



Statement on War Crimes at Nasser Hospital

02/21/2024

On February 18th, the Israeli Army conducted a vicious and illegal raid on Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip. Israeli forces bombed the hospital, hitting patient wards and killing an already injured patient on his hospital bed and injuring several. They shot into the hospital, injuring two children and a physician. They cut off electricity and oxygen to the hospital which led to the deaths of six adult ICU patients and three neonatal ICU patients due to the lack of oxygen. The attack left Nasser Hospital out of service and led to the abduction of 71 medical personnel as well as 150 patients.

This is the latest war crime in Israel's systemic attack on Gaza's healthcare system.

According to Article 18 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, "Civilian hospitals organized to give care to the wounded and sick, the infirm and maternity cases, may in no circumstances be the object of attack, but shall at all times be respected and protected by the Parties to the conflict."

Israel has defied international law and has systematically destroyed the entire healthcare infrastructure in Gaza, using misinformation to justify these war crimes and leveraging their history of impunity to conduct them.

The attacks on Nasser hospital on 2/18 are a continuation of the systematic destruction of hospitals, forced evacuation of patients and abduction of healthcare workers by Israeli forces.

In this latest assault on Nasser hospital, doctors were abducted and stripped down in the cold as a form of public humiliation by Israeli forces. Patients were also forcibly extracted from their medical beds and hauled into military vehicles.

The whereabouts of the physicians and patients are unknown. We fear the worst for our colleagues and patients as reports by released captives demonstrate torture by Israeli forces. Israel has a track record of not just targeting health workers, but also killing, starving and torturing them. The US government cannot remain silent in the face of these repeated war crimes by Israel.

The US governments' unconditional support of Israel has allowed it to continuously defy and violate international law. Since the attack on Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital, the first hospital to be bombed by the Israeli forces, Israel has continued to systematically bomb, shoot at, siege and destroy the healthcare infrastructure of Gaza. Their targets also include ambulances, EMTs and patients attempting to seek care. Israeli forces are even reported to have sniped surgeons in the operating room as they are trying to save lives.



Here are a few of the hospitals targeted by Israeli forces:

1. Baptist Al-Ahli Hospital
2. Turkish-Palestine Friendship Hospital
3. The Indonesian Hospital
4. Al-Shifa Medical Complex
5. Al-Khidma Public Hospital
6. Al-Quds Hospital
7. Qatar Hospital
8. Al-Wafaa Rehabilitation Hospital
9. The International Eye Care Center
10. Red Crescent Society
11. Kamal Edwan Hospital
12. Al-Dawly Maternal Hospital
13. Al-Nassr Hospital
14. Nasser Hospital
15. Rantissi Children's Hospital
16. Asdeqaa Al Mareed Hospital

Hospitals are sacred grounds and places of healing. The protection of healthcare infrastructure is enshrined into international law to protect patients. Violation of these spaces and the attacks on healthcare workers are war crimes that Israel continues to commit with impunity.

We must stand against this systemic assault on healthcare and demand the following:

1. Call for the immediate release of the medical personnel and patients abducted by Israeli forces.
2. Call for an immediate ceasefire to allow much needed aid to safely reach all parts of Gaza.
3. Call for Israeli accountability for these war crimes. Their military leaders need to be tried in a court of law.



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