

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian Media

The League of Arab States commemorated International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian Media on 11 May in accordance with the decision made by the Council of Arab Information Ministers during its 52nd session held in Cairo in September 2022.

His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed Rachid Khattabi, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Media and Communications Sector, said the Day, which coincides with the tragic assassination of Palestinian journalist with Al Jazeera Shireen Abu Akleh, serves as a rallying call to the international community, media professionals, intellectuals, and human rights organisations to show solidarity with Palestinian media outlets against the Israeli authorities' practices and systematic plans aimed at erasing the roots of Palestinian identity and distorting the authenticity of their cultural and spiritual heritage, particularly in East Jerusalem.

Ambassador Khattabi stressed that Palestinian media professionals are subjected to severe violations of their physical safety with no regard for the regulations intended to protect them while carrying out their professional duties in armed conflicts. He underscored the importance of treating them in accordance with international humanitarian law, particularly the provisions of Article 79 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions.

Ambassador Khattabi reiterated that the Palestinian cause remains at the core of the strategy of Arab media action. He pointed out that the League of Arab States took the initiative from the outset to condemn this heinous criminal act and support the Palestinian initiative to commemorate the memory of Abu Akleh and other media professionals who have given their lives with utmost selflessness, as a symbol of their unwavering devotion to the defence of human principles and values.