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Keir Starmer
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

By hand

27 August 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

London Freelance Branch of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) welcomes your [statement](#) on 11 August 2025 that you are “gravely concerned” by the killing on 10 August of six journalists by the state of Israel and your government’s call for an independent investigation. As you have recognised, Al Jazeera camera operators Ibrahim Zaher, Moamen Aliwa, their assistant Mohammed Noufal, and correspondents Mohammed Qreiqeh and Anas al-Sharif were killed in an airstrike on a tent outside the al-Shifa hospital in Gaza; freelance photojournalist Mohammed Al-Khaldi was also killed in the same airstrike.

Back on 31 July Irene Khan, the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, [expressed deep concern](#) that, “without any evidence to back its claims, the Israeli army has repeatedly accused Al Sharif and other Palestinian journalists of being terrorists or supporters of Hamas.” Her “fears for Al-Sharif’s safety” were borne out, with the Israeli army [explicitly announcing](#) that they had targeted Anas al-Sharif.

London Freelance Branch represents over 3000 freelance journalists within the membership of the national union. We wish to reinforce the [call by NUJ general secretary Laura Davison](#): “That the Israeli military openly admits to these atrocities brings into sharp focus the need for international action to end this impunity.

“We once again reiterate our call for the UK government, who claim to be committed to press freedom, to exert serious pressure to protect journalists, uphold international law and support an investigation by the International Criminal Court into the blatant targeting of journalists and media workers by Israeli forces. There must be immediate international action to end this obscene behaviour.”

Much more than concern and investigation is indeed required. We ask you to clarify:

1. What steps your government will be taking to ensure that that surviving Palestinian journalists in Gaza are able to continue reporting.
2. Specifically, what steps your government will be taking to ensure that surviving Palestinian journalists in Gaza, alongside the rest of the population, have immediate safe access to food, water and necessary equipment.
3. What steps your government will be taking to ensure that non-Palestinian journalists are able to enter Gaza to report alongside their Palestinian colleagues and that they are then able to report freely and independently and are not required to be “embedded” or otherwise under supervision.
4. What steps your government will be taking to support an investigation by the International Criminal Court into the blatant targeting of journalists and media workers by Israeli forces.
5. What steps your government will be taking to mark the [International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists](#), a UN recognised International Day, observed annually on the 2nd of November to spotlight the persistently high level of impunity for crimes committed against journalists worldwide; and
6. What steps your government will be taking to ensure the passage of a [UN binding Convention](#) on the safety and independence of journalists and other media professionals.

Yours sincerely,

Pennie Quinton

Chair, NUJ London Freelance Branch

Further signatures follow below.

Co-signed:

Richard Palmer

Chair, NUJ London Central Branch

Niall Mulholland

Chair, NUJ London Magazine Branch

Matthew Capon

Chair, NUJ London Digital Media Branch

Steve Bird

FT Group Head of Chapel

Emma Boyde, *FT* Group Deputy Head of Chapel

Keith Fray, *FT* Group Deputy Head of Chapel

Nic Bunce, *FT* Group Deputy Head of Chapel

Sara Lewis

Chair, NUJ Brussels Branch

Professor Chris Frost

Chair, Ethics Council, National Union of Journalists

Natasha Hirst

Chair, NUJ Photographers' Council

Khaled Shalaby

Head of Video Operations, *Middle East Eye*

Sarah Beddington

Filmmaker

Post scriptum:

After the co-signatories had put their names to the above letter, on 25 August 2025, as you will be aware, the state of Israel killed five further journalists in a “double-tap” airstrike on Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, alongside rescue workers, as they responded to the first “tap”:

- Hossam Al-Masri, a photographer working for Reuters news agency
- Mohammed Salama, a photojournalist working for Al Jazeera
- Maryam Abu Deqa, a journalist working for Associated Press and *Independent Arab*
- Moaz Abu Taha, a freelance journalist working for NBC news
- Ahmed Abu Aziz, a freelance journalist working for *Middle East Eye*

We welcome the statement by your Foreign Secretary that “Civilians, healthcare workers and journalists must be protected. We need an immediate ceasefire.” This horrifying event adds urgency to the questions we ask above.