



**Statement by the
OIC Group on Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva**

**Condemnation of Israeli strike on
Baptist Arab National Hospital in Gaza**

The OIC Group in Geneva condemns in the strongest terms the Israeli strike on the Baptist Arab National Hospital in Gaza on 17 October 2023 and the resulting massacre of hundreds of Palestinian civilians, mainly women, children, the elderly and infirm, as well as medical personnel. The perpetrators of this heinous crime must be held to account.

Israeli aggression has precipitated a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Yesterday, humanitarian actors including from the UN system and beyond briefed Geneva-based Missions about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza strip and underscored the urgent necessity of humanitarian pauses, establishment of corridors and unimpeded access to Gaza for supply of relief goods including food, medicine, and clean water.

The Group expresses its deep dismay over the impunity granted to the illegal occupation regime to get away with unparalleled and persistent violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws as manifested by incessant targeting and bombing of the civilian populations, health and public services infrastructure that is clearly prohibited by international law including the so-called “evacuation” order i.e. forcible population transfer from North Gaza to South Gaza.

The OIC Group in Geneva reiterates its call for unhindered access to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry to all areas to establish facts and document evidence of crimes perpetrated. We also urge the UN human rights Special Procedures to closely monitor the situation and call out human rights abuses in line with their respective mandates.

We reiterate our call for accountability of those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and crime of aggression against the Palestinian people.

The OIC Group in Geneva echoes the call of the UN Secretary General for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and easing of epic human suffering.

We reaffirm our enduring commitment to the realization of the legitimate dreams and aspirations of the Palestinian people for their own state with Al-Quds as its capital.

Geneva

18 October 2023