

To The UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon

UN Headquarter, New York, USA

Urgent request to safeguard evacuation of wounded and to protect Palestinian patients, hospitals and ambulances in Gaza

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

With reference to the various very serious reports from a variety of UN organs regarding the humanitarian disaster currently unfolding in The Gaza Strip (see reports from OCHA, UNDP, WHO, UNICEF, UNRWA), and our own first hand experiences during our work as medical doctors in Al Shifa Hospital in various periods of the ongoing war, we urgently appeal to you to immediately implement:

1. *An immediate air-evacuation corridor with UN helicopters to rescue and evacuate patients in Al Shifa Hospital needing life saving follow-up and post-operative treatment in hospitals outside Gaza*
2. *A physical UN presence with vehicles and UN observers at all Palestinian hospitals and primary health care centres in Gaza in order to uphold humanitarian laws and safeguard the secure operation of the emergency health services for the wounded and the primary health care needs for the large refugee population created by the war*
3. *An immediate safe humanitarian, corridor in and out of Gaza to ensure the urgently needed supplies of critically needed supplies of medical equipment, drugs and disposables to the hospitals in Gaza in order to enable treatment of the large numbers of civilian war casualties*
4. *UN protection of Palestinian ambulances and paramedics during their life-saving work to evacuate war wounded civilian victims of the ongoing war*

We want to express our deepest concern with the ongoing lack of security and Israeli attacks on Palestinian health facilities and on UN shelters for the civilian population in Gaza.

We kindly ask you for immediate action on these critical matters, as patients are currently dying due to lack of security, capacity and supplies in the civilian Palestinian health care system.

Tromsø, Oslo, August 4th 2014



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All three working in Norwegian Governmental Hospitals, but served in Al Shifa Hospital, Gaza during the ongoing war.

CC: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Børge Brende, MFA, Oslo, Norway

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