

14 Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

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In focus

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Background

PHM Statement - condemnation of Israeli action against Palestinian people

The People's Health Movement condemns in the strongest terms recent Israeli violent actions against Palestinian people in the Gaza strip and in the West Bank, in particular the unrestrained use of force, including lethal means, against peaceful protesters, journalists and medical personnel. We pay tribute to the health workers and medical personnel, many of whom who are members of our movement, who are taking part in mass actions and are providing first aid.

Over the past three weeks, Israeli forces have killed 33 civilians and injured over 4,000 more, several of them critically, for protesting peacefully against ongoing violations of their basic rights and demanding self-determination. The use of lethal force against non-armed civilians violates the most basic principles of international law, as does the use of violence against journalists and medical personnel. Yet, one Palestinian journalist was killed by Israeli fire in Gaza two weeks ago, while another 10 were seriously injured. Moreover, last week in Ramallah, Israeli forces targeted Medical Relief and Red Crescent first aid providers and medical teams, injuring 10 of them who had to be transported to the hospital.

In light of these extremely distressing events, we demand immediate measures from international actors to pressure Israel to cease targeting civilians and abide by its international obligations. We urge the international community to hold Israel accountable for these crimes. We resolve to strengthen our solidarity with our member organisations in Palestine and with the

Palestinian people because their people's liberation will depend on their continuing struggle to end the occupation.

On behalf of the PHM Steering Council - 3 May 2018

Notes of discussion at WHA71

First meeting of Committee B

The Chairman opened the item for discussion and invited the Committee to consider the draft decision contained in document A71/B/CONF./2 Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.

In accordance with Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure, a roll-call vote was taken.

The Chairman drew a letter in order to identify the first country to vote which was "K".

The vote resulted in 90 votes in favour to six votes against, with 20 abstentions and 68 Member States absent, as follows:

Votes in favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Votes against: Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstentions: Austria, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Slovakia.

Absent: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Nauru, Nigeria, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Zambia.

Seven delegations gave an explanation of vote under Rule 75 of the Rules of Procedure. The draft decision was approved and the item was closed. The meeting was adjourned.

14. Health conditions in occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan (A71/27, A71/B/CONF/2)

Bolivia and Namibia added as co-sponsors for proposed draft decision A71/B/CONF/2 proposed by a number of other delegations.

Ecuador: Laments that such important report was only published on the first day of WHA, when it should be released several weeks before. This question is too important and is becoming more and more acute. Over 9 years life expectancy in West Bank is getting worse! Ecuador is wondering how Palestine can take care of health status of population if they don't have sovereignty over territory. We have witnessed even worse conditions over the past few weeks. Most people receive care outside Gaza strip, causing worse health outcomes and expenditures. We cannot remain silent on this.

Cuba: We thank the secretariat for the report. Health care situation has not changed. Many dead, injured and disabled. Crisis has worsened the health situation. Renew our concern with WHO as the crisis issue. Seek for resolution of the territorial Conflict

Iran: Health system in Palestine operating under heavy pressure due to the occupation and blockade. People have limited access to the most basic necessities. As stipulated by constitution of WHO, having access to health care is crucial, but people of Palestine do not have this possibility. Blockades and checkpoints play a negative role in limiting patient mobility and access to health care. Imprisonment of minors is of great concern. WHO should monitor this situation. We should take urgent steps to end the blockade. In this, we have to work together, coordinately. Reservation on parts of document that offer the possibility of recognition of Israeli territories.

Bolivia. Thank the secretariat for the report. Lament late dissemination of the report. Situation in the area has not report. Denial of fundamental human right. Urgent steps need to be taken to address the situation.

Algeria: Mauritania speaking on behalf of AFRO, so will speak after them.

Mauritania: On behalf of 47 states of AFRO. AFRO builds position on fact that health is a basic human right. Deeply concerned about situation in Palestine and Golan, especially because this is a deterioration situation. There has been no improvement on limitations on freedom of movement. Things have actually got worse! Call for full implementation of all recommendations and call for full respect on international resolutions concerning this issue. The imprisonment of women and children is especially distressing. Applaud the efforts of WHO to support Palestinian

health ministry. Regret that this is a recurring problem. Enhance assistance to health services and support report and proposed action.

Algeria: Associates with AFRO statement. Supports GPW. Remain concerned about health conditions in Palestine and Golan. Determined to face issue of social determinants of health. Health conditions in these territories can be improved only if previously voted recommendations are implemented. Protection of health personnel very important. Respect the deadline for publishing materials on this topic. Supports draft action.

South Africa. Thank you chair. We are ready to follow Algeria. Congratulate the chair and other join delegation of M. Express concern regarding deteriorating health condition. Improve health in the occupied Palestinian. Poor health status in the occupied. No respect for human right including right to health. Restriction on the movement of people to access health. Reiterate the call for the earlier resolution on the crisis. Immediate conciliation of closure of the border. Facilitate the access of Palestinian to health. Call on international community to continue assisting Palestinian people. S A fully support the draft decision before us

Maldives: Welcomes DG report and proposition. Greatly concerned about conditions in Gaza Strip. Estimated 9000 (?) people disabled, including women and children. Commends WHO efforts to enable Palestinian HS to provide quality care. Supports action.

Sudan: Thank the chairman. Speak on behalf of ARAB group. Cooperate to remove the barrier preventing people to access health care as fundamental human right. The resolution earlier agreed on should be implemented. Periodic review and report the situation to the assemble. Support the drafted

Syrian AR: Israeli occupying power knows only how to violate international conventions. It violates people's right to food and health. Despite continuous requests to resolve this question and wide support of other MS, no improvements have been noted. Israeli occupying powers use the limitation of health care to intimidate people. Prisoners are denied right according to Geneva convention. International community incapable to protect people of Palestine. Coordinate with governments to evaluate health status in occupied territories. This is occupied Syrian land and shall not compromise sovereign right to Golan. Dark night of occupation will not last forever. Adds to list of sponsors.

Venezuela: Thank the secretariat for the report. We are deeply concerned with the situation. Why Palenten protested against moving the capital to Jerusalem. Strongly condemn this Genocide. Firmly supported the measure to result ongoing crisis. Difficult to transport the basic human needs e.g food , water. No access to health facilities. Prominent obstacle to gain access to the people in need.

Pakistan: Appreciates WHO initiative to support Palestine. Deeply concerned over killing of 87 Palestinians lately. Damaging effects on right to life and health. Call for necessary funds for HS in Palestine. Problems with mental health, damage to health infrastructure and presence of

Israeli soldiers against international law. Food security problems. International community must not shy away.

Egypt: Thank the care. Aligned with Sudan and Mauritania. Seek cooperation to end the crisis.

UHC is being challenged. WHO should assist. Humanitarian emergency should be provided. People under occupation should enjoy right to health. WHO should address the barrier. Illegal blockage is of great concern. WHO should proposed necessary remedy to minimise suffering of people. Health care workers should have access to. Call upon all members states to vote for this decision

Morocco: From the report, one can assume that HS is a breaking point. Limiting operating of HS has extensive consequences. WHO has to do everything it can in order to enable Palestine to provide health care.

Yemen: A lot of people have spoken inline with our thought Health situation of the occupied called for concerned. Israelite has demonstrated neglect to. We need an effective to implement the agreed resolution. Should be compelled Israel to respect the human life. Support the draft resolution.

China. Great importance of report. Tension between Palestine and Israel has escalated. Health status has improved, but access to health care not (what's he talking about?). Important to provide health care. Hope WHO will invest more in this region. Hope things will get better.

Lebanon: The delegation of Lebanon congratulate the chair. Support the statement made by Arab group. Concerned about health deterioration of the palestinian people. Call for material support for the people. Health indicator in the region is deteriorating. Psychological and mental state of the occupied is of great concerned. Constat ruption of electricity, water supply, loss of life of health workers, prevention of transportation of injured people. Double effort to alleviate people's suffering.

Afghanistan: In support of proposal. This is a time of tragic irony. Palestinians denied right to health. More Palestinians died last week. This is a question for the Arab world. Failure to address it has stained past years and will continue to do so if things don't change. People of Palestine want more than understanding from international community, they want solidarity and concrete action.

Tunisia: Thank the chair. Support the statement made by Sudan onhelve of Arab. Stressed on the restriction of movement to prevent access to health. Continue to support the health sector in the Pallentian. Support the draft decision and urge MS to support without delay

Namibia: Aligns with AFRO. Years of occupation in Palestine have caused seemingly unending cycle of violence. Estimated 900 disabled people, children died because of explosion. Situation of health staff complicated. WHO advocates for H4A, stay true to this. Namibia calls Israel to end occupation. Open the borders for humanitarian reasons. Stands with Palestine.

Iraq: Thank the chair. Support the draft decision. All countries to support pallentian to safe alive and ensure peaceful society

Jordan: Welcomes report of DG. Supports work of WHO to provide assistance to Palestinian territories. Concerned about inequity of provision of health care, lack of water and positions of prisoners. Concerned by death by more of 77 children due to Israeli operations. Support for draft decision and urge approval. .

Turkey: Thank the secretariat. Israeli attack on pallentian is regrettable. Concerned about the present health condition of the palentian. Loss of innocent many lives. Restriction and blockage block israelite is illegal. Strongly called for immediate opening of the border. We support the effort of WHO who has been working to alleviate the condition of the pallentioan

Palestine: Commends WHO initiative. There are those who want to politicise the meaning of this report. However, we see this is a technical report. If we want to have healthy populations, we have to take care of social and political determinants. Hopes that next reports will be more detailed. Has sent videos to delegation in Geneva with proof of Israeli treatment of children. A 3-year old girl was arrested by Israel military. Prisoners die because they don't always get health care. Health workers die! This is not in line with Security Council resolutions. Palestinian people also suffer from targeting by Israeli military.

UNRWA takes the floor. Experience from gaza shared, health system of gaza at breaking point. Miserable consequences, num. Of them injured. 12000 , types of injuries is extremely complex, particularly lower limb. The extensive injuries - 5000 injured in 5 hours and the medical stock limitations. Emergency call to provide care and assistance, mental health and psychosoCIAL CARE, UNA has been providing help continuously. Health care commitment from UNRWA. Thanks to host countries - qatar, japan,UAE .

Chair: Let's consider draft decision. Is the Committee prepared to adopt?

Israel: This is a one-sided report. It is exploited politically. This is a waste of resources and time. A WHO mission stopped by Syrian shelling. Shameful. Waste of Committee B time on a political matter. Biased report. Tried to move topic to health emergencies agenda point. Forum doesn't reach out to the needy. Call to all, to set priorities and work on imp agenda and voting against it. We object this proposal.

Indonesia: Express liking of report. Unfortunate that we are not able to not leave anyone behind.

USA: USA and expressed distress, says their prerogative were not registered. They assert all shd not be sidetrack by political issues. Concern for the heath will go on. Points out that Syria kills own citizens with chemical bombing and hence, have no credibility of humanity, let alone public health. USA is largest humanitarian aid provider to Palestinians. Politicising of WHA. Why

aren't we talking about Syria own citizens? US objects. This will not improve health of Palestinians. US largest provider of humanitarian assistance to Palestine. Objects again.

Syria: Asking for point of order. Why won't you give us the floor? Objects to US. Those issues have nothing to do with the point we are discussing. I will not use my right to reply because this is not a reply, it is a point of order.

Chair: vote to be conducted by roll call

Nicaragua: Highly concerned by crisis in region. Prompt solution wanted.

Palestine: point of order. Any country or delegation requesting roll call should be seconded. Is this the case here?

Chair: yes, US seconds Israel. Let's proceed.

Legal counselor: legal stuff.

Draft decision accepted with 90 in favour, 6 against (Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Israel, UK, US), 20 abstentions, and 68 absent.