



medico friend circle

Statement of Solidarity

The **Medico Friend Circle** is a 49 year old nationwide voluntary network in India consisting of health professionals and health activists who work towards universal health and health care for all people, especially the underprivileged and marginalised.

We have been following the horrifying escalation of violence in the occupied Palestinian region of Gaza over recent days. As a conscientious health group, we denounce all attacks perpetrated on ordinary citizens in any part of the world on account of geopolitical disputes. Killing and harming civilians in any country - even when war is declared - is a crime against humanity which goes against international laws agreed upon by all countries. We stand against the injury and loss of civilian lives and grieve for their battered families and communities.

The strikes on Gaza's hospitals and attacks on the health workers are certainly among the most grievous of war crimes. As a health network we are deeply concerned about the safety and security of healthcare workers, health professionals and humanitarian workers who carry on performing their responsibilities under difficult conditions in the midst of high civilian injury and loss of life, shortage of medicines and medical supplies due to military blockade, and at great personal risk. According to the World Health Organisation's media centre, "The WHO remains unable to distribute fuel and essential lifesaving health supplies to major hospitals in northern Gaza due to lack of security guarantees."

We strongly condemn the current attacks as well as the blockade of essential water, food and medical supplies and emergency humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. Furthermore, health professionals and healthcare workers must be able to work without threat in situations of conflict so they can provide medical relief to the sick and wounded and save lives.

As members of the Medico Friend Circle, we call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire so health supplies and fuel can be delivered safely throughout the Gaza Strip. As public health activists, we deprecate the decades of violence perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinians through unlawful occupation, apartheid, atrocities and ethnic cleansing. We stand in solidarity with health professionals, health workers, humanitarian workers, peace movements and all people in the Israel-Palestine war zone, on both sides, who hope for and strive for a lasting ceasefire.

As a pro-people health organisation, we express our solidarity with you and our deepest regard.

Executive Committee

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On behalf of Medico Friend Circle <https://mfcindia.org/> November 9, 2023