

Call for Emergency Aid for Gaza Strip Hospitals and Clinics

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Abstract

On October 2023, the unprecedented bombing of hospitals by the Israeli army killed more than 10000 victims in Gaza and injured more than 28000. By preventing the entry of medicine, medical supplies, and equipment, the Israeli regime has destroyed the health care system in the Gaza Strip. According to reports of the United Nations and the Red Cross, there is no way to provide relief and even primary health care to the injured. Their focus is on targeting civilians and residential areas therefore the number of wounded and victims increase to such an extent that it is beyond the capacity of the health and treatment complexes. The report of the Gaza Ministry of Health indicates that in the recent attacks, most of the dead and wounded are civilians, especially women, and children. The recent invasions of clinics and hospitals is hoped to mobilize the humanitarian and medical societies to stand in solidarity and rescue civilians casualties in the face of these escalating invasions.

Keywords: Gaza Strip, Hospitals, Clinics, Emergency Help.

Introduction

The Gaza Strip, with more than 2 million population, is situated on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea; Egypt borders Gaza on the southwest and Israel on the east and north. Gaza has faced numerous brutal Israeli attacks for many years¹.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health announced that the operation of all hospitals in Gaza will be suspended unless medical and treatment aid reaches them within the next few hours. The urgent needs of Gaza hospitals include medicine, medical equipment, and fuel for power generators. For the past few days, the Israeli soldiers have surrounded hospitals with tanks and armored vehicles. Meanwhile, some children died in the ICU due to the lack of oxygen and other facilities, and the lives of dozens of other babies are in danger. All the hospitals in Gaza have been facing shortages of medicine and medical equipment and lack of fuel

due to the heavy siege and the lack of permission for trucks carrying humanitarian aid to enter through the Rafah crossing. On the other hand, the bombing of Gaza hospitals has created a catastrophic situation for people. At the same time as Israel ignores international requests to stop the immoral attacks on the Gaza Strip and the killing of the Palestinian people, the International Red Cross has also warned about the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in this region, especially in the hospitals¹.

There are non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney failure, as well as gynecological and maternity care, and the possibility of death due to the lack of medicine and power cuts required for the use of life-saving medical equipment such as kidney dialysis machines and ventilators. The increase in the prevalence of infectious and

contagious diseases due to unhealthy health conditions and the deterioration of mental health following trauma is alarming and has reached the alarming limit. The access of emergency medical teams in the field has been severely hampered due to infrastructure damage. All hospital beds and operating rooms are occupied, and the war wounded cannot receive immediate treatment. With these conditions, hospitals risk turning into morgues instead of places of rescue and relief^{1,2}. Unprecedented bombing of hospitals caused thousands of deceased and wounded patients. In Oct 2023, the Israeli army killed more than 12000 people in Gaza and injured more than 28000. By preventing the entry of medicine, medical supplies, and equipment, the Israeli regime has destroyed the health and treatment system in the Gaza Strip. According to the United Nations and the Red Cross reports, there is no ability to provide relief and even primary health care to the injured. In this regard, it focuses on targeting civilians and residential areas so that the number of wounded and victims increases to such an extent that it is beyond the capacity of the health and treatment complex, as the report of the Gaza Ministry of Health indicates that in the recent attack, most of the dead and wounded of the war contain of civilians, especially women, and children³. We expect the recent invasions of clinics and hospitals will mobilize the humanitarian and medical society to stand in solidarity to rescue healthcare workers and patients in the face of these escalating invasions. Prevention, healing, and responsibility must be urgent because the consequences are profound and long-lasting. Suppose hospitals, clinics, and healthcare services or personnel are attacked. In this situation, the humanitarian and medical society must sanction, condemn, examine, and prosecute to prevent further horrors and detour the normalization of such invasions during war battles. It is necessary for international associations and organizations such as the World Health Organization and the Red Cross, and even human rights organizations, in line with their inherent duties, to prevent these war crimes as

soon as possible and follow international laws during the war, the possibility of sending food and medicine, maintaining the security of the health and medical staff and transporting the war wounded and sick through safe crossings to refer to specialized centers outside the Gaza Strip. Quick and unhindered access to Gaza through safe passage is essential so that the World Health Organization and other humanitarian agencies can act quickly to save lives, as the continuation of the current situation will lead to more civilian and sick casualties and increased displacement.

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