

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/palestinian-terr-rwb-condemns-air-strikes-on-news-18-11-2012,43690.html>

Middle East/North Africa - Israel

Information war

RWB condemns air strikes on news media in Gaza city

18 November 2012

[Read in Arabic \(بالعربية\)](#)

Reporters Without Borders condemns Israeli air strikes targeting news organizations in Gaza City today and calls for an immediate end to such attacks. At least nine journalists were reportedly injured and several local and international media were prevented from operating.

"These attacks constitute obstruction of freedom of information," Reporters Without Borders secretary-general Christophe Deloire said. "We remind the Israeli authorities that, under humanitarian law, the news media enjoy the same protection as civilians and cannot be regarded as military targets.

"Even if the targeted media support Hamas, this does not in any way legitimize the attacks. We call for a transparent investigation into the circumstances of these air strikes. Attacks on civilian targets are war crimes and serious violations of the Geneva Conventions. Those responsible must be identified."

At around 2 a.m. today, [Israeli warplanes fired](#) several missiles at the Al-Shawa Wa Hassri Tower, a building in the Gaza City neighborhood of Rimal that houses local and international media organizations. Around 15 reporters and photographers wearing vests with the word "TV Press" were on the building's roof at the time, covering the Israeli air strikes.

Five missiles destroyed the 11th-floor offices used by *Al-Quds TV*. The station said six journalists were injured, four of them *Al-Quds* employees – **Darwish Bulbul**, **Khadar Al-Zahar**, **Muhammad al-Akhras** and **Hazem al-Da'our**. The other two were identified as **Hussein Al-Madhoun**, a freelance photographer working for the *Ma'an* news agency, and **Ibrahim Labed**, a reporter for the Palestinian news agency *SAFA*. [Zahar's](#) condition was described as critical after one of his legs had to be amputated.

At around 7 a.m., three *Al-Aqsa TV* employees were seriously injured when two missiles were fired at the Al-Shourouk building, also known as the "journalists' building." A spokesperson for the Israel Defence Forces said on the @IDFSpokesperson Twitter account that the air strike had targeted a Hamas communication centre.

Among the local and international media whose offices [were damaged by Israeli](#) missiles were *Sky News Arabia*, the German TV station *ARD*, the Arab TV stations *MBC* and *Abu Dhabi TV*, *Al-Arabiya*, *Reuters*, *Russia Today* and the *Ma'an* news agency.

Information was also one of the victims of Israel's Operation Cast Lead against the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009 ([read the RWB report](#)). At the time, Reporters Without Borders condemned Israel's decision to declare the Gaza Strip a "closed military zone" and deny access to journalists working for international media. The IDF also [targeted pro-Hamas media during Operation](#) Cast Lead.

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• , (JPEG - 40.5 kb)
