



His Excellency Mr Amir Maimon  
Ambassador of Israel  
6 Turrana Street,  
Yarralumla, ACT 2600  
[info@canberra.mfa.gov.il](mailto:info@canberra.mfa.gov.il)

cc: Mr Nasser Abu Baker  
President  
Palestinian Journalists Syndicate  
P.O. Box 219  
Jerusalem-Ramallah  
[nasserafp@yahoo.com](mailto:nasserafp@yahoo.com)

cc: His Excellency Izzat Salah Abdulhadi  
Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific  
PO Box 4646  
Kingston ACT 2604  
[palestinian.delegation@bigpond.com](mailto:palestinian.delegation@bigpond.com)  
[auemb@mofa.pna.ps](mailto:auemb@mofa.pna.ps)

cc: Anthony Bellanger  
General Secretary  
International Federation of Journalists  
IPC-Residence Palace, Bloc C  
Rue de la Loi 155  
B-1040 Brussels  
Belgium  
[ifj@ifj.org](mailto:ifj@ifj.org)

12 May 2022

Your Excellency,

**Re: Shireen Abu Akleh**

The Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA) is the union and professional association of Australia's journalists. MEAA is an affiliate member of the International Federation of Journalists which represents 600,000 media professionals from 187 trade unions and associations in more than 140 countries.

We write to condemn, in the strongest terms, the killing of journalist and US citizen Shireen Abu Akleh.

Australian journalists extend their condolences to Shireen Abu Akleh's family, friends, and her co-workers at Al Jazeera, and to our colleagues at the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate.

Ms Abu Akleh was a field reporter for Al Jazeera Arabic and had worked for that outlet since 1997. She was shot in the face by a single bullet, reportedly fired by an Israeli sniper, while performing her duties reporting on an Israeli military action in the city of Jenin. The Al Jazeera producer accompanying her, Ali Samoudi, was shot in the back during the same incident.

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Statements by the many journalists working in a group alongside the pair, reveal that Abu Akleh was deliberately targeted. Like the other journalists, she was clearly identifiable as a member of the working media because they were wearing blue helmets and blue body protection that was clearly labelled as "PRESS".

Despite claims by the Israeli authorities, statements by the journalists in the group and by our journalist colleagues at Al Jazeera's Ramallah bureau say there had been no shooting by Palestinian gunmen and that the shooting of Abu Akleh was "deliberate and planned to assassinate her".

Your Excellency, as you know, all parties to a conflict must observe that journalists and media workers are civilians. Targeting them, especially when they are clearly identifiable as press, is a violation of international law, and violators must be brought to justice.

The International Federation of Journalists has recently submitted a case to the International Criminal Court alleging that Israel's targeting of journalists working in Palestine and its failure to properly investigate killings of media workers amount to war crimes.

The targeted killing of Abu Akleh is an outrageous crime – there must be no impunity for her killers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Percy'.

Karen Percy  
Federal President  
MEAA Media section

cc: Senator the Hon. Marise Payne  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
[foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au](mailto:foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au)

cc. Senator the Hon Penny Wong  
Opposition spokesperson for Foreign Affairs  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
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