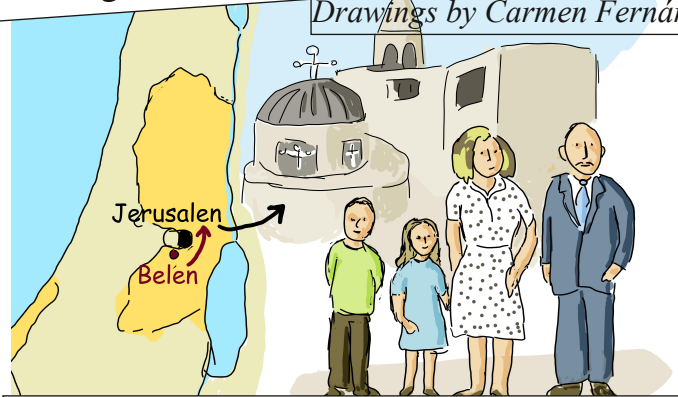


Shireen, icon of Palestinian journalism

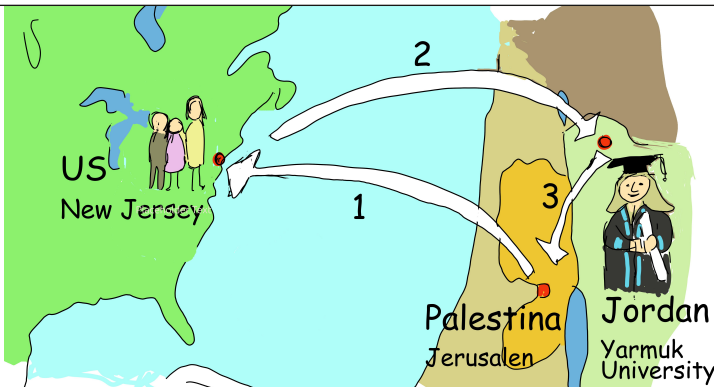
Drawings by Carmen Fernández



Shireen Abu Akleh was a prominent 51-year-old Palestinian journalist who had worked as a correspondent for Al Jazeera for 25 years. Her journalistic work in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip made her a role model for Palestinian journalism.



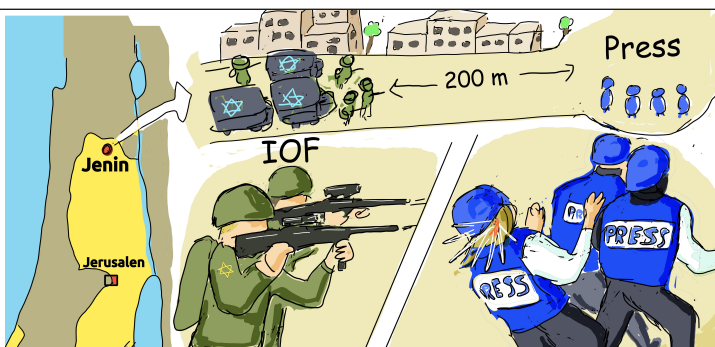
She was born in Jerusalem in 1971 to a Palestinian Christian family originally from Bethlehem. She lived with her brother Anton in occupied Jerusalem (East Jerusalem) until she finished high school.



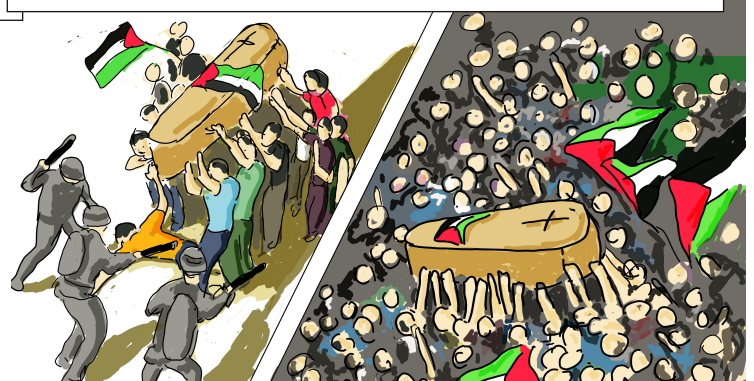
Shireen spent some time in the United States, where she obtained US citizenship. She completed her university studies in Jordan, obtaining a degree in journalism from Yarmouk University. After graduating, she returned to Palestine and began working as a journalist.



In 1997, she began working as a field correspondent for Al Jazeera. She reported on the most important political events in Palestine, including the second Intifada, the 2002 battle of Jenin, and several Israeli operations in Gaza. She frequently reported on the funerals of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces.



On May 11, 2022, he had gone to report, along with three other journalists, on an incursion by Israeli forces in Jenin. The journalists were all wearing helmets and protective gear and were walking slowly so that they could be identified by the Israeli soldiers, who were about 200 meters away. The soldiers began shooting; one of the journalists was wounded and Shireen was shot in the head, killing her instantly.



Israeli police banned flags, pro-Palestinian chants, and large gatherings at Shireen's funeral. As the coffin left the hospital, police used batons and tear gas to disperse the crowd, injuring several participants and medical personnel and nearly causing the coffin to fall. Despite the repression and police blockades, thousands of Palestinians carried Shireen from the cathedral to the Orthodox cemetery with flags and chants.