

Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

At the request of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Director-General has the honour to transmit to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly the attached report by the Ministry of Health of the Syrian Arab Republic (see Annex).

ANNEX

Syrian Arab Republic

Ministry of Health

HEALTH CONDITIONS OF SYRIAN CITIZENS IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN

1. The **health conditions of the Syrian population in the occupied Golan** continue to deteriorate as a result of the suppressive practices of the Israeli occupation. Syrians are being deprived of medical treatment for rejecting Israeli citizenship and there is an acute shortage of primary and secondary health care services owing to the lack of integrated medical centres in the occupied Syrian Golan.
2. It is also important to mention the **suffering of Syrian detainees in Israeli occupation prisons**, who are held in inhumane detention conditions, brutally tortured and coerced into confessing crimes that they never committed. Consequently, these detainees are prone to developing many serious diseases, permanent disabilities and are exposed to several other truly life-threatening ailments.
3. The Israeli occupation authorities continue to use Syrian and Arab detainees as subjects for the testing of drugs and medicines. The prisoners are also injected with pathogenic viruses, causing disabilities and illnesses that are sometimes fatal, as was the case with prisoner Hayil Abu Zeid.
4. We also draw the attention of the World Health Organization to the fact that the Israeli occupation authorities are continuing to bury nuclear waste in more than 20 sites, and have dumped over 1500 barrels of radioactive and toxic materials in secret landfills in the occupied Syrian Golan territories. Moreover, the Israeli authorities persist in planting nuclear and radioactive landmines along the ceasefire line. Such practices violate all international and humanitarian conventions and treaties, and represent a flagrant aggression against the Syrian people under occupation. As such, the Ministry of Health in the Syrian Arab Republic holds the Israeli occupation authorities fully responsible for any environmental or health-related complications in the Golan villages resulting from the burial of this toxic waste.
5. Over the past few years, the Israeli occupation authorities have ignored repeated requests from the Syrian Arab Republic for the provision of medical services to Syrian citizens in the villages of the occupied Golan, particularly the establishment of four medical centres in Majdal Shams, Buq'ata, Ain Kynia and Ghajar, despite the fact that all studies on establishing the centres were completed in 2006. Requests for the construction of a 30-bed hospital for minor surgery have also been ignored. The occupation authorities are determined to refrain from action and therefore deprive the people in Golan of access to health services as a way to deport them and empty the villages, or to force them to obtain Israeli citizenship.
6. We have cited above several graphic examples of the unethical practices carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities, which only serve to highlight the inability of the international community to undertake its role in relation to the rights of Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan. The said authorities persist in carrying out heinous practices that violate basic human rights, specifically the "right to health" Those authorities also continue to prevent Syrian patients from seeking medical treatment and deny preventive medical services to vulnerable categories, namely newborn babies, infants, children under five years of age, pregnant women and elderly people.

7. However, the Israeli authorities have recently established a field hospital providing medical services to hundreds of armed terrorists from the Al-Nusra Front and related groups who, pursued by the competent Syrian authorities, flee to the occupied Syrian Golan. The occupation authorities then return these terrorists to Syria to resume their terrorist acts of sabotage against peaceful citizens and destroy infrastructure in the country.

8. We therefore call upon the World Health Organization (WHO), as the lead organization in global health affairs, to intervene immediately and take effective measures to put an end to the inhumane Israeli practices that target the health of Syrian citizens. We also call upon WHO to exert pressure on the occupying authorities to establish the integrated medical facilities that we have been requesting for several years, so as to provide health care services to Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan and lift the ban imposed on the Golan territory and people, using all available means.

9. We further stress our previous request concerning the establishment of four integrated medical centres and a hospital in the occupied Syrian Golan villages, and the need for WHO to create an appropriate and urgent mechanism to provide regular and accessible medical services to Syrian citizens in the Golan. We also request that WHO exert pressure on the occupying forces to allow the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to provide medical services, after international organizations, specifically WHO, failed to gain access to the occupied Syrian Golan and establish medical facilities there.

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