



Nederlandse
Vereniging van
Journalisten

By mail to: consular@hague.mfa.gov.il
Johan de Wittlaan 5 2517 JR Den Haag

To the Ambassador of Israël in the Kingdom of the Netherlands
His Excellency Mr. Modi Moshe Ephraim

16 juli 2024

Re: Protecting journalists and press freedom in the Israel-Gaza war

Dear mr Ephraim,

Thank you for your letter of June 26th 2024, responding to our concerns and request for a visit to your embassy already sent on the 19th of March of this year.

We took note of your letter in which you state that Israel is committed to the rule of law and that the IDF's operations are carried out in accordance with international law.

We are grateful that you passed on the information, mentioned in our letter of March 19th, to relevant authorities and that the deadly incidents involving journalists in Lebanon and Gaza are under review. We would appreciate to keep us informed about the ongoing Israeli investigations. From your letter it is unclear which relevant authorities are involved in these investigations.

As far as we know the Fact Finding and Assessment Mechanism (FFAM) has not responded yet to the grave allegations that in some cases journalists were killed by targeted IDF fire. We want to draw your attention to a recently published report by a collective of investigative journalists from 13 prominent news organizations, among which Le Monde, The Guardian and Der Spiegel. This report, "The Gaza Project", details the circumstances of the death of more than 100 journalists during the first 4 months of the war. The investigation points to a chilling pattern and suggest that some of the journalists may have been targeted even though they were identifiable as press.

In your letter you stress that Israel recognizes the importance of press freedom and safeguarding journalists when they carry out their duties. In that light we would like to discuss with you the heavy restrictions te IDF imposed on journalists to enter Gaza and to report independently from the conflict zone. These restrictions are affecting the work of Dutch and International media reporting on the war in Gaza.

Earlier this week, you have received an open letter from more than 60 highly recognized media, urging Israel to give journalists independent access to Gaza [Media organizations urge Israel to open access to Gaza - Committee to Protect Journalists \(cpj.org\)](#)

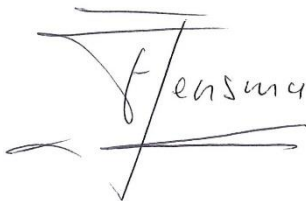
As a professional association, representing more than 8.000 Dutch journalists, we would appreciate the opportunity to elaborate on our point of view about the targeting of our colleagues and the obstruction or denial of free access of journalists to Gaza.

We are looking forward to receiving further clarifications regarding the death and injury of journalists as mentioned in our earlier letter and in the Gaza Project-report.

Cordially yours,

On behalf of the NVJ

Folkert Jensma, Chairman of the board NVJ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'f. Jensma', with a stylized flourish above and below the text.

Thomas Bruning, General Secretary NVJ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bruning', with a large, sweeping flourish above the text.

Nederlandse Vereniging van Journalisten
Postadres: Postbus 75997, 1070 AZ Amsterdam
Bezoekadres: Johannes Vermeerstraat 22, 1071 DR Amsterdam