

Doctors Against Genocide Statement on International Children's Day:

WORLD LEADERS HAVE TURNED THE WORLD INTO A GRAVEYARD FOR CHILDREN

November 20, 2024

On this **International Children's Day**, Doctors Against Genocide (DAG) calls on healthcare professionals, institutions, and global citizens to join our **"Not Another Child, Not Another Hospital"** campaign. The ongoing slaughter in Palestine, Lebanon, and Sudan demands immediate global action.

A Graveyard for Children: The Systematic Crime of Pedicide

Over 20,000 children have been killed in Gaza and Lebanon in the past year. UNICEF has declared Gaza a "graveyard for children" and the UN has described Israel's deliberate bombings as a "war on children." These atrocities go beyond tragic casualties—they constitute **pedicide**, the deliberate targeting and systematic destruction of children, their family units, and their futures as a tool of warfare.

The relentless genocide in Gaza has forged a harrowing reality: the largest cohort of pediatric amputees in history. Women are forced to deliver infants without anesthesia, bringing them into a world UNICEF chillingly describes as "being born into hell." Over 135,000 children under two teeter on the brink of severe malnutrition, while countless others languish in makeshift shelters, deprived of safe water and sufficient food.

The relentless genocide in Gaza has forged a harrowing reality: the largest cohort of pediatric amputees in history. Women are forced to deliver infants without anesthesia, bringing them into a world UNICEF chillingly describes as "being born into hell." Over 135,000 children under two teeter on the brink of severe malnutrition, while countless others languish in makeshift shelters, deprived of safe water and sufficient food. With winter fast approaching, these dire conditions will become even more catastrophic. Sudan is today the world's largest child displacement crisis. Over 14 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance, with 4.6 million displaced from their homes and nearly 1 million seeking refuge across borders. Acute malnutrition, preventable diseases, and a crumbling healthcare system are putting millions of children's lives at risk. Education is under attack, with 17 million children out of school.

Pedicide is not collateral damage—it is a deliberate act aimed at destroying an entire generation. It is a moral catastrophe, demanding accountability and immediate global action. Silence in the face of pedicide is complicity.

Medicide, the systematic destruction of healthcare infrastructure, and the targeting of medical professionals to annihilate a population's ability to sustain life and health. Over 2200 Healthcare workers have been killed, maimed, or injured while performing their protected duties—treating patients, delivering humanitarian aid, and bearing witness to atrocities. The global medical community remains largely silent in the face of these crimes. It is time to call this by its name: **medicide**. Silence is complicity.

A Call to Action

On this **International Children's Day**, we **urge** healthcare professionals and institutions worldwide to:

- Demand an Immediate Ceasefire and an End to Genocide.
- Protect children, hospitals, and healthcare workers.
- Allow unhindered humanitarian aid and rebuild healthcare systems in Gaza, Lebanon, and Sudan.
- Join the "Not Another Child, Not Another Hospital" campaign.

As Dr. Mahmoud Abu Nujaila, a physician in Gaza, wrote before he was killed in an Israeli airstrike:

"Whoever stays until the end, will tell the story. We did what we could. Remember us." We owe it to these healthcare workers, the children, and the future generations to carry their stories, to demand justice, and to act decisively to prevent further atrocities.

Join Us

Join us in our commitment to building a just world where healthcare is protected, children are safe, and every life is valued. We can make "Not Another Child, Not Another Hospital" a global rallying cry for change. Join the campaign <u>here</u>.

Doctors Against Genocide

Sources:

- Save the Children: Deadliest Year for Children in the West Bank
- The Guardian: Mental Health of Palestinian Children
- Al Jazeera: The Amputee Crisis in Gaza
- UNICEF: Born into Hell
- Save the Children: Gaza's Risk of Famine
- UNICEF: Gaza's Children in Pain

