Targeting the Truth: Condemning the Killing of Amal Khalil and Calling for an International Investigation

We unequivocally condemn the latest Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon, which resulted in the killing of journalist Amal Khalil and the severe injury of her colleague while they were reporting from the field. These were not incidental casualties of war – they were journalists performing their duty, and they were targeted in the course of that duty.

The pattern emerging from these incidents is deeply alarming. Reports that journalists were struck after arriving at the site of an earlier attack, and that subsequent strikes obstructed rescue operations, raise grave concerns about a systematic disregard for the protection of media professionals. If confirmed, such actions constitute a direct assault on press freedom and a dangerous escalation in the targeting of those who document conflict.

Journalists are civilians. They are protected under international humanitarian law. Any attack against them – whether deliberate or through reckless disregard – represents a serious violation that demands immediate accountability. The killing of a journalist is not collateral damage; it is an attempt to silence truth and control the narrative of war.

As organizations representing media, international dialogue, and economic cooperation, we stress that the erosion of press freedom in conflict zones has far-reaching implications – not

only for journalism, but for transparency, accountability, and global stability.

We therefore call for:

- An immediate, independent, and transparent international investigation
- Full accountability for those responsible at all levels
- Immediate guarantees for the protection of journalists and unhindered access for medical and rescue teams
- Urgent action by the international community to end the culture of impunity surrounding crimes against journalists

The continued targeting of journalists, and the obstruction of rescue efforts, reflects a dangerous normalization of violations that must be confronted decisively.

What is at stake is not only the safety of journalists in South Lebanon, but the very integrity of truth in times of war. When journalists are silenced, the world is left in darkness.

This must not stand.

Dr. Waiel Awwad
President of International Association of Press Clubs

23/04/2026

© 2021 FCC South Asia. All Rights Reserved