

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003482/25

to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
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(9 September 2025)

Subject: Protection of journalists and investigation into killings in Gaza

Since October 2023, more than 62 000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed and in August 2025 the UN declared there to be a famine in Gaza.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 197 journalists have been killed since the beginning of the conflict, 189 of them Palestinians killed by Israel, making Gaza the most dangerous region in the world for journalism.

On 10 August 2025, an Israeli strike on a press tent near Al-Shifa Hospital killed six Al Jazeera journalists. On 25 August, an airstrike on the Al-Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis killed five journalists.

These attacks, often carried out using the ‘double tap’ technique, violate international humanitarian law, which recognises journalists as civilians to be protected, and undermine the public’s right to be informed.

1. Will the Commission take steps to promote the establishment of an independent international commission of inquiry into the killings of journalists in Gaza?
2. Will it promote — including at UN level — international protection mechanisms for journalists working in conflict zones?
3. How will it ensure that press freedom and the right to information are defended in line with the EU’s commitments and founding values?

Submitted: 9.9.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(4 November 2025)

The EU expresses deep concern over the tragic deaths of journalists in Gaza, affirming the need for accountability and the protection of media workers, who are civilians under international humanitarian law.

The EU condemns the attacks on journalists as these attacks violate the international humanitarian protocols and the principles of press freedom, undermining the public's right to be informed about global conflicts — the values the EU decisively upholds.

The EU remains committed to engage with governments, the media and civil society, at international, national and local levels, to take initiatives and strengthen press freedom around the world.

The EU has been steadfast in its calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the unconditional release of all hostages, leading to a permanent end to hostilities.

More recently, the EU welcomed the agreement on the first phase of the comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict, put forward by the President of the United States, leading to a ceasefire and the release of hostages and called for the unimpeded access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza. The EU remains committed to a lasting and sustainable peace based on the two-state solution through reinvigorated efforts in the Middle East peace process.

The EU has been consistently calling on Israel to allow international journalists to access Gaza since the beginning of the conflict and will continue to do so in this new context.

The EU supports journalists' safety, digital and operational security, and provides emergency assistance to journalists in third countries. Conflict areas are a priority.
