



### **DSPR-MECC Statement on a Full Year of Genocide**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, DSPR-MECC marks one year since the genocide and devastating war on Gaza began. We acknowledge the immense human suffering, displacement, and destruction inflicted on the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli brutal war and the ongoing Nakba that has spanned over seven decades. This war is another chapter in the long history of murder, destruction, and colonialism that Palestinians have endured, yet they continue to seek justice, dignity, and peace. As DSPR, we reaffirm our Christian Witness in the time of adversity and our solid commitment to stand with the oppressed people in across Palestine and in the countries of refuge, to copy the model of our Savior in standing beside the poor, the neglected and the marginalized, by doing all that we can to ease their suffering and to provide all humanitarian aid possible, to preserve their human dignity and keep advocating for their inalienable rights.

The 7<sup>th</sup> of October, the day shattered illusions that the military occupation, the strangulating siege, the systemic humiliation, the theft of Palestinian land and resources, and the denying the Palestinians rights is the solution for the Israelis to live in peace. It revealed that keeping this human tragedy unsolved will never bring peace to the Middle East. It also revealed the world's indifference to injustice especially within a year of unimaginable destruction, relentless suffering, and deepening the humanitarian catastrophe that has scarred Gaza and Palestine beyond words. For twelve agonizing months, the Palestinians in Gaza have lived under Genocide, unprecedented devastation, supported by a media machine that practiced lying and forgery, the Palestinians homes reduced to rubble, and their lives shattered by the systemic brutality of a relentless war machine, where they are chased by fire from place to another. This war didn't just destroy buildings; it laid bare the world's failure to uphold even the most basic human rights, it also revealed how the world deals with double standards for the implementation of international humanitarian laws, and how profound was the moral decline of Israel and its complicit allies. The people of Gaza remain trapped under "total siege" which declared by the Israeli Authorities according to the defense minister (Yoav Gallant) announcement: "There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed."<sup>1</sup>, deprived of their basic needs for dignified life, stripped of their human rights, and left to suffer while the world system watches in silence. This is not just a war; it is a grotesque testament to the global disregard for human life. The lives of the Palestinians especially in Gaza are not collateral damage; they are human beings, enduring unspeakable violence, living in a nightmare that has no end in sight, especially with this international inability to stop the crimes of this rogue state.

The toll on civilians has been catastrophic and unprecedented, specifically on the most vulnerable: women, children, and the elderly, who have borne the brunt of the violence. There is no need to repeat how brutal is the attacks on Gaza, and the numbers of innocent lives lost, and the staggering numbers of wounded who lack medical care after Israel destroyed most hospitals and medical facilities, including The DSPR clinics. According to OCHA, over 70% of the casualties in Gaza have been women and children, reflecting the devastating impact on families and communities. In its "Latest update on humanitarian case No. 224," the United Nations reported that

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-power-food-or-fuel/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-power-food-or-fuel/)



more than 1.3 million children need psychological support and protection from the consequences of the conflict, as many of them have lost family members, homes, or access to basic services like education and healthcare.<sup>2</sup>

Gaza Strip Food and Clean water are scarce, no electricity network is functioning, and sanitation systems are failing, all of which have increased the spread of disease and worsened living conditions. Schools have been destroyed or repurposed as shelters, leaving hundreds of thousands of children without access to education. The war has robbed a generation of the right to learn, leaving long-term implications for Gaza's future. Additionally, the environmental damage from bombings has led to the contamination of water sources and agricultural land, further threatening the livelihoods and health of the population, hospitals, and critical infrastructure have not been spared, with 19 hospitals out of 36 hospitals are out of services, while the remaining are partially damaged and lacking medications, medical supplies and functioned by targeted and exhausted medical teams, exacerbating an already dire health crisis. Among the hardest hit are cancer patients, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses who no longer have access to essential medical care.

Beyond Gaza, the West Bank has also been targeted. Invasions, coupled with unprecedented waves of settler violence, according to the latest update by UN-OCHA on Humanitarian case No. 225 from the 7<sup>th</sup> of October until the reporting date "1,423 attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians, of which 140 led to Palestinian casualties, 1,135 led to damage to Palestinian property, and 148 led to both casualties and property damage. Since 7 October 2023, 277 Palestinian households comprising 1,628 people, including 794 children, have been displaced in Bedouin and herding communities across the West Bank."<sup>3</sup> West Bank economic deterioration, displacement, and increased tensions. Palestinian prisoners, too, continue to suffer under inhumane conditions, while torture and abuse becoming routine. Reports of sexual abuse and degrading treatment are widespread, further compounding the suffering of the incarcerated. These criminal and cruelty highlight the extent of the systemic oppression and injustice inflicted on Palestinians.

Since the early beginning of this genocidal war, DSPR decided to continue its Christian Witness in times of Adversity 2 major goals have been set: 1- Contribute with all means possible to relief services in Gaza 2- Preserving the Christian Presence in Gaza by providing Christians in Gaza with all possible support, to enable them to stay alive despite the terrifying targeting of them and their churches there. Our interventions are offered to the most needy communities and to Christian Community in the Churches. Tens of thousands of the displaced people have been offered medical services, psychosocial support, health awareness and hygiene kits distribution. Food and cash support have been offered to thousands of households, DSPR opened the opportunity for cash for work to tens of households. We established new clinics and medical points to replace the destroyed ones, we started mobile clinics to reach out those who lost any opportunity to receive medical treatment, and tried to care about our teams, our Heroes, who continue their work despite being displaced several times, they and their families, losing everything like homes, property, dreams and even lives, three staff

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-224-gaza-strip>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-225-west-bank>



members have been killed, with their family members, in air strikes to their residential areas many others lost family members and close relatives, but their commitment and determination did not waver throughout the year of genocide.

As DSPR, we stand firm in our resolve to provide all the humanitarian aid we can, in order to preserve dignity, pursue justice, and defend human rights in the face of this relentless oppression.

DSPR condemn the Israeli crimes against the God Creations, which have inflicted unimaginable suffering on the Palestinian people and left Gaza in ruins. The deliberate targeting of civilians, the destruction of homes and infrastructure, and the use of collective punishment are grave violations of international law and basic human rights. These acts of aggression, fueled by the complicity of other countries and their silence in the face of injustice, have allowed Israel to act with impunity. We refer to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the recent United Nations resolutions that have reaffirmed the illegality of the occupation and called for the protection of the Palestinian people. The failure to implement these resolutions reflects the deep double standards in the international community, further enabling Israel's ongoing war crimes and systemic oppression.

We urgently call upon all international actors, governments, and stakeholders to take immediate action toward securing an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and an end to the Israeli colonial regime. The global community must recognize that the path to peace and justice in Palestine is inseparable from the end of the Israeli colonial and apartheid regime. The ongoing war and occupation are not only a humanitarian disaster but a threat to global peace and security, which we see it growingly happening. It is time for the world to stand on the side of justice and human dignity, holding Israel accountable for its actions and demanding the immediate cessation of all hostilities.

As we reflect on the horrors of the past year, DSPR reaffirms its unwavering commitment to continue its Christian mission and its mandate in Gaza, the West Bank and the region. We remain dedicated to providing lifesaving aid, advocating for justice, and working to preserve the dignity and rights of the Palestinian people, especially the refugees, driven by our faith and following our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we trust His words and promises in giving us life and to live it abundantly.