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## Violent Protest



Pulling out guns  
Photo: AFP



Palestinian arrested during demonstration  
Photo: AFP

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## Separation fence guards shoot at journalists

**Five reporters covering anti-fence demonstration near West Bank settlement fired at with live ammunition by Defense Ministry security guards**

Ali Waked  
Published: 05.21.07, 20:53 / [Israel News](#)

Four separation fence security guards fired at a group of five journalists who tried to approach people demonstrating against the fence near the West Bank settlement of Efrat on Monday afternoon.

Photos taken by AFP photographer Moussa al-Shaer clearly show one of the guards using an Uzi submachine gun to fire at the demonstrators. The other guards fired with live ammunition in the air, although they were not in danger at any stage.



**Guard shooting at journalists (Photo: AFP)**

Al-Shaer told Ynet, "We tried to move to the other side in order to approach the Palestinian and foreign demonstrators. One of the security guards began shouting and firing directly at us. He did not warn us first, he just opened fire. His friends also fired in the air.

"We shouted to them, 'We are journalists, are you crazy?' But they continued to fire for about 10 minutes. There were four security guards and they were standing about 7 meters (22.96 feet) away from us when they started firing with live ammunition.

"Only when one of them came down to us, the gunshots stopped. We felt the bullets pass 20 centimeters away from us. We told him, 'If you want to kill us, kill us.' Ten minutes later, the army

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arrived. We told them, 'There are crazy people here firing at us,' but they didn't seem to care. The contractor building the fence came down later and told us, 'If I were here instead of the security guards, I would also have fired at you.'"

### 'We didn't know where to hide'

Fadi Tanas, a reporter for the Palestinian news agency Maan, said that it all started in a quiet demonstration held by the Palestinian protestors against the laying of infrastructure in Efrat.

"There were dozens of people there and when they arrived, the security guards began coming down with their weapons toward the crowd. The demonstrators left. We as members of the media were certain, as always, that we were immune, and therefore we did not leave. But within seconds we found ourselves in a crazy firing range with bullets passing just next to us, only centimeters away. We didn't know where to hide and what to do with ourselves."

The demonstrators, Tanas said, did not put the guards at risk at any stage and did not hold one stone. Fifteen minutes after the incident army and police forces arrived at the area. They were briefed by the security guard on what happened and then arrested two of the demonstrators "apparently following an argument," according to Tanas.



**Another guard shooting at journalists (Photo: AFP)**

"Although they were firing at us with live ammunition," the Palestinian journalist said, "They did not hesitate to threaten us that they would make sure the army and police arrest us. One of the guards said that they had taken pictures of us and that we would not be spending the night at our homes."

Residents who were at the area also confirmed the details of the incident. One of them said that the guards had acted in a way that endangered lives.

"We can argue with soldiers, but these people were unwilling to hear and unwilling to talk. Only shouts, curses, threats and gunshots, a lot of gunshots. The incident could have ended with many casualties, not only journalists," said Jamal, a resident who took part in the demonstration.

The five journalists

– from AFP,


Reuters, the Palestinian news agency Maan and a Palestinian

internet media outlet – managed to escape the incident unharmed.

Military sources said in response that a Defense Ministry security guard fired on shot in the air. According to the sources, a guard was lightly injured by stones hurled at him and two protestors were arrested during an anti-fence demonstration of about 100 Palestinians, left-wing activists and foreigners.

#### Efrat Weiss contributed to the report

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1. "journalists"  
Eli, Brooklyn (05.21.07)
2. Bad Aim  
Mordechai (05.21.07)
3. **Guards are right**  
Brod, USA (05.21.07)
4. It's time to declare war on these Anarchists  
malcolm (05.21.07)
5. good i would also fire at you. **(End)**  
mandi, israel (05.21.07)
6. Funny. Uzi, 20feet and not a scrach.  
Rehavam, Israel (05.21.07)
7. Its Either a Fence or It Isn't  
Dave Levy, Burbank. CA USA (05.21.07)
8. **they obviously werent firing at you**  
yoni, jerusalem (05.21.07)
9. Israel's "star reporter," Waked, best known for  
sk, USA (05.21.07)
10. Those arent journalists, but propaganists.  
David, Boston, USA (05.21.07)
11. I would have shot too...did you see who they write for? **END (End)**  
(05.21.07)
12. GREAT JOB BOYS! at least someone has guts in this country! **(End)**  
j, jerusalem, israel (05.21.07)
13. Personally,I'm even not left and 20 santimeters for this s-t **(End)**  
Sammy, Paris (05.21.07)


14. 5th colmnists merit FMJ  
Brian, Reading, Pa, USA (05.21.07)
15. Thank G-D for these guards, BRAVO!!! Only next time closer.. **(End)**  
JB (05.21.07)
16. the so called honests journalists  
A V, London.uk (05.21.07)
17. "these people were unwilling to hear and unwilling to talk"  
What a, Joke (05.21.07)
18. ali waked  
a v, london uk (05.21.07)
19. Alek Journalists **(End)**  
Avi, Israel (05.21.07)
20. OK All IDF involved need to take target practice tomorrow! **(End)**  
casey (05.21.07)
21. Genocidal polices of a failed country  
(05.21.07)
22. Shouldn't shoot them, but what were they doing there?  
Korem, New York, USA (05.21.07)
23. Such poor shots.  
Judith, Winnipeg Canada (05.21.07)
24. What a crock!  
M. Hartley, Atlanta, US (05.21.07)
25. Israeli soldiers poorly trained  
(05.21.07)
26. firing with live ammunition?  
ralph, Bobigny (05.21.07)
27. ###!@! Leftists. Can't you see that Arabs are killing Jews?  
Carl, Indianapolis, USA (05.21.07)
28. we (the international community)  
don p, usa (05.21.07)
29. Long overdue  
Antonio, Haifa (05.21.07)
30. Same racist responses, how pitiful these comments are  
Some Guy, Montreal Canada (05.21.07)
31. Shot journalists  
Eric Vaughan, Toronto, Canada (05.22.07)
32. OMG! ISRAEL has gone wide!  
Khaled, Jerusalem (05.22.07)
33. Peaceful provocateurs injured one of the guard with stones!  
Márcia, Brazil (05.22.07)
34. man made islands for peace  
aaron silverstein, boulder co (05.22.07)
35. G-d bless the guards! Please do not miss the next time! **(End)**  
Frank, USA (05.22.07)
36. Tyoical Arab garbage! The Pali murderers are  
They are enemies, USA (05.22.07)
37. #28 you are a sick puppy! The aid will continue  
Terry, USA (05.22.07)
38. #28 Don - So, sweetie, aren't you a little bit sick of  
Judy Y (05.22.07)
39. Guns at journalists  
ussishkin, Jerusalem,Israel (05.22.07)
40. the guards obvioulsy need marksmanship training **(End)**  
dante, uk (05.22.07)
41. Eric (31), I think that blood libel against Jews  
sk, USA (05.22.07)
42. #30 - Yeah, they shoot into the air  
Judy Y (05.22.07)
43. #34  
Glenn, Canada (05.22.07)
44. These so called "reporters" are problematic. They r not fair  
Nasty creatures, USA (05.22.07)
45. these "journalists" are propagandists of the "pals"  
dante, uk (05.22.07)
46. I truly pray  
ted, mo usa (05.22.07)

47. **32 khaled**  
get it right (05.22.07)
48. **with YNET**  
gabriela ben ari, jerusalem (05.22.07)
49. **Press needs to be protected**  
JPS, Efrat (05.22.07)
50. **#30 ?racism?**  
avi, ny (05.22.07)
51. **These men are protecting Israel (End)**  
Avraham, NYC (05.22.07)
52. **#47 INAH**  
kHaled, Jerusalem (05.22.07)
53. **those photos**  
(05.22.07)
54. **Let me get this straight**  
Lina, USA (05.22.07)
55. **52#Khaled: OK so now stop lecturing (End)**  
you got it right, U, know is better here (05.22.07)
56. **its a shame they are such poor shots. (End)**  
(05.22.07)

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