

Israel responsible for 2024 being deadliest year in history for journalists

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Geneva, February 13 (RHC)-- The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has said that 2024 was the deadliest year in recorded history for journalists with 124 deaths, and the Israeli regime is responsible for

70 percent of the total.

CPJ said on Wednesday that 2024 was the deadliest year since the organization started keeping records with 124 journalists killed across the globe.

The global increase in killings (a 22 percent increase from 2023) was largely because of the Israeli regime's genocidal war in Gaza, CPJ said. At least 85 journalists were killed during the 15-month war in Gaza, all at the hands of the Israeli regime's forces, CPJ said. 82 of the killed journalists during this period were Palestinian.

"Today is the most dangerous time to be a journalist in CPJ's history," said CPJ CEO Jodie Ginsberg. "The war in Gaza is unprecedented in its impact on journalists and demonstrates a major deterioration in global norms on protecting journalists in conflict zones," she added.

"In Gaza and Lebanon, CPJ documented ... cases where journalists were murdered by the Israeli military, in defiance of international laws that define journalists as civilians during conflict," she said.

"Thirty-one of freelancers were killed in Gaza. Many Gaza journalists became freelancers after their outlets were destroyed ... their coverage proving crucial for global media outlets because Israel has barred foreign journalists from entering the Strip," she stated.

CPJ is also investigating 20 further killings in which it believes the Israeli regime may have specifically targeted journalists. "We know in most of these cases that Israel knew these individuals were journalists and killed them anyway, which is if that is the case, a war crime," Ginsberg said.

"In some cases, we know it because Israel told us that they killed those individuals."

The Gaza Government Media Office puts the number of journalists being killed by the Israeli regime far above the CPJ statistics. According to the Gaza Government Media Office, the Israeli regime has killed at least 205 journalists in Gaza alone since October 7, 2023.

A ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement went into effect in Gaza on January 19, halting Israel's campaign of genocide in the Palestinian territory.

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