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## Press Release

### **JSI Calls on the ICC to Investigate the Assassination of Aljazeera's Shireen Abu Akleh**

Journalists Sanctuary International is reminding and urging the International Criminal Court (ICC) to take real interest in the cold-blooded killing of Aljazeera journalist Shireen Abu Ahkleh.

JSI further encourages the ICC to take tangible investigative steps to unravel the 'plain misery' surrounding the killing of the journalist.

We also observe with pain, how the tragedy appears to get colder with every passing day as the news media turn the page to focus on other matters. The killing, which was allegedly carried out by an Israeli sniper, has been a blot on the military wing of the Israeli government, with calls by the international community for accountability.

Several members of the US Congress have also called for an independent investigation into the killing. However more than a year after the cold-blooded killing, there seems to be almost indiscernible movement on the part of the International Criminal Court in a murder that can easily be linked to continuing Israeli abuses against Palestinians.

Despite acknowledging "high probability" an Israeli soldier killed the Palestinian-American journalist, the Israeli government has consistently made it clear to Al Jazeera, the Palestinian people, and the journalism fraternity for that matter, that no Israeli soldier will be questioned let alone be punished for the shooting.

The assassination of the journalist who was affectionately called the voice of Palestine, has worsened the already badly strained relations between Israel and the Palestinians. JSI considers the killing of Shireen and attack on journalists anywhere in the world as an affront to press freedom and democracy everywhere.

The attack, and or killing of one journalist is one too many, and the International Criminal Court (ICC) must demonstrate its commitment to the United Nations (UN) Article 19 which guarantees that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers".

An attack on journalists anywhere in the world is without a doubt an attack on Article 19, and JSI urges the revered International Court to move with the same sense of alacrity with which it has dealt with other human rights violations in other parts of the world.

Failure to get accountability for the family of Shireen Abu Akleh, Al Jazeera news network, the Palestinian people, and the journalism world on this matter, will embolden others within and outside the jurisdiction to attack, maim, and kill 'the messengers' if they know they can get away with it. The only way to not silence the messenger, is by amplifying their voices by guaranteeing them accountability.

END.

SIGNED

Latif Iddrisu  
Founder/President