



Statement on behalf of the OIC Group¹, delivered by Ms. Murk Abro, Director, during Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

56th HRC Session
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Mr. President,

We take note of the Special Rapporteur's report.

It is incumbent upon all member states to use every resource in their power to protect health facilities, during armed conflicts, however, one state has been doing everything it can to find excuses to attack civilians and health facilities.

We wish to emphasize that health establishments and units, including hospitals are sacrosanct for the services they provide.

They are critical for any humanitarian relief, especially, in times of conflict and crises. This is why the standards for their protection under the IHL are extremely high.

The OIC Group fully endorses the underlying principles of the IHL, and believes that the protection of these health establishments is of paramount importance.

Notably, Israel's brazen, repeated, relentless and intentional genocidal attacks directed at Gaza's health system are serious violations of IHL, and thus tantamount to war crimes.

Brutal killings of at least 493 healthcare workers, deliberate targeting of hospitals, ambulances, and preventing entry of humanitarian aid, have been perpetrated to snuff out any ray of hope for the wounded and the sick in Palestine.

We also wish to underline that Israel's baseless allegations of misuse of medical facilities in Gaza have been rejected by International Organizations and the COI on OPT.

In light of the above, we would request the Special Rapporteur to focus on these horrendous violations of human rights in the next report and impress upon the need for effective accountability for the war crimes perpetrated against the besieged Palestinians and on its inextricable link to their right to self-determination.

I thank you!

268 words / 90 seconds

¹ Except Albania