

Palestinian Journalists Syndicate: In Gaza, crimes against journalists: 11 killed, more than 20 injured, 2 missed, 50 media institutions destroyed, journalists' homes bombed with their residents inside and dozens of violations in the West Bank and Jerusalem

Ramallah, in a report issued by the Freedoms Committee of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, it was stated that since the beginning of the aggression against the Gaza Strip on October 7th 2023, 10 Palestinian journalists have been killed by Israeli occupation aircraft missiles.

The PJS statement reviewed documentation of the targeting of journalists since the start of the war on the Gaza Strip until this evening, Sunday, October 15th, 2023, and indicated a violent escalation in the targeting of Palestinian journalists.

Names of killed journalists:

1. Ahmed Shehab, program producer on Voice of Prisoners Radio
2. Photojournalist Muhammad Al-Salhi, photographer of the "Fourth authority" agency.
3. Freelance photojournalist Muhammad Fayez Abu Matar
4. Journalist Hisham Al-Nawajha, photographer for "Khabar" agency
5. Photojournalist Ibrahim Lafi from Ain Media Foundation.
6. Journalist Saeed Al-Taweel, editor-in-chief of the Fifth News Agency
7. Journalist Muhammad Jarghoun from Smart Media Agency.
8. Freelance journalist Asaad Shamlakh
9. Journalist Muhammad Abu Rizq, Khabar Agency photographer.
10. Freelance journalist Salam Mema, whose death was announced after being pulled from under the rubble, three days after her home was destroyed.
11. Journalist Hossam Mubarak, broadcaster on Al-Aqsa Channel

Missing Journalists:

1. Photojournalist Nidal Al-Wahidi, who works as a producer with Al-Najah TV
2. Journalist Haitham Abdel Wahed from Ain Media Media Foundation

Serious injuries and bombing of journalists' homes.

More than 20 injuries were documented, the most violent of which was in the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, after announcing the bombing of about 20 journalists' homes completely and some partially, the Israeli occupation army executed a new escalation in bombing the homes of a number of journalists with their residents inside, which led to the injury and killing of their family members, including the killing of the wife of journalist Sameh Murad and the injury of the rest of his family by targeting the displaced people who went out towards Khan Yunis. Also, the home of journalist Muthanna Al-Najjar, which resulted in the injury and killing of some of his family members, in addition to other journalists who were shocked by the loss of their homes and families.

Destroying of journalists' offices:

About 50 headquarters and centers of media institutions were destroyed as a result of the bombing, including:

Al-Aqsa Media Network, Ma'an News Agency, Sawa Agency, Shehab Agency, Al-Quds Newspaper, Radio Baladna, Zaman Radio, National Agency, Khabar Agency, Al-Ayyam Newspaper, Event Media Services Company, Fadel Shanaa Foundation, Holy Quran Radio, Shams News Agency, Office APA Agency, Al Jazeera Network Office, Palestine TV, "French" Agency Office

Violations in the West Bank and Jerusalem:

Meanwhile, many Palestinian journalists were injured in the West Bank, and crews were beaten, detained, prevented from covering, and shot at.

10 cases of shooting were recorded, the last of which targeted journalists Yazan Hamayel and Wahhaj Bani Mufleh in Beita (Nablus), in addition to two cases of arrest of 4 journalists who are Abdel Nasser Al-Lahham, Sabri Jibril, Muath Amarneh and Mustafa Khawaja. Also 22 cases of detention and prevention from coverage were recorded and 10 physical assault cases, in addition to 7 cases of confiscating and destroying journalists' equipment. Meanwhile the Broadcast of Alrabe'a channel has been hacked and interfered, while Al-Aqsa Channel was prevented from broadcasting at the Eutelsat satellite due Israeli occupation pressure.

Additionally, the Israeli forces have arrested 32 citizens who demonstrated for solidarity with Gaza.

Israeli crimes against journalists extend to Lebanon:

The Israeli occupation forces were not limited to targeting Palestinian journalists, but it extended to Lebanon, where the martyrdom of Reuters journalist Issam Abdullah was announced, and five journalists from Al Jazeera, Reuters and Agence France-Presse were injured in an Israeli bombing in southern Lebanon.

Journalists threatening:

Additionally, many journalists were also subject to direct threats and incitement campaigns by Israeli pages on social media platforms, as happened with journalist Muthanna Al-Najjar from Gaza, as well as journalist Muhammad Turkman in the West Bank, apart from monitoring many Hebrew publications calling for the killing of journalists and describing them as saboteurs and terrorists. Additionally, the threat to the Al-Arabi TV presenter was monitored live by an armed settler.

In the last hours of Sunday, electricity and the Internet were announced out of service, which means that Palestinian journalists in Gaza were unable to photograph, document, or send their media materials for publication.

Support and solidarity activities:

In light of the tragic situation that Palestinian journalists are experiencing and the PJS maintaining its communication with sister unions and institutions through updated statements and reports, the PJS received many messages and statements of support and solidarity activities with wide and popular participation in support of Palestinian journalists, the most significant of which were from the journalists' unions in Egypt, UK, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Uganda, Canada, South Africa, the United States, Spain, Belgium, the Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Journalists, and the Federation of African Journalists. Which had a great impact in supporting journalists and giving them hope during these difficult circumstances.

In this context, the Syndicate sent a letter to the International Federation of Journalists, calling it on to urge all media outlets operating within the umbrella of its members to adhere to the ethics and principles of journalism and to exercise accuracy in covering the news and not be biased towards any party, but rather work to convey the truth neutrally in order to avoid more massacres against innocent people.

General Secretariat
Palestinian Journalists Syndicate