



Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General
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Dear Mr. Ryder,

Stop the targeting of health workers in Gaza

First, let me congratulate you on a successful ILC. I know that you and your staff deserve a break after such an intense meeting.

PSI affiliate, the General Union of Health Services Workers – Gaza (GUHSW) in Palestine has formally informed me of the killing of Razan al-Najjar, a nurse and member of the union, on 1 June 2018. GUHSW indicates that health workers and ambulances were targeted by the Israeli soldiers. 25 ambulances with international signs were destroyed, undermining emergency services rendered by medics and EMTs, and further endangering wounded civilians.

Workers delivering emergency medical services in conflict zones need and deserve special protections. Rendering such protections requires support at the highest level. I thus call on you to use your good office to:

- Condemn the attacks against health workers providing ambulance and emergency services in the occupied Palestine territory;
- Promote unconditional protection of the lives of health personnel and emergency units in accordance with international humanitarian law and the Fourth Geneva Convention;
- Call on Israel to fulfil its obligations to the civilian population in accordance with the international human rights law.

In light of the recently negotiated ILO Guidelines on Decent Work in Public Emergency Services, I urge you to call on the state of Israel to help safeguard the lives of health workers delivering emergency services.

I look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure the safety and security of health workers, particularly those working in conflict zones.

Thank you very much, as you kindly take action on this worrisome situation.

Yours faithfully,

Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary