

Below is a collated list of violations committed by Israel, and in particular the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), against Palestinian journalists and media workers across the Occupied Palestinian Territory between October 7th, 2023 - April 25, 2026.

Killing of Palestinian journalists and media workers

The Israel-Gaza war has been the [deadliest](#) conflict for journalists that CPJ has ever [documented](#), with Israel responsible for killing journalists at an unprecedented rate and scale. Indeed, more members of the press were killed than in any [major conflict](#) in the last 100 years: between October 2023 and April 2026, CPJ has [documented](#) at least 207 journalists and media workers killed by Israel in Gaza.

Of these deaths, CPJ has identified 32 Palestinian journalists or media workers who were deliberately targeted in direct reprisal for their work. This marks the highest number of journalists targeted by a single government's military since CPJ began documentation in 1992. However, the total number of targeted killings may be [far higher](#). CPJ is investigating dozens of additional cases of potential targeted killings—cases that remain [difficult to document](#) and verify amid what human rights organizations and United Nations experts deem a [genocide](#). With much contemporaneous evidence now destroyed, the true number of Palestinian journalists in Gaza who were deliberately targeted by Israel may never be known.

Table of targeted killings of journalists in Gaza since October 7th, 2023, as of April 2026:

Name of Journalist*	Date killed	Circumstance of Killing
Hamza Al-Dahdouh	January 7th, 2024	Killed in drone strike targeting the journalists' vehicle, along with Mustafa Thuraya. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack and retroactively claimed that Al-Dahdouh was affiliated with Palestinian Islamic Jihad.
Mustafa Thuraya	January 7th, 2024	Killed in drone strike targeting the journalists' vehicle, along with Hamza Al-Dahdouh. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack and retroactively claimed that Thuraya was affiliated with Hamas.
Ismail Al Ghoul	July 31st, 2024	Killed in drone strike near Al Shati refugee camp. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack and confirmed that it had killed Al Ghoul in an airstrike, alleging that he was a member of Hamas' military wing.
Rami El Refee	July 31st, 2024	Killed in drone strike near Al Shati refugee camp, along with Ismail Al Ghoul. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack.
Ayman Al Gedi	December 26th, 2024	Killed in airstrike targeting a vehicle with visible press markings, outside of Al-Awda Hospital. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack and alleged that Al Gedi and his colleagues were Islamic Jihad operatives.
Fadi Hassouna	December 26th, 2024	Killed in airstrike targeting a vehicle with visible press markings, outside of Al-Awda Hospital. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack and alleged that Hassouna

		and his colleagues were Islamic Jihad operatives.
Faisal Abu Qumsan	December 26th, 2024	Killed in airstrike targeting a vehicle with visible press markings, outside of Al-Awda Hospital. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack and alleged that Abu Qumsan and his colleagues were Islamic Jihad operatives.
Mohammad Al-Ladaa	December 26th, 2024	Killed in airstrike targeting a vehicle with visible press markings, outside of Al-Awda Hospital. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack and alleged that Al-Ladaa and his colleagues were Islamic Jihad operatives.
Mahmoud Samir Islim Al-Basos	March 15th, 2025	Killed in drone strike targeting journalists and aid workers in Beit Lahia, while wearing a press vest and helmet. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack and alleged that Al-Basos was operating within a terrorist cell.
Hossam Shabat	March 24th, 2025	Killed in drone strike targeting Shabat's vehicle near Indonesian hospital. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack and accused Shabat of being a Hamas sniper.
Mohammed Al-Bardaweel	April 1st, 2025	Killed in airstrike in Khan Yunis. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack on Al-Bardaweel and accused him of producing Hamas propaganda.
Ahmed Mansour	April 7th, 2025	Killed in airstrike along with Hilmi Al-Fawaawi. The IDF acknowledged the strike, which targeted a Palestine TV tent in Nasser Hospital housing multiple journalists.
Hilmi Al-Faqaawi	April 7th, 2025	Killed in airstrike along with Ahmed Mansour. The IDF acknowledged the strike, which targeted a Palestine TV tent in Nasser Hospital housing multiple journalists.
Ismail Baddah	June 5th, 2025	Killed in drone strike targeting the courtyard of Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital, along with Suleiman Hajjaj and Ahmad Qalaja. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack, and referred to the incident as a precise strike on members of the Islamic Jihad.
Suleiman Hajjaj	June 5th, 2025	Killed in drone strike targeting the courtyard of Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital, along with Ismail Baddah and Ahmad Qalaja. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack, and referred to the incident as a precise strike on members of the Islamic Jihad.
Ahmad Qalaja	June 6th, 2025	Killed in drone strike targeting Al-Ahli Baptist hospital courtyard, along with Ismail Baddah and Suleiman Hajjaj. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack, and referred to the incident as a precise strike on members of the Islamic Jihad.
Anas Al-Sharif	August 10th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a tent housing journalists outside of Al-Shifa Hospital, alongside four other journalists and media workers. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack and accused Al-Sharif of being a Hamas terrorist on multiple occasions.
Ibrahim Zaher	August 10th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a tent housing journalists outside of Al-Shifa Hospital, alongside Anas Al-Sharif.

Moamen Aliwa	August 10th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a tent housing journalists outside of Al-Shifa Hospital, alongside Anas Al-Sharif.
Mohammed Noufal	August 10th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a tent housing journalists outside of Al-Shifa Hospital, alongside Anas Al-Sharif.
Mohammed Qreiheh	August 10th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a tent housing journalists outside of Al-Shifa Hospital, alongside Anas Al-Sharif.
Mohammed Al-Khalidi	August 10th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a tent housing journalists outside of Al-Shifa Hospital, alongside Anas Al-Sharif.
Ahmed Abu Aziz	August 25th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a known journalist meeting point in Nasser Hospital, alongside four other journalists and media workers.
Hussam Al-Masri	August 25th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a known journalist meeting point in Nasser Hospital, alongside four other journalists and media workers.
Mariam Abu Dagga	August 25th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a known journalist meeting point in Nasser Hospital, alongside four other journalists and media workers.
Moaz Abu Taha	August 25th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a known journalist meeting point in Nasser Hospital, alongside four other journalists and media workers.
Mohammed Salama	August 25th, 2025	Killed in airstrike targeting a known journalist meeting point in Nasser Hospital, alongside four other journalists and media workers.
Mahmoud Wadi	December 2nd, 2025	Killed in drone strike Khan Yunis while operating video drone.
Abed Shaat	January 21st, 2026	Killed in drone strike on journalists' vehicle in central Gaza, along with Anas Ghnaim and Mohamed Qeshta. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack on the vehicle.
Anas Ghnaim	January 21st, 2026	Killed in drone strike on journalists' vehicle in central Gaza, along with Abed Shaat and Mohamed Qeshta. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack on the vehicle.
Mohamed Qeshta	January 21st, 2026	Killed in drone strike on journalists' vehicle in central Gaza, along with Abed Shaat and Anas Ghnaim. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack on the vehicle.
Mohammed Washah	April 8th, 2026	Killed in drone strike targeting the journalist's car near Gaza City. The IDF acknowledged the targeted attack on the vehicle and alleged that Washah was affiliated with Hamas.

*click on name for full case details.

Labelling media outlets and journalists as “terrorists” or “ Hamas-fighter” without sufficient or reliable evidence

The IDF has a [long-standing](#) practice of labeling journalists that it has targeted or otherwise harmed as terrorists or engaging in militant activity, often without providing sufficient and reliable evidence to support such claims. Under [international humanitarian law](#), journalists, and other

civilians, are protected from direct and indiscriminate attacks, regardless of the positions or affiliation of their media outlets, provided they do not directly participate in hostilities. Official Israeli assertions that a journalist is affiliated to or supportive of Hamas or a terrorist organization, or providing unsubstantiated claims alleging direct participation in hostilities, does not qualify a journalist as a combatant or otherwise result in the loss of civilian protection under international humanitarian law.

Of the 32 Palestinian journalists targeted since October 7, 2023, the IDF labelled 18 as terrorists, or as associated with terrorist organizations and activity, and acknowledged killing them – without providing sufficient or reliable evidence to support these claims.¹ In the cases where evidence was provided, the reliability or authenticity of that evidence has later been [questioned](#) by subsequent external analysis. These cases are: [Hamza Al-Dahdouh](#), [Mustafa Thuraya](#), [Ismail Al Ghouli](#), [Ayman Al-Gedi](#), [Fadi Hassouna](#), [Faisal Abu Qumsan](#), [Mohammad Al-Ladaa](#), [Mahmoud Islim Al-Basos](#), [Hossam Shabat](#), [Suleiman Hajjaj](#), [Anas Al-Sharif](#), and [Mohammed Washah](#). To date, CPJ has not found or been provided with credible information that would remove their status as civilians who must never be targeted.

Use of drones to precisely target journalists

One of the primary methods used in targeted killings is the deployment of armed drones: unmanned aircraft or small flying devices controlled remotely, affording operators detailed visibility for identifying targets, to the level of [discerning](#) targets' clothing. Since October 7, 2023, Israeli drone strikes alone have killed at least 49 Palestinian journalists and media workers. The use of advanced warfare technology such as precision drones should diminish the likelihood of civilian casualties. Instead, the high use of drones to kill journalists reinforces the intentional nature of their targeting.

Targeting of journalists while wearing press insignia

In at least five cases documented by CPJ, journalists were either wearing helmets and jackets clearly marked with press insignia, or were located inside of vehicles or tents clearly marked with press insignia, when they were deliberately targeted and killed by the IDF: Ayman Al Gedi, Fadi Hassouna, Faisal Abu Qumsan, Mohammad Al-Ladaa, Mahmoud Samir Islim Al-Basos. These targeted killings, which took place in December 2024 and March 2025, contribute to a [growing perception](#) among journalists in Gaza that equipment marked "Press" is no longer a means of protection and that it may even increase the risk of being targeted.

Death of journalists and media workers while in Israeli custody

CPJ has [documented](#) two cases in which Palestinian journalists and media workers—journalist [Ihab Diab](#) and media worker [Marwan Harzallah](#)—died while in Israeli custody.

¹ In each case, CPJ has conducted extensive investigations—including independent interviews of eyewitnesses, colleagues, family members, supervisors, and friends of the targeted journalist to verify their background and affiliations, as well as comprehensive reviews of the targeted journalist's social media accounts. CPJ has also requested that the IDF share the rationale or evidence of these labels. In each of these cases, CPJ has concluded there was insufficient evidence to support these claims. CPJ makes every effort to ensure that its data is accurate at the time of publication and to make the appropriate updates to the database as new information becomes available. Cases will be removed if new evidence shows they fall outside CPJ's mandate—meaning either the individual is not classified as a "Journalist" per CPJ's definition, or the incident is deemed unrelated to journalism.

Diab was arrested by the IDF in northern Gaza in December 2023. It remains inconclusive where Diab was detained while in IDF custody. The IDF International Press Desk initially denied any record of Diab's detention when asked about his whereabouts, and only acknowledged to CPJ that the IDF held custody of Diab's [body](#) on April 4, 2026, following the submission of a [formal inquiry](#) into the case. The IDF has provided no comment on how Diab died in their custody and when his body will be returned to his family.

Harzallah was arrested at his home in Zawata, Nablus, in the northern West Bank, in January 2026. He [died](#) in March 2026 in Israel's [Megiddo Prison](#) while being held in administrative detention without charge, according to information relayed to his family by Palestinian officials. The Israel Prison Services declined to comment on Harzallah's case in response to CPJ's inquiry, saying, "Any incident involving the death of a prisoner is handled in accordance with established procedures and examined by the competent authorities."

Arbitrary arrest and detention

Since October 7, 2023, 59 journalists have been arrested without charge. Currently, 26 Palestinian journalists remain imprisoned by Israel without charge:

- Six were detained in Gaza and are being held under Israel's 'Unlawful Combatants Law,' according to which detainees can be [incarcerated indefinitely](#) on the basis of secret evidence and on the grounds that their release "will harm national security," with periodic [judicial reviews](#) to renew the detention order.
- Twenty were officially detained in the West Bank under Israel's practice of administrative detention. This allows the military to detain an individual without charge, typically for six months, on the grounds of preventing them from committing a future offense. Administrative detention can be extended an unlimited number of times.
- The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, a group of dedicated experts that works globally, has definitively [ruled](#) that administrative detention is unlawful at least four times. Most recently, following a submission by CPJ, it found that the detention of three journalists was arbitrary and in violation of international law. The Working Group found that the journalists' work was linked to their detention, noting that the three men had "critically examined the behavior and impact of the Israeli Defense Forces" and covered various issues relating to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It further held that the detention was discriminatory, being based on the journalists' "national, ethnic and social origin as Palestinian" and "because of their political opinions, which are critical of the [Israeli] Government and its policies."

In addition, four Palestinian journalists are currently in prison in the West Bank and have been charged with incitement.

Torture in detention

Since October 7, 2023, 66 Palestinian journalists have been detained by Israel and since released. CPJ attempted to contact all of these journalists: one, Ismail Al Ghouli, was killed in an Israeli airstrike, and five others declined to speak. Of the 59 Palestinian journalists from whom



Information accurate as at April 30, 2026

CPJ was able to collect in-depth testimonies, 58—all but one—reported being subjected to what they described as torture, abuse, or other forms of violence while in Israeli custody at various times from October 7, 2023 to January 30, 2026. The full report is available [here](#). Some journalists featured in the report have since been re-arrested and are back in detention.

The violations ranged from beatings and starvation, to sexual abuse, as well as the use of psychological, sonic, and electroshock abuse. There has been no reported accountability for the abuses described in the journalists' testimonies. Recently released journalists report similar patterns of treatment, indicating continued inaction.

Reflecting on these findings, CPJ's Regional Director Sara Qudah said: "These are not isolated incidents. Across dozens of cases, CPJ documented a recurring set of abuse – from beating to starvation, sexual violence, and medical neglect – directed at journalists because of their work. They expose a deliberate strategy to intimidate and silence journalists, and destroy their ability to bear witness. The continued silence from the international community only enables this."

The scale, consistency, and severity of those documented abuses raise serious questions under international law, including potential violations of the [UN Convention Against Torture](#), and [Article 79](#) of the Geneva Conventions' protections for journalists.

Blanket prohibition on independent media access to Gaza

Since October 7, 2023, Israeli authorities have [instituted](#) a blanket prohibition on independent media access to Gaza. Journalists remain unable to enter Gaza except on highly-controlled, infrequent military escorts that last a few hours on itineraries planned by the military for select international media who, while in Gaza, are unable to engage with Palestinians.

Testimony from journalists who have entered Gaza under Israeli military escort [demonstrate](#) consistent patterns of restricted movement, curated interactions, pre-publication review, and staged visuals.

Israel has [continued](#) to impose this media blockade even though previously cited justifications are no longer relevant, in light of meaningful changes in the status of the fighting following the longstanding ceasefire in Gaza implemented in October 2025.

CPJ filed an [amicus brief](#) in support of the Foreign Press Association of Israel's challenge to the ban in the Supreme Court. The brief demonstrated that Israel's ban and exclusive use of military escorts to enter Gaza [violates](#) journalists' freedom of expression under [Article 19](#) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

As noted in the [press release](#) for the amicus: "A CPJ review of media access in other conflicts found that Israel's approach to prohibiting independent media access to Gaza — without adopting measures such as tailored access zones or other mechanisms to meaningfully enable press freedom — is akin to autocratic approaches to conflict, such as in Myanmar, West Papua and Russia. ...[Israel's escort practice] falls short of internationally-accepted practices for embedding, the practice of attaching journalists to military units to cover operations from within. Other militaries, such as those of the United States, the United Kingdom, and NATO, have detailed embed procedures that facilitate reporting trips that last days, if not weeks or months.

However, even if Israel improved its embedding rules, it would never be sufficient: CPJ found that embedding can only be a complementary mechanism for access but is never a substitute for independent access.”

As a result of this policy, Palestinian journalists bear the sole burden of reporting from within Gaza, in spite of extreme conditions.

Censorship and retaliatory measures against journalists and media personnel for their coverage of Israeli or Palestinian issues

Israel has enacted a series of legislation that has silenced local and foreign media outlets’ reporting. In April 2024, the Israeli cabinet [passed](#) a law [allowing the shutdown](#) of a foreign channel’s broadcasts in Israel if the content is deemed to be a threat to the country’s security. Empowered by this legislation, in May 2024, the Israeli cabinet [voted](#) to shut down Al Jazeera’s operations, labeling it a “terrorist channel.” Israel has since [continuously renewed](#) the ban on the media outlet. Israel enforces a similar ban on operations and blocks the website and broadcast of Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV.

In February 2026, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [signed](#) an order banning several privately-owned platforms — Al-Asima News, Quds Plus, Maydan Al-Quds, Al-Quds Albawsala, and Maraj — which cover developments in Jerusalem, alleging they are linked to the Palestinian armed group Hamas. The outlets are accused of “incitement and ties to militant activity,” Israeli newspaper Haaretz [reported](#), citing Israeli officials, adding that no evidence has been released to support these allegations.

CPJ has also [documented](#) Israel’s silencing of journalists’ coverage from Jerusalem’s [Al-Aqsa Mosque](#) compound during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in February - March 2025. In interviews with CPJ, 10 journalists confirmed that they were banned from the compound, in what many view as a deliberate effort to censor coverage of the holy site. The true figure is likely higher, as many journalists fear speaking out could trigger renewed bans. Half of the bans were subsequently extended.

In 2025, CPJ [documented](#) a surge in settler violence, accompanied sometimes by soldiers, against journalists in the West Bank, marked by increased violence when wearing visible press gear. Journalists were injured, with some reported bone fractures.

In March 2026, Israeli police [attacked](#) at least three journalists who were covering prayers of Muslim worshipers outside Al-Aqsa Mosque due to its closure during the Iran war; this attack led to a fractured arm for the CNN journalist present on site. CPJ reported on the deliberate [severe beating and hospitalization](#) of a photojournalist in Jerusalem in 2023, and in 2024, the [harassment, assault and detention](#) of two Palestinian journalists who were covering “Flag Day” marches in Jerusalem.

Israel’s failure to investigate war crimes and other criminal misconduct by the IDF

CPJ has identified a systemic pattern of failure on the part of Israeli authorities to transparently investigate the rights violations detailed above, identify perpetrators, and take legal action to ensure accountability where violations are found, including through the prosecution of those



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responsible in accordance with international law. The IDF has not opened a single criminal investigation into any of the cases of targeted killing that have been documented by CPJ since October 7, 2023.

This is a long-standing pattern of impunity that pre-dates October 7, 2023. In May 2023, CPJ's report, "[Deadly Pattern](#)," found that at least 20 journalists were killed by members of the Israeli military over 22 years. No one has ever been charged or held responsible for these deaths.

CPJ [wrote to Israel's Military Advocate General](#) (MAG) in April 2024, requesting it

open a criminal investigation into targeted killings and other incidents of apparent criminal conduct by IDF, following a public statement by the MAG acknowledging that there have been cases of "unacceptable conduct" by the IDF in Gaza, some of which were being probed to determine if a criminal investigation was warranted. The MAG never responded or acknowledged receipt of the submission.

Of the 27 Requests for Information submitted by CPJ to the IDF regarding the cases of targeted killings outlined above, only three received any reply, with two reiterating unsubstantiated allegations of ties to terrorist activity as justification for the killings, and one requesting information about the coordinates and time of the killing, which CPJ does not collect.

The IDF did not respond to CPJ's repeated requests for comment on specific allegations by journalists who were subjected to torture while in detention, instead requesting ID numbers and geographic coordinates that CPJ does not collect or provide. When asked about allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and starvation, and the investigation and accountability process, an army spokesperson said "individuals detained are treated in accordance with international law," adding that the armed forces "have never, and will never, deliberately target journalists," and that any violations of protocol "will be looked into," but there is no evidence that any investigations have been opened.