

MAY 15, 2022

The Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh

This is The Weekly Letter for May 15, 2022. [About this newsletter](#)

News

International

Journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was shot and killed by Israeli forces on [May 11](#), "according to witnesses and the Palestinian health ministry." Abu Akleh, an American citizen and veteran TV corespondent for Al Jazeera Arabic, was shot "while covering Israeli army raids in the city of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank." (Al Jazeera, 5/12)

The [circumstances](#) of her killing suggest that the press was deliberately targeted.

Abu Akleh "was wearing a press vest and was standing with other journalists when she was shot with a bullet just under her ear.

Another Al Jazeera journalist, Ali al-Samoudi, was also wounded by a bullet in the back at the scene. He is now in stable condition.

Al-Samoudi, witnesses, and other journalists said there were no Palestinian fighters present when they were shot at...."



At a state service for Abu Akleh held in Ramallah on May 12, journalism student Azhar Khalaf told Al Jazeera that Abu Akleh "was the voice of truth and justice," while 19-year-old Eleen Salameh said, "I opened my eyes to the world watching Shireen." (Al Jazeera, 5/12)

On May 13, Israeli police [attacked](#) the funeral procession for Abu Akleh. (Al Jazeera, 5/14)



Activists in the U.S. [condemned](#) the U.S. government's position that Israel can be trusted to carry out its own investigation into the killing. (Al Jazeera, 5/11)

U.S.

The AP [reports](#) that on May 11, the Interior Department released a "study of Native American boarding schools that for over a century sought to assimilate Indigenous children into white society..." The study identified over 500 student deaths at the schools, but that number is expected to grow dramatically as research continues. Over 400 schools were "established or supported by the U.S. government..."

"The dark history of Native American boarding schools — where children were forced from their families, prohibited from speaking their languages and often abused — has been felt deeply across Indian Country and through generations.

Many children never returned home, and the Interior Department said that with further investigation the number of known student deaths could climb to the thousands or even tens of thousands. Causes included disease, accidental injuries and abuse." (5/11)

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, who is a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, delivered [remarks](#) on the report.

Environment

A *Grist* article [discusses](#) a report by the Climate and Community Project written by Olufemi Táiwò and Patrick Bigger which calls on wealthy countries and multilateral organizations (such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund) to cancel the publicly held debt of poor countries. This debt cancellation "could quickly free up fiscal space for the developing world to invest in climate adaptation and fossil fuel-free development — especially as many countries' capacity to make those kinds of investments has been strained during the COVID-19 pandemic."

"In addition to debt cancellation, Táiwò and Bigger call for a rapid increase in climate finance from the Global North."

Many developing countries face both a deteriorating environment and increasing debt. However, "the least developed countries have only contributed about 8 percent of the planet's greenhouse gas emissions since 1850," and the report states that the debt crisis is rooted in the history of colonialism and slavery. (5/13)

Opinion

Sultan Barakat: The International Criminal Court should [investigate](#) the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh. (Al Jazeera, 5/13)

Diane Orentlicher: The landscape of global justice has changed to the point that a [Putin war crimes trial](#) is possible. (NBC News, 5/9)

Basil Fernando: Amid an economic and political crisis, this is [what Sri Lankans want](#). (Global Voices, 5/12)

Beau Tremitiere: Allowing [fusion voting](#) in more states is one way to decrease partisan polarization. (The Bulwark, 5/11)

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