

Collegium Ramazzini Additional Statement Regarding the War in the Gaza Region

Collegium Ramazzini

The Collegium Ramazzini is an independent, international scientific academy comprised of 180 physicians and scientists from 45 countries. Its mission is to increase scientific knowledge of the environmental and occupational causes of disease and to transmit this knowledge to decision-makers, the media and the global public in order to prevent disease, promote good health and save lives. The Collegium Ramazzini is independent of commercial interests. It advances scientifically based solutions to global problems in occupational and environmental health.

Fellows of The Collegium Ramazzini are humanitarians. Our mission is “to advance the study of occupational and environmental health issues and be a bridge between the world of scientific discovery and the social and political centers which must act on the discoveries of science to protect public health.” Therefore, we must stand for protecting occupational and environmental health of all people everywhere.

We are appalled by the abhorrent actions that have been committed by both Hamas and the Israeli government, as clearly indicated in the indictments issued by the International Criminal Court. These egregious violations of human rights by political leaders are against the interests of their own peoples.

Further, we note with deep concern that a catastrophic humanitarian emergency is currently unfolding in Gaza, which is shocking to any humanitarian and which only can and must be halted immediately by stopping the actions of the Israeli government. Failing to stop their actions will have further devastating consequences for the people who live in Gaza and their future generations, as well as for the hostages.

We learn from many credible sources of the humanitarian and environmental crisis in Gaza and the destruction of the public health infrastructure which has led to the suffering and death of many. We note these same terrible conditions apply as much to the Israeli hostages as they do to the population of Gaza.

For that reason, noting our previous statement in November 2023, and the evident deterioration in the situation, we believe that we must strongly speak out.

We issue the following statement, calling for:

1. An immediate and permanent ceasefire as a pathway to a lasting peace in the region with full recognition of the right of all affected populations to self-determination and full equality;
2. An immediate stop to famine by allowing unhindered access for humanitarian organisations, including United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA);
3. Immediate entry of medical supplies and support needed for health services (water, gasoline, etc);
4. An immediate stop to attacks on health facilities, sanitation and water infrastructure and other parts of the health system and an end to attacks on health professionals in Gaza;
5. Restoration of public health systems and services as soon as military action ceases;
6. The immediate release of all hostages, captives and detainees illegally held;

7. Accountability for violations under international law committed by all parties, including those war crimes committed on October 7th and those committed in the 22 months since then. The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court have issued important rulings, which we, as an international organisation which endorses multilateralism and the integrity of the United Nations, believe should guide our support for the rule of law.

The continuation of the violence threatens the future role of human value principles as guidance in every domain of human life everywhere. We urge our Fellows and all people of good will, within their personal capacities, to provide for the immediate needs of these suffering populations and to promote just alternatives that secure an enduring peace.

