

Following the killing of Palestinian journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, and the claims from Israeli authorities and associated lobby groups, the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network confirms the following:

1. Shireen Abu Akleh was a veteran journalist, who had years of experience working in conflict zones, particularly Israel and Palestine
2. On the day she was killed, Shireen was clearly identifiable as a journalist, and had “PRESS” emblazoned across her flak jacket
3. Journalists alongside Shireen [provided statements](#) confirming they had to seek shelter from Israeli sniper fire
4. In [its initial investigations](#), leading Israeli human rights organisation, B’Tselem, confirmed it was not possible that the gunfire which killed Shireen came from Palestinians
5. The bullet hole was just below the edge of Shireen’s metal helmet, an incredibly unlikely outcome for ‘random firing’
6. The International Federation of Journalists [recently submitted a case](#) to the International Criminal Court (ICC) alleging that Israel’s systematic targeting of journalists working in Palestine and its failure to properly investigate killings of media workers amount to war crimes
7. Palestinians are calling for an investigation into Shireen’s killing, but reject Israel’s direct involvement in favour of it being led by the ICC

More details about Shireen and the details surrounding her killing are available at:

- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/11/al-jazeeras-shireen-abu-akleh>, and
- <https://www.jonathan-cook.net/2022-05-13/shireen-abu-akleh-executed-message-palestinians/>

The Israeli military and authorities routinely use the falsehood of asserting “friendly fire” when Palestinian journalists are killed. The Palestinian Journalists Union state that 55 Palestinian journalists have been killed by Israeli forces since the year 2000 without anyone being held to account.

We join the call for a thorough international investigation through the ICC, and for an end to the persecution of Palestinian journalists.