

Resolution on the Targeting of Media Workers in the Israel-Gaza War

Resolution #2025.19

WHEREAS, Israel’s campaigns in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon have killed at least 185 journalists and media workers since October 2023, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), making it the deadliest period for media workers since the organization began collecting data in 1992; and,

WHEREAS, nowhere is safe for journalists in the 45-square kilometer Gaza Strip, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF), whether they are in press tents near hospitals, out in the open, or sheltering with family members; and,

WHEREAS, at least 42 of the journalists killed in the Gaza Strip were clearly killed while covering events there, according to RSF; and,

WHEREAS, this year, the RSF states that the Israeli military has stepped up attacks on the press in the West Bank as it increased its operations in the occupied Palestinian territory; and,

WHEREAS, outside of Palestine, the Israeli military targeted journalists covering their war against Hezbollah in Lebanon. On October 13, 2023, the Israeli army struck an area where seven clearly-identified journalists were covering an exchange of fire between the army and Hezbollah, leaving one dead and injuring several others. On October 25, 2024, an Israeli jet bombed a guest house hosting 18 media workers, killing three and injuring three more; and,

WHEREAS, as Israel’s wars against its neighbors expanded, the Israeli air force bombed the headquarters of Iranian state TV during a live broadcast on June 16, 2025, killing one journalist and one media worker, according to CPJ; and,

WHEREAS, article 79 of the Geneva Conventions states that “journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians” and “shall be protected as such under the Conventions”; and,

WHEREAS, news media, even when used for propaganda purposes, cannot be considered “legitimate targets” under the standards of international law; and,

WHEREAS, the Israeli government has disregarded obligations to protect journalists and gone as far as explicitly threatening the safety of working journalists; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, urges the National AFL-CIO Executive Board to adopt the following position:

We stand in solidarity with journalists and media workers in Gaza, Israel, and across the Middle East and condemn attacks on them and their families;

Hamas and Israel must adhere to standards of international law and Geneva Convention rules of warfare and cease threats to media members who work to inform the public about the devastating conflict at great risk to themselves and their families;

We call upon the Trump administration to affirm protections for press freedoms and take steps to protect media members in the region; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, shall communicate this resolution to its affiliates, the AFL-CIO Executive Council, and the National AFL-CIO, and actively seek to inform and educate them about the humanitarian impact of the conflict, the importance of respecting international law, and the need for a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.