



[A Group of U.S. Senators Urge for Direct American Involvement in Investigating the Killing of Journalist Shireen Abu Akleh as a United Nations Panel and Multiple Reputable Media Outlets All Conclude That Her Death Came at the Hands of Israeli Forces](#)

Congressional calls urging for direct American involvement in investigating the heinous killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh have continued in the face of a United Nations panel and multiple reputable media outlets all concluding that her death came at the hands of Israeli forces. A group of 24 U.S. senators, including Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Tim Kaine (D-VA), and others have submitted a letter to the Biden administration emphasizing the need for American involvement to ensure that all parties have confidence in the probe's findings. In addition to the recent United Nations panel, prominent news organizations such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, and The Associated Press have also found that Abu Akleh was killed by Israeli gunfire. These consistent determinations over the preceding weeks were drawn through the inspection of photo, video, and audio material, witness testimonies, visits to the crime scene, and consultations with independent experts and analysts.

In their letter to President Biden, the group of U.S. senators – led by Van Hollen – expressed the belief that the American government had an obligation to guarantee a comprehensive and fair investigation into the Abu Akleh killing, given its position as a leader in safeguarding press freedom. They also highlighted the fact that Ms. Abu Akleh was an American citizen and that those responsible for her death deserved accountability for the deplorable crime. The letter signatories drew attention to the indisputable video evidence which confirmed that Abu Akleh and her colleagues were clearly wearing helmets and vests identifying themselves as members of the press, which has understandably fueled further outrage at the egregious nature of the killing. Additionally, details have emerged that the group of journalists took all the necessary precautions – even standing in front of the Israeli military convoy before making their way to the entrance of the Jenin refugee camp to ensure that the soldiers knew they were news media representatives. The shameful claim that Abu Akleh may have been killed by errant gunfire from Palestinian militants, blatantly made in an attempt to deflect blame from Israeli forces, has been debunked by the array of examinations so far as well.

On top of the variety of probing entities all concluding that Ms. Abu Akleh's death came at the hands of Israeli soldiers, both CNN and respected Israeli human rights watchdog B'Tselem stated that the evidence they uncovered suggests that the veteran journalist was killed in a targeted attack by Israeli forces. Furthermore, the recent United Nations panel's conclusions included the finding that "several single, seemingly well-aimed bullets" were fired at Abu Akleh and three other journalists from the direction of Israeli soldiers. The United Nations report added that Abu Akleh and her colleagues "had proceeded slowly in order to make their presence visible to the Israeli forces deployed down the street" and that the "findings indicate that no warnings were issued and no (other) shooting was taking place at that time and at that location."

The combination of the U.N. findings, the examinations from reputable news outlets, and the letter sent by the group of U.S. senators have all ramped up pressure on the Biden administration to further address the Abu Akleh killing. The most recent letter was just the latest in a number of Congressional attempts to spur action on the matter. Earlier this month, Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) submitted a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken urging the U.S. to ensure a transparent investigation and last month, 57 Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives called for an FBI probe.