

## **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-fourth World Health Assembly the attached report by the Ministry of Health of the Syrian Arab Republic (see Annex).



ANNEX

**HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN**

Information provided by the Syrian Ministry of Health in response to resolution WHA63.2 on “Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan”

1. **Health.** The Arab Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan still suffer from many health problems as they prefer the citizenship of their Syrian homeland and reject the Israeli identity.
2. The suffering of the Arab Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan from the practices of Israeli occupation authorities is unignorable and is against their basic right of access to the required health care. Only the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan who have an Israeli ID card or enjoy health insurance can receive treatment. They pay high fees for health insurance premiums, medical examinations and hospitalization, which are beyond their limited incomes.
3. The Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan suffer from an acute lack of medical centres, first aid centres and specialized clinics besides the lack of physicians in general and specialized physicians in particular.
4. It is worth noting that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has been – and is still – exerting vigorous efforts, through contacts with international humanitarian organizations working in the field of health, with a view to establishing medical centres in the occupied Syrian Golan, as well as a specialized hospital under the supervision of the Syrian Red Crescent Society, in order to assist the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan and alleviate their suffering as a result of the inhuman practices of Israeli occupation authorities. However, these efforts are still encountered by Israel’s adamant refusal of any assistance to those people.
5. The health suffering of the Arab Syrian populations (25 000 people) in the villages of (Majdal Shams, Beqaata, Masada, Ghajar and Ain Kynia) is quite evident. There is a lack of integrated medical centres to serve the population in the occupied Syrian Golan, forcing them to seek such services from relief centres and hospitals in the Safad area. There are also reports that certain diseases are becoming widespread, especially renal failure, and there is insufficient coverage available to patients needing dialysis on a constant basis.
6. **The suffering of the Syrian prisoners in Israeli jails.** Syrian prisoners held in Israeli occupation prisons suffer alongside other Arab prisoners from severe physical and psychological torture, to which they are exposed. Due to the inhuman detention conditions, they face many diseases and suffer from the deterioration of their health, with many of them dying as a result in the absence of any medical care. This urgently necessitates the intervention of competent authorities to promptly check the health conditions of prisoners. Following are prisoners’ names and detention dates:

Prisoner	Detention date
1. Sedqy Soleiman Almaqt	1985
2. Weam Mahmoud Soleiman Amasha	1999
3. Hussein Aly Ahmed Alkhateeb	2002
4. Sham Kamal Shams	2003
5. Yusuf Said Jameel Kamhouz	2006
6. Ahmed Jameel Yasir Kamhouz	2006
7. Yusuf Saleh Ismael Shams	2007
8. Majed Alshaer	2010
9. Fedaa Majed Alshaer	2010

7. We therefore hold the Israeli occupation authorities fully responsible for any harmful consequences suffered by Syrian prisoners in the occupied Syrian Golan and call upon the international community to put pressure on Israel, as the occupying force, to comply with the rules of international humanitarian law and related Geneva conventions, in line with hundreds of international resolutions.

8. **The risk of Israeli mines to the population of Syrian Golan.** This is a continuous actual risk. Mines are laid in several areas of the occupied Syrian Golan, including fields and grassland. They limit the mobility of Syrian citizens and claim many lives, leaving 18 people disabled, mainly children, over the last 10 years alone.

9. **Nuclear waste landfill.** This is a risk that threatens the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan, not only over the short term but for years. Due to weather and natural conditions, glass containers and reinforced concrete chambers will begin to crack and consequently leak depleted uranium. There is information that Israeli occupation landfills radioactive nuclear waste in the occupied Syrian Golan in a spacious piece of land alongside the separation line. This area is not subject to any kind of external control, which has a negative impact on people's health, soil and groundwater wells.

10. **Higher education.** Occupation authorities do not license Syrian physicians or pharmacists to practice in the occupied Syrian Golan, forcing them to emigrate. Moreover, they do not allow students to attend university or study some disciplines such as medicine, dentistry and pharmacology unless they approve of the occupation and bear Israeli nationality. This is in addition to high education fees and other impossible admission conditions. It is impossible for the citizens who studied in Syrian universities to have their certificates accredited or work by virtue of their university degrees.

11. **Environment.** Occupation authorities deprive Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan of utilizing Golan water and steal this water for nearby settlements. Occupation authorities thus deny Syrian citizens the access right to their water resources and impose on them measures and policies limiting their access to land and water, which has negative implications for living conditions. These are some practices undertaken by Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Syrian Golan in terms

of health, which are part of a settlement policy affecting all economic, social and cultural aspects of life.

**12. Required health-related technical assistance:**

- Seek, with international bodies and organizations, to intervene in medical service provision within the Syrian Golan territory, especially when all the relevant international resolutions consider the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan to be Syrian citizens under occupation in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law and the Fourth Geneva Convention.
- Seek, with the required parties, to implement the project of establishing medical centres in the occupied Syrian Golan. It is noteworthy that the technical studies, which are available and have been translated into English, include four medical centres (in Majdal Shams, Beqaata, Ain Kynia and Ghajar). Such centres can raise the flag of WHO, UNICEF or the Syrian Red Crescent Society. Those studies on medical centre establishments have been prepared in 2006 with a view to preventing the occupying authority from exploiting the provision of certain medical services to impose Israeli citizenship on the population of the occupied Syrian Golan.
- Provide these medical centres with the required drugs and medical supplies.
- Operate these centres by locals (physicians and technicians who attended university in Syria).
- Establish a 30-bed hospital to perform minor surgeries as the nearest hospital is in Safad and is not easily accessible. By establishing this hospital, Syrian villages in the occupied Syrian Golan can be served. The hospital would be operated by the competent international organizations that can contribute to such a humanitarian project.
- Conduct an integrated study by WHO, UNICEF or any international body on the health situation in the occupied Syrian Golan, along with studying the widespread diseases in the villages of the occupied Syrian Golan.

13. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls upon all international organizations concerned to intervene by providing possible help to the Arab Syrian population under Israeli occupation in the occupied Syrian Golan in accordance with the relevant international conventions and treaties.

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