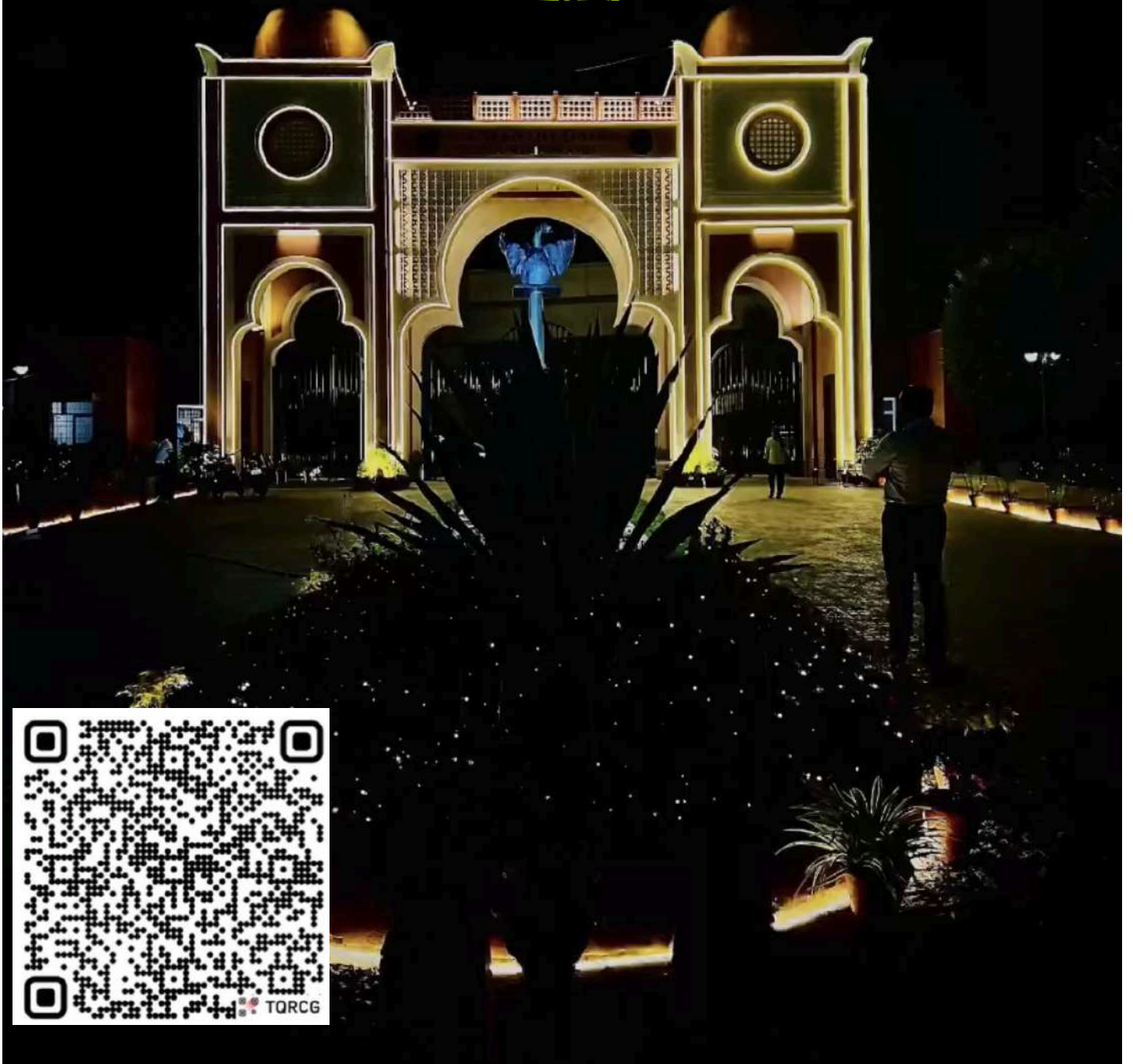


CENTRE FOR WEST ASIAN STUDIES

JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

Al-Nahda

The West Asian Herald



TQRCG

AL - NAHDA

Vol.9

CENTRE FOR WEST ASIAN STUDIES
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA



AL- NAHDA

Al-Nahda Editorial Team

Centre for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

The Centre for West Asian Studies is proud to present the Al-Nahda Editorial Team a vibrant ensemble of students and faculty united by creativity, passion, and a deep curiosity for the world around them. Guided by the Subject Association, this team transforms Al-Nahda into far more than a newsletter; it is a dynamic stage for fresh perspectives, thoughtful dialogue, and imaginative expression on the diverse issues shaping West Asia and beyond.

Each edition reflects their unwavering commitment to insightful analysis, cultural exploration, and the joy of learning. From in-depth articles and interviews to reflections on art, history, and society, the team brings the region's stories to life with clarity, nuance, and flair. Al-Nahda is not just a publication it is a celebration of ideas, a forum for intellectual engagement, and a space where curiosity meets creativity, inspiring readers to think, question, and explore.

Subject Association of CWAS, Jamia Millia Islamia

President: Prof. Hemayun Akhtar Nazmi
Director, Centre for West Asian Studies, JMI

Vice President: Md Arif,
CWAS, Jamia Millia Islamia

General Secretary: Sadiya Inam,
CWAS, Jamia Millia Islamia

Chief Editors

Prof. Hemayun Akhtar Nazmi

Editorial Advisor

Prof. Sebistan N
Course Advisor,
CWAS, JMI

General Editors

1. Md Arif
2. Sadiya Inam
3. Moin Aftab
4. Mohammad Zafar Iqbal
5. Umar Nassir

Editorial Assistants

1. Istekhar Alam
2. Abu Horairah

Graphic Designers

1. Md Arif
2. Moin Aftab
3. Ali Ahamad
4. Mohammad Safwan



AL- NAHDA

The West Asian Herald

Al-Nahda Editorial Team

جامعہ ملیہ اسلامیہ JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA



President: Prof.H.A. NAZMI
CWAS, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA



Editorial Advisor: Prof. Sebastian N
CWAS, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA



Vice President: MD ARIF,
CWAS, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA



General Secretary: SADIYA INAM,
CWAS, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

The Fate of Journalism in the Light of Recent Killings in Gaza

Naila Qamar,
Centre for West Asian Studies,
Jamia Millia Islamia

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information through any media, regardless of frontiers. However, laws are often met with blatant and reckless disregard. The fatalities of the Palestinian journalists since October 7 exemplify the ongoing institutionalization of media silencing.

“I urge you not to let chains silence you, nor borders restrain you. Be bridges towards the liberation of the land and its people, until the sun of dignity and freedom rises over stolen homeland, Do not forget Gaza.”

These are the final words of a Palestinian journalist and videographer, Anas Jamal Mahmoud Al-Sharif, published posthumously on X. He was among the four other journalists killed by an Israeli airstrike. In his last words, Anas emphasized raising one's voice and not remaining silent. Yet ironically, many others like him were silenced in some way or another. On 25 August 2025, five Palestinian journalists were killed in an Israeli double-tap strike on Nasser Medical Complex in southern Gaza. According to various sources, more than 200 journalists have been killed during the first 22 months of the war. The killings of the Al Jazeera journalists have been repeatedly justified by calling them Hamas propagandists and terrorists. Consequently, the question arises as to how they intend to justify the massacre of innocent women and children? Are they also Hamas correspondents? Therefore, this argument is baseless as there is plenty of evidence that shows otherwise.

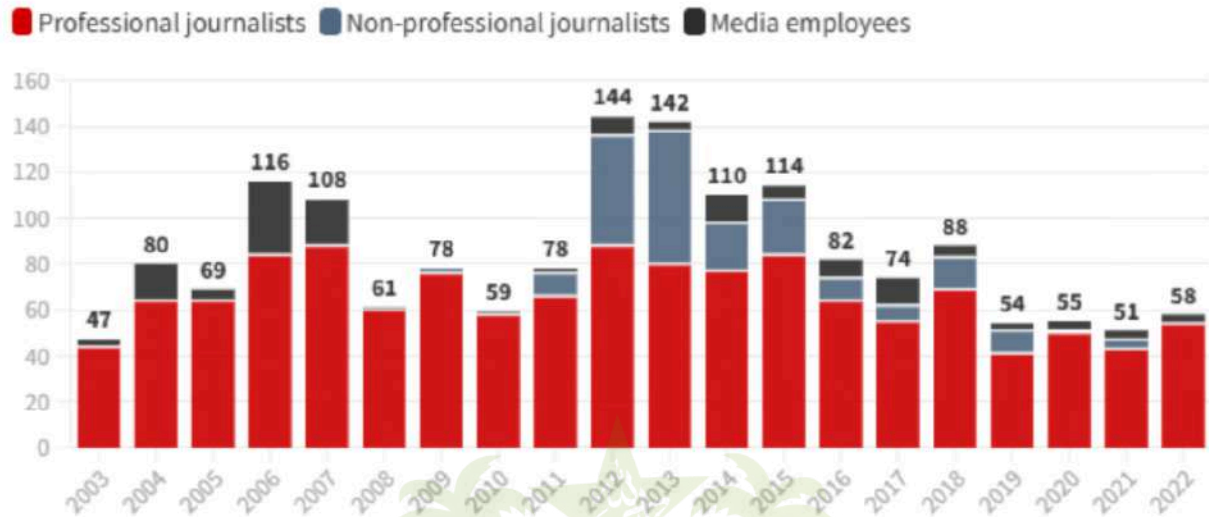
As Israel has banned any independent foreign correspondents or international journalists from entering Gaza, this could be termed as a hegemonic attempt to curtail press freedom. In an article, Youmna El Sayed, a correspondent at Al Jazeera English, stated that, “This is how Israel's war on Palestinian journalism works: first, it eliminates the voice; then it erases the family; and finally, it seeks to bury the story”. This is exactly what happens when tyranny does not want to be questioned and therefore can go to every possible extent to suppress it.

Throughout history, there have been plenty of instances that show how a heinous ritual of treading upon the voices of truth is prevalent. According to the report published by Reporters Sans Frontiers, 1668 journalists have been killed from 2003 to 2022, which is an average of 80 journalists per year in the past 20 years. These numbers are not coming directly from the war zones only; there have been killings in the so-called “zones at peace” as well. It includes a variety of cases, such as journalists who have been killed for reporting against crime, corruption, hate speech, misinformation, and political conflicts, women journalists who were raising their concerns against women's rights violations, and also the journalists who were carrying out exposés of the illegal activities of non-state actors.

AL- NAHDA

An average of 80 journalists killed every year for the past 20 years

Number of journalists killed worldwide since 2003



Source : Reporters Without Borders 

On October 2, 2018, Jamal Ahmed Hamza Khashoggi, a former editor-in-chief of Saudi newspaper Al-Watan and a columnist for the Washington Post was killed by a team of Saudi military and intelligence officials. The motive for his killing appears evident, as he had become increasingly critical of the Saudi regime. On October 16, 2017, Daphne Caruana Galizia died close to her home when a car bomb was detonated inside her vehicle. She was a Maltese writer, journalist, blogger, and anti-corruption activist who was well known for her investigation of the Panama Papers. Victim of a crime syndicate that he was investigating, Chauncey Bailey, an American journalist, was assassinated on August 2, 2007.

The above-mentioned examples are just like a speck in the sky filled with such incidents. The global prevalence of impunity for the suppression of journalism has worsened the situation. According to the UNESCO observatory reporting, 85% of journalist killings go unpunished as of November 2024.

The world is witnessing a slow erasure of the voices of resistance. The 2025 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders found that more than half of the world's population live in extremely dangerous places where press freedom is in a "very serious" situation. The callous indifference of the world is taking a toll on press freedom as it further strengthens the tyranny to carry forward the systemic silencing. If it continues to happen, then a time will come when baseless claims will be used as a weapon to strangle journalism to death.

Here, one can be reminded of the famous lines by W.B. Yeats:

"Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and
everywhere

The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity."

AL- NAHDA

Refugee Crisis and Regional Instability in West Asia

By Ayesha,
Center For West Asian Studies,
Jamia Millia Islamia

The refugee crisis in West Asia is one of the biggest humanitarian problems in the world today.

Millions of people have been forced to leave their homes due to continuous war, violence and political instability. Countries like Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Palestine and Sudan have faced long conflicts which have made normal life impossible for ordinary people. Civilians are forced to migrate not by choice but to save their lives. This large movement of people has also created instability in the region. A refugee crisis happens when people have no choice but to leave their homes due to violence, fear or lack of basic needs and safety. Ordinary people suffer the most as they leave their homes to survive but even in the countries they move to, life is not easy. Both local leaders and the world are failing to protect human lives. Palestine is one of the most salient examples of forced displacement in West Asia. What is happening in Palestine today is not conflict anymore but a Genocide, especially in Gaza where civilians face continuous bombing, starvation and destruction of homes, hospitals and schools. Entire families have been wiped out and people are forced to flee repeatedly with no refuge to go to. This genocide has created a massive humanitarian disaster and has forced thousands of Palestinians to become refugees. Many survive only on international aid while the violence continues to destabilize the wider region.

Another example of the refugee crisis is Syria and it represents one of the largest refugee crises of modern times. Since 2011, civil war and sectarian violence have destroyed cities and forced millions to leave their country. Millions of Syrians fled to neighboring countries such as Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon etc. Even today Syria remains unstable due to political uncertainty and ongoing violence. As conditions are still unsafe, refugees cannot return home which continues to create pressure on host countries and fuels regional instability.

Sudan is another important case of contemporary instability. In recent years violent clashes between armed groups and political power struggles have forced large numbers of people to flee their homes. Civilians are facing issues like starvation and lack of medical care. The refugee crisis in Sudan has added to regional insecurity and shows how internal conflicts can quickly turn into global humanitarian emergencies. The failure of international institutions and regional leaders is evident as they have allowed genocide and war to continue while prioritizing political and strategic interests over human lives. In order to overcome the crises fomented by this war there must be an immediate end to violence through strong international pressure and ceasefires plus those responsible for war crimes must be held accountable under international law, only then can we hope to see stability and justice in West Asia.

AL- NAHDA



AL-NAHDA

THE WEST ASIAN HERALD



CENTRE FOR WEST ASIAN STUDIES

JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA



ISSUE 9

SUBJECT ASSOCIATION
CENTRE FOR WEST ASIAN STUDIES
IMARAT IBN-KHALDUN, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA