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Hollywood, May 20 (RHC)-- More than 100 leading artists from across the world -- including the U.S. film industry in Hollywood -- have condemned Israel's killing of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. They are demanding accountability for the regime's crimes, days after Israeli forces shot dead veteran journalist in the occupied West Bank.

The artists, including Hollywood stars, acclaimed authors and prominent musicians, condemned the murder in a joint statement this week. Abu Akleh, a veteran of the Qatar-based Al Jazeera network's Arabic service, was shot in the head on May 11, when she was reporting on an Israeli raid on the Jenin refugee camp.

Her tragic death sent shockwaves across the region, drawing global condemnation. The United Nations and the European Union, among others, have called for a full investigation into what has been described as a deliberate killing "in cold blood."

"We are deeply disturbed by the Israeli occupation forces' killing of the highly respected Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, as she arrived, wearing a clearly marked press vest, to report on an Israeli incursion in the occupied city of Jenin last Wednesday. As we grieve her loss, we call for full accountability for the perpetrators of this crime and everyone involved in authorizing it," the statement read.

Pedro Almodovar, Susan Sarandon, Tilda Swinton, Mark Ruffalo, Eric Cantona, Miriam Margolyes, Jim Jarmusch, Naomi Klein and Peter Gabriel, among others, called for "meaningful measures to ensure accountability for the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh and all other Palestinian civilians."

The artists and public figures said "Israeli forces have killed 45 journalists since 2000, injuring many more, simply for doing their job" -- lambasting a "pattern of violence, harassment, and intimidation against Palestinian journalists" by the Israeli regime.

A Palestinian journalist who was with Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh on the day when she was shot dead by Israeli regime forces has recounted how the crime was committed.

Main human rights groups, including Israel's leading human rights organization B'Tselem, have already described the pattern as a system of apartheid imposed on the Palestinian people.

"We call on our governments to end their hypocrisy and to act with consistency in the application of international law and human rights. We call on them to take meaningful measures to ensure accountability for the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh and all other Palestinian civilians. There must be no double standards when it comes to the basic human right to freedom from persecution and oppression and the right to life and to dignity," the artists said.

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