

Joint national medical associations statement on the healthcare crisis in Gaza

We have watched, with increasing dismay, the destruction inflicted on the Gazan healthcare system by Israeli forces since October 2023. We are appalled by what our colleagues in Gaza have been subjected to, in violation of international humanitarian law, and demand that action is taken to protect them and their patients.

Hospitals have been repeatedly attacked and subjected to air strikes. At least 94% of hospitals in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed.¹ Many are no longer operational. Hundreds of doctors and fellow healthcare workers have been killed. Dozens have been arbitrarily detained, with many reporting severe abuse while in detention,² and UN experts have stated that “Health and care workers have been continuously targeted, detained, tortured and are now, like the rest of the population, being starved.”³ All of this is illegal under international law.

The limitations on aid are deepening the public health crisis that Gaza is facing. The IPC declared a famine in Gaza in August 2025, stating further that they expected the situation to worsen.⁴ Tens of thousands are starving. Medical supplies and intervention are necessary to treat the effects of malnutrition, yet this too is being denied by the Israeli government.

Regrettably, much of what we have described will not be news to many people, and it is a sad indictment of the state of affairs that has been allowed to go on for so long by the international community.

As physicians, we cannot remain silent in the face of these atrocities committed against our colleagues, working in the most difficult of circumstances, as well as a population already facing a public health crisis. More must be done. This is not a matter of politics, but one of morality, humanity, and justice.

We call on governments across the world and supranational organisations to work for:

- A ceasefire
- Respect for international humanitarian law and the protections for healthcare
- Respect for medical neutrality
- Independent investigations into:
 - The targeting of healthcare by Israeli forces
 - The arbitrary detention and abuse of Gazan healthcare workers
 - Allegations of Israeli medical involvement in the abuse of Gazan detainees
- The release of all hostages
- Adequate humanitarian aid to be allowed into Gaza through United Nations agencies
- Increasing the number of medical evacuations from Gaza

We further call on fellow bodies that represent medical professionals and healthcare workers to join us in denouncing the horrors faced by our colleagues in Gaza and to stand in solidarity with them.

¹ <https://www.who.int/news/item/22-05-2025-health-system-at-breaking-point-as-hostilities-further-intensify--who-warns>

² <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/08/26/israel-palestinian-healthcare-workers-tortured>

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/08/un-experts-appalled-relentless-israeli-attacks-gazas-healthcare-system>

⁴ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/countries-in-focus-archive/issue-134/en/>

The World Medical Association General Assembly is meeting in early October. We will be raising these issues there and we hope the WMA will join us in these calls. For our colleagues and patients in Gaza, it is the least we can do.

Turkish Medical Association



British Medical Association



South African Medical Association



Pakistan Medical Association



Sindicato Medico del Uruguay



Kuwait Medical Association



Irish Medical Organisation



Nepal Medical Association



Spanish Medical Association



Somalia Medical Association



Tunisia Medical Association

