

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 Journalists in Gaza

The FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee condemns the reckless disregard for the lives of journalists in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. It notes with deep concern reports that in some cases the families of journalists appear to have been targeted by Israeli forces. Al-Jazeera reports, for example, the killing of 22 family members of Gazan correspondent Moamen Al-Sharafi in the Israeli military's shelling of Jabalia Camp on December 6 in the northern Gaza Strip "where his father, mother, three siblings and his children had sought refuge," according to a statement <<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/al-jazeera-says-22-relatives-gaza-correspondent-killed-by-israeli-shelling-2023-12-06/>> by the network. Al-Sharafi was on duty elsewhere in Gaza when the bombardment happened.

On October 25, the wife, daughter, and grandson of Wael Dahdouh, Al-Jazeera's bureau chief for Gaza, were also killed <<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/10/25/al-jazeera-correspondent-family-killed-gaza-00123681>> when an Israel airstrike hit the Nuseirat refugee camp.

Two months since Hamas embarked on a murderous killing spree in Israel on October 7th, prompting Israel to respond with aerial bombardments and a ground offensive in Gaza, 63 journalists and media workers (56 Palestinian, 4 Israeli, and 3 Lebanese) have been killed, with another 11 journalists injured and three missing, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists <<https://cpj.org/2023/12/journalist-casualties-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict/>> (CPJ).

The death toll of the past eight weeks already surpasses the combined number of 15 journalists killed in 2022 covering Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the 30 journalists killed during the height of the Syrian war, regarded as the two of the deadliest recent war zones.

Sherif Mansour, CPJ's coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, said "...the Israeli army has refused to take any responsibility for the killings, saying to the international media organizations that they cannot guarantee the safety of the media or their employees.

"We have said, especially after the army targeted communications facilities, that we have reached a news blackout. We also have problems with censorship, assaults and detentions in the West Bank."

FCCJ urges all parties in the Israel-Hamas war to stop targeting journalists and to respect their work. We call for the Israeli authorities to thoroughly investigate all the incidents cited in this report.

The Freedom of the Press Committee