

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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FoP Statement, March 25, 2025

Updated statement on journalist deaths in Gaza and Lebanon

The FCCJ condemns the killing of journalist Mohammad Mansour, a correspondent for *The Asahi Shimbun*, by an Israeli missile on March 24th. Mansour's wife and child were also reportedly hurt in the attack, which *Al Jazeera* and other media outlets claim was deliberate. Mansour had been injured in a previous attack by Israeli Defense Forces but continued to report from Gaza.

Asahi Shimbun: <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/15682556>

Al Jazeera : <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/3/24/al-jazeera-journalist-killed-in-israeli-strikes-in-northern-gaza>

At least 173 [journalists and media workers](#) are among tens of thousands of people killed in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel, and [Lebanon](#) since the Israel-Gaza war began following Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). This makes it the [deadliest period for journalists](#) since CPJ began gathering data in 1992 and one of the deadliest conflicts for journalists in modern history.

CPJ: <https://cpj.org/2025/02/journalist-casualties-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict/>

The CPJ says that at least 11 journalists were “directly targeted by Israeli forces in killings which CPJ classifies as murders”. At least 20 other cases indicate “possible targeting”. In 2023, the FCCJ gave its Freedom of the Press Asia Award to veteran journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was shot dead in the West Bank in 2022. The IDF initially blamed Palestinian gunmen but independent probes by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and several media organizations concluded she has been killed by Israeli soldiers, almost certainly deliberately.

In addition, AP and other news outlets have reported that Israeli settlers beat and badly injured one of the Palestinian co-directors of the Oscar-winning documentary film “[No Other Land](#)” in the West Bank. The

filmmaker, Hamdan Ballal, was subsequently arrested by the Israeli military, according to several witnesses.

<https://apnews.com/article/no-other-land-oscar-israel-palestinians-084c63f33e748a3279646759e9b705c2>

We join our sister organization, the Foreign Press Association and many others in calling for the IDF "to ensure the safety and freedom of reporting of our Palestinian members on the ground in Gaza, who are reporting the news despite extremely dangerous circumstances."

Kengo Sakajiri, an executive editor of The Asahi Shimbun Company, has issued a statement saying the newspaper is "outraged" at the death of Mohammed Mansou. "Attacks against civilians, including journalists, are never acceptable under any circumstance."

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan supports repeated calls by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) urging the United Nations Security Council to enforce its Resolution 2222 on the protection of journalists in Gaza. RSF has cited Israel's failure to comply with its obligations to safeguard journalists under applicable international law. Resolution 2222 requires that measures be taken to protect "journalists, media professionals, and associated personnel" in the field. By extension, the resolution protects the freedom of war reporters to cover what is happening, and everyone's right to news and information in war time. The FCCJ condemns all attacks on journalists and demands action by the UN to enforce its resolution to protect all news media workers.

The Freedom of the Press Committee