



July 21, 2025  
MK Israel Katz  
Minister of Defense of Israel

**Subject: Repeated Reports of Civilian Deaths Near Food Distribution Points in Gaza**

Dear MK Israel Katz,

In recent weeks, we have witnessed repeated reports, including from international aid organizations, stating that innocent civilians in the Gaza Strip have been killed near food and humanitarian aid distribution points. Even today, reports were received of approximately 73 fatalities in a similar incident.

According to IDF statements in some of these cases, including the current incident, the situation involved so-called "warning fire," intended to disperse Palestinian residents from certain areas at specific times. We fully acknowledge the security considerations that cannot be ignored. However, as physicians and as human beings, we cannot remain indifferent to the images and reports of innocent people being killed, especially while they are waiting for food and other humanitarian aid. Medical ethics and international humanitarian law obligate us to make every effort to avoid harm to the civilian population and medical teams, and to ensure that any use of "warning fire" is necessary and proportionate.

The Israel Medical Association reiterates its call to take all necessary measures to avoid, as much as possible, harm to innocent civilians, as well as to rescue, medical, and aid organizations.

I would appreciate your response and clarifications on this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Prof. Zion Hagay  
President, Israeli Medical Association