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23 June 2025

The erosion of press freedom through violence against journalists in the Middle East

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Saskia KLUIT and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Since 7 October 2023, at least 184 journalists and media workers – predominantly Palestinian – have been killed in the Israel-Gaza conflict, making it the deadliest war for journalists in recent history. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (non-profit organisation), at least 17 were killed in direct connection with their professional work in Gaza, Lebanon and Israel.

Among those killed:

- Bilal Jadallah, a prominent journalist and chair of Press House-Palestine, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on 19 November 2023;
- Ayat Khadoura, a freelance journalist and podcaster, died with her family in a strike on her home in Beit Lahia;
- Samer Abu Daqqa, an Al Jazeera cameraman, was fatally wounded by a drone strike while covering an earlier attack on a UN-run school.

Beyond these killings, press freedom is being eroded through legislative measures and political intimidation. Notably, the Israeli Knesset is considering a bill that would criminalise journalists whose reporting is cited by international courts.

These developments signal a broader and urgent threat to global press freedom. Violence, impunity, and legal repression against journalists undermine not only freedom of expression but also democratic accountability and the right to inform and be informed.

The Parliamentary Assembly should urgently examine these threats – including killings, intimidation, and repressive legislation – and assess their implications for international norms safeguarding media workers. It must also consider whether such actions are compatible with the values and obligations of the membership or partnership status to the different bodies of the Council of Europe.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

KLUIT Saskia, Netherlands, SOC
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CATHALA Gabrielle, France, UEL
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DALLE Benjamin, Belgium, EPP/CD
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
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KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA Bisera, North Macedonia, SOC
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
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THIÉBAULT-MARTINEZ Céline, France, SOC
VELDHOEN Gala, Netherlands, SOC
YILDIZ Zeynep, Türkiye, NR

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group