

IMO



IRISH MEDICAL
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Taoiseach Michéal Martin T.D.,
Roinn An Taoisigh,
Government Buildings,
Merrion Street Upper,
Dublin 2
By email: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

Dear Taoiseach

On behalf of the Irish Medical Organisation, I am writing to you to express our grave concern and fear for the people of Gaza and for our healthcare colleagues who are struggling to deliver care in the most appalling circumstances.

Israel has a duty to protect civilians and ensure their essential needs are met in line with International Humanitarian Law. However, as you are well aware, what we are witnessing in Gaza is mass starvation arising from the deliberate blockade of aid through well established partnerships. The situation has been made all the worse with the introduction of a flawed aid system, under the control of Israel, where the most vulnerable, who are seeking assistance, either have been killed or are putting themselves at risk of being killed or injured as they try to feed themselves and their families. To weaponize humanitarian aid in this manner is to further endanger the lives of women and children.

There is no functioning healthcare system in Gaza and many of our healthcare colleagues have died, along with their patients, as healthcare facilities have come under military attack. Those who are there, struggling to provide care, are desperately short of supplies, working in the most traumatic of circumstances and in fear of attack. This is also in contravention of International Humanitarian Law.

While acknowledging the work of the Government in support of the people of Gaza to date we appeal to you to take meaningful action to bring to an end the intolerable treatment of the people of Gaza. As doctors we feel strongly that humanitarian law must be upheld and that our Government should take all necessary action to ensure it is - nationally, through our membership of the EU and the United Nations.

Sincerely,

Dr Anne Dee
President

CEARDCHUMANN
DOCHTÚIRÍ na hÉIREANN