

Journalist Martyred in Israeli Airstrike; Gaza Media Toll Hits 270

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) — Palestinian journalist Islam Abed was martyred alongside her husband and children in an Israeli airstrike on Gaza City on Sunday evening, according to the Palestinian Media Assembly, bringing the number of journalists martyred since October 7, 2023, to at least 270.

Abed, a correspondent for Al-Quds Today TV, was inside her home when an Israeli warplane targeted the apartment. Her death has drawn condemnation from Palestinian media organizations, which described the strike as part of a broader campaign against journalists working in Gaza.

Al-Quds Today TV called the assassination a “treacherous” attack, vowing that “the Israeli killing machine will not silence our voice—the voice of the Palestinian people.”

The Palestinian Media Assembly said hundreds of other journalists



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have been wounded or detained during the nearly two-year-long war, while media offices and infrastructure have been repeatedly bombed. It hit out at Israel for committing war crimes aimed at

silencing the Palestinian narrative. The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) called the ongoing killings “a comprehensive war crime” and said Israel bears full responsibility for Abed’s death and

that of other media workers. The PJS urged international human rights and press freedom organizations to take urgent and effective action to hold Israeli officials accountable.

The Gaza Government Media Office and the Federation of News Agencies of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) also condemned the killings, citing systematic attacks on press freedom and violations of international law.

Israel’s war in Gaza has become the deadliest conflict for journalists in modern history, with an average of 13 media workers killed per month. The United Nations and press freedom advocates have warned that targeting journalists constitutes a war crime under international humanitarian law. Rights groups say the attacks are intended to create a media blackout and obscure evidence of violations on the ground.

Israeli General Cancels South Africa Trip Over Arrest Fears

TEL AVIV/JOHANNESBURG (Dispatches) -- Doron Almog, chairman of the Jewish Agency and a former Israeli military general, has cancelled a planned visit to South Africa over concerns he could face arrest on war crimes charges, Israeli media reported.

The Jewish Agency said the decision to cancel the trip was taken as a precautionary measure to avoid potential legal and diplomatic complications. Almog, who served in the Israeli military from 1969 until his retirement in 2003 as head of the Southern Command, has previously faced legal action abroad over his military record.

In 2005, a British court issued an arrest warrant for Almog over his involvement in the demolition of 59 Palestinian homes in Gaza—a potential violation of the Geneva Conventions. Almog avoided arrest at London’s Heathrow Airport by remaining aboard his plane after being tipped off by Israeli officials. UK authorities declined to board the aircraft, reportedly due to concerns over a possible armed confrontation with Almog’s security detail.

His canceled trip to South Africa comes amid heightened legal scrutiny of Israeli officials inter-

nationally. In November 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former war minister Yoav Gallant over the use of starvation as a weapon in the Gaza war. The war, now approaching its second year, has led to increasing calls for accountability from international legal bodies and human rights groups.

Earlier this week, lawyers in Argentina filed a criminal complaint seeking Netanyahu’s arrest during an anticipated visit to Buenos Aires. Meanwhile, South Africa has

openly threatened to detain Israeli officials and soldiers entering the country, citing ongoing genocide proceedings against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Almog, who became chair of the Jewish Agency in 2022, leads an organization that promotes Jewish identity, encourages immigration to Israeli settlements, and integrates new arrivals. The agency, founded in 1929, played a pivotal role in Jewish immigration during the British Mandate and later served as a foundation for Israel’s early regime institutions, including its first regime under David Ben Gurion.

Lebanese Army Dismantles Israeli Spy Device Near Southern Border

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Lebanese government forces have dismantled an Israeli espionage device in the southern province of Nabatieh, near the border with Israeli-occupied territories, the Lebanese Army said.

A specialized military unit discovered the surveillance equipment, which included a hidden camera, during an engineering survey operation on the outskirts of the town of Yaroun, the army statement said. The military warned residents to avoid suspicious objects and report them immediately to the nearest

military post for their safety.

The discovery comes amid ongoing tensions between Lebanon and Israel, despite a ceasefire that took effect on November 27 following nearly 14 months of war between Israel and Hezbollah. The ceasefire followed significant losses for Israel and its failure to achieve its military objectives in Lebanon.

Since the ceasefire, Israel has reportedly conducted airstrikes and other attacks on Lebanese territory, actions Lebanon has condemned as violations of the agreement. On

January 27, Lebanon announced it would extend the ceasefire until February 18.

However, Israeli forces continue to occupy five key positions in southern Lebanon — Labbounh, Mount Blat, Owayda Hill, Aaziyyeh, and Hammamis Hill — near the border. Beirut has condemned the continued Israeli presence as a breach of the ceasefire and withdrawal timeline. Senior Lebanese officials have reiterated their commitment to taking “all necessary measures” to end the occupation.

U.S. ... (Continued From Page One)

The SCO summit, established over three decades ago, serves as a platform for countries seeking cooperative solutions in regional and international affairs.

Pezeshkian called it “a unique opportunity for dialogue and exchange among countries that share a common concern for peace, cooperation, and coordinated efforts to create a fairer and safer world.” He praised the SCO’s cooperation model, calling it “based not on hostility and identity conflict, but on cooperation, mutual trust, and respect for diversity.”

He said that, unlike the post-Cold War order shaped by unilateralism, the SCO has kept hope alive for equitable global cooperation.

“The experience of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has kept alive the hope that countries... can interact and cooperate with each other from an equal standing without superiority,” he said.

He urged the SCO to deepen cooperation, especially with developing and emerging economies, to tackle global challenges such as “economic inequalities, sanctions, climate change, and transnational security crises.” He also highlighted the Shanghai Plus framework as a path to broader engagement.

Calling for a new model of global cooperation, he said it must be built on “principles based on equality and justice.” He added, “All countries, regard-

less of size or wealth, should enjoy equal rights and representation in global governance.”

Pezeshkian encouraged the SCO to expand its partnerships with Global South nations, especially in financial cooperation and infrastructure investment.

He noted that Iran is ready to contribute in these fields, citing its “vast scientific resources, energy supplies, and transit position.”

Iran’s geographic role in linking East and West through the Belt and Road Initiative was also emphasized. “This, along with Iran’s unparalleled stability and security, can serve as an important basis for connecting transportation lines... and integrating Iran into this project.”

Addressing regional conflicts, Pezeshkian said the SCO should play a more active peacebuilding role, particularly in West Asia.

“The Shanghai Cooperation Organization should pursue peacebuilding initiatives in its surrounding world in a more organized manner.”

He condemned the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, calling it “a stain on the history of humanity and a difficult test for all people and governments witnessing these brutal crimes.” A just solution to the Palestinian issue, he said, is essential for peace.

“Our solution has always been the participation of all original inhabitants of Palestine in free elections to realize the right to self-determination as the most fundamental principle of international law.”

Pezeshkian concluded by thanking China for hosting the summit and endorsed President Xi Jinping’s Global Governance Initiative as “a significant step toward achieving a more just world.”

Massive... (Continued From Page One)

in Israel’s ongoing campaign of violence. The airstrike struck during a government workshop, catching many officials off guard, and marking one of the deadliest Israeli attacks on Yemen’s leadership in recent years.

While initial denials circulated, the deaths were officially confirmed days later, igniting national and regional condemnation.

Since Israel’s genocidal war Gaza began in October 2023, Yemen has stood firmly in solidarity with Palestinians, conducting numerous missile and drone attacks on Israeli military sites and infrastructure.

The Yemeni resistance has made clear that their support goes beyond rhetoric: it is manifested in active, coordinated military efforts designed to pressure Israel and disrupt its operations.

In a significant development reported by multiple Israeli sources, Yemen’s Armed Forces launched an unusually large wave of drones toward Israeli-occupied territories.

According to Hebrew-language outlets, the latest drone offensive involved

flights lasting between six to eight hours, timed to coincide with ballistic missile launches targeting Israeli skies.

Israeli Channel 12 reported that the Israeli military had detected the drone flights and was preparing to intercept them.

Muhammad al-Bukhaiti, a senior political official with Yemen’s Ansarallah movement, declared, “We have taught Britain and America lessons, and we will do the same to the Zionist enemy.”

His assertive stance highlighted Yemen’s increasing confidence in its growing drone and missile capabilities, signaling a new phase in the ongoing conflict.

Despite repeated Israeli airstrikes on Yemen’s capital throughout 2024, Yemeni forces have shown remarkable resilience. Intelligence sources in Israel acknowledge the difficulties Tel Aviv faces in penetrating Yemen’s defenses and gathering actionable intelligence.

This has frustrated Israeli military planners, who reportedly are preparing extensive campaigns to suppress Yemen’s capabilities, but have yet to achieve any strategic success.

General Muhammad al-Ghamari, Chief of Staff of the Yemeni Armed Forces, warned that Israel’s assassination of Yemen’s leadership “has opened the gates of hell upon itself.” His statement echoed widely among Yemeni officials and the public alike, signaling that retaliation will be relentless and severe.

Chairman of Yemen’s Supreme Political Council Mahdi al-Mashat reinforced

the message, promising that Yemen’s operations “will continue until the aggression is stopped and the siege is lifted.”

His vow resonated deeply with a population that has endured years of war, blockade, and economic hardship, yet remains fiercely committed to resistance.

“Israel will not taste security after today,” Mashat said, addressing the Israeli regime and its supporters.

The massive funeral procession in Sanaa was not only a moment of mourning but a potent symbol of Yemen’s steadfast unity.

Mourners chanted slogans such as “God is Great, Death to America, Death to Israel,” reflecting widespread popular support for the Palestinian cause and condemnation of Israeli aggression.

The gathering demonstrated that the Israeli strike, intended to intimidate, instead galvanized the Yemeni people and their leadership.

The Yemeni government and resistance movements view their struggle as part of a broader confrontation against imperialism, colonialism, and occupation.

Their support for Gaza and campaign against Israeli targets are deeply rooted in a shared history of oppression and a commitment to justice and liberation.

Hundreds... (Continued From Page One)

destroyed,” one resident said. “Children and elders are trapped under rubble. We need urgent help.”

Amid the devastation, Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian sent a message of condolence to the Afghan people and government. Describing Afghanistan as a “brotherly country,” Pezeshkian expressed deep sorrow over the loss of life and injuries caused by the quake.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Arachchi also extended Tehran’s sympathies in a separate statement, describing the tragedy as “deeply saddening.” He stressed Iran’s “full readiness to send emergency, medical, and humanitarian aid” to support Afghan recovery efforts.

Esmail Baghai, Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson, echoed this commitment, highlighting the government’s willingness to assist Afghan authorities in rescue and relief operations.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society announced it was prepared to dispatch rescue and medical teams, with its president, Pir Hussein Kolivand, sending condolences to his Afghan counterpart Sheikh Al-Hadith Shahabuddin Dilawar. “The Iranian Red Crescent stands ready to send aid teams as soon as requested,” Kolivand said.

China and India have also pledged support. India has delivered 1,000 family tents to Kabul and is sending food supplies to Kunar province, with more relief materials scheduled to arrive.

The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed concern over the scale of destruction and confirmed that UN missions in Afghanistan were mobilizing to assist in the relief efforts.

Afghanistan’s mountainous terrain, especially in the Hindu Kush region where tectonic plates meet, is highly prone to earthquakes. This disaster follows a 2022 quake that killed more than 1,000 people in eastern Afghanistan, marking one of the first major natural catastrophes since the Taliban took control in 2021.

Pezeshkian... (Continued From Page 2)

Simultaneously, President Pezeshkian held talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tianjin.

Both leaders praised the historic and brotherly ties between Tehran and Islamabad, rooted in shared culture, history, and faith.

The Pakistani premier reiterated Islamabad’s unwavering commitment to enhancing bilateral relations, emphasizing that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable path to regional peace and stability.

Pezeshkian reciprocated the sentiment, expressing condolences for the recent devastating floods in Pakistan and affirming Iran’s support during these difficult times.

Further reinforcing regional cooperation, President Pezeshkian met with Tajikistan’s President Emomali Rahmon, highlighting the deep cultural and historical bonds between the two nations.

The Iranian president stressed the importance of transferring this proud legacy to younger generations and lauded the expanding bilateral cooperation across trade,

transit, tourism, and scientific exchanges.

In a powerful call to action, Pezeshkian urged Islamic countries and international organizations to employ all possible measures to halt the ongoing crimes perpetrated by the Israeli regime in Gaza and beyond.

He condemned Israel’s brutal campaign of aggression, which continues with tacit support from the United States, and appealed for solidarity and coordinated efforts to restore justice and peace to the region.

Joint... (Continued From Page 2)

to the UN Security Council’s primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security.

“What the E3 proposes betrays this mission, turning the Council into an instrument of coercion rather than a guardian of global stability,” the letter states.

Calling for a return to respect for international law, the three countries urge the Security Council to focus on restoring legal norms to enable effective diplomacy.

“The urgent task before us is to restore international law and build upon it to give diplomacy the ground it needs to succeed,” the letter concludes.

Officials... (Continued From Page 2)

importance of these forums in expanding Iran’s diplomatic and economic ties amid rising global tensions.

Separately, Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi highlighted developments related to UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and the contentious “snapback” mechanism pushed by European powers.

Speaking to Iranian media, Gharibabadi confirmed that SCO member states, including permanent Security Council members China, Russia and Pakistan, oppose the unilateral reimposition of sanctions on Iran.

“The SCO’s final declaration contains strong language affirming that Resolution 2231 must be fully and properly implemented and not applied selectively. This means European countries cannot selectively enforce the snapback clause if they fail to meet their own commitments.”

Gharibabadi condemned recent European attempts to activate the snapback process as “illegal and without legal basis,” criticizing international bodies for politically motivated responses.

He urged European countries to reconsider, warning that any move to restore sanctions would provoke a firm response from Iran.

The deputy minister also pointed to a significant SCO declaration explicitly condemning Israeli and U.S. aggression against Iran, including attacks on nuclear facilities and violations of international law, marking a rare direct denunciation of the two countries.

Iran... (Continued From Page 2)

the attack a “terrorist crime” and “a clear war crime and blatant violation of international law,” labeling it “a new chapter in the global shame of the regime that leads terror and nurtures terrorism worldwide.”

Mousavi emphasized the “deep fear of the expansion of the Axis of Resistance and the unity of the region’s peoples in defending the Palestinian cause and confronting occupation and criminality” as the motivation behind the attack.

“This will never weaken the revolutionary determination and faith of Yemen’s brave fighters nor their firm support for the oppressed Gaza and Palestine,” he warned.

Mousavi praised the Yemeni people’s resilience amid ongoing sanctions, blockade, and Israeli aggression, calling Yemen “a symbol of resistance against global domination and a pride of the Islamic Ummah.”

He expressed confidence that “with divine grace, Yemen will overcome current challenges and achieve its lofty goals,” reaffirming Iran’s continued support for Yemen’s resilient and courageous people and their sacred aspirations.

The deadly airstrike struck Sana’a on Thursday, killing Prime Minister al-Rahwi and several ministers. Yemeni officials have reiterated their vow to continue missile attacks against Israeli-occupied territories as long as Israeli aggression against Gaza persists.