

## Doctors for Global Health Statement on Gaza

### Declaración sobre Gaza de las y los Médicos por la Salud Global

---

#### Doctors for Global Health

<https://www.dghonline.org/>

We, Doctors for Global Health, write with a broken heart, this letter to publicly condemn the horrific atrocities ongoing in Gaza, which the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur has stated that there are “reasonable grounds” to declare a genocide.<sup>1</sup> As a US based organization, we write to call for an immediate ceasefire and the cessation of offensive US military aid to Israel. We are a small private not-for-profit international organization composed of health professionals, artists, therapists, musicians, educators, parents, survivors of war, and a myriad of other labels. We were founded in the mountains of El Salvador in 1995, amid the grief and poverty of a post-civil-war society out of a spirit of health internationalism. Since then, we have dedicated our time to accompany communities in Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uganda, and the United States. We find inspiration from the principles of liberation medicine, the conscious and conscientious use of health to promote social justice, human dignity, human rights and peace.

There is so much suffering in this world we find ourselves, but since the brutal murder of 1200 lives by Hamas on October 7th, the onslaught of devastation has been overwhelming. The ongoing atrocities perpetrated by the state of Israel, funded and armed by the US government, has as of this writing killed over 37,000, wounded 81,000, a large percentage being women and children. It has displaced the majority of the 2,000,000 inhabitants of the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, 723 healthcare workers have been killed, another 924 wounded and 450 health facilities attacked. In addition, the use of starvation to further devastate the Palestinian people is a clear form of collective punishment and an international war crime.<sup>2</sup>

We call for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all Palestinian prisoners and Israeli hostages, the immediate release of all humanitarian aid to Gaza, the cessation of all offensive military weapons to Israel. We call for the right to return for those displaced in Gaza. We call for the end of state-backed violence against Palestinians in the West Bank and for the end of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian Territories. We call for an end to the brutal repression in all its forms of protesting college students and activists who are valiantly rising up against these atrocities and standing for justice.

DGH’s affirmation that every human life is equally precious compels us to stand with those who struggle for social justice, human rights and peace. True health is based on people living free of oppression, violence and colonization. The Palestinian people, the Israeli people deserve no less. May we honor the words of the Palestinian poet Dr. Refaat Alareer, killed by an Israeli airstrike with his family in December 2023:

#### If I must die

*If I must die,  
you must live  
to tell my story  
to sell my things  
to buy a piece of cloth  
and some strings,  
(make it white with a long tail)  
so that a child, somewhere in Gaza  
while looking heaven in the eye  
awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—  
and bid no one farewell  
not even to his flesh  
not even to himself—  
sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up above  
and thinks for a moment an angel is there*



*bringing back love  
If I must die  
let it bring hope  
let it be a tale.*<sup>3</sup>

May we find our way back to ourselves, to stop the killing, and begin building a world worthy of all our children.

Doctors for Global Health

### References

1. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147976>  
“I am now persuaded that Israel is engaged in genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. What has changed my mind is its sustained policy of

obstructing the movement of humanitarian assistance into the territory.” Aryeh Neier, German-born Jewish Holocaust survivor, founder of Human Rights Watch.

<https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2024/06/06/israel-committing-genocide-aryeh-neier/>  
<https://www.npr.org/2024/01/27/1227397107/icj-finds-genocide-case-against-israel-plausible-orders-it-to-stop-violations>  
<https://www.npr.org/2024/01/26/1227078791/icj-israel-genocide-gaza-palestinians-south-africa>

2. WHO situational report:  
[https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep\\_-\\_issue\\_32c.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_-_issue_32c.pdf?ua=1)  
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/06/1150946>
3. <https://ifimustdie.net/>



**Social Medicine**  
Health For All

ISSN: 1557-7112