

U.S. doctors recount horrors of Israel's genocidal attacks on Gaza, saying the crimes are beyond comprehension



A Palestinian nurse weeps as she tends to a wounded woman following Israeli bombardment of a displacement camp in Khan Younis, at the main hall of the Nasser hospital in the southern Gaza Strip city on October 1, 2024. (Photo by AFP)

Washington, October 6 (RHC)-- A group of 99 American physicians, who volunteered to work in Gaza, rejected Israeli allegations of military activity in the territory's hospitals, calling on the Biden administration to immediately halt all military, economic, and diplomatic support for the Tel Aviv regime.

In a letter to President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the volunteers, who collectively dedicated 254 weeks to Gaza's healthcare facilities, recounted dire humanitarian conditions amid ongoing Israeli offensives, describing their experiences as witnessing "crimes beyond comprehension."

"We wish to be absolutely clear: not once did any of us see any type of Palestinian military activity in any of Gaza's hospitals or other healthcare facilities," they stated in the letter.

Previously, Hamas had dismissed Israeli claims regarding the al-Shifa hospital, once the largest medical facility in Gaza.

Izzat al-Rishq, a member of the political bureau of Hamas, stated that the Israeli allegations that the Gaza-based resistance group is using the hospital for military purposes lack credibility.

The physicians called attention to Israel's systematic destruction of Gaza's healthcare system, stating that their colleagues were targeted with "torture, disappearance, and murder" in the besieged area. The letter detailed the suffering faced by Gazan women and children in hospitals, highlighting severe malnutrition and a critical shortage of medical supplies.

The doctors referenced a July study from the medical journal *Lancet* that said the death toll in Gaza has already surpassed 118,000, marking more than 5% of its population. "Every day I saw babies die. They had been born healthy. Their mothers were so malnourished that they could not breastfeed, and we lacked formula or clean water to feed them, so they starved," Asma Taha, a pediatric nurse practitioner, recounted.

"Gaza was the first time I held a baby's brains in my hand. The first of many," Dr. Mark Perlmutter, an orthopedic and hand surgeon, reflected in the letter.

The doctors condemned "Israel's continued, repeated" displacement of the malnourished and sick population of Gaza, particularly children, into areas devoid of basic necessities like water and sanitation, calling it "absolutely shocking."

"It is impossible that such widespread shooting of young children throughout Gaza, sustained over the course of an entire year, is accidental or unknown to the highest Israeli civilian and military authorities," they said.

The doctors urged the Biden administration to support an international arms embargo on Israel until a permanent ceasefire is established. They also requested a meeting with Biden and Harris to discuss their observations and advocate for a fundamental shift in American policy regarding West Asia.

Additionally, the signatories reiterated their earlier calls from their July 25 letter, including reopening the Rafah crossing to allow humanitarian aid, including water and medical supplies, into Gaza. "Every day that we continue supplying weapons and munitions to Israel is another day that women are shredded by our bombs and children are murdered with our bullets," they said.

Israel has killed at least 41,825 Palestinians, mostly women and children, in Gaza since October 2023.

The Israeli war machine ignited its genocidal campaign by targeting helpless Palestinians trapped in the coastal territory. It was after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas conducted surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the occupying entity in response to the regime's decades-long campaign of bloodletting and devastation against the Palestinians.

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