

Gaza: Israel responsible for the lives of children, wounded, and staff trapped inside Kamal Adwan Hospital



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Israel-Palestinian Territory

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Palestinian Territory - Israel bears responsibility for the lives of dozens of children, wounded, patients, and medical staff being held by its army at the Kamal Adwan Hospital in the Beit Lahia Project area of northern Gaza.

After repeatedly bombing the hospital—which is home to over 150 children, wounded, patients, and medical personnel, both yesterday and this morning (Friday 25 October), the Israeli occupation army forces stormed the health facility and forced everyone to assemble in the courtyard.

In addition to separating the men from the women and children, the occupation forces began questioning, abusing, and assaulting anyone over the age of 13, including medical personnel.

The Israeli army bombed the hospital's oxygen station, threatening the lives of the 15 patients in the intensive care unit, including children. There is also preliminary information that several children have already died from the oxygen shortage.

Communication is completely cut off within the hospital, in light of the danger to everyone's lives. The hospital was stormed just hours after the arrival of an international delegation carrying a limited amount of medicine and fuel supplies.

To save the lives of thousands of Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip, the United Nations and other international organisations must fulfill their obligations and compel Israel to release and protect all medical personnel, patients, and injured people. They must also ensure that the hospital, ambulance crews, and Civil Defence workers are able to resume their work, particularly as they are among the groups and civilian objects that are protected by international humanitarian law.

During its first incursion into the northern Strip last December, the Israeli army stormed and destroyed Kamal Adwan Hospital, which was eventually partially reopened. In the last three weeks, the hospital has been the site of the greatest number of casualties from Israel's third incursion into northern Gaza, which has left over 900 people killed and 1,500 injured.

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor emphasises that the situation is incredibly dire. Homes in northern Gaza are being bombed and burned, and there are no ambulances or Civil Defence crews available to aid in any rescue efforts.

At least eight homes were subjected to intense Israeli bombardment last night, leaving 200 people killed and injured. According to preliminary reports, the injured will likely die if they haven't already, as there is no one to rescue them or any means by which to provide them with treatment due to the tight Israeli siege, the Israeli-imposed movement ban in the north, and the ongoing targeting and storming of hospitals.

Israel's disruption of the work of Civil Defence and ambulance crews, in parallel with its targeting and besieging of hospitals in the northern Gaza Strip, indicates an official decision to execute

thousands of injured and sick people. This is a clear component of Israel's declared efforts to complete its plan of forcibly evacuating local residents under the threat of killing, starvation, and intimidation, and comes as part of its genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, ongoing for more than a year.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) must take all necessary steps to get to Kamal Adwan Hospital and assume its responsibilities to protect patients, the injured, and medical personnel, plus provide them with humanitarian aid. It must also work under all circumstances, and in accordance with its operating principles, to publicly condemn the serious crimes committed by the Israeli occupation army, particularly since these dangerous violations have been occurring steadily for more than a year now, and as all attempts to put an end to Israeli crimes—including attempts by the ICRC itself—have failed.

The United Nations and all other nations must carry out their international legal and ethical duties to prevent Israel's crime of genocide in the Gaza Strip from being completed; impose a comprehensive arms embargo on Israel; hold it responsible and accountable for all of its crimes; take all necessary steps to protect Palestinian civilians in the enclave; prevent their further forced displacement and ensure their return to their homes; release all Palestinian detainees who were arbitrarily arrested; allow humanitarian food and non-food aid supplies, especially life-saving aid, to enter the Gaza Strip without obstacles and in a way that satisfies the needs of the people there, particularly in the northern areas; and guarantee the Israeli occupation army's withdrawal from the entire Gaza Strip.