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PRCS' Operational Update (30/3 - 9/6/2018)

Highlights:

- Following the official recognition by the American President, Donald Trump, of Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel on December 6, 2017, in blatant violation of all international laws and regulations, and a breach of Security Council Resolutions on the Status of Jerusalem, protests erupted all over the Palestinian occupied Palestinian territory (oPT). The protests increased in the oPt at the end of March during the commemoration of Land Day. On this occasion, protests erupted in the oPt and mainly in the Gaza Strip where a "March of Return" was organized on 30/3 at the border of the Gaza Strip and continued until the reporting period which marks the 70th years of Nakba in May.
- The Israeli occupation forces killed the medic Razan Al Najjar (21 years old) while on duty in Khan Younis. Razan was a volunteer with the Medical Relief Society to help people affected during the March of Return. PRCS stresses that this crime, which was premeditated and deliberate, committed by the occupation forces, is a war crime and constitute a flagrant violation of the provisions of International Humanitarian Law, which provides for the respect of medical personnel and the special protection guaranteed to them so that they can perform their humanitarian duty safely and without threat to their lives, and deliver their first aid and relief services to civilian victims living under occupation.
- Due to the escalation of the protests, for the above mentioned reasons, and due to an increase in the humanitarian needs of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, the PRCS launched an Emergency Appeal seeking support from its partners to be able to continue its provision of immediate



humanitarian assistance, including support to health services for Palestinians. Furthermore, the Appeal will support the PRCS provision of humanitarian, social, rehabilitation and health services in the short and medium term to Palestinians in the oPT. For more information on the Appeal, see the following link:

<https://www.palestinercs.org/index.php?page=post&pid=24524&catid=4&parentid=11185>

- Some partners from the RCRC Movement have contributed to the Appeal. Here is a list of the RCRC contributors: Norwegian RC, German RC, ICRC, Turkish RC, British RC, Danish RC, Icelandic RC, Swedish RC, Kuwaiti RC, and Spanish RC. Other partners have contributed such as OPEC- OFID.
- PRCS has received several visitors in support of its teams and humanitarian work such as:
 1. IFRC President, Dr. Francesco Rocca, and the accompanying delegation
 2. Turkish RC President, Dr. Kerem Kinik, and the accompanying delegation
 3. British Consul General, Mr. Philip Hall
 4. Director of OCHA in oPT, Mr. David Carden



Humanitarian Response in the oPT (30/3 - 9/6/2018):

PRCS has increased its readiness to respond to the needs of Palestinians affected by Israeli occupation forces' in various areas in the oPt including Jerusalem.

Gaza Strip:

- There was approximately 283 PRCS staff and volunteers providing first aid services in the Gaza Strip.

During the reporting period, **6715** Palestinians were injured during Israeli attacks throughout the Gaza Strip.

Cause of Injury	Number of injured
Live ammunition	2743
Rubber Bullets	7
Tear gas	2691
Burns due to tear gas canisters	723
Shelling	8
Others	543

- PRCS deployed 58 ambulances to respond to the situation . Due to the huge number of injuries the teams had to deal with, the PRCS administrative vehicles were used by the medical teams to transfer the injured to various hospitals.
- PRCS medical teams evacuated 61 martyrs from different areas in the Gaza Strip. A total number of 130 Palestinians were killed according to the Ministry of Health.
- The PRCS set up one advanced medical post and 4 triage medical posts in the Gaza Strip, to treat the simple and moderate injuries. These posts treated around 3796 injured people during the reporting period. Out of the total



number, 2980 wounded were referred to hospitals after being provided with first aid services in these posts.

- Around 100 volunteers, doctors and nurses volunteered their services at PRCS Al Quds Hospital in Gaza city and Al Amal Hospital in Khan Younis. 919 injured were treated by these two hospitals:

Hospital	Number of injured
Al Quds in Gaza	703
Al Amal in Khan Younis	216

- PRCS hospitals received hundreds of emergency and chronic cases referred to them from the Ministry of Health hospitals for treatment as a result of the emergency situation in the Strip.
- Additionally, the PRCS Psychological First Aid Team provided psychological support to **6427** persons: 2617 wounded Palestinians and members of the medical teams in the field and hospitals, and 3750 of the wounded families. the aim is to help them overcome their trauma and grief and regain their psychological balance.

The PFAT teams comprise of around 190 staff who worked in governmental hospitals in the different areas of the Gaza Strip including the 5 PRCS EMS centers and Al Amal hospital in Khan Younis and Al Quds Hospital in Gaza.



West Bank:

- During the reporting period: **1895** Palestinians were injured during Israeli attacks against Palestinians throughout the West Bank.

Cause of Injury	Number of injured
Live ammunition	47
Rubber Bullets	516
Tear gas	1280
Others	52

Israeli violations against PRCS' teams and ambulances in the oPt:

Numerous direct and indirect violations were committed against PRCS' ambulances and teams in the line of duty.

During the reporting period, 7 staff and volunteers of the emergency medical services suffered the effects of tear gas inhalation due to tear gas shot by the Israeli occupation forces towards them while on duty in the West Bank. One PRCS ambulance sustained damages due to the direct targeting by the occupation. In addition, 11 incidents of denying access to their destination were recorded by the PRCS.

As for the Gaza Strip, 7 staff and volunteers of the emergency medical services were wounded with live ammunition while on duty. In addition, 29 PRCS ambulances sustained damage due to direct targeting by the Israeli occupation while carrying out their humanitarian duty in the Gaza Strip.

End.

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