
World Health Organization
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Committee B (14)
Health conditions in the Palestinian territory and the Golan

Delivered by Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter
Permanent Representative of Israel in Geneva

Thank you Mr. Chairperson and members of Committee B.

After listening to so many false allegations and so many distortions, it is all the more troubling – and I am sure that I am not the only one to share it – that this discussion here, for the last hour and more, has crossed any limits of decency. I must say that this place has been turning into a platform of incitement against Israel, and I must say it is totally shameful. It should be condemned.

We are back to this orchestrated decision by the Palestinians and the Syrians, and I must go back and refer briefly to what has been said. I will start with the Syrians.

Even today, shouldn't we all discuss the suffering and the health situation of millions of Syrians of Idlib this morning, that are suffering by their own regime. Shouldn't we respect them and many others who do not receive the attention of this platform, as the Palestinians and the Syrians receive today.

I want to quote to you, just a few things that were written in the unpublished report conducted by the WHO professional delegation to the Golan in 2017. I hold it because I was one of the relevant parties that received this report.

I quote:

- "There is good access to an appropriate range of primary health care services;"
- "referral hospitals have been providing health services to Syrians injured during the Syrian conflict, [...] As a result, many of these patients have undergone multiple surgical procedures. They also received extensive post-operative physical and occupational therapy [...] the dedication of the hospital staff and the quality of care provided are indeed impressive." End of quote.

And to the Palestinian representative :

Regarding the whole Palestinian Health Care system. We constantly reiterate that Israel does not object to any professional discussion regarding the ways to improve health conditions of Palestinians. The Palestinian Authority also has responsibility for their people. And we are also constantly supporting any technical assistance and contribution given by different countries and organizations.

But when coming to talk about the situation in Gaza, there is a reality on the ground: that Gaza is controlled by the Hamas terror organization, that Israel unilaterally withdrew from in summer 2005. To say that Israel is responsible, and not looking in the eyes of the reality, I find it necessary to also state that the Palestinian Authority itself is in conflict with the Hamas organization controlling Gaza, and is itself preventing the entry of medicines and stops referral of patients from Gaza to hospitals in Israel. This did not come to the fore.

Beyond that, regarding the vaccines. We strongly condemn the misleading dis-information campaign by the Palestinians regarding the lack of vaccines to their people. Israel has not prevented any shipment of medicines or vaccines from delivery. There is a full stock of vaccines until the end of the year and Israel is already exploring ways to guarantee next year's needs, as we do every year.

So if we truly want to discuss the health conditions, and how to improve them, we should enter into a descent dialogue. And the only way to do is by engaging professionally and in a sincere manner.

We object to this decision and call on you to join us. I call for a roll call vote.

Thank you.