



INTERNATIONAL
NEWS SAFETY
INSTITUTE

KILLING THE MESSENGER

2024

AN ANALYSIS OF NEWS MEDIA CASUALTIES CARRIED
OUT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS SAFETY
INSTITUTE BY CARDIFF SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM



Foreword from our Director

The aberrant and the abhorrent became the norm in 2024, compelling us to face the ugly reality that media freedom, justice and the sanctity of civilian life have been eroded, even in ostensibly democratic societies.

The death toll among journalists in Gaza was staggering, almost incomprehensible. Data compiled for *Killing the Messenger* by the Cardiff School of Journalism showed that 81 of the 145 journalists who died around the world were from Gaza.

To get a real sense of scale, in a country the size of Britain, this would equate to over 2,500 journalist deaths in a year.

Along with our colleagues in the media freedom and safety sphere we raised our voices throughout the year about the depth of these injustices and the magnitude of their impact, not only on the victims and their families but on society at large.

Journalists are vital witnesses to war crimes and atrocities, meaning silencing them is an attack on truth itself. Without them, violence and injustice can more easily be perpetrated on us all, a message that has failed to resonate with Western governments. Their deafening silence in the face of Israel's relentless killing and targeting of media workers has shattered moral thresholds and marked a point of no return.

But it will not prevent us from mourning and celebrating our colleagues, whose selfless commitment to report the facts is an inspiration to us all.

We have named every single one of our colleagues who was killed in 2024, not only from Gaza but also from Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Pakistan,

Mexico, Ukraine, Colombia, Myanmar, Iraq, India, DRC, Haiti, Honduras, Cambodia, Chad, Indonesia, Russia, and Somalia.

This year's report also features a series of moving portraits of journalists created by the artist and illustrator Gianluca Costantini, whose portraiture of those killed in Gaza is here accompanied by journalists killed across continents.

"My portraits", Gianluca says, "stand as a rejection of the attempts to erase these journalists' legacy, affirming the significance and dignity of their lives and work. I aim to capture their essence and individuality as a reminder that behind every name lies a story, a family and a commitment to the truth. I wish to honour the bravery required to face threats and violence and the price paid for speaking out."

Our colleagues' courage and love for journalism are a much-needed antidote to the impotence and hopelessness many now feel about our profession, its purpose, its impact.

The portraits mourn lives cut short and futures left unrealised, the bravery it takes to reveal the truth in the face of danger. Each calls us to remember and to act: to demand justice, defend press freedom, and ensure no more lives are lost in this way.

As you read this report, we invite you to truly see these faces. See their strength and humanity. The fight for truth is not theirs alone; it belongs to all of us.



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Elena Cosentino, INSI director

Cover: An Israeli strike on a school in the Zeitoun district on the outskirts of Gaza City. Credit: Omar Al-Qattaa/AFP; This page: Children check the site of an Israeli strike on a broadcast truck in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. Credit: Eyad Baba/AFP

Country of death

TOTAL KILLED

145



Journalist and prominent Kazakh government critic **Aidos Sadykov** was shot dead in Kyiv on July 2. © X | Aidos Sadykov



Dima Khatib, MD of Al Jazeera+, holds a poster of journalists killed in Gaza at the 20th International Meeting of Journalists in Guadalajara, Mexico. © Ulises Ruiz / AFP



Protesters lift portraits of slain women journalists **Hero Bahadin** and **Golestan Tara** killed when a Turkish drone hit their car in Iraqi Kurdistan. © Shwan Mohammed / AFP



Local TV journalist **Rico Sempurna Pasaribu** died along with three of his family members when assailants set fire to their home in North Sumatra. © Facebook | Rico Sempurna Pasaribu



Luis Alonso Teruel, who hosted a political program on Pecaligüe TV, was shot and killed in Atima, Honduras on January 28, 2024. © Pasos de Animal Grande via CPJ



Burmese journalist **Htet Myat Thu** was shot and killed by security forces during a raid on his family home in southern Mon State. © Democratic Voice of Burma via CPJ



Fighters ride in a vehicle moving in a military convoy in Sudan's Darfur State. Nine Sudanese journalists died in 2024 making it the second deadliest country for media workers. © AFP

Mexico 5

Haiti 2

Honduras 1

Colombia 3

Ukraine 4

Russia 1

Syria 6

Iraq 3

Gaza 81

Lebanon 6

Pakistan 6

Bangladesh 6

India 2

Myanmar 3

Cambodia 1

Indonesia 1

Chad 1

Somalia 2

Democratic Republic of Congo 2

JOURNALISTS KILLED

Country of origin



81 journalist deaths in Gaza, in a country the size of Britain would equate to over 2,500 journalists killed.

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A burnt vehicle lies in Omdurman, Sudan, where war continues to rage between the regular military under army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces led by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. Credit: AFP

JOURNALISTS KILLED

Cause of death

Missile strike **64**



Shooting **42**



24
Drone strike



Unclear¹ **6**



2
Beating



Explosion **4**



1
Knife attack



1
Other accident²



1
Other non-natural³



¹ Bodies found or specific cause of death unclear.

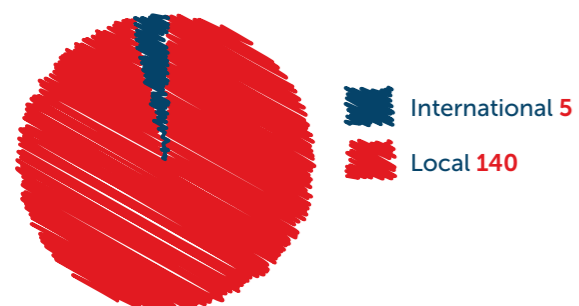
² Elephant attack.

³ Arson attack.

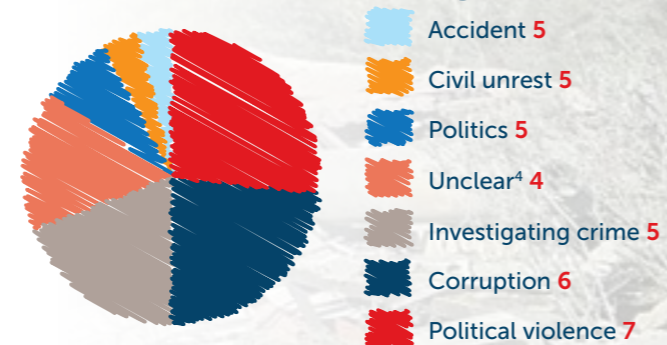
Mourners and colleagues surround the body of Syrian photojournalist Anas Alkharboutli during his funeral in Syria's northern city of Idlib. Credit: Omar Haj Kadour / AF

JOURNALISTS KILLED

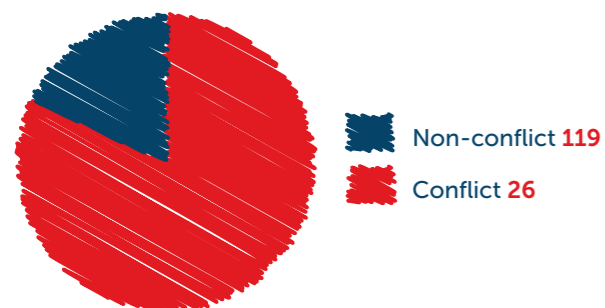
Status in country of death



Deaths unrelated to war reporting



Context of death



Legal outcome⁵



⁴ No specific reasons made clear.

⁵ This does not include indiscriminate bombings/missile strikes/drone strikes, or crossfire.

⁶ Suspects have been identified or arrests made.

Know their names

Ibrahim Sheikh Ali • Mohammed Al-Ladaa • Fadi Hassouna • Faisal Abu Al Gumsan • Ayman Al Gedi • Marckendy Nathoux • Jimmy Jean • Nazim Dashdan • Jihan Belkin • Ahmed Al-Louh • Mohammed Al Qrinawi • Mohammed Balousha • Malik Zafar Iqbal Naich • Iman Al Shanti • Hanan Adam • Chhoeung Chheung • Anas Alkharboutli • Mustapha al-Kurdi • Mamdouh Qanita • Maisara Ahmed Salah • Steven Andrés Fajardo • Mahdi Al-Mamluk • Zahraa Abu Skheil • Ahmed Abu Skheil • Bilal Rajab • Amr Abu Odeh • Mustafa al-Sarut • Mauricio Cruz Solís • Yoshua Kambere Machozi • Nadia Emad Al Sayed • Saed Radwan • Haneen Baroud • Ghassan Najjar • Wissam Kassem • Mohammed Reda • Amun Abdullahi Mohamed • Tareq AlSalhi • Swapan Bhadra • Mohammed Al-Tanani • Ahmad Akil Hamzeh • AlHassan Hamad • Nour Abu Oweimer • Safaa Ahmad • Mubarak Musa Juma • Wafa al-Udaini • Edmond Bahati Monja • Kamel Karaki • Hadi Al-Sayed • Victoria Roshchyna • Hatem Maamoun • Nisar Lehri • Mohammed Abed Rabbo • Ryan Evans • Hussam al-Dabbaka • Gulistan Tara • Hero Bahadin • Hamza Murtaja • Htet Myat Thu • Win Htut Oo • Ibrahim Muhareb • Tamim Abu Muammar • Mohammed Issa Abu Saada • Alejandro Martínez Noguez • Pradip Kumar Bhowmik • Rami Al Refee • Ismail al-Ghoul • Mohammed Abu Daqqa • Mohammed Abu Jasser • Tahir Zaman Priyo • Abu Taher Turab • Shakil Hossain • Mehedi Hasan • Mohamed Meshmesh • Mohamed Manhal Abu Armana • Murad Mirza • Rizq Abu Shakian • Wafaa Abu Dabaan • Amjad Juhjough • Saadi Madoukh • Mohammed Al-Sakani • Aidos Sadykov • Mohammed Abu Sharia • Ibrahim Abdallah • Victor Morales • Rico Sempurna Pasaribu • Aladdin Ali Mohamed • Khalil Jibran • Nikita Tsitsagi • Valery Kozhin (of Russian state-controlled media NTV) • Víctor Manuel • Jiménez Campos • Rasheed Albably • Makawi Mohamed Ahmed • Muawiya Abdel Razek • Ola Al Dahdouh • Nasrullah Gadani • Kamran Dawar • Mahmoud Juhjough • Ashfaq Sial • Ashutosh Srivastava • Bahaa Okasha • Bahaaddine Yassine • A.V. Mukesh • Mustafa Ayyad • Muhammad Siddique Mengal • Salem Abu Toyour • Ayman Al-Gharbawi • Roberto Figueroa • Ibrahim Al-Gharbawi • Mohammed Bassam Al-Jamal • Jaime Vásquez • Mustafa Bahr • Mohamed Adel Abu Skheil • Saher Akram Rayan • Mohamed El Sayed Abu Skheil • Tarek El Sayed Abu Skheil • Mohamed El-Reefi • Abdikarin Ahmed Bulhan • Abdul Rahman Saima • Muhammad Salama • Idriss Yaya • Khalid Balal • Mohamed Yaghi • Zayd Abu Zayed • Ayman Al-Rafati • Alaa Al-Hams • Angam Ahmad Edwan • Yasser Mamdouh El-Fady • Nafez Abdel Jawad • Rizq Al-Gharabli • Myat Thu Tan • Tariq Al-Maidna • Mohammed Atallah • Alonso Teruel • Iyad El-Ruwagh • Mardonio Mejía • Yazan Al-Zuweidi • Ahmed Yusuf Arabi • Mohamed Jamal Sobhi Al-Thalathini • Ahmed Bdeir • Shareef Okasha • Heba Al-Abadla • Abdallah Iyad Breis • Hamza Al Dahdouh • Mustafa Thuraya • Akram ElShafie



Journalists cover the second day of a large-scale Israeli military operation on the Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarem in the occupied West Bank. Credit: Jaafar Ashtiyeh / AFP

A journalist reports during an Israeli strike on a school in the Zeitoun district on the outskirts of Gaza City. Credit: Omar Al-Qattaa / AFP

My portraits stand as a rejection of the attempts to erase these journalists' legacy, affirming the significance and dignity of their lives and work.

Gianluca Costantini

NEWS
SAFETY

KILLING THE MESSENGER

Know their names



**Ayman Al Gedi
(Gaza)**

On Christmas Day Ayman Al Gedi would have become a father for the first time. Ayman, 28, and four journalist colleagues were waiting outside the al-Awda hospital in the Nuseirat refugee camp where his wife was giving birth when an Israeli missile hit their clearly-marked press van. All five were killed. Ayman never met his son.



**Mohammed Al-Ladaa
(Gaza)**

Colleagues and family called Fadi Hassouna's loss "immeasurable"; Mohammad Al Ladaa's professionalism "unmatched"; and Faisal Abu Al Qumsan "courageous". Ibrahim Sheik Ali's cousin paid tribute to the journalist, saying he "never gave up, no matter how difficult the circumstances."



**Fadi Hassouna
(Gaza)**

**Faisal Abu
Al Qumsan
(Gaza)**



**Ibrahim
Sheikh Ali
(Gaza)**



Ismail Al Ghoul (Gaza)

Ismail Al-Ghoul, father to Zeina and husband to Malak, was a highly experienced journalist who began his career at the *Al-Risala* newspaper before moving into television reporting as an *Al Jazeera* Arabic correspondent. Cameraman Rami Al-Refee worked as a broadcast engineer at the Gazan Watania Media Agency.

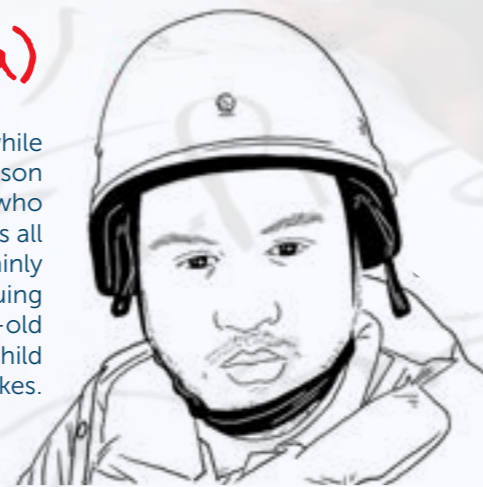
The pair died in what *Al Jazeera* believes was a targeted drone attack on their vehicle. Seventeen journalists were killed by IDF drones in Gaza in 2024.



Rami Al Refee (Gaza)

Hamza Al Dahdouh (Gaza)

Hamza Al-Dahdouh was killed by an Israeli drone while driving between Khan Younis and Rafah. He was the son of *Al Jazeera* Gaza bureau chief Wael Al-Dahdouh who remembered his son with love and pride: "Hamza was all mine. He was my breath, and he was my soul, but certainly this loss and this pain will not deter us from continuing to perform this duty." Wael's wife Amna, seven-year-old daughter Sham, 15-year-old son Mahmoud, and grandchild Adam were also killed by Israeli airstrikes.



Wafa Al-Udaini (Gaza)

Wafa Al-Udaini had worked as a journalist in Gaza since 2007 and her writing had been featured in the *Guardian* and the *Middle East Monitor*. Among her achievements was founding an organisation to train young Gazan writers and activists to work with English-language news organisations. Her house was hit by an Israeli airstrike, killing Wafa, her husband, their five-year-old daughter Balsam and their seven-month-old son Tamim.



Al Jazeera's bureau chief in Gaza, Wael Al-Dahdouh, mourns over the body of his son Hamza Wael Dahdouh, also a journalist with *Al Jazeera* who was killed in an Israeli air strike in Rafah. Credit: Mohammed Abed / AFP

Know their names



Mohamed Yaghi (Gaza)

Yaghi was a freelance photojournalist who worked with Al-Jazeera and several other international news organizations. His father, Teshreen, said that Mohamed wanted to be a journalist since he was a young boy and loved his work. Mohamed was killed along with his wife Dania, their 18-month-old daughter Aylol and 34 other family members when an Israeli airstrike hit their home in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza.

Iman Al Shanti (Gaza)

Iman Al Shanti was a local radio journalist. She carried with her a "positivity, optimism, always looking at the glass half full" said a colleague. Iman was killed with her family in an Israeli airstrike on the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in northern Gaza. Iman's brother Ahmed said the loss of his sister, nephews Bilal, 16, Omer, 8, and niece Alma, 6, is "beyond comprehension."



Mohammed Bassam Al-Jamal (Gaza)

Mohammad Bassam Al-Jama worked as a photographer for the news agency Palestine Now. He was killed after suffering critical injuries in an Israeli airstrike on his family home in the Al-Jenah neighborhood in Rafah, southern Gaza. The strike on April 24 killed Mohammad and 5 of his relatives, including his young nephew Bassam and niece Shams.

Alaa Al-Hams (Gaza)

Alaa Al-Hams was a journalist for the local Palestinian News Agency SND. Having already suffered the deaths of 10 family members and a spinal injury in the previous month following an Israeli airstrike on Rafah, Alaa succumbed to her injuries on February 12. She was carrying her unborn child.



Mourners and colleagues carry the body of Al-Jazeera Arabic journalist Ismail al-Ghoul who was killed along with his cameraman Rami al-Refee in an Israeli strike during their coverage of Gaza's Al-Shati refugee camp. Credit: Omar Al-Qattaa / AFP

Nasrullah Gadani (Pakistan)

Nasrullah Gadani was on his way to the Press Club where he was president in the city of Mirpur Mathelo when he was shot three times by three assailants. A Pakistani newspaper described Nasrullah, a reporter for the Sindhi language newspaper Awami Awaz, as a 'herculean journalist'. He was "a vibrant and lone voice for the voiceless" in an area dominated by feudalism and corruption.



Ghassan Najjar (Lebanon)

Cameraman Ghassan Najjar was killed when an Israeli airstrike hit his guesthouse in Hasbaya, southern Lebanon in response to unsubstantiated IDF claims that the guesthouse was a Hezbollah military structure housing terrorists. Ghassan's wife Sana defiantly responded, "his weapon was his camera."

Jihan Belkin (Syria)

Jihan ('world' in Kurdish) was killed by a Turkish drone strike in northeastern Aleppo. "Our colleague Jihan has etched her name into the history of the Kurdish people. There was no city she hadn't visited, no leader she hadn't interviewed, and no military commander she hadn't engaged in discussions with. She became an icon of the struggle of her people's cause," wrote her colleagues at the Kurdish Hawar News Agency.



Abu Taher Turab (Bangladesh)

Abu Taher Turab, a reporter for the Daily Jalalabad and Daily Naya Diganta newspapers, was killed when police fired into a protest over government job quotas in the northeast city of Sylhet. Abu married his wife Tania Islam in May and had recently returned to work from his honeymoon.

ASIA



Ukrainian emergency services carry out a search and rescue operation amid the rubble of a destroyed hotel in Kramatorsk in the Donetsk region. The missile attack wounded two Reuters journalists and a safety advisor was killed. Credit: Genya Savilov / AFP



FORGOTTEN

KILLING THE MESSENGER

Know their names



Ryan Evans (UK)

Ryan Evans, a Reuters news media safety advisor, died when a missile hit his hotel in eastern Ukraine, where he was staying with his news team. Ryan had been to Ukraine more than 20 times since 2022 and was “indispensable to Reuters journalists on the frontlines,” according to a colleague. “Are you ok?” was a question Ryan repeatedly asked his team, for whom he was an unfailing source of support. Ryan died doing a job he loved, protecting journalists. He left a wife and four children, the youngest just 18 months old.

Viktoria Roshchyna (Ukraine)

Ukrainian journalist Viktoria Roshchyna was captured by Russian forces and died in detention. She was a recipient of the International Women’s Media Foundation’s 2022 Courage in Journalism Award for her work in Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine. Explaining why she reported from behind the frontlines, Viktoria said, “there are no Ukrainian journalists there, but there are Ukrainian citizens so I should go.”



Nikita Tsitsagi (Russia)

Treading the line between anti-war protest and maintaining a seat at Moscow-based news outlet News.ru, Nikita Tsitagi was an anomalous figure among Russian journalists. Nikita reported extensively from Russian-occupied Ukraine, particularly Donetsk. He was killed by a Ukrainian drone while travelling along the frontline towards Vuhledar.



KILLING THE MESSENGER

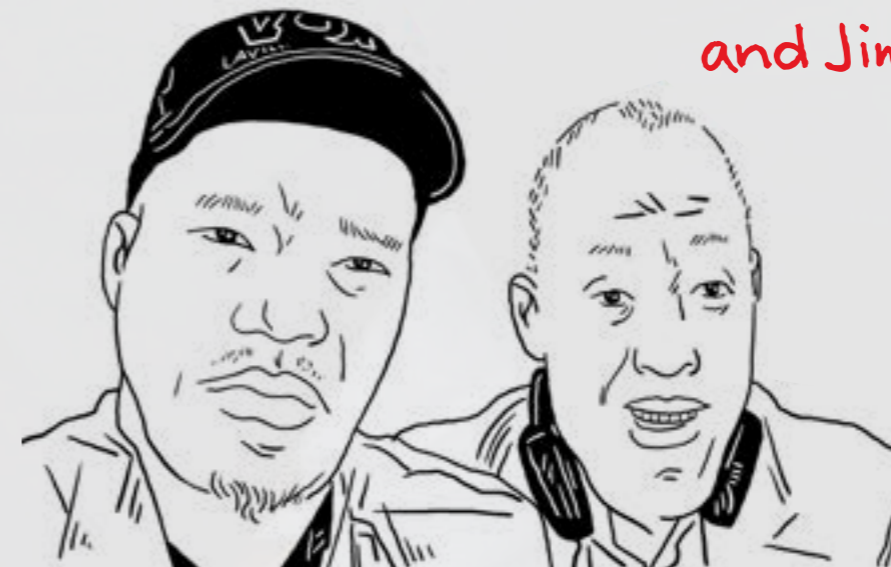
Know their names



Mauricio Cruz Solís (Mexico)

"I have no words to tell you what I feel for my son. He was a great journalist who helped many people, but they cut his life short," said Mauricio Cruz Solís' grieving father. The director of the online news website Minuto x Minuto and an anchor for Radiorama Michoacan, Mauricio was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Uruapan. He was the first of two journalists killed during the first month of President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration.

Marckendy Nathoux and Jimmy Jean (Haiti)



Marckendy Nathoux and Jimmy Jean were killed on Christmas Eve when armed gang members opened fire on a government press conference at a hospital. Marckendy, a father of two, was multilingual and taught English and Spanish to help young Haitians expand their opportunities. He worked for the Voice of America, the Boston Caribbean Network and the US Agency for Global Media. Jimmy, a father of six, covered daily news for the online outlet Moun Afe Bon.



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The casket of Marckendy Natoux, a journalist, killed by armed gangs during an attack on a hospital, is seen during his funeral service in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Credit: Clarens Siffroy / AFP