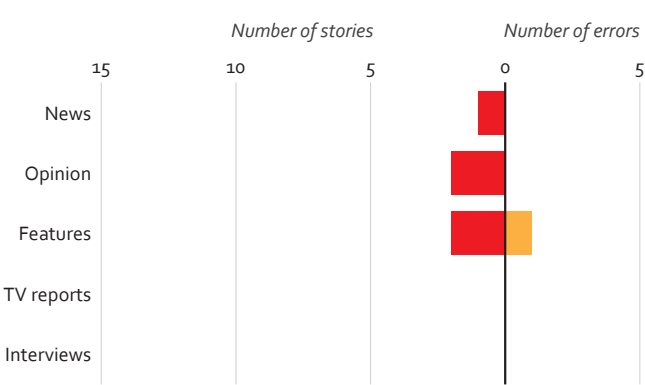
Timeline of stories & errors



Number of stories by category



Stories and errors by coverage type



## Appendix B

### List of Articles and News Stories

Date	News outlet	Title
2/1/2014	Assafir	النفط البري لبنانياً: حقلان.. ومؤشرات واعدة
2/1/2014	Assafir	فرصة أخيرة: عون وسلام وجهاً لوجه!
2/1/2014	L'Orient-Le Jour	L'évangile selon saint Michel
2/1/2014	Al-Akhbar	”المستقبل“ يقدم عرضاً مفجعاً لعون؟
2/1/2014	L'Orient-Le Jour	Le blocage est passé de la dispute autour des grandes options au partage du « fromage »
2/1/2014	Annahar	النفط يحتاج إلى حكومة واستقرار فعلي
2/1/2014	Annahar	الحقيقة التي يريدها عون
2/3/2014	MTV	بموضوعية
2/4/2014	Al-Akhbar	تمام سلام: ألغِ المداورة
2/4/2014	Annahar	بين الهزل والهزال
2/5/2014	Annahar	الطاقة للمسيحيين والوطن لمن؟
2/5/2014	Annahar	الترسيم البحري في حلقة مفرغة وقباني يطالب بشكوى إلى مجلس الأمن المساعي الأميركية تتواصل والأمم المتحدة تدعو إلى تفادي التشنج
2/5/2014	NOW	The General's new war
2/5/2014	Executive	Can Bassil go it alone?
2/6/2014	Assafir	مؤامرة النفط والتآمر على اللبنانيين
2/6/2014	Al-Akhbar	٧٠٪ من المسيحيين مع إبقاء الطاقة في عهدة العونيين
2/7/2014	Assafir	”تلزيم“ النفط أم الرئاسة.. بعنوان الحكومة؟
2/7/2014	Assafir	مذكرة تفاهم بين ”الطاقة“ و”الأميركية“
2/7/2014	Assafir	باسيل: من حقنا المطالبة بوزارات أساسية
2/7/2014	Al-Akhbar	سلام يواجه السؤال الأخير
2/7/2014	Annahar	مذكرة تفاهم بين وزارة الطاقة والجامعة الأميركية باسيل: خائفون على نفط لبنان لا على شعبه
2/7/2014	Annahar	عائدات النفط والغاز حيادية وعمومية
2/7/2014	El-Nashra	لماذا الطاقة والاتصالات... حصراً؟
2/8/2014	Assafir	أستراليا تستثمر في حقل ”لفيتان“
2/8/2014	Assafir	فتش عن النفط... تجد ”حكومة الدول“!
2/8/2014	Annahar	الطاقة تستنفد كل الطاقات وتعطل التأليف هل يضمن عون الموافقة على تلميحات النفط؟
2/8/2014	Annahar	باسيل: يريدون انتزاع القطاعات التي أصلحناها ليعيدوا تخريبها
2/9/2014	LBCI	REPORT: Is Israel stealing Palestine's oil?
2/11/2014	Annahar	هل يحتفظ باسيل بحقيقته إذا استقال سلام؟ الطاقة تتحوّل اختباراً صعباً لـ ”حزب الله“
2/11/2014	Annahar	ديبلوماسية: ”قفل شبكة“ الاتصالات إبقاء الطاقة لباسيل يمسّ الحقائق الأخرى
2/11/2014	Assafir	وليامز لـ”السفير“: تصريف الأعمال لا يشجع شركات النفط
2/11/2014	Assafir	معايير ومحاذير لخيار التنقيب عن الغاز والنفط
2/12/2014	Al-Akhbar	المداورة... ”لأجل لبنان“
2/12/2014	Annahar	حيرتم ربنا فخامة الرئيس!

Date	News outlet	Title
2/12/2014	Annahar	خسائر التأخير في تأليف الحكومة غاز لبنان استراتيجي للشركات الأميركية
2/13/2014	The Daily Star	Audi: Lebanon oil wealth could exceed \$600B
2/13/2014	Al-Akhbar	عون والحريري: تفاوض لإنقاذ الحكومة
2/13/2014	L'Orient-Le Jour	Investissements pétroliers : le Liban de plus en plus mal coté
2/21/2014	Annahar	التحديات الاقتصادية للحكومة
2/21/2014	Al-Akhbar	الهيئة السعودية: مفاوضات شاقة بين الجيش والفرنسيين
2/21/2014	MTV	تسليم وتسليم في الطاقة
2/21/2014	OTV	تسليم وتسليم في وزارة الطاقة
2/21/2014	New TV	تسليم وتسليم في الطاقة
2/21/2014	Al-Manar	تسليم وتسليم في الطاقة
2/22/2014	Assafir	القصة الكاملة للهيئة السعودية سلاحاً للبنان: أمر الملك ووافق هولاند .. مع "مراعاة" إسرائيل
2/22/2014	Assafir	هل يشمل اتفاق "التيار" و "المستقبل" ملف الطاقة؟
2/22/2014	Annahar	نظريان تسلّم وزارة الطاقة بهومها ونهجها وفريقها باسيل: باقون إلى جانبكم وعائدون بالمداراة أيضاً
2/22/2014	L'Orient-Le Jour	Bassil : Le ministère des AE a aussi son mot à dire dans le dossier du pétrole
2/25/2014	Assafir	متى أصبح النفط أهم من المياه عندنا؟
3/3/2014	L'Orient-Le Jour	Pétrole et gaz naturel : une bénédiction ou une malédiction pour le Liban ?
3/3/2014	Executive	Further oil and gas delays 'likely'
3/4/2014	Al-Akhbar	"الأمن" يقفل شركتي غاز - الاحتكار يكشف المخاطر ومصير العمال مجهول
3/5/2014	Executive	Plan an oil and gas sovereign wealth fund
3/6/2014	Executive	The deepest of ironies
3/8/2014	Assafir	اللبنانية تناقش إجازة الجيولوجيا البترولية
3/10/2014	Annahar	"دور الجيولوجيا في صناعة الاستكشاف والإنتاج البترولي" إجازة في الجيولوجيا من اللبنانية تعد الطلاب لخوض سوق العمل
3/10/2014	Annahar	رئيس الجمهورية خلال افتتاح "ملتقى لبنان الاقتصادي": الأفضلية يجب أن تُعطى لمسيرة التنقيب عن النفط
3/10/2014	The Daily Star	Privatization central plank in Sleiman's economic reform vision
3/10/2014	Assafir	سليمان من "ملتقى لبنان الاقتصادي": ليس من الصعب تمويل برامج النفط والغاز
3/11/2014	The Daily Star	Experts: April gas auction unfeasible
3/11/2014	Assafir	موجز اقتصادي
3/11/2014	Al-Akhbar	برّي: حق المقاومة يشمل كل اعتداء بما فيه على النفط
3/11/2014	Al-Akhbar	خطط مستدامة للنفط والغاز
3/11/2014	MTV	سليمان خلال حفل في بعيدا
3/11/2014	New TV	كلمة الرئيس سليمان
3/11/2014	OTV	سليمان خلال حفل في بعيدا
3/12/2014	Assafir	سليمان: لم نحترم ما اتفقنا عليه في "الحوار"
3/12/2014	The Daily Star	Sleiman: Start gas auction with just one block
3/12/2014	Executive	What a gas!
3/14/2014	MTV	غاز المتوسط
3/14/2014	MTV	سوريا - التنقيب عن النفط

Date	News outlet	Title
3/14/2014	NOW	Civil society's interest in oil and gas growing
3/15/2014	L'Orient-Le Jour	LCPS : « Éviter le piège de la malédiction des ressources gazières »
3/18/2014	Annahar	ماذا عن السياسة النفطية في لبنان في ظل اقتراب موعد استخراج النفط؟ أوسكار يمينا: ثروتنا تنفذنا من مشكلاتنا مارون الخولي: لتحديد الربح الواقعي
3/18/2014	Annahar	تعاون في النفط والطاقة المتجددة
3/18/2014	L'Orient-Le Jour	Nazarian discute avec les ambassadeurs de Corée et de Norvège du dossier pétrolier
3/18/2014	The Daily Star	Depoliticize Lebanon's gas and oil
3/19/2014	The Daily Star	Protecting Lebanon's oil and gas wealth
3/20/2014	Annahar	النفط والغاز: إدارة التوقعات وعدم تسييس القطاع
3/21/2014	Assafir	خير الدين: لدينا غاز أكثر من قطر
3/21/2014	L'Orient-Le Jour	Kheireddine : Malgré les difficultés, l'économie se porte bien
3/21/2014	Annahar	خير الدين محاضراً في كلية إدارة الأعمال: لدينا نفط يناهز الـ ٦٠٠ مليار دولار
3/25/2014	MTV	قطاع النفط وفرص العمل
3/25/2014	MTV	قانون الإثراء غير المشروع
3/27/2014	Assafir	الحاج حسن: لإقرار "السلسلة" ومراسيم التنقيب
3/28/2014	The Daily Star	Lebanon's energy window is slowly closing
3/31/2014	Assafir	الحوار يفقد "نصابه" .. والنفط "يعوم"
3/31/2014	Assafir	هوشستن في بيروت الاثنين
3/31/2014	Annahar	تساو ولا حوار وجنبلاط : المقاطعة لا تقيد الخطة الأمنية تنتظر الساعة الصفر للتنفيذ
3/31/2014	NOW	What's next for oil and gas in Lebanon?
4/1/2014	The Daily Star	U.S. urges Lebanon not to drill for gas in disputed waters
4/2/2014	Assafir	هوكستين لـ "السفير" : لا يمكن للبنان انتظار تصاعد الغاز تلقائياً
4/2/2014	Annahar	مجلس الوزراء "يعلق" اليوم في ملف النفط / ١٠ تعيينات تعوض تعثر الجلسة الاولى؟
4/2/2014	NOW	Cabinet forms committee to regulate oil exploration
4/2/2014	El-Nashra	مجلس الوزراء يقر ١٠ تعيينات ويكلف لجنة لدراسة مراسيم النفط
4/3/2014	Assafir	"المتاريس" تنهاوى من التباينة إلى الحكومة
4/3/2014	Assafir	التوافق يمرر سلة تعيينات.. ولجنة للنفط
4/3/2014	Al-Akhbar	جمع يعين ترشحه غداً لرئاسة الجمهورية
4/3/2014	The Daily Star	Cabinet fills key vacancies, appoints oil committee
4/3/2014	The Daily Star	Lebanon poised to delay gas auction date
4/3/2014	L'Orient-Le Jour	Un Conseil des ministres très zen approuve un premier paquet de nominations
4/3/2014	Annahar	مصالحات أهلية على أنقاض متاريس طرابلس انفراج في دفعة من التعيينات لا يتسع للنفط
4/3/2014	Annahar	مجلس الوزراء اتفق بسحر ساحر على ١٠ تعيينات أمنية وقضائية وإدارية لجنة برئاسة سلام تدرس مراسيم النفط وتعرضها في جلسة الثلاثاء
4/3/2014	NOW	An oil and gas committee in Lebanon? Boo!
4/3/2014	Future TV	Inter-Views
4/8/2014	Al-Akhbar	مهمة رئيس الجمهورية العتيد... "اتفاق ١٧ أيار بحري"!
4/9/2014	Assafir	تراخيص التنقيب إلى آب
4/9/2014	Assafir	الحكومة تناقش ملفي النفط والنازحين "بعناية"
4/9/2014	Al-Akhbar	وزير الطاقة يرجئ مزايدة التنقيب عن النفط

Date	News outlet	Title
4/9/2014	Annahar	وزير الطاقة التقى سفيرة هولندا ووفوداً نقابية
4/9/2014	The Daily Star	Nazarian sees gas licensing auction within four months
4/10/2014	Assafir	نصائح دولية للبنان بالموافقة على "خط أزرق بحري"
4/10/2014	The Daily Star	Lebanon could begin offshore gas drilling by 2015
4/10/2014	L'Orient-Le Jour	Le pétrole au cœur d'une réunion présidée par Salam
4/10/2014	Annahar	اجتماع نفطي في السرايا نظرياً: الحكومة ستصدر المراسيم
4/10/2014	Annahar	استقرار الغاز يوفر الملايين على لبنان المشروع موجود لكن الظروف غير مناسبة
4/11/2014	The Daily Star	Spectrum begins next phase of onshore survey
4/11/2014	Assafir	مسح زلزالي للنفط على الساحل وجبل لبنان
4/11/2014	Annahar	نظرياً: تحاليل المسح البري لخطين مشجعة
4/11/2014	Annahar	من الانتحار إلى النحر
4/14/2014	Annahar	قواعد صناعة النفط والغاز
4/15/2014	Assafir	النفط السوري.. مصدر ثراء للمسلحين والأتراك



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