30-Oct-2026

An ABC spokesperson

Statement:

The ABC has asked the IDF for information on Sarraj's alleged links to Hamas and none has been provided.

In relation to the Israel/Gaza conflict, when the ABC accepts the work of stringers who have undergone little verification, how does it guard against the danger of being fed, and then passing on to its audience, a one-eyed view of events?

There is a high level of expertise within the International team and our correspondents are senior international reporters. Freelancers work to the direction of the correspondents and the International news team. We have stringent oversight of all content and all stories must meet the ABC's high editorial standards.

Is it realistic, during a conflict, to complete deep vetting of stringers? Why or why not?

The ABC has engaged with a number of freelance journalists over the years to gather footage from inside Gaza, as our own journalists and crew have mostly been barred from entering by the IDF. We do whatever checks can reasonably be undertaken.

Was any vetting done in the case of Roshdi Sarraj? If so, what did that vetting involve?

The ABC had done work with Rushdi Sarraj since 2018. He was interviewed by the ABC Middle East correspondent of the time. He had worked with other international media organisations, operated his own media company and was recommended by UN agencies who worked with him on production jobs in Gaza.