OPEN LETTER FROM THE IFJ TO THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

Copy to:
M. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations
Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director General, UNESCO

RAMALLAH/JERUSALEM

At a meeting of its Executive Committee in Ramallah (Palestine), the International Federation of Journalists, the world’s largest journalists organization, representing 600,000 journalists in 146 countries organized a solidarity action on Saturday 17 November at 12 noon, in support of Palestinian journalists and its affiliate the Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate (PJS).

After having held a brief press conference the IFJ’s global leadership and a number of Palestinian journalists walked peacefully a few hundred metres along the main road towards the Qalandia checkpoint.

At about 100 metres from this important entry point to Jerusalem the Israeli army, with no warning and no discussion, fired around 10 tear gas grenades towards the group, injuring one of the members of the IFJ’s Executive Committee on the shoulder and causing many others to choke.

In a peaceful manner and still well within the Palestinian Territories the IFJ delegation turned and retraced their steps along the road in a bid to escape the Israeli gas attack.

The IFJ urgently demands a response from the Israeli Prime Minister to this unprovoked physical assault and to these violations of freedom of expression and freedom of movement.

No democratic state worthy of the name can react in this way.
Founded in 1926, the International Federation of Journalists strongly condemns the Israeli government following these military attacks and demands an explanation.

The IFJ urges the Prime Minister to afford full recognition to the professionalism of the journalist members of the Federation, holders of the International Press Card, the only international accreditation recognized in 145 countries – but not in Israel.

Ramallah, Saturday 17 November 2018.