

We, the undersigned, request that Israeli authorities end immediately the restrictions on foreign media entering Gaza and grant independent access to international news organizations seeking to access the territory.

Nine months into the war, international reporters are still being denied access to Gaza except for rare and escorted trips arranged by the Israeli military. This effective ban on foreign reporting has placed an impossible and unreasonable burden on local reporters to document a war through which they are living.

More than 100 journalists have been killed since the start of the war and those who remain are working in conditions of extreme deprivation. The result is that **information from Gaza is becoming harder and harder to obtain** and that the reporting which does get through is subject to repeated questions over its veracity.

We fully understand the inherent risks in reporting from war zones. These are risks that many of our organizations have taken over decades in order to investigate, document developments as they occur, and understand the impacts of wars the world over.

A free and independent press is the cornerstone of democracy. We ask that Israel uphold its commitments to press freedom by providing foreign media with immediate, independent access to Gaza, and that Israel abides by its international obligations to protect journalists as civilians.

Signatories

1. ABC News, United States
2. Agence France-Presse, France
3. Alternative Press Syndicate, Lebanon
4. Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism
5. Asian American Journalists Association, United States
6. Associated Press, United States
7. Association for International Broadcasting, United Kingdom
8. Association of Foreign Press Correspondents, United States
9. Bangladeshi Journalists in International Media, Bangladesh
10. BBC News, United Kingdom
11. Bianet, Turkey
12. Bloomberg News, United States
13. CBS News, United States
14. CNN Worldwide, United States
15. CONNECTAS
16. Community Media Forum Europe, Belgium
17. CTV News, Canada
18. Daily Maverick, South Africa
19. Daraj, Lebanon
20. Denik Referendum, Czech Republic
21. European Broadcasting Union, Switzerland
22. European Federation of Journalists
23. Financial Times, United Kingdom
24. Forbidden Stories, France
25. fotosintesi.info, Italy
26. Free Press Unlimited, The Netherlands

27. Global Investigative Journalism Network
28. Global Reporting Centre, Canada
29. International Association of Women in Radio and Television
30. International Center for Journalists, United States
31. International Fund for Public Interest Media
32. International Media Support, Denmark
33. International News Safety Institute, United Kingdom
34. International Women's Media Foundation, United States
35. ITN, United Kingdom
36. Le Mauricien, Mauritius
37. McLatchy, United States
38. Media Development Center, Tunisia
39. Media Diversity Institute, United Kingdom
40. Middle East Eye
41. National Association of Hispanic Journalists, United States
42. National Press Club, United States
43. National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, The Philippines
44. NBC News, United States
45. Nieman Foundation for Journalism, Harvard University, United States
46. NPR, United States
47. Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project
48. Premium Times, Nigeria
49. Prospect Magazine, United Kingdom
50. Public Media Alliance
51. Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, United States
52. Rory Peck Trust, United Kingdom

53. RTÉ News & Current Affairs, Ireland
54. Rural Media Network, Pakistan
55. Sky News, United Kingdom
56. SMN24Media, Sri Lanka
57. Somali Media Women Association, Somalia
58. Sveriges Radio, Sweden
59. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, United Kingdom
60. The Foreign Press Association, Israel and the Palestinian Territories
61. The Guardian, United Kingdom
62. The Irish Times, Ireland
63. The New York Times, United States
64. The Washington Post, United States
65. Twala, Algeria
66. Vocento, Spain
67. VRT News, Belgium
68. Wattan Media Network, Palestine
69. World Association for Christian Communication
70. World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), Germany
71. Yle News and Current Affairs, Finland