

# Israel targets journalist Steve Sweeney

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate on shocking footage showing veteran war correspondent surviving an apparently targeted Israeli missile strike in South Lebanon. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

## #Aaron Mate

They almost killed another journalist — someone we know, Steve Sweeney — today in Lebanon.

## #Max

Well, Steve Sweeney is a friend of mine. He's a legend, someone I really look up to. He's very courageous to go out in the field, especially in South Lebanon, where Israel is attempting to ethnically cleanse a million people and push them north of the Litani River, saying, "You will never be able to come home again. Greater Israel will expand." And Steve Sweeney's on the front lines, and here's what happened. Apparently, he was on Netanyahu's punch card.

## #Steve Sweeney

Further rocket attacks were reported against Nahariya, and a minute later...

## #Steve Sweeney

Oh, fuck.

## #Aaron Mate

He survived and was treated for shrapnel wounds, but he's okay, and his crew is okay. Just a few feet closer, and they would have been dead. When he went back on the air shortly afterward, he said it was a deliberate attack.

## #Max

A deliberate attempt to silence him.

## #Aaron Mate

Yes.

## **#Max**

He's also very outspoken as an anti-war activist, campaigning against the mass killing behind these kinds of operations. It looks very clear that he was targeted with a U.S. GBU bomb.

## **#Aaron Mate**

As have so many journalists before him — most of them Palestinian, but also Lebanese — who, you know, Israel has killed in Gaza. The death toll of journalists killed by Israel in Gaza is at least over 220; it's probably higher by now. And in Lebanon, there's a long list as well. Israel just the other day killed an editor with Al-Manar TV, which is Hezbollah's television network — killed him.

## **#Max**

The top editor.

## **#Aaron Mate**

Killed him, uh, along with members of his family — some of whom, uh, survived but were seriously wounded. So this is what Israel does.

## **#Max**

Yeah, they've killed the majority of journalists in the world over the past three years, and the outcry from Western media has been, let's just say, muted. And how many networks are going with Steve Sweeney's incredible video, which perfectly illustrates how Israel targets journalists — including Western journalists — who aren't just the Palestinian "un-people" of Gaza, who can all be condemned as Hamas? They're basically saying nothing. There's a BBC headline up right now that's just absurd — where is it? Here it is. They're basically whitewashing a deliberate Israeli targeted assassination of a prominent veteran war journalist. Watch: "Missile lands next to presenter during live report from Lebanon."

## **#Aaron Mate**

It happens. Sometimes missiles just happen to fall out of the sky by accident. We don't know who fired it or whose missile it is — it's just an accident. It just fell down, like something falling off a shelf. That's the BBC. This is Richard Engel of NBC News — look at how he describes it: a reporter for Russia Today in South Lebanon, "danger very close."

## **#Max**

"Danger very close."

### **#Aaron Mate**

What does that even mean? And of course, he has to start by pointing out that he's a reporter for Russia Today.

### **#Max**

Yeah, his life just doesn't matter as much.

### **#Aaron Mate**

Yeah, exactly. Engel really has to stress that the guy works for Russia Today. So, therefore, you know, what we're about to see is somehow more acceptable — a U.S.-made bomb dropping on him because he's a reporter for Russia Today. "Danger very close." Yeah, it's like he barely— that's putting no effort into trying to water down an attempted murder. "Danger very close." Great job, Richard Engel. Like, you're a journalist and that's the best you can come up with? "Danger very close?"

### **#Max**

It's like the title of his memoir.

### **#Aaron Mate**

Yeah, yeah.