



PRESS RELEASE

20.08.2014

AFP PAYS TRIBUTE TO JAMES FOLEY

FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF A VIDEO PURPORTING TO SHOW THE MURDER OF JOURNALIST JAMES FOLEY, AFP PAYS TRIBUTE TO HIM AND SHARES THE GRIEF OF HIS FAMILY

American journalist James Foley was kidnapped by armed men on 22 November 2012 in Taftanaz in northern Syria.

Aged 40, he was an experienced correspondent who had reported on the conflict in Libya before going to Syria to cover the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad for the US news site GlobalPost, Agence France-Presse and other media. His work enriched the coverage provided by AFP's special envoys and bureaux in the region.

AFP president Emmanuel Hoog said: "Once again our profession has been shaken by a shameful and unacceptable act. Journalism was James Foley's reason to live and it should never have been his reason to die. This is not only a personal tragedy, but an act of savagery. It is the duty of everybody who believes in the supreme importance of a free press in a democratic society to condemn this action in the strongest possible terms."

Global news director Michèle Léridon added: "Everybody at AFP is appalled by this sickening turn of events and we all express our solidarity with the Foley family at this terrible time. AFP staff who knew Jim and his work describe a humble, courageous and dedicated professional journalist who was committed to telling the human story behind conflict. His images and journalism were of the highest quality and made a major contribution to AFP's coverage of the Syrian story.

"Words and images are the only tools available to journalists to accomplish their vital role of informing the public. Any threat to their freedom or their lives is a hateful and cowardly crime."

About AFP

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