



## **PRCS Expresses Deep Concern over the Repeated Targeting of Al-Amal Hospital Compound by Israeli Occupation Forces, and Calls on the International Community to Provide Urgent Protection**

4 January 2024- The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) expresses deep concerns for the safety of the teams working at Al-Amal Hospital and the PRCS headquarters in Khan Yunis, in addition to the IDPs who seeking safe refuge there, due to the repeated direct targeting of the PRCS Al-Amal Hospital Compound.

Over the past three days, Israeli Occupation Forces targeted several floors of the PRCS Compound. The last attack was this morning, Thursday- January 4<sup>th</sup>. Seven casualties among the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), including a 5-day old baby, and 11 persons were injured during the three days of bombardment. In addition, dozens of residential buildings and gatherings of citizens at the entrance of the hospital, and in its immediate vicinity, were targeted- which led to the killing and injury of dozens including those who were displaced at the PRCS compound.

In addition, the shelling resulted in the destruction of the transmitter station of the PRCS communications VHF, which is the only means of communication in the PRCS headquarters of Khan Yunis after the destruction of all means of communication in the Khan Yunis Governorate. The damage to the VHF communications system is a major obstacle to the response of ambulance crews to the wounded, the sick, and humanitarian cases.

The vicinity of the PRCS Al-Amal Hospital has been subjected to intense shelling for the past two weeks, which endangered the lives of thousands of IDPs. The displaced persons are living in an atmosphere of horror and panic. This has forced dozens of them to leave again this morning and yesterday, fearing for their lives after they took refuge in the PRCS as a safe place protected by international humanitarian law. Aware of the legal personality which the PRCS enjoys, IDPs consider our headquarters as a refuge and a haven for their families; however, the Israeli Occupation has further marginalized the protected persons and facilities through the recent attacks.

The intensification of the Occupation's targeting of the vicinity of Al-Amal Hospital during the past days further compromises the safety of the humanitarian space, which threatens the lives of thousands of displaced people and medical staff.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society appeals to the international community, to partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and to the UN system, to intervene immediately and to urgently protect PRCS Al-Amal Hospital Compound; and the medical staff, wounded, sick and around 14,000 displaced people. Protection must be afforded in accordance with international humanitarian law including the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

END.