



שר הבריאות
Minister of Health

משרד
הבריאות
לחיים בריאים יותר

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Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director General

World Health Organization

On October 7th, the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the darkest days of the holocaust, thousands of Hamas terrorists rampaged through Israeli towns, burning infants alive, raping women, torturing children in front of their parents, and murdering over 1,200 people including entire families.

Hamas also took civilian hostages including babies, women, and the elderly, many of whom are severely ill or wounded. Sadly, the WHO has been largely silent on this issue making only token efforts to advocate for Israeli hostages, while instead repeatedly criticizing Israel's efforts to dismantle Hamas and protect Palestinian civilians.

On 2 November, Dr Michael Ryan Exec. Director of WHO Health Emergency Programme claimed he "knows what's going on above the ground" at Shifa Hospital in Gaza. While he recognized that the misuse of health facilities for military purposes is outlawed, he cast doubts that any terror activity occurred in the hospital. However, yesterday the IDF published CCTV video clearly showing a wide range of terrorist activities in public areas of the hospital **above ground**, including the holding of hostages in the hospital itself in violation of any code of ethics. Given the overwhelming evidence, it is clear that Dr Ryan's depiction of the events to the international community was wrongful.

We call for an immediate public recognition and condemnation of the abusive use of health facilities by Hamas to conduct hostilities, including the holding of hostages captured on October 7th.



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It is now evident that the WHO has, to the very least, turned a blind eye to the militarization of health facilities and the use of human shields in Gaza, as well as tragically opposing evacuation of civilians from these facilities. In addition

to embedding themselves in and underneath Palestinian hospitals and other medical facilities, Hamas continues to attack Israeli civilians, health infrastructure and personnel with rockets, fired from built up civilian areas and often next to medical facilities and schools. This constitutes a double war crime.

By failing to adequately address these issues, the WHO has actively contributed to the continuation of this conflict which causes so much suffering for so many.

Rest assured, as Israel fights Hamas, it continues to do what it can to protect Palestinian civilians and work with the international community to ensure they have access to medical care.

WHO must also demand the end of the use of human shields and the militarization of health facilities by Hamas, the evacuation of civilians to safer areas in Gaza, and the unconditional and immediate release of the all the hostages.

Sincerely,

Moshe Bar Siman Tov
Director General

MK Uriel Busso
Minister of Health
State of Israel