



PNGO condemns Israeli occupying Forces raid on Jerusalem Makassed Hospital:

24th of July, 2017

Amid ongoing attacks by Israeli occupying Forces on Palestinian civilians in the occupied East Jerusalem including the Old City and Neighborhoods, Israeli occupying Forces continue to detain, beat, assault Palestinians resulting in the death of 4 young Palestinians and injuring over 450 Palestinian civilians. The violations also include deliberately obstructing the work of medics attempting to treat injured Palestinians.

After Israeli Armed Forces shot and injured 19-year-old Alaa Abu Tayih on 18th of July, 2017 at Silwan neighborhood, Israeli forces then raided and surrounded Makassed Hospital where the wounded young Palestinian was undergoing surgery, in an attempt to detain him while receiving emergency medical treatment.

Israeli occupying power has a long history in hindering medical care to Palestinians by blocking ambulances at checkpoints, harassing medics, violating patient privacy, and restricting medical transfers from Gaza to receive necessary medical treatment. Al Makassed Administration publically stated that a large number of injured Palestinians were unable to reach the Hospital due to the siege carried out by Israeli forces on Makassed Hospital and which included the deployment of hundreds of soldiers from the borders guards and heavily armed police and excessive firing of tears gas and sound grenades within the Hospital grounds. This a clear violation of the 4th Geneva Convention which requires that hospitals, clinics, ambulances and their staff must be protected at all times so that wounded and sick can be freely treated. The violations committed against the hospital not only violate international law but can also constitute war crimes.

- PNGO calls upon the international community, human rights organizations, the World Health Organization (WHO), The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to immediately intervene to protect patients who are continuously searched at mobile

checkpoints set up by the Israeli armed forces and police at the entrance of the hospital, obstructing the medical staff to provide treatment to patients.

- PNGO calls upon the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to issue urgent statement condemning Israeli armed Forces continuous violations against Makassed Hospital which hinder the ability medics to treat patients.
- PNGO calls for action from the international community to reiterate its commitment to strengthening international law to ensure respect for and protection of medical personnel and facilities, and to support international efforts to promote impartial investigation of, and accountability for, violations of this law in the occupied Palestinian territory.
- PNGO calls upon the international health organizations to provide humanitarian assistance including medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to treat the increased number of injured Palestinians.

End

