

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Mr. Christopher Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigations  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Secretary and Director Wray:

We are writing you regarding the recent death of Shireen Abu Akleh, a 51 year-old Palestinian American. Ms. Abu Akleh, a journalist for Al Jazeera, was fatally shot in the West Bank city of Jenin on May 11, 2022. We request the State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launch an investigation into the death of Ms. Abu Akleh.

AP News reported that Ms. Abu Akleh was fatally shot in the head on the outskirts of the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank. Her producer, Palestinian journalist Ali Samoudi, was hospitalized in stable condition after being shot in the back. It was also reported that Palestinian journalists who were with Ms. Abu Akleh and Mr. Samoudi at the time said that they made their presence known to Israeli soldiers, and they did not see militants in the area. The Israeli military claimed that the victims were caught between gunfire between Palestinian militants and Israeli Defense Forces. However, media and eyewitnesses had conflicting reports. Shaza Hanaysheh, another Palestinian journalist among the reporters, also said that there were no clashes or shootings in the immediate area. News reports from the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *CNN*, and *Aljazeera* also highlight these conflicting reports.

As Members of Congress, we are deeply concerned by the death of Ms. Abu Akleh. Journalists worldwide must be protected at all costs. The U.S. State Department called Ms. Abu Akleh's death "an affront to media freedom." We welcome the actions and statements taken so far by the U.S. Department of State supporting a thorough investigation. However, given the tenuous situation in the region and the conflicting reports surrounding the death of Ms. Abu Akleh, **we request the State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launch an investigation into Ms. Abu Akleh's death.** We also request the U.S. Department of State determine whether any U.S. laws protecting Ms. Abu Akleh, an American citizen, were violated.

As an American, Ms. Abu Akleh was entitled to the full protections afforded to U.S. citizens living abroad. We, the undersigned Members of Congress, urge you to uphold the values that our nation was founded on, including human rights, equality for all, and freedom of speech. We have a duty to protect Americans reporting abroad. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

*André Carson*

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André Carson  
Member of Congress

*J. Luis Correa*

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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

*Anna G. Eshoo*

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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

*Barbara Lee*

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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

*Raúl M. Grijalva*

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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

*James P. McGovern*

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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

*Bill Pascrell Jr*

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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Marie Newman*

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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress

*Debbie Dingell*

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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

*Ro Khanna*

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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



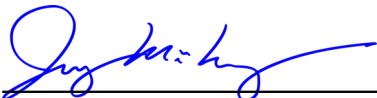
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



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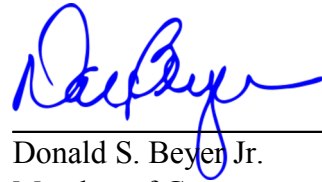
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



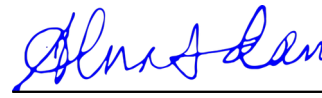
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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



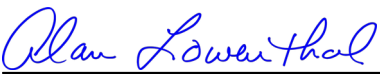
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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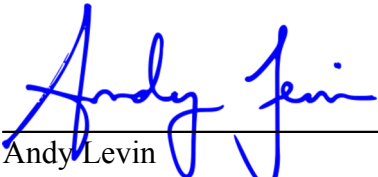
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

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Andy Levin  
Member of Congress




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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



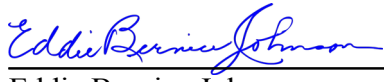
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



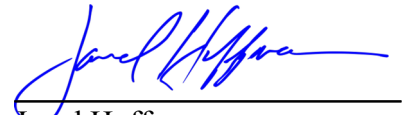
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



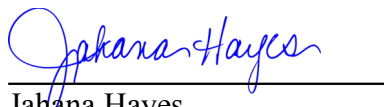
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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



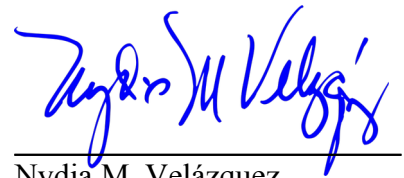
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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress




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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress




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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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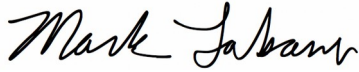
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

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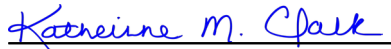
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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



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Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress




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Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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David E. Price  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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CORI BUSH  
Member of Congress



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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress