



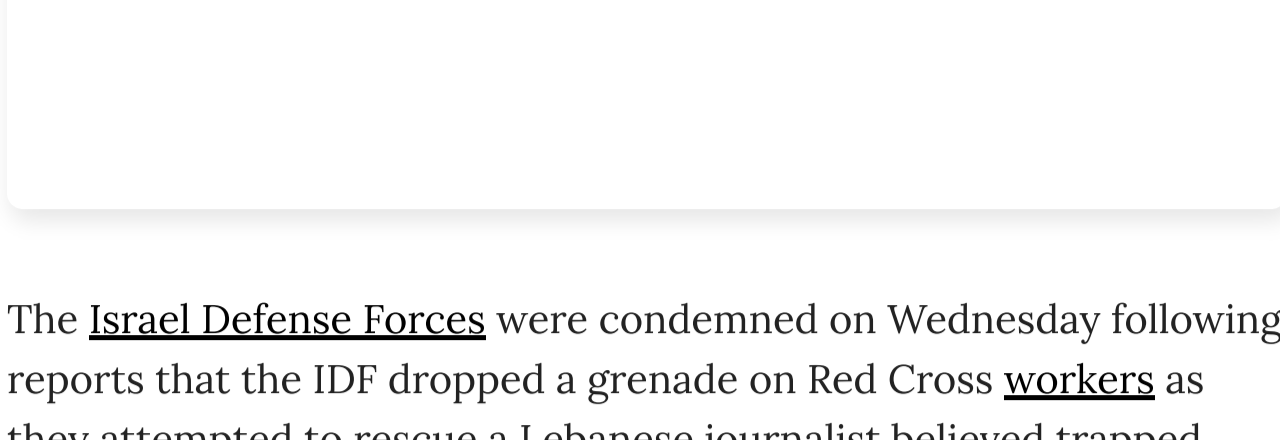
Al-Akhbar journalist Amal Khalil stands overlooking the shrine of the Prophet Shimon al-Safa in the village of Shamaa in southern Lebanon in a photo posted to social media on April 20, 2026. (Photo by Amal Khalil/X)

Israel Condemned for Bombing Rescue Workers Trying to Reach Journalist Buried Under Rubble

“Israel treats journalism as a crime,” said one Beirut-based editor.

By **STEPHEN PRAGER** · Apr 22, 2026

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The [Israel Defense Forces](#) were condemned on Wednesday following reports that the IDF dropped a grenade on Red Cross [workers](#) as they attempted to rescue a [Lebanese](#) journalist believed trapped beneath rubble in southern [Lebanon](#).

Two journalists from the local media outlet al-Akhbar, Amal Khalil and Zeinab Faraj, were [attacked](#) by the IDF after arriving to report at the scene of a previous strike that had killed two civilians in a car in the village of Al-Tiri, according to Al Jazeera correspondent Heidi Pett.

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The journalists, who were wounded, found that their own car was stuck under rubble from the second strike and that they were unable to leave.

Red Cross [workers](#) then spent hours attempting to reach the reporters. But according to the National News Agency (NNA), other Israeli attacks [targeted](#) a major road leading to the village “to prevent ambulance teams from reaching the two journalists.”

Faraj was rescued and brought to the hospital, where she is being treated for severe injuries that require surgery. The NNA and other Lebanese outlets reported that as she was transported to the hospital, the Red Cross vehicle came under Israeli fire, leaving visible [bullet holes](#).

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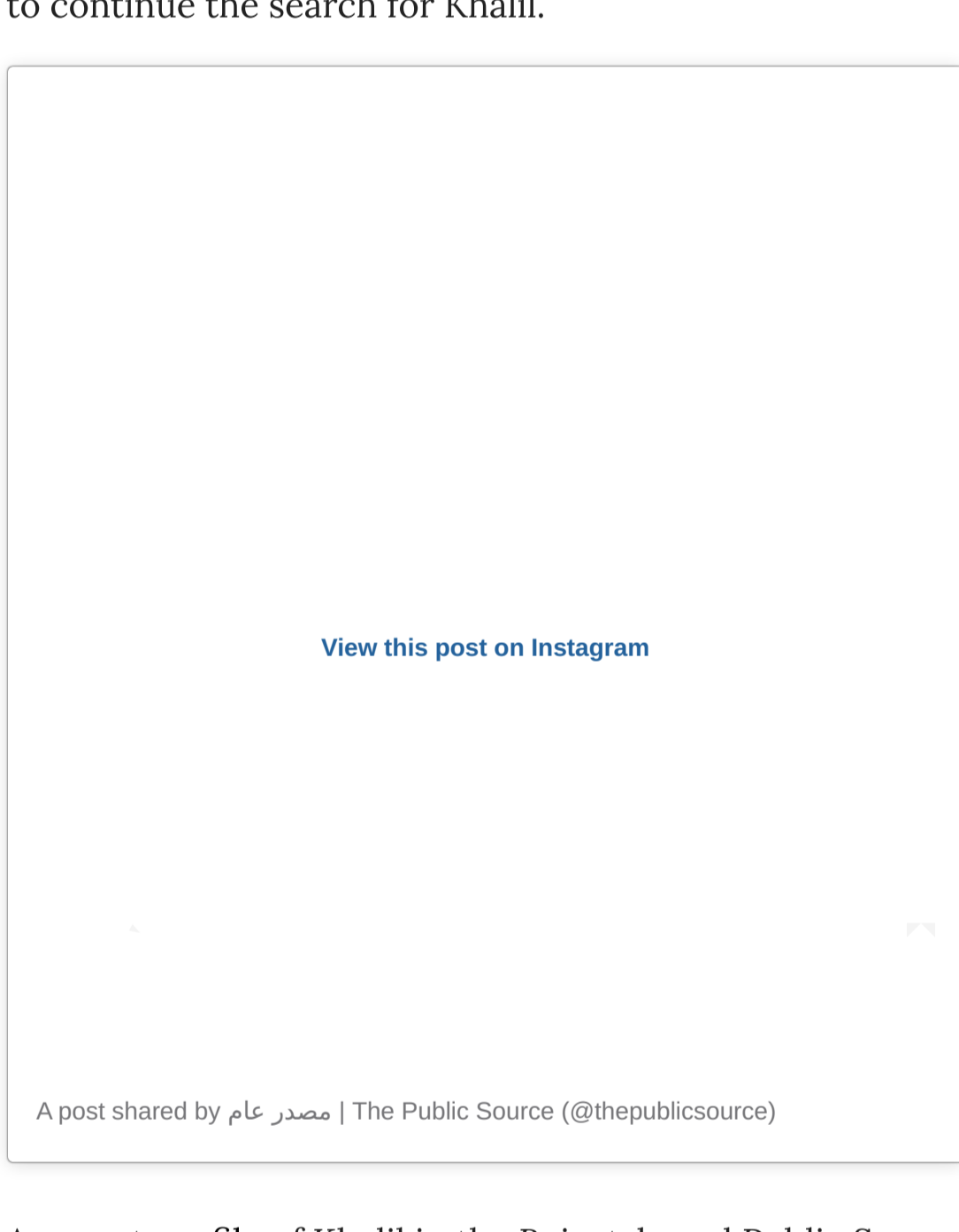
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While Faraj was evacuated, however, Khalil remained trapped. According to Reuters, the Lebanese army asked the Israeli military to allow rescuers to retrieve her.

Lebanon’s president, Joseph Aoun, also urged the Lebanese Red Cross to cooperate with the Lebanese army and [United Nations](#) peacekeepers to “carry out the rescue operation in the shortest possible time.”

But as the rescue workers lifted Khalil from the rubble, an Israeli drone dropped a [stun grenade](#) on them, believed to be a warning, which forced the workers to withdraw from the town, according to the Lebanese outlet LBCI. The Red Cross is expected to return later to continue the search for Khalil.



A recent [profile](#) of Khalil in the Beirut-based Public Source magazine celebrated her more than two-decade career, which began shortly before Israel invaded [Lebanon](#) in 2006. Though she resisted the label of “war correspondent,” much of her work since 2023 has again focused on covering what she’s described as “resistance” to Israeli aggression.

“I always highlight the steadfastness of ordinary people in their border villages, like the farmers who continued tending their land while the Israeli settlements across from them in northern [Palestine](#) were empty,” Khalil said. “I debunk the enemy’s narrative of targeting only military sites by showing evidence of them bombing homes, farms, and killing [children](#). After the [2024] ceasefire, I also started documenting how the destruction that followed was many times greater than what had occurred during the war itself.”

According to Reporters Without Borders, Khalil previously [received](#) death threats from an Israeli phone number in September 2024, while she was reporting on the war that broke out between Israel and Lebanon earlier that year.

She received a message reading, “We know where you are, and we will reach you when the time comes.” The message concluded, “I suggest you flee to [Qatar](#) or somewhere else if you want to keep your head connected to your shoulders.”

The deliberate killing of journalists who are civilians constitutes a war crime under international humanitarian law.

The IDF said it was aware of reports that journalists were injured in Wednesday’s attacks, but did not confirm them to The Associated Press. The IDF [denied](#) that it was preventing rescue teams from reaching the area. The military also said it “does not target journalists and acts to mitigate harm to them.”

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) [found](#) that last year was the deadliest year for journalists in the more than three decades since they began collecting data. An unprecedented 129 journalists and media workers were killed on duty last year. Israel was responsible for two-thirds of the press killings in 2024 and 2025, most of whom were [Palestinians](#) in [Gaza](#).

Lara Bitar, editor of Public Source magazine, [wrote](#) on [social media](#) Wednesday that Khalil and her rescuers had come under attack “because Israel treats [journalism](#) as a crime.”

Bitar said, “Amal has been tirelessly and lovingly covering communities impacted by war, occupation, and displacement for decades.”

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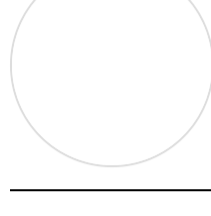
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