

**From: IFJ GENERAL SECRETARY**

**To: UN Security Council members,**

**UN Secretary General**

I am writing on behalf of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the world's largest organisation of media professionals representing 600.000 journalists in more than 140 countries, to welcome the Security Council decision to meet to discuss the situation in Gaza and to raise our concerns for the safety of journalists in Israel and Palestine.

We continue to receive credible reports of the deliberate targeting of Palestinian journalists by Israeli authorities as well as Israeli journalists by Jewish settlers while our colleagues are trying to report in already extremely testing conditions.

According to these reports, the Israeli army and Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank have attacked and harassed at least 27 Palestinian journalists over the last two weeks, and the Israeli air force has destroyed facilities, including two tower blocks, housing local and international media offices, TV and radio stations in Gaza while social media accounts have been shut down due to pressure by the Israeli government. An Israeli public broadcast crew was also attacked by Jewish extremists in Tel Aviv.

We are gravely concerned that, once again, journalists and other media professionals risk bearing the brunt of violence while carrying out their vital role in informing their public and the world about the on-going conflict.

We urge the Security Council to do everything in its power to protect journalists and remind all parties that journalists are entitled to protection as civilians under international humanitarian law. United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1738 specifically demands that States protect journalists and their support staff working in conflict environments.

In this regard, the recent bombing of the al-Jalaa tower which housed Al Jazeera and Associated Press and the Shorouk building in Gaza, which housed several media organisations including Russia Today English, ZDF- Germany, Dubai TV, Aljazeera English, Press TV, Al Hayat Aljadeedah Newspaper, Al Aqsa TV, Al Aqsa Radio, Al Quds Today TV, Dubai Channel 12, Al Aqsa Visual and Tayf media company, and the endangered the lives of their staff and amounts to a clear breach of those international obligations.



**International  
Federation  
of Journalists**

Younes Mjahed  
**President**

Anthony Bellanger  
**General Secretary**

We call on you to remind all parties of the need to ensure all precautions are taken in the future not to target media organisations and journalists, which cannot be considered legitimate military targets.

Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony BELLANGER".



**Anthony Bellanger**  
**IFJ General Secretary**

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS**  
International Press Centre  
Résidence Palace - Block C, 2nd floor  
Rue de la Loi 155  
B-1040 Brussels  
Telephone 32 2 235 22 00 - Fax 32 2 235 22 19

---

**International Federation of Journalists, International Press Centre**

Résidence Palace, Block C, 155 Rue de la Loi, B-1040 Brussels

Tel: +32 2 235 2200 Fax: +32 2 235 2219 E-mail: ifj@ifj.org