Prominent Lebanese journalist killed in Israeli strike in southern Lebanon

Renowned Lebanese journalist and executive producer Ahmad Farhat killed in Israeli attack (Photo via social media)

Beruit, February 17 (RHC)-- A prominent Lebanese journalist and executive producer has been killed in an Israeli unmanned aerial vehicle strike targeting a car in the Iqlim al-Tuffah district in southern Lebanon.

According to Lebanese media outlets, the attack took place at around 7:20 p.m. local time (1720 GMT) on Saturday, when the Israeli drone fired a guided missile at the car as it was traveling along a road in Jarjouh village of Nabatieh province.

The aerial attack set the vehicle ablaze, killing both passengers inside.

Social media activists identified the victims as Ahmad Farhat, a photographer and director with the Arabic-language Nabaa TV, and Abbas Hammoud.

Five people, including two minors, sustained injuries while passing through the area at the time of the strike. They were taken to Nabih Berri Governmental Hospital in the city of Nabatieh for treatment.

The Israeli military later asserted in a statement that it had attacked a senior official with the Hezbollah resistance movement in the drone strike in southern Lebanon.

Israeli minister of military affairs Israel Katz said Hammoud was one of the commanders of Hezbollah's aerial unit, which is responsible for launching drones into the Israeli-occupied territories.

Journalists have faced unprecedented danger while covering Israeli bloody onslaughts on Lebanon and Gaza.

On October 25, an Israeli airstrike killed at least three journalists as they slept in their accommodation in southern Lebanon. The air raid hit a compound in Hasbaiyya housing several journalists, killing two cameramen and a technician.

The victims were identified as cameraman Ghassan Najjar and engineer Mohamed Reda who worked for the pan-Arab al-Mayadeen television news channel. Al-Manar TV, which is affiliated with Hezbollah, said its camera operator Wissam Qassim was also killed.

Last November, another two journalists for al-Mayadeen TV were killed in an Israeli drone strike.

A month earlier, Israeli shelling in southern Lebanon killed Reuters videographer Issam Abdallah and wounded other journalists from the AFP news agency and al-Jazeera television news network.

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