



## Crimes and Violations against Journalism in Palestine Since the Start of the Genocidal War

1,639 total violations recorded against journalism and media  
professionals

167 journalists and media workers killed

2 journalists forcibly disappeared

357 injuries caused by missiles, bullets, and other attacks from  
occupation forces and settlers

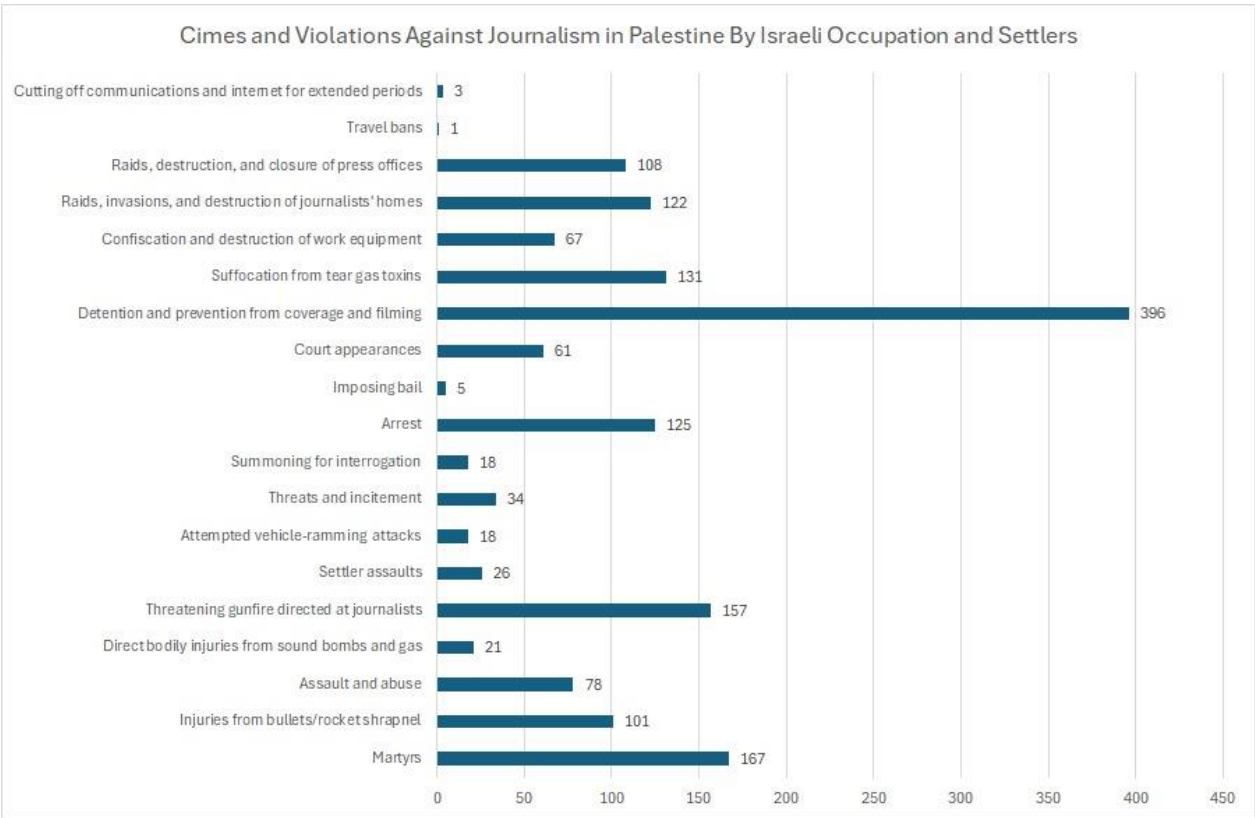
125 journalists arrested, including 21 female journalists killed and 16  
currently detained by the occupation

73 media institutions destroyed in Gaza, with 15 closed in the West  
Bank

902 additional violations, including shootings, detentions and  
coverage bans, perpetrated by the occupation and its settlers.

**Ramallah**– The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate reported that the Israeli occupation has committed the largest and most horrific massacre of journalists in modern history during a year of Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinian people.

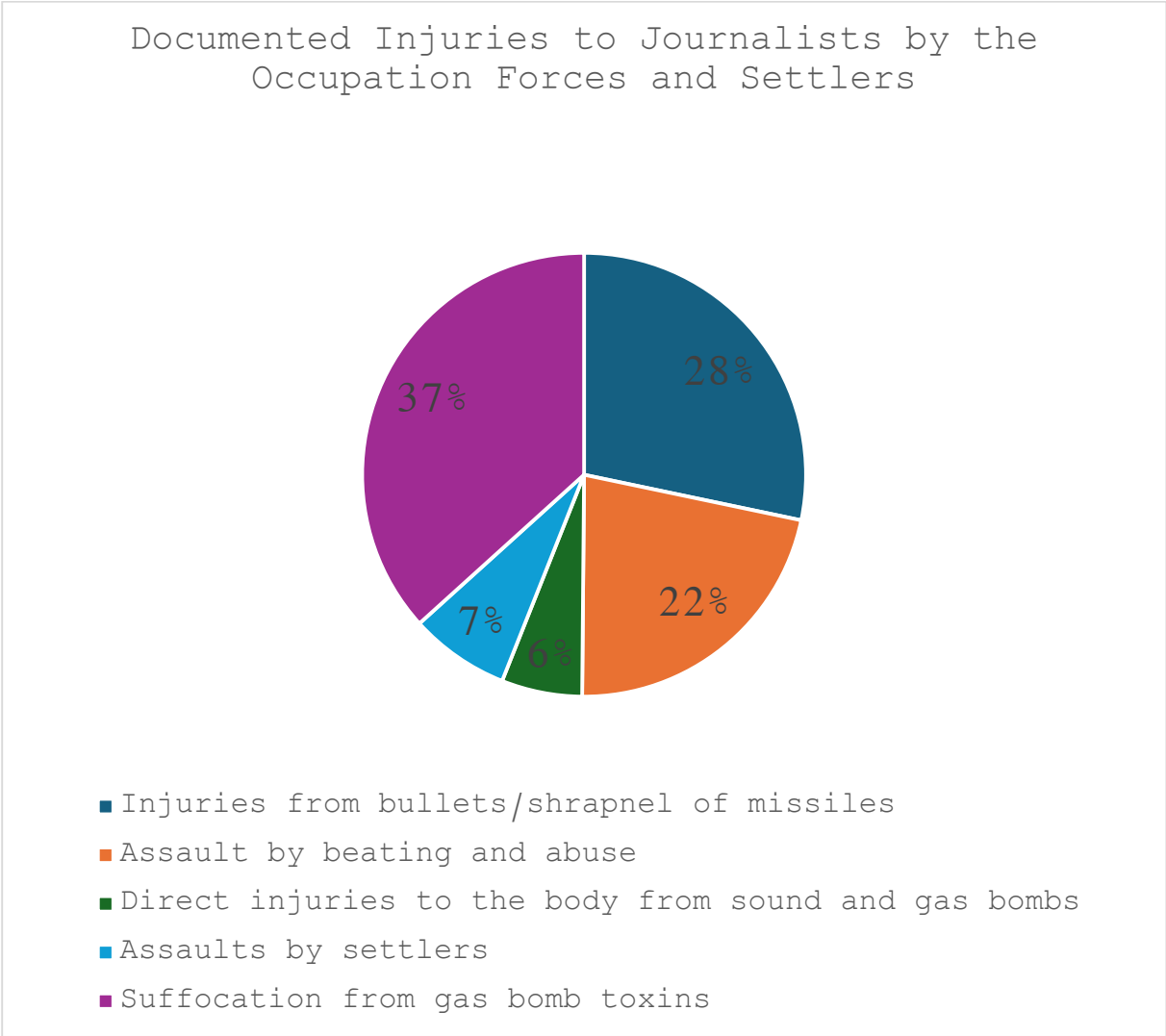
In a report released on the first anniversary of the war, October 7, 2023, the Syndicate detailed 1,639 crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against journalists and media institutions, particularly in Gaza. Among these violations were the deaths of 167 journalists and media workers.



### The Largest Massacre in History

According to monitoring by the Freedom Committee, 167 journalists and media workers have been killed by the Israeli occupation since October 7, 2023, including 21 female journalists. Among the victims was Ibrahim Mohammed, a journalist from Noor Shams camp in Tulkarem, West Bank. This represents 11% of Gaza's journalists.

The syndicate emphasized that these journalists paid the ultimate price for conveying the truth to the world, and the Israeli occupation sought to suppress this truth through targeted assassinations.



**A Year of Targeted Killings and Severe Injuries**

The syndicate reported that several journalists were killed, their bodies remaining buried under the rubble of their homes for months. This includes Heba Al-Abadleh, whose body is still trapped beneath the debris, as well as Salam Mima and Ayat Khudura.



**(Salma Al-Qudumi is a journalist who was shot by an Israeli sniper in Khan Younis)**

The syndicate's report documented 357 injuries among journalists over the course of the genocidal war, caused by the occupation's missiles, direct gunfire, toxic gas bombs, and attacks by settlers. Of these, 101 injuries were a result of the Israeli occupation deliberately targeting journalists with missiles and gunfire. One of the most recent cases involved journalist Ahmed Al-Zard, a photographer for Al-Kufiyah TV, who sustained serious injuries. His mother was also injured, and his brother, along with several family members, were killed in an Israeli strike that targeted their home in Khan Younis.



**Journalist Sami Shahada had his leg amputated as a result of an Israeli rocket attack**

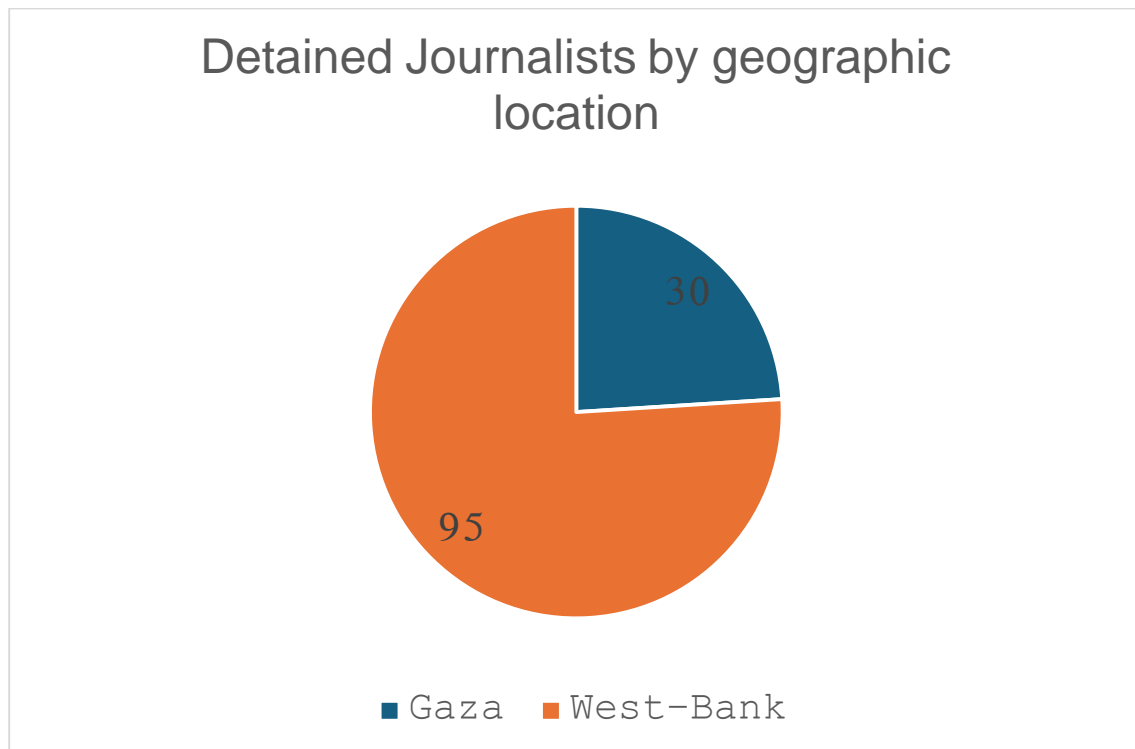
The report noted that several journalists sustained severe injuries leading to amputations. Sami Sh-hadeh, for instance, had his right leg amputated after being struck during the occupation's attack while covering the displacement in Al-Nuseirat camp, central Gaza. Other journalists suffered injuries to critical parts of their bodies, reflecting the Israeli army's intent to kill.

Al Jazeera correspondent Ismail Abu Omar also had his right leg amputated in a strike in the Mirage area, north of Rafah, while his left leg was severely injured. Similarly, photojournalist Abdullah Al-Haj lost one of his legs while covering events in Al-Shati' Camp in Gaza. Photographer Mohammed Al-Za'anin was injured in his left eye after being targeted by a drone that dropped explosive bombs near Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis.



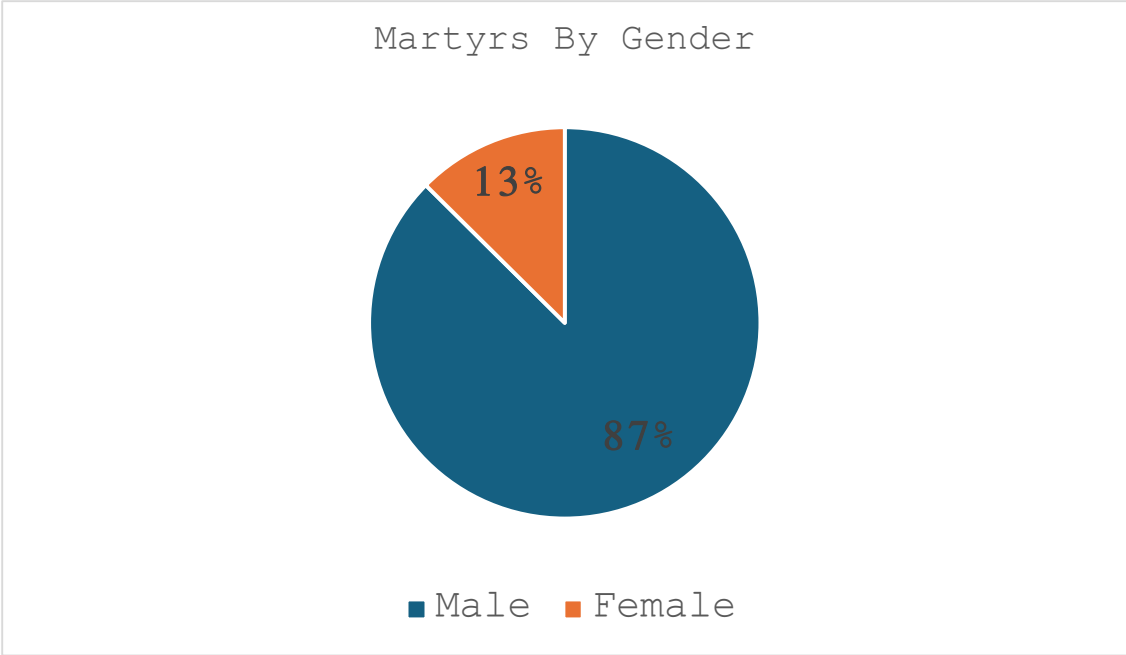
**Journalist Mohamed Al-Zaanin was injured by shrapnel from rockets due to Israeli shelling in Khan Younis**

# 125 Journalists Arrested by Israeli Occupation



The syndicate's data revealed that since October of last year, the occupation authorities have arrested 125 journalists in the West Bank and Gaza, with 61 still in Israeli prisons. Among those arrested are 16 Palestinian female journalists, six of whom remain in detention. Additionally, the occupation authorities exiled journalist Siqal Qaddum, 51, from Hebron to Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing; he works for Palestine TV.

The syndicate noted that 33 journalists have been subjected to what is known as "administrative detention." Furthermore, Israeli courts have exploited emergency laws to accuse some detained journalists of incitement through media outlets and social media platforms. This includes journalist Rasha Harzallah, an editor at WAFA, and Ali Dar Ali, a correspondent for Palestine TV.



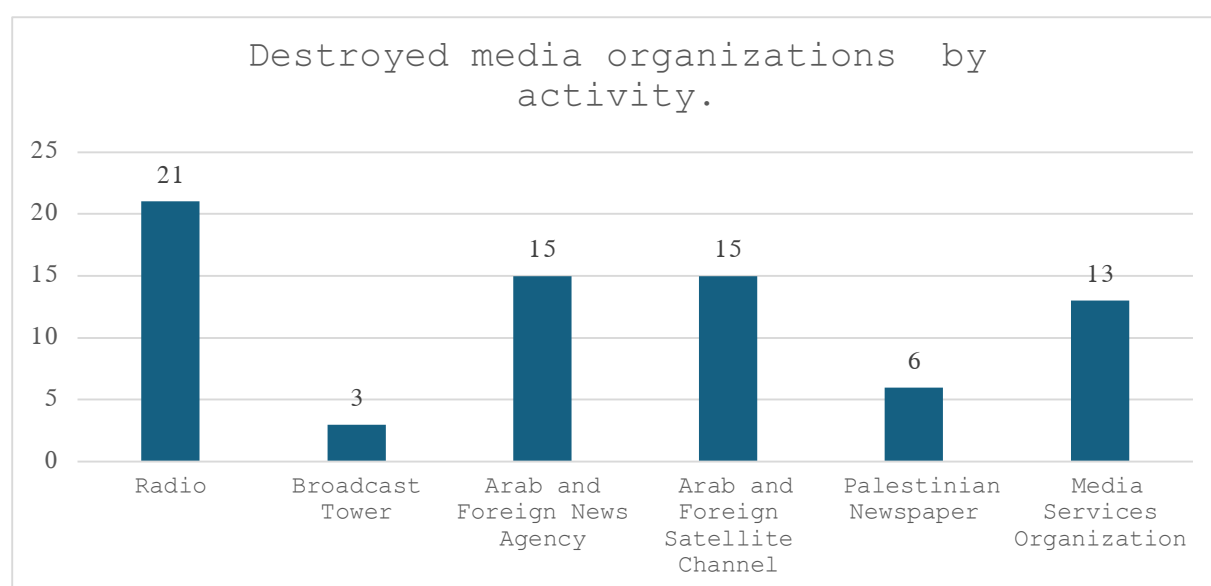
Since October 7, 2023, journalists Nidal Al-Wahidi, who works with Al-Najah TV and the New Press platform, and Haitham Abdel Wahid from Ain Media have been forcibly disappeared. The occupation authorities refuse to disclose any information about their fate or respond to international and human rights efforts seeking to determine their circumstances.



## Complete Destruction of Media Institutions in Gaza and Closures in the West Bank

The Israeli occupation destroyed 73 media institutions in Gaza, according to documentation by the syndicate's Freedom Committee. These include 21 local radio stations, 3 broadcast towers, 15 news agencies, 15 satellite channels, 6 local newspapers, and 13 media and press service offices.

In the West Bank, the occupation closed 15 institutions, most notably Palestine TV in Jerusalem, and Al-Mayadeen and Al-Jazeera channels, in addition to shutting down 12 printing presses across various West Bank governorates.



### 514 Martyrs from Journalists' Families in Gaza

Journalists' families have paid a heavy price due to their profession. According to figures from the syndicate's Freedom Committee, 514 family members of journalists in Gaza were martyred as a result of airstrikes targeting journalists' homes and places of displacement.





The report stated that the Israeli occupation targeted approximately 115 homes belonging to the families of Palestinian journalists in Gaza with airstrikes and artillery shells. In several cases, entire families of journalists were erased from civil records. For example, journalist Hussam Al-Dabbaka from Al-Quds TV lost his wife and children when their apartment was struck. other family members in Al-Maghazi camp. Another example is journalist Mohammad Abu Hatab from Palestine TV, whose 11 family members, including his wife, children, and brother, were killed, as well as journalist Salam Mima, her husband, and their three children, Hadi, Ali, and Sham, in an airstrike on their home in Jabalia camp.

**Gunfire is the language the occupation uses to communicate with journalists**



The most widespread form of assault in the West Bank since the start of the genocide war has been direct gunfire targeting press crews. A total of 198 press crew members were documented as being exposed to these dangerous incidents, most of which occurred in Jenin and Tulkarm, putting their lives at risk. For example, in the last quarter of 2023, 26 incidents were recorded. This number increased to 106 during the third quarter of the year. Many journalists and their equipment (cameras and vehicles) were damaged as a result of these attacks.

## **Settler Violence Legitimized by the Israeli Government**

Twenty-six journalists have faced brutal attacks by settlers in the West Bank, often occurring in the presence of occupation police and military forces, who failed to intervene or hold any of the attackers accountable.

Examples of these incidents include the display of weapons and explicit death threats. For instance, Shrouq Issa, a journalist for Palestine Post, received death threats when an Israeli settler aimed a rifle at her while she was covering events in the town of Beit Ummar, north of Hebron. Similarly, Joseph Handal, an English-language photographer for Al Jazeera, was physically assaulted by a group of settlers at the "Container" checkpoint east of Bethlehem. The attackers

broke his car windows with stones and sticks and sprayed pepper spray in his face, resulting in injuries and fractures.



In Jerusalem, a large group of journalists faced assaults by settlers involving beatings and arson. For instance, Al-Asima website correspondent Saif Al-Qawasmi sustained burns on his hand after settlers deliberately extinguished cigarettes on him. Journalist Diala Jweihan from Al-Hayat Al-Jadida was also beaten and assaulted, along with her colleague Malak Arouq and Al-Arabiya correspondent Bara'a Abu Ramoz, along with a large group of their colleagues.



Toxic gas continues to tear at the eyes of journalists and strike their bodies.

The report highlights that there were 152 injuries among journalists due to gas bombs, including 140 cases of toxic gas inhalation and 19 instances where gas bombs directly hit journalists.

One notable incident involved journalist Sadqi Rayan, who sustained a head injury from a gas bomb when occupation forces targeted journalists on Mount Sabih, near the "Evitar" settlement outpost in the town of Beta, Nablus. Additionally, Reuters photographer Raneen Suwafta was hit in the face by a gas bomb and was subsequently transported to a hospital in Jenin after occupation forces launched gas bombs at journalists.

## **A Series of Crimes Preventing Crews from Working**

The Freedom Committee's report indicates that there have been 396 cases of detention involving individuals and press crews, preventing them from carrying out their work. Many faced verbal threats of shooting and arrest if they did not comply. Notably, there has been a significant rise in obstruction cases, including attempts to run over journalists with heavy machinery and military vehicles.

For instance, near the city of Tubas, an Israeli military jeep struck the vehicle of journalists Majdi Ishtayeh and Ali Ishtayeh while they were covering events in the Tiyasir area. Similarly, military vehicles attempted to run over Al Jazeera correspondent Jevara Al-Badiri, photographer Aref Tufaha, Palestine TV correspondent Amir Shahin, and a group of other journalists.

Several journalists also faced attempts to be run over by an Israeli military bulldozer while covering street demolitions in Jenin. This included Al-Arabiya correspondent Amjad Shahada, Al-Ghad correspondent Diaa Houshiah, Ro'ya channel correspondent Hafez Abu Sabra, and Al-Quds newspaper correspondent Ali Samoudi.

### **Other Forms of Crimes and Assaults**

The Israeli occupation employs various tactics to pursue, pressure, and target journalists. These include preventing travel, confiscating personal and professional belongings, summoning journalists for interrogation, using unjust military courts, imposing fines, and enforcing house arrest.

This situation reflects the subservience of the Supreme Court, the highest judicial authority in the occupation system, which colludes with the Israeli government and army by rejecting requests from the Foreign Journalists Association to allow them entry for work and coverage in the Gaza Strip.

## **Summaries**

The alarming indicators of the brutal crimes committed against Palestinian journalists—and the ease with which they are killed—stem from decisions made at the highest levels of the Israeli occupation government. These acts cannot be attributed to individual field endeavors; rather, they are systematic actions carried out by political institutions and their security apparatus.

The Israeli Supreme Court's rejection of the Foreign Journalists Association's request to enter and cover events in the Gaza Strip underscores the occupation's persistent effort to isolate Palestinian journalists and undermine the credibility of the truths they convey to the world.

The high costs borne by the families of Palestinian journalists, exemplified by the loss of their loved ones due to their profession, reflect an unprecedented level of moral decay and inhumanity in history. The surge in serious injuries from missile shrapnel and bullets significantly outpaces those caused by batons and kicks, indicating a clear intent to kill. In reports from unions and human rights organizations covering conflicts globally, there is no comparable situation to these incidents and figures.

The bombing of media offices, including those belonging to foreign media organizations, by occupation forces sends a defiant message to the world, demonstrating a blatant disregard for the series of crimes and acts of genocide committed against Palestinian society. The alarming increase in live-fire targeting of journalists in the West Bank further confirms a deliberate intent to oppress and violate their rights, creating an atmosphere of terror and intimidation to obscure the truth.

The ongoing detention of journalists without trial, and the lack of visitation from the Red Cross and family members, is a violation of all international agreements and charters. Furthermore, the occupation army's gang-like raids on journalists' properties and media institutions occur without any legal justification, with no documentation or acknowledgment of these so-called confiscations.

The geographical and temporal patterns of targeting journalists indicate a systematic Israeli effort to oppress Palestinian society. In Gaza, the occupation is engaged in acts of genocide, believing that silencing journalists will obscure the reality of its brutal actions. The rising targeting of journalists in northern West Bank areas reflects a broader pattern of violence against civilians in those regions, while the blatant lawlessness exhibited by the occupation army in Jerusalem further confirms their targeting of the city's journalists. Moreover, a higher frequency of attacks on journalists in a specific area often foreshadows a comprehensive targeting of that region.

Finally, the noticeable increase in assaults and acts of terrorism by settlers against journalists demonstrates that they have been granted legitimacy by the Israeli occupation government to commit atrocities against journalists and civilians alike.

## **Recommendations**

1. **United Nations Action:** The United Nations and the United Nations Security Council must issue clear directives demanding that the Israeli occupation government cease its attacks on journalists.
2. **International Court of Justice:** The International Court of Justice has a professional, ethical, and humanitarian obligation to take action and issue a series of decisions aimed at protecting Palestinian journalists.
3. **International Criminal Court Accountability:** The reputation and professionalism of the International Criminal Court are at stake, as it has yet to address the numerous cases presented by the union regarding past

Israeli crimes, including the assassination of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the martyrdom of several colleagues in Gaza in previous years.

4. Support from the International Federation of Journalists: We urge the International Federation of Journalists to continue its support by establishing a union and rights network to exert pressure on the International Criminal Court to prosecute political and security leaders of the occupation and settlers, preventing them from evading accountability for their crimes.
5. Arab Journalists Union Mobilization: The Arab Journalists Union should spearhead a movement involving Arab parliaments, the Arab League, unions, and human rights organizations to support Palestinian journalists in their work and to expose the occupation's crimes.
6. National Mechanism Activation: It is essential to activate the Palestinian national mechanism to prevent impunity and ensure protection for journalists at the local level, in collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Palestinian Bar Association, the Union of Writers and Authors, the Independent Commission, Al-Haq, and other relevant sectors.
7. Support for Journalists in Gaza: Palestinian journalists, especially in the Gaza Strip, urgently need comprehensive legal and moral support, as well as resources for a decent living amid a lack of income due to the ongoing siege and the loss of equipment, offices, and teams.
8. Monitoring and Documentation: The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and all relevant institutions will continue to monitor, document, and publish all crimes and assaults committed by the occupation against journalists.
9. Humanizing Coverage: Local and Arab media must provide comprehensive coverage of the occupation's crimes against journalists, emphasizing their suffering and that of their families in a more humanized manner, rather than merely presenting statistics. The Journalists Syndicate

stresses the importance of adhering to professional safety standards to protect journalists' lives and maintaining ethical standards for accurate news reporting.