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By Guillermo Martínez

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Journalists of different nationalities "shelter" their colleagues in Gaza: "These are targeted killings"



Sources: La Marea [Photo: A moment from the event held at the Círculo de Bellas Artes, in Madrid. ÁLVARO MINGUITO]

At the event, held in Madrid, they denounced the "genocide" and "war crimes" that Israel is committing in Gaza.

All the participants in the event, united in the Círculo de Bellas Artes de Madrid, have sent a clear message to society: **Israel is selectively killing journalists**. Since October 7, when Hamas launched its attack and Israel began the massacre in Gaza, some 14,000 people have been killed in the Gaza Strip, including which include **fifty informants**. Never

before have so many journalists been killed in a conflict zone in such a short period of time.

"We need to come together and shelter ourselves in this anguish but, above all, **we need to support our colleagues who** are in the Gaza Strip and who are living this situation in absolute solitude," said the Minister. Journalist Patricia Simón, master of ceremonies of this choral event, About a hundred people have joined. She is one of the communicators which promoted the manifesto that led to the event, signed by **some 1,100 journalists from different countries and 30 national and international organizations.**

It calls for compliance with **international humanitarian law**. a ceasefire to ensure the safety and security of the civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Israel; as well as the release of hostages held by Hamas. Also It called on the **Israeli army to "guarantee the safety** of journalists who are working in the Gaza Strip and to allow the entry of journalists." the international press, thus respecting the right to information."

Simón stressed that at least 16 of the journalists killed by the have been in their homes, and many others when they returned from reporting or They got around by car. **"This tells us that these are targeted killings," he said.**

Journalist **Hassan Al** was present at the event through a video he sent from Palestine. His message stressed that most **of the communicators have lost their equipment**, while at the same time he made a call for the international press to be able to access the Strip. "The fact that there is **an international press** there not only serves to have more eyes and ears to tell us what is going on. what happens, but Israel's murder of a journalist foreign countries would have a greater impact that, unfortunately, they do not have the **killings of Palestinian journalists,**" Simon said.

Journalist **Olga Rodríguez**, also a specialist in in Human Rights, she was the next to take the floor. During In the first part of his speech, the silence in the room was I almost cut as **I read the names of each and every one of the murdered journalists.** "A more informed society is less manipulable. We have **to praise the journalistic work** of our colleagues, as well as that of health personnel. who are risking their lives and until the last moment they want to stay in the their patients," he said.

The Other War: Control of Information

She was followed by **Nuria Tesón**, a correspondent in Egypt, the place to which many eyes are directed as it is the country on which the **Rafah border crossing** depends. "The only journalists who have been able to get close to the pass have done so under the full control of the Egyptian authorities," he stressed. Thanks to testimonies like his, society can know that wounded people who manage to get out of Gaza, except for premature babies, have not been They move directly to Cairo as before October 7. "**They try to control information, to silence what's going on inside**, and it's very difficult to report from a place you don't know if you'll be able to get out of," she said.

The sadness, helplessness and seriousness of the events turned the faces of the public when a **woman living in the West Bank** explained the consequences that the crisis is also having for them. massacre committed by Israel. This communicator is one of the members of the of a radio station made only by women, from where they have decided to share with Spain **extremely harsh images**, but among which was also superimposed the solidarity that only the Weak, or weakened, they know how to give to weaker others.

Razan Malash is a Palestinian journalist based in Spain, which was also present at the event: "No place is safe for anyone in Gaza. There's no water, there's no electricity There's no food, there's no fuel. The journalistic work in these conditions are very complicated," he explained at the beginning of his intervention. Without hesitation, he has claimed that **Israel has committed war crimes**. "Journalists in Gaza are the only witnesses to what is happening there. The barbarities that we all see have been recorded with their cameras," he said continued.

A unanimous condemnation by the profession



Photo: Muath Hamed, during his speech. ÁLVARO MINGUITO

[Muath Hamed](#) was the next to speak. He is a correspondent Palestinian leader in Spain and assures that the Israeli offensive against the press It did not begin on October 7, just like the *apartheid, genocide and occupation* suffered by the Palestinians. "I worked in Palestine as a journalist from 2010 to 2014 for a Turkish agency. The Israelis **shot me six times on camera**, three shots were documented," he said before showing the marks of one of those shots on his right arm.

In addition, Hamed has criticized the "**double standards**" with the that the actions of both sides are measured. "To the Palestinians who They call them terrorists. The world just wants to see the Palestinians as good victims, not otherwise, when **they have the right to fight against the occupation**," he added.

The co-founder of *Baynana*, **Okba Mohammad**, representing the **Press and Media Section of CNT Madrid**, He recalled that "what is happening now in Gaza is a scenario similar to that of the what we experienced in Syria." He is well aware of what that statement means Supposed. Mohammad, as a Syrian, has mentioned that the strategy is to "We see a **very well-structured campaign of disinformation** and continuous propaganda production to convince the community that fight terrorism, even Israel came to recognize that journalists in Gaza were terrorists and so there was a than to treat them."

Daniela Pastrana, Mexican journalist and member of the Network of Journalists of A Pie, has intervened telematically: "All Journalists around the world must claim that the exercise of **this profession should not lead to a death sentence**," in his own words. **Communicator Chiara Avesani**, Italian, also participated in the meeting online. In His speech stressed the importance of the condemnation of the genocide of Israel against the civilian population in general and the journalists, particularly on the part of the profession, must be **unanimous**.

As the event neared its hour-long mark, **Rodriguez** took the floor again to highlight the attempts of the **Global Conscience Convoy**. This initiative, which comes from Egypt's journalists' union, Try to organize a trip to ground zero so you can tell what happened there Happens. Two **representatives of the trade union have** recorded videos expressly to speak at this event. "It is important to make visible that the border in **Egypt is closed**, that the blockade is total and that this contributes to collective punishment," the journalist reiterated.

Entities call for action at the government level

Edith Rodríguez, vice-president of **Reporters Without Borders**, He stated that "it is time for governments to speak and act, They are the ones who must put the right words to denounce what they are doing. it's happening in Gaza." In this regard, RSF has already **filed complaints of war crimes by Israel**. This is the third time that the self-styled state has been taken to the Criminal Court International. "The pain is indelible and history will hold us to account for him," he concluded.

The general secretary of the **Spanish Federation of Journalists' Unions** and member of the Madrid Journalists' Union, **Agustín Yanel**, focused his speech on the unprecedented number of journalists killed in a conflict. He was followed by **Yolanda Polo**, Head of Communication of the Coordinator of NGOs of Spain: "We live in pretty dark times. The murder of journalists is something terrible for all of humanity and **has very worrying consequences for the entire planet**," he added.

From **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**, **Raquel González**, its institutional representative in Spain, recalled that it was also Many health workers are being killed by

Israeli bombardments of Gaza's hospitals. "**Denunciation and testimony** are in MSF's DNA. We are having the highest degree of follow-up on networks and requests for interviews by the **direct witnesses that we have in the area**, but this time words are not stopping those deaths," he reflected.

The international collective **Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions** (BDS) against Israel has been present with **Iván Vázquez**: "We want to overthrow *apartheid* in Palestine with the same tools used to overthrow it in South Africa. **We call for the dismantling of the colonies**, the end of the illegal West Bank wall, full rights for all and that their right to return be respected," he said. Likewise BDS has three lines of action: **academic, cultural and economic boycott**. **Axa, Puma and Carrefour** have been the brands pronounced by Vázquez as some of those that currently support Israel the most.

Finally, Amnesty International's (AI) Head of Middle East Campaigns, **Carlos de las Heras**, closed the event with an important message: "Perhaps now these reports that journalists in Gaza are making will be silenced and will not come to light, but in the future they **will be essential to prove to justice** and with tremendously valuable documents **who these war criminals are** and that all this is not forgotten."

Source: <https://www.lamarea.com/2023/11/23/periodistas-de-diferentes-nacionalidades-arropan-a-sus-companeros-en-gaza-son-asesinatos-selectivos/>

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