



Türk Tabipleri Birliđi

Turkish Medical Association

1641/2022

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TMA Letter to the World Medical Association: War and Armed Clashes Going on in Ukraine Must Immediately End

Dear Dr Stensmyren,

We are following with great concern the process of armed conflict that started with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As is the case in all wars, there are losses that cannot be definitively quantified while the greatest harm is suffered by vulnerable groups including women, children, the elderly, individuals with health problems and disabilities. Unfortunately, healthcare services, facilities and personnel are also targeted despite being under the protection of international agreements.

According to current data related to the situation in Ukraine released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 25 March 2022:

- There were 119 attacks that harmed healthcare services, facilities and personnel, 31 of which directly targeted these services,
- These attacks caused the death of 94 persons while 56 persons were wounded,
- 74 health facilities were seriously damaged, 24 of which are presently unusable,
- In healthcare facilities targeted, 26 patients receiving treatment and 55 health workers on duty were harmed in some way,
- 29 ambulances were targeted.

In addition to these, damage to medical equipment storages, unsustainability of cold chain, exhaustion of oxygen sources and cessation of medical equipment logistics and supply services in conflict environments are the factors that make the situation even worse and give rise to serious concerns about the sustainability of healthcare services that are already in fragile circumstances.

Throughout its history, the Turkish Medical Association (TMA) has stood against all wars and cases of armed conflict and shared its firm position defending life and survival with the public as recognised and respected internationally. Besides, it is an historically honourable record that the TMA waged struggle against the targeting of healthcare services, facilities and personnel in all wars and cases of armed conflict either in the region or elsewhere in the world.

Maintaining this position, the TMA declares worldwide that it is ready for all forms of cooperation and solidarity with the victims of the war in Ukraine within the conceptual framework of "Health Care in Danger" by the World Medical Association to help ensure the sustenance of healthcare services in cases of emergency and expresses its wishes of ending the war as a public health problem given its irremediable losses.

Kind regards,

Prof. Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı

President

Turkish Medical Association

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