



BAPTIST HOSPITAL MASSACRE IN GAZA

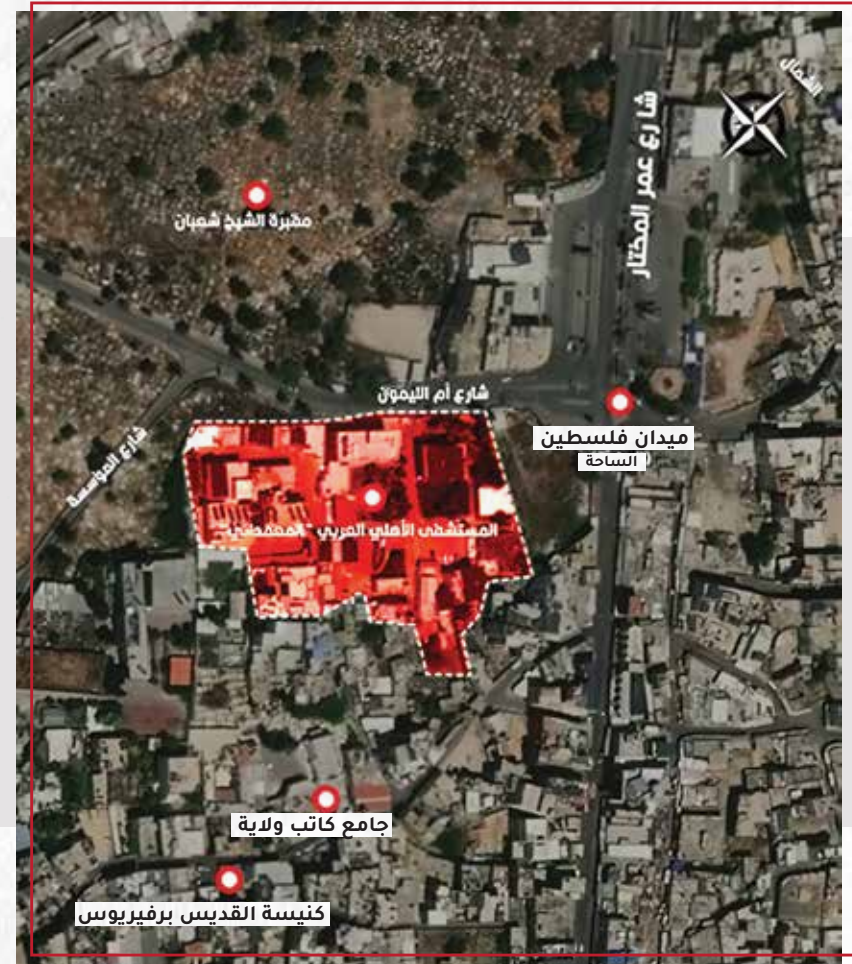
Committed by Israel amid Deplorable Int'l Silence

17th Oct. 2023



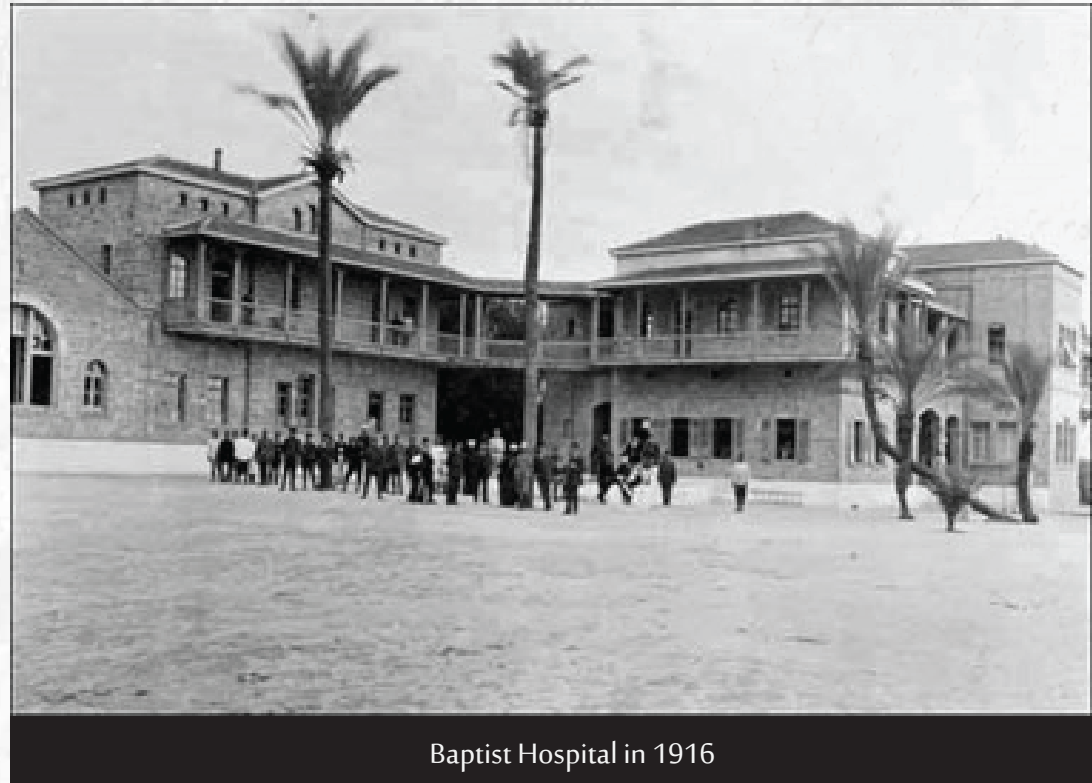
Background Information

The al-Ahli Arab Hospital is located in Gaza's Old City between the Shujaiya and Zeitoun neighbourhoods in Gaza City. It is situated just less than 3km from al-Shifa Hospital, the largest public hospital in the enclave of 2.3 million people. The facility is also near several historical sites in Gaza, including the Great Omari Mosque, known as Gaza's Great Mosque and two of Gaza's churches: St Philip the evangelist chapel and St Porphyrius Church. The area is also in proximity to Gaza's historic Zawiya Market.



● Background Information

Al-Ahli is one of the oldest hospitals in Gaza founded in 1882, and it serves more than 45,000 patients each year. Al-Ahli was founded by Anglican missionaries and has existed in the region since 1882. For some decades in the mid-20th century, it was operated by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) missions. It currently sits under the Anglican Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.



Known colloquially as Al-Ma'amadani (or "the Baptist" in Arabic), it is one of 22 hospitals in northern Gaza. After Israel's evacuation orders in the area, hundreds of Palestinians had taken refuge there, with families sheltering in the courtyard where the explosion took place. ⁽¹⁾

(1) <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2023/october/al-ahli-arab-baptist-hospital-gaza-bombing.html>

● Shocking Israeli Massacre



More than 400 people were killed in the Israeli airstrike on Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza on Tuesday. Footage on social media showed corpses scattered across the hospital grounds. Displaced civilians were seeking shelter at the hospital, following Israel's order to evacuate to the south in advance of what is expected to be a ground assault. ⁽²⁾

(2) <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-gaza-hamas-war-biden-rafah-e062825a375d9eb62e95509cab95b80c>

● Shocking Israeli Massacre

Eye-witnesses and field reporters told PRC that the destruction is just unfathomable.

“We are horrified by the recent Israeli bombing of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, which was treating patients and hosting displaced Gazans. Hundreds of people have been killed,” said PRC reporter. “Bodies covered with blood are spotted everywhere; Children crying for help from under rubble can be heard far and wide; Medics have been unable to psychologically and logistically cope with the tragedy”.

Gaza is already experiencing a dire humanitarian crisis with no electricity, while water, food, fuel and medical supplies are running out.



● Shocking Israeli Massacre



On October 15, the hospital was hit by Israeli warplanes, injuring four medics and inflicting heavy damage on the facility. Some of its departments were completely destroyed.

Data by the Palestinian Health Ministry indicates that until October 18, the death toll stands at 471. The number is expected to rise in the next few hours as hundreds of wounded people have been reported in an extremely critical condition, among them children.⁽³⁾

(3) <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/death-toll-from-israeli-attack-on-gaza-hospital-reaches-471-health-ministry/3025111>

● Shocking Israeli Massacre

Footage on social media showed thousands of Palestinians were at the hospital when the building came under bombardment.

Following the massacre, photos of Palestinian children with horrendous burns, mortar wounds, and lost limbs have circulated on social media.



Dead bodies have been scattered across the hospital grounds. Hospitals are utterly overwhelmed to treat the wounded as the numbers keep rising.

"We were operating in the hospital, there was a strong explosion, and the ceiling fell on the operating room. This is a massacre," Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah, an MSF doctor in Gaza who was at Ahli Arab Hospital during the attack said in a statement.

● Shocking Israeli Massacre

Palestinian Civil Defense spokesperson Major Mahmoud Basal also said that the scenes from the attack are indescribable: "What happened was a major massacre in every sense of the word, which is genocide against our people, and the world must take action". "The massacre at al-Ahli Arab Hospital is unprecedented in our history. While we've witnessed tragedies in past wars and days, what took place tonight is tantamount to a genocide," he confirmed.⁽⁴⁾



(4) <https://www.axios.com/2023/10/17/israel-gaza-hospital-attack-hamas-war-death-toll-palestinians>

State-Backed Israeli Terror with Impunity

Hours before the appalling massacre, the UN Security Council had met to agree on the terms for a humanitarian ceasefire proposed by Russia, but failed to adopt a resolution to that end. The Russian-led draft resolution received five votes in favour (China, Gabon, Mozambique, Russia, and the United Arab Emirates) and four against (France, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States), with six abstentions (Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, Ghana, Malta, and Switzerland).⁽⁵⁾

Members were divided over the lack of specific condemnation of Hamas resistance movement, which initiated Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, a multi-pronged surprise attack that included a barrage of rocket launches and infiltrations into Israel by land, sea, and air in retaliation for the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and growing violence by Israeli settlers.

For the Council to adopt a resolution, the proposal must receive at least nine votes in favour, with none of its five permanent members opposing or casting a veto.

The draft text had called for a humanitarian ceasefire, release of all hostages, aid access, and safe evacuation of civilians.

(5) <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/10/1142427>

● State-Backed Israeli Terror with Impunity



Vassily Nebenzia, Permanent Representative of Russia to the UN expressed regret over the Security Council's failure to adopt the resolution, blaming the "selfish intention of the western bloc." He said that the Western countries' delegations "basically stomped" on global hopes for the Council to put an end to violence.

Ambassador Nebenzia noted that the vote revealed countries in support of ending the violence and providing humanitarian aid, and those blocking a unified message "for purely selfish and political interests".

"We are extremely concerned by the unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and the very high risk of the conflict spreading," he said.

Recommendations

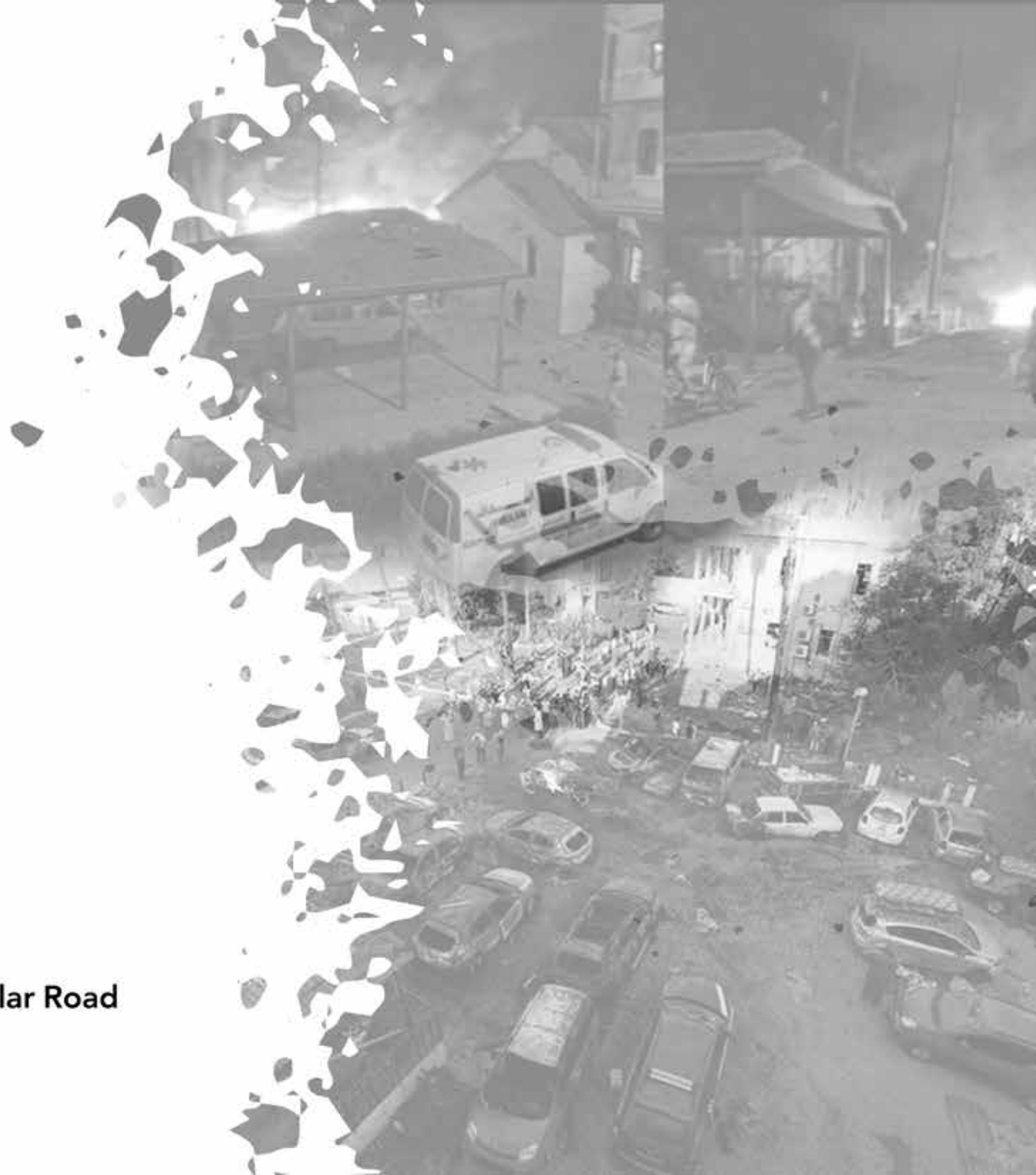
PRC calls on all concerned parties to immediately work on:

- Smoothing the progress of and access to lifesaving assistance, including food, medical supplies, fuel, and the rehabilitation of electricity and internet to Gaza
- Ensuring the opening of humanitarian corridors from Egypt to Gaza to allow patients in critical condition to be medically evacuated for urgent care, in addition to safe passage of humanitarian and medical staff
- Allowing humanitarian convoys to reach UN facilities, including UNRWA schools, hospitals, and healthcare facilities both in northern and southern Gaza, and commit to protecting them along with the civilians and staff inside them at all times
- Urging Israel to reverse evacuation orders for civilians to depart southwards
- The UN Security Council, the UN Secretary General, UNRWA and all world leaders with influence should take immediate action to ensure a ceasefire comes into effect before it is too late.

Appendix

Pictures of the Hospital Buildings
before the Attack





مركز العودة الفلسطيني
Palestinian Return Centre



www.prc.org.uk



info@prc.org.uk



100H Crown House, North Circular Road
Ealing NW10 7PN London UK