



# End Impunity Protect Journalists

A Report published by  
the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) to mark  
the International Day to End Impunity in 2025,  
marked each year with partners on 02 November



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The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) is an independent, non-profit NGO that provides support and protection to human rights defenders (HRDs) in order to promote human rights, including but not limited to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. GCHR is based in Lebanon and documents the environment for human rights defenders in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), with an emphasis on the following countries, specifically Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. GCHR regularly issues urgent appeals about human rights defenders (HRDs) from other countries in the MENA region. GCHR was founded on 06 April 2011.

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GCHR

مركز الخليج لحقوق الإنسان



مها العمري

# Contents

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<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b>
<hr/>	
<b>CASES OF JOURNALISTS KILLED</b>	
<b>PALESTINE (GAZA)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>LEBANON</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>IRAQ</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>IRAN</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>SOMALIA</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>SYRIA</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>SUDAN</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>YEMEN</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>26</b>



## 2023-2024-2025: The deadliest years for journalists and media in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

With the escalation of the siege on Gaza, renewed clashes in Syria, the ongoing conflict in Sudan, and the intensifying repression in Saudi Arabia in 2025, journalists across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region continue to face grave violations, including killings perpetrated by state forces, armed groups, or government authorities, often carried out with complete impunity.

As we mark the International Day to End Impunity on 02 November 2025, this report documents the killing of journalists over the last two years since October 2023. This day - marked worldwide every year by UNESCO - shines a light on the lack of accountability for the killing of journalists and media workers.

The situation in the Gaza Strip has been particularly catastrophic. Since the outbreak of hostilities, Israeli military operations have resulted in an unprecedented number of journalist deaths - many of them deliberately targeted, making the area the most dangerous place in the world for media professionals.

Alongside Palestine, countries such as Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Saudi Arabia remain among the most perilous environments for journalists, where reporting the truth can cost one's life or freedom.

A recent example is the tragic killing of **Anas Al-Sharif** in August 2025, a prominent journalist who was widely respected for his courageous reporting on the severe humanitarian crisis and starvation in Gaza since the war began in October 2023. His killing as many others have sent shockwaves across the region. On 10 August 2025, Al-Sharif and five of his colleagues were killed by Israeli forces. The attack targeted a tent outside the main gate of Gaza City's Al-Shifa Hospital, where journalists had gathered. Among others killed were journalist **Mohammed Qraiqa**, camera operators **Ibrahim Zaher** and **Mohammed Noufal**, as well as freelance journalists **Momen Aliwa** and **Mohammed Al-Khaldi**.

As the international community marks the anniversary of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, GCHR renews its call for increased protection for journalists across the MENA region, and for accountability in the face of these targeted killings. When those who kill journalists are not held accountable, the risks for the press grow even more deadly. Each journalist lost means one less voice uncovering the truth, leaving the public with fewer sources of vital information.

As 2025 draws to a close, the world remains an unsafe place for journalists and media workers who courageously report the truth amid conflicts, oppression, and injustices. Freedom of expression, a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), continues to be threatened by governments and powerful individuals across the globe:

*Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.* - Art 19 Universal declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

*Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.* - Art 19 (Par 2) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

This right encompasses a range of freedoms, including freedom of the press, freedom of opinion, and even the right to conscientiously object to military service. Yet, in many countries of the MENA region, media freedom is under severe attack, precisely because of its critical role in promoting transparency and holding those in power accountable.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), 124 journalists were killed worldwide in 2024. Alarming, nearly two-thirds (70% of journalists were killed by Israel in 2024) of these were Palestinian journalists and media workers, many of whom were killed or deliberately targeted by Israeli forces. Since October 2023, over 285 journalists and reporters have been killed in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA).

This sharp rise in journalist fatalities in the MENA region is attributed not only to the assault on Gaza, but also to related conflicts across neighbouring countries, where Israeli airstrikes have killed journalists in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and Iran. As well, journalists have been targeted during internal clashes in Syria in the region of Suweyda in July 2025.

According to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the scale and intensity of these killings have made this one of the most dangerous periods for journalists in the history of modern journalism.

The situation becomes even more deadly when those responsible for killing journalists are not held accountable. Impunity fuels further violence, and as such public access to information will face an imminent risk. As the press is diminished, so too is the public's access to independent, accurate information.

Today, the reality shows us that journalists bear the brunt of the conflicts in the region and their courage to tell the truth about the reality of the events puts their lives at risk every single day.

Their life is therefore marked by constant threats, targeted attacks, and profound personal losses.

Palestinian photojournalist **Motaz Azaiza**, after arriving in Qatar for medical treatment, reflected on the relentless demands of his profession, writing on X that there was “no time to rest” and expressing his hope to continue his work despite the dangers.

For Palestinian journalists, the risks are deeply personal: **Fatima Hassouna**, the late 25-year-old Gazan photojournalist, captured the quiet beauty of her city in her final Instagram stories, noting poignantly, “It's the first sunset in a long time,” before her life was tragically cut short. Similarly, journalist **Anas Al-Sharif**, in a message composed to be released in the event of his death, revealed the heavy toll of witnessing violence daily, stating that he had “lived the pain in all its details” and “tasted grief and loss repeatedly.”

These voices illustrate the emotional and physical burdens carried by journalists in conflict zones. They confront not only the immediate dangers of war, bombings, and targeted attacks but also the heartbreak of seeing communities and sometimes their own families suffer and perish. In the MENA region, journalism is not merely a career but a form of bravery, and their sacrifices underline the human cost of bearing witness.

Every year, GCHR publishes a report on the International Day to End Impunity and holds an awareness-raising event to help shine a light on the journalists killed in the past year. This report includes new cases of journalists killed with impunity in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan.

Between 2024 and 2025, the targeting of journalists in Gaza reached devastating levels, exemplifying the extreme risks faced by media professionals in conflict zones. Among those killed, this report includes **Hamza Al-Dahdouh, Rizq Al-Garabli, Mohammed Atallah, Hasan Abdulrahim Hamad, Fatima Hassouna, Anas Al-Sharif, Mariam Abu Daqqa, and Mohammed Salama**, members of a broader group of more than 285 Palestinian journalists and media workers murdered by Israeli strikes since 2023.

In Lebanon, several journalists and reporters lost their lives due to Israeli bombings in Southern Lebanon. This report recalls some of these cases, including Ghassan Najjar and Sakina Mansour.

In Iraq, Turkish drone strikes claimed the lives of two Kurdish reporters, **Hero Baha Al-Din** and **Gulistan Tara**, in August 2024.

In Yemen, 31 Yemeni journalists killed during Israeli airstrikes targeting the offices of the newspapers 26 September and Al-Yaman in Sanaa on 10 September 2025.

In Syria, journalists continue to pay a high price amid internal tensions and regional interventions. An Israeli airstrike in Damascus on 30 September 2024 killed **Safa Ahmad**. The situation has been further complicated following the formation of a transitional Syrian government, whose positions conflict with those of the Druze community. The death of Sari Majid Al-Shoufi, the first journalist killed in Syria in 2025, underscores the extreme dangers faced by reporters in conflict zones, particularly in areas marked by sectarian and tribal violence.

This report presents the photos of a group of journalists in the Middle East and North Africa who have sacrificed their lives for freedom of speech, so they must be honoured and memorialised.

In most of their cases, there has been total impunity for those responsible for abusing or murdering the journalists mentioned in this report. As we mark the International Day to End Impunity on 02 November 2025, we again call for justice in their cases.



# Cases of Journalists Killed

# Palestine (Gaza)

## 1. Hamza Al-Dahdouh



**Hamza Al-Dahdouh** was a dedicated Palestinian journalist and the eldest son of journalist **Wael Al-Dahdouh**. He was killed on 07 January 2024 by an Israeli missile strike in the western part of Khan Younis, Gaza. Hamza lost his life alongside fellow journalist **Mustafa Thuraya**, when the vehicle they were travelling in was hit near Al-Mawasi, a zone designated as a “safe area”. According to news report, the vehicle was targeted while the journalists were attempting to interview displaced civilians affected by earlier bombings.

Hamza Al-Dahdouh followed in his father’s footsteps, working as a journalist committed to documenting the realities on the ground in Gaza. In the wake of his son’s death, Wael Al-Dahdouh said that he was one of countless people in Gaza forced to bid daily farewells to their loved ones. Despite the devastating loss, he vowed to continue reporting on Gaza’s suffering.

## 2. Rizq Al-Gharabli

**Rizq Muhammad Ghazi Rushdi Al-Gharabli** was a Palestinian journalist, editor, and media leader dedicated to truth-telling and amplifying the Palestinian narrative. He was killed on 06 February 2024 in an Israeli airstrike on Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip. He was 40 years old.

Since 2015, Al-Gharabli has served as the Director of the Gaza office of the Palestinian Media Center, where he played a key role in documenting the humanitarian crisis and ongoing Israeli assaults in Gaza. His death occurred amid one of the deadliest periods for journalists in modern history, as Israel’s military campaign increasingly targeted members of the press.



# Palestine (Gaza)

## 3. Mohammed Atallah

**Mohammed Atallah** was a 24-year-old Palestinian journalist and editor for the local news outlet Al-Resalah and a contributor to the regional independent platform Raseef 22. Based in northern Gaza City's Beach refugee camp, he was killed on 29 January 2024 in an Israeli airstrike that also took the lives of several family members.

Atallah was known for his dedication to telling the daily life stories of Gazans, highlighting their resilience amid siege, corruption, and political division. He wrote for Raseef 22 both under his real name and a pseudonym, producing three pieces after the outbreak of the war.

Colleagues described him as a professional and fact-driven journalist deeply committed to amplifying the voices of ordinary people. Despite facing repeated life-threatening situations, he remained eager to continue his reporting.



## 4. Hasan Abdulrahim Hamad

On 06 October 2024, the Israeli forces targeted 18-year-old journalist **Hasan Abdulrahim Hamad**'s house, killing him immediately and shredding his body in pieces. Hamad, who worked for the Media Town Company and cooperated with different media institutions, was covering and filming from his house the Israeli bombardment and ground attack on Jabalia refugee camp, northern Gaza.

Hamad spent the previous night voice-recording and publishing videos streaming the latest developments in Jabalia refugee camp, and the latest video he posted was just half an hour before being targeted. On 13 May 2024, Hamad received a message on WhatsApp from an Israeli number, threatening to kill him and his family if he continued publishing "against Israel."



# Palestine (Gaza)

## 6. Anas Al-Sharif

**Anas Al-Sharif** was a 28-year-old Palestinian journalist, renowned for his fearless and compassionate reporting from northern Gaza. He was killed on 10 August 2025 in a targeted Israeli attack on a tent used by journalists outside Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, alongside several colleagues, journalist Mohammed Qreiqeh, camera operators **Ibrahim Zaher** and **Mohammed Noufal**, and freelance journalists **Momen Aliwa** and **Mohammed Al-Khalidi**.

For over a year, Al-Sharif had become one of the most recognisable journalistic voices from Gaza, documenting the war's devastation with unflinching honesty. His coverage often focused on the human cost of the siege and bombardment, giving voice to civilians trapped under fire.

Moments before his death, Al-Sharif posted on X about the “fire belt” bombardments raining over eastern and southern Gaza City, his last real-time dispatch from the frontlines. In a final message written in anticipation of his possible death, he reflected on his experience as both witness and victim of Gaza's suffering: “I lived the pain in all its details and tasted grief and loss repeatedly... Despite that, I never hesitated to convey the truth as it is, without distortion or misrepresentation.



## 7. Mariam Abu Daqqa

**Mariam Abu Daqqa** was a freelance photographer and mother of a 13-year-old boy, Ghaith. Mariam worked with several international outlets, including the Associated Press and Independent Arabia, and was known among her peers for her relentless drive to document the suffering of Palestinians, often from the front lines. Abu Daqqa is a recipient of the 2025 World Press Freedom Hero award, presented by the International Press Institute in partnership with International Media Support (IMS).

She was working at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis when she was killed on 25 August 2025, in Israeli attacks that struck the Hospital and other locations in the southern Gaza Strip. She was murdered together with four other colleagues: **Mohammed Salama**, **Ahmed Abu Aziz**, **Hussam Al-Masri** and **Moaz Abu Taha**. Their deaths underscored the peril faced by those who continued to report from Gaza after nearly two years of relentless war. Together, they represented the courage, resilience, and humanity of a generation of reporters who risked everything to document the suffering of their people and to keep truth alive amid devastation.



# Palestine (Gaza)

## 5. Fatima Hassouna



**Fatima Hassouna** was a 25-year-old Palestinian photojournalist from the Al-Touffah neighbourhood in northern Gaza, known for her powerful visual documentation of life under Israeli bombardment. Since October 2023, she had been chronicling the daily struggles of Gazans through her photography and reporting, capturing the human toll of the ongoing war.

A graduate in multimedia from the University College of Applied Sciences in Gaza, Hassouna combined her professional skill with deep social engagement. Beyond journalism, she taught creative writing workshops to children in a local school, nurturing their voices amid conflict. She shared her work with a wide audience through Instagram, where she had around 35,000 followers, using the platform to bring global attention to Gaza's suffering.

Tragically, Hassouna was killed on 16 April 2025, when an Israeli airstrike hit her family home, killing ten members of her family alongside her. Her death drew strong condemnation from international observers including UN Special Rapporteur **Francesca Albanese**, who described her killing as silencing a witness to atrocities. Hassouna was the protagonist of her film [Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk](#). The feature film had been selected for the Cannes Film Festival on 15 April 2025, and she was murdered the following day, on 16 April 2025, within hours of hearing the news.

# Palestine (Gaza)

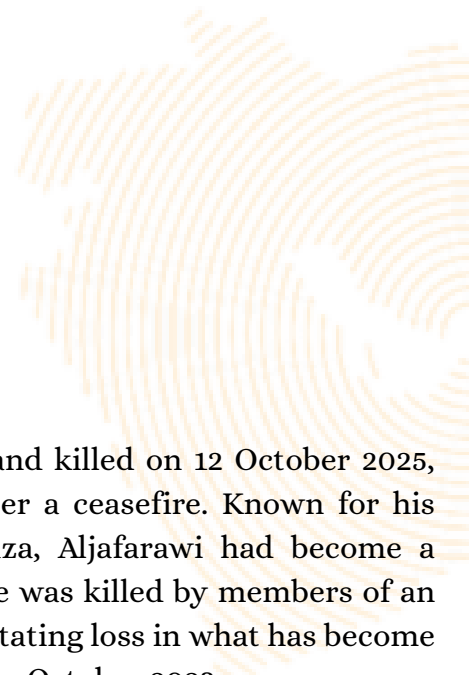
## 8. Mohammed Salama

**Mohamed Salama** was a 24-year-old photojournalist and cameraman. Born in Abasan Al-Kabira, east of Khan Younis in Gaza, he grew up in modest circumstances and developed an early passion for photography, earning a diploma from a vocational college. In February 2024, he quickly became known for his professionalism, dedication, and light-hearted spirit. Salama lost his mother in childhood and lived with his father and relatives. In November, on his birthday, he became engaged to fellow journalist **Hala Asfour**, hoping to marry once there was a ceasefire. He survived earlier raids on Nasser Hospital but was later killed on 25 August 2025 in a double-tap Israeli strike that targeted journalists gathered there. He was murdered together with four other colleagues: **Mariam Abu Daqqa**, **Ahmed Abu Aziz**, **Hussam Al-Masri** and **Moaz Abu Taha**.



Salama's colleagues remembered him as cheerful even in darkness, a young man who believed deeply in the power of his lens to tell Gaza's story.

## 9. Saleh Al-Jafarawi



**Saleh Al-Jafarawi** was a 28 years old palestinian journalist who was shot and killed on 12 October 2025, while covering clashes in Gaza City's Sabra neighbourhood, just days after a ceasefire. Known for his courageous frontline reporting throughout Israel's two-year war on Gaza, Aljafarawi had become a powerful voice documenting life under siege. According to local sources, he was killed by members of an armed militia reportedly linked to Israel. His death marks yet another devastating loss in what has become the deadliest conflict for journalists, with over 285 media workers killed since October 2023.

# Lebanon

## 10. Issam Abdullah



On 13 October 2023, photojournalist **Issam Abdullah**, 37 years old, was killed after an Israeli air strike was launched at Lebanon, during which several missiles targeted a group of journalists in the town of Alma Al-Shaab, located in southern Lebanon.

All those who knew him, unanimously agreed about his human qualities and praised his endeavour to always help others. He had 16 years of experience working with Reuters News Agency in Beirut.

During the attack itself, six other journalists were injured: **Thaer Al-Sudani** and **Maher Nazeh**, also from the Reuters team, photojournalists **Dylan Collins** and **Christina Assi**, both working with Agence France-Presse (AFP), and journalist **Carmen Joukhadar** and photojournalist **Elie Barkhya**.

The journalists were monitoring the clashes in southern Lebanon. They prominently displayed signs indicating that they were journalists, in addition to wearing helmets and press vests, and they were carrying out their journalistic work away from any military gatherings.

An investigation by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) found that Abdallah was deliberately targeted by Israeli forces. Two years later, the Lebanese government requested that the Ministry of Justice explore possible ways of prosecuting Israeli authorities.

# Lebanon

## 11. Ghassan Najar



**Ghassan Najar** was a Lebanese cameraman for the television channel Al Mayadeen, known for his dedication to covering the conflict along Lebanon’s southern border. On 25 October 2024, an Israeli airstrike hit a holiday resort in Hasbaya, southern Lebanon, where eighteen journalists from eight different media outlets were staying. Ghassan Najar was killed in the bombing, alongside two other Lebanese journalists: **Wissam Qassim** and **Mohammed Rida**. Their marked “Press” vehicle was found crushed under the rubble.

According to Lebanese authorities, the Israeli army had “waited for the journalists’ night break” to strike while they were asleep, an act denounced by the Lebanese Minister of Information, Ziad Makary, as a “premeditated assassination” carried out “after surveillance and planning.” The Lebanese government condemned the attack as a war crime.

## 12. Sakina Mansour Kawtharani

**Sakina Mansour Kawtharani** was a Lebanese journalist working for Al-Nour Radio, remembered for her commitment to reporting from southern Lebanon on the humanitarian toll of the war. On 13 November 2024, she was killed in an Israeli airstrike on the town of Joun, in the Chouf district, according to Lebanon’s National News Agency (NNA).

The Union of Audiovisual Media Workers in Lebanon confirmed her death, noting that the strike had targeted the area where Kawtharani lived with her family. Alongside Sakina, her two children and several other family members also lost their lives in the attack.

Her death underscored the growing danger faced by Lebanese journalists covering the regional escalation, as well as the devastating civilian cost of the ongoing Israeli military campaign.



# Iraq

## 13. Hero Baha Al-Din



## 14. Gülistan Tara



**Hêro Bahadîn** and **Gülistan Tara** were two Kurdish journalists who lost their lives while reporting in northern Iraq, victims of a suspected Turkish drone strike that once again highlighted the peril faced by journalists covering conflict zones in the region. On 23 August 2024, the two women were travelling in a vehicle owned by the CHATR media production company when their car was hit on the road between Sulaymaniyah and the district of Sayed Sadiq, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Tara was from Iraqi Kurdistan and Bahadîn was from Turkiye. Both journalists were working for Sterk TV, a Kurdish-language television channel founded in Norway in 2009, known for its coverage of Kurdish affairs and political developments in the region. The attack also injured six other civilians, including Rebin Bakr, a Kurdish media professional and video editor.

# Iran

## 15. Feresteh Bagheri

**Fereshteh Bagheri** was a 28-year-old Iranian journalist working for the Holy Defense News Agency, known for her dedication to promoting the culture of sacrifice and martyrdom through her reporting. She began her career in 2019 after earning a degree in communication from Allameh Tabataba'i University and quickly became a prominent figure in cultural journalism in Iran.



On the night of 13 June 2025, Bagheri was killed in an Israeli strike targeting Tehran and other Iranian cities, which hit both military and civilian sites. The attack also claimed the lives of several Iranian officials, nuclear scientists, ordinary citizens, and her father, Major General Mohammad Bagheri.

## 16. Nima Rajabpouri      17. Masoumeh Azimi



**Masoumeh Azimi** was an employee in the administrative department of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Iran's state-run media organization. **Nima Rajabpour** was Editor-in-Chief of Iran's State TV news channel Khabar.

On 16 June 2025, they were killed after an Israeli airstrike targeted IRIB's headquarters in Tehran, which also struck military and civilian infrastructure. They succumbed to their injuries in the early hours of 17 June 2025.

# Saudi Arabia

## 18. Turki Al-Jasser



**Turki bin Abdulaziz Al-Jasser** was a journalist and the founder of the news blog Al-Mashhad Al-Saudi, where he regularly covered sensitive topics such as women’s rights and the Palestinian cause. He was also accused by the Saudi authorities of being the anonymous author behind the “Kashkool” account on X, which criticised members of the Saudi royal family for alleged corruption and human rights abuses.

On 14 June 2025, Al-Jasser was executed by the Saudi authorities after being arbitrarily imprisoned for seven years. He had been convicted on multiple trumped-up charges of terrorism and high treason due to his online publications. His execution marks the first time a journalist has been sentenced to death and executed under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s rule since 2015. Internationally, Al-Jasser became the second journalist executed following a death sentence since 2020, after **Rouhollah Zam**, director of Amadnews in Iran.

His ordeal began on 15 March 2018, when Saudi security forces raided his home, seized his electronic devices, and took him to an unknown detention facility, later transferring him to Al-Hayer high-security prison on the outskirts of Riyadh. Al-Jasser’s execution is widely regarded as a new and shocking escalation in Saudi Arabia’s repression of critical voices.

# Somalia

## 19. Amun Abdullahi Mohamed

**Amun Abdullahi Mohammed** was a Somali-Swedish journalist known for her courageous reporting on Al-Shabaab's recruitment of youth and other local issues in Somalia. Despite facing previous death threats, she returned to Somalia to launch a community farming project aimed at supporting local livelihoods, demonstrating her commitment to both truth and social development.

On 16 October 2024, Mohammed was shot multiple times in the head by two gunmen, suspected to be Al-Shabaab militants, while walking to her farm in Abdula Biroole village, located about 40 km southwest of Mogadishu in the Afgoye district of Lower Shabelle. Local journalists reported that the attackers, masked and armed with AK-47 rifles, confirmed her identity before killing her instantly.

Mohammed's death highlights the extreme dangers faced by journalists in Somalia, one of the world's most perilous countries for media professionals, particularly in areas influenced or controlled by militant groups.



# Syria

## 20. Safaa Ahmad



**Safaa Ahmad** was a Syrian television journalist and news presenter who was killed during a bombing attack on Damascus, Syria, on 30 September 2024. The airstrike, attributed to Israeli forces, also claimed the lives of three other civilians and injured a total of nine people. The assault reportedly lasted approximately half an hour, causing significant damage to the surrounding area.

Ahmad was a well-known face on Syrian state television, and her death was publicly mourned by the network, which described her killing as a direct result of the attack on the capital. The incident occurred just days after another strike in a Damascus suburb on 27 September 2024, which resulted in the deaths of five soldiers, highlighting a period of heightened military escalation in the region.

## 21. Sari Majid Al-Shoufi

**Sari Majid Al-Shoufi** was a Syrian photojournalist for the Druze-focused news website Suwayda 24, known for covering local events in the southern Syrian province of Suwayda. On 14 July 2025, Al-Shoufi went missing while reporting on armed clashes near his home village of Taara, during a period of renewed violence between Syrian government forces and local communities. His death was confirmed on 24 July 2025, after several days of search efforts.

His death underscores the extreme dangers faced by journalists in conflict zones, particularly in areas of sectarian violence. His life and work reflect the courage and dedication of journalists striving to document critical events under life-threatening conditions, and his loss has been widely mourned by colleagues and press freedom advocates.



# Syria

## 22. Cîhan Bilgîn



**Cîhan Bilgîn** was a Kurdish journalist born in the Midyad district of Mardin, Turkey, raised in a family connected to the Kurdish liberation movement.

Driven by a passion to highlight the struggles and aspirations of Kurdish communities, she moved to North and East Syria (Rojava) in 2017 to report on the women's revolution and the development of the region's confederal democratic system. For seven years, she worked with the ANHA news agency, covering Turkish military attacks, the liberation of Raqqa from Da'esh, and amplifying stories of women affected by conflict, including the Yazidi community.

On 19 December 2024, Bilgîn was killed in a Turkish drone strike while returning from reporting on clashes at the Tishreen dam near Kobani (Kobanê) in northern Syria. Known for her courage, dedication, and commitment to truth, she had reaffirmed her mission in the weeks leading up to her death, emphasising the importance of exposing attacks against the Kurdish people and honouring the legacy of Kurdish journalists who had lost their lives in pursuit of truth.

# Sudan

## 23. Al Nour Suleiman



**Al Nour Suleiman** was a Sudanese journalist who worked as a correspondent and presenter for local radio stations and also held the position of media director for the North Darfur state governor's office. On 03 October 2025, his home in El Fasher, North Darfur, was shelled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). He sustained severe injuries and was taken to the Saudi Hospital, the only operational medical facility in the besieged city, but succumbed to his wounds the next day, on 04 October 2025.

Suleiman's death underscores the extreme dangers faced by journalists in Darfur, where press workers operate under constant bombardment, sieges, severe restrictions from warring parties, frequent power and internet outages, and food shortages.

## 24. Hassan Fadi Al-Mawla Mousa

**Hassan Fadi Al-Mawla Mousa** was a Sudanese journalist and presenter at West Kordofan Radio, as well as a correspondent for the state-owned Sudan National Radio Corporation and the independent station Beladi 96.6 FM. He was known for his dedication to reporting from the ground amid Sudan's civil war, serving his community despite the extreme dangers faced by journalists in conflict zones.

On 02 May 2025, Al-Mawla was shot dead during the takeover of Al-Nuhud, a desert town in West Kordofan, by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

His death was condemned by the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate (SJS) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), with CPJ emphasising the need for accountability and protection for journalists documenting the ongoing conflict.



# Sudan

## 25. Al-Shykh Al-Samany Saadaldyn Mousa Abdulla (“Sheikho”)



On 18 May 2025, freelance photojournalist **Al-Shykh Al-Samany Saadaldyn Mousa Abdulla**, also known as “Sheikho,” was killed in a suspected paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) drone strike while covering an event organised by the Sudan Shield Forces, a pro-Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) paramilitary group, in the area of Jabal Al-Abaytor in Al-Butana located in central eastern Sudan.



# Yemen

## 26. Killing of 31 journalists



An Israeli airstrike on 26 September 2025, hit a building that housed the headquarters of two newspapers in Sana'a, the 26 September Newspaper and Al-Yemen newspaper, reportedly killed 31 journalists and media workers. They are **Abdulaziz Yahya Al-Sheikh, Abbas Abdul-Malik Mohammed Al-Dailami, Yousef Ali Yahya Shams Al-Din, Mohammed Ismail Hazam Al-Omeisi, Abdullah Mohammed Abdah Al-Harazi, Murad Mohammed Ali Halboub, Ali Naji Saeed Al-Shara'i, Ali Mohammed Ali Al-Aqil, Jamal Firas Ali Al-Adhi, Sami Mohammed Hussein Al-Zaidi, Al-Faqih, Ali Mohammed Ahmad Al-Faqih, Abdulqawi Mohammed Saleh Al-Asfour, Bashir Hussein Ahsan Dablan, Arif Ali Abdah Al-Samhi, Mohammed Hamoud Ahmad Al-Matari, Abdulwali Abdah Hussein Al-Najjar, Abdah Taher Musleh Al-Sa'adi, Abdulaziz Saleh Ahmed Shas, Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed Al-Zakri, Zuhair Ahmed Mohammed Al-Zakri, Mohammed Abdah Yahya Al-Sanfi, Mohammed Al-Azzi Ghaleb Al-Harazi, Essam Ahmed Murshid Al-Hashidi and his son Abdul-Wali Essam, Salim Abdullah Abdah Ahmed Al-Watiri, Lutf Ahmed Nasser Hadian, Qais Abdah Ahmed Al-Naqeeb, Mohammed Ali Hamoud Al-Dawi, Faris Abdah Ali Al-Rumaisa, Abdulrahman Mohammed Mohammad Ja'man, Amal Mohammed Ghaleb Al-Manakhi, and Abdullah Mahdi Abdullah Al-Bahri.**

The strikes deliberately targeted press offices, destroying the premises of both newspapers, and have been widely condemned as a war crime by Yemeni authorities and human rights organisations. This attack formed part of a broader strategy aimed at suppressing media freedom, silencing critical voices, and erasing documentation of crimes committed in the region.

# Recommendations

Following up on recommendations made during previous events organised by GCHR to mark the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on 02 November 2025, GCHR calls again for immediate action as follows:

1. Calls on all government in the MENA region to respect journalistic work and to provide all kinds of support and protection to journalists who are overwhelmed with covering popular protests, those working in areas of armed conflict, or others who write with high professionalism about cases of corruption;
2. Calls on all concerned institutions to take note that in many countries, most of the murders and other criminal violations committed against journalists and human rights defenders by government agencies or extremist militias have been carried out by unknown persons yet to be identified - with the exception of the huge number of Palestinian journalists deliberately targeted by the Israeli authorities, who bear responsibility for their killings;
3. Urges an immediate and serious investigation in order to find practical and effective mechanisms that decisively end impunity in crimes against journalists in all countries in our region;
4. Urges governments and other relevant agencies work strenuously to hold accountable those who committed crimes against journalists and that perpetrators and masterminds of these violations will not remain unidentified and escape impunity;
5. Calls on all concerned parties provide proper protection to journalists in MENA countries and beyond so that they can carry out their work to the fullest extent;
6. Calls on all countries in the MENA region to adopt the recommendations of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.



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