

Statement of Solidarity with People of Palestine

People's Health Movement (PHM);

(Issued on May 19th, 2021)

The People's Health Movement (PHM), a global network of grassroots health activists, civil society organizations, and academic institutions, strongly condemns the attacks against Palestinian people by Israeli occupying forces and expresses full and unequivocal solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The recent attempts of Israeli occupying forces to expel Palestinian residents from the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in Jerusalem is a continuation of the ethnic cleansing frequently committed by the Israeli occupying forces. These attempts violate the principles of international humanitarian law contained in the Geneva Convention that prohibits eviction and displacement of populations in occupied territories. Palestinian and international human rights organisations have widely denounced the unwillingness of the Israeli occupying forces to comply with UN guidelines and international regulatory provisions. Several human rights organizations, including Israeli groups, have been recognizing and criticising the apartheid nature of the Israeli occupying forces.

According to PHM-affiliated local health groups and activists, the attacks of the Israeli occupying forces on the Gaza Strip are targeting civilians in all residential areas using the heaviest and fiercest military machinery, including military aircrafts, artillery, and tanks. The majority of the Palestinians affected by these strikes are unarmed civilians, especially since the missiles directed by the warplanes target the homes of civilians in residential areas and residential towers. On the night of May 15, two respected doctors were killed together with their families when their homes were bombarded. We pay the highest respect to Dr. Ayman Abu al-Ouf, the head of the internal medicine department at Shifa Hospital, and Dr. Moen al-Aloul, who worked as a psychiatrist for the Ministry of Health before his retirement.

The escalation of violence by Israeli occupying forces comes when the people of Palestine are grappling with the burden of the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the Geneva Convention, Israeli occupying forces must provide healthcare, including vaccines, to Palestinians as an occupying power. Up until May 15, nearly 62% of Israelis had received at least one shot of Covid-19 vaccine versus only 5.3% Palestinians. We condemn these deplorable actions (by commission and omission) that are incontrovertibly against humanity and the Palestinian people. We demand that the Palestinian people are given access to Covid 19 vaccines, treatment, and health care urgently.

We demand the international community, including all UN entities, to:

- Put pressure on the Israeli occupying forces to immediately stop their attacks on Palestinians and stop the displacement of Palestinian families from their homes and lands and ultimately to end its occupation of Palestine..
- Act on its responsibility mandated by several international treaties to safeguard the health rights of Palestinians and condemn the increased inequity in health that the pandemic response of the Israeli government has caused.
- Stop accepting the flimsy excuses under the pretext of self-defense made by the Israeli occupying forces when they kill protected civilians and bomb their homes with artillery

We call upon people worldwide to put pressure on their governments to stop all forms of support to Israeli occupying forces, especially arms exports.

We call on the authorities, UN and other Human Rights Bodies/Agencies, civil society organizations, and people around the world to denounce crimes of Israeli occupying forces against humanity in Palestine and support the Palestinian people's struggle to ensure that they can live in peace on their land, the State of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital.

PHM decries the severe forms of aggression and injustice unleashed by the racist regime of Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people.

PHM believes that peace and justice are social determinants of health.

PHM stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle for existence and their land. We are one with our colleagues, health professionals, health and human rights activists on the ground and celebrate their strength and courage.

We cherish and salute the Palestinian people's resistance and resilience.