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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-fifth World Health Assembly the attached report by the Ministry of Health of the Syrian Arab Republic (see Annex) in response to resolution WHA64.4 on “Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan”.



## ANNEX

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC****MINISTRY OF HEALTH****HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN**

Oppressed by the Zionist occupation, the population in the occupied Syrian Golan territories is still suffering from many health problems, while preferring the citizenship of their Syrian homeland and rejecting Israeli identity.

In addition, the agony experienced by the Arab Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan as a result of the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities, cannot be ignored and runs counter to the population's basic right of access to essential health care. Only the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan who hold an Israeli ID card or have health insurance can receive treatment, as the high cost of health insurance premiums, medical examinations and hospital admission are beyond their limited incomes.

Furthermore, the population in the Syrian Arab villages suffers from an acute lack of medical centres, specialized clinics and first aid centres, as well as a shortage of physicians in general.

Through contacts with international humanitarian organizations working in the field of health, it is worth noting that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has exerted and continues to exert vigorous efforts to establish 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 the Israeli occupation authorities. However, these efforts continue to be frustrated by Israel's adamant refusal to assist these people in any way.

The Syrian prisoners held in Israeli occupation prisons suffer alongside other Arab prisoners from severe physical and psychological torture. Due to their inhuman conditions of detention, they are exposed to many diseases and their health is compromised; many of them die for want of medical care. This dire situation necessitates urgent intervention by the competent authorities to verify the health conditions of prisoners on a timely basis. Herewith the names of the following prisoners and their date of detention:

<b>Prisoner</b>	<b>Detention date</b>
1. Sedqy Soleiman Almaqt	1985
2. We'am Mahmoud Soleiman Amasha	1999
3. Hussein Aly Ahmed Alkhateeb	2002
4. Sham Kamal Shams	2003
5. Yosuf 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

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, in order to comply with the rules of international humanitarian law and related Geneva conventions.

The poor health conditions 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 these five villages, 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.

In addition, there is information that during the Israeli occupation radioactive nuclear waste landfills have been constructed in various areas of the occupied Syrian Golan, which has a negative impact on people's health, as well as the soil and groundwater wells. Mines laid by the Israelis in several areas of the occupied Syrian Golan have claimed many lives, leaving 81 people disabled, mainly children, in the last 10 years alone. And moreover, the Israeli authorities have not granted approval to open health centers or hospitals in the occupied villages. This is being done in order to put pressure on families to adopt Israeli identity by forcing them to obtain health insurance that will guarantee them access to the most basic health services. However, showing insistence on their Arabism and affiliation to their homeland, the population of the occupied Syrian Golan has been deprived of access to basic health services, which has impacted their healthy life in a negative way.

Hence, the required health-related technical assistance is as follows:

- Seek, with international bodies and organizations, to intervene in medical service provision within the Syrian Golan territory, especially in the light of all the relevant international resolutions which consider the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan to be Syrian citizens under occupation, as is the case with the other occupied areas in the world.
- In conjunction with the required parties, seek to establish medical centres in the occupied Syrian Golan. The related technical studies already exist; they have been translated into English and they make provision for the construction of medical centres in Majdal Shams, Beqaata, Ghajar and Ain Kynia. Such centres would operate under the flag of WHO, UNICEF or the Red Crescent Society. The studies on medical facilities were initiated in 2006 with a view to preventing the occupying authority from linking the provision of certain medical services with the imposition of Israeli citizenship on the population of the occupied Syrian Golan.
- Provide these medical centres with essential medicines and medical supplies.
- Ensure that these centres are operated by local employees (physicians and technicians who have graduated from Syrian universities).

- Establish a 30-bed hospital to perform minor surgery as the closest hospital is near Safad and is not easily accessible. By establishing this hospital, villages in the occupied Syrian Golan can be provided with health services. The hospital would be operated by competent international organizations with the capacity to 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, in addition to investigating diseases that are widespread in the villages of the occupied Syrian Golan.

To sum up, the Syrian Arab Republic calls upon all concerned international organizations to intervene by providing as much help as they can 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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