

In the Name of Allah the most Merciful the most Beneficent

OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission categorically deplores the indiscriminate targeting of hospitals and medical facilities in Gaza killing hundreds of innocent Palestinian civilians, mostly women and children, in grave violation of international human rights and humanitarian laws constituting heinous war crimes.

Jeddah, October 18, 2023: The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) joins the international community, including United Nations¹, World Health Organization and many international human rights organizations, in categorically condemning the blatant act of aggression by the Israeli occupation security forces in deliberate and indiscriminate bombing of the Al- Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza. The egregious attack reportedly has killed more than 500 innocent Palestinian civilians Muslims, mostly injured children and women who were displaced from previous Israeli raids on civilian residential buildings in Gaza.

Hospitals being sanctuaries of care and healing are universally considered as inviolable and any attack on such facilities is a blatant disregard for the principles of humanity and sanctity of civilian lives. This senseless act has not only caused devastating loss of life but has also severely impacted the ability of medical professionals to provide essential care to those in need. Such deliberate attacks on hospitals and civilian infrastructure by the Israeli occupation forces violate the recognized principles of 'distinction' and 'proportionality' provided in the international humanitarian laws. It violates the protections accorded under the Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocols and constitute serious violations which tantamount to war crimes under Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Accordingly, the Commission calls upon the relevant UN procedures to institute a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the tragic act and bring the perpetrators to justice under serious war crimes.

The Commission strongly objects to the reported actions of the Israeli occupation authorities, as an instrument of collective punishment, to cut off electricity, water, medical supplies and other essentials of life for the residents of Gaza and to forcibly displace them from their lands that again constitute heinous violations of international humanitarian laws.

The Commission endorses the efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its Member States for cessation of hostilities by the Israel security forces and illegal attempts to forcibly displace innocent Palestinian civilians from the Gaza

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/10/1142472>

Strip. It also supports call for immediately establishing a safe corridor to deliver food, medicines and relief supplies to over 2 million civilians trapped in Gaza to avert impending humanitarian catastrophe, before it gets too late.

The Commission welcomes and supports the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to hold an urgent Ministerial meeting of the OIC Executive Committee. It fully endorses and associates itself with the OIC Executive Committee communique issued today which, besides condemning the Israeli attack, has put forward ways and means to restore peace and security in the region and proposed actions to deal with the raging human rights and humanitarian challenge in Gaza.

The Commission, while expressing its unqualified solidarity with the people of Palestine in exercise of their right to self-determination, calls upon UN Security Council to intervene for an immediate end to the Israeli military aggression and occupation which is a root cause of the conflict. It also urges the international community to live up to the shared ideals of humanity, freedom and justice to inspire collective action to bring an immediate end to the protracted aggression against the Palestinians which remains as one of the oldest unresolved conflicts on the agenda of the United Nations. *noraalrshoud*



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