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FCCJ Statement on the assassination and starvation of journalists in Gaza

The FCCJ strongly condemns the killing of Al Jazeera journalist Anas al-Sharif, and four other media workers in an Israeli airstrike on August 10th. Media reports say the men were among seven people killed while sheltering inside a tent outside al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City. They include camera operators Ibrahim Zaher, Moamen Aliwa, their assistant Mohammed Noufal, and correspondents Mohammed Qreiqeh. According to the National Union of Journalists, freelance photojournalist Mohammed Al-Khaldi was also killed in the same airstrike.

https://www.nuj.org.uk/resource/palestine-nuj-deplores-killing-of-al-jazeera-journalists.html

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) claim Sharif led a Hamas cell but has again offered no credible evidence. Al-Jazeera calls his killing a "targeted assassination and a "desperate attempt to silence the voices exposing the impending seizure and occupation of Gaza." The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, Irene Khan, said last month she was "deeply alarmed by the repeated threats and accusations of the Israeli army" against al-Sharif. Khan cited "growing evidence" that journalists in Gaza have been targeted and killed by the Israeli army "on the basis of unsubstantiated claims that they were Hamas terrorists."

https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/07/gaza-un-expert-denounces-serious-threats-israeli-army-against-al-jazeera

The killings follow a pattern of either willful disregard for or targeted killings of journalists. Gaza is now the deadliest conflict for media workers in history. More journalists have been killed there than in both world wars, Vietnam, Yugoslavia and Afghanistan combined, according to the Costs of War project: **https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ceqyyrp3yq9o**

Since the war in Gaza began in October 2023, most of what the NUJ calls "Al Jazeera's core team" has been "wiped out". The FCCJ has previously condemned the shutting down of Al Jazeera's West Bank bureau, just five months after Israel also forcefully closed the Qatar-based network's operations in East Jerusalem. As of now, no international correspondent is allowed to report freely from Gaza unless chaperoned by the IDF and in certain areas. In July, AFP released a statement warning that its reporters in Gaza are facing death from starvation and exhaustion, "the first time in the agency's 80-year history that a humanitarian alert has been issued on behalf of its own journalists".

https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/27/world/middleeast/gaza-starvation-reporters-israel.html

https://www.irishtimes.com/world/middle-east/2025/07/22/without-immediate-intervention-the-last-reporters-in-gaza-will-die-news-agency-warns-its-journalists-face-starvation/

The FCCJ demands an end to the killing of our fellow reporters in Gaza and the West Bank. It also demands that Israel obey international law and protect the remaining journalists working in the region.

The Freedom of the Press Committee