

公益社団法人 日本外国特派員協会

## The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

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### **FCCJ STATEMENT ON THE KILLING OF AL JAZEERA JOURNALIST SHIREEN ABU AKLEH**

The FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee (FoP) demands an urgent independent inquiry into the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh (51) of Al Jazeera yesterday, May 11th. Witnesses say the attack was a deliberate killing by Israeli forces while Abu Akleh was covering clashes between the army and protestors in the West Bank city of Jenin. Al Jazeera said their reporter, who was wearing a helmet and vest clearly marked "press" was shot "in cold blood" by a sniper. The Arab media has called the killing an "execution". Abu Akleh had covered the Israel-Palestinian conflict for 15 years. Another Al-Jazeera reporter, Ali Al-Samudi, was injured in the same incident and is recovering at a hospital.

The Israel military said it returned fire after coming under attack and suggested that Abu Akleh was killed in crossfire, but the FoP notes that Israeli forces have been accused of having targeted journalists in the past. Last year an Israeli airstrike targeted and destroyed a building in Gaza that housed the offices of the Associated Press and other media outlets.

<https://apnews.com/article/israel-middle-east-business-israel-palestinian-conflict-f595d0ea0a7e21a4e4974ae55e00024d>

In a statement released yesterday, Qatar-based Al Jazeera Media Network condemned its reporter Abu Akleh's "blatant murder" that violates "international laws and norms", and called her death "a heinous crime, through which it is intended to prevent the media from fulfilling its message."

We urge all concerned to thoroughly investigate the circumstances surrounding the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh, and to punish those responsible if they are found to have behaved criminally. Soldiers acting on behalf of governments must not be allowed to intimidate, threaten or kill reporters who are simply doing their jobs.

The Freedom of the Press Committee