

LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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Israel Admitting Its Soldier Killed Shireen Abu Akleh Is Not Accountability

Israel ended its investigation into the killing of Al Jazeera journalist and American citizen Shireen Abu Akleh on May 11, 2022 concluding it is highly likely that she was killed by one of its soldiers. That is a step toward justice from Israel's earlier assertion that Abe Akleh was killed by a Palestinian militant.

LA Jews for Peace says that it is not enough because Israel is still obscuring the truth and stopped short of accepting definitive blame and avoided any accountability for the killing.

Israel's statement said, "it is not possible to unequivocally determine the source of the gunfire which hit Ms. Abu Akleh. However, there is a high possibility that Ms. Abu Akleh was accidentally hit by IDF gunfire that was fired toward suspects identified as armed Palestinian gunmen.¹" But video and eye-witness evidence suggest that there were no Palestinian militants near where Abu Akleh was standing when she was shot as confirmed by extensive investigations by CNN², the NY Times³, and other major American newspapers.

The Israeli military is saying that it was all a horrible mistake by a lone sniper who feels just terrible about it. Even if this were true, the sniper acted with reckless disregard for civilian life by suddenly firing in a targeted way and over and over again and without provocation. That is a war crime under Article 79 of the Additional Protocol of the Geneva Convention.

The Israeli government has now admitted the likelihood that its sniper killed Abu Akleh, and wants to close the case. But **LA Jews for Peace** demands accountability. For starters, the Biden administration should intervene to ensure justice is done for an American citizen. Accountability demands on Israel might include to: (1) treat the killing as manslaughter or a more serious crime, indict the sniper, and bring him to trial, and (2) pay reparations to Abu Akleh's family.

¹ <https://idfanc.activetrail.biz/ANC0509202205>

² <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/24/middleeast/shireen-abu-akleh-jenin-killing-investigation-cmd-intl/index.html>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/20/world/middleeast/palestian-journalist-killing-shireen.html>