N e d e r l a n d s
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v a n   H o o f d r e d a c t e u r e n

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(Government Press Office)

The Netherlands, 25th of September 2024

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Access to the Gaza Strip for Independent Reporting

To the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu,

After nearly one year of war, the government of Israel continues to prevent international journalists from entering Gaza to report independently. The restrictions go against any form of press freedom, which, especially during times of war, is crucial for accurate reporting.

We, the editors-in-chief of the Dutch media, request the Israeli government to immediately end the restrictions and grant international media access to Gaza.
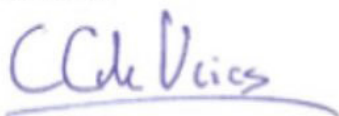
The presence of independent media is essential for the continuation of impartial, accurate and comprehensive reporting. Withholding such access to Gaza creates an immense burden on local journalists who are working and living under severe, life-threatening and extreme circumstances. Obtaining objective information from Gaza is becoming increasingly challenging and can only be solved by allowing international journalists to enter the strip independently.

Dutch media outlets have extensive experience in covering wars and armed conflict in a professional and balanced manner, and are aware of the inherent risks involved.

Press freedom is a cornerstone of democracy, a value the Dutch media hold high and will continue to strive for. We urge the Israeli government to uphold its commitment to the freedom of press by granting international media independent access to Gaza while meeting its obligations to protect journalists. The prevention of such access undermines the credibility of those enforcing the restrictions.

On behalf of the editors-in-chief of the Dutch media.

Sincerely,

Corine de Vries
Chairman of the Dutch Society of Editors-in-Chief