



Women  
Journalists  
Without  
Chains

# Palestine: Targeted Killing of Witnesses



## Israeli Occupation in Palestine: Eliminating Witnesses - Targeted Killings of Journalists

In the midst of the darkest hour, the words of Edmund Burke ring true: 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.' Today, these words echo louder than ever as the relentless storm of violence in Palestine's besieged Gaza has reached unprecedented levels, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. As bombs rain down indiscriminately, the foundations of humanity crumble along with the shattered buildings. With each passing second, the toll grows, and the cries of innocent lives lost pierce through the silence of apathy. Urgent action is not a choice but a moral imperative, as the death toll of over seven thousand, predominantly women and children, demands the world's attention to halt this tragic spiral.

In the aftermath of an assault by the Palestinian group Hamas on October 7, Israel initiated a military campaign against the Gaza Strip.

According to the Israeli account, the Hamas attack led to hundreds of fatalities. As a consequence of the Israeli campaign in the Gaza Strip, a significant number of casualties occurred, with a majority being women and children. Additionally, journalists faced mistreatment not only in Gaza but also throughout the Palestinian territory, including southern Lebanon.

In the recent **20-day period (October 7-27, 2023)**, the Middle East and North Africa region has experienced an unprecedented wave of violence against journalists. This dark chapter stands out as the bloodiest in the **75-year** history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, marked by an alarming number of journalist casualties, injuries, and violations. Tragically, it is believed that Israel, in a desperate bid to conceal its heinous acts, has unleashed its full military might to target journalists and their loved ones.

The monitoring unit of the organization 'Women Journalists Without Chains' has been diligently documenting the violations against journalists, both male and female, since the beginning of the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip. However, due to the challenging circumstances of the battle, it is proving to be a formidable task to fully observe and record all the violations that are taking place.



**Journalists killed in Israeli  
airstrikes on Gaza  
until October 26, 2023**

Women Journalists Without Chains

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➤ **Reporters' Lives Lost: A Tragic Toll**

In a heart-wrenching tragedy, the Gaza Strip's Ministry of Health reports that the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli raids has surpassed an unimaginable figure of 7,000 as of October 27, with a staggering 3,000 innocent children among the victims, underscoring the immense toll exacted by this conflict. Fearlessly chronicling the harrowing events within the Gaza Strip,

journalists, both men and women, paid the ultimate price with their lives for daring to expose the cruelty and stark realities on the ground, while the Israeli authorities maintain a claim that **1,400** individuals have lost their lives on their part.

Amidst the harrowing realities of the war, A total of **27** male and female journalists were tragically killed in the Gaza Strip during this war, along with a journalist in Lebanon, with some of them being killed alongside their families, and their targeted assassinations have been confirmed by Women Journalists Without Chains, while others had some of their families killed, as was the case with Wael Al-Dahdouh, the Al-Jazeera correspondent stationed in the Gaza Strip.

**Salam Khalil Mohammed Mima** (33 years old), an independent journalist who worked with various media outlets and served as the head of the Journalists Committee in the Palestinian Media Assembly, was killed on October **10**, along with her family, including her husband and three children, in an airstrike by the occupying forces in Jabalia Camp, northeast of Gaza. Their bodies were recovered from under the rubble after three days.

**Salma Hamada Misbah Mukhaimer** (34 years old), an independent journalist working for several media outlets, was killed, along with her infant child, father, mother, and other family members, during an Israeli raid on the city of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, while visiting her family from Jordan on October **25th**.

**Duaa Sharaf** (31 years old), a journalist for Al-Aqsa Radio, tragically lost her life, along with her infant child, in an Israeli air strike targeting her home located in the Al-Zawaida neighborhood in the central Gaza Strip on October **26th**.

**Issam Abdullah**, a Reuters news agency photographer based in Beirut, Lebanon, was killed by an Israeli bombing near the Lebanese border on October **13th** while covering events in southern Lebanon near the village of Alma al-Shaab, where clashes between Hezbollah and the Israeli occupation army were taking place.

**Saeed Radwan Saeed Al-Taweel** (37 years old), the editor-in-chief of the Al-Khamsa News Network, tragically lost his life during an Israeli air strike on October **9th**, targeting the "Burj Hajji" area in the Al-Rimal neighborhood of the western Gaza Strip, where several media outlets are located.

**Mohammed Rizq Mahmoud Sobh** (35 years old), a photojournalist from Khabar News Agency, was killed in an Israeli air strike that targeted an area containing media outlets in the Al-Rimal neighborhood, west of Gaza, on October 9.

**Hisham Mohammed Fakhri Al-Nawajha** (27 years old), a journalist from Khabar News Agency, was also killed in the same Israeli air strike operation on October 9 that claimed the lives of his colleagues "Al-Taweel" and "Sobh."

**Abdul Hadi Saadallah Rashad Habib** (37 years old), a journalist working for UNRWA Educational Television, tragically lost his life on October 16 when a residential apartment in the Al-Zaytoun neighborhood, south of Gaza City, was bombed, resulting in the deaths of Abdul Hadi and his mother-in-law, while several members of his family sustained injuries ranging from critical to moderate.

**Rushdi Yahya Rushdi al-Sarraj**, 31, director and founder of Ain Media, was killed on October 23 in a missile strike that targeted a house in western Gaza. Al-Sarraj had spoken to "Journalists Without Restrictions" over the phone, stating that he had never witnessed such Israeli brutality in Gaza and had never seen journalists specifically targeted in Palestine.

**Mohammed Tahami Abdel Salam Al-Salhi**, a 29-year-old photojournalist for the Fourth Authority Agency, was killed by occupation bullets on October 7 while covering events on the border fence in Al-Bureij in the southern Gaza Strip.

**Ahmed Abdelrahman Shehab**, a 42-year-old journalist and programmer on Prisoners Radio, along with his wife, children, and a large number of his family members, tragically lost their lives in an air strike targeting the Jabalia camp in the northern Gaza Strip on October 12.

**Omar Fares Omar Abu Shawish**, a 36-year-old journalist, novelist, and writer, was killed while covering events in Gaza on October 7, as a result of an occupation bombing.

**Mohammed Fayez Youssef Abu Matar**, a 28-year-old independent photojournalist, was killed on October 11 in an Israeli air strike in the city of Rafah, located in the southern Gaza Strip.

**Hossam Mahmoud Hassan Mubarak**, a 41-year-old journalist working for Al-Aqsa Radio, was tragically killed during an Israeli raid in the northern Gaza Strip on October 13.

**Youssef Maher Youssef Dawas**, a 20-year-old journalist working for Palestine Facts newspaper, tragically lost his life, alongside members of his family, during an Israeli raid in the town of Beit Lahia, located in the northern Gaza Strip, on October 14.

**Issam Mohammed Subhi Bahar**, a 39-year-old journalist employed by Al-Aqsa TV, along with his wife and several family members, was killed in an Israeli raid on their home in the northern Gaza Strip on October 17.

**Mohammed Baalousha**, the administrative and financial director of Palestine Today channel, along with his young daughter and a number of his family members, was killed during an Israeli raid in the Al-Safawi neighborhood in northern Gaza on October 17.

**Samih Abdel Razzaq Khamis Al-Nadi**, a 55-year-old director of Al-Aqsa TV, tragically lost his life on October 18 during an Israeli raid on the Gaza Strip.

**Khalil Ibrahim Ali Abu Athra**, a 40-year-old cameraman working for Al-Aqsa TV, along with his brother, was killed on October 19 in an Israeli raid on the city of Rafah, located in the southern Gaza Strip.

**Mohammed Abu Ali**, a journalist affiliated with Al-Shabab Radio, was killed on October 20 during an Israeli raid in the northern Gaza Strip.

**Mohammed Imad Labad**, a journalist employed by the Al-Resala news website, was killed on October 23 in an Israeli raid on the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City.

**Asaad Abdel Nasser Asaad Shamlikh**, a 20-year-old freelance journalist, tragically lost his life, along with nine members of his family, in an air strike targeting the southern Gaza Strip on October 8.

**Mohammed Sami Abdullah Jarghoun**, a 28-year-old journalist working for Smart Media, was tragically killed while covering the aftermath of a bombing in the city of Rafah, located in the southern Gaza Strip, on October 7.

**Ibrahim Lafi**, a photojournalist employed by Ain Media, lost his life due to Israeli occupation bullets while covering events in Beit Hanoun, situated in the northern Gaza Strip, on October 7.

**Saed Samir Mahmoud Al-Halabi**, a 42-year-old journalist working for Al-Aqsa Satellite Network, was killed on October 25 as a result of an Israeli bombing targeting his house in the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip.

**Ahmed Jamil Mahmoud Abu Mahdi**, a 58-year-old journalist associated with Al-Aqsa Network, tragically lost his life on October 25 due to an Israeli bombing that targeted his house in the central Gaza Strip.

**Jamal Arif Salem Al-Faqawi**, a 28-year-old journalist working at Al-Mithaq Media Foundation, tragically lost his life on October 25 when an Israeli bombing targeted his house in Khan Yunis, located in the southern Gaza Strip.

**Mohammed Fayez Al-Hassani**, a 34-year-old journalist and director of the Rawasy Palestine Foundation, along with members of his family, was killed in an Israeli bombing that targeted his home in the Gaza Strip.

On the other side, the Israeli government reported that four journalists were killed in Hamas attacks on October 7th, but we have been unable to independently verify this information from a credible source. Furthermore, the Israeli raids not only resulted in the deaths of male and female journalists in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon but also caused injuries to numerous journalists, some of them severely. The situation was further complicated by Israel's disruption of communications and internet access in the Gaza Strip, making it difficult to reach victims and receive complaints from within the area. These actions also hindered the work of journalists, impeding their ability to fulfill their mission of reporting facts and news about the events unfolding in the Gaza Strip.

It is worth noting that a significant number of male and female journalists who lost their lives were situated in areas where the Israeli occupation army had advised Gazans to move in the southern Gaza Strip, and there has been a notable pattern of targeting journalists working in the local Palestinian media, to the extent that Israeli raids specifically targeted the homes of numerous Al-Aqsa TV employees, the media outlet associated with the Hamas movement. In southern Lebanon, following the attack that claimed the life of a Reuters photographer, several other journalists were injured, including **Carmen Joukhadar** (Al Jazeera correspondent) and her photographer, **Eli Barkhia**, along with **Thaer Al-Sudani** and **Maher Nazih** from Reuters, as

well as photojournalist **Dylan Collins** and photojournalist **Christina Assi** (Agence France-Presse).

On October 25th, an Israeli tank targeted the crew of Al-Manar channel, including a reporter and a photographer, while they were covering live developments between the Israeli occupation army and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. Simultaneously, Iranian media released [a video showing](#) a team of seven Iranian television documentary filmmakers being fired upon at the Lebanese-Israeli border. Upon their arrival, the filmmakers were attacked during clashes between Israeli soldiers and Hezbollah-affiliated elements, resulting in injuries to several members of the Iranian team.



Photojournalist: Nidal Al-Wahidi



Journalist: Haitham Abdulwahid

 Palestine

## Missing Journalists



## Punishing Journalists Through Own Families

The Israeli occupation not only targets male and female journalists during their work but also imposes consequences on their families for their coverage of the war in the Gaza Strip. This includes the destruction of [39 homes](#) belonging to journalists in the Gaza Strip, resulting in instances where journalists and their families were trapped under rubble for days, as exemplified by the case of "**Salam Mima**" and her family.

One notable example of journalists being subjected to revenge through their families is the case of Wael Al-Dahdouh, Al Jazeera's correspondent in Gaza, who tragically lost his wife, son, daughter, and grandson in an Israeli raid on a house in the Nuseirat camp. This attack occurred on October 25th in the designated safe zone, where the occupation had urged Gaza residents to seek refuge. Regrettably, 12 individuals, including 9 children, lost their lives in this devastating incident. Al-Dahdouh was in the midst of a live broadcast when he was informed about the heartbreaking tragedy that had affected his family. Without hesitation, he rushed to the hospital to see his children, saying, "They seek revenge against us through our children, they seek revenge against us within our children. Okay... We belong to God, and to Him we shall return."

Al-Dahdouh is not alone in facing such tragic circumstances, as numerous male and female journalists have experienced similar heartbreaking incidents within their own families. One such example is Moataz Azaizeh, a journalist who has been documenting the realities of life in the Gaza Strip for years and has a significant following on Instagram. On October 12, while covering an Israeli bombing in the Deir al-Balah area, located in the middle of the Gaza Strip and designated as a safe zone by the occupation authorities, Azaizeh was devastated to discover that his own home and family had been utterly destroyed, reduced to mere "shreds." Overwhelmed by the enormity of his loss, he repeatedly lamented, "My family, oh God... my family has been torn apart."

While working in the West Bank on October 25th, journalist Mohammed Al-Farra received the devastating news of his family's death in an Israeli raid in the Gaza Strip, causing him to break down in uncontrollable tears and experience severe shock. In those difficult moments, his friends made efforts to comfort and console him. After their house was targeted by an airstrike, the family of journalist **Ashraf Sahwil** was fortunate to be rescued from the debris. However,

journalist **Sameh Murad**'s wife sadly lost her life, while other family members sustained injuries as they sought shelter in Khan Yunis, situated in the southern Gaza Strip. Additionally, journalist **Muthanna Al-Najjar**'s family experienced the loss and injury of several members, and journalist **Saleh Al-Masry**'s family tragically perished due to a house bombing.

### ➤ **Media Destruction: Targeting Journalistic Institutions**

With the onset of the Israeli military campaign on the Gaza Strip on October 7th, a series of airstrikes targeted media and journalistic institutions primarily located in the "Al-Rimal Neighborhood," resulting in the tragic loss of several journalists' lives, including individuals such as Saeed Al-Taweel, Muhammad Sobh, and Hisham Al-Nawajah, while also leaving the neighborhood leveled to the ground.

The Gaza Strip has witnessed the devastating destruction and bombing of over **50** media organizations, including the French Press Office, Al Jazeera Network Office, Arab News Agency APA Office, Palestine TV, Al-Aqsa Network, Real Media Office, Ma'an Agency, Sawa Agency, Al-Ayyam Newspaper, Shehab Agency, Radio Baladna, Zaman Radio, National Agency, Al-Quds Newspaper, Khabar Agency, Fadl Shanaa Foundation, Holy Quran Radio, and Shams News Agency. Additionally, **24** local radio stations have been forced to halt their operations due to Israel's restriction on fuel entry into the Gaza Strip. Moreover, in response to pressure from the Israeli occupation, the broadcasting of Al-Aqsa Channel via the French satellite (Eutelsat) was ceased, as reported by the Palestinian Media Network.

As a result, a significant presence of journalists and correspondents can be observed setting up tents either near hospitals or within their premises. Among them is an Agence France-Presse team situated in the city of Khan Yunis, who have established tents in Nasser Hospital's courtyard. These tents serve as both temporary workspaces for editing reports and sleeping quarters when the sound of bombs momentarily subsides, allowing them a brief respite to rest. The hospital courtyard remains consistently crowded with men and women donning bulletproof vests marked with "Press" in English, along with helmets on their heads. Despite the repeated and often violent bombing operations near the hospital, they tirelessly continue their work.

The Israeli occupation army has declined to accept its international obligation to guarantee the safety of journalists in Gaza, as stated in a letter conveyed to Reuters and Agence France-Presse on October **28th**. It is imperative for the Israeli government to fully adhere to international

humanitarian law, which includes Article 79 of the Geneva Convention, emphasizing that journalists in war zones should be treated as civilians and afforded the corresponding protection, as long as they do not engage in hostilities. Hence, it is crucial for the Israeli government to uphold international law, which unequivocally deems the targeting of journalists, media outlets, and their headquarters as war crimes, devoid of any statute of limitations.

➤ **Violations in West Bank, Jerusalem, and Israeli Cities**

The Israeli occupation's transgressions are not confined to the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon, where male and female journalists faced numerous violations. Instead, these violations have extended further to encompass the West Bank, Jerusalem, and various cities within Israel itself. Systematically targeting the media and imposing restrictions on their work became a recurring pattern in these areas.

In the West Bank and Jerusalem, Palestinian journalists have endured a range of Israeli violations, including arrests, temporary detentions, bullet injuries, beatings, tear gas attacks, home invasions targeting both male and female journalists, confiscation of press equipment, threats, systematic incitement campaigns, closures of certain media institutions, and the looming threat of further closures.

On October 7th, Musab Shawar sustained injuries from occupation bullets while documenting confrontations in Hebron. Two days later, Israeli occupation forces targeted journalists covering demonstrations in Hebron, including **Mashhour Al-Wahwah**, **Musab Shawar**, **Sari Jaradat**, **Wissam Al-Hashlamoun**, **Musa Al-Qawasmeh**, and **Wissam Al-Hashlamoun**. Their cameras were forcibly broken and confiscated, along with several other journalists' equipment. Additionally, the occupation forces fired bullets at them and at journalists **Yousry El-Gamal** and **Hazem Badr**. In the town of Beita, south of Nablus, journalists **Yazan Hamayel** and **Wahaj Bani Mufleh** [were also injured](#) by occupation bullets. On the 13th of the month, another journalist [was injured](#) when the occupation forces attacked him while he was covering demonstrations in Nablus.

During the coverage of events near the Beit Hanoun checkpoint, journalists **Nidal Al-Wahidi** (photographer of Al-Najah Channel) and **Haitham Abdel Wahed** (Ain Media Agency) went missing, raising concerns about their whereabouts and well-being. The "Women Journalists

"Without Chains" organization has previously urged both the Palestinian and Israeli authorities to disclose their fate and take necessary measures to ensure their safety.

Within the West Bank, the occupation forces executed a series of targeted arrests, specifically aimed at journalists, leading to the apprehension of 16 individuals. Notably, **Lama Khater** was taken into custody on October 26, while **Musab Qafisha** and **Thaer Al Fakhouri** were detained during raids conducted in Hebron on October 22. On October 25, **Radwan Qatnani** was arrested from his residence in Askar camp, situated east of Nablus, while **Mohammed Atta** was apprehended in Jalazoun camp on October 23. **Akram Allan Dariba** experienced a temporary detention on October 23, subsequent to the halting and search of his vehicle, yet was subsequently released. Moreover, **Anas Musa** was arrested while reporting on a march in the city of Umm al-Fahm on October 20.

On October 19, journalist and political commentator **Alaa Al-Rimawi** was arrested following [the abduction](#) of his son from their residence in Ramallah. The arrest took place until Al-Rimawi surrendered himself. Additionally, on the same day, **Imad Abu Awad**, **Osama Shaheen**, and **Alaa Al-Rubaie** were also arrested. These individuals, who work as journalists and political commentators, were engaged in providing commentary on public affairs through satellite channels.

**Moaz Ibrahim Amarneh**, **Mustafa Al-Khawaja**, and **Abdel Nasser Al-Laham** were arrested on October 15, after their homes were raided and their families [were assaulted](#) in the southern region of the West Bank, while **Sabri Jibreen** was detained on the same day while covering confrontations between Palestinian youth and the occupation forces in the West Bank, and **Mohammed Nimr Asida** was apprehended on the tenth of October during a raid on the Old City of Nablus in the northern West Bank.

In Jerusalem, over 200 Palestinians were arrested due to their exercise of the right to expression and opinion on social media, with a majority of them facing accusations of incitement and displaying solidarity on social media platforms. While some were released under strict conditions, others were subjected to administrative detention or faced legal indictments.

On October 12, the official Palestinian media [reported](#) that their teams, while covering confrontations between the occupation army, Israeli settlers, and Palestinian youths, were attacked and had their equipment confiscated by the occupation army near Atara, north of

Ramallah. Furthermore, a day prior, the occupation forces detained the Palestine TV crew at the entrance to Hebron, imposing several hours of movement restrictions, preventing them from filming, subjecting them to verbal abuse, searching their visibly marked press vehicle, and examining their cell phones and personal identification cards, despite the journalists providing valid press credentials.

### Assaults on Jerusalem Journalist Crews

Journalist crews, particularly those from Arabic-language press and television outlets, have faced numerous assaults and restrictions while attempting to cover events in Jerusalem, often at the hands of Israeli settlers or forces, with instances occurring during live broadcasts. On October 27, [Russia Today](#) (RT) correspondent **Dalia Al-Nimri** captured the moment when she and her team were forcibly expelled from the Damascus Gate area in Jerusalem by Israeli police, who [threatened](#) them with arrest if they refused to leave, without providing any justification. Furthermore, on October 16, the reporter Al-Nimri was subjected to armed threats due to speaking Arabic. Additionally, on October 13, Cairo News TV [reported](#) that their crew was attacked by Israeli forces while covering events in Jerusalem.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) [reported](#) on October 14 that its press team had been subject to an attack and subsequent detainment at gunpoint following a police stop in Tel Aviv. According to the network, **Muhannad Totenji**, **Haitham Abu Diab**, and a BBC Arabic team were en route to a hotel when their vehicle was intercepted. On October 7, the Sky News Arabia crew in Ashkelon experienced an incident where they were physically assaulted and subjected to verbal insults by the police, resulting in the destruction of their equipment. Sky News Arabia correspondent **Firas Lutfi** [recounted](#) the incident, stating that over 20 Israeli police officers from the Border Guard unit compelled him to remove his press badge, undress, and forced him to kneel on the ground. Furthermore, he reported being struck in the face with shoes.

On October 15, an incident occurred where an armed Israeli policeman [threatened](#) Al-Arabi TV correspondent **Ahmed Darawshèh** during his live broadcast from the city of Ashdod. Additionally, on October 8, shots were fired at a vehicle belonging to journalists affiliated with the Reuters news agency in Sderot. Al Jazeera satellite crews in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and several other Israeli cities were subjected to harassment and assault, including preventing

their correspondent, **Elias Karam**, and the cameraman from completing the live broadcast on October 14. They also [ordered](#) them to leave the area referred to as the "Gaza Envelope."

The Israeli government's harassment of media and journalists extends to Jerusalem, the West Bank, and even Tel Aviv, as demonstrated on October 22 when an Israeli settler in Tel Aviv [attacked](#) the crew of the Haber Turk channel during their live coverage of developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, leading to the interruption of the broadcast, while simultaneously failing to provide protection in such instances. During a demonstration held by the families of Israeli prisoners held by Hamas on October 17, an Al Arabiya television crew in Tel Aviv was [subjected to harassment](#), with the reporter, Rawiya Al-Alami, being asked to leave the location.

### ➤ **Media Restrictions Imposed by Israeli Authorities**

In a distressing turn of events since October 7, the Israeli government has intensified its hostility towards the press and media within the regions under its authority, transforming the once vibrant field of journalism into a living nightmare, particularly in the Gaza Strip. Journalists, both male and female, find themselves operating under the constant specter of peril, endangering not only their own lives but also the well-being of their families. This dire situation has been further compounded by the occupying state's deliberate disruption of communications and limited access to the internet, effectively curtailing media coverage of critical events and unfolding situations.

Going beyond previous actions, the government led by Benjamin Netanyahu has initiated fresh measures aimed at curbing the work of independent media outlets that strive to cover unfolding events. These measures are founded on the "emergency" status declared by Israel's security cabinet, which, on October 8, officially approved the decision to declare a state of war against Gaza in accordance with Section 40 of the Basic Law of the Government.

Enacted under this Basic Law, Israeli authorities possess measures allowing them to declare war and impose restrictions on media outlets, but their implementation has raised concerns over compliance with international law, including the closure of media organizations and offices, disruption of communications and internet access, apprehension and detention of journalists irrespective of gender, and the imposition of non-standardized sentences.

Under the pretext of "restricting enemy aid through the media," emergency regulations were approved on October 20, granting Israel's Communications Minister, Shlomo Karai, in consultation with the Minister of National Security, the authority to issue arrest warrants for individuals who publish content that could potentially harm "the fighting spirit of Israeli soldiers and citizens in the face of the enemy." These regulations additionally confer upon the Communications Minister the power to close down media outlets and impose broadcast boycotts, while Shlomo Karai, a member of the right-wing Likud Party, has consistently maintained a position that prioritizes emergency measures and exhibits a lack of advocacy for freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

Contrary to [the stated goal](#) of restricting the work of foreign media, these regulations, approved on October 20, encompass the perception that the dissemination of news and information during times of war, including the publication of news and media statements by factions and entities considered "enemies" by Israel, [may be exploited](#) for propaganda and support for the enemy, with the assertion that such dissemination would assist the enemy in their conflict against Israel, its citizens, or Jews worldwide.

As per these regulations, their objective is to prohibit news organizations from undermining national security or public order, and from being exploited as a platform for enemy propaganda; consequently, the Minister of Communications, in conjunction with the Minister of Defense's approval, [will have the authority](#) to instruct television service providers to cease broadcasting the concerned news outlet, as well as to close its offices within Israel, confiscate its equipment, shut down its website, or impose restrictions on access to its website based on the location of its server.

In addition, the Minister of Communications has been granted considerable powers, including the ability to issue orders to the Israeli police for the enforcement of laws under suspicion of committing violations through the dissemination of defeatist and hostile propaganda or incitement to rebellion, in accordance with Article 103 of the Criminal Penal Code (spreading subversive propaganda) or Article 134 (seditious publications).

The decision will initially be valid for 30 days, extendable in subsequent 30-day periods, while the emergency regulations, enabling executive authority to legislate without parliamentary oversight and concentrating power in the Israeli War Council, will be in place for three months

or until the government officially ends the designated state of emergency, thereby posing a significant threat to freedom of the press and contradicting the Israeli government's claims of protecting freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

In a bid to provide reassurance to both local and international media, Karrai stated in a mid-October [radio interview](#) that the emergency regulations aimed to shut down Al Jazeera's broadcasting within Israel, expressing his desire to render them unable to operate in the country, including measures such as equipment confiscation and office closures, further stating that the Israeli National Security Council backs the closure of the Al Jazeera network. However, [Israeli media sources](#) suggest that the objective of the Minister of Communications extends beyond Al Jazeera and encompasses silencing all media outlets, including those operating in Hebrew.

Following the implementation of emergency regulations on October 20, the Israeli government approved the closure of Al Jazeera's office in Israel upon a request made by the Minister of Communications, citing reasons of inciting violence and jeopardizing national security. The Israeli occupation [had previously initiated](#) actions by shutting down Palestinian media institutions, including "J-Media," which was abruptly closed by the occupation army, claiming that it was necessary for state security and the preservation of public order.

By implementing emergency regulations, the Israeli government seeks to impose censorship on media coverage, instead of establishing mechanisms to promote transparency in its movements and positions and protect human rights in the conflict it is leading in Gaza, utilizing national security as an excuse to limit the presence of media outlets that do not align with its narrative of the ongoing war.

The approval of the emergency law by the Israeli mini-government constitutes a severe restriction on [freedom of the press](#) and a significant impediment to the right of the global public, including Israeli and Palestinian populations, as well as the international community, to witness the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza, as the Israeli government should not have the authority to decide which information reaches the public, akin to practices observed in countries like Iran, China, and the UAE.



## Recommendations

- In light of the Israeli government's continued and alarming disregard for the urgent appeals to immediately halt its aggressive assault on the press and media, leading to the targeted killings of courageous witnesses, the organization "Women Journalists Without Chains" vehemently implores the international community, with a particular emphasis on the United States and Western nations closely aligned with Israel, alongside influential global institutions such as the United Nations, the High Commissioner, and pertinent envoys actively involved in the Middle East conflict, to demonstrate unwavering resolve and take immediate, decisive action to exert maximum pressure on the Israeli occupation government, demanding an immediate cessation of its deliberate and heinous targeting of both male and female journalists as well as media organizations. In addition to our urgent appeal to end the grievous violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, we emphasize the need to uphold established mechanisms that provide protection to journalists, recognizing the distinction between accredited war correspondents and civilian journalists who courageously undertake perilous missions in conflict zones, as enshrined in Article 79 of the First Additional Protocol of 1977 concerning international armed conflicts. This protocol classifies individuals working in the field of journalism as civilians and extends to them the same safeguards afforded to civilians in armed conflicts. It unequivocally prohibits direct attacks on civilian persons and condemns the arbitrary use of force against them, constituting a grave war crime. It is crucial to acknowledge that the majority, though not all, of journalists operating in Gaza, southern Lebanon, and the occupied territories are civilian journalists who deserve utmost protection under international law. We also urge the respect and implementation of Security Council Resolution 1738 (2006) and United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/163 (2013), condemning attacks on journalists during armed conflicts and emphasizing the need for their protection. Furthermore, we highlight the significance of UN Security Council Resolution 2222 (2015), which calls for the safeguarding of journalists, their associates, and media personnel, while stressing the civilian nature of

media assets such as equipment, offices, and studios, which must not be targeted or subjected to reprisals in times of war and military operations.

- It is imperative to immediately cease the targeting of both male and female journalists through acts of killing, injury, assault, arrest, or any other form of ill-treatment, and to actively work towards neutralizing them from the conflict, thereby guaranteeing their safety, protection, and unimpeded access to information and diverse perspectives essential to their mission.
- It is imperative that the Israeli government ceases the policy of arbitrary detention imposed upon male and female journalists, bloggers, and activists within areas under its control, thereby putting an end to their persecution. The immediate and unconditional release of over **30** journalists, both male and female, currently held in occupation prisons, with a significant number of them having been apprehended within a mere **20**-day period, is of utmost importance. Moreover, it is essential to ensure that Palestinian journalists operating within occupied territories are granted their full rights on par with other local media outlets, while simultaneously discontinuing any discriminatory practices.
- It is imperative that the Israeli government promptly rescinds the ban on communications, internet access, and fuel to the Gaza Strip. This measure is crucial to ensure that the media can obtain accurate information and facts, enabling them to provide authentic coverage of the situation amidst the ongoing and devastating conflict.
- It is incumbent upon the Israeli government to uphold its responsibility in safeguarding the well-being and security of both male and female journalists who are diligently covering the events pertaining to the Israeli war in Gaza. This protection should extend to journalists operating within Israeli cities as well as the occupied territories.
- It is imperative that the Israeli government unequivocally upholds the public's inherent right to access vital information. This necessitates the immediate rescission of closure orders, the withdrawal of licenses from Al Jazeera's office, and the reversal of the "J-Media" agency's closure. Furthermore, any decisions that curtail the press's work within Israel must be promptly abolished. Every individual, be they Israeli, Palestinian, or part of the global community, possesses an indisputable entitlement to witness and comprehend the ongoing conflict's unfolding events. It is incumbent upon the Israeli

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government to refrain from assuming the unjust authority to dictate which information reaches the public domain.

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**Women Journalists Without Chains**

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