

# Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/syria-state-tv-cameraman-gunned-down-in-26-12-2012,43838.html>

Middle East/North Africa - Syria

Trapped

## Syrian journalist killed in Aleppo, rebels blamed

7 January 2013

[Read in Arabic \(بالعربية\)](#)

The pro-government TV station *Al-Dounia* has reported that the journalist **Suhail Mahmoud Al-Ali** died on 4 January from gunshot injuries received while covering fierce fighting in the city of Aleppo.

The government media are blaming his death on opposition rebels, who they continue to describe as "terrorists." Al-Ali's death brings to 19 the number of journalists killed in connection with their work since the start of the Syrian uprising in March 2011. At least 45 citizen-journalists have also been killed.

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### 26-12-2012 **State TV cameraman gunned down in Damascus**

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[Syrian state TV](#) reported on 22 December that one of its cameramen, **Haydar Al-Sumudi**, was gunned down by "rebels" outside his home in the west Damascus suburb of Kafar Souseh the previous evening.

"Violence against news providers is becoming more and more widespread and is targeting both pro-government and pro-opposition journalists and citizen-journalists," Reporters Without Borders said. "We firmly condemn this latest murder and the increasingly heavy toll that coverage of this war is taking on journalists."

"While we are not yet able to take a position on who was responsible for Al-Sumudi's death, we call on all those involved in this conflict to respect the work and physical integrity of all journalists."

According to the government news agency *Sana*, gunmen were waiting outside Saudi's home and shot him several times when he appeared. Born in Damascus in 1967, he worked for the state-owned daily *Al-Thura* before joining the state TV broadcaster in 1998.

His death brings to 18 the number of professional journalists killed in connection with their work in Syria in 2012. The annual freedom of information [roundup](#) that Reporters Without Borders published last week referred to Syria as a "cemetery for news providers."

A citizen-journalist known as **Sami Waeel** received serious [head injuries](#) from rocket shrapnel during a Syrian air force attack on Aleppo on 24 December. At the time of the attack, he had been filming rubble in the city's Boustane Al-Qassr district, which has been repeatedly shelled. He worked with local media and with various humanitarian and relief organizations including "Al-Sidq".

Finally, the Syrian Journalistic Association reports that citizen-journalist **Mohamed Qwaider** was fatally shot while covering a violent clash between the regular army and the rebel Free Syrian Army in Arbeen, a town to the southwest of Damascus), on 6 December. Qwaider was one of Arbeen's first citizen-journalists and reported for its Facebook and Twitter martyrs page.

His death brings to 45 the number of citizen-journalists killed in the course of gathering and disseminating news and information in Syria in 2012.

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