

Press Freedom

in the Palestinian Territories

October, 2007

**Palestine Partners Center
for Media Development (Shuraka')**





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The Center is a non-profit non-governmental organization that has been established in Ramallah since 2006, and officially registered in 2007 by the Palestinian Charitable Law No. (1/2000). Shuraka' is run by a group of legal consultants, professional journalists, experts in media, local society activists and independents.

Shuraka' Vision:

Free, independent, professionalism, and transparent Palestinian media, and to supports human rights, democracy, and a cultural of exchange.

Mission Statement:

Promoting freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of the press and right of access to information in accordance with universal declaration for human rights and fostering the principles of professionalism, independency and freedom as prerequisites for democracy.

Strategic Goals:

- Mobilising the journalists, improving their skills, building their capacities, and committed to the international standards of independent and free media, with a view to build a democratic, institutionalized, and modern society.
- Mobilising the media in defending human rights and democracy, promoting the community right of knowledge and information accessibility for the purpose of creating popular awareness and conscious contribution to achieve sustainable development and fighting negative phenomena in the society.
- Defending the freedom and safety of journalists, facing the violations they are expose to and to promote the principal of legal protection in order to create an environment that protects freedom of media and expression.
- Contributing the amendment and development of legislations that support freedoms.

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Documentation of Violations:

➤ Aggression:

2nd October, 2007: Reuters photojournalist wounded by Israeli army at Erez crossing in Gaza Strip, While the Israeli army was shooting on Palestinian crowds who came to receive (29) released prisoners. Mohammed Jadallah was hit by a bullet that passed through his calf muscle when the crowd surged forward. Medical sources said that he in stable condition but recommended he be transferred to hospital in Jerusalem for treatment of internal bleeding. "I didn't hear any warning - just shooting," said Jadallah.



07th October, 2007: Unknown persons broke into Al- Aqsa Training Center for Media Development headquarters of Al- Aqsa Satellite Channel in Gaza City and captured all its contents of computers.

16th October, 2007: The Israeli occupation military shoot European Media Agency photojournalist, Ala' Badarna. Badarna, who had been arguing with an Israeli soldier to about his right as a journalist to cover the invasion of Nablus city, was deliberately targeted later by soldiers and was shot in the neck and back with four rubber-coated bullets at close range. He was taken to hospital for treatment. According to Badarna, the soldier had refused to let him into the area affected by the invasion and ordered him to stop filming.



19th October, 2007: The Israeli occupation soldiers used noise bombs, tears gas bombs and colored water during separating the demonstration against the Apartheid Wall in Bil'een; and as a result, three photojournalists, George Helta from Palmedia, Ghassan Bannoura from Middle East Media Center and Kressteen a Danish photographer were injured. On night, Israeli settlers set fire to dozens of dunums of land annexed by the Wall, in order to



confiscate it. The olive trees destroyed by fire belong to village residents Ahmad Yasen, Nathmi Yaseen, Maher Ashaa'l, Musa Abu Rahmah and Mustafa Abu Rahmah.

19th October, 2007: Israeli soldiers launched a savage attack on hundreds of international peace activists and village residents who were protesting against the construction of the Separation Wall on Umm Salamoneh village land, south of the West bank city of Bethlehem. Israeli soldiers abducted an international peace activist after they attacked him and a number of journalists who there to cover the protest.



26th October, 2007: The Israeli occupation soldiers intensively used metal and plastic-enveloped bullets and tears gas and noise bombs, to prevent the participants in Bil'een march, near the West Bank city of Ramallah, from reaching the area of the wall, carrying banners condemning the harassment of the Palestinian prisoners by the Israeli police and to condemn the death of Mohammad al-Ashqar few days ago in the desert jail of Ketsiot. Five participants were injured as well as Italian journalist; Antonio was injured as he received a rubber-coated metal bullet to his head.



➔ **Arresting:**

07th October, 2007: The Palestinian Security Forces in Ramallah City stopped and detained four staff of Iqraa Satellite channel in Al-Manara for two days; they are: Younis Al- Hasasneh, Hanin Rashmawi, Samer Khweirah and Mohammed Al qeeq. Al-Hasasneh says: he was exposed by the security force beating and abusing him.



18th October, 2007: Israeli intelligence has summoned the well-known Palestinian novelist and author Waleed Al- Hodali to present himself immediately to the Ofer detention center, near the West Bank city of Ramallah, for interrogation. Al Hodali, had been imprisoned in Israeli jails for twelve years and was only released few years ago.

27th October, 2007: The Israeli occupation army broke into Al Tadamoun non- profit Society at Aloul and Abu Salha building of in Central Nablus, and confiscated some of its contents and detained. During the operation, the soldiers detained the journalists of Afaq TV, Ameen Al ma'ani and Ashraf Abu Shwaish, located in the same building, while covering the breaking in, where they were released after several hours. Al- Ma'ani says: they were insulted and beaten.

➔ **Confiscation and Filming Ban:**

02nd October, 2007: Israeli settlers gathered at the evacuated settlement of Homesh, near the northern West Bank city of Nablus, and performed religious ceremonies during the Jewish festivity of Sukkot. The settlers uprooted trees, destroyed the water supply system and devastated the huts where local farmers maintain their agricultural equipments. The Israeli army prevented the journalists from reaching village of Burqa to cover the events.



10th October, 2007: Preventing the press teams from covering the Israeli military campaign against the Old City of Nablus on morning from several directions, and throwing teargas bombs and smoke bombs towards them to make them go away from the area.

11th October, 2007: Israeli military forces invaded the village of Beit Fourik, near the northern West Bank city of Nablus, opened fire with tear-gas near a girl's school, causing journalists breathing difficulties to prevent them from covering the aggression against the village.

18th October, 2007: Preventing the press teams from covering the Israeli settlers and soldiers aggressions against the international activists and Palestinian olive growers in the area around the Atna'el settlement. The Israeli settlement of Atna'el was constructed on Palestinian land which is owned by the people of the village of Al Samou'a, in the southern part of the district of Hebron.