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Dear Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus,

Stopping the targeting of health workers in Gaza

It has been a pleasure establishing official relations with the WHO and I look forward to furthering our collaboration in pursuit of health for all.

However, I must seek your support and active intervention: PSI affiliate, General Union of Health Services Workers – Gaza (GUHSW) in Palestine, informed me of the killing of Razan al-Najjar on 1 June 2018.

Our union 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.

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

Yours faithfully,

Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary