

**HEALTH SECTOR WORKING GROUP  
STATEMENT ON ISRAEL'S DISENGAGEMENT PLAN**

THE HEALTH SECTOR WORKING GROUP, BEING THE MAIN COORDINATING BODY FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH AID TO THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION AND INSTITUTIONS, WELCOMES ISRAEL'S DECISION TO EVACUATE ITS SETTLEMENTS AND WITHDRAW FROM THE GAZA STRIP AND PARTS OF THE NORTHERN WEST BANK. IT WARNS, HOWEVER, THAT CLOSURES AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IMPOSED AS PART OF THE DISENGAGEMENT PLAN MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS HARM TO THE POPULATION AND MAY ADVERSELY IMPACT THE PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

WE, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HEALTH SECTOR WORKING, REITERATE THE NEED FOR ISRAELI AUTHORITIES TO UNDERTAKE SUBSTANTIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE BASIC RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION ARE RESPECTED, AND TO MINIMISE ANY NEGATIVE IMPACT THAT DISENGAGEMENT MAY HAVE ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THOSE IN NEED OF MEDICAL ATTENTION.

IN PARTICULAR, THE DISENGAGEMENT PLAN AND ITS SECURITY MEASURES MUST ACCOMMODATE AND GUARANTEE QUICK, UNIMPEDED AND SAFE ACCESS FOR AMBULANCE, MEDICAL AND PARAMEDICAL STAFF INTO AND WITHIN THE GAZA STRIP, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

MOVEMENT OF PATIENTS AND THEIR CARETAKERS MUST NOT BE OBSTRUCTED OR DELAYED WHETHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE GAZA STRIP. MEASURES MUST BE ADOPTED TO ENSURE THAT ANY SECURITY RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT ANY PATIENTS' HEALTH CONDITION.

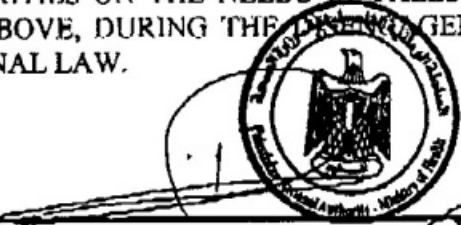
ALL REQUIRED MEDICAL SUPPLIES HAVE TO BE ALLOWED INTO THE GAZA STRIP. ALL INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND SERVICES HAVE TO DO SO WITHOUT UNDUE INTERFERENCE.


SHOULD THERE BE SHORTAGES IN MEDICAL SUPPLIES, RAPID MOVEMENT OF SUPPLIES INTO THE GAZA STRIP AND THEIR RAPID TRANSPORT TO ANY LOCATION IN NEED HAVE TO BE GUARANTEED

IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE MOVEMENT OF ALL INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES' STAFF, BOTH, INTO, WITHIN AND OUT OF GAZA BE FACILITATED AS THIS IS CRITICAL FOR MAINTAINING THE REGULAR FLOW OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION.



WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, CALL UPON ALL INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED, TO ACTIVELY ADVOCATE WITH THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ON THE NEEDS OF PALESTINIAN POPULATION, AS SUMMARIZED ABOVE, DURING THE DISSENT MANAGEMENT PLAN ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW.

  
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DATE:

AUGUST 9, 2005