



[Condemnation of Israel's Attack on the Last Functioning Hospital in Besieged Northern Gaza](#)

Israel has recently elicited appropriate condemnation for its attack on the last major functioning health facility in northern Gaza. The World Health Organization (WHO) denounced the raid against Kamal Adwan Hospital, in which Israeli forces stormed the hospital, set it on fire, and forcibly removed patients and staff from the facility. Regrettably, this is all part of a consistent pattern of deadly Israeli attacks on hospitals and medical facilities since the onset of the Gaza War nearly 15 months ago – something that human rights groups have documented and sought to draw attention to. In fact, a newly released report by the UN Human Rights Office has outlined Israel's systematic targeting of hospitals and other medical facilities in Gaza, stating that these attacks have pushed the enclave's healthcare system to the brink of total collapse while also raising serious concerns regarding war crimes and crimes against humanity. The report details the pattern in which Israeli forces have besieged hospitals, and documents the hundreds of strikes that have been carried out between October of 2023 and June of 2024 alone.

Medical personnel, hospitals, and patients are meant to be distinctly protected under international humanitarian law. Thus, as human rights organizations have pointed out, intentionally directing attacks against these sites amounts to egregious war crimes. Additionally, the deliberate destruction of medical and healthcare facilities can be deemed a form of collective punishment against the civilian population, which itself equates to a war crime as well. The Israeli attacks on hospitals have also prevented patients with traumatic injuries from receiving the necessary life-saving treatment that they require, resulting in many dying while waiting to be treated. UN humanitarian officials alluded to how the one sanctuary where civilians should feel safe amid Israel's relentless bombing in Gaza has instead become a death trap, which is abhorrent considering that the protection of hospitals during warfare is paramount and should be respected at all times. As such, Israel's conduct represents a blatant disregard for the standards of international law.

The recent report about Israel's attacks against medical facilities in Gaza demonstrates the clear pattern that has existed since the onset of the Gaza War back in October of 2023. As it points out, the latest appalling destruction of Kamal Adwan Hospital and the surrounding area is far from an anomaly and on the contrary, reflects a "pattern of attacks" that started with Israel's first military operation against the Al-Shifa Medical Complex shortly after the outbreak of the conflict. This and a subsequent later raid of Al-Shifa left it in complete ruin, with humanitarian officials reporting the discovery of mass graves which contained corpses of hospital patients. When it receives condemnation for its attacks against medical and civilian infrastructure, Israel has a track record of claiming that the buildings are used by militants, however, the report states that there is insufficient information to substantiate these accusations and that conversely, it is often even contradicted by information that is publicly available.

As we head into 2025 and the Gaza War approaches its 15-month marker, many civilians continue to suffer from the dire humanitarian toll that the conflict has brought about. Aid agencies have warned that the humanitarian conditions are likely to worsen with the arrival of the colder winter months, as the nearly 2 million people displaced by the war are left with little protection from the harsh elements. Meanwhile, recent water quality surveillance has found alarming rates of contamination in addition to poor sanitation and hygiene conditions among the displacement sites in Gaza. The United Nations has cautioned that humanitarian aid remains severely

inadequate, resulting in widespread and dangerous malnutrition levels, particularly for women and children – a deplorable more than 96% of whom cannot meet their basic nutritional needs.