

Assassinations of journalists and Mediocide in Gaza

Call to action

Join us on 26 August at 11:30 a.m. at Mont des Arts, Brussels

On 10 August 2025, **Anas al-Sharif**, a prominent journalist with Al Jazeera, was killed by an Israeli air strike outside Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Aged 28, he was one of six journalists and media workers killed while in a tent reserved for the press, after a day of reporting on the intensification of the bombings. The Israeli army claimed responsibility for the attack, which was intended to silence the voices of Palestinian journalists. This assassination comes in a context where, since the start of the war in Gaza in October 2023, at least 212 Palestinian journalists, [according to](#) the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), have lost their lives, making this conflict the deadliest massacre in the modern history of journalism.

In many cases, these Palestinian journalists were killed while covering the conflict, often while wearing vests clearly marked 'PRESS'. The attacks on reporters illustrate a deliberate strategy by the Israeli government to silence independent reporting, prevent the documentation of crimes, and instill terror in journalistic work. This is not 'collateral damage,' but a deliberate attack on press freedom and the fundamental right to bear witness to atrocities.

The Israeli government, controlled by a supremacist and militaristic far right, bears moral and political responsibility for these killings. The repression of the press in Gaza cannot be excused or minimised behind alleged imperatives of national security or the fight against terrorism. These are journalists, civilians, who are deliberately targeted and erased from history in an attempt to deprive the world of their testimonies and images.

It is crucial to remember that the international press has been banned from Gaza since the start of hostilities, forcing foreign media to work exclusively from local accounts and images provided by Gazan journalists, civilians and humanitarian workers on the ground, while only a few handpicked correspondents operate under the close supervision of the Israeli army with strict military censorship, thus constituting a serious violation of press freedom in the Palestinian territory under military occupation.

In response to this tragedy, journalists from the Belgian and international press must organise a solidarity rally in Brussels. A public reading of the names of all the

journalists killed in Gaza will pay tribute to their courage, condemn their murder in no uncertain terms and call for justice. It will take place on Tuesday 26 August at 11.30 a.m. at Mont des Arts, in Brussels.

This event will be an opportunity to affirm that silence, fear and censorship will not prevail in the face of journalists' commitment to truth and memory.

Today, journalists' organisations – the AJP, the VVJ, the EFJ, the IFJ, the SDJ-RTBF, the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate and API – are joining forces to show their solidarity with Palestinian journalists and to condemn the killings committed by the Israeli government.

No to impunity. The free press will not be silenced. This fight goes beyond Gaza: it concerns all defenders of democracy, everywhere in the world.

Thierry Michel

Filmmaker and journalist

Thmichel52@gmail.com

Martine Simonis

Association des Journalistes Professionnels (AJP)

martine@ajp.be

Charlotte Michils

Vlaamse Vereniging van Journalisten (VVJ)

charlotte.michils@journalist.be

Ricardo Gutiérrez

European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)

ricardo@europeanjournalists.org

Anthony Bellanger

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

anthony.bellanger@ifj.org

Fabrice Gérard

RTBF Journalists' Association (SDJ-RTBF)

gefa@rtbf.be

Yousef Khader Habache

Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate Europe Branch (PJS-Europe)

coord.europe@pjs.ps

Dafydd ab Iago

International Press Association (API-IPA)

president@api-ipa.org