



Committee to Protect Journalists

**Press conference about Israel's systematic targeting of journalists, October 13,
2023 targeted attack
*December 11, 2025***

**Remarks from Amelia Evans, director of advocacy, Committee to Protect Journalists
*As prepared for delivery***

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has killed at least 246 journalists. It is an unprecedented number. To date, the Committee to Project Journalists has confirmed that 59 of these deaths were the result of deliberate, targeted attacks by Israel. Such attacks are war crimes. And, as our investigations continue, the staggering number of these war crimes can only climb.

The attack on October 13 that injured Dylan is the first of these targeted attacks that we have documented.

Through my conversations with Dylan, I know that he is pursuing accountability not just for himself, or Issam Abdallah, who was killed, or his colleague Christina Assi and the other four journalists who were injured, but because he understands that if there is not accountability in this case—when a US citizen was harmed and his representatives in Congress are doggedly seeking justice; when several leading international news outlets are involved and have all demanded Israel provide answers; when five international organizations, including a UN body, have all concluded Israel was responsible for the attack and offered a preponderance of evidence showing just how identifiable the journalists were; when at least six different cameras, at least three providing international live feeds, were filming at the moment the first strike hit—if accountability is not possible in this case, then what does this mean for the more than 200 Gazan journalists who have been killed? Killed in a context where key evidence may since have been repeatedly bombed, where international investigators and outside journalists alike are prohibited by Israel from entering Gaza to further document the cases, and where eyewitnesses may die any day—if they have not already—from hunger and disease.

Without doubt, the United States government has been derelict in its duty to Dylan, just as it has been to Shireen Abu Akleh—whose investigation has languished at the FBI for the last 3 years.

This failure by the US is magnified because Israel's pattern of impunity is not new. CPJ has found that since 2001, Israel has killed 269 journalists ... and no one has been charged or held to account in *any* of these cases.

The revelations that Senator Welch has shared today put both the United States and the wider international community on notice that Israel's purported investigative bodies are not functioning to deliver justice, but to shield Israeli forces from accountability.

The Trump administration must take action. It must open an effective criminal investigation into Dylan's case. It must publish a timeline for completing Shireen's investigation. And it must demand that Israel name all the Israeli military officials throughout the command chain who were involved in both cases.

But as Israel's key strategic ally, it must do much more than that: it must publicly recognize Israel's failure to investigate the war crimes committed by its military, and to work with the international community to ensure a full and fair investigation into each and every one of apparent war crimes that Israel has committed against journalists.

Thank you.