

OUR MESSAGE TO SPORTS JOURNALISTS COVERING THE GIRO D'ITALIA 2018



THINK of your
PALESTINIAN
COLLEAGUES
in the
FIRING LINE

The first stages of the Giro d'Italia 2018 will take place in the "Holy Land." Participants and their supporters may see it purely as a sports event and a means to promote Italy on the world stage. But it can also become an opportunity to raise awareness of the military occupation of the Palestinian territories, with its serious violations of human rights.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), together with its member unions, the Federazione Nazionale della Stampa Italiana (FNSI) and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS), are joining forces to alert sports journalists covering the Giro d'Italia about the relentless attacks against their colleagues in Palestine. These include arrests, interrogations, arbitrary detentions and physical assaults, which range from harassment to targeting with stun grenades, rubber bullets and beatings. This has been widely documented and condemned by journalists and press freedom organisations all over the world, as well as by Israeli reporters and intellectuals, and is deemed a flagrant breach of Israel's international human rights obligations and UN international humanitarian law.

2017 saw a significant spike in violations of media freedoms committed by Israeli forces:

- 909 violations took place during 2017, an increase of 33% on 2016
- 8 offices of 3 media companies and 2 radio stations were closed down by military order
- 28 journalists are in Israeli jails including 5 waiting to be sentenced and 6 in administrative detention
- Facebook closed 158 Palestinian accounts on Israeli request.

The International Federation of Journalists and the Italian and Palestinian journalists' unions say:

THIS HAS TO STOP!