

United Nations World Health Organization

Topic: Health situation in Gaza

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I Committee

World Health Organization is a special system inside the United Nations that is responsible for guiding and powering authority for health issues and crises. WHO has to be the leader on health matters that are global, has to determine the health research program, construct the principles and rules, give support that is technical to many countries, formulate the guidelines and rules for the proff-based policy option, and be the assessor of global health trends. On the 7th of April of 1948, date in which each year we celebrate World Health Day, the WHO's Constitution came into effect. "Health is a shared responsibility, involving equitable access to essential care and collective defence against transnational threats."¹

II Introduction and Description of the Issue

By January 20, 2009 more than 4,000 people were wounded and more than 880 people have been killed. This occurred in a lapse of only sixteen days. Inside Gaza the health services are already worn-out, weak and delicate. They (the health care services) have reached a line in which if the actions to support and guard them aren't done right away, the health services will crumble and give away. To make humanitarian health care services at all possible for the local people, the WHO has announced that immediate situation of Gaza has to improve. One of the places in the world that has the highest population per square mile is Gaza. If the conflict doesn't come to a stop sign or a finish, one

can effortlessly see that this conflict would generate more civilian casualties and partial or complete destruction of national and private infrastructure. In Gaza, the health services are currently under enormous tension and urgently need widespread support.

III History of the Topic

The unending and galling crisis in the Middle East has resulted in the economical and social distress on the lives of most Palestinians. The situation has started to boil as a direct effect of the “strict closures recently imposed by the Israeli authorities”. A consequence of these closures is the lack of electricity that resulted from the shortage of fuel in the Gaza Power Plant. Electricity is extremely important in hospital services, especially in operation rooms, emergency rooms, and intensive care units. Israel’s Minister of Defence on January 17, 2008 announced the absolute closure emplaced on the Gaza Strip. The means of access for *all medical supplies and fuel* are completely cut as a result of this closure. Israel says that this measure was absolutely needed because of the constant rockets that were being fired to Israel from Gaza.

IV Points of View

This issue has possibly two points of view. In one side, countries argue that Israeli measures were too extreme and caused the delicate and fragile health situation in Gaza. These countries argue that Israel’s complete closure on the Gaza Strip didn’t permit the access of humanitarian aid, in the form of food, water, and medicines, to the Palestinians living in Gaza, thus resulting in a

higher casualty number that could have been prevented. "Access to health is a fundamental human right."³

In the other side, countries argue that Israeli measures were reasonable. These countries argue this because they say Israel's sovereignty was in dispute with the constant rocket fires and mortar attacks that came from the Gaza Strip. These countries argue that while Hamas has fired more than 1,700 rockets and mortars, Israel has given medical treatment to 9,000 Palestinians that came to Israel as a result of the Gaza conflict.

V Case Studies

United States & Israel: Hamas is responsible for the situation in Gaza. Instead of engaging in dialogue to continue the steps toward the two-State vision, made use of aggression and terrorism to fulfil its dream of destroying Israel. One can clearly see Hamas's aggression and terrorism in its decision to launch a rocket attack every three hours. Israel just acted in "accordance with its inherent right under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter to protect and defend its people. A clear distinction must be made between Palestinian terrorism and Israeli defence." ⁶

Middle East:

European Union: The European Union is very concerned in the extreme conditions 1.5 million people are living in Gaza as a result of Israeli closures. The European Union is also concerned with the fact that these closures "put at risk the regular supply to meet humanitarian needs."

VI Possible Solutions

VII Current Status

The 4th of February 2009 update on the health situation in the Gaza Strip, from the World Health Organization, states: The UNDSS (United Nations Department of Safety and Security) recommend that the UN facilities inside the Gaza Strip continue to be close and the staff of UN to stay at home. There were a total of a hundred and twenty two health facilities evaluated, of which 48% presented damages or were completely destroyed. This figure includes the 41 PHC & 15 hospitals that presented damages, and the 2 PHC that were in complete destruction. An improvement can be seen in the electricity supplies at health facilities. The *post-ceasefire assessments*, that calculate the damages done to health facilities and the immediate health needs, are coming to an end.

VIII Conclusions

The Gaza strip presents a very fragile and delicate health situation due to the Israeli closures. Currently Israel has help humanitarian aid get to the zone and has help give the necessary medical aid to Palestinians. Israel says Hamas is to blame for the current health situation in Gaza. While Palestians argue that Israeli measures were inhumane and extreme. More than 4,000 people were wounded and more than 880 people have been killed.

IX Important Questions

To be better prepared for the debate, you as a delegate most consider your country's answer to the following questions: What can your country do to help solve this conflict? Has your country provided humanitarian or economic

support to the conflict? Has your country signed any treaties or resolution involving this crises?

X Bibliography

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