



مؤسسة الضمير لحقوق الإنسان
AL-DAMEER ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

December 17, 2024

Urgent Appeal

From: Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate

To: Ms. Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Dear Ms. Khan,

Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate greatly appreciate the opportunity to submit this urgent appeal to highlight the Israeli occupation forces' blatant disregard for all human rights treaties and international humanitarian law.

We address this urgent appeal to you seeking your immediate intervention to exert pressure on the Israeli occupation forces to protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression and to prevent the targeting of journalists, media personnel, and media institutions across Palestine, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Throughout the ongoing genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, Al-Dameer Association and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate have closely monitored the systematic and deliberate targeting of journalists and media personnel by the Israeli occupation forces. During this war, the organizations have documented the killing of 184 journalists, including 13 female journalists, while four others were killed by Israeli snipers.

The majority of these victims (72 journalists) were killed alongside their families during airstrikes on their homes or shelters they sought refuge in. Additionally, 24 journalists were killed in direct targeting incidents, and 22 journalists lost their lives while carrying out their professional duties. Another 185 journalists were injured.

Furthermore, the organizations documented the destruction of 86 media offices and institutions, including official, partisan, private, and civil society establishments. These facilities include television channels, radio stations, transmission towers, press offices, and newspaper headquarters. The detention of 100 journalists was also recorded, with 16 of them still under arrest, some subjected to severe torture. Moreover, two journalists remain missing, with their fate unknown.

It has become evident that the Israeli occupation forces intentionally target journalistic teams, despite them wearing identifiable press uniforms, vests, and helmets. These forces also deliberately destroy media buildings along with their personnel and infrastructure in an attempt to suppress the dissemination of information about their violations against the Palestinian people.

These crimes, clearly committed by the Israeli occupation forces against journalists, necessitate your immediate intervention to protect journalists under your mandate to safeguard the right to freedom of opinion and expression and ensure the safety of media personnel. Such acts amount to war crimes, warranting prosecution before international courts, including the International Criminal Court.



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These ongoing violations are in direct contradiction to the fundamental principles of human rights and press freedom, posing a grave threat to journalists' lives and undermining their ability to convey the truth to the world.

The deliberate targeting of journalists constitutes a crime against truth and qualifies as a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998.

We urge you to take immediate action to:

1. Intervene promptly to pressure the Israeli occupation forces to cease targeting journalists and media institutions and ensure the protections afforded by international human rights law.
2. Establish a fact-finding committee to investigate the killings and targeting of journalists and media personnel and provide necessary recommendations for accountability and justice.

Journalists, as the voice of the people and truth, urgently need your support to ensure their safety and enable them to continue their work without threats or restrictions.

With utmost respect and appreciation,

Palestinian Journalists Syndicate
Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights