

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

الهيئة الصحية العالمية

المكتب الإقليمي لشرق البحر الأبيض المتوسط

ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ

BUREAU REGIONAL DE LA  
MEDITERRANÉE ORIENTALE

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC24A/WP.1  
30 August 1974

Twenty-fourth Session

Original: Arabic

Agenda item 7 (a) ,

MEMORANDUM  
SUBMITTED BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

The Regional Director has the honour to bring to the attention of Member States the attached memorandum submitted by the Minister of Public Health of the Arab Republic of Egypt with the request that it be distributed to Member States participating in the Twenty-fourth Session of the Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The subject matter falls under item 7 (a) of the Agenda (Document EM/RC24/1 Rev.1).

MEMORANDUM  
SUBMITTED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT  
TO  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN  
MEDITERRANEAN CONCERNING ADVERSE HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG THE  
INHABITANTS OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

1. Despite all the attempts which were made and are still being made at all local, regional and international levels to save the deteriorating health situation in the occupied Arab territories, the health situation there is still suffering from premeditated failure and neglect on the part of the Israeli occupying authorities of the rights of the legal owners of the land to health and social care.
2. Reports received clearly indicate that tuberculosis, ophthalmias, epidemics and diseases of malnutrition are prevalent amongst the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories in Sinai and the Gaza Sector.
3. The occupying authorities still continue to neglect the existing health units which could have provided the inhabitants of the occupied territories with modest health services, after the closure by the Israeli administration of a number of health units which existed before the occupation.
4. For example, the Israelis moved the supplies and equipment which were available at El Arish Hospital to other places, although El Arish Hospital is considered as the main hospital serving the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories.
5. The Israeli enemy still creates difficulties for Egyptian physicians wishing to serve their countrymen in the occupied territories, and prevents the arrival of drugs and other medical supplies to these territories.
6. In addition to the clearly low level of health services, the inhabitants of the occupied territories are still suffering from terrorism and coercion in the course of their living and subsistence. Operations leading to evacuation from their homes, the destruction of their houses, forced migration from their lands, arrest, ill-treatment, torture and intimidation are still pursued to such an extent as would result in adverse health conditions and shortage of

food and drugs. For example, inhabitants have been prevented from hunting and fishing so as to deprive them intentionally of an important source of protein.

7. Additionally, the arbitrary attitude of the Israeli authorities has so far hindered the carrying out of duties assigned to the International Committee which was formed by the World Health Assembly to study the health conditions of the occupied territories.
8. For all these reasons, the Ministry of Health of the Arab Republic of Egypt suggests to the Regional Committee to denounce the inhuman Israeli behaviour.

The Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt therefore submits to the Regional Committee the attached draft resolution.

Dr M.M. Mahfouz  
Minister of Health

August 1974

DRAFT RESOLUTION

HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF THE  
OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

The Sub-Committee,

Having regard to the resolutions issued by the World Health Assembly and by the Executive Board concerning the adverse health conditions in the occupied Arab territories;

Considering the memorandum submitted by the Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt in this respect;

Being aware of the difficulties and obstacles created by the Israeli occupying authorities for the Tripartite International Committee which was formed to study health conditions in the occupied territories, which have so far prevented the Committee from fulfilling its mandate;

Believing that security and peace will not prevail in the world as long as millions of people are deprived of their basic rights of security and physical and mental health;

Convinced that security and peace will not be established in the Middle East as long as the peoples of the area face the threat of loss of the legal rights which they enjoyed for thousands of years;

1. DEEPLY DEPLORES and STRONGLY DENOUNCES the failure of Israel to abide by the international resolutions and conventions calling for the provision of care to the inhabitants of the occupied territories;
2. DENOUNCES the arbitrary attitude of Israel which has so far prevented the fact-finding International Tripartite Committee from performing its mission;
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director and Director-General of the World Health Organization to exert all possible efforts to enable the fact-finding International Tripartite Committee to fulfil the mandate with which it was entrusted by the World Health Assembly;
4. REQUESTS the Regional Director and Director-General of the World Health Organization to exert all possible efforts and endeavours to stop further deterioration of the level of health services and care, and to propose possible measures for promoting these levels in the occupied Arab territories.