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IFJ Quietly Removes 38 Names From Its "Killed Gazan Journalists" List

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) quietly removed 38 names from its "killed Gazan journalists" list.

In July, the Washington Free Beacon reported that IFJ removed nine names, so this newer opaque house-cleaning is a nonetheless major story.

Sometime between Oct. 3 and Oct. 15, the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalist (IFJ) quietly removed no fewer than 37 names from its "killed Gazan journalists" list, reducing their number from 237 to 200.

(Note: the figures appearing in the IFJ's archived webpages were 240 and 203, respectively. This is because they counted two fatalities twice — No.65 and No.68 in the Oct. 15 list are of the same person with his name spelled a bit differently, and so are No.183 and No.184. The list also falsely features a single West Bank fatality, No. 89. By Nov. 6, IFJ corrected the two doubles but the West Bank fatality still appears).

34 of the 37 removed names were of terrorists, endorsed by Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as members and mourned by their families and friends as "Jihad fighters" on social media:

1. **Mohammad Jarghoun** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its al-Qassam Battalions (June 2026). Documented with a headband and in uniform during military activity. Mourned by his brothers and friends as a "martyred Jihad fighter" who died in combat, "advancing, not retreating [...] on the battlefields" (October 2023 – October 2024). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026). These death circumstances have particular significance since he died on Oct. 7, 2023.

2. **Mohammed Fayez Yousef Abu Matar** — Mourned by his relative and other local social media accounts as a "martyred Jihad fighter" (October 2023). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he was "not a journalist or a media worker" (May 2026).

3. **Jamal Al-Faqaawi** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (March 2025 – June 2026). Documented in uniform.

4. **Mohammad Fayez Al Hassani** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred commander" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (February 2026). Mourned by his relative as a "martyred commander" (October 2023). Documented in uniform.

5. **Yasser Abu Namous** — Mourned by his widow and sister as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of Hamas's al-Qassam Battalions (June 2024 – June 2025). Documented in uniform. Described as an al-Qassam member by a local Khan Younes Telegram account which documents Hamas fatalities exclusively and therefore appears to be a Hamas-affiliated platform as well (July 2026). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

6. **Huthaifa Najjar** — Documented with Hamas's al-Qassam Battalions headband and in uniform during military activity (April 2026). Quietly introduced to the IFJ list only in July 2026.

7. **Yahya Abu Manih** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its al-Qassam Battalions (September 2026). Documented with a headband and in uniform during military activity. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

8. **Ahmed Al-Qara** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its al-Qassam Battalions (November 2025). Mourned by local social media accounts as a "martyred commander" and "Jihad fighter" (April 2024 – December 2024). Removed from the CPJ list after it determined that he was not a journalist or a media worker (September 2026).

9. **Yacoub Bursh** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its al-Qassam Battalions (May 2026). Documented with a headband and in uniform during military activity. Mourned by local social media accounts as a "martyred Jihad fighter" (February 2025). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "participated in combat" (May 2026).

10. **Khamis Salem Deab** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (July 2026). Documented in uniform. Mourned by his nephew as a PIJ "fighter" (November 2024).

11. **Mohamed Nabil Al-Zaq** — Documented speaking to "my brethren in the [Islamic Jihad (PIJ)'s] Jerusalem Brigades" while armed (November 2024). Endorsed by PIJ as a "martyred commander" and a member of the Brigades (March 2026). Mourned by his relatives and other local social media accounts as a "martyred Jihad fighter," a combatant and a member of the Brigades (November 2023 – September 2024). Documented in uniform while armed. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

12. **Assem Al-Barsh** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its al-Qassam Battalions (August 2026). Documented in uniform during military activity. Mourned by his cousins and other local social media accounts as a "martyred Jihad fighter" (November 2023 – May 2025). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

13. **Mostafa Bakeer** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its al-Qassam Battalions (April 2026). Documented with a headband and in uniform during military activity. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

14. **Abdallah Darwish** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its al-Qassam Battalions (Oct. 2024). Mourned by a local social media account as a participant of the Be'eri massacre and kidnappings on Oct. 7 (Feb. 2025). Documented with a headband and uniform during the massacre. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "participated in combat" (May 2026).

15. **Hassan Farajallah** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred commander", "martyed Jihad fighter" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (December 2023 – March 2026). Documented in uniform. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

16. **Mohammad Nasser Abu Hweidy** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred commander" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (March 2026). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "participated in combat" (May 2026).

17. **Mohammad Raslan Shenyora** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its al-Qassam Battalions (August 2026). Documented with a headband and in uniform during military activity. Mourned by his brother as a "martyred Jihad fighter" (June 2024). Quietly introduced to the IFJ list only in July 2026.

18. **Mohamed El Sayed Abu Skheil** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred commander" and a member of PIJ's Jerusalem Brigades (April 2026 – May 2026). Documented in uniform. Mourned by his friends as a "martyred Jihad fighter" who died in combat, "advancing, not retreating" (April 2024). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026). These death circumstances have particular significance since he died fighting inside Gaza's Shifa hospital.

19. **Mohamed Adel Abu Skheil** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of PIJ's Jerusalem Brigades (June 2026). Documented in uniform. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

20. **Tarek El Sayed Abu Skheil** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (June 2026). Documented in uniform. Mourned by local social media accounts as a "martyred Jihad fighter" (April 2024 – February 2025). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

21. **Mohammed Bassam Al Jamal** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred field commander" and a member of its al-Qassam Battalions (June 2026). Documented with a headband and in uniform during military activity. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

22. **Salem Abu Toyour** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred commander" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (March 2026). Documented in uniform. Mourned by local social media accounts as a PIJ member (March 2025). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

23. **Baha Akasha** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred Jihad fighter" during the endorsement video of another "martyr" (01:29; September 2026). Documented in uniform during military activity. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he was "not a journalist or a media worker" (May 2026).

24. **Hael Al-Najjar** — Endorsed by Hamas as a "martyred field commander" and a member of its al-Qassam Battalions (July 2026). Documented with a headband and in uniform during military activity.

25. **Mohammed Al-Sakani** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (June 2026). Documented in uniform. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

26. **Rizq Abu Shakyan** — Documented in his own recorded will in Hamas's al-Qassam Battalions uniform while armed, then mourned as a "martyred Jihad fighter" by local social media accounts (February 2026). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "participated in combat" (May 2026).

27. **Hussam al-Dabbaka** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred commander" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (June 2026). Documented in uniform. Mourned by a relative as a "martyred Jihad fighter" (January 2025). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

28. **Mahdi Al-Mamluk** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred commander" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (February 2026). Documented in uniform during military activity. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "participated in combat" (May 2026).

29. **Ahmed Abu Sharia** — Endorsed by al-Mujahideen Battalions as a "martyred field commander," a "Jihad fighter" and a member (November 2024). Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

30. **Ibrahim Sheikh Ali** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (May 2026). Documented in uniform.

31. **Hilmi al-Faqaawi** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (June 2026). Documented in uniform. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

32. **Aziz Al-Hajjar** — Endorsed by Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred Jihad fighter" of its Jerusalem Brigades (August 2026). Documented in uniform.

33. **Ahmed Abu Eisha** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred commander" and a member of its Jerusalem Brigades (June 2026). Documented in uniform. Removed from the CPJ's list after it determined that he "engaged in combat" (September 2026).

34. **Hassan Abu Warda** — Endorsed by Islamic Jihad (PIJ) as a "martyred Jihad fighter" and a member of its Jerusalem brigades (August 2026). Documented in uniform.

The other three names — Duaa Jabbour, Salma Mkhaimar and Mossab Ashour — were already removed from another list, the one which the New York-Based Committee for Protection of Journalists (CPJ) had compiled, between May and September 2026. The identical reason the CPJ gave for each of them was that it was revealed they were "not journalists or media workers."

Before the IFJ's mass removal of names last month, it quietly removed nine other names from its list between June and August 2026. Six of them were endorsed by Hamas and PIJ and mourned by their families and friends as "Jihad fighters"; this was already covered by the Washington Free Beacon.

A 38th name, Zakaria Al-Madhoun, was removed by Nov. 6, further reducing the total number to 199. He was not endorsed by either Hamas or the PIJ as a member, nor was he mourned by his family and friends as a "Jihad fighter" on social media. The CPJ list never included him.

The 2018 case of Yasser Tawil

This is not the first time that Gazans labeled by the IFJ as "journalists" turned out to be terrorists. In October 2018, the IFJ claimed that "journalist" Yasser Tawil was "attacked [...] by live ammunition in the Gaza Strip" as he was allegedly covering the Great Return March. According to Hamas-run news agency Al-Rai at the time, he was a "photojournalist."

But as the Hamas-affiliated website Felesteen revealed on Oct. 10, 2023, the same "journalist" Yasser Tawil on whom "news agencies relied as a photographer for scenes" from the 2018 Return Marches, was also a member of Hamas's al-Qassam Battalions who invaded Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 (three days before Felesteen published its own story about him) and was killed there.

Tawil's own wife, herself a so-called "journalist", also confirmed that her husband, whom she kept calling a "journalist" even in 2024, had died "engaged in Jihad", adding: "Allah has granted what you wished for, [a death] in confrontation, undeterred, immersed [in the task], massacring Allah's enemies."