

Submitted: 1 July 2019

### Model Table assisting responses by Member States

#### Section 1: Table

Current List of Journalists Killed (as condemned by the UNESCO Director-General) and Legal Investigations (as reported by UNESCO Member States)

Date: To be sent to UNESCO **before 30 May 2019**

Name of journalist	Gender	Date of killing	Investigating Authority	Case Number	Current Status	Verdict	Additional remarks
Suleiman Abd Al-Rahim Al-Ashi	Male	13 May 2007	Israeli Military Advocate General				According to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), two journalists Suleiman Abd Al-Rahim Al-Ashi, along with Muhammad Matar Abdo, were kidnapped by gunmen in Gaza on 13 May 2007. Less than two hours later, they were killed near the Sheikh Zayed Mosque, near the Ansar compound. <sup>1</sup>
Muhammad Matar Abdo	Male	13 May 2007	Israeli Military Advocate General				See Suleiman Abd Al-Rahim Al-Ashi (above).
Basel Faraj	Male	6 January 2009	Israeli Military Advocate General				Basel Ibrahim Faraj, 22, was killed during the Israeli military offensive on the Gaza Strip in 2008-2009. He was a cameraman for Algerian TV and died of wounds he sustained on 27 December 2008 when the

							Israeli occupying forces bombarded the 15-storey Husam Society for Prisoners building in Tal al-Hawa, southwest of Gaza City, according to PCHR. <sup>2</sup>
Vittorio Arrigoni	Male	15 April 2011	Palestinian Sources			The two suspects in killing Vittorio Arrigoni killed on 19 April 2011 were Abd Al-Rahman Al-Brizat and Bilal Al-Umari, residents of Gaza City, both of whom belonged to the Salafi Jihadist group.	Vittorio Arrigoni, 36, an Italian journalist and solidarity activist with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), was kidnapped by a Salafi Jihadist group in the Gaza Strip on 14 April 2011 and killed by his kidnapers on 15 April 2011.
Muhammad Abu Aisha	Male	20 November 2012	Israeli Military Advocate General				
Yasser Murtaja	Male	Yasser Murtaja was injured by Israeli fire on 6 April 2018. His death was pronounced at around 1:20 am on 7 April 2018.	Israeli Military Advocate General		The Gaza-based Al Mezan Center for Human Rights filed a petition with Israel’s Military Advocate General into the killing of two Palestinian journalists during the Great Return March in Gaza, including the killing of Yasser Murtaja and the killing of Ahmed Abu Hussain. <sup>3</sup>	Israel’s Military Advocate General is neither independent nor impartial. For example, in reference to the targeting of journalists covering the Great Return March, the website of Israel’s Military Advocate General indicates the following:	Yasser Murtaja, 30, was shot by the Israeli occupying forces while covering the Great Return March demonstrations near Khan Younis. He was on assignment by the Palestinian news agency Ein Media to cover the protests when he was shot in the abdomen some 100 to 150 metres from the Gaza fence. At the time

<sup>2</sup> PCHR, “Targeted Civilians”, p. 100, available at: [http://www.pchrgaza.org/files/Reports/English/pdf\\_spec/gaza%20war%20report.pdf](http://www.pchrgaza.org/files/Reports/English/pdf_spec/gaza%20war%20report.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See Al Mezan, Press Releases, “The killing of journalist Abu Hussein raises the number of journalists killed to two” [Arabic] (26 April 2018), available at: <http://www.mezan.org/post/25504>.

						<p>“It should be noted that during these events, journalists, medical personnel and first aid volunteers have repeatedly placed themselves in great danger by operating close to the security infrastructure, often concealed by the smokescreens created by burning tires.”<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Such references indicate the bias of the Israeli occupying authorities in investigating the killing of Palestinians by their own forces.</p>	<p>he was shot, he had been wearing a distinctive blue helmet and blue vest printed with the word ‘PRESS’.</p>
Ahmed Abu Hussain	Male	<p>Ahmed Abu Hussain was injured by Israeli fire on 13 April 2018. He succumbed to his injuries at Tel HaShomer Hospital in Israel on 25 April 2018.</p>	<p>Israeli Military Advocate General</p>		<p>Al Mezan Center for Human Rights filed a petition with Israel’s Military Advocate General into the killing of two Palestinian journalists during the Great Return March in Gaza, including the killing of Yasser Murtaja and the killing of Ahmed Abu Hussain.<sup>5</sup></p>	<p>See explanation above for the case of Yasser Murtaja.</p>	<p>Ahmed Abu Hussain, 24, was a footage journalist with the Palestinian news agency Bisan News Network and a radio reporter with local radio station Sawt Al-Shaab. On 13 April 2018, he was shot in the abdomen by Israeli forces while covering the Great Return March some 250 metres from the Gaza fence near</p>

<sup>4</sup> Israeli Military Advocate General Website, “Outcomes of the Gaza Border Events” (accessed 30 June 2019), available at: <https://www.idf.il/en/minisites/questions-and-answers-concerning-the-violent-riots-and-attacks-occurring-on-the-border-between-gaza-and-israel-during-2018-9/gaza-border-events-qa/outcomes-of-the-gaza-border-events/>.

<sup>5</sup> See Al Mezan, Press Releases, “The killing of journalist Abu Hussein raises the number of journalists killed to two” [Arabic] (26 April 2018), available at: <http://www.mezan.org/post/25504>.

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							Jabaliyya. He was taking photos and wearing a distinctive blue helmet and blue vest printed with the word 'PRESS' at the time he was shot.
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**Section 2: Positive or Innovative Measures the Member State is taking to promote safety of journalists and combat impunity**

Activity	Actors	Outcome(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In 2016, the International Journalists Federation sent a delegation to conduct a fact-finding mission, which issued a legal report in cooperation with human rights organisations.</li> </ul>	<p>Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS)</p>	<p>PJS is looking forward to the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2222 (2015), which calls for the prosecution of crimes and violations committed against journalists worldwide, and calls for the creation of a clear mechanism to implement the UN resolution, in order to ensure the protection of journalists in Palestine and elsewhere.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In 2018, the full report on Israeli violations and suspected crimes against Palestinian journalists between 2014 and 2018 was submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, Mr. Michael Lynk, by the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate President, Mr. Nasser Abu Baker.</li> </ul>	<p>Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS)</p>	

**Section 3: Steps the Member State has taken to consider the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work**

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The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) has taken the following steps to promote both men and women journalists' safety:

1. Issuing violations report regularly in addition to statements concerning special cases;
2. Training a large number of journalists and media students on journalists' safety;
3. Establishing a National Center of Journalists' Safety with an annual fund from the Palestinian Government headed by PJS in partnership with media private sector and civil society organisations.

**Section 4: Agreement to post the submitted information on UNESCO's dedicated webpage**