

Central Committee FMH

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Al Comitato centrale della Federazione dei Medici Svizzera (FMH)

Oggetto:

Posizione della FMH sul genocidio a Gaza e sulla gestione di farmaci del produttore farmaceutico Mepha (Gruppo Teva)

Settembre 2025

Pregevole Comitato Centrale della FMH,
Gentile Signora Gilli,

In qualità di membri della rete “Swiss Healthcare Workers Against Genocide” (Operatori sanitari svizzeri contro il genocidio), composta prevalentemente da medici, vi scriviamo per esprimere una preoccupazione che riguarda sia la nostra responsabilità etica professionale, sia il nostro ruolo sociale.

Chiediamo pertanto alla FMH, la nostra organizzazione professionale, di rilasciare una dichiarazione su:

- la situazione umanitaria in corso a Gaza, recentemente definita genocidio, con particolare attenzione agli attacchi senza precedenti contro gli operatori sanitari e le strutture sanitarie,
- la possibilità di un boicottaggio, che abbiamo richiesto nei confronti dell'azienda farmaceutica MEPHA, appartenente al gruppo TEVA, le cui politiche sostengono le attività di occupazione del governo israeliano nei territori palestinesi.

Siamo convinti che la FMH, considerata dai suoi membri una guida in materia professionale ed etica, non possa rimanere in silenzio di fronte a una situazione la cui gravità non ha precedenti nella storia recente.

La nostra richiesta si basa sui seguenti fatti (vedi anche l'appendice “informazioni aggiuntive” riportata di seguito).

Genocidio/crimini contro l'umanità da parte del governo israeliano

L'attuale situazione a Gaza è stata descritta come genocidio dalla Commissione internazionale indipendente delle Nazioni Unite incaricata di indagare sui territori palestinesi occupati.¹ Ciò fa seguito alla valutazione della Corte internazionale di giustizia che ha definito “plausibile” il rischio di genocidio². Anche i ricercatori dell'Associazione Internazionale degli Studiosi del Genocidio (IAGS) descrivono le azioni di Israele a Gaza come genocidio nella loro risoluzione del 31 agosto 2025³.

Anche altre ONG, internazionali e israeliane, mediche e non mediche, sono giunte a questa conclusione. Tra queste figurano: Physicians for Human Rights-Israel⁴, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF⁵), Amnesty International⁶, OXFAM⁷, Human Rights Watch⁸, l'organizzazione israeliana per i diritti umani B'Tselem⁹ e rapporti precedenti dell'ONU¹⁰.

Nella rivista medica "The Lancet", sono stati pubblicati articoli che stimano un numero di vittime molto più elevato rispetto alle cifre ufficiali^{11, 12} e chiedono che l'Europa smetta di essere complice della carestia e del genocidio¹³.

Attacchi senza precedenti al settore sanitario

La crisi umanitaria a Gaza è stata aggravata dagli attacchi senza precedenti al settore sanitario: ospedali, ambulatori e personale medico sono stati presi di mira dalle forze militari di occupazione.^{4, 14, 15, 16}. Sebbene il diritto umanitario prescriva che tali strutture debbano essere protette in caso di conflitto, la loro distruzione è stata sistematica: secondo i calcoli, il tasso di vittime tra gli operatori sanitari è 2,6 volte superiore a quello della popolazione generale. Un'intera generazione di operatori sanitari è stata spazzata via, con un impatto duraturo sull'accesso all'assistenza sanitaria nella regione.

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Ruolo di Teva Pharmaceutical Industries (Mepha/ Ratiopharm)

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries è la più grande azienda farmaceutica israeliana e la sua affiliata Mepha (Basilea) è il più importante produttore di farmaci generici in Svizzera.

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Teva è implicata nelle attività delle forze armate e del governo israeliani.

- Teva versa ingenti somme allo Stato israeliano (565 milioni di dollari in tasse tra il 2005 e il 2023)¹⁷, e contribuisce così in modo sostanziale al bilancio dello Stato israeliano.

- Vari rapporti documentano il sostegno di Teva all'esercito israeliano^{18,20} attraverso la fornitura di prodotti farmaceutici e il programma "Adotta un battaglione".^{19,20}
- Nei territori palestinesi occupati, Teva beneficerebbe di un "mercato in cattività".²⁰ in cui i palestinesi sono costretti ad acquistare medicinali israeliani, il che ostacola lo sviluppo di una loro industria farmaceutica.
- Diversi rapporti indicano che Teva è stata citata in una bozza delle Nazioni Unite del 2017²⁰ in un elenco preliminare di aziende accusate di attività negli insediamenti illegali in Cisgiordania e a Gerusalemme Est, sottolineando che la loro partecipazione era contraria al diritto internazionale. Teva non è stata inclusa nella relazione finale.

In questo contesto, sorge spontanea la domanda se sia compatibile con i nostri principi etici utilizzare i prodotti di un'azienda che, attraverso le sue attività commerciali, **sostiene** strutture di occupazione e oppressione.

Naturalmente, la sicurezza dei pazienti **deve** sempre **venire** al primo posto. Nei casi in cui non esistano alternative equivalenti, il trattamento non deve mai essere compromesso o ritardato. Tuttavia, laddove siano disponibili alternative terapeuticamente equivalenti, la FMH potrebbe fornire un importante impulso attraverso una dichiarazione pubblica o almeno una guida ai propri membri.

Chiediamo quindi alla FMH di:

1. pubblicare una dichiarazione chiara sul genocidio a Gaza, sull'importanza di rispettare la tutela degli operatori sanitari prevista dal diritto internazionale umanitario e sul ruolo speciale dei professionisti sanitari nella protezione dei civili, in particolare dei malati e dei feriti.
2. esaminare in che misura la cooperazione con Mepha/Teva possa essere oggetto di una riflessione critica o addirittura di una raccomandazione di boicottaggio
3. Sottolineare ai medici la possibilità di prescrivere farmaci generici di altri produttori quando ciò è possibile senza rischi per i pazienti.

A nostro avviso, una posizione chiara da parte della FMH non solo rafforzerebbe la sua credibilità come rappresentante professionale, ma sottolineerebbe anche il suo impegno nei confronti dei principi di beneficenza, non maleficenza e giustizia.

Vi ringraziamo in anticipo per la vostra attenzione e, pregandovi di valutare attentamente la questione, vi indirizziamo i nostri rispettosi saluti.

Swiss Healthcare Workers Against Genocide

Signatory in our own capacity in addition to our network:

Dr. med. Regula Grabherr, FMH Specialist in Gynaecology and Obstetrics

Dr. med. Mustafa Ghanem, FMH Specialist in Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Surgery

Prof. Dr Med. Pietro Majno-Hurst, FMH specialist in visceral surgery

Additional information:

Excerpt from the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) resolution (dated 31.08.2025)

In the resolution on the situation in Gaza, the IAGS states, among other things the following:

- Recognising that the actions of the Israeli government against Palestinians have included torture, arbitrary detention and sexual and reproductive violence²¹, deliberate attacks on medical professionals, humanitarian aid workers and journalists; and the deliberate deprivation of food, water, medicine, and electricity essential to the survival of the population;
- Recognising that Israel has forcibly displaced nearly all of the 2.3 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip multiple times, and demolished more than 90 percent of the housing infrastructure in the territory;
- Recognising that the consequences of these crimes have included destroying entire families and multiple generations of Palestinians;
- Recognising that Israel has destroyed schools, universities, libraries, museums, and archives, all of them essential to the continued existence of Palestinian collective well-being and identity;

Lancet publications on deaths

A study published in the Lancet, from February 2025 estimates that the mortality rate is 41% higher than that reported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH)¹². This figure does not take into account deaths from non-traumatic injuries or indirect mortality due to disruptions to health care, inadequate access to basic services, or the broader humanitarian impact of the conflict, which would further increase the total number of fatalities.

In another Lancet publication, from July 2024 the following was written (while using the death rate of that time): "In recent conflicts, such indirect deaths range from three to 15 times the number of direct deaths²². Applying a conservative estimate of four indirect deaths per one direct death to the 37 396 deaths reported, it is not implausible to estimate that up to 186 000 or even more deaths could be attributable to the current conflict in Gaza"¹¹. Converted to the mortality rates of 14.09.2025 with 64,871 deaths²³ multiplied with 4 it would mean 259,484 deaths since October 2023- over 1/4 million people.

Gaza - the most dangerous place in the world for children (UNICEF)

Over the course of nearly 2 years of attacks in the Gaza Strip, an average of at least one Palestinian child per hour has been killed by Israeli forces. The number of children killed is now over 20,000, according to the organization 'Save the Children'²⁴. "Death by bombardments. Death by malnutrition and starvation. Death by lack of aid and vital services. In Gaza, an average of 28 children a day - the size of a classroom - have been killed", according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).²⁵ UNICEF describes the Gaza Strip as the most dangerous place in the world for children.²⁶ Newborns (example: article 'Infants found dead and decomposing in evacuated hospital ICU in Gaza'²⁷) and people with disabilities are also at risk ^{28, 29} (Muhammed Bhar with Down syndrome attacked by IDF dog and left to die³⁰).

In addition to direct killings, the lack of access to vital medical services has also led to an increase in preventable maternal and neonatal deaths^{31, 32}.

Between November 1, 2023 and April 30, 2024, nearly 70% of confirmed fatalities in Gaza were women and children ³³.

Systematic shooting at children

Investigations and international medical personnel who have been on missions in Gaza testify how children are systematically shot and die from the injuries of targeted shots in the head, neck, chest^{34, 35, 36, 37}. Cases in which children were also killed by several shots by the Israeli forces are also known. An example is the case of Hind Rajab, a 5-year-old girl - a tragic, but not isolated incident³⁸. She died with multiple shooting injuries and after waiting in the family car for help for several hours next to the lifeless, shot bodies of her loved ones. The medical staff, which came to help in a clearly recognizable ambulance were also shot by Israeli forces. Original sound recordings of Hind's telephone call for help were released in the film adaptation in 2025.

‘This is not aid. This is orchestrated killing’ (MSF)

Unarmed starving civilians, which were in search of food also arrive in hospitals with gunshot wounds. According to organizations such as MSF and the UN Human Rights Office, almost 1400 people have been killed and more than 4000 injured in the Gaza Strip while searching for food (as of 1.8.2025). They were killed in or near the controversial aid distribution centres of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), which is administered by Israel^{39, 40, 41}.

(Often with "daily patterns", in which one day mainly headshots were observed, and on the other day mainly shots on the pelvis. This gives the impression that there is an agreement among the snipers as to which parts of the body are to be used as targets on certain days⁴².)

In the MSF analysis report '*This is not aid. This is orchestrated killing*', there are also reports of gunshot wounds to children at the relief aid distribution centres. MSF teams were "mentally prepared for responding to conflict — but not to civilians killed and maimed while seeking aid", it says⁴³.

For situations where a wounded child survived but no longer has a family member, a new acronym was used by MSF: WCNSF - Wounded child, no surviving family⁴⁴. Thousands of children fall into this category.

Expulsion-blockade since 2007- now famine-genocide

Prior to the latest escalation, the Gaza Strip suffered from an ongoing humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by Israel's ongoing blockade since 2007. Around 80% of the population were dependent on Humanitarian aid⁴⁵. The health facilities had difficulties meeting the needs of the population. The health system suffered from chronic lack of qualified personnel, medical supplies, medicines and electricity⁴⁶. The Palestinian people have been experiencing expulsion for decades and clearly restricted rights, but now according to multiple experts^{3, 47} the status of genocide and an preventable famine⁴⁸ is reached.

The Hippocratic Oath

As doctors bound by “do no harm”-principle, we must consciously choose which pharmaceutical companies we support through our prescriptions. Both physicians and patients deserve full information to make deliberate choices.

When we graduated medical school, we vowed to serve humanity with respect for life and dignity. We cannot abandon this promise now and we cannot remain silent while colleagues die in Gaza for upholding this very oath. We take our vows seriously, and we take seriously every murdered and threatened colleague and civilian.

The dehumanization of Palestinian civilians is intense. We must ask: Do we struggle to define human rights, or do we struggle to define who counts as human?

"Whoever stays until the end will tell the story. We did what we could. Remember us." From Gaza MSF-Team: Dr. Mahmoud Abu Nujaila, Gaza 20.10.2023

Sources

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