

Israel's Targeting of Palestinian Journalists

September 2024



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The Gaza Strip has no foreign journalists. Movement and access are controlled entirely by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF). As a result, Palestinian journalists in Gaza remain the only portal able to connect to the world and document the sheer scale of atrocities being committed by Israel during this genocide.

These are not only journalists, but **skilled media workers**, whose voices and work **form an essential part of Palestinian civil society in Gaza**. The targeted killing of them and their families, then, is a **calculated, methodical tactic employed by Israel** to not only **silence Palestinian voices** communicating the reality of the occupation and the present genocide to the world, but to **eliminate those very skills and expertise that can rebuild Gaza**.

Over the past 11 months, **Israel has killed 1 in 10 journalists** and media workers in Gaza to silence Palestinian testimonies of Israel's genocide.

Israel has **martyred** more than 150 Palestinian journalists, imprisoned over 50, and injured dozens more.

Israel has **intentionally targeted** the families of Palestinian journalists, killing and injuring entire families.

Israel has **directly threatened** to bomb the homes of Palestinian journalists via telephone calls.

This campaign of intentionally targeting Palestinian journalists is intended to intimidate and **prevent Palestinian journalists from continuing to report** Israel's genocide to the world.

Despite the massacres, threats and intimidation, and brutal assassinations of their colleagues, Palestinian journalists continue to bear witness to Israel's attacks and provide testimonies, reporting, and coverage of Israel's ongoing atrocities.

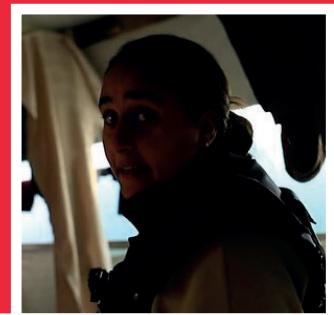
We dedicate this insight to all the Palestinian journalists martyred by Israel, and to the Palestinian journalists bravely continuing to report from Gaza despite targeted attacks and threats from Israel. We see you, we hear you and your testimonies will prevail.

“Choosing to stay here is a choice to witness and report on the unbearable reality my city endures. Forced from my home, alongside countless Palestinians, we strive for the basics – clean food and water – without transportation or electricity.

I am not a superhero; I am shattered from the inside. The loss of relatives, friends, and colleagues weighs heavy on my soul. Israeli forces ravaged my city, reducing homes to rubble. Over 3,000 civilians still lie beneath the remnants. My heart is aching, and my spirit is fragile. Since Oct. 7, journalists have been targets; Israel seeks to stifle our voices. [...]

But surrender is not an option. I will continue to report, to breathe life into the stories of my people until my last breath. Please, do not let the world forget Palestine. We are weary, and your voice is our strength. Remember our voices, remember our faces.”

Hind Khoudary
Palestinian journalist in
Gaza¹



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Israel's Targeting Of Palestinian Journalists Before October 2023



01

Israel's Targeting Of Palestinian Journalists Before October 2023

Israel had systematically killed numerous Palestinian journalists prior to 7 October 2023, the most infamous of which was the Israeli Occupation Forces' (IOF) shooting of renowned Palestinian journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, in Jenin in May 2022.² Not only

was Shireen Abu Akleh targeted by sniper fire despite wearing full press gear, but her funeral procession was further attacked, with the IOF seen kicking those carrying her coffin and assaulting others with batons and brute force.⁵⁰

Timeline of Palestinian journalists killed by Israel prior to 7 October 2023

2001:

Israel's bombing of the Palestinian Center for Studies and Media killed journalists Muhammad al-Bishawi and Othman al Qatanani in Nablus.³

2002:

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) shot and killed media workers Issam Hamza Tillawi and Imad Abu Zahra in Ramallah and Jenin, respectively.⁴

2003:

The IOF shot and killed photographer Nazeem Darwazi in Nablus.⁵

2004:

The IOF shot and killed photographer Mohamed Abu Halima in Batala Refugee Camp.⁶

2008:

Israel killed Reuters cameraman Fadel Shana'a in Bureij Refugee Camp, alongside eight other Palestinians, including six children.⁷

2009:

An Israeli airstrike killed cameraman Basil Ibrahim Faraj in Gaza.⁸

2012:

Israeli missiles killed media workers Mahmoud al-Kumi, Hussam Salama, and Mohammad Abu Eisha in Gaza.⁹

2014:

During Israel's 2014 attacks on Gaza, Israel killed journalists Ali Shehda Abu Afash, Mohammed Daher, Mohammed Nour al-Din al-Deiri, Rami Rayan, Sameh al-Aryan, Ahed Zaqout, Khaled Hamad, and Hamid Shibab.¹⁰

2018:

Israel shot and killed journalists Ahmad Abu Hussein and Yasser Murtaja in Gaza.¹¹

2021:

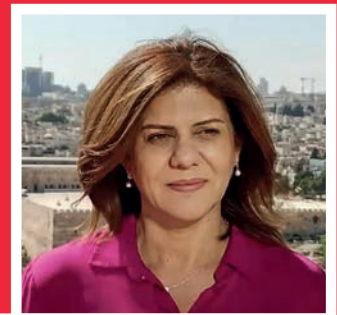
An Israeli missile killed Yusef Abu Hussein in Gaza.¹²

2022:

IOF shot and killed Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in the head in Jenin,¹³ and journalist Ghufraan Harun Warasneh in Al-Arroub Refugee Camp.¹⁴

“I chose journalism to be close to people. It may not be easy to change the reality, but at least I was able to make that voice heard in the world.”

Shireen Abu Akleh
martyred Palestinian
journalist.¹⁵



Israel's Intentional Killing Of Palestinian Journalists During The Genocide In Gaza



02

Israel's Intentional Killing Of Palestinian Journalists During The Genocide In Gaza

Since 7 October 2023, Israel has killed over 150 Palestinian journalists and media workers, making the genocide the deadliest period for journalists since records began.¹⁶

10% of all Palestinian journalists in Gaza have now been killed by Israel.¹⁷

Timeline of Palestinian journalists killed by Israel since 7 October 2023

October 2023:

Mohammad Jarghoun, Mohammad Al-Salhi, Assaad Shamallakh, Hisham Alnwajha, Mohammed Sobh, Saeed al-Taweel, Mohamed Fayez Abu Matar, Ahmed Shehab, Husam Mubarak, Salam Mema, Yousef Maher Dawas, Abdulhadi Habib, Issam Bhar, Mohammad Balousha, Sameeh Al-Nady, Khalil Abu Aathra, Mohammed Ali, Roshdi Sarraj, Mohammed Imad Labad, Ibrahim Marzouq, Salma Mkhaimer, Ahmed Abu Mhadi, Saed Al-Halabi, Jamal Al-Faqaawi, Duaa Sharaf, Nazmi Al-Nadim, Majed Kashko, and Imad Al-Wahidi.

November 2023:

Iyad Matar, Majd Fadl Arandas, Mohammed Abu Hatab, Mohamad Al-Bayyari, Mohamed Al Jaja, Mohamed Abu Hassira, Yahya Abu Manih, Ahmed Al-Qara, Yaacoub Al-Barsh, Ahmed Fatima, Mossab Ashour, Amro Salah Abu Hayah, Mostafa El Sawaf, Hassouneh Salim, Sari Mansour, Abdelhalim Awad, Bilal Jadallah, Ayat Khadoura, Jamal Mohamed Haniyeh, Mohamed Nabil Al-Zaq, Assem Al-Barsh, Mohamed Mouin Ayyash, and Mostafa Bakeer.

December 2023:

Adham Hassouna, Montaser Al-Sawaf, Abdullah Darwish, Shaima El-Gazzar, Hassan Farajallah, Ola Atallah, Duaa Jabbour, Samer Abu Daqqa, Haneen Kashtan, Assem Kamal Moussa, Abdallah Alwan, Adel Zorob, Mohamed Khalifeh, Mohamed Naser Abu Huwaidi, Ahmad Jamal Al Madhoun, Mohamed Azzaytouniyah, Mohamad Al-Iff, Ahmed Khairiddine, and Jabr Abu Hadrous.

January 2024:

Akram ElShafie, Mustafa Thuraya, Hamza Al Dahdough, Abdallah Iyad Breis, Heba Al-Abadla, Ahmed Bdeir, Mohamed Jamal Sobhi Al-Thalathini, Yazan al-Zuweidi, Iyad El-Ruwagh, and Mohammed Atallah.

February 2024:

Rizq Al-Gharabli, Nafez Abdel Jawad, Yasser Mamdouh El-Fady, Angam Ahmad Edwan, Alaa Al-Hams, Ayman Al-Rafati, Zayd Abu Zayed, and Mohamed Yaghi.

Israel's Intentional Killing Of Palestinian Journalists During The Genocide In Gaza continued...

March 2024:

Muhammad Salama, Abdul Rahman Saima, Mohamed El-Reefi, Saher Akram Rayan, and Mohamed Abu Skheil.

April 2024:

Mohammed Bassam Al Jamal, Ayman Mohamad Al-Gharbawi, Ibrahim Mohamad Al-Gharbawi, and Salem Abu Toyour.

May 2024:

Mustafa Ayyad, Bahaa Okasha, Mahmoud Juhjough, and Ola Al Dahdouh.

July 2024:

Mohammed Abu Sharia, Saadi Madoukh, Mohammed Abu Jasser, Rami Al Refee, and Ismail Al Ghoul.

August 2024:

Mohammed Issa Abu Saada, Ibrahim Muhareb, and Hamza Murtaja.¹⁸

“Let me tell you, my friend, that I no longer know the taste of sleep. The corpses of children, the remains, and images of blood almost never leave my eyes. The screams of mothers and the cries and anguish of men do not leave my ears.

I cannot get past the sound of children from beneath the rubble, unable to forget the voice of the little girl that echoes every moment and has become like a nightmare.

It has become terrifying to stand before the scattered, stuck, stretched, and piled bodies, and even more terrifying when you pass by those who are fighting death under their homes, finding no way to escape and survive.

I am exhausted, my friend.”

Ismail Al Ghouli

who was martyred by an Israeli drone strike alongside his cameraman, Rami Al-Rifi, on 31 July 2024.¹⁹



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Israel's Imprisonment Of Palestinian Journalists During The Genocide In Gaza



03

Israel's Imprisonment Of Palestinian Journalists During The Genocide In Gaza

Israel has imprisoned over 50 Palestinian journalists, across both Gaza and the occupied West Bank, since October 2023.²⁰ This is the highest number of Palestinian journalists imprisoned since records began.²¹

These arrests are designed to silence Palestinian journalists and intimidate others from continuing to cover Israeli atrocities.²²

Palestinian journalists are arrested under the provision of 'administrative detention', which Israel uses to imprison any Palestinian without charge, indefinitely.²³

Only 15 of the journalists imprisoned have been released to date.²⁴

Palestinian Journalists Currently Imprisoned

Since October 2023:

Sabri Jibril, Abdel Nasser al-Laham, Imad Abu Awad, Alaa al-Rimawi, Musaab Qafesha, Radwan Qatanani, Belal Arman, Mohammad Badr, and Nawaf al-Amer.

Since November 2023:

Huthifa Abu Jamous, Mohammad Ayad, Amer Abu Arafa, Alaa Sarraj, Ibrahim al-Zouhairi, and Tarek el-Sharif.

Since December 2023:

Ikhlas Sawalha, Mohamed al-Rimawi, and Hamad Taqatqa.

Since January 2024:

Amjad Arafat.

Since February 2024:

Hamza al-Safi, Amr Abu Raida, and Sami Al-Sai.

Since March 2024:

Rami Abu Zubaida, Mohamad Arab, Mahmoud Elewa, Walid Zayed, Imad Ifranji, and Rula Hassanein.

Since May 2024:

Mahmoud Adel Ma'atan Barakat, Bilal Hamid al-Taweel, and Mahmoud Fatafta.

Since June 2024:

Rasha Hirzallah.

Since July 2024:

Hazem Nasser.

Since August 2024:

Hamza Zyoud.²⁵

“Honestly, the helmet and the press vest were supposed to provide two things for us: first, protection, and second, a distinction for us as journalists in order to protect us from being targeted. Unfortunately, this is not the case. We are talking about an Israeli war, that is still ongoing, in which the Israeli army has broken so many laws, a lot of protection laws, a lot of international agreements, and so targeting journalists was part of the process of breaking these laws and these processes.

And so unfortunately, the press vest or any protection measure a journalist can take no longer has a point.”

An unnamed Palestinian journalist in Gaza interviewed by TRT World after the martyrdom of Ismail Al Ghouli and Rami Al Refee²⁶



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Journalists Injured By Israel Since 7 October 2023



04

Journalists Injured By Israel Since 7 October 2023

Israel has injured more than 35 journalists since 7 October 2023, some of whom have had to seek medical treatment abroad for their injuries, due to Israel's blockade on medical supplies entering Gaza and attacks on Gaza's hospitals.²⁷

Timeline of Journalists injured by Israel since 7 October 2023

October 2023:



Ibrahim Qanan in Gaza.



Christina Assi, Dylan Collins, Carmen Joukhadar, Elie Brakhya, Maher Naze, and Thaer Al-Sudani all in Lebanon.

November 2023:



Montaser El Sawaf and Mohammed El Sawaf in Gaza.



Issam Mawassi in Lebanon.

December 2023:



Mustafa Alkharouf in Jerusalem. Wael Al Dahdouh, Mohamed Balousha, Mohamed Ahmed, and Islam Bader in Gaza.



Khader Marquez in Lebanon.

January 2024:



Hazem Rajab, Amer Abu Amr, and Ahmed al-Bursh in Gaza.

March 2024:



Ali Hamad, Saeed Jars, Naaman Shteivi, Mohammed Abu Dahrouj, Nafez Abu Labda, Ibrahim Labad, Hazem Mazeed, and Magdi Qaraqea, all in Gaza.

April 2024:



Sami Shehadeh, Sami Barhoom, Ahmad Harb, and Mohammad Al-Sawalhi in Gaza.

May 2024:



Amro Manasrah in Jenin.

August 2024:



Sami Barhoom, Salma Al Qaddoumi, Mohammed Karajah, and Mohammed Al-Za'ain in Gaza.²⁸

“This is how cruel the Israeli occupation can be. Our colleagues [Ismail Al Ghouh and Rafi Al Refee] responded to the evacuation orders of the Israeli occupation and left the place [they were filming]. But the Israeli occupation targeted them and killed them.”

An unnamed Palestinian journalist in Gaza interviewed by TRT World after the martyrdom of Ismail Al Ghouh and Rami Al Refee²⁹



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Israel's Targeting Of Palestinian Journalists' Families In Gaza



Journalists Injured By Israel Since 7 October 2023

In at least two cases, Palestinian journalists had received threatening calls from IOF officers or officials shortly before their family members were killed in Israeli attacks.³⁰ Journalists' families were killed as a direct result of their family member's reporting on Israel's atrocities.³¹

On 25 October 2023, an Israeli airstrike killed four members of Al Jazeera journalist Wael Al Dahdoh's family. Several members of his extended family had already been killed since 7 October.³²

On 13 November 2023, Israeli missiles killed eight members of journalist Yasser Qudih's family in southern Gaza.³³

On 3 December 2023, an Israeli airstrike killed nine members of journalist Ibrahim Dahman's family in Beit Lahia.³⁴

On 6 December 2023, an Israeli airstrike killed 22 members of Al Jazeera journalist Moamen Al Sharafi's family in Jabalia refugee camp.³⁵

On 7 December 2023, an Israeli airstrike killed several members of journalist Abdelhamid Abdelati's family in Nuseirat refugee camp.³⁶

On 11 December 2023, Al Jazeera journalist Anas Al-Sharif's father was killed by an Israeli airstrike following threatening phone calls from Israeli officers, demanding that he left northern Gaza, and stating their knowledge of his location.³⁷ On the same day, many members of journalist Dia Al-Khalout's family were killed or injured by an Israeli airstrike.³⁸

Scores of Palestinian journalists have been killed by Israeli airstrikes on their homes alongside many members of their families, including numerous children.³⁹ Israel's extensive intelligence operations mean that Israel knows that Palestinian journalists are with their families when they are targeted by Israeli airstrikes.⁴⁰

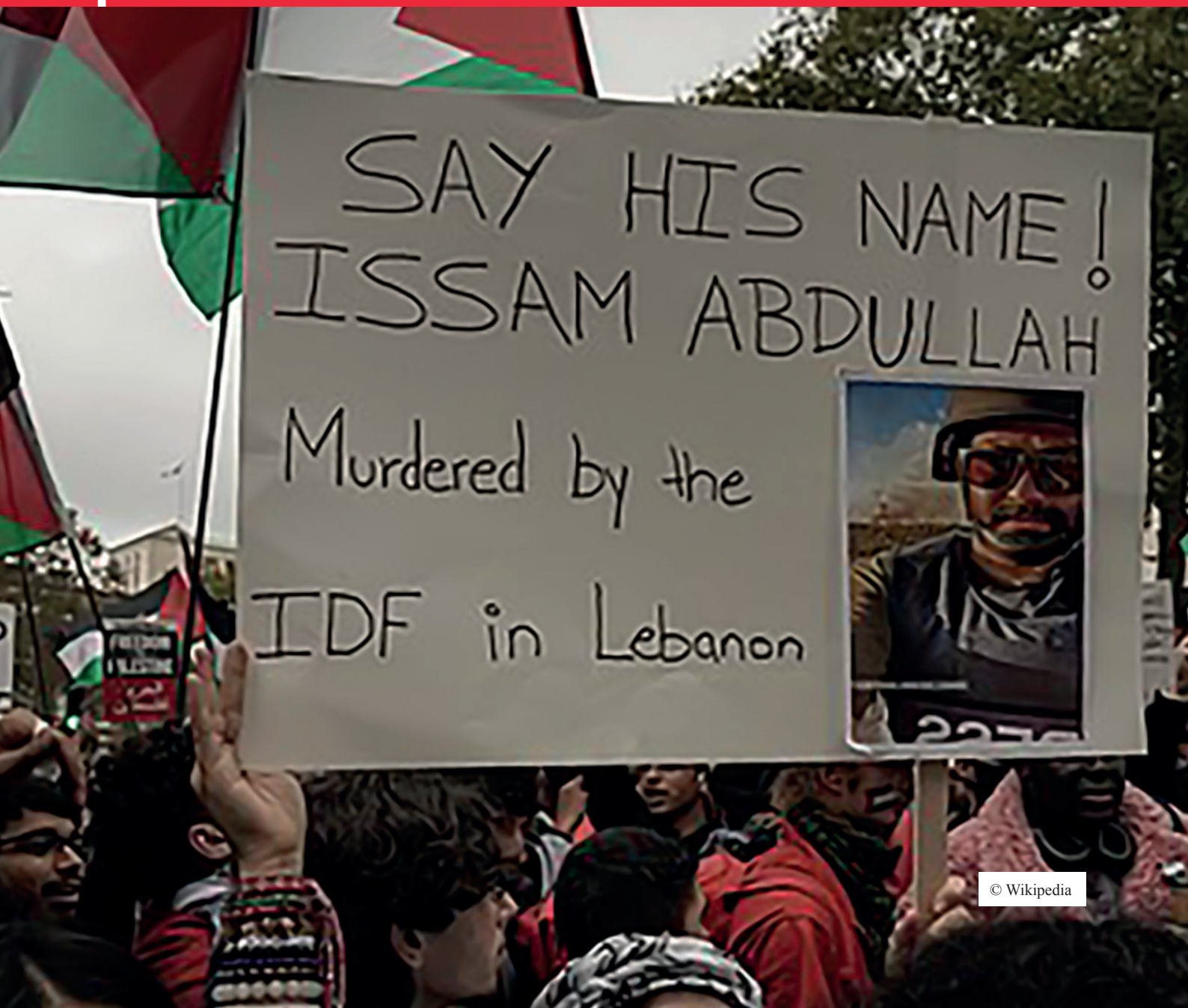
“It’s a difficult moment in the life of a Palestinian journalist, when they go to cover an incident for the news and find out that the news is their own family.”

Wael Al-Dahdouh

Palestinian journalist whose wife, son, daughter, grandson, and other family members were killed during Israel’s genocide in Gaza⁴¹



Israel's Killing Of Lebanese Journalists



Israel's Killing Of Lebanese Journalists

Israel has killed three Lebanese journalists since 7 October 2023.⁴²

Issam Abdallah

The IOF killed Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah and injured six of his colleagues in Alma al-Chaab in southern Lebanon on 13 October 2023, whilst the team was filming.⁴³

There were journalists from 10 different media outlets filming in the area that day, and an Al Jazeera car was also set on fire by the attack.⁴⁴

Farah Omar and Rabih Al-Maamari

An Israeli airstrike killed Al-Mayadeen correspondents Omar and Al-Maamari in Tayr Harfa in southern Lebanon on 21 November 2023 just after they finished providing a live update.⁴⁵

Israel's attack took place just nine days after Israel banned Al-Mayadeen TV within 'Israeli occupied territory'.⁴⁶

“Any Palestinian reporter who speaks about Israel is, by default, already a martyr.”

Rania Hamdalla
reporter for Palestine TV.⁴⁷



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Remaining Palestinian Journalists In Gaza



Remaining Palestinian Journalists In Gaza

Alongside the ongoing Israeli attacks which have killed countless Palestinian journalists, remaining journalists in Gaza face disruption from repeated displacements and evacuations, disruptions to communications and internet access, power and supply shortages, forced starvation, sickness, and lack of access to medical care.⁴⁸

Remaining media workers in Gaza include:

Wadeea Abu Al Saud [@wadeaa_9](#)

Hani Abuishaiba [@haniabuishaiba](#)

Tareq Abuo Azzum [@abuoazzum](#)

Abdulkhalek Abu Riash [@abdalkhalek_abu_riash](#)

Anas Al Sharif [@anasjamal44](#)

Fadi Al Whidi [@fadi_alwhidi](#)

Abod Batah [@abod_bt77](#)

Momen Faiz [@momen_faiz](#)

Ali Jadallah [@alijadallah66](#)

Hind Khoudary [@hindkhoudary](#)

Ezzedine Muasher [@ezzedine_muasher](#)

Bisan Owda [@wizard_bisan1](#)

Hatem Hany Rawagh [@hatem.h.rawagh](#)

Doaa Rouqa [@doaj94](#)

Hossam Shabat [@hossam_shbat](#)

Shoroq Shaheen [@shoroq_shaheen](#)

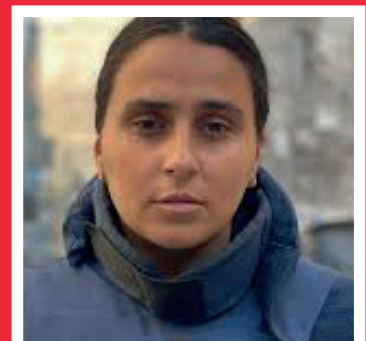
Mohamed Shahin [@hamoda_shahen](#)

Noor Swirki [@noor.n.swirki](#)

“What Nobel Prize when my people are being slaughtered? What would this mean even if I have been posting for more than 300 days on all of the atrocities Israel is committing and nothing is slightly changing. I don’t feel anything towards any prizes. I am stuck here under a 24/7 f*** drone. I am 700 meters away from the red danger zone not knowing where to go. I am just here watching the world watching us.”**

Hind Khoudary

Palestinian journalist nominated for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize.⁴⁹



Footnotes

- 1 'Dear World' Hind Khoudary via X (20 November 2023) available at https://x.com/Hind_Gaza/status/1726498523942883755
- 2 'Shireen Abu Akleh and the journalists killed by Israeli forces' *Al Jazeera* (12 May 2022) available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/12/infographic-the-journalists-killed-by-israeli-forces-since-2000>
- 3 'A Report on Israeli Attacks against Journalists June 30, 2001 – August 29, 2001' Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (30 August 2001) available at <https://pchgaza.org/en/a-report-on-israeli-attacks-against-journalists-june-30-2001-august-29-2001/>
- 4-5 'More Fire – and More Fallen' *Frontline World* (4 June 2003) available at <https://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/frontlineworld/stories/israel.palestine/update.html>
- 6 'Journalist Killed in West Bank' Committee to Protect Journalists (23 March 2004) available at <https://cpj.org/2004/03/journalist-killed-in-west-bank/>
- 7 'Reuters cameraman killed in Gaza' *Reuters* (16 April 2008) available at <https://www.reuters.com/article/video/idUSL1632826120080416/?videoId=80475>
- 8 'Basil Nabil Ibrahim Faraj' Committee to Protect Journalists (25 April 2003) available at <https://cpj.org/data/people/basil-nabil-ibrahim-faraj/>
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- 13 'Shireen Abu Akleh: Al Jazeera reporter killed by Israeli forces' *Al Jazeera* (11 May 2022) available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/11/shireen-abu-akleh-israeli-forces-kill-al-jazeera-journalist>
- 14 'Israeli forces kill Palestinian journalist near West Bank camp' *Middle East Eye* (1 June 2022) available at <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-palestine-forces-kill-woman-west-bank-camp>
- 15 'Shireen Abu Akleh: A trailblazer who gave voice to Palestinians' *Al Jazeera* (11 May 2022) available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/11/al-jazeeras-shireen-abu-akleh>
- 16 '5 Palestinian journalists killed in Gaza in past few hours: Media office' *Anadolu Ajansi* (6 July 2024) available at <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/5-palestinian-journalists-killed-in-gaza-in-past-few-hours-media-office/3267870>
- 17 'Israel's War on Gaza is the Deadliest Conflict on Record for Journalists' *The Intercept* (25 June 2024) available at <https://theintercept.com/2024/06/25/israel-gaza-war-journalists-killed/>
- 18 'Journalist casualties in the Israel-Gaza war' Committee for the Protection of Journalists (29 August 2024) available at <https://cpj.org/2024/08/journalist-casualties-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict/>

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- 19 'In memory of journalist Ismail Al-Ghoul, Gaza City's voice to the world' +972 Magazine (7 August 2024) available at <https://www.972mag.com/ismail-al-ghoul-journalist-gaza/>
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- 29 'Palestinian journalists speak on Israel's killing of their colleagues' TRT World
- 30 'Israel Accused of Killing Palestinian Journalists in 'Unprecedented Numbers and Targeting Their Families'' *Byline Times* (27 August 2024) available at <https://bylinetimes.com/2024/08/27/israel-killing-palestinian-journalists/>
- 31-38 'Father of Al-Jazeera's Anas Al-Sharif killed in Gaza after journalist receives threats' Committee to Protect Journalists (11 December 2023) available at <https://cpj.org/2023/12/father-of-al-jazeeras-anas-al-sharif-killed-in-gaza-after-journalist-receives-threats/>
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- 43-44 'Israeli tank fire killed Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah in Lebanon' *Reuters* (7 December 2023) available at <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ISRAEL-LEBANON/JOURNALIST/akveabxrzvr/>
- 45-46 'Farah Omar' Committee to Protect Journalists (November 2023) available at <https://cpj.org/data/people/farah-omar/>
- 47 'The Unprecedented Killing of Journalists Is Affecting Coverage of Gaza' *New Lines Magazine* (11 January 2024) available at <https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-unprecedented-killing-of-journalists-is-affecting-coverage-of-gaza/>
- 48 'These journalists from Gaza risk their lives to cover the Israel-Hamas war: "Nothing can describe what you feel"' Reuters Institute (14 December 2023) available at <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/news/these-journalists-gaza-risk-their-lives-cover-israel-hamas-war-nothing-can-describe-what-you>
- 49 'I know that I was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for months and I never shared anything related' Hind Khoudary via X (23 August 2024) available at https://x.com/Hind_Gaza/status/1827081370700829057?lang=en
- 50 'Israeli forces attack funeral of veteran journalist Shireen Abu Aqla' *BBC News* (14 May 2022) available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y11CVGz7toM>