



Apr. 21st, 2024

Dear

**Hospital managers in Israel**

Esteemed doctors,

Following several incidents of protests outside public hospitals in Israel regarding the treatment of Hamas terrorists, I felt the need to write and emphasize our ethical commitment at this time.

Treatment of every individual, including Hamas terrorists, is appropriate and our duty as physicians. Ethical principles, international conventions and declarations, and even Israeli law require that a physician treat every person, no matter who they are or where they are from.

For example, in the Geneva Declaration of the WMA as translated and endorsed by the IMA Ethics Committee, we declare that "I will not permit considerations of age, disease or disability, faith, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient".

The World Medical Association's statement on treatment in times of armed conflict states that:

*During times of armed conflict and other situations of violence, the ethical standards of the medical profession apply as in times of peace. The professional duty to treat people with humanity and respect applies to all patients. The physician must always act in accordance with medical neutrality and give the necessary care impartially and without discrimination."*

And, in the Edinburgh Declaration:

*Persons deprived of liberty ("prisoners") should receive the same standard of health care as people outside prisons."*

The IMA's ethical principles call for the continuation of medical services during armed conflict, regardless of the patient's identity. The only consideration before the physician is the medical condition of the patient.

Therefore, despite the heinous acts of the Hamas terrorists, we as physicians will provide proper treatment, and will allow the legal system to bring them to justice.

The IMA and the Ethics Committee fully endorse your actions during these difficult days and hope for calmer days ahead.

With hope for better days,

**Dr. Yossi Walfisch**

**Chair of the Ethics Committee**