NEWS RELEASE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Occupied Palestinian Territory

UN Human Rights in Occupied Palestinian Territory

Ramallah

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killing of journalists in Gaza

The UN Human Rights Office reiterates its calls on Israeli Defense forces to minimize the impact of military operations on civilians in Gaza and to end the killing of journalists. On 31 July, 27-year-old Al Jazeera correspondent Ismail Al Ghoual and 26-year-old photographer Rami Al-Rifi were struck and killed in an Israeli Air Force drone attack on their car on Aydia Street near Al Shifa Medical Complex, which also killed a Palestinian boy on his bicycle. According to the information available, they had been reporting on the assassination of Ismail Haniyah near his house in Ash Shati' Camp, west of Gaza City, but were relocating after a building adjacent to Ismail Haniyah's house, where journalists had gathered to report on the assassination, was hit. According to the Journalist Syndicate in Gaza, the killings of Al Ghoual and Rifi brought the total number of journalists killed in Gaza since 7 October 2023 to 157. OHCHR has raised similar serious concerns about killings of journalists in the past in the context of the current escalations in Gaza.

OHCHR reiterate that journalists are civilians and thus protected from attack under international humanitarian law unless they are directly participating in hostilities and that the intentional killing of journalists is a war crime. Palestinian journalists play a critical role in informing the world of the reality in Gaza, where Israel has not allowed international journalists to enter. Silencing Palestinian journalists conceals the shocking reality in Gaza.

ENDS

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