

Do not rite, do not film, do not broadcast: Turn off your Camera Immediately

- **The press in the 1948 occupied territories is without freedom: without a syndicate, and without protection.**
- **If you write against the occupation, you will be punished with nine months of elderly service.**
- **Right-wing journalists incite against you, soldiers restrict your movement, and the police do not investigate death threats made against you.**
- **The government discriminates against Palestinian journalists in favor of Israeli journalists, and the journalist card offers no benefits.**

Reportage: Najmah Hijazi

This investigation highlights the violations against journalists in the territories occupied since 1948 and in the city of Jerusalem. These violations occur in the absence of a union framework to defend and advocate for journalists' rights, amidst a rise in crimes and threats against them. Additionally, there is a notable failure by the police to pursue and deter the perpetrators of these violations.

This investigation documents the testimonies of male and female journalists from Jerusalem and the occupied territories, who have been subjected to racial discrimination by Israeli government institutions. These journalists have been prevented from filming, broadcasting, and covering events. Additionally, they have been targeted by right-wing extremists and receiving death threats from racists and organized crime groups, without any action from the police to investigate these attacks.

In this investigation, we aim to provide recorded testimonies from those whose rights have been violated. These individuals identify their violators, explain how these perpetrators evade punishment, and describe how the killing of journalists, threats against them, and their arrests and imprisonments have become routine news in the state of Israel that claims to respect freedom of opinion, expression, and the press.



(Cartoon from the Palestinian Information Center website about journalist Ramzi Abbasi's daughter trying to embrace him during his imprisonment)

Abbasi Journalist When the Authorities ban you from attending your Mother's Funeral

The Jerusalemite journalist, Ramzi Abbasi, 37 years old, was unable to bid a final farewell to his mother before her burial. He did not attend the funeral or receive condolences. Ramzi's mother passed away during Ramadan in 2023 while he was languishing in the occupation prisons. Israeli occupation forces arrested him on his way back from the hospital where his sick mother was staying. She died while he was still imprisoned, facing charges of dealing with a foreign agent, among other accusations listed in the indictment against him. According to his defense lawyer, Khaled Zabarqa, "The indictment is baseless and considered a political and intellectual persecution of Abbasi, against the background of his journalistic work in exposing the crimes of the occupation in Jerusalem."

Abbasi was released in November 2023 after being threatened to cease his journalistic work and refrain from posting on social media.

"I was arrested in April 2023 and spent seven months in prison on charges of communicating with a foreign agent. My sentence was for a full year, and according to the last court session and its deliberations, I was supposed to be released in April. However, I was surprised by the news of my release on the last day of November 2023," Al-Abbasi narrated about his experience.

"I was subjected to persecution and investigations. Due to the security prosecution, I was unable to fulfill the duties of my work. I was fired, deprived of part of my fees, and forbidden from working as a public employee. I am a physical therapist and aquatic therapist in special education schools. This means

that I will no longer be able to work in the field that I studied and worked hard in until I obtained a professional certificate in this specialty” he added.

“The occupation intelligence views all the press networks I have worked for as incitement networks and sabotage entities, as they claim. This could lead to new security legal files against me, under the pretext that I am inciting against the state's security, especially since part of the security file against me is related to my work in journalism. Simply put, I live in a country where Israeli intelligence governs everything related to security files. I am always exposed to legal questions and interviews with the intelligence, and I constantly remain under their scrutiny in every job I undertake or even in any publication I write.”



(A picture from the network was taken while journalist Lama Ghosheh was entering the courtroom in occupied Jerusalem)

Lama Ghosheh: \$15,000 bail in order to refrain from writing on Facebook

Lama Ghosheh, (32 years old), is a freelance Jerusalemite journalist who works with various media outlets. She recounted her well-known story that shook the public: she was arrested and deprived of her children on charges of writing on Facebook.

She told us what happened to her: “I was arrested on Sunday morning, September 4, 2022, after the occupation forces raided my family’s home in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. I was with my two children at the time, aged 4 and 5. The soldiers confiscated my phone and personal computer, and I was transferred to Room 4, known to be affiliated with the intelligence at the Al-Maskobiyya Police Station in Jerusalem. I later understood from the investigation that my charge was for posts on Facebook related to the events of the martyrs and their names. I was asked about the account, why I post what I post, and why I support these matters. The charges brought against me were

incitement and working with terrorist organizations. The indictment against me included 12 posts. "I was imprisoned for 10 days until September 14, 2022, spending 14 days in total away from my children. The decision to release me on parole required me to abide by house arrest and included a bail of 50,000 shekels (about 15,000 dollars), which was paid in cash. Additionally, my father and mother each provided a bail of 10,000 shekels to release me. The decision also stipulated a ban on using any electronic devices, including cell phones, computers, and even televisions, as well as the Internet. I was also prohibited from communicating with the press or making any statements, as doing so would be considered incitement."

Regarding this harsh punishment: "My house arrest continued until 7/11/2023, that is, 10 months during which I was prevented from practicing the work of a journalist, from finishing my studies, and even from practicing my motherhood and my marital life normally. However, it did not end here, as I was sentenced to serve the community for a period of 9 months, which is the longest period possible to serve the public, and usually the service is by working in cleaning Israeli government institutions" Lama said.

The punishment: Working at the Israeli elderly's care home.

Lawyer Khaled Zabarqa, who specializes in Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa affairs, commented on Ghosheh's case file: "The occupation seeks to Zionize the Palestinian public discourse and impose a state of denial on the Palestinian narrative, even at the level of media publication. This policy reflects the desperation of the occupation's decision-makers, who are convinced that they are losing public opinion not only among Palestinians but also among Arabs and the international community."

"This is the maximum possible duration for a sentence of community service. Lama was sentenced to work in an Israeli care home for the elderly in the west of Jerusalem, five days a week, with each workday being seven hours long. We tried to postpone the sentence as much as possible. I filed an appeal with the Central Court, but it was rejected. The Supreme Court does not accept this type of case because it is not considered a central issue. Unfortunately, there is no other legal solution for journalist Lama, and she will be returned to prison if she

does not comply with this punishment or fails to complete the required days,” Lama’s defense lawyer, Mohamed Mahmoud, confirmed.

Alqastal Network: The charge is Hamas: The punishment included prohibition and prevention

Al-Qastal Network, **a Palestinian network that covered daily events in all of occupied Palestine. Its coverage became prominent in the events of Al-Aqsa and Sheikh Jarrah.** After the outbreak of the latest aggression on Gaza, specifically on October 31, 2023, the Israeli Ministry of Information banned the Al-Qastal network, in accordance with the Israeli emergency law (which was activated during the war). 6 of Aqastal correspondents were summoned for investigation by the Shin Bet and the network became no longer able to work in the field after being threatened by the Israeli media and its intelligence services. this took place after the video statement by Defense Minister Yoav Galant, in which he said: “Al-Qastal Network is affiliated with the Hamas movement.” For its part, Al-Qastal Network denounced these allegations. The main editor of the network, who chose to remain anonymous for fear of security prosecution, told us: “We learned about the network’s ban, along with the rest of the public, through the video statement of the Minister of War. A few days later, six of the network’s correspondents received summonses for interviews with Israeli intelligence. They were threatened with arrest and prosecution if they continued to film and cover events for Al-Qastal.”

Al-Mayadeen Journalists are Under the Nightmare of Continuous Incitement

Al-Qastal network was not the only one that was banned, and its crews prevented from working after the aggression on Gaza last October. On 11/13/2023, the Israeli mini-cabinet for political and security affairs issued a decision banning the work of Al-Mayadeen TV, on charges of “harming the security of the state.” The decision was announced in a joint statement issued by the Israeli Minister of Communications, Shlomo Karhi at the time, and the Minister of the Defense at the time, Yoav Galant. The decision stated: "In accordance with the emergency regulations approved by the government to

prevent any foreign broadcasting organization from harming the security of the state, and after obtaining the supportive opinions of all security agencies and the approval of the Minister of the Army that there is actual harm to the security of the occupying state, the Security Political Council of Ministers approved the Minister of Communications' proposal to issue instructions for permanent measures against Al-Mayadeen Network. In accordance with these emergency regulations, the Minister of Communications of the occupying state may, after the approval of the Council of Ministers, order a decree to close offices, confiscate broadcast equipment, and prevent the use of various communications infrastructure of the Broadcasting Authority in ways that harm the security of the state."

"The ban included preventing the channel from broadcasting and blocking its websites in Arabic, English, and Spanish for a period of thirty days. As a result, the crew stopped working, especially after receiving direct threats of legal prosecution if they continued their coverage." Their correspondent, Hanaa Mahamid, told the investigative reporter, "Al-Mayadeen TV was banned according to emergency regulations, and the ban was extended once. The period of the ban ended in February 2024, so far, according to our information obtained from the Israeli press in this regard, the work of Al-Mayadeen will not be prevented again under the "Al Jazeera Law". As correspondents, we can work under the law. "But the incitement against us continues, so we cover the events without appearing on screen. This is due to the ongoing incitement, not because of the ban, which has ended."

Israeli press incites against Palestinian press

In March 2023, an Israeli newspaper (name withheld) accused the local Al-Jarmaq Agency, which covers events in the 48 Territories of inciting the outbreak of the Uprising of Dignity in May 2021 due to its coverage. Also, the Israeli newspaper incited against the agency's employees and various crews, naming them and providing their personal details in an inciting and offensive manner, such as their places of residence and previous work. It attached accusations of belonging to various organizations and posted screenshots of their Facebook posts expressing opinions on national issues. Additionally, the Israeli newspaper used their surnames as accusatory tags. Among the journalists mentioned were Karen Al-Bash, Najma Hijazi, Atwa Abu Kharmah, and Najat Hamouda, who are correspondents for the agency.



(A photo from the network of Israeli Communications Minister Shlomo Kerhi while signing the decision to close Al Jazeera in Israel)

The law of Aljazeera and its ban

On Sunday, May 5, 2024, the Israeli government unanimously decided to close Al Jazeera's offices in Israel after voting on this decision in the mini-cabinet. The decision stipulated that, based on the law to prevent a foreign broadcasting organization from harming the security of the state, permission was given to the Minister of Communications to issue, for a period of 45 days, a decision to stop broadcasting Al Jazeera in Arabic and English, to close Al Jazeera's offices in Israel, to seize devices used by Al Jazeera to broadcast content, and to restrict access to the website. Regarding this violation, the Director of Al Jazeera's office in Palestine Walid Al-Omari in Al Jazeera Net coverage said: "The decision came as a result of the incitement campaign launched by far-right ministers, with the participation of Israeli political and media entities on a large scale, in search of 'easy victories.'" He stressed that the workers in the Al Jazeera office did not receive any reservations, comments, or even accusations from any official body in Israel, but the decision came as a result of the coverage of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip and the result of the aforementioned incitement campaign.

Al Jazeera Network stated in a statement published on its website: "Israel's suppression of the free press aims to cover up its crimes by killing and arresting journalists, and this will not deter the network's crews from performing their duty."

According to this unjust decision, Al Jazeera's correspondents moved to work in the occupied West Bank, and its correspondent, Hassan Masoud, was prevented from entering the country through the King Hussein crossing, as the Israeli crossing authority prevented him from entering, even though he had previously entered through his Brazilian passport.

The Israeli government's Minister of Communications, Shlomo Kehri, announced, a few days after the channel was banned, that he had ordered a raid on Al Jazeera's offices in the city of Nazareth and the confiscation of its equipment. Al-Omari confirmed that the place in Nazareth was a private office for a company providing media services, with which Al Jazeera was cooperating in the city of Nazareth. It is not a channel-specific office.

Aljazeera obsession haunts the special police

It seems that the Al-Jazeera TV file has infected the Israeli security system with an obsession, as Al-Arab TV cameraman, Ali Diwani, narrated the following: "I was with the channel's correspondent, Ahmed Darawsha, in the city of Tel Aviv on Saturday evening, to cover the weekly demonstration against the government, and during the live broadcast on Al-Arab TV, members of the special forces of the Israeli police approached us after they heard Ahmed speaking in Arabic, and **they asked us if we were covering for Al Jazeera**. We answered with a No, but they detained us for a full hour, which forced us to cut off the broadcast even though we handed them our press and personal cards. **During our detention, they monitored the live broadcast of Al Jazeera, and after making sure that we were not covering for the channel, they released us.**"

Sometimes the intelligence service is the one who decides to obtain a press card

Palestinian journalist Anas Musa said that Palestinian journalists face difficulties obtaining a card to practice their profession in the territories occupied in 1948. The Israeli intelligence service controls the issuance of this card.

Journalist Anas Musa Agbariya (39 years old) from the city of Umm al-Fahm, with 15 years of experience, works for the Rwaq website (a local website). He previously worked as a reporter and editor for Sawt al-Haqq and al-Hurriya newspapers, and as an editor for the “Palestinians 48” website, which was closed after the Northern Islamic Movement was banned in 2015. He also worked as a correspondent for Al-Quds Channel for four years until it was banned in 2018. After that, he founded the Rwaq website at the end of 2018 and continues to work there.

Regarding freedom of expression as a journalist: “There is a restriction on journalistic writing in Israel, and currently with the war in Gaza, the journalist must be careful in using his expressions, so as not to be legally questioned or prosecuted, and to avoid arrests,” Agbariya said.

He added, "Even with the press card issued by the Israeli government to journalists we face problems. Noting that not any journalist can obtain it. Sometimes the intelligence service decides to whom the card is granted and to whom it is not."

Agbariya confirms that the restrictive working conditions for Palestinian journalists in the territories occupied since 1948 lead to the extinction of the Palestinian press under the occupation. Journalists living under the occupation face difficult choices: they can either work in the Palestinian press, which offers low wages, or the Israeli press, which does not align with their ideas and principles.

Regarding coverage of crime in the Arab community, he said: “Covering crimes is limited to publishing the name, age, and photo of the victim. We do not write about the context or background of the events because we face threats and persecution from criminal gangs and the Israeli police. Several journalists have been threatened and shot. The latest victim was journalist Nidal Agbariya, who was killed by unknown gunmen. The investigation into his murder remains open, with no suspects arrested. **Despite this, the Israeli press have complete freedom to cover crimes in our Arab society.”**

About his arrest by the police during the war on Gaza: "I was covering a demonstration against the war on Gaza on October 19, 2023, in my city of Umm al-Fahm. After the police stormed the area, I was arrested. Despite showing my press card to the police officers, I was detained, assaulted, and beaten. I

underwent interrogation until the following morning, until I was released following an intervention by the I'lam Center, which demanded my immediate release as a journalist," he said.



(Journalist Anas Musa – personal photo)

An increase in the frequency of attacks

According to the data we obtained while working on this investigation, violations against Palestinian journalists in the occupied territories in 1948 reached their peak during the war on Gaza. Since October 7, 2023, 45 cases of attacks on male and female journalists in the field have been monitored. According to I'lam Center, 42 cases of attacks on those who work in the local Arab press and the Arab world press, and on three who work in the foreign press. It is worth noting that these data that indicate a worrying increase were documented until the end of 2023. According to the digital indicator on Samir Kassir Foundation's website, there have been 1,040 violations since 2019.

Do not film, you are spies and enemies of Israel

Journalist Abdel Qader Abdel Halim (29 years old), from Kafr Manda, who works for Al-Nas Radio and Musawa TV, told us about the assault he was subjected to with his colleagues. "On October 12, 2023, I was with Muhammad Khairy, a correspondent for the Turkish Arabic-speaking channel that time, and the channel's cameraman, Muhammad Abu Sneina, in Ras Naqoura, in the north of the country. While the Turkish crew was preparing for a live broadcast

and I was getting ready to speak live on Al-Nas Radio about the situation and the exchange of missiles between Israel and Hezbollah, we were suddenly surprised by an Israeli soldier emerging from the trees. He shouted from a distance with his weapon aimed at us: “Who are you? Which channel are you from? Spies, turn off the camera!” Khairy responded that we were from the Turkish channel. The soldier raised his voice, ordering us to turn off the microphone and the camera. Once he was sure they were off, he started cursing and threatening us. Two other soldiers then joined him, emerging from the same place. They also started cursing at us, and one of them forcefully pushed Khairy, the Turkish channel correspondent. They ordered us to get into the car and leave. All of this was done while the gun is aiming at us, accompanied by a torrent of insults calling us spies and enemies of Israel. After we got into the car, they continued to hit the vehicle with their weapons, removing the Turkish channel posters and the press sign. One of them said to us: “We do not want to see you, neither during times of war nor at any other time,” he threatened, adding that they would kill us if we stayed there. He continued to scream, insult, and threaten us with death by the Israeli army if we returned to cover the incident once again.”



(Journalist Abdel Qader Abdel Halim - personal photo)

Soldier pulling a camera: We will kill all Hamasists

Arab TV correspondent Ahmed Darawsheh, 33, from Nazareth, was attacked by an Israeli security officer while reporting live. Recounting the incident, Darawsheh stated, “During my live coverage from Ashdod, an Israeli security officer who had been monitoring the broadcast stormed the set and directly threatened me. He demanded to know where I was from, and when I told him I was from Nazareth and on air, he said, 'That doesn't matter to me.' He then asked about my coverage, and when I mentioned I was reporting on statements from the army spokesman, he threatened, 'Woe to you if you say bad things

about Israel. We will slaughter all of Hamasists.' He turned to the camera and began shouting, 'Murderers, despicable people, we must turn all of Gaza into ashes.'



(Journalist Salam Mashreqi, Palestine TV correspondent)

Israel Police does not investigate death threats against journalists

Salam Mashreqi (presenter and correspondent for Palestine TV inside Palestine) was physically assaulted along with the crew accompanying her in the corridors of the Israeli Knesset during coverage in 2022 and during the live broadcast by extremist groups carrying out activities inside the Knesset. After this attack, these groups published her picture on social media networks and incited against her, which amounted to death threats, from prominent and official right-wing figures, former intelligence chief and member of the Knesset, Avi Dichter, which threatened her life and prevented her from roaming freely and practicing her work. She also faced arrest, detention, and investigation repeatedly during the war on Gaza by occupation soldiers and Israeli intelligence. Only because she talked in Arabic Language:

“I did not file any complaint against all of these violations, because we as Palestinian journalists do not rely on the Israeli judiciary. To this date, there is no Palestinian journalist who is protected from violations. The threats against me reached a point demanding shooting me with a bullet in the head similar to the martyr Sherine Abu Aqleh. All of this was published in social media

networks, and received thousands of likes, shares, and praise for these threats. If the police, or the Israeli institutions concerned, wanted to stop this incitement, they would have at least investigated the matter,” Mashriqi added.

Saif Qawasmi, a freelance Jerusalemite journalist who covers events in Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa, was exposed across all social media outlets to very widespread incitement campaigns by various Israeli groups, particularly right-wing ones. Regarding the details, Qawasmi said: "I published a report featuring photographs of a Jerusalemite man's house with a tunnel in the Old City. I was deeply alarmed when my picture appeared on an extremist Israeli Telegram channel, accompanied by calls for my death and numerous hate-filled posts across all social media platforms against me. Despite this, I refrained from filing a complaint because some of the incitement included calls for my arrest, which the police acknowledged but they responded that the report is old and that it based on known information to them. Hence, **the police was already aware of what was written against me and did not act. So, why would I file a complaint?**

Al-Qawasmi narrated to us the last attack against him. He said: “The occupation forces arrested me on Wednesday, April 16, 2024, from Al-Aqsa Mosque, where I was present in the morning to cover the settlers’ raid. I was in the vicinity of the Dome of the Rock, 300 meters away from the settlers’ path, and I did not pose any danger on them. Suddenly, members of the Israeli security force surprised me and arrested me. They investigated with me in the field for about half an hour. Then they took me out next to Bab al-Silsilah and started beating me and tried to break my neck. They kicked me all over my body, then they transferred me to the police station near Bab al-Silsilah. They raised my hand on the wall, where I remained in this position for an hour under the rays of the burning sun. Then they transferred me to another station next to the Buraq Wall. We stayed there for 10 minutes, then they transferred me by car to the Al-Qashla police station, where I spent the next 3 hours. I was investigated for my journalistic work, and they claimed that I was inciting and destabilizing security in Al-Aqsa Mosque. I, in turn, showed them my press card, but it did not help me. After the investigation, they handed me a banishment order from Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Old City for a week. They asked me to return on Tuesday, April 30, to complete the investigation and receive a new banishment order. I went to the police station on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. “I waited for 3 hours and

then they ordered me to go home and said they would send the decision via SMS.”



(Journalist Saif Qawasmi - personal photo)

“They chose to kill journalist Nidal because he is a respected journalist.”

In 2022, there was a notable rise in violence, crime, and weapons within Palestinian society in the 1948 territories. This surge contributed to an alarming increase in homicide cases, exacerbated by Israeli police inaction which failed to prevent the targeting of journalists. For instance, journalist Nidal Agbariya, manager of the "BLDTNA" news website, tragically fell victim to this trend when he was shot by unidentified assailants in Umm al-Fahm.

According to press sources, live bullets were fired by unknown assailants on September 4, 2022, targeting journalist Agbariya as soon as he entered his car, which led to him being fatally injured, after which he was taken to the hospital and his death was later announced.

In private talks with a friend and neighbor of Nidal. He said: “We worked together for many years, and then he founded his own website, “BLDTNA,” and covered local news. His face was always smiling, and he loved all people and loved to offer a helping hand to everyone he could. He did not have any disputes or enemies, but they chose **to kill him because he was a respected journalist.**”



(Assassinated journalist Nidal Agbaria)

I know who shot me but I am not going to file a complaint against him

Mustafa Sarsour (38 years old), a freelance journalist, with 17 years of experience in journalism, previously worked in many local websites. He told us about being shot by organized crime groups while performing his duties as a journalist. “On April 14, 2022, I was in a live video interview in front of my house when I was surprised by two masked men who stormed into the courtyard of the house and shot me. I was hit by 8 bullets. I stayed in the hospital for 8 months, and I still suffer from pain in my feet and legs, which contain “platinum.” I had an operation in my abdomen, and I am waiting for another operation to be performed. Today, I am working with difficulty in the field because I cannot run, and I walk with great difficulty.” He added.

“I know who shot me, and who targeted me. I was shoot because of my journalistic work, but I did not and will not file a complaint with the police because I know that this file will be closed in vain like all others,” He added.



(A photo of Al-Mayadeen TV correspondent Hanaa Mahameed after she was hit by a rubber bomb from the Israeli police in occupied Jerusalem)

There is no strong union to protect us

Al-Mayadeen Channel correspondent, Hana Mahameed, confirmed that the absence of a strong union body representing journalists in the 1948 occupied territories complicates the issue of their protection, especially since the Israeli authorities do not care about the rights of Palestinian journalists at all.”

She added, “In 2015, a sound bomb was deliberately fired at our crew during a live broadcast in the town of Al-Issawiya from a short distance. Even though I was wearing the helmet and protective shield for journalists, with the word “press” clearly written in English on it, I suffered burns to my face and neck and an injury to my left ear. I was subsequently transferred to the hospital, knowing that the ambulance was prevented from arriving at the scene of the accident at the time. Immediately after that, the Israeli Government Press Office withdrew my press card that it issued earlier.

Mahamid continued, “Although I had filed a complaint with the Mahash Police Investigation Department, the file was closed shortly thereafter, under the pretext that it was not possible to determine the identity of the policeman who fired the bomb at me.”

Incitement from Israeli Journalists

The Al-Mayadeen channel correspondent added, “During the first days of the war on Gaza, I was personally exposed to an incitement campaign launched by Israeli journalists on Israeli television, led by Zvika Yehezkeili, who works as an analyst for Arab affairs at Channel 13, as well as by right-wing activists on social media. The incitement attack against me was part

of a severe campaign to persecute Al-Mayadeen Channel. Accordingly, on Nov. 13/2023, the military cabinet's decision to prevent the channel from broadcasting in accordance with war emergency regulations was issued. A week before that, on November 6, 2023, I was subjected to intimidation by a group of Israeli journalists, led by a journalist named "Haim Etgar," who works for Channel 12. He set up an ambush for me to lure me to a post office branch in the Israeli city of "Kfar Saba." Upon my arrival, I found him with a group of photographers waiting for me to follow me in the post office and the street and prevent me from entering my car. He held an intelligence "investigation" and a field "trial" for me regarding my journalistic work, accusing me of falsifying facts and supporting what he called "terrorism." This exposed me to a direct danger that threatened my safety and security and was likely to lead to a threat to my life in light of the spread of the bloody racist atmosphere against Arabs in Israel, especially that the right-wing Minister of Security, Ben Gvir, has distributed weapons to the settlers for free. On the same day I filed a complaint with the police against the so-called "Haim Atgar," and as of writing these lines, nothing new has occurred regarding the police's handling of this complaint."

Commenting on these violations, the director of Al Mezan Center, lawyer Omar Khamaisi, said, "These violations against Palestinian journalists are part of the violations against us as Palestinians living inside. The journalist cannot practice his work with absolute and complete freedom, as he remains restricted and cannot do his work properly due to the Israeli restrictions.

Regarding these violations, **Majdoline Hassan, the Arabic editor for the Global Investigative Journalism Network, said:** "Journalists are civilians and protecting them in the midst of wars is an imperative duty of the warring parties. The systematic targeting of male and female journalists in Gaza and the West Bank by the occupation is a war crime and a violation of international laws."



(Personal photo of journalist Omar Dalasha)

The Jewish journalist is protected while the Arab journalist is exposed

Omar Dalasha, correspondent for the Arab 48 website, and a journalist since approximately 2005, who worked in Al-Ahali newspaper, Al-Sanara newspaper, Panorama website, Panet website, Hala TV, and Arab 48 website.

Regarding the difference in Israel's treatment of Arab and Israeli journalists, Dalasha said: **“The Jewish journalist enjoys the protection and care of the police, while the Arab journalist can be easily targeted without the police caring that he is being targeted, whether by individuals or organizations. Even the Israeli press is also part of these violations, as it also assaults and attacks Arab journalists.”**

He continued, “After the onset of the Israeli war on Gaza, the freedom of expression in the territory occupied in 1948 faded away. We are in a period of military rule. “The Jewish journalist enjoys the protection and care of the police, while the Arab journalist can be easily targeted without the police caring that he is being targeted, whether by individuals or organizations.

Dalashah Added: “Unfortunately, no one can protect journalists in the 48 regions. We have extensive experience in this field, having participated in presenting our issues at a conference organized by the Government Press Service in Israel, which included international journalists. Despite this, no progress has been made. **They even view the data on attacks on journalists with suspicion and mistrust.”**

Dalashah continued: "Arab journalists are often treated as if they pose a threat, particularly in conflict zones. This has been our experience when covering incidents in Jerusalem, especially around Al-Aqsa Mosque. I have been injured there, and many of my colleagues have been violently assaulted."

The absence of a union body that defends journalists

Regarding the absence of a union body that represents the rights of journalists in the territories occupied in 1948, Maysoon Zoabi, project coordinator at the Nazareth I'lam Center, said: "The I'lam Center is trying to cover this gap, help journalists, and follow up on prosecutions and violations against them as much as possible."

"We follow the arrests and document these violations. It is true that there are journalists who have Israeli press cards, but they are targeted by name. Sometimes the outlet in which they work is targeted. **All Jerusalem journalists, without exception, are targeted,**" Zoabi added.

This fact was confirmed by the Director of the I'lam Center, **Kholoud Masalha, who said:** "**Journalists in Jerusalem are subjected to harassment, and most approaches used to protect them do not lead to actual results.**" In response to a question about which institutions can a journalist who is subjected to violations go to, Masalha said: "If the journalist has a card from the Israeli Journalists Organization, it is important to approach them, as they have full capabilities to deal with the issues. Also, a journalist can approach the "I'lam" center, the "Adalah" center, or the "Association for Citizen's Rights."

About the I'lam Center, Masalha said: "The role of the I'lam Center is to accompany those affected legally and cover the lawyer's expenses and the resulting payments. The I'lam Center also supports journalists in certain cases financially, and it is currently in the process of establishing a special fund for affected journalists." In addition to journalists at home, I'lam center is trying in some cases to address the issues of journalists in the West Bank, but it seems to be of little use, as Masalha reported: "In 2023, I'lam center demanded the formation of an investigation committee from the army due to the attacks on journalists following the invasion of Jenin, and to date there are no results from the committee."



(Journalist Rama Youssef)

The challenges for journalists in Jerusalem are double

Rama Youssef (35 years old), a freelance Jerusalemite journalist, **correspondent and news producer with several foreign agencies in the West Bank and Jerusalem**, said, “The challenges facing journalists in Jerusalem are double. We, in the field, are exposed to questioning and showing our Identity cards and press card. The question that is frequently repeated in the coverage whenever we pass by a group of soldiers is: For whose benefit do we film? This question is repeated at every checkpoint in Jerusalem. Our ability to cover events is subject to the mood of the soldiers. Sometimes they allow us to report, while other times they demand that we leave.

“We are treated like criminals who need to be investigated, without any rights. The Jerusalemite journalist is deprived of all his rights, as he is essentially Palestinian, even if he holds an Israeli identity card,” Youssef added.

Regarding her injury with a rubber bomb while performing her duties, Youssef added: “I was injured in Sheikh Jarrah by a rubber bomb from the occupation in 2021. It exploded in my leg and I suffered from this injury for years. I lost my job and none of the costs of my treatment were covered, because there is no institution that follows up on our conditions and rights.”

The situation of Rama Youssef mirrors that of many journalists in Jerusalem and the territories occupied since 1948. These journalists lack protection and rights, and the violations against them are escalating. It is imperative that

international and regional organizations prioritize their case, ensuring accountability and preventing the perpetrators from escaping punishment.

End of Reportage.