

To the President of the Security Council, Ambassador *Sergio França Danese*
To the President of the United Nations General Assembly, *Dennis Francis*
To the United Nations Secretary-General, *Antonio Guterres*
To the Authorities of Israel: President *Isaac Herzog* and First Minister *Benjamin Netanyahu*
To the Authorities of Palestine: President *Mahmoud Abbas* and Prime Minister of Palestine
Mohammad Ibrahim Shtayyeh
To His Holiness, *Pope Francis*
To the Director-General of the World Health Organization, *Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus*
To the Minister of Health of Israel, *Moshe Arbel*
To the Minister and Deputy Minister of Health of Palestine, *Mai Alkaila* and *Yousef Abu Rish*

Geneva, October 16, 2023

Dear Sir, Madam,

We, members of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), an entity with 130 national associations and more than 5 million health practitioners around the globe, deeply regret the human suffering caused so far by the war between Hamas and the State of Israel: about of 10 thousand human lives lost and more than 15 thousand injured, maimed, and disabled people, in addition to thousands mentally affected forever. The majority are innocent civilians: children, women, and the elderly.

As defenders of peace so that life and health may reign, we record with immense regret the destruction of essential health services, including the indispensable hospital facilities, the interruption of access to drinking water, food, and the provision of medicines, vaccines, serums, blood, and other healthcare supplies. The interruption of electricity and fuel prevents life from continuing and the services that protect it from remaining operational.

Faced with this horrendous humanitarian and health situation, as health professionals who primarily defend life, we decided to address world leaders and the disputing parties - arrogating to speak on behalf of all human beings of goodwill who inhabit this typical home that is our planet Earth - with the following message:

We come to you to plead for the health and lives of innocent Palestinian and Israeli civilians, elderly persons, women, men, children, and babies caught up in this insane and inhuman fight between Hamas and the State of Israel.

At this juncture, we do not take sides in the political differences of the complex situation that led to what we see and witness as unjustifiable violence against human lives.

This has to stop now, immediately. As human beings, we cannot normalize the sufferings of our brothers and sisters, lest we become less human.

All we want from you is to use all your power, influence, and voice to stop this insane manifestation of pure evil. You can bring light where there is shadow, hope where there is despair, and help where there is need.

Heed the warnings and appeals of the Secretary-General and the many specialized agencies of the United Nations about the atrocious consequences of hostilities. Use your power to bring them to an immediate end. Stop the bombings, the leading cause of death, injury, and mutilation among the innocent civilian population.

Use your influence to take the women and children to safe land or seas nearby, be it in hospital campuses, hospital ships, or even cruiser ships that can accommodate them all under the United Nations' supervision.

Financial means are necessary and undoubtedly available, depending on the international community's goodwill.

We all know that the eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth paradigm will only lead to further loss and suffering. This has to stop. Use your power for this to happen.

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Luis Eugenio De Souza
President
WFPHA