



ALJAZEERA

Why Did Israel Shut Down Al Jazeera's Voice?

Israel shut down Al Jazeera's office in Ramallah last month, raising global concerns about press freedom. While Israel claims the network poses a threat to its national security, the move has sparked widespread criticism, especially given Al Jazeera's critical role in covering the Gaza conflict. This infographic breaks down the reasons behind Israel's decision and the broader implications for media coverage in the region.

1

Legal Basis for Shutdown

In April 2024, Israel passed the "Al Jazeera Law," which gives the regime the authority to ban foreign media perceived as a threat to national security. Israeli forces used this law to raid and shut down Al Jazeera's office in Ramallah for 45 days.



2

Violation of International Norms

Ramallah is in Area A of the West Bank, governed by the Palestinian Authority under the Oslo Accords. Israel's shutdown of Al Jazeera in Ramallah is illegal, even under its own laws, as the area is outside Israel's jurisdiction.

3

Al Jazeera's Role in Region

Founded in 1996, Al Jazeera has become a significant media outlet in the Arab world and internationally. Its coverage has often been criticized by various countries and political groups for being too aligned with the Qatari government's views. The network has faced restrictions in the past, notably during the 2017 Qatar sanctions, when Saudi Arabia and Bahrain blamed it for biased reporting.



Al Jazeera Digital wins Edward R. Murrow Awards for Gaza war coverage. It has been honored with four prestigious Edward R. Murrow Awards by the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) of America, recognizing its extensive and in-depth coverage of Israel's ongoing war on the besieged strip.



Gaza tower housing Al Jazeera and AP collapses after an Israeli missile strike on Gaza city on May 15, 2021.

● MOHAMMED SALEM/REUTERS

