

UN secretary-general strongly criticizes Israeli regime for barring journalists from Gaza

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Colleagues of Palestinian journalists Mohammed Soboh and Saeed al-Taweel, who were killed when an Israeli missile hit a building while they were outside reporting, stand next to their bodies at a hospital in Gaza City on October 10 (Arafat Barbakh/Reuters)

United Nations, April 10 (RHC)-- The United Nation secretary-general has criticized Israel for denying international journalists' entry into the war-torn Gaza Strip, warning that the decision could add to the trauma of the war.

Antonio Guterres on Tuesday called the barring of the journalists an action which enables “disinformation and false narratives to flourish.” “Denying international journalists entry into Gaza is allowing disinformation and false narratives to flourish,” Guterres said in a post on X.

He made the remarks a day after the Foreign Press Association, an organization representing journalists working in Gaza, reported that Israel continues to prevent international reporters from entering the war-torn area.

“Israel continues to bar international reporters from entering any part of the Gaza Strip independently,” a statement released by the FPA said on Monday, adding that the decision prompts inquiries into issues that Israel wishes to conceal from the eyes of international journalists.

“The barring of independent press access to a war zone for this long is unprecedented for Israel. It raises questions about what Israel does not want international journalists to see,” the statement read.

It further warned about the conditions of Palestinian journalists inside Gaza, saying they face “unprecedented” threats and dangers while bravely covering the events.

Meanwhile, America’s largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), expressed support for the FPA on Monday, calling on the Israeli regime to grant the international media “expanded and unfettered access to Gaza.”

“Immediate and unrestricted international media access to devastated areas of Gaza and the West Bank is essential if the world is to fully comprehend the far-right Israeli ... genocidal campaign targeting the Palestinian people,” CAIR’s national communications director Ibrahim Hooper said in a statement.

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