



State of Palestine
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates
Minister

Ramallah, 10 May 2021

The Honorable Audrey Azoulay
Director General
UNESCO
Paris, France

Dear Madame Director General,

I'm writing in response to a letter we received from your office on April 23rd, 2021, requesting updated information on the "safety of journalists and the issue of impunity" for crimes against journalists.

In this regard, we wish to inform you that with the assistance of the UNESCO office in Ramallah, the State of Palestine has established a notational mechanism to facilitate the completion of the annual report on crimes against journalists. Under the leadership of the Palestinian Journalist Syndicate, the mechanism involves various governmental institutions, as well as other media and human rights organizations. This mechanism's purpose is to monitor and report intentional attacks on Palestinian journalists and media personnel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Due to the Israeli occupation's continuous and widespread violations, Palestinian journalists are barred from fully and freely exercising their right to press freedom. While performing their duties, they face ongoing threats of targeted killing, physical abuse, arrest, detention, denial of coverage, and prosecution. More than (45) killing cases of journalists have been documented since the year 2000, with the majority of them being extra-judicially killed and intentionally targeted by Israel, the Occupying Power.

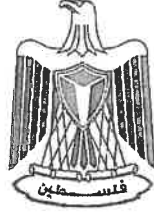
It's important also to remind that journalist protection involves the protection from other forms of violence. In this regard, we would like to draw your attention to the long list of critically disabled journalists who are still seeking treatment for injuries sustained as a result of attacks directed against them, by Israel, the Occupying Power. As we write to you, Israeli Occupation Forces are targeting journalists covering events in Jerusalem.

Assaults on Palestinian journalists continue unabated throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We, therefore, call on you to condemn physical violence against Palestinian journalists, in accordance with UNESCO Resolution (29). Furthermore, we urge UNESCO to list injury cases and other violations against journalists, in addition to killing cases, in order to protect the freedom of expression enshrined in UNESCO's constitution. We have noticed that you have repeatedly requested information about the same four killed journalists, for which we have already provided the information available to us in the State of Palestine's last two reports. Thus, we respectfully request that the same four journalists be removed from the annual lists.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Riad Malki
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Expatriates



دولة فلسطين

وزارة الخارجية والمغتربين
قطاع العلاقات متعددة الأطراف

التاريخ: 10 أيار/ مايو 2021

معالي د. رياض المالكي حفظه الله،
وزير الخارجية والمغتربين،
تحية طيبة وبعد،

الموضوع: مقترح رسالة بخصوص بعض أسماء الصحفيين المذكورة في قائمة بيانات "اليونسكو" لحماية الصحفيين للعام 2021

بالإشارة إلى الموضوع أعلاه، نرفق لمعاليتكم مقترح رسالة موجهة للمديرة العامة لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة "اليونسكو" بخصوص بعض البيانات الواردة في القائمة الخاصة بتقرير حماية الصحفيين للعام 2021. حيث أننا لاحظنا تكرار طلب معلومات متعلقة بنفس الصحفيين في الأعوام الماضية، مع العلم أننا قمنا بتوفير كل ما نملك من معلومات حول هؤلاء الصحفيين في التقارير السابقة لدولة فلسطين. ويجدر التنويه بأننا سوف نرفدهم بالتقرير الجديد بعد شهر حزيران من العام الجاري.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام والتقدير،

السفير عمار حجازي

مساعد وزير الخارجية والمغتربين
للعلاقات متعددة الأطراف

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 15 June 2021

Name of journalist	Gender	Date of killing	Investigating Authority	Case Number	Current Status	Verdict	Additional remarks	14/6/2021
Suleiman Abd Al-Rahim Al-Ashi	Male	13 May 2007	De facto authorities	30/2007 (Prosecution) 42/2008 (Courts) ¹	<i>The were killed during Hamas coup d'eta against the legal authority</i>	<i>Two journalist were killed extra judicially, and no official nor credible investigation has been carried out ever.</i>		There has been no development.
Muhammad Matar Abdo	Male	13 May 2007 (date of injury); 14 May 2007 (death pronounced)						
Vittorio Arrigoni	Male	15 April 2011	De facto authorities		<i>Public information including information provided by the De facto authorities:</i> On the evening of Thursday, 14 April 2011, a Salafist group calling itself "The Brigade of the Gallant Companion of the Prophet Mohammed bin Muslima" announced the kidnapping of 36-year-old Italian journalist Vittorio Arrigoni, a human rights		PCHR was assigned by Vittorio Arrigoni's mother to follow up on his case with the De facto authorities in Gaza and provided the so-called Public Prosecution with material and evidence for his case. PCHR also communicated with the Italian	There has been no development.

				<p>defender and a prominent activists of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) in Palestine.</p> <p>In a video issued by the armed group on YouTube, the kidnappers called on the De facto authorities in Gaza to release arrested individuals belonging to the Salafist Jihadist group headed by Hisham Al-Saedni. After threatening to kill Vittorio Arrigoni should the government fail to respond to these demands, the armed group carried out the killing.</p> <p>At dawn, on Friday, 15 April 2011, the De facto authorities found the dead body of Vittorio Arrigoni in an abandoned house located in the Amer housing project area, west of Al-Karama Towers, west of Jabaliya, in the northern Gaza Strip.</p> <p>Forensic examinations of the body revealed signs of torture and suffocation on his body.</p>		<p>authorities to provide them with updates.</p> <p>It is worth noting that the Italian journalist, Vittorio Arrigoni, had arrived in the Gaza Strip on the Gaza freedom flotilla to break the siege in 2008, and that he resided in Gaza city. He devoted his time to defending the rights of Palestinians and participated in many activities calling for the lifting of the siege and opposing Israeli violations, in particular against fishermen.</p> <p>He was arrested by the Israeli occupying forces on 18 November 2008 while accompanying a number of fishermen off the coast of Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip and was deported by the occupying authorities. He returned to the Gaza Strip several months</p>
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Muhammad Musa Abu Aisha	Male	20 November 2012	The so-called Israeli Military Advocate General	Muhammad Musa Abu Aisha, 24, a resident of Deir Al-Balah, was killed during the 2012 Israeli military offensive on the Gaza Strip. He was targeted by an Israeli missile at around 6:40 pm on 20 November 2012, fired by the Israeli occupying forces' warplanes. Muhammad Abu Aisha was the director of the Al-Quds Educational Channel. He was struck by an Israeli missile while he was walking with his friend Hassan Youssef Al- Ustaz, 22, near his home. Both men were immediately killed as a result. Field medical teams transported the deceased to Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital in Deir Al-Balah. ³ The Al-			later through Rafah crossing. Arrigoni had lived in the West Bank for several years before arriving in the Gaza Strip. He was a prominent member of the ISM. ²	There has been no development.
				Muhammad Musa Abu Aisha, 24, a resident of Deir Al-Balah, was killed during the 2012 Israeli military offensive on the Gaza Strip. He was targeted by an Israeli missile at around 6:40 pm on 20 November 2012, fired by the Israeli occupying forces' warplanes. Muhammad Abu Aisha was the director of the Al-Quds Educational Channel. He was struck by an Israeli missile while he was walking with his friend Hassan Youssef Al- Ustaz, 22, near his home. Both men were immediately killed as a result. Field medical teams transported the deceased to Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital in Deir Al-Balah. ³ The Al-			PCHR sent a civil complaint to the so- called Ministry of Defense and a criminal complaint to the so-called Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG). PCHR only received a letter from the Ministry of Defense confirming the receipt of the letter, but received no information on the killings.	

² Al-Haq, Field report on the killing of Italian journalist and solidarity activist Vittorio Arrigoni in the northern Gaza Strip in 2011, dated 17 April 2020.

³ Al-Haq, Field report on the killing of Palestinian journalist Muhammad Abu Aisha in Deir Al-Balah, dated 17 April 2020.

