5 June 2025

Open letter from media and press freedom organizations on Gaza access

We, the undersigned, call for immediate, independent, and unrestricted international media access to Gaza and for full protection of journalists who continue to report under siege.

For 20 months, the Israeli authorities have refused to grant journalists outside of Gaza independent access to the Palestinian territory – a situation that is without precedent in modern warfare. Local journalists, those best positioned to tell the truth, face displacement and starvation. To date, nearly 200 journalists have been killed by the Israeli military. Many more have been injured and face constant threats to their lives for doing their jobs: bearing witness. This is a direct attack on press freedom and the right to information.

We understand the inherent risks in reporting from war zones. These are risks that many of our organizations have taken over decades in order to investigate, document developments as they occur, and understand the impacts of war.

At this pivotal moment, with renewed military action and efforts to resume the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza, it is vital that Israel open Gaza's borders for international journalists to be able to report freely and that Israel abides by its international obligations to protect journalists as civilians.

We call on world leaders, governments, and international institutions to act immediately to ensure this.

Signed by:

1. Actualite.cd, Patient Ligodi, Founder (Democratic Republic of Congo)
2. Agence France-Presse, Phil Chetwynd, Global News Director (France)
3. Agência Pública, Natália Viana, Executive Director (Brazil)
4. Al Araby Al Jadeed, Hussam Kanafani, Director of Media Sector (UK)
5. Al Jazeera Center of Public Liberties & Human Rights, Sami Alhaj, Director (Qatar)
6. Al-Masdar Online, Ali al-Faqih, CEO (Yemen)
7. Alternative Press Syndicate (Lebanon)
8. Amazônia Real, Kátia Brasil, Director (Brazil)

9. Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ), Rawan Daman, Director General (Jordan)
10. ARTICLE 19 (UK)
11. Asia Pacific Report, David Robie, Editor (New Zealand)
12. The Associated Press, Julie Pace, Executive Editor and Senior Vice President (USA)
13. Association of Foreign Press Correspondents, Nancy Prager-Kamel, Chair (USA)
14. Bahrain Press Association (Bahrain)
15. Bianet, Murat İnceoglu, Editor-in-Chief (Turkey)
16. BirGun Daily, Yasar Aydin, News Coordinator (Turkey)
17. Brecha, Betania Núñez, Journalistic Director (Uruguay)
18. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Deborah Turness, CEO, BBC News (UK)
19. Bulatlat, Ronalyn V. Olea, Editor-in-Chief (Philippines)
20. CamboJA, Nop Vy, Executive Director (Cambodia)
21. Casbah Tribune, Khaled Drareni, Editorial Director (Algeria)
22. Cedar Centre for Legal Studies (CCLS) (Lebanon)
23. Center for Investigative Journalism of Montenegro (CIN-CG), Milka Tadić Mijović, Editor-in-Chief
24. Churchill Otieno, Executive Director, Eastern Africa Editors Society and President, Africa Editors Forum (Kenya)
25. CNN, Mike McCarthy, Executive Vice President and Managing Editor (USA)
26. Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Jodie Ginsberg, CEO
27. Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) (Iraqi Kurdistan)
28. Confidencial.digital, Carlos F. Chamorro, Director (Nicaragua, in exile)
29. Connectas, Carlos Eduardo Huertas, Director (The Americas)
30. Daraj Media, Hazem al Amin, Editor-in-Chief, Alia Ibrahim, CEO and Diana Moukalled, Managing Editor (Lebanon)
31. Dawn newspaper, Zaffar Abbas, Editor (Pakistan)
32. De Último Minuto, Hector Romero, Director (Dominican Republic)
33. Delfino.CR, Diego Delfino Machín, Director (Costa Rica)
34. Deník Referendum, Jakub Patocka, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher
35. Digital Radio-télévision DRTV, William Mouko Zinika Toung-Hou, Assistant Director of Information (Congo-Brazzaville)
36. Droub, Murtada Ahmed Mahmoud Koko, General Director (Sudan)
37. Efecto Cocuyo, Luz Mely Reyes, Director (Venezuela)
38. Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) (Egypt)
39. El Ciudadano, Javier Pineda, Director (Chile)
40. El Diario de Hoy, Óscar Picardo Joao, Editorial Director (Salvador)
41. El Espectador, Fidel Cano Correa, Director (Colombia)
42. El Faro, Carlos Dada, Co-Founder and Director (El Salvador)
43. El Mostrador, Héctor Cossio, Director (Chile)
44. El Sol de México, Martha Citlali Ramos, National Editorial Director (Mexico)

45. El Universal, David Aponte, Director General Editorial (Mexico)
46. elDiarioAR, Delfina Torres Cabreros, Journalistic Director (Argentina)
47. ENASS, Salaheddine Lemaizi, Director (Morocco)
48. Équipe Média, Mohamed Mayara, General Coordinator (Western Sahara)
49. European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), Ricardo Gutiérrez, Secretary-General (Belgium)
50. European Broadcasting Union, Liz Corbin, Director of News (Switzerland)
51. European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF), Ena Bavčić, EU Advocacy Officer (Germany)
52. Eyewitness Media Group, Patrick Mayoyo, Director Editorial Innovations (Kenya)
53. Financial Times, Roula Khalaf, Editor (UK)
54. Forbidden Stories, Laurent Richard, Founder (France)
55. Foreign Press Association, Deborah Bonetti, Director (London)
56. Foreign Press Association, Board (Israel and the Palestinian Territories)
57. Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ), Fisayo Soyombo, Founder and Editor (Nigeria)
58. France 24, Vanessa Burggraf, Director (France)
59. Free Press Unlimited, Ruth Kronenburg, Executive Director (Netherlands)
60. Front Page Africa, Rodney Sieh, Editor-in-Chief and Editor (Liberia)
61. GabonClic.info, Randy Karl Louba, Director (Gabon)
62. Geneva Health Files, Priti Patnaik, Founder (Switzerland)
63. Geo News, Azhar Abbas, Managing Editor (Pakistan)
64. Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN), Emilia Diaz-Struck, Executive Director (US)
65. Global Reporting Centre, Sharon Nadeem, Producer and Head of Partnerships (Canada)
66. Guineematin.com, Nouhou Baldé, Founder and Administrator (Guinea)
67. Haaretz, Aluf Benn, Editor-in-Chief (Israel)
68. 7amleh, The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media, Nadim Nashif, Executive Director (Palestine/Israel)
69. Hildebrandt en sus trece, César Hildebrandt, Director (Peru)
70. HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement, Mostafa Fouad, Executive Director (Belgium)
71. Independent Television News, Rachel Corp, Chief Executive (UK)
72. Inkyfada, Malek Khadhraoui, Director of Publication (Tunisia)
73. International News Safety Institute (INSI), Elena Cosentino, Director (UK)
74. International Press Institute (IPI), Scott Griffen, Executive Director
75. iPolitics, Marco Vigliotti, Editor-in-Chief (Canada)
76. IWACU, Abbas Mbazumutima, Editor-in-Chief (Burundi)
77. Joliba, Birama Konaré, Director General (Mali)
78. Klix.ba, Semir Hambo, Editor-in-Chief (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

79. L'Alternative, Ferdinand Ayité, Publishing Director (Togo)
80. L'Événement, Moussa Aksar, Publishing Director (Niger)
81. L'Humanité, Maud Vergnol, Publishing Director (France)
82. La Voix de Djibouti, Mahamoud Djama, Publishing Director (Djibouti)
83. Le Jour, Haman Mana, Publication Director (Cameroun)
84. Le Monde, Jérôme Fenoglio, Director (France)
85. Le Reporter, Aimé Kobo Nabaloum, Publishing Director (Burkina Faso)
86. Le Temps, Madeleine von Holzen, Editor-in-Chief ((Switzerland)
87. Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) (Lebanon)
88. Luat Khoa, Trinh Huu Long, Editor-in-Chief (Vietnam)
89. Mada Masr, Lina Atallah, CEO (Egypt)
90. Magnum Photos, Giulietta Palumbo, Global Editorial Director (France)
91. Mail & Guardian, Luke Feltham, Acting Editor-in-Chief (South Africa)
92. Malaysiakini, RK Anand, Executive Editor (Malaysia)
93. Mediapart, Carine Fouteau, Publishing Director (France)
94. MediaTown, Ashraf Mashrawi, Director (Palestine)
95. Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance, Erin Madeley, Chief Executive (Australia)
96. Mekong Review, Kirsten Han, Managing Editor (Singapore)
97. MENA Rights Group (Switzerland)
98. Mizzima Media, Soe Myint, Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief (Myanmar)
99. Mullithivu Press Club, Kanapathipillai Kumanan, Photojournalist and Convener (Sri Lanka)
100. Muwatin Media Network, Mohammed Al-Fazari, CEO and Editor-in-Chief (UK)
101. Monte Carlo Doualiya (MCD), Souad Al-Tayeb, Director (France)
102. National Public Radio (NPR) Edith Chapin, Senior Vice President and Editor-in-Chief (USA)
103. New Bloom Magazine, Brian Hioe, Founding Editor (Taïwan)
104. Nord Sud Quotidien, Raoul Hounsounou, Publishing Director (Benin)
105. OC Media, Mariam Nikuradze, Co-Founder and Co-Director (Georgia)
106. Organización Editorial Mexicana, Martha C. Ramos Sosa, Director General Editorial (Mexico)
107. Ouestaf, Hamadou Tidiane Sy, Director (Senegal)
108. People Daily, Emeka Mayaka Gekara, Managing Editor (Kenya)
109. Photon Media, Shirley Ka Lai Leung, CEO (Hong Kong)
110. Plan V, Juan Carlos Calderón, Director (Equador)
111. Prachatai, Mutita Chuachang, Executive Editor (Thailand)
112. Premium Times, Musikilu Mojeed, Editor-in-Chief and Chief Operating Officer (Nigeria)
113. Pressafrik, Ibrahima Lissa Faye, Publishing Director (Senegal)
114. Prospect Magazine, Alan Rusbridger, Editor (UK)
115. Public Media Alliance, Kristian Porter, CEO (UK)

116. Pulitzer Center, Marina Walker Guevara, Executive Editor (USA)
117. Radio Bullets, Barbara Schiavulli, Director, and war reporter (Italy)
118. Rádio Ecclesia, Gaudêncio Yakuleingue, Director (Angola)
119. Radio Universidad de Chile, Patricio López, Director, (Chile)
120. Radio France Internationale (RFI), Jean-Marc Four, Director (France)
121. Radio France, Céline Pigalle, Director of Information (France)
122. Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Thibaut Bruttin, Director General
123. RETE #NOBAVAGLIO, Marino Bisso, Coordinator (Italy)
124. Reuters, Alessandra Galloni, Editor-in-Chief
125. Rory Peck Trust, Jon Williams, Executive Director (UK)
126. Sikha Mekomit (Israel)
127. SMEX (Lebanon)
128. SMN24MEDIA, Kamal Siriwardana, Director News (Sri Lanka)
129. Society of Professional Journalists, Caroline Hendrie, Executive Director (USA)
130. Stabroek News, Anand Persaud, Director (Guyana)
131. Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression, SCM (Syria)
132. Taz – die tageszeitung, Barbara Junge, Editor-in-Chief (Germany)
133. Tempo Digital, Wahyu Dhyatmika, CEO (Indonesia)
134. The Arab and Middle Eastern Journalists Association (AMEJA), Aymann Ismail, President (USA)
135. The Globe and Mail, David Walmsley, Editor-in-Chief, and President, World Editors Forum (WAN-IFRA) (Canada)
136. The Independent, Geordie Greig, Editor-in-Chief (UK)
137. The Intercept Brasil, Andrew Fishman, President and Co-Founder (Brazil)
138. The Legal Agenda (Lebanon)
139. The Magnet, Larry Moonze, Editor (Zambia)
140. The Nairobi Law Monthly, Mbugua Ng'ang'a, Editor-in-Chief (Kenya)
141. The New Arab, Hussam Kanafani, Director of Media Sector
142. The Point, Pap Saine, Publishing Director (Gambia)
143. The Reckoning Project, Janine di Giovanni, CEO
144. The Samir Kassir Foundation, Ayman Mhanna, Executive Director (Lebanon)
145. The Shift, Caroline Muscat, Founder (Malta)
146. The Wire, Seema Chishti, Editor (India)
147. The World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), Vincent Peyrègne, CEO, Andrew Heslop, Executive Director Press Freedom
148. TV Slovenia, Ksenija Horvat, Director (Slovenia)
149. Twala.info, Lyas Hallas, Publication Director (Algeria)
150. Unnu.news, Lkhagvatseren Batbayar, Editor-in-Chief (Mongolia)
151. Vikalpa, Sampath Samarakoon, Editor (Sri Lanka)
152. VRT NWS, Griet De Craen, Journalistic Director (Belgium)
153. Wattan Media Network, Muamar Orabi, Director General (Palestine)

154. Woz – die Wochenzeitung, Florian Keller, Daniela Janser, Kaspar Surber, Editorial Board (Switzerland)
155. +972 Magazine, Ghousoon Bisharat, Editor-in-Chief (Israel/Palestine)

About the Committee to Protect Journalists

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide. We defend the right of journalists to report the news safely and without fear of reprisal.

For media queries, please contact press@cpj.org.

About Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

Founded in 1985, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is an independent international organization that works to defend and promote press freedom around the world. Active in more than 160 countries, RSF acts daily to protect threatened journalists, fight censorship, expose violations of the freedom to inform, and promote ethical and independent journalism. The organization publishes the World Press Freedom Index every year, which has become an international benchmark, and carries out fieldwork, legal actions, and diplomatic efforts. It holds consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe.

For media queries, please contact egarcia@rsf.org