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Attacks by occupying forces and Zionist settlers on Palestinian medical personnel are a war crime

Available data, documented by local and international human rights institutions, indicate that the excessive use of lethal force against these protected persons and the ambulances in which they travel confirms the military's intention to kill and injure them.



In recent weeks, Israeli occupying forces and settler gangs have intensified their attacks on medical personnel, ambulances, doctors and paramedics in Jerusalem and other occupied Palestinian territories, in grave violation of international humanitarian and human rights law. And the undersecretary of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, Wael Al-Sheikh, told the media that medical personnel had been deliberately shot in the line of duty.

The frequency of attacks on medical personnel has increased in the past week by occupation soldiers on the one hand and settlers on the other, as medical personnel, journalists and civil defence personnel have been found to have been increasingly targeted

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in recent periods. Ahmed Jibril, director of ambulance and emergencies for the Red Crescent in Nablus, said settlers attacked ambulances in the town of Hawara, south of Nablus, preventing them from passing to treat people wounded by Israeli bullets.

Red Crescent and Medical Relief ambulances were directly attacked on several occasions while carrying wounded people in numerous Palestinian towns and camps. The settlers also attacked a doctor in Tulkarem and a medical vehicle belonging to Najah University Hospital in Nablus. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the doctor, Assem Qaddoumi, suffered severe bruises to his chest, abdomen and nose when a group of settlers attacked him at the Beit Lid crossing, east of Tulkarem, after which he was transferred to the government hospital in Thabet. In Nablus, settlers attacked a vehicle from An-Najah University Hospital carrying dialysis patients as it passed through the Hawara checkpoint two days ago.

Medical teams and ambulances have also been targeted in Jerusalem and in Palestinian towns and camps by the occupying forces and settler herds to prevent them from fulfilling their humanitarian duty to provide necessary medical care to victims of the occupation who were injured in the aftermath of these attacks.

El Dr Abdullah Abu Al-Tin

In a dangerous escalation, on Friday morning, 14/10/2022, the occupation forces attacked doctor Abdullah Abu Al-Tin in Jenin, seriously wounding him in the head with a bullet and he was later pronounced dead. Dr. Abu Al-Tin, when hit by an occupation sniper's bullet, was one of the medical personnel targeted by the occupation attacks over the past week. He was neither the first nor the last of the martyred medical personnel who fell in the attacks of the occupying forces and the hordes of settlers.

The aggressive attacks carried out by the Israeli occupying forces and the hordes of settlers against Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories constitute a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. These acts are classified as grave breaches under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Populations in Time of War of 1949. Attacks directed against medical personnel and vehicles by the Israeli occupying forces and settlers constitute a form of intentional killing falling within the scope of the grave violations provided for in articles 146 and 147.

Article 20 of the Convention also stipulates that employees working in the management and operation of hospitals, including ambulance drivers, nurses and paramedics

transporting and evacuating victims of military operations, must be respected and protected. Article 23 stipulates the obligation of High Contracting Parties to ensure the free passage of all consignments of medicines and medical supplies. The Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to victims of international armed conflicts, strengthens mechanisms for the protection of medical personnel, facilitates the transfer of wounded and injured persons in areas of hostilities and enshrines the need to protect them and not expose them to all actions that cause them harm.

Attacks by the occupying forces and Israeli settlers against Palestinian medical personnel are not considered an involuntary act or a simple accident due to a mistake, which can be corrected and has no consequences for the subsequent operations of these forces. On the contrary, the repeated attacks on these doctors, nurses and paramedics confirm the fact that they have been targeted by these forces. Available data, documented by local and international human rights institutions, indicate that the excessive use of lethal force against these protected persons and the ambulances in which they travel confirms the military's intention to kill and injure them.

These continuing attacks on medical personnel, which have resulted in hundreds of deaths and injuries in their ranks, are considered war crimes under the Statute of the International Criminal Court and carry international responsibility, requiring the preparation of a judicial file on the victims of these attacks, including the wounded and martyrs. to submit it to the international criminal justice system, in particular the International Criminal Court, to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice, so that they do not escape punishment.

Note from Tlaxcala

The version given by the author of the death of Dr. Al-Tin (surgeon, 43 years old, father of 3 children) takes up the official version of the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah, which hides the fact that this doctor was also a fighter of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an emanation of the militant fraction of Fatah, and that he was armed at the time he was killed. In my humble opinion, portraying a fighter as a poor innocent victim does not help the cause, especially since the Zionists were quick to publish the photos of Abdullah in arms with these kinds of comments: "The photos of the deceased more eloquently show the terrorist more eloquently than the Doctor." It does not respond to the argument used to justify the executions of "terrorists" with victimizing whining, but by affirming loud and

clear the right to resistance, also enshrined in international law. The Israeli Supreme Court itself ruled in 2005 that "terrorists' belong to the category of civilians taking part in hostilities." It can be deduced that their execution cannot be justified at all and that there is no point in trying to hide their status as combatants.

Ali Abou Hilal, Al Quds-com, 18/10/2022

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