



**World Health
Organization**

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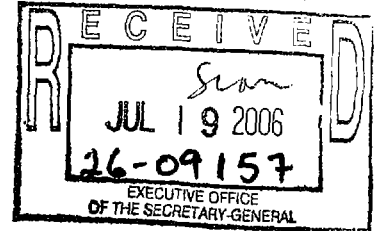
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Mr. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari
Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs
United Nations
New York

In reply please
refer to: E17/180/2PAL

Your reference:

19 July 2006



Dear Mr Gambari,

We have received, though our Office in Jerusalem, the attached self explanatory letter from the Minister of Health of the Palestinian National Authority, dated 17 July 2006.

It refers to reports of unusual clinical manifestations, not seen previously in similar cases, in many of the casualties arriving to the Ministry of Health Hospitals.

The unusual clinical manifestations are being referred as:

- unusual burns of the skin and the internal organs;
- multiple inlets and outlets in the body with no X-ray pictures for bullets or shrapnel;
- unusual gangrenes leading to excessive amputation of limbs;
- strange behaviours following gas fires (including agitation, severe headache and self harm).

As you will see, the letter expresses concerns with respect to the possibility of "a new weapon being used by the Israeli Defence Force" and requests the World Health Organization to assist in assessing the situation.

We would like to seek your advice on the way this should be handled, given the high sensitivity of the issue and the important political implications that this health related matter may have in the midst of the current Middle East crisis.

We will await your advice, before responding to the letter and in this respect we would very much appreciate your prompt reaction to allow a timely reply from our side.

Yours sincerely,

Dr A. Alwan
Representative of the Director-General
for Health Action in Crises

cc: Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
Alicia Barcena, Acting Chief of Cabinet of the Secretary-General ✓

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PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Minister's Office



السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية
وزارة الصحة
مكتب الوزير

Date: July 17, 2006

Ref: 560-2006 240

Dr. Ambrogio Manenti
Head of Office, WHO
Jerusalem

Fax No. #02 5810193

Dear Dr Manenti
Greetings,


The MOH has noticed in the last couple of weeks that many of the casualties arriving to the MOH hospitals showed unusual clinical manifestations that were not seen in previous similar cases.

Clinicians at the MOH facilities reported unusual amputation of limbs as a result of small wounds, multiple inlets while sharpeners were not seen in the X Ray, victims of chemical gazes fired by Israeli forces suffered from agitation, severe headache and other severe manifestation that is not related to tear gazes.

The MOH is deeply concerned over these unusual cases, and showed that the Israeli forces have used a new weapon that leads to such results.

We would urge the WHO to assist the MOH in assessing the situation and providing opinion on this important issue.

Yours Sincerely,


Dr. Basim Naim
Minister of Health

WHO, Jerusalem

17-07-2006

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