



Urgent Appeal: Ceasefire and Start an Investigation into Grave Violations of International Humanitarian Law in Gaza

Dear H.E. Antonio Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General
760 United Nations Plaza, Manhattan,
New York City, New York, USA

Members of the Arab Public Health Association (ArPHA) urgently draw your esteemed attention to the profoundly distressing matter of War Crimes committed against children and innocent civilians in the recent conflicts in the Middle East. The magnitude of violence witnessed over the past month is gravely alarming.

Our collective efforts remain steadfast in upholding humanity, ethics, and the protection of vulnerable populations, including children, women, older individuals, and disabled persons. Equally concerning is the significant toll on healthcare workers who have lost their lives—over 135 nurses and physicians—in Gaza, where health facilities, as stipulated by International Humanitarian Law, must be safeguarded.

The forced displacement of over 1.4 million people from North Gaza to South Gaza is a matter that raises serious concerns about compliance with international humanitarian and Geneva Convention laws. The deliberate targeting of hospitals and schools, as observed in recent attacks, is an egregious crime that necessitates thorough investigation.

In numbers since October 07, 2023:

- 10,328+ Mortalities
 - 68% Mortality Rate of Women and Children
 - 4,237+ are children
 - 2,405+ are women
- 25,000+ Injured
 - 51% of Injuries are Women and Children
- 2,030 Missing
 - 50% of the Missing People are children
- 1.4 million Internally Displaced Populations
- 45% of housing units are destroyed.

These figures, sourced from the Palestinian Ministry of Health/Gaza and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, underscore the urgency of our appeal for a comprehensive investigation into the grave violations committed. The intentional attacks on innocent lives, healthcare workers, and essential infrastructure demand justice.

Children, inherently innocent, should never bear the brunt of conflicts. Urgent condemnation and a steadfast commitment to preventive measures are imperative. We beseech Your Excellency to leverage your influence and take decisive actions to stop the war and prevent further harm, ensuring the safety, well-being, and protection of children and civilians.

We express our deepest concern and stand in solidarity with any efforts you may undertake to address this critical issue. The prevention of violence against children and innocent lives is a shared



responsibility that demands collaborative and decisive international action. Every minute wasted through dithering and inaction means more bloodshed and major disabilities. Staying passive and silent in horrible times like these is way worse than the war crimes being committed in front of the world's eyes.

On behalf of members of ArPHA,
Professor Salman Rawaf
President
Arab Public Health Association

Signatures from our members: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-K7BD8VT0UkuextwXifwBSblWyNfv3ftd4wp4mP8Bng/edit?usp=sharing>