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Two journalists hit by Israeli rubber bullets while covering protest (VIDEO)

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The news agency's Majdi Mohammed and Swiss freelance journalist Lazar Simeonov were injured during the Israeli forces' suppression of protests, where they deployed rubber-coated bullets, stun grenades and tear gas.

The photographers were working in the West Bank town of Silwad, where Palestinians were protesting after the funeral of a 14-year-old boy, who was killed in an earlier clash with Israeli soldiers.

Mohammed told the Agency that as he was taking pictures, an armored car pulled up behind him and a border policeman stepped out and fired directly at him from a distance of 10 to 20 meters.

The officer fired a round that discharges a number of rubber-coated steel projectiles, which is basically a grenade designed to hurt small groups of people. Simeonov was injured by the same round.

*"The impact was so strong that it made me fall to the ground," Mohammed said. "The policeman aimed straight at us ... even though we were clearly a group of media people and there were no protesters at all around us."*

Both journalists reported minor injuries and Simeonov's camera was also damaged.

AP said it would lodge a protest with the Israeli government. John Daniszewski, AP's senior

managing editor for international news, said the incident showed “*outrageous disregard for the safety of journalists*” lawfully doing their jobs.

Israeli police spokesman, Micky Rosenfeld, said it was not immediately clear why the border patrol policeman had opened fire on the journalists. He added the police “*dispersed hundreds of rioters,*” some of whom threw firebombs and stones at the Israeli forces.

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