



in the war as terrorists with little evidence. Irene Khan, the UN's special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, told the Gaza project Israel had "spread disinformation about journalists being linked to militants" and failed to meet the "burden of proof" to make such claims.

in or lost their homes. According to a survey by ARIJ of more than 200 journalists in Gaza, almost all said they had been displaced by the Israeli offensive and half said they were living in tents. Eighty-six percent said their homes had been either partially or entirely destroyed. "It's psychologically very difficult," said Mohammed Abed, a Ga-

ber of dead janitors, the number of taxi drivers, you will end up with higher numbers as well," a senior Israeli source said. Among the journalists caught up in the destruction was Salma Mkhaimeer, a 31-year-old Palestinian freelance journalist based in Jordan, who covered women's rights and had worked for a number of Gaza-based media outlets, including



Reba Khalid al-Ajami (L), a TRT Arabi journalist, reports from Rafah amid Israeli attacks in February. ANADOLU AGENCY

According to al-Aqsa sources, scores of its workers have been killed and injured, with others arrested and detained by Israeli forces. One of the al-Aqsa journalists the IDF alleged were terrorists is Issam Bahar, a freelance journalist for the outlet who was killed in mid-October. A close relative told ARIJ that he "did not have any political or other activity" and was "only a journalist and a teacher of the Qur'an". According to the relative and information collated by the non-profit watchdog Airwars, Bahar, 38, was sheltering at a relative's home in Gaza City when an Israeli air strike killed him at night along with six family members. His wife and 14-year-old son were among the dead.

**Bombed in sleep**

In a war in which more than half of Gaza's buildings have been destroyed according to the UN, journalists — like many of the territory's population — have been killed

za-based Agence France-Presse photojournalist. "So many journalists have died while sleeping along with their families. When we interviewed the survivors, they told us they were at home. 'We had dinner and talked to the neighbours. And when we went to sleep, they bombed us.'" In previous wars in Gaza, a former IDF lawyer said, targeting someone at home would require a "clearcut case" that they had "crossed the threshold to be a direct participant in hostility". In the current war, they said, "there appear to have been different rules of engagement" and the "level of destruction has been taken to a different level". Officially the Israeli military maintains journalists have not been deliberately targeted. Many in the military attribute the record number of journalists killed to the IDF's intensive bombardment of a densely populated territory. "I'm sure that if you counted the number of dead teachers, the num-

al-Aqsa. Mkhaimeer was visiting family in the territory with her baby boy, Ali, when the war began. Trapped at her family's home in an area the IDF said would be safe, she was on the phone with her husband on 24 October — the day of Ali's first birthday — when an air strike hit the building, killing her, her baby, and 23 relatives. In an interview with the Guardian, Mkhaimeer's husband, Alaa Naser Abushawer, said that as someone who was married to a journalist, it was "very painful" that so many others like his wife had been killed in Gaza. He said an end to the war was needed "for us both, Israelis and Palestinians". This, he recalled, was something his wife had told him during their final conversation: "On my last call with Salma, she said: 'We must stop the war.'"

The full article first appeared on The Guardian.

# Worse than genocide: Killing truth



By James E. Jennings  
President of Conscience International

**OPINION**

There have been many genocides throughout history, but the first to be displayed on TV in all its sickening horror before the entire world is the Israeli genocide against the civilians of Gaza. Truth is the first casualty of war. So, it's no surprise that the slick Israeli propaganda machine has managed to make Israel's slaughter of 37,000 Palestinians in Gaza, including more than 15,000 children, acceptable to multitudes of Americans. With the exception of the widespread campus protestors, most Americans are by now convinced that Gaza's 2.3 million inhabitants are all fanatical Islamists who deserve to be killed like vermin. That's not only a lie — it is a damnable lie. There is an even bigger atrocity in this war and a more unbearable one than killing children — if that is possible — and that's when the truth is killed. When your good is labeled evil, it's maddening.



A protester has tape over his mouth with the word "antisemit" written on it at a pro-Palestine rally in Dusseldorf, Germany, on November 4, 2023. CHRISTOPH REICHWEIN/PICTURE ALLIANCE

Today, the decency and moral outrage of millions of US youth is being slandered by ranting propagandists like MSNBC's Joe Scarborough, and, of course, the entire FOX News crew, labeling the campus protest movement anti-Semitic. The claim is false and must be exposed as another damnable lie. It's more than illogical, it's silly, to say that anti-Zionism equals anti-Semitism. The vast majority of campus protesters are not anti-Semites and have no trouble separating the actions of extreme Zionist ideology as played out in Gaza from their classmates and friends who happen to be Jews. "The naming of things is the rectification of things," Confucius taught. Antisemitism is Antisemitism. Zionism is Zionism. The two are not the same. Otherwise, how could Senator Bernie Sanders, a Jew, attack Netanyahu's extreme Zionist government so strenuously, and how could so many of the student demonstrators who are against Zionist Israel's Gaza campaign themselves be Jewish? When Republican Congresswoman Elise Stephanic, a Jew, attacked the Jewish George Soros, a celebrated progressive Jewish philanthropist on CNN recently for supporting the protesters, wasn't she herself being an Anti-Semite?

Neither George W. Bush nor Joe Biden are Jews. They are Christians — but are certainly big-time Zionists. Bush by leading America into the morass of the Iraq War primarily designed to protect Israel, and Biden in Gaza, by giving Israel all the money and bombs it needs to kill so many thousands of civilians. "Don't kill children, but here's money and ammunition to do it with." Nobody is fooled by that, still less university students who have had to display their critical thinking skills before they could even get into college. Increasing numbers of Jewish organizations are rejecting Israel's descent into doctrinaire Anti-Arab racial policies that echo Nazism's extreme philosophy. They know that race-hatred is racism, but that doctrinaire racial superiority vs. inferiority is racial-ism, which is far worse. The situation in Gaza is unbearable for a civilized world to witness. Painting an entire generation of idealistic American college youth with the slander that they are racists is unbearable. If anything is worse than genocide, it is claiming that those who oppose it are the greater cause of evil.

The article first appeared on Inter Press Service.



A JewBelong billboard in Oakland, California, is papered over by a Jewish anti-Zionist group, on February 1, 2023. X