

ASSASSINATION OF TRUTH

Killing of Journalists amid
Genocide in Gaza

Report on Targeting Journalists and Media Institutions
in the Gaza Strip during the Genocide 2023-2025



PCHR

المركز الفلسطيني
لحقوق الإنسان





المركز الفلسطيني لحقوق الإنسان
PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Gaza City:

Jamal Abdel Nasser “al-Thalathini” Street, Al-Roya Building, Floor 12. Opposite to al-Azhar University, near Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Dr. Haidar ‘Abdel Shafi .

Tel: (970) 8 2824-776 / (970) 8 2825-893, Fax: (970) 8 2835-288

Khan Yunis Branch:

Jamal Abdul-Nasser Street, Al-batta Building.

Tel/Fax: (972) 8 2061-025 / (972) 8 2061-035

Jabalya Branch:

Izzidin Building, Main Street, Near Abu Qamar Fuel Station, Jabalya Refugee Camp

Tel/Fax: (972) 8 2454-150/ (972) 8 2454-160

E-mail: pchr@pchrgaza.org

Webpage: www.pchrgaza.org

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1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the course of 20 months of aggression in Gaza, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) has committed heinous crimes against Palestinian journalists and media institutions. These crimes include killing, inflicting injuries, arbitrary arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances of journalists, as well as the systematic destruction of media institutions and offices.

Despite the legal protection granted to journalists under international law—as civilians not participating in hostilities—they have faced unprecedented and systematic attacks. Since the beginning of the aggression, Israeli officials and media have openly incited against journalists through official media outlets and social media platforms, identifying specific individuals as targets, labelling them terrorists in press vests, and alleging affiliations with Hamas. As a result of this smear campaign, many journalists were targeted and assassinated, including Isma'il Al-Ghoul, Rami Al-Rifi, and Hasan Esleih.

From 7 October 2023 to 31 May 2025, 221 journalists were killed, and 415 others were injured. Many were directly targeted and killed while on duty. Others were killed in their homes or inside their tents alongside their families. While they were deliberately targeted solely because of their profession, others were killed incidentally during intense

and indiscriminate bombings that struck civilian buildings, shelters, displacement tents, institutions, and roads across the Gaza Strip. This report shows that journalists were targeted despite wearing distinctive press badges and the known coordinates of their locations, headquarters, and broadcast towers.

The IOF has also arrested at least 86 journalists, withholding information about their whereabouts and only disclosing their fate after months of international pressure. Many of those detained have been subjected to torture and inhumane treatment. As of now, 16 remain in Israeli custody and the fate of four journalists remains unknown.

In addition to targeting journalists, the IOF systematically and deliberately destroyed 112 media institutions and offices, including official, partisan, private, and non-profit organizations. This destruction included television, satellite, and radio stations, broadcasting towers, media service offices, and newspaper headquarters. All of these were either partially or totally destroyed early in the war, leaving them non-operational and forcing journalists and media personnel to adopt alternative reporting methods and to operate from unequipped tents, struggling to report the news to the world.

This report draws on PCHR's larger legal analysis of Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip, which concluded that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian people. While the main report—*Voices of the Genocide*—details the full spectrum of genocidal acts and intent, this report focuses specifically on the targeting of journalists and media infrastructure as a critical and deliberate component of the broader genocidal campaign.

The data collected by PCHR shows that these attacks were neither isolated nor incidental, but rather integral to the strategy of silencing Palestinian voices and obstructing international scrutiny. In this context, PCHR found that the killings of Palestinian journalists were deliberate and constituted the acts of "killing members of the group", as prohibited under Article II(a) of the Genocide Convention. It also concluded that Israel committed

the act of “causing serious bodily and mental harm”, under Article II(b) of the Genocide Convention.

The destruction of media infrastructure and the systematic targeting of journalists, coupled with its refusal to grant access to international media and the communication blackouts, further establish Israel’s genocidal intent, analysed in *Voices of the Genocide*. By eliminating those who document, verify, and expose the ongoing crimes, Israel seeks to erase evidence, obstruct accountability, and suppress the truth. These actions are taken with the deliberate aim of obliterating Palestinian identity, memory, and the means of resistance.

The reality on the ground in the Gaza Strip over the past 20 months highlights the weakness and ineffectiveness of international mechanisms in protecting Palestinian journalists and ensuring their safety. The longstanding impunity granted to Israeli war criminals, including the lack of accountability for the killing of dozens of journalists, even before 7 October, has emboldened the IOF to continue committing crimes —encouraged by the silence and inaction of the international community—despite abundant evidence, including audio-visual documentation. Yet, to date, no independent or impartial investigations have been initiated to hold the IOF accountable, while they continue to kill and destroy in plain view of the international community, without consequence or deterrence.

2

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the above, and with the unprecedented targeting of journalists which places Israel as the enemy number one to the press, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) presents the following recommendations to the international community and the International Criminal Court (ICC):

- PCHR calls on the international community to openly condemn the targeting of journalists and to exert meaningful pressure on Israel to:
 - Immediately end the killing of journalists;
 - Release all detained media professionals;
 - Reveal the fate of those missing; and
 - Urgently provide international protection to civilians in the Gaza Strip, including journalists.
- PCHR calls on the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to compel Israel to fulfil its obligations under international humanitarian law, particularly the principles of distinction and proportionality.

- PCHR urges relevant international bodies, especially the International Federation of Journalists, the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Mechanisms, and especially the UN Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly, to monitor violations and respond appropriately to the direct targeting of journalists. More particularly, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression should take concrete steps to investigate and publicly report on violations committed against journalists and media institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), and strengthen protections for freedom of expression in conflict zones.
- PCHR calls on the international community to pressure Israeli occupation authorities to allow the immediate entry of foreign journalists and international media correspondents into the Gaza Strip. Independent media access is essential for documenting violations, monitoring the humanitarian situation, and ensuring accurate global reporting on the realities faced by civilians—including journalists and media institutions.
- PCHR urges the ICC Prosecutor to expedite the investigation into crimes committed in the oPt, including the targeting of journalists—many of whom have paid with their lives to uncover the truth. The ICC should advance to the next procedural steps without delay, as victims in Palestine have waited far too long for justice and accountability.
- PCHR calls for the ICC Prosecutor and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry to visit the oPt and take a clear, public, and firm stance on the crimes committed by Israeli occupation against Palestinian civilians, including journalists.

3

INTRODUCTION

Since 7 October 2023, the Gaza Strip has been under an unfolding genocide, marked by mass killings that have devastated every layer and segment of Palestinian society, particularly women and children. Alongside these atrocities, Israel has systematically and deliberately destroyed public and private property, infrastructure and vital facilities, decimating essential services such as electricity, water, and telecommunications, and turning Gaza into an uninhabitable zone.

These crimes have, ultimately, extended to Palestinian journalist and media professionals working for both local and international media outlets, who have been targeted alongside their media offices and headquarters as part of the broader genocide against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip.

According to data from the Gaza Government Media Office, since 7 October 2023, the IOF has killed 221 journalists and injured 415 others, averaging 11 journalist deaths per month.¹ This figure is both shocking and unprecedented in modern warfare, marking the highest toll since the recording of journalist fatalities began in 1992. Gaza has become the

¹ Gaza Government Media Office (2025). Available at: <https://t.me/s/mediagovps>.

most dangerous place in the world for journalists, with these deaths accounting for more than 70% of all journalist fatalities in 2024 worldwide.²

These attacks have created a hostile and dangerous environment for journalism and media work in the Gaza Strip, leading to the displacement of dozens of journalists and media professionals from leading media outlets to southern Gaza. The continued killings and targeting have also forced many journalists to flee abroad in fear for their safety. One such case is that of journalist Wael Dahdouh, whose family was killed in an attack on a house they had taken refuge in at the Nuseirat refugee camp. Dahdouh himself was injured. Both his colleague and his son—also journalists—were also killed while on duty.

In parallel, the IOF has denied international journalists access to Gaza and deliberately cut off internet and all communication networks at the beginning of the aggression, in an attempt to obliterate the truth from the world and obscure the atrocities they are committing against civilians in Gaza. Through these attacks, Israel intends to suppress the truth, eliminate witnesses to its crimes, and promote only the Israeli narrative to the world, which is starkly different from what is happening on the ground.

The report is based on the documentation of cases of killings, arrests and forced disappearances alongside targeting of media offices, relying on information and testimonies obtained by PCHR in the field and local and international human rights reports. It follows PCHR's earlier report, *Eliminating Witnesses of Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing Crimes in the Gaza Strip* (October 2024).³ Some previously documented cases have been included again in this report to provide a comprehensive overview of the attacks on journalists since the onset of the genocide.

2 Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) (2024) *2024 is deadliest year for journalists in CPJ history; almost 70 percent killed by Israel*. Available at: <https://cpj.org/special-reports/2024-is-deadliest-year-for-journalists-in-cpj-history-almost-70-percent-killed-by-israel/>.

3 Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) (2024) *PCHR releases report on the targeting of journalists and media institutions in Gaza during the 2023–2024 genocide*. Available at: <https://pchrgaza.org/pchr-releases-report-on-the-targeting-of-journalists-and-media-institutions-in-gaza-during-the-2023-2024-genocide/>.

This report draws on PCHR's larger legal analysis of Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip, which concluded that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian people. While the main report—*Voices of the Genocide*—details the full spectrum of genocidal acts and intent, this report focuses specifically on the targeting of journalists and media infrastructure as a critical and deliberate component of the broader genocidal campaign. Rather than revisiting the entire legal analysis, this report highlights how the attacks against journalists not only fit within the established genocidal pattern but also provide additional, compelling evidence of genocidal acts and intent.

PCHR presents this report as part of a growing body of documentation that must inform urgent international action. It serves as a credible legal and factual record and calls on the international community to end impunity, uphold its obligations under international law, and ensure that these crimes do not go unpunished.

4

REPORT METHODOLOGY

This report is based on a selective documentation approach adopted by PCHR in light of the overwhelming scale of violations committed by the IOF during their ongoing military operations in the Gaza Strip. Given the limited capacity of PCHR and other human rights organizations to document every incident amid widespread destruction, forced displacement, and loss of life, the report focuses on qualitative, well-documented case studies of grave violations, with the aim of building legal files that can be used before courts and international bodies.

For this report, PCHR investigated the most prominent incidents targeting journalists and was able to collect testimonies from eyewitnesses, victims' relatives, and victims and build several legal files. PCHR also managed to follow up on several cases of journalists currently detained in Israeli prisons, document conditions of some of them and obtain testimonies on their detention circumstances.

Despite the challenges posed by the displacement of most PCHR staff and the destruction of their homes and offices, the organization succeeded in collecting key affidavits and conducting fieldwork, particularly during the temporary ceasefire brokered in January

2025. This ceasefire allowed greater access to areas previously unreachable due to active hostilities or movement restrictions between northern and southern Gaza. The report is also based on information on detained journalists obtained from follow-ups with families and human rights organizations, as well as secondary data from local and international sources, including the Gaza Government Media Office, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, the MADA Center for Media Freedom, the Palestinian Authority's Commission of Detainees Affairs, and the Palestinian Prisoners Club.

Case studies are used to illustrate key patterns of violations, such as the killing or injury of journalists while visibly performing their duties, and the targeting of media offices and infrastructure. These incidents are supported by detailed documentation and aim to provide credible evidence.

While the report includes statistical data and references broader trends, its primary focus remains on well-substantiated incidents that exemplify systematic patterns of violations. These are contextualized within the applicable international legal frameworks to support legal accountability.

5

ATTACKS BY THE IOF AGAINST JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA INSTITUTIONS

5.1 ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS

The exact number of journalists killed and injured is still unknown. According to the Gaza Government Media Office, since 7 October 2023, the IOF has killed 221 journalists and injured 415 others, averaging 11 journalist deaths per month.⁴ Data from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), in its preliminary investigations up to 27 May 2025, confirms 173 journalists killed and 96 injured.⁵ Similarly, Reporters Without Borders reports that “close to 200 reporters were killed by the Israeli army in Gaza in the first 18 months of war, including at least 42 slain while doing their job (...).”⁶ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has documented the killing of 209 journalists

4 Gaza Government Media Office (2025). Available at: <https://t.me/s/mediagovps>.

5 Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). *Journalist casualties in the Israel-Gaza conflict*. Available at: <https://cpj.org/2023/10/journalist-casualties-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict/>.

6 Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Palestine. Available at: <https://rsf.org/en/country/Palestine>.

from October 2023 until 11 April 2025.⁷ The Mada Center for Press Freedoms documented 216 journalist deaths between 7 October 2023 and the end of 2024, attributing them to Israeli soldiers, snipers, artillery, and missile attacks.⁸ As of 08 July 2025, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate also reported a total of 226 journalists killed and 430 others injured.⁹ These killings are part of broader crimes committed against Palestinian civilians and reflect a consistent failure to distinguish between civilians and combatants.

According to PCHR's investigations, the pattern of these killings strongly indicates that the targeting of journalists is deliberate and systematic, aimed at silencing journalists and preventing them from reporting to the world the genocidal acts taking place on the ground. Journalists were killed in the field while performing their professional duties—clearly marked with press vests and helmets and visibly carrying their cameras. Many others were intentionally killed in their homes or tents, which were bombed while they were inside with their families, while others lost their lives due to indiscriminate bombardment while sheltering in homes, walking on the streets, or traveling on roads.

5.1.1 DELIBERATELY TARGETING JOURNALISTS WHILE ON DUTY

During the ongoing Israeli aggression, at least 42 journalists were directly and deliberately killed while reporting in the field in the Gaza Strip, according to Reporters Without Borders.¹⁰ In its report dated 28 May 2025, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) also confirmed that Israeli forces deliberately targeted and killed at least 17 journalists and two media professionals, classifying these incidents as murders.¹¹ CPJ is currently

7 United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). *Gaza: Increasing Israeli evacuation orders lead to forcible transfer – UN experts warn*. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/ar/press-briefing-notes/2025/04/gaza-increasing-israeli-evacuation-orders-lead-forcible-transfer>.

8 MADA – Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms. *MADA condemns the killing of journalists Helmi Al-Faq'awi and Ahmed Mansour and the injury of 7 others in an Israeli airstrike on a journalists' tent in Khan Younis*. Available at: <https://www.madacenter.org/en/article/1508/>

9 Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) (2025) *Official website of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate*. Available at: <https://pjs.ps/en/index.html>.

10 Reporters Without Borders (RSF). *Palestine*. Available at: <https://rsf.org/en/country/Palestine>.

11 The Journalists are Issam 'Abdullah, Hamzah Al-Dahdouh, Mustafa Thuraya, Isma'il Al-Ghoul, Rami Al-Rifi, Ghassan Al-

investigating at least 20 other cases that strongly indicate deliberate targeting, pending further confirmation.¹² In addition, dozens of other journalists have been injured while covering events, many after being directly targeted during their assignments.

The victims include freelancers and staff working for local and international media outlets. Several journalists were killed on the first day of the war, while covering clashes between Palestinians and the IOF near the eastern border fence of the Gaza Strip.

PCHR has documented 25 cases of journalists who were killed while performing their duties in the field, including inside press tents set up in hospitals. According to PCHR's investigations, these journalists had taken all necessary safety precautions, such as identifying themselves by wearing press vests and helmets and reporting their exact locations. In many cases, video evidence captured journalists being injured live on air, while broadcasting from areas under attack or reporting live for local and international television stations to inform the world of the unfolding situation.

The following section outlines the most significant cases of journalist killings and injuries in the field, as documented by PCHR and verified through on-site inspections, eyewitness testimonies, and legal case files prepared for multiple incidents of direct targeting.

Najjar, Wissam Qasem, Mohammed Reda, Ayman Al-Jidi, Faisal Abu Al-Qumsan, Mohammed Al-Lad'ah, Fadi Hassounah, Ibrahim Sheikh 'Ali, Mahmoud Islam Al-Basous, Hussam Shabat, Helmi Al-Faq'awi and Ahmed Mansour.

¹² Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). *Journalist casualties in the Israel-Gaza conflict*. Available at: <https://cpj.org/2023/10/journalist-casualties-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict/>.

Killing of Journalists Said Al-Tawil, Mohammad Subh Abu Rizq, and Hisham Al-Nawajha in the Bombing of a Residential Building in Gaza City

On the evening of 10 October 2023, journalists Said Al-Tawil, director of Al Khamsa Agency, Mohammad Subh Abu Rizq, a photographer with Khabar Agency, and Hisham Al-Nawajha, a journalist with Khabar Agency, were killed when the IOF bombed the Babel Tower in western Gaza City. The three were taking shelter there, along with other journalists and civilians, after the IOF warned of an imminent attack on the nearby Haji Tower, which houses media offices and institutions. Despite the known presence of journalists from various news agencies and local residents, the Babel tower was bombed, killing the three journalists and several civilians. Abu Rizq and Al-Tawil died instantly, while Al-Nawajha succumbed to his injuries the next morning.


Journalist Mustafa Jarrou, a reporter and photographer for Al-Yawm Al-Ikhbari, recounted that on the evening of 10 October 2023, he went to cover the IOF's impending strike on the Haji Tower. He noted that journalists had gathered near the adjacent Al-Ghifari Tower, located just south of the targeted building. He added:

Journalists gathered near Al-Ghifari Tower, which borders the targeted tower from the south. He added:

“ I went down in the elevator with my colleagues Hisham Al-Nawajha, Mohammad Subh, and Samer Al-Za'aneen. We reached the entrance of the tower and walked towards Haji Tower. Said Al-Tawil was standing at the Babel Tower, about 100 meters from Haji Tower, trying to find a relatively safe spot while assisting civilians in evacuating. He was accompanied by our colleague Tamer Lubbad. Samer Al-Za'aneen stopped me and asked where I was going. I told him I was heading towards the others. He then asked me to fasten the helmet on his head. While I was doing so, I heard three powerful explosions, and dust

spread everywhere. A journalist from Media 24 screamed at us, saying: 'The young man who was with you' (referring to Said). I shouted back: 'Who? Who?' Then, he fell on the stairs of Al-Ghifari Tower and lost consciousness. Another journalist checked his fallen camera and found a picture of Said Al-Tawil lying on the ground. That's when we realized he was referring to him.

More colleagues came from the targeted area, shouting: 'Said! Said!' We then drove to Al-Shifa Hospital. I went to the reception and searched for Said. Ahmad Hijazi, a freelance journalist, tried to calm me down. At that moment, I tried to leave the reception area, and saw Mohammad Subh lying on a bed, already lifeless, being taken from the reception and emergency area to the morgue. I went into a hysterical state, pushing the bed to the morgue. After placing him in the fridge, I remembered Said and looked for him. They told us there was another journalist in the fridge. Other colleagues went in and found Said's body. That was a huge shock, especially since they were also my friends and like brothers to me. Hisham Al-Nawajha was in intensive care. Around 03:00, we returned to the office and searched for Said's belongings, which we found. At around 06:00, we went to the street to search for the equipment of our martyred colleagues and were surprised to find that the target was Babel Tower, not Haji Tower, which was the building where the colleagues were sheltering. We found the cameras and discovered that there were also martyrs from the Hassouna and Haboush families in the same attack.




Killing of Al Jazeera Cameraman Samer Abu Daqa and Injury of the Al Jazeera Correspondent Wael Al-Dahdouh in Khan Younis

At around 14:27 on Friday, 15 December 2023, an Israeli drone launched a missile at Al Jazeera cameraman Samer Abu Daqa and correspondent Wael Al-Dahdouh while they were with a Civil Defence team evacuating a trapped family from a targeted home near Farhana School in central Khan Younis. This resulted in injuries to Abu Daqa and Al-Dahdouh, who were wearing helmets and distinctive press attire, as well as to members of the Civil Defence team. Al-Dahdouh managed to walk away from the area despite being injured by shrapnel in his arm and abdomen, while his colleague Abu Daqa and the civil defence workers remained at the site, bleeding. Later, IOF aircraft and artillery targeted the same area with several shells. After about five hours, during which emergency teams could not reach the site due to repeated bombardments and delays by the occupation forces in coordinating access, the teams obtained special coordination through the Red Cross. They found that Samer Abu Daqa and three Civil Defence workers—Hossni Khalil Nabhan, Nour Al-Din Mohamed Saqer, and Rami Hisham Bdeir, a photojournalist with the civil defence team—had been martyred.

Injured Journalist Wael Al-Dahdouh provided the following testimony to PCHR:

“I, along with my colleague and photographer, Samer Abu Daqa, accompanied the Civil Defence after they received coordination to reach a trapped family in their home near Farhana School in Khan Younis following an Israeli attack. We documented the extensive destruction, photographing areas no camera had reached before. Our aim was to show the world what was happening on the ground. and completed our coverage. While we were returning from the mission and walking just a few meters, something sudden happened. I felt something significant had happened, and I fell on the ground with my helmet and microphone falling off. I tried to gather my strength and barely managed

to stand, feeling dizzy and unsteady. I expected a second strike and estimated that staying in the area would prevent anyone from reaching me. So, despite my unsteady state and severe bleeding from my arm, I decided to leave the area. I pressed my hand against one of the wounds and began walking until I reached the end of the street where a first aid team treated me on-site. I informed them that we needed to return to our colleague Samer Abu Daqa, whom I heard screaming and who was clearly injured. I estimated that his injury was in the lower part of his body. The field team stopped the bleeding and told me to leave now and that another team would come back to get Samer and the others.



According to the information obtained by PCHR, there were no IOF forces stationed in the area where Abu Daqa, Al-Dahdouh and the Civil Defence team were operating at the time of the attack or in the period immediately following it. However, this location, in the centre of Khan Younis, is several hundred meters away from the nearest known Israeli military position. The area had been subjected to repeated Israeli airstrikes and artillery shelling in the days leading up to the incident, and a ground invasion had taken place nearby. It is also one of the neighbourhoods from which the IOF had ordered residents to evacuate.

Given these circumstances, the evidence strongly suggests that the attack was a deliberate strike on the press and rescue teams. The Israeli military possesses advanced aerial surveillance, imaging, and targeting technologies, which should have enabled them to clearly identify the presence of journalists and Civil Defence personnel on the ground. Furthermore, Abu Daqa was targeted again with repeated shelling as he attempted to move only a few meters from the original location—such repeated attacks reinforce the likelihood that this was an intentional and targeted attack.

Killing of Hamza Wael Al-Dahdouh and Mustafa Thuraya in Rafah

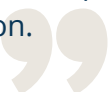
On 7 January 2024, Al Jazeera journalist Hamza Wael Al-Dahdouh—son of journalist Wael Al-Dahdouh, who had previously been targeted (see above)—and AFP photojournalist Mustafa Thuraya were killed in an Israeli drone strike while working in the Muraj area of Rafah, in southern Gaza. At the time of the attack, both journalists were clearly identifiable, wearing press vests and helmets. The strike also claimed the lives of several other civilians.

Amer Abu Amro, a photographer for Al Jazeera Mubasher and Palestine Today TV, provided details of the attack to PCHR. He was with his colleague Ahmed Al-Barsh, Al Jazeera's Mubasher correspondent, at a chalet owned by the Abu Al-Naja family in the Al-Nasser area, north of Rafah, to cover an Israeli airstrike on the chalet, which resulted in casualties and missing persons under the rubble. Abu Amro told PCHR:

“ I saw several journalists at the chalet, including Hamza Wael Al-Dahdouh and Mustafa Thuraya, and I spoke with Mustafa Thuraya for a few minutes to coordinate a joint effort and benefit from his expertise in photography. After our conversation, as I was heading towards my colleague Ahmed Al-Barsh to finalize our report, I heard an explosion nearby, which I estimated to be caused by an Israeli drone strike. This resulted in injuries to me and my colleague Ahmed Al-Barsh from shrapnel. Despite my injury, I continued filming as if I did not feel it at the time, while Ahmed was in considerable pain. I then boarded an ambulance from the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, which was parked at the chalet with at least one martyr's body recovered from the destroyed chalet. The ambulance took us south via a street connecting Rafah and Khan Yunis towards Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah.

At around 11:15, I heard an explosion near Al-Yasmeen Mall and saw a civilian vehicle behind us that appeared to have been hit by at least one missile. The

ambulance stopped, and I ran towards the vehicle, filming as I went. It turned out to be a Skoda, which had stopped due to the attack and contained five injured civilians. I was not sure if Hamza Al-Dahdouh and Mustafa Thuraya were inside. I returned to the ambulance, and we continued to the hospital. Shortly after, other ambulances arrived with casualties from the vehicle hit behind us, including the martyrs Hamza Wael Al-Dahdouh, Mustafa Thuraya, and a third martyr named Qusai Salem, whose profession I do not know, along with two other injured individuals. After that, doctors examined me, found my injuries to be minor, and then I went to check on my colleague Ahmed Al-Barsh, who had shrapnel in his abdomen and was described as being in moderate condition.



Killing of Journalists Isma'il Al-Ghoul and Rami Al-Rifi by Airstrike in Gaza City

Journalists Isma'il Al-Ghoul (27), an Al Jazeera correspondent in Gaza, and Rami Al-Rifi (27), an Al Jazeera cameraman, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on their vehicle in Gaza City on Wednesday, 31 July 2024. At around 17:00, an Israeli warplane targeted a press vehicle belonging to Al Jazeera as it travelled on 'Aaydiyah Street in western Gaza City. Both journalists were killed instantly. According to Al Jazeera correspondent Anas Al-Shareef, the two journalists were killed in a direct strike while riding in a car clearly marked with Al Jazeera insignia, which they used regularly. Both were wearing press vests at the time.¹³

Eyewitness Osamah Al-'Ashi, a journalist with China Central Television (CCTV), told PCHR:

“ I went to perform 'Asr prayer at my uncle's house. Between 16:55 and 17:00, while I was on my first rak'a of the prayer, the second explosion occurred. The explosion was so powerful that the shrapnel flew everywhere, reaching my uncle's house. I immediately interrupted my prayer and went to the balcony overlooking Al-Sousi Mosque Street intersecting with 'Eidiyah Street. I took out my iPhone 14 Pro Max and recorded a video of the intersection that captured a 2014 white Hyundai Tucson dragged westward, burning, and people fleeing. I realized then that the car was targeted. I immediately left without knowing who was inside the targeted vehicle. I was the first journalist to arrive at the scene and fully document the crime. When I reached the intersection, the targeted vehicle had stopped after colliding with a destroyed house. I stood in the middle of the street, as the targeted vehicle was about 10-15 meters away to my right and the body of a child who had been killed instantly while crossing the street to my left. I quickly took some photos of the child, Khaled Al-Shawa (17) who was riding his bike on the street at the time. I then found a microphone

¹³ Al Jazeera (2024) *Video coverage of the aftermath of the airstrike that killed journalist Ismail Al-Ghoul*. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/aljazeerachannel/videos/908443387995487/>.

and a small diary near the child's body. This was the most shocking moment of my life because I recognized that these items belonged to Ismail Al-Ghoul, and the targeted vehicle was his as He was using throughout the war and it had the Press sign. I rushed to the vehicle; I could not control my emotions due to the horrifying scene. We pulled out the bodies of Ismail Al-Ghoul and the cameraman Rami Al-Rifi, as both heads were separated from their bodies. The upper rear part of the vehicle was targeted.”

Following the incident, the IOF claimed that Al-Ghoul was a member of Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam's Nukhba Forces and that the strike was part of a targeted military operation, not an attack on a journalist.¹⁴ The IOF added that the assassination was, “conducted by an Israeli Air Force warplane that targeted Al-Ghoul in a joint IDF and Israeli Security Agency operation.”¹⁵ Al Jazeera categorically refuted these claims.¹⁶

According to them, Al-Ghoul has been actively reporting on the war since 7 October, including coverage of major events such as the IOF raid on Al-Shifa Hospital, where he was temporarily detained and later released—an action that contradicts the Israeli narrative of him being an active combatant (for more details see Section 4.1.5).

¹⁴ Israel Defence Forces (IDF) (2024) *Eliminated: Ismail Al-Ghoul, a Hamas military wing operative and Nukhba terrorist*. Available at: <https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/idf-press-releases-israel-at-war/august-24-pr/eliminated-ismail-al-ghoul-a-hamas-military-wing-operative-and-nukhba-terrorist/>.

¹⁵ Al Jazeera (2024) *Al Jazeera refutes fabricated Israeli accusations against its journalist Ismail Al-Ghoul*. Available at: <https://network.aljazeera.net/en/press-releases/Al-jazeera-refutes-fabricated-israeli-accusations-against-its-journalist-ismail-al-ghoul>.

¹⁶ Idem.

Killing of Journalist Ibrahim Marwan Salem Muhareb and Multiple Injuries by Tank Shelling in Khan Younis

On 18 August 2024, the IOF deliberately opened fire on a group of journalists wearing blue press vests while covering Israeli military operations near Hamad City, northwest of Khan Younis.

Journalist Salma Al-Qaddoumi, working for Agencies France-Presse (AFP), was wounded by shrapnel from a bullet that entered through her back and exited her chest. She and three colleagues managed to flee under heavy gunfire. Freelance journalist Ibrahim Marwan Salem Muhareb, however, was wounded and left behind due to heavy gunfire. His body was retrieved the next morning, showing fatal gunshot wounds to the lower back and thigh. He had bled to death. Footage confirmed direct Israeli fire on the group of journalists.

Journalist Rasha Ahmed Yousif Ahmed, a freelance reporter from Khan Younis and a member of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, gave this account:

“At around 17:30 on Sunday, 18 August 2024, I was with my fellow journalists Ibrahim Muhareb, Salma Al-Qaddoumi, and Ezz Al-Din Al-Ma’shar while wearing blue vests clearly marked with “Press” and “صحافة”, heading toward Hamad City, west of Khan Younis, leaving from the Al-Mawasi area, which lies to the west of Hamad City. We went there to cover the events following the Israeli incursion into the area. On our way, we met some young men who told us that the tanks stationed west of Hamad City had withdrawn. Therefore, we moved forward but were surprised with a tank stationed about 300–400 meters away from where we were. The tank began firing at us. We started to run. Ibrahim Muhareb and I were the last two, so we laid down to protect ourselves from the increasingly intense gunfire. But Ibrahim was hit by a bullet in the back,

and the tank kept advancing toward us. I did not know what to do, should I flee and leave him, or stay and be killed? The shooting intensified again. I tried to pull Ibrahim with me but could not. When the danger increased and bullets flew very close to me, I had to leave him and started running, trying to flee the area. I fell into a hole, then crawled out of it because I was exposed to the Israeli tank. I kept crawling toward a plot of land and found my fellow journalists there. I saw that my colleague Salma had also been shot in the back, but we feared that the army might come closer, so we ran. A donkey cart transported us to the beginning of the street, and we called an ambulance, but they refused to come. We kept walking until we found a vehicle that drove us to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. During that time, we lost all contact with our colleague Ibrahim. I informed everyone that he had been shot and gave them the location where we were. But I did not know what happened to him afterward, did he manage to leave the area or continue bleeding, was he killed, or arrested...



Killing of Journalist Mohammed Al-Tanani in Jabalia Refugee Camp

On 9 October 2024, the IOF targeted a group of journalists gathered at Abu Sharekh Intersection in Jabalia refugee camp, northern Gaza Strip. They were covering the Israeli ground incursion when IOF forces opened direct fire at them.

As a result:

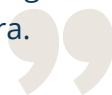
- » Photojournalist Mohammed Al-Tanani, working for Al-Aqsa TV, was killed.
- » Tamer Lubbad, Al-Aqsa TV correspondent, was wounded.
- » Fadi Al-Wehaidi, Al Jazeera cameraman, was shot in the neck by an Israeli drone while reporting from Al-Saftawi area.

Journalist Tamer Lubbad recounted the attack. He told PCHR that he and his colleague Mohammed Al-Tanani headed in the afternoon of 9 October 2024 to the outskirts of Jabalia refugee camp, where there had been calls for help during Israel's most intense and large-scale ground assault on the northern Gaza Strip. Those pleas were sent by residents besieged under relentless bombardment targeting residential squares on top of their inhabitants. He added,

“Mohammed and I decided not to risk further and only make a report from the entrance of the camp, particularly on Al-Falouja Cemetery Street behind the healthcare clinic building in Jabalia Al-Nazla. We prepared the report unfolding the untold reality and shedding light on the families besieged in the camp and unable to leave amid the unabated genocidal war. It was around 16:15. After finishing the report, I asked my colleague Mohammed to leave immediately due to the heavy tank shelling and hovering of Israeli drones at low altitudes, but he asked first to take some accompanying footage of the destruction. He was carrying the camera and filming with it while I walked southwards. I was only 4 meters away from him when I suddenly heard an explosion and felt

an injury in my left shoulder and side. My press vest was also hit by several pieces of shrapnel in the back. I started calling out to Mohammed, but he never answered. The dust filled the place, and I headed towards a residential area on a street leading to the Halabi intersection in Jabalia Al-Nazla. I pleaded for help from the residents there while bleeding. They took me and put me in an alley in one of the houses [...]

A paramedic offered me first aid and then took me to Al-Ahli Al-'Arabi Hospital, where it turned out that I had sustained shrapnel wounds in the shoulder and waist, reaching the colon. I was then referred to the Public Service Hospital in Gaza and underwent surgery that required 38 stitches. Regarding my colleague Mohammed, the drone prevented anyone from approaching him by shooting. His body was later recovered, and it turned out that he had his left leg amputated and had sustained shrapnel wounds all over his body. He was left there for two hours before being recovered, while wearing his press vest and helmet and carrying his camera.



Fadi Al-Wehaidi, Al Jazeera cameraman, was also shot in the neck by an Israeli quadcopter drone while covering events from the Al-Saftawi area, north of Gaza City. He was left to bleed on the spot, as the security situation prevented anyone from reaching him. After suffering severe bleeding and nearly losing his life, Fadi was eventually transported to the hospital.¹⁷ Later, his health severely deteriorated, and he fell into a coma due to full-body paralysis. Despite his critical health condition, the Israeli authorities prevented him from traveling abroad for treatment. Journalist Islam Bader, a correspondent for Al Araby TV, told PCHR:

¹⁷ Al Jazeera (2024) Journalist Anas Al-Shareef's testimony regarding the injury of journalist Fadi Al-Wehaidi. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPP85sxnj5s&ab_channel=AlJazeeraArabic%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A9.

“On 9 October 2024, at the beginning of the IOF's ground invasion into Jabalia refugee camp, I was in northern Gaza Strip, specifically in the Al-Saftawi area, along with my colleagues from Al Araby TV and Al Jazeera, to cover the events in the area. Unlike Jabalia, which the IOF had designated as an evacuation zone and ordered its residents to leave, Al-Saftawi was not among the areas subject to evacuation orders. We were documenting the forced displacement of Jabalia's residents when we suddenly came under fire. We immediately fled in different directions. I believe the shots were fired from a quadcopter drone, though we neither saw a drone nor a tank, only heard the sound of its propellers. The shots were fired directly at us from above. We heard the sound of bullets hitting the nearby iron doors. We began running southward in Al-Saftawi area. We were about seven journalists, all wearing press vests. There are photos and videos documenting the incident in the archives. We moved toward Al-Saftawi and Al-Jalaa Street to escape the fire. At that moment, our colleague Fadi Al-Wehaidi fell. We did not realize he had fallen until we had already passed him in our attempt to escape the gunfire. I turned back and found him lying unconscious. I tried to assist him, and together with my colleagues, we carried him to an ambulance, all while the gunfire continued. He was then transported to the hospital.”

Killing of Ahmed Baker Al-Louh while Accompanying Civil Defence Teams in a Victim Recovery Operation

On 15 December 2024, the IOF bombed a Civil Defence site in the market centre in Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. As a result, three Civil Defence personnel were killed in addition to Al-Jazeera TV cameraman Ahmed Baker Al-Louh (39), who was at the time covering the victim recovery operations by the Civil Defence. Al-Louh was wearing a clearly marked press vest and helmet when the attack occurred.

Eyewitness, M. 'A. 'A.¹⁸ told PCHR:

“At around 17:15 on Sunday, 15 December 2025, after finishing Al-Maghreb prayer in Al-Noqtah yard, I entered the administration room just a few meters away west of the prayer area. Suddenly, everything went dark and was covered in dust and smoke. I felt the ground shaking beneath my feet, so I rushed outside the room to find out what happened. I saw young men lying on the ground two meters away on the prayer mat, scattered. I approached them and saw Abu Nidal Abu Hjeir, a Civil Defence officer, sustaining trauma to his right side and lying lifeless, while Ahmed Al-Louh, Al-Jazeera cameraman, was injured and showing no signs of life. Next to them were 'Alaa Al-Na'izi and Khaled Al-Maqadmah, from the Civil Defence, with similar injuries to their left sides. All four were killed. I also saw 'Emad Radi, Mohammed Ghurab, and Mohammed Ziadah lying on the ground injured. We called the Palestine Red Crescent ambulance services as well as Al-'Awda Hospital in Nuseirat because our own ambulance had broken down after several pieces of shrapnel scattered in the yard struck it. Five minutes later, the ambulances arrived, and we transferred the dead and the wounded to Al-Awda Hospital in western Nuseirat refugee camp.”

¹⁸ Their name was not disclosed upon their request.

Killing of Five Journalists, Ayman Nihad Al-Jidi, Faisal ‘Abdullah Abu Al-Qumsan, Ibrahim Jamal Sheikh ‘Ali, Fadi Ehab Hassouna, and Mohammed Eyad Al-Ladaa, by Airstrike in Al-‘Awda Hospital in Nuseirat Refugee Camp

At approximately 01:05 on Thursday, 26 December 2024, an Israeli drone targeted a live broadcast vehicle belonging to Al-Quds TV. The vehicle, clearly marked with press signs, was parked to the south of the administration building at Al-‘Awda Hospital, run by Al-‘Awda Health and Community Association in Al-Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. The targeted vehicle was engulfed in flames, burning alive the five journalists working for the TV station inside it. They were identified as Ayman Nihad Al-Jidi (28), a photojournalist, Faisal ‘Abdullah Abu Al-Qumsan (27), a correspondent, Ibrahim Jamal Sheikh ‘Ali (38), Fadi Ehab Hassouna (22), and Mohammed Eyad Al-Ladaa (23). Also, two other people were wounded, including one of the hospital’s security guards, while the administration building sustained damage.

An eyewitness named Talal Mahmoud ‘Abdel Rahman Al-‘Arouqi, a journalist and correspondent at Al Jazeera Mubasher Channel, whose car was parked near the targeted site and sustained damage, said he heard a very strong explosion while he was at the hospital and immediately rushed outside towards the targeted bus. He added that the bus was used for outside broadcasts and that the journalists were sleeping inside it daily, noting that it was clearly marked with press signs. Al-‘Arouqi elaborated:

“On 26 December 2024 at around 01:40, when I was at Al-‘Awda Hospital in the eastern administration building, I heard a sudden loud explosion and saw a ball of fire lighting the whole area. Glass, dust, stones, and furniture scattered all around us as I was with some staff members of Al-‘Awda Hospital, who started to bleed. We were overwhelmed by shock, unable to comprehend what had happened. Moments later, I went outside the administration building to find out what happened and was surprised to see that a vehicle belonging to fellow

journalists working for Al-Quds Today Channel was targeted and engulfed in flames. The vehicle was parked somewhere near the administration building, and this place has been known by everyone as a base for journalists. The targeted vehicle and another one for Al Jazeera Mubasher Channel were parked there; both bore the PRESS-TV (صحافة) logo. This place is where journalists have been stationed, carrying out their reporting duties. After seeing the targeted vehicle consumed by flames, I started calling out for help from people present at the scene. I told them our colleagues were sleeping inside that vehicle, but no one could do anything due to the intense fire. The other vehicle belonging to Al Jazeera Mubasher Channel sustained severe damage—I was usually inside that vehicle every day at that same time. I would sometimes sleep inside it, and if I had been there at that very moment, I would have faced the same fate as our colleagues', especially since many fragments of shrapnel penetrated the vehicle and its front seats, where I would usually be. People there took my car keys to try to move it away from the scene and fire, and they eventually managed to do so but only after great difficulty and risk. A few minutes later, the Civil Defence teams arrived and tried to extinguish the fire, but it was so difficult due to the limited resources and the huge fire. The teams then called for backup to help control the intense flames. After the backup teams arrived, they managed to control the fire, which gradually faded and was almost completely extinguished. I could see my five colleagues inside the vehicle, but they were charred bodies. We tried to pull them out with the help of the Civil Defence and ambulance crews, but it was so difficult due to the intense heat affecting the metal parts of the vehicle as well as the charred remains of the bodies stuck to what was left of the vehicle. With extreme difficulty, the first body was pulled out, but we could not recognize it as it had no limbs due to the severe burns. Afterwards, the rest of them, one after the other, were retrieved with the same difficulty—none of them was identified as their facial and body features had been erased by the severe burns.



Killing of Sa'ed Abu Nabhan by Sniper Fire in Nuseirat Refugee Camp

At around 17:00 on Friday, 10 January 2025, an Israeli sniper positioned on the rooftop of a building in Al-Jadeed Refugee Camp in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip fired a bullet at journalist Sa'ed Sabri 'Ali Abu Nabhan (26), cameraman for Al-Ghad TV and Anadolu News Agency. At the time, Nabhan was accompanying medical crews that had entered the camp to evacuate the wounded, noting that he was clearly carrying his camera. Nabhan was hit by a bullet that entered his back and exited his chest, causing him to fall and die instantly.

At around 16:40, medical crews and a group of journalists had rushed to Al-Jadeed Camp upon distress calls from residents reporting people injured and trapped under the rubble following Israeli artillery shelling and a ground incursion that morning. After the Israeli vehicles had withdrawn, the medical crews started the rescue operation while the journalists were covering their efforts. At that time, Israeli artillery resumed shelling the area, targeting people there, including the ambulance crews and journalists, while snipers stationed on rooftops opened fire, injuring several people, among them journalist Abu Nabhan.

Footage published on social media captured the moment journalist Abu Nabhan was shot in the back while carrying his camera and fleeing alongside others, including young men carrying a dead body, as the sound of gunfire echoed in the background.¹⁹ Abu Nabhan fell unconscious, and the footage showed someone trying in vain to carry him. He was left to bleed on the ground until he died.

A paramedic from the Public Service Ambulance crew, who was at the scene to evacuate the injured, said to PCHR:

¹⁹ Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA) (2024) *Video documentation related to the targeting of journalists in Gaza*. Facebook. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/MadaCenterPS/videos/1161240872371660>.

“[a]n artillery shell was fired by the Israeli vehicles, and the ambulance crews alongside the journalists were surrounded by drones while a sniper was atop a high building. Suddenly, the sniper fired a bullet, wounding journalist Sa’ed Abu Nabhan and causing him to fall to the ground.”

Journalist Khamis Sa’id Khamis Al-Rifi, a freelance journalist for Reuters and Al-Jazeera TV, shared with PCHR that an Israeli sniper positioned atop one of the high buildings in the camp opened fire on journalist Nabhan, wounding him with a bullet that entered his back and exited his chest. He fell to the ground, and after several attempts to retrieve him, they managed to pull him and put him inside an ambulance that drove him to Al-’Awda Hospital in the same camp; however, he was already dead as the bullet had hit his heart.

Killing of Journalist Hussam Shabat in a Targeted Strike on his Car in Beit Lahia

On 24 March 2025, Palestinian journalist Hussam Shabat (23), a contributor to Al Jazeera Mubasher Channel, was killed in an Israeli airstrike targeting his vehicle in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. Eyewitnesses emphasized that Shabat's vehicle was targeted directly and without prior warning, killing him instantly. Shabat had previously sustained wounds from a prior attack but continued his reporting duty until he was killed.²⁰ Following his death, a message he had written was widely circulated, in which he said: "If you're reading this, it means I have been killed—most likely deliberately by the Israeli occupation forces."²¹ Footage broadcast by the media showed the vehicle he was driving in Beit Lahia clearly marked with a PRESS sign.

Journalist Mahmoud Abu Salamah, Al-Ghad TV correspondent, told PCHR:

“At around 15:00 on Monday, 24 March 2025, I was covering the displacement of Beit Hanoun residents to the south, particularly at Hamoudah intersection. At the time, fellow journalists Hussam Shabat and Mohammed Abu 'Odah arrived to cover the same event. Just when they stepped out of their car, clearly marked with TV and Press signs, an Israeli drone directly targeted them with a missile. As a result, they were wounded and fell to the ground while another person riding his donkey-drawn cart was wounded as he was speaking with the targeted journalists to tell them more about the situation in Beit Hanoun. We carried both and put them in my own car to rush them to the nearby Indonesian Hospital. I was fully hopeful that doctors could save them, but unfortunately, their deaths were pronounced by the Reception and Emergency Department.”

20 Al Arabiya (2025) *First moments of the killing of Palestinian journalist Hussam Shabat*. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/M9TszJDWYRs>.

21 Al Jazeera (2025) *Al Jazeera journalist killed in Israeli strikes in northern Gaza*. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/3/24/al-jazeera-journalist-killed-in-israeli-strikes-in-northern-gaza#:~:text=The%20colleagues%20of%20Shabat%2C%20have,every%20moment%E2%80%9D%20to%20his%20people>.

Killing of Journalists Helmi Al-Faq'awi and Ahmed Mansour, as well as journalist assistant Yousef Khalil Al-Khuzundar and Multiple Injuries in Airstrike Targeting Journalists' Tent Near the Medical Complex in Khan Younis

In the early hours of Monday, 7 April 2025, an IOF warplane fired a missile at a journalists' tent belonging to the Palestine Today Agency, opposite the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis. As a result, the tent was burned, and two journalists working with the Palestine Today Agency, Helmi Al-Faq'awi (28) and Ahmed Mansour (35), as well as Yousef Khalil Al-Khuzundar (29), journalist assistant, were killed, while other journalists were injured.

Helmi Al-Faq'awi and Yousef Khalil Al-Khuzundar were killed instantly in the airstrike, and Ahmed Mansour later died at the hospital from critical injuries. Al-Faq'awi was inside the journalists' tent at the time of the attack, whereas Al-Khuzundar, who had been sleeping in a nearby tent, was struck by shrapnel. Mansour sustained severe burns across his entire body after the fire resulting from the attack engulfed the journalists' tent. Footage circulating after the incident shows Mansour consumed by flames, as his colleagues desperately attempted to extinguish the fire using improvised methods, but without success.²² He was eventually transported to the hospital in critical condition, and succumbed to his injuries after two days.

Several other journalists were injured in the attack. At least three were reported to be in serious condition, while the others sustained moderate to minor injuries. The injured journalists have been identified as: Hasan 'Abd Al-Fattah Esleih (38).²³ Ehab Al-Burdaini (38), Ahmed Sa'eed Al-Agha (38), Abed Al-Raouf Sha'th (33), Majed Diyab Qudaih (39), 'Andullah Foad Al-'Atar (24), 'Ali Eslei, and Mahmoud Mohammed 'Awwad (41).

²² BBC News Arabic (2025) *The moment Ahmed Mansour burned to death*. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/dY4ojb7CEw0>.

²³ Esleih was later killed in another targeted attack (see below).

PCHR obtained three testimonies from journalist eyewitnesses, one of whom was injured in the same incident.

Journalist 'Ali Esleih who was injured during the attack told PCHR:

“ I sustained injuries after Israeli warplanes targeted a journalists' tent near Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis on 7 April 2025, killing and injuring several journalists. That day, I woke up to the screams of my four colleagues who were with me in the tent. All of them were wounded, some in the head, others in the stomach, and one in the shoulder, while thick smoke filled the tent. I was in shock and unable to comprehend what was happening. I got out of the tent and found it burning. People were screaming, 'Hasan... Hasan' (referring to journalist Hasan Esleih). I became worried, as Hasan is my cousin, and I did not understand what was going on. Suddenly, I saw people carrying someone whose face was covered in blood, and they were shouting 'Hasan.' I ran with them toward the Emergency Department, still in shock. Upon arrival, I realized that my leg was bleeding. I headed to the Emergency Department, where I collapsed. Doctors and nurses rushed to treat me, but all I could think about was Hasan and what had happened to him...”

Journalist Abed Al-Raouf Sha'th (33), a freelance journalist, also shared with PCHR:

“ I saw journalist Ahmed Mansour, a reporter for Palestine Today Agency, engulfed in flames while sitting upright on a chair behind a desk in the Palestine Today tent. I was shocked by the horrific scene and stopped filming immediately. I rushed toward him to try to get him out of the tent. As I approached and tried to pull him, his pants tore in my hands due to the intensity of the flames. I made

several attempts, but my right fingers were burned. The fire blocked my way, so I moved to another corner to avoid the flames and tried again to reach him, but the fire was too intense. At that moment, several colleagues who were in the area brought water bottles and put out the fire. We finally managed to pull Ahmed Mansour out and transport him to the Nasser Medical Complex, where he was pronounced dead the following day.

Journalist Mohammed Samer Saed Al-Swirki (32), who works for Russia Today and NBC News Agency, said:

At approximately 01:20 on Monday, 7 April 2025, I was sleeping in a journalists' tent set up along the eastern entrance wall of the Nasser Medical Complex, along with my colleagues Samed and Taha Abu Tharifa (45), who work for NBC News Agency, Ehab Al-Burdaini (30), a freelance journalist, and Yousef Al-Khuzundar (29), assistant to the journalists. Suddenly, I woke up to the sound of a powerful explosion, followed by clouds of dust and flying shrapnel. I saw flames outside the tent. My colleague, Samed Wajeeh Abu Tharifa, immediately jumped out through the northern window, followed by Taha through the eastern one to find out what had happened, while I remained inside the tent. Ehab Al-Burdaini and Yousef Al-Khuzundar were still asleep and had not woken up despite the blast. I then heard the hissing of gas leaking from a cylinder placed next to the tent and smelled gas filling the air. I checked the cylinder and discovered it had been struck by shrapnel and was leaking. Fearing a potential fire or explosion, I rushed to wake up Ehab and Yousef. I called out to them and approached, but was shocked to see Yousef bleeding from the neck, unable to move or respond, while Ehab's eyes were swollen and his mattress stained with blood. I began shouting, 'Help us! Help us!'

Then, many people and journalists who were nearby rushed over to assist. They immediately evacuated Yousef and Ehab to the emergency department at the Nasser Medical Complex, and I accompanied them. Following medical examination, doctors pronounced Yousef Khalil Al-Khuzundar dead, as he had sustained a shrapnel injury to the neck. Ehab Al-Burdaini had sustained a critical head injury and was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). After Yousef was transferred to the morgue and I returned to check on Ehab in the ICU, I learned that the airstrike had directly targeted the Palestine Today News Agency's tent, which was located opposite ours. As a result, journalist Helmi Al-Faq'awi was killed, and several other journalists sustained various injuries. Later that morning, I returned to our tent and saw the damage caused by the scattered shrapnel, which had damaged the furniture and equipment inside.



Killing of Journalist Hasan Esleih by Airstrike on Nasser Medical Complex

On 13 May 2025, an Israeli drone fired a missile at a room within the Burns Unit of the Nasser Medical Complex, where Hasan Abdel Fattah Esleih (37), a freelance journalist, was receiving treatment. The airstrike killed him instantly, along with Brigadier General Ahmed 'Abd Ibrahim Al-Qudra (44), Chief of the Anti-Narcotics Police and a member of the Police Command Council in Gaza. Esleih had been hospitalized since 7 April after sustaining burns all over his body and the amputation of two fingers in an Israeli airstrike that targeted a journalists' tent next to the same hospital (see above).

An eyewitness, freelance journalist Fayiq Ibrahim Abu Mostafa, who was receiving treatment in the Internal Medicine Department at Nasser Medical Complex for injuries sustained during the 7 April attack, told PCHR:

“At approximately 02:00 on Monday, 13 May 2025, Hasan Esleih came to my room in the Internal Medicine Department, woke me up, and we sat talking about the situation and the ceasefire—the news was reassuring. After half an hour, he left and returned to his room in the Burns Unit. I tried to sleep after he left, but 15 minutes later, I heard a massive explosion inside the hospital. I got out of bed and left the room, but then returned and opened social media to find out where the airstrike had occurred. My brother Ahmed went out to check and quickly came back to inform me that the explosion was in the Burns Unit, in Hasan's room. I immediately rushed to the Burns Unit and saw patients leaving the room. I asked about Hasan, and they told me he was still inside. As I approached the room, my foot was injured by a nail. The young men entered Hasan's room before me, and I stood at the door. I saw a large hole in the eastern wall of the room opposite the door. I looked to the right towards the northwest corner, where Hasan's bed was, and saw a pile of rubble on top of him; he was motionless. Then the young men lifted the rubble

off him and placed him on a bedsheet. As they approached me, I grabbed the sheet alongside them, and together we carried Hasan down the stairs to the emergency department. We gathered around him as he lay on the emergency bed, but Hasan had already passed away. I cried hysterically and hugged him. After the doctors examined him, they declared his death and transferred him to the hospital morgue.



The killing of Hasan Esleih, a prominent social media activist who worked with several local news agencies, came as the culmination of months of continuous incitement against him and other journalists by Israeli security and official media. He was accused of belonging to an armed group and participating in the events of 7 October 2023.²⁴ Israeli reports alleged that he appeared in a video holding a hand grenade on that day, even though he was covering the events as part of his journalistic work and was not involved in any combat activities.²⁵ He also refuted these allegations in an interview conducted with him after he was injured on 7 April.²⁶ These accusations were followed by a continuous campaign of incitement through Israeli digital media, which circulated Israeli security statements and reports as if they were verified facts. This led to a widespread incitement campaign against him, as he noted in a post on his X account on 9 November 2023.²⁷ As a result, he received many Israeli threats, including direct death threats, and his social media accounts were blocked multiple times.²⁸

Following his murder, the IOF announced that they had deliberately assassinated Hasan Esleih, accusing him of belonging to an armed group and claiming that he was not a

24 Avichay Adraee (2025) *Official statement on Telegram*. Available at: <https://t.me/IDFSpokespersonArabic/8577>.

25 Facebook (2025) *Audio recording of the late journalist Hasan Esleih*. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=644856038551438&rdid=0ehA0tZc6WMohuuq>.

26 Instagram (2024) *Reels audio of journalist Hasan Esleih*. Available at: <https://www.instagram.com/reels/audio/1032242138374666/?hl=ar>.

27 Hasan Esleih (2023) Post of X. Available at: <https://short-link.me/163xp>.

28 Al Jazeera (2025) *Details from the life of martyr photographer Hassan Esleih*. Available at: <https://short-link.me/1616X>.

journalist. The Israeli army spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, published a video in Arabic on his “Instagram” page, stating: “Esleih was not a journalist; he was a terrorist with a camera. He did not merely film for Hamas; rather, he was an integral part of the group. Esleih was an active member of Hamas’s Khan Younis Brigade. These are not assumptions or speculations; we have evidence: internal documents that directly link him to Hamas terrorists. Esleih did not only document the 7 October massacre, but he was also involved in its commission.”²⁹

29 Avichay Adraee (2025) *Official statement on Instagram*. Available at : <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJzfW4wo-q3/>.

Injury of Journalists Isma'il Abu Omar and Ahmad Mattar While Covering Incidents in Rafah

On 13 February 2024, an Israeli drone fired at least one missile at journalists Isma'il Abu Omar, Al Jazeera correspondent, and his colleague, cameraman Ahmad Mattar, while on duties in al-Nasr village north of Rafah City. As a result, they sustained serious injuries, including the amputation of Isma'il Abu 'Omar's right leg. A footage circulated showed that the two journalists were wearing press vests clearly marked with the word "Press" in English.

According to the testimony of journalist Isma'il Abu Omar, he was with his colleague, cameraman Ahmad Mattar, covering incidents in Qizan al-Najjar, south of Khan Younis, in an area where internet signals could be accessed to broadcast messages to the world. He added:

“Israeli warplanes were heavily hovering overheads the moment we arrived, and we felt that a strike might happen. Indeed, the Israeli warplanes bombed a group of young men about ten meters away from us—one was killed, and two others were injured—and we documented it. We then decided to leave the area. After moving about 500 meters, the Israeli warplanes targeted us with a missile. I do not remember what happened next. I later learned that I had been evacuated, and doctors had performed several surgeries to stop the bleeding, as the blast led to the amputation of my right leg. As for my colleague Ahmad, he arrived at the hospital and was placed under observation in the intensive care unit. He has shrapnel injuries in his head and hand and has remained in a coma since arriving at the hospital.”

5.1.2 Deliberately Targeting Journalists and their Families in Airstrikes on their Homes

The deliberate targeting of journalist while at home has emerged as a systematic pattern used by the IOF during the genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. Since 7 October 2023, several journalists and their families have been killed in direct airstrikes targeting their residences or the locations where they had sought shelter, including relatives' houses, rented accommodation, and tents.

The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate has reported alarming figures related to these attacks. Between October 2023 and April 2025, the IOF bombed 152 houses linked to journalists, resulting in the death of a total of 665 family members and relatives. In 2023 alone, 63 houses were struck, killing 436 family members of journalists. In 2024, an additional 71 houses were bombed, causing 203 deaths. As of 2025, more journalist-affiliated homes have been targeted, killing 26 family members.³⁰

These figures point to a systematic pattern rather than random targeting, aimed at eliminating those reporting on Gaza to the world and sending a broader message of intimidation to all journalists in the field: that no place within the Gaza Strip is safe for them or their families.

PCHR has documented several incidents and was able to establish that the IOF deliberately targeted some journalists in their homes. The most prominent cases have been presented below. Testimonies from relatives and eyewitnesses were collected, and detailed documentation of the incidents was carried out, including cases where children and women were killed alongside the journalists. In addition to these verified cases, there were other instances where houses belonging to journalists' families were bombed, although it could not be confirmed whether the journalist was present or directly targeted

³⁰ Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) (2025) *The occupation has killed 665 martyrs from the relatives and families of journalists since the beginning of the war of extermination*. Available at: <https://pjs.ps/ar/page-3314.html>.

at the time of the strike. However, the recurrence and consistency of such attacks across a substantial number of cases strongly indicate a deliberate pattern of targeting journalists.

Killing of Journalist ‘Abed Al-Rahim Hamad in Airstrike on his House in Jabalia Refugee Camp

On 6 October 2024, the IOF targeted journalist Hasan ‘Abed Al-Rahim Hamad’s house, killing him immediately and shredding his body in pieces. Hamad, who worked at Media Town Company and cooperated with different media institutions, was covering and filming from his house the Israeli bombardment and ground assault on Jabalia refugee camp, northern Gaza. Hamad spent the previous night voice-recording and publishing videos streaming the latest developments in Jabalia refugee camp, and the latest video he posted was just half an hour before being targeted. On 13 May 2024, Hamad received a message on WhatsApp from an Israeli number, threatening to kill him and his family if he continued publishing against Israel.³¹

Killing of Journalist Hassan Al-Qishawi Killed in Airstrike on his House in Gaza City

On 2 January 2025, an Israeli drone fired a missile at Hasan Sa’eed Helmi Al-Qishawi, a freelance journalist, as he arrived at his house at the Palestine Roundabout, west of Gaza City. The airstrike killed Hasan and a passerby, while others sustained various injuries.

Minutes before the assassination, Helmi Al-Qishawi, his brother, was with Hassan on the street. Hassan went to the house, while he went elsewhere.



After no more than ten minutes, I heard the sound of an airstrike in the area. I did not pay attention; I thought it was just an airstrike as usual and did not realize that it targeted my brother Hassan. I continued on my way as normal.

³¹ Based on PCHR’s documentation of the crime.


After some time, a friend called me to tell me what had happened to Hassan. I was shocked and could not believe it. I rushed to the house to check on Hassan and confirm the news I had heard, but I could not find him as he had been taken to the Baptist Hospital. I saw traces of blood at the entrance to the house and shrapnel scattered around the area.

Killing of Journalist Mohammed Mansour in Airstrike on his House in Khan Younis

On 24 March 2025, journalist Mohammed Mansour, a reporter at Palestine Today TV, was killed, while his wife was seriously injured after their house in Khan Younis, south of the Gaza Strip, was targeted. Mohammed's father, 'Emad Mansour shared with PCHR:

“At approximately 12:55, on 24 March 2025, after the Al-'Asr prayer, my family and I were in the apartment that I had rented near the Old Zu'rub family council in the Baten Al-Sameen neighbourhood of Khan Yunis. Suddenly, I heard an explosion. About half a minute later, I heard the sound of a second explosion. Then, about a minute after that, I heard the sound of a third explosion. At that moment, I had a strange feeling that the three explosions had been launched by Israeli warplanes on my son Mohammed. I rushed out of the apartment, followed by my son Shaker (22), and we headed towards the rented apartment where my son Mohammed and his wife lived. It was close to my apartment. After about three minutes, I arrived and saw a number of people gathered in front of Nizar Zu 'rub's house. They were afraid to go up to the apartment where my son Mohammed and his wife lived and thought that the Israeli warplanes might bomb the apartment again because they targeted it with three missiles in a few minutes. However, I took the risk and went up to the third floor, where

the apartment was located. Two neighbours followed me. When we arrived, we could not open the apartment door because it had been damaged in the bombing. We then noticed a hole in the wall caused by the bombing and entered the apartment through it. I found my daughter-in-law, Marwa Sami Salman Al-Ajrami (Mansour), 25, lying on the floor. She could hardly breathe and was bleeding from her head. I then saw my son, Mohammad, lying on the floor next to the apartment door, and he was severely bleeding, particularly from his neck. I put my hand on his neck to stop the flow of blood, as he recited the Shahada. I noticed there were many shrapnel fragments in the walls around him.



Killing of Five Journalists and their Family Members in Airstrike on their Homes

PCHR documented other cases in which journalists and their families were killed:

- » On 9 August 2024, journalist **Tamim Ahmed Mu'amer** (42), editor of Voice of Palestine Radio, and several members of his family were killed when Israeli warplanes bombed his house in Khan Younis.
- » On 20 August 2024, journalist **Hussam Al-Dabaki**, Al-Quds TV cameraman, was killed in airstrike on his house in Al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza Strip.
- » On 12 December 2024, journalist **Eman Al-Shanti** (38), a presenter for Al-Aqsa TV, was killed, along with her three children, in airstrike targeting her family house in Gaza City.
- » On 3 January 2025, freelance photojournalist, **Omar Al-Derawi** (22), was killed when Israeli warplanes bombed his family house in Al-Zawaida village in central Gaza Strip at around 02:04. As a result, Omar, his father Salah Saleh 'Ali Al-Derawi (45), his mother Khadija Hasan 'Ali Al-Derawi (43), and Shaker 'Adnan Ibrahim Al-Na'ami (22) were killed, while others sustained various injuries.
- » On 1 April 2025, an Israeli warplane fired two missiles at **Al-Bardawil** family house in Al-Emirati neighbourhood in western Khan Younis. As a result, Journalist Mohammed Saleh Mohammed Al-Bardawil (35), Al Aqsa Radio presenter, his wife, Islam 'Ali Hasan Al-Bardawil (29), and their three children Saleh (3), Eman (10), and Lama (8) were killed.

5.1.3 ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS DURING INDISCRIMINATE STRIKES ACROSS THE GAZA STRIP

During the reporting period, numerous journalists were killed as a result of widespread and indiscriminate Israeli attacks across various areas of the Gaza Strip. These journalists lost their lives while at home, walking through the streets, in markets, or near public institutions and civilian facilities. Journalists are inherently at risk due to the nature of their work—which requires proximity to hostilities in order to document events—they have therefore been exposed to the broader dangers facing the entire civilian population in Gaza under intensive, wide-ranging bombardment.

In the cases documented below, the evidence does not necessarily indicate that journalists were specifically and individually targeted. Rather, their deaths appear to have occurred as a result of indiscriminate strikes impacting civilian areas. The widespread nature of the destruction—combined with the constant presence of journalists in the field—places them at heightened risk alongside other civilians.

Nevertheless, it is important to highlight that many journalists killed in these incidents were clearly identifiable as members of the press, wearing marked vests and helmets and operating in well-known media teams. They were not present in areas of active combat or near military objectives. While Israeli authorities claim these deaths were collateral damage, the frequency of such incidents raises serious concerns regarding violations of the principles of distinction and proportionality under international humanitarian law.

Among those killed were:

- » On 19 November 2023, journalist **Belal Jadallah**, Chairman of Press House-Palestine, was killed in an airstrike targeting his vehicle while he was driving on Salah Al-Deen Street, east of Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood in Gaza City. It remains unclear whether

Jadallah was deliberately targeted or killed as a result of indiscriminate shelling affecting civilians more broadly. The Press House-Palestine is one of the Gaza Strip's leading press institutions. It is an independent, non-profit organisation, established in January 2013, through an initiative by a group of independent journalists to promote freedom of opinion and expression, support independent media and provide legal protection for journalists in Palestine.

- » On 27 October 2024, Israeli warplanes attacked Asma School, an IDP shelter in Al-Shati Refugee Camp, west of Gaza City. As a result, nine Palestinians were killed, including three journalists, one of whom was a woman. The journalist killed in the airstrike were identified as **Saed Radwan**, Head of Digital Media Department at Al-Aqsa TV in Gaza; **Hamza Youssef Abu Selmiya**, a journalist at Sanad News Agency; and **Haneen Mahmoud Baroud**, a freelance journalist.
- » On 13 January 2025, freelance journalist **Ahlam Nafiz Al-Talouli** was killed after sustaining shrapnel injuries all over her body when Israeli warplanes bombed a residential square in Gaza City.
- » On 13 January 2025, journalist **Mohammed Bashir Al-Talmas**, who worked for Safa Press Agency, was seriously injured after an Israeli drone fired a missile at a group of people in Al-Sheikh Redwan neighbourhood, west of Gaza City. After sustaining a head injury, Mohammed was transported to Baptist Hospital, where he was pronounced dead the following day.

5.1.4 ARRESTING, TORTURING, AND FORCIBLY DISAPPEARING JOURNALISTS

The attacks on journalists have extended beyond killings and injuries. Since the beginning of the aggression, journalists have also faced arbitrary arrest, torture, and enforced disappearance, especially during the IOF ground invasions in the northern Gaza Strip and Khan Younis. These incursions were marked by a sharp escalation in the detention and abuse of media professionals.

Both governmental and non-governmental human rights organizations have documented these violations. According to the Gaza Government Media Office, the IOF has arrested 48 journalists since the start of the war. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported the arrest of 86 journalists and the disappearance of two more.³² Similarly, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate recorded 47 arrests.³³ Some of these detentions occurred on the very first day of the aggression, while others took place during ground operations in areas such as northern Gaza, Gaza City, and notably at Al-Shifa Hospital.

Many journalists were detained while covering the bombardments or documenting the destruction. Others were arrested in their homes despite clearly identifying themselves as journalists. Often, these arrests were made without warrants, and those detained were subjected to force, humiliation, torture, and ill-treatment.

PCHR obtained testimonies from journalists who were released after months in detention, confirming that they had been subjected to incommunicado detention and various forms of torture—including beatings, sleep deprivation, and denial of hygiene, medical care, and food—both during arrest and throughout their time in inhumane detention camps.³⁴

32 Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). *Journalist casualties in the Israel-Gaza conflict*. Available at: <https://cpj.org/2023/10/journalist-casualties-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict/>.

33 Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) (2025) *Official website of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate*. Available at: <https://pjs.ps/en/index.html>.

34 Over the past months, PCHR has received several testimonies from detainees, including journalists, who were released from Israeli detentions. They confirmed that they were subjected to unprecedentedly brutal interrogation and torture

Their testimonies corroborate 100 other testimonies collected by PCHR and analysed in a detailed report.³⁵

According to the Palestinian Prisoners Club, 16 journalists from Gaza remain in Israeli detention. PCHR submitted seven requests to the Military Command Center in Prisons, seeking to uncover the fate and determine the place of detention of seven journalists, whose arrests had been documented by PCHR. They were supported by affidavits and powers of attorney from the journalists' families. Israeli authorities confirmed the detention of five of the seven journalists. However, they claimed to have no information on the remaining two, despite documented evidence of their arrest (see below for more information).

PCHR also submitted three formal requests to visit detained journalists. Two visits—journalists Raed Subaih and 'Alaa Al-Sarraj—were granted, while two scheduled meetings with journalist Imad Zakaria Al-Franji were abruptly cancelled.³⁶ Authorities cited Al-Franji's health condition as the reason, further raising fears that he may have been subjected to torture. In May, PCHR confirmed that he had been transferred from Ofer Prison to Negev Prison inside Israel. During their visits to the two journalists, PCHR lawyers confirmed that both of them were being held under extremely difficult conditions, subjected to torture, and denied basic rights such as sleep, food, water, hygiene, and medical care. They are being held in facilities that fall far below minimum international standards.

Since 7 October 2023, the IOF has systematically withheld information about detained journalists from their families. In many cases, the detainees' whereabouts remained unknown for weeks or even months—a practice that constitutes enforced disappearance

and endured dehumanizing conditions. These included deprivation of sleep, food, visits, and medical care, which resulted in the deaths of several detainees and caused psychological and physical consequences for many others.

³⁵ Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) (2025) *Torture and Genocide: The Shattered Futures of Former Palestinian Detainees in Gaza*. May. Available at: <https://pchrgaza.org/pchr-releases-report-on-torture-and-genocide-against-palestinians-from-gaza/>.

³⁶ Journalist, Imad Zakaria Badr Al-Franji (56), was arrested on 19 March 2024 from Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza City.

under international law. While sustained pressure from local and international human rights organizations eventually led to the identification of some detainees' locations, most were held in detention camps in the Negev Desert, particularly "Sde Teiman",³⁷ the fate of many others remains unclear.

To date, the whereabouts of four journalists remain unknown. Two disappeared at the Erez crossing on the first day of the Israeli aggression while covering unfolding events.³⁸ For the remaining two, who were arrested in Gaza City, mentioned above, Israeli authorities deny holding them in custody. Despite nearly 19 months passing since their disappearance, no further information has been released.

This ongoing pattern of enforced disappearance—combined with prolonged incommunicado detention and the systematic use of torture—reflects a deliberate strategy to silence journalists who persist in carrying out their professional duties. The PCHR continues to demand the immediate disclosure of the whereabouts and conditions of all detained and disappeared journalists.

³⁷ Among the journalists whose whereabouts were initially concealed by the Israeli authorities and later revealed were Abdullah Faisal Al-Ashi and Amro Al-Nimra. Al-Ashi was arrested at his house in northern Gaza during the ground invasion. He was subjected to severe physical and psychological torture, including beatings, electric shocks and deprivation of food and water for days, before being released. Al-Nimra was arrested while covering the destruction in the Al-Shuja'iyya neighbourhood and was forcibly disappeared for over a month before reappearing in Ofer Prison in Israel.

³⁸ Journalist Haitham Abdul Wahed, a photographer and video editor at "Ain Media," a production company in Gaza, and Journalist Nidal Al-Waheidi, a cameraman working for NBC Al-Najah News Channel, headquartered in Nablus, who went missing near the Erez crossing during the attack carried out by Palestinian armed groups on 7 October 2023.

The section below presents a summary of the main cases documented by PCHR.

Detention and Torture of Journalist Diaa Al-Kahlout

On 7 December 2023, the IOF detained Diaa Al-Kahlout, a correspondent for Al-Araby Al-Jadeed Channel in Gaza, from Market Street in Beit Lahia, along with several of his relatives. Al-Kahlout and dozens of civilians were forcibly stripped of their clothes, searched, and taken to an unknown location. Widely circulated photos and videos showed dozens of naked Palestinian civilians, including Al-Kahlout, being loaded into transport vehicles in a degrading and inhumane manner.³⁹

Following his release after 33 days, Al-Kahlout described severe mistreatment, including torture:

“Israeli soldiers ordered us to take off our clothes except for our underwear, stormed the house, and burned it completely. Then they took us to Market Street, forced us to sit on the ground in freezing weather while hurling insults, and pointed their guns at our heads.”

Al-Kahlout was then transferred to a detention centre inside Israel, which he could not identify precisely, where he endured continuous beatings and torture, including being blindfolded and handcuffed behind his back while naked. Inside the detention centre, he and his fellow detainees faced inhumane conditions. He added:

³⁹ Al Jazeera Mubasher (2024) *How did the Israeli media react to the images of Palestinian detainees being stripped naked in Gaza?* Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQX8mbk2VrM>.

“For 25 consecutive days, we had to kneel on the ground (asphalt) from 04:00 to approximately 23:00 and were counted several times. The food was extremely limited, consisting of bread, jam, liquid cheese, and tuna, and water was also scarce. We were only allowed to use the bathroom once a day. The prolonged kneeling caused me skin infections and abscesses on my thighs, and I was denied medical treatment despite repeatedly requesting it from the soldiers.”

He was subjected to torture and beatings during interrogations related to his journalistic work. He recounted:

“On the 25th day of my detention, I was transferred in a military vehicle that drove for about 15 minutes before stopping. I was taken out of the vehicle, and the soldiers, with my hands bound and eyes blindfolded, led me to a place I did not recognize and threw me on the ground. I sat on my knees on gravel for about ten minutes. Then the soldiers took me into a room, ordered me to take off all my clothes, and gave me a diaper. After putting it on, I dressed again and thought that I was being prepared for an interrogation session with a Shin Bet investigator. The soldiers then placed me in the corner of a corridor, with my hands bound behind my back with metal cuffs and shackles my feet. They subjected me to “shabh”- forced stress positioning causing severe pain. Several other detainees were held in the same corridor under the same conditions. I recognized one of them as my relative, Mohsen Al-Kahlout. I was subjected to “shabh” for about 6 continuous hours, which intensified my pain, particularly in my shoulders, worsening my preexisting disc condition. One of the detainees being subjected to “shabh” fell to the ground, and the soldiers removed his restraints and gave him water. After my “shabh” and that of another detainee, whom I learned was Dr. Ahmad Mahna, Director of Al-Awda Hospital in Jabalia,

northern Gaza Strip, we were transferred to a new cell. Contrary to what I had expected, I was not interrogated by the Shin Bet after the 6 hours of “shabh”.

Detention and Torture of Journalists During the Siege of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza

During the siege of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City in March 2024, the IOF detained several journalists, including Mahmoud Aliwa, Imad Al-Franji, Director of Watan News Office in Gaza, Ismail Al-Ghoul, Al-Jazeera correspondent, and Mohammed Abu Arab. The IOF released Al-Ghoul after 12 hours of detention and physical assault, while others, including Aliwa and Al-Franji,⁴⁰ remained in detention.

Al-Ghoul reported to the media upon his release that he and his fellow journalists were forced to surrender to the IOF, who made them strip completely after demolishing the journalists’ tent by a bulldozer and destroying their vehicles during the raid on the Al-Shifa complex. He added that the IOF handcuffed and blindfolded them, interrogated them all, and confiscated their phones, computers, and photography equipment.

Mohammed Abu Arab, a correspondent for Al-Arabi TV, remains detained at the “Sde Teiman” camp in the Negev Desert. He was visited by Khaled Muhajna, a lawyer from the Commission of Detainees Affairs on 19 June 19, about 100 days after his arrest. According to a statement issued by the Commission, Abu Arab reported that several detainees in the camp had died due to torture, ill-treatment, humiliation, and rape.⁴¹ Abu Arab described the conditions as inhumane, as detainees are kept shackled 24 hours a day, blindfolded,

⁴⁰ PCHR documented the siege on al-Shifa Hospital, including killings, destruction, summary executions and the arrest of dozens of individuals, including journalists.

⁴¹ Al Jazeera (2024) *They are living with death.. Lawyer Mahajna tells Al Jazeera about the conditions of prisoners in Sde Teiman*. Available at: <https://aja.ws/l7oesm>.

and not allowed to change clothes for over fifty days. They are subjected to continuous torture and denied communication with each other, surrounded by police dogs, sleeping on the floor, and using their shoes as pillows.

Detention and Torture of Journalist Mohammed Emad Obeid

On 15 January 2024, the IOF arrested journalist Mohammed Emad Obeid from Aaidia Street in Gaza City. He was transferred to a detention centre in Israel, where he was interrogated under torture before being released after 40 days. Obeid provided a recorded testimony to Al-Jazeera about his detention conditions, confirming he was tortured, including beatings and “*shabh*.”⁴² He stated that upon arrest, he was stripped, handcuffed, shackled, blindfolded, and thrown on gravel for three hours before being taken to a detention facility in Beerli. Despite being known as a journalist, he was threatened and beaten to force him to confess his involvement in the 7 October attack. He was also moved to a military site where he and other detainees were severely beaten and left in heavy rain and cold. Obeid described later stages of interrogation where Israeli police officers tortured him for four days, with daily two-hour interrogations followed by 6-7 hours of “*shabh*.” He was released after 40 days and dropped at the Kerem Shalom crossing, south of the Gaza Strip.

Detention and Torture of Journalist Raed Subaih, Still in Israeli Custody

On 20 November 2024, PCHR’s lawyer managed to visit detained journalist Raed Mu’in Subaih in ‘Ofer detention centre in western Ramallah. The detainee informed PCHR’s lawyer that he had been arrested from Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City during its second

⁴² Al Jazeera (2024) “*They killed my colleague right beside me*”: Gaza journalist recounts deadly strike. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZX5UnPi-XLI>.

siege on 18 March 2024 and was taken to Sde Teiman detention camp inside Israel, where he was held for 85 days before being transferred to 'Ofar detention centre on 24 June 2024.

Subaih stated that he was interrogated twice during his detention at Sde Timan on charges of affiliation with a "terrorist organization". During these interrogations, he was subjected to various forms of torture, including being beaten with military boots, hitting his head against a wall, receiving death threats, being blackmailed with threats of rape against his family members and subjected to other physical assaults and forms of torture. He added that he was brought before court twice described as mock trials; the first was a month after his detention in Sde Teiman detention camp, and the second was in early November 2024. Subaih was also placed under administrative detention without any specified duration.

The detainee stated that he and other detainees are being held under harsh and degrading conditions, including beatings, torture, starvation, and sleep deprivation. He added that he had lost 35 kilograms due to deprivation of food and deliberate starvation. He stated that during his stay in the detention, he remained handcuffed for seven months and was kicked daily, along with the rest of the detainees in the section, before bedtime. They were also subjected to strip searches and verbal abuse, as well as medical neglect and no access to personal hygiene.

Detention and Torture of Journalist 'Alaa Mohammed Rushdi Mohammed Al-Sarraj, Still in Israeli Custody

On 29 January 2025, PCHR's lawyer visited journalist Al-Sarraj in the Negev Prison in Israel. Al-Sarraj was arrested on 16 November 2023 on Salah Al-Din Street while he and his family

were evacuating their home in Gaza City and heading south. He was initially taken to 'Ofer detention centre in western Ramallah, before being referred to the Negev Prison in Israel.

During the visit, Al-Sarraj reported that he had been subjected to four interrogation sessions, during which he was physically assaulted. He described harsh and degrading detention conditions, including being blindfolded and handcuffed continuously for four days, strip-searched, and subjected to repeated raids of the section where he is held. Despite having been brought before a judge on four occasions, he has not yet been formally charged or tried.

Al-Sarraj also reported suffering from persistent skin infections, including itching and boils, due to poor hygiene conditions and lack of access to medical treatment. He has lost 20 kilograms as a result of severely restricted food rations. He is confined in an overcrowded tent, approximately 10 by 5 meters in size, shared with 40 other detainees. The tent lacks heating, leaving detainees exposed to extreme cold, frequent illness, poor hygiene, and inadequate access to showers and basic sanitation.

The Forcible Disappearance of Two Journalists

PCHR submitted official requests to the Israeli authorities seeking information on the fate of two journalists who went missing during the Israeli ground invasion of Gaza City. Their disappearance was documented by PCHR, which also obtained verified eyewitness testimonies and powers of attorney from the journalists' families. In response, the Israeli authorities issued two written statements claiming that there is no information confirming the journalists' arrest or detention. These denials raise serious concerns regarding the journalists' enforced disappearance and the continued lack of accountability or transparency from the occupying authorities.

Khaled Waleed Mahmoud Abu Zer was reported missing on 8 November 2024, while attempting to flee from Beit Lahia and head to Gaza City. On 11 January 2025, PCHR submitted a request to the Israeli Military Command in prisons to disclose his fate, and two days later received a written response stating that there is no information indicating his arrest or detention.

Waleed Mahmoud Jaber Abu Zer, Khaled's father, stated that his son was a freelancer, producing media content for international agencies. He added that his son was at home near Al-Hindi Mosque in Block 11 of Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, both to cover the Israeli incursion into the camp⁴³ and to protect the house from potential looting by thieves. According to several eyewitnesses, Khaled was forced to flee the house at around 18:00 on 8 November 2024, after Israeli forces approached the area and surrounded a large part of the camp. He headed south through the Falouja Cemetery, which leads to the Jabalia Nazla Primary Health Center. Upon reaching the Saleh Abdul Rabbo family house opposite the cemetery, he was surprised by heavy gunfire directed at him. He took cover behind concrete pillars inside the abovementioned house. Afterwards, he went missing, and his fate remains unknown.

On the first day of the ceasefire,⁴⁴ 19 January 2025, a number of residents of the Falouja area returned to check on their homes. "We received a phone call from one of them informing us that they found Khaled's belongings at the place where he was last seen. These included his clothes, two cell phones (one personal and one for work), a power bank, and his ID card—but there was no trace of him. Thus, his fate remains unknown."⁴⁵

Journalist Ehab Mohammed 'Abed Al-Qader Diyab was arrested on 11 December 2023

43 The IOF launched a military campaign in northern Gaza on 7 October 2024 as part of what is known as the "Generals' Plan" aimed at forcibly displacing the remaining residents of northern Gaza and separating it from Gaza City.

44 Hamas and Israel reached a ceasefire agreement brokered by Egypt, Qatar and the United States for six weeks. The agreement came into effect on 19 January 2025 and lasted until 17 March. On 18 March, the IOF resumed their war on Gaza that is still ongoing.

45 Interview of an eyewitness with PCHR.

from his family house in Tel Al-Hawa neighbourhood in Gaza City. On 02 December 2024, PCHR sent a request to the Israeli Military Command in prisons to disclose his fate and place of detention. The same day, PCHR received a written response stating that there is no information indicating his arrest or detention.

Hebah Akram Ahmad Bahar, Ehab's wife, said that at around 20:00 on Tuesday, 12 December 2023, the IOF raided a house, where she had sought shelter alongside her husband, children and in-laws on al-Lababidi Street connecting al-Jalaa' Street with al-Naser Street in Gaza City. The IOF separated men from women after intimidating all those in the house and then arrested her husband. His four brothers were also arrested with him, and all were taken to an unknown destination. After around six hours, his four brothers were released while he remained in Israeli custody and his fate remains unknown. His wife added, "I tried to know anything about him from released detainees but in vain, so I authorized PCHR to follow up his case. PCHR's lawyer informed that he received a written response from the Israeli authorities confirming they have no information indicating his arrest by the IOF."

5.2 DESTRUCTION OF MEDIA OFFICES AND INSTITUTIONS

Since the onset of the military aggression on Gaza, a systematic campaign to dismantle Palestinian journalistic infrastructure has become evident. Media institutions, equipment, and broadcast towers have been deliberately targeted and destroyed, in what appears to be a calculated effort to silence independent reporting. This destruction, coupled with Israel's refusal to grant access to international media, seeks to eliminate the voices that expose war crimes, challenge the official narrative of the IOF, and bring the truth of the ongoing atrocities to the world's attention.

Throughout the aggression on Gaza, local and international media organizations documented the systematic destruction of the entire media sector. No outlet was spared—radio and TV stations, press offices, and both governmental and non-governmental media institutions were reduced to rubble. As a result, journalists were stripped of all means to report on the ongoing genocidal crimes against civilians, particularly in the early days of the assault.

According to local media sources, the IOF destroyed dozens of media institutions operating in Gaza, particularly during the first three months of the aggression. The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate has documented the destruction of 112 governmental and non-governmental media institutions, including 15 news agency headquarters, 21 radio stations, 15 satellite channels, 3 broadcast towers, 6 newspapers, and 13 institutions providing media and journalistic services.⁴⁶ Of these, 41 were completely destroyed, while 32 suffered partial destruction, including damaged equipment. Although the intensity of attacks on media facilities later declined, this was largely due to the near-total destruction of media infrastructure—especially in Gaza City and northern Gaza—by that stage of the aggression.

⁴⁶ Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) (2025) *Official website of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate*. Available at: <https://pjs.ps/ar/page-2859.html>

The IOF deliberately bombed residential towers containing media offices and radio stations in Gaza City to destroy them. Among the prominent towers with numerous known media offices was the Palestine Tower in the city centre.

- » On the first day of the aggression, the IOF targeted the Palestine Tower in Gaza City and completely destroyed it. The 14-story building housed residential apartments and seven well-known media institutions: Shihab News Agency, Al-Ayyam newspaper office, Infinite Media Services, Fadl Shana'na Media Foundation, Gaza FM radio, Quran Radio, and Al-Quds newspaper office.
- » On the same day, the IOF also bombed the Watan Tower in Gaza City, which included media institutions, radio stations, and broadcast towers for international channels. The targeted institutions included: a broadcast tower for Voice of Palestine, a broadcast tower for CNN, Sawt Al Watan Radio, Sawt Al-Buraq Radio, Radio Baladna, Shams News Agency, Sawa News Agency, Khabar News Agency, Roya Channel, Media Town News Agency, and Muthaq Network for Media and Journalistic Services.
- » On 2 November 2023, the IOF bombed the AFP office in Gaza City. The missiles targeted the AFP office on the 11th floor of the building, which is located near the Gaza Seaport in western Gaza City, resulting in the destruction of the office's walls and doors.
- » On the same day, the IOF targeted the 16th floor of the Al-Ghifari Tower, west of Gaza City. The tower has 19 floors, some of which house media offices. The targeted floor was destroyed, and media institutions were affected, some completely destroyed, such as the Monte Carlo Radio broadcast tower, and others partially destroyed, including Zain Media Production, INK Media Production, Screen Media Production, and MEDIA 24 News Agency.
- » On 12 November 2023, the IOF completely destroyed the Al-Aqsa Satellite Channel and

Al-Aqsa Radio building, located in central Gaza City near Sheikh Radwan Cemetery, after bombing it with warplane missiles. This was not the first time the channel had been destroyed; it had been bombed multiple times during each Israeli escalation on Gaza.

- » On 19 December 2023, the IOF destroyed the Al-Shawa and Al-Hosari Tower, a 15-story building in Gaza City. The tower housed media and journalistic institutions, including Al-Quds Today Satellite Channel, APA News Agency, Ma'an News Agency, Safa News Agency, Al-Rai Radio, and Al-Quds Radio, all of which were completely destroyed. Additionally, Voice of the People Radio, located in the neighbouring Al-Wahda Tower, was partially destroyed alongside its equipment.
- » On 24 December 2023, the IOF heavily bombed residential buildings and towers near the Al-Tabba'a Tower, close to the Saraya Junction in Gaza City, causing significant damage to the tower and affecting media institutions within it, including: Al-Ghad Al-Arabi Channel and Al-Jazeera Mubasher, both of which were completely destroyed, as well as Al-Hurra, Al-Arabi, Al-Jazeera TV, and Al-Mayadeen Media Group, which sustained partial damage and destruction of their journalistic equipment.
- » In the first week of February 2024, the IOF bombed and completely destroyed the Press House Palestine Foundation office in western Gaza City. The extent of the destruction was revealed after the IOF withdrew from the western Gaza area. The Press House Palestine Foundation is a non-profit organization supported by the governments of Norway and Switzerland and operates independently. Earlier, on 30 January 2024, the foundation had been hit by Israeli tank shells while one of its founders was inside, using the office as a shelter after his home in Gaza City was destroyed. Journalist Mohamed Salem reported to PCHR that a tank fired a shell at the office while he was inside.
- » On 3 January 2025, the Media Solidarity Center, run by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and located on Al-Biaa' Street in central Deir Al-Balah, sustained damage from

shrapnel and rubble scattered by an Israeli airstrike targeting Salman family house, located opposite the centre. The airstrike killed four people and seriously injured a child, resulting in the amputation of her limbs. Many other media and journalistic institutions were also destroyed as a result of targeting buildings and residential towers nearby. These institutions suffered partial damage, including the destruction of walls, doors, and journalistic equipment.

6

ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA INSTITUTIONS AND THE GENOCIDE

The data collected by PCHR reveals that the systematic attacks on journalists and media institutions are not isolated or incidental acts of war. On the contrary, they form an integral part of Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinian population in Gaza. These attacks have targeted the very infrastructure that enables the documentation and transmission of information—journalists, news agencies, broadcast towers, radio stations, and media offices—rendering journalists unable to report or bear witness to the atrocities being committed. Thereby eliminating one of the key mechanisms through which the truth is shared with the world.

By silencing the press, these attacks aim to destroy the most vital tools of civilian protection: visibility and memory. Without journalists, there can be no public record, no international scrutiny, and no accountability. The destruction of media institutions is thus a strategic measure to ensure the invisibility of the genocide and to remove the means through which victims' voices are amplified and crimes exposed.

6.1 GENOCIDAL ACTS

Under Article II of the 1948 Genocide Convention and Article 6 of the Rome Statute of the ICC, genocide includes specific acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group. These include:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group.

Killing Journalists

“Killing” is the first act listed in the Genocide Convention. Such act constitutes genocide if the perpetrator intentionally killed one or more members of the protected group, without the necessity of premeditation.⁴⁷ In armed conflicts, the ICJ ruled that the killing of civilians during an attack not limited to military objectives, but also directed at the civilian population, constitute killing falling within the scope of the Genocide Convention.⁴⁸

PCHR has documented the killings of 25 Palestinian journalists since the onset of Israel’s military aggression in October 2023. These killings occurred while journalists were on duty—without warning, despite being clearly identified as press and having previously disclosed their coordinates to the Israeli authorities. In other cases, journalists were targeted while at home with their families. PCHR’s field investigations confirm that these attacks specifically targeted those journalists and that they were targeted solely due to their journalistic work, despite not being involved in any hostilities. In some cases,

⁴⁷ ICJ (2015) *Croatia v. Serbia*, Judgment, para. 156; ICTR (2001) *Prosecutor v. Kayishema and Ruzindana*, Appeals Judgment, ICTR-95-1-A, para. 151; ICTR (2003) *Prosecutor v. Semanza*, Judgment, ICTR-97-20-T, para. 319; ICTY (2005) *Prosecutor v. Blagojević and Jokić*, Judgment, IT-02-60-T, para. 642.

⁴⁸ ICJ (2015) *Croatia v. Serbia*, Judgment, paras 218-224.

journalists were targeted multiple times—struck in repeated attacks—until they were ultimately killed, indicating premeditation and clear intent.

Israeli media and officials have openly incited against journalists through their official outlets and platforms, identifying specific individuals as targets, labelling them terrorists in press vests, and alleging affiliations with Hamas, with the aim of stripping them of their civilian status and rendering them legitimate targets. As a result of this smear campaign, many journalists were targeted and assassinated, including Isma'il Al-Ghoul, Rami Al-Rifi, Hasan Esleih. However, no evidence was presented to support these claims.

International and local field investigations into the patterns of killings and destruction against journalists and their continued perpetuation at unprecedented levels- often broadcast live- unequivocally prove that these crimes were not mere military errors or collateral damage of ongoing military operations in the Gaza Strip. Rather, they constituted a deliberate targeting of the journalist community as part of the broader genocide.

In instances where journalists were not specifically targeted, they were still killed as a result of indiscriminate airstrikes, like other Palestinian civilians. These strikes resulted in significant civilian casualties and destruction, despite the IOF being fully aware that the individuals and sites involved were civilian in nature.

In this context, PCHR finds that the killings of the 25 journalists it documented were deliberate and constitute the acts of “killing members of the group”, as prohibited under Article II(a) of the Genocide Convention.

Causing Serious Bodily and Mental Harm

Beyond killings, Israel's actions have inflicted serious harm on journalists. In international criminal law, to amount to genocide, the bodily or mental harm caused must be of such a serious nature as to contribute or tend to contribute to the destruction of all or part of the group. While the harm need not be permanent or irreversible, it must inflict grave and long-term disadvantages to a person's ability to lead a normal and productive life. It must go beyond temporary suffering, embarrassment, or humiliation.⁴⁹

PCHR finds that, in the cases it documented, journalists sustained serious injuries, such as an amputation, full body paralysis, severe injuries to the head and hand, and severe burns, as a result of the targeted attacks. In addition to physical harm, many journalists were subjected to abduction, torture, and degrading detention conditions. These included severe beatings, denial of medical care, and prolonged confinement in inhumane, overcrowded facilities lacking adequate food, water, or sanitation.

Beyond the physical injuries, journalists have also suffered profound mental harm. Forced to work under relentless and life-threatening conditions, they face constant danger while reporting, knowing they are being actively targeted. Many have witnessed their colleagues being killed or maimed before their eyes.

PCHR concludes that this physical and psychological suffering inflicted grave and long-term disadvantages to the journalists' ability to lead a normal and productive life, and was therefore of such serious nature as to contribute or tend to contribute to the destruction of all or part of the group.

⁴⁹ See, for example, ICTR (2003). *Prosecutor v. Kajelijeli*, Appeal Judgment and Sentence, No. ICTR-S8-44A-T, para. 814; ICTR (2008). *Prosecutor v. Seromba*, Appeal Judgment, No. ICTR-2001-66-A, para. 46; ICTY (2006). *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, Trial Judgment, No. IT-00-39-T, para. 862; ICTY (2015). *Prosecutor v. Tolimir*, Appeal Judgment, No. IT-05-88/2-A, para. 201; ICTY (2016). *Prosecutor v. Karadzic*, Judgment, No. IT-95-5/18-T, para. 543; ICJ (2015). *Croatia v. Serbia*, Judgment, para. 157.

6.2 GENOCIDAL INTENT

Genocidal intent—the specific intention to destroy a protected group in whole or in part—is what distinguishes genocide from other international crimes. While direct statements of intent are rare, international jurisprudence accepts that intent can be inferred from the general context, systematic targeting of the group, the scale of atrocities, the presence of a plan or policy, or the repetition of destructive and discriminatory acts.⁵⁰

In addition to the evidence of genocidal intent already collected and analysed by PCHR in its report *Voices of the Genocide*, the destruction of media institutions and the deliberate and systematic targeting of journalists show that Israel intended to silence those who document, verify, and publicize the ongoing genocide, allowing its forces to continue its genocide on the ground and eliminating any evidence. In parallel, the IOF has imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip and imposed communication blackouts, preventing international media from entering Gaza and receiving information since the onset of the war.

Several UN special rapporteurs have confirmed the systematic targeting of journalists in Gaza as an attempt to obscure the truth.⁵¹ As stated in a joint statement: “We have received alarming reports indicating that despite the clear identification of journalists wearing vests and helmets marked ‘Press’ or traveling in clearly marked press vehicles, they are being attacked. This appears to indicate that the killing, injury, and arrest are deliberate strategies by Israeli forces to disrupt the media and silence critical reporting.”⁵² The experts have also expressed “grave concern over Israel’s refusal to allow media from outside Gaza to enter and report unless accompanied by Israeli

50 ICTY (2013), *Prosecutor v Karadzic*, No. IT-95-5/18-AR98bis.1, para. 80; ICTY (2015), *Prosecutor v Tolimir*, No. IT-05-88/2-A, Judgement (8 April 2015), para. 246

51 United Nations (2024) *Gaza: UN rights experts condemn ‘killing and silencing’ of journalists*. Available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/02/1146132>.

52 *Idem*.

forces.”⁵³ The independent experts called on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the ICC to pay “particular attention” to the dangerous pattern of attacks and the impunity for crimes against journalists. The experts emphasized that the targeting and killing of journalists in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) “must stop.”

The destruction of media infrastructure and the killing of journalists, critical sector of Palestinian society, are not only acts of violence but acts of erasure. They are carried out with the objective of silencing those who would otherwise expose the truth. By eliminating the means of documentation, Israel has aimed to control the narrative, avoid accountability, and carry out its campaign in darkness.

Moreover, journalists serve as guardians of collective memory and national identity. The targeting of Palestinian journalists is therefore not only about obstructing the present but about erasing the future: ensuring that there is no record of the genocide, no historical archive, and no witness testimony that could form the basis for justice. This effort to silence is itself an act of destruction—an attempt to annihilate not only the people but also their voice, their truth, and their memory.

⁵³ The experts: Ms. Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur on the protection and promotion of freedom of opinion and expression; Ms. Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967; Ms. Mary Lawlor, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Mr. Morris Tidball-Binz, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and Mr. Ben Saul, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

6.3 CONCLUSION

The attacks on journalists and media institutions in Gaza are not isolated crimes, they are deliberate and systematic acts that serve the function of genocide: to destroy, in whole or in part, the Palestinian people. These acts constitute killings, causing serious bodily and mental harm, and further demonstrate a sustained intent to eliminate not just individuals, but the infrastructure and capacity of a people to survive, remember, and resist.

By erasing those who report the truth, the perpetrators aim to erase the truth itself. In doing so, they seek not only to destroy Palestinian lives but also to obliterate their narrative, memory, and voice. The targeting of journalists is thus both a tool of genocide and a powerful piece of evidence proving genocidal intent.