

Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly

Provisional agenda Item 17.3

Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory including east Jerusalem

May 2025

The International Council of Nurses (ICN), representing 30 million nurses worldwide, is gravely concerned by the deadly health and humanitarian catastrophe in the occupied Palestinian territory including the degradation of the health system and the catastrophic lack of water and food. ICN strongly condemns the deliberate withholding of humanitarian aid and the systematic attacks on healthcare. Access to health care and humanitarian aid must be provided to everyone, including hostages and detainees. Hospitals have been bombed, health workers buried under rubble and clearly marked ambulances deliberately targeted. Several sources report at least 1400 health workers have been killed in Gaza. These attacks violate fundamental human rights and endanger the very foundation of health systems. ICN urges global leaders to act urgently and decisively to protect health care and to immediately end the aid blockade. Leaders must ensure international humanitarian law is upheld and failing to do so implies complicity in the normalization of these attacks.