



**World Health
Organization**

SIXTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
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Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

At the request of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Director-General has the honour to transmit to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly the attached report by the Ministry of Health of the Syrian Arab Republic (see Annex).

ANNEX

HEALTH CONDITIONS OF SYRIAN CITIZENS IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN

1. The health conditions of the Syrian population in the occupied Golan continue to deteriorate markedly as a result of the Israeli occupation and its repressive practices. Syrians refusing an Israeli identity card are unable to obtain medical treatment and primary and secondary health care services are non-existent, because there are no integrated health centres in the occupied Syrian Golan.
2. Syrians held in Israeli occupation prisons also suffer inhumane conditions and are subjected to the most brutal forms of torture and ill-treatment in attempts to extract from them confessions to acts that they did not commit. They are consequently prone to a host of serious illnesses and permanent disabilities, as well as to other life-threatening injuries and diseases.
3. The Israeli occupation authorities continue to experiment on Syrian and Arab prisoners with medicines and drugs and to inject them with pathogenic viruses, causing them to develop diseases and medical conditions that are potentially fatal, as in the case of prisoner Hayil Abu Zaid.
4. We also draw WHO's attention, on the occasion of the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly, to the fact that the Israeli occupation authorities continue to bury nuclear waste in over 20 sites and have dumped 1500 barrels of radioactive and toxic materials in secret landfills in the territory of the occupied Syrian Golan. They also persist in planting nuclear mines and radioactive materials on the ceasefire line. These actions are in themselves crimes contrary to all international humanitarian customary law and instruments, constituting in addition a flagrant aggression against the Syrian people living under occupation.
5. The Ministry of Health of the Syrian Arab Republic holds the Israeli occupation authorities fully responsible for all environmental and health complications occurring in the villages of the Golan as a result of the burial of these waste materials.
6. Over the years, the Israeli occupation authorities have ignored the repeated requests of the Syrian Arab Republic for Syrian citizens in the villages of the occupied Golan to be provided with medical services, in particular through four health centres, in Majdal Shams, Buq`ata, Ain Qunyah and Ghajar, which remain unbuilt, despite completion of all the necessary construction surveys in 2006. Also ignored was the request for the construction of a 30-bed hospital where simple surgical procedures could be performed. The occupation authorities continue their delaying tactics, denying our people access to health services as a means of exerting pressure on the inhabitants to leave and vacate these villages or of forcing them to obtain an Israeli identity card.
7. These graphic examples of the unethical practices of the Israeli occupation authorities highlight the failure of the international community to assume its responsibilities towards Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan. These authorities consequently persist in their practices, which are contrary to the most fundamental of human rights, in particular the right to health. They likewise continue to impede the efforts of Syrian citizens, especially those who are sick, to access medical facilities offering care, treatment and prevention services to the most vulnerable groups, namely neonates, infants, children under-five years of age, pregnant women and older persons.

8. The Israeli occupation authorities continue to set up field hospitals providing medical treatment for armed terrorists from Jabhah al-Nusrah and groups associated with it who, pursued by the competent Syrian authorities, flee to the territory of the occupied Syrian Golan. The Israeli occupation authorities then return them to the Syrian Arab Republic so that they can resume their subversive terrorist activities directed against the country's peaceful citizens and its infrastructure.

9. We call on WHO, as the global authority on health-related matters, to intervene forthwith and take effective action to end the inhumane Israeli practices targeted at the health of Syrian citizens. We also urge it to exert pressure on the Israeli occupation authorities, using all available means, to implement strategies to address emerging viruses such as Ebola, drug addiction, mental health and social support, and to provide the integrated medical centres for which we have been calling for several years in the interest of health care delivery to Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan, and to lift the embargo on the territory and people of the Golan.

10. We also affirm our previous request concerning the establishment of four integrated medical centres and a hospital to serve the villages of the occupied Syrian Golan; the need for WHO to create an appropriate emergency mechanism for enabling the smooth and continuous delivery of health services to the Syrian population in the occupied Golan; and the importance of exerting pressure on the occupation authorities to allow the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to provide medical services, given that international organizations, including WHO, have been unable to access the occupied Syrian Golan or establish medical facilities there.

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