



World Association
of News Publishers

For the attention of:
Prime Minister Naftali Bennett
Prime Minister's Office,
Public Affairs Department,
Kiryat Ben Gurion,
Binyan Gimel,
Jerusalem 9195017

Paris, France

13th May 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing on behalf of the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) and the World Editors Forum, which represent 18,000 publications, 15,000 online sites and over 3,000 companies in more than 120 countries, to echo the demands of United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, a number of Arab states, the European Union's External Action Service, and the US ambassador to the UN, amongst others, for the rapid establishment of an independent, transparent investigation into the killing of Palestinian-American journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh.

We urge your government to cooperate fully and transparently with such a proposed independent investigation, and to commit to holding those found to be responsible for the killing to account for their actions.

Ms. Abu Akleh was shot and fatally wounded on Wednesday, 11th May while reporting on a military operation being carried out by the Israeli army in the Jenin refugee camp. She was taken to a local hospital but succumbed to her injuries shortly afterwards.

Ali al-Samoudi, a producer with the Al-Jazeera network of which Ms. Abu Akleh was a prominent correspondent, was also shot and injured in the same location.



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We are deeply concerned by multiple reports claiming Ms. Abu Akleh - despite being clearly identifiable as a member of the press and wearing personal protective equipment – was deliberately targeted.

Contrary to statements made by the Israeli military at the time of her death, [reports suggest](#) there is no evidence that Ms. Abu Akleh could have been shot by armed Palestinians who were allegedly in the vicinity of the military operation.

Mr Prime Minister, we urge you to facilitate the rapid establishment of a thorough, independent, and transparent investigation into this tragic incident. We call on you to acknowledge and commit to applying international law in respect to the safety and protection of media professionals and ask that you take this opportunity to reinforce compliance with the obligations contained therein across all branches of your government, including the military.

Finally, we reiterate that those found to be responsible for the killing of Ms. Abu Akleh must be held to account for this egregious violation of international law.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Yarza'.

Fernando De Yarza Lopez-Madrado

President, WAN-IFRA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Fernandez'.

Warren Fernandez

President, World Editors Forum