The Case of the Gazan Child, Aisha Lulu, is a Reflection of the Suffering of all Palestinian Children

Under the Israeli Occupation

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Aisha Lulu, a 5-year-old child from the Gaza Strip, was suffering from brain stem tumor. She was referred to the East Jerusalem hospitals on April 17th for a critical surgery in the brain as such intervention was not available within the Gaza hospitals. All patients and their companions have to apply for Israeli permits to get out of Gaza to access hospitals in the West Bank including East Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities approved the permit application of the 5-year child but denied the companions'. Aisha Lulu came to the hospital in Jerusalem alone crossing the Israeli Checkpoints without any companion from her family (no mother, no father, and no relative). She passed through critical psychological and physical pain before and after the surgery, with her parents and family away. She was seen crying and calling for her mother loudly to be beside her in the hospital. Aisha Lulu was back to Gaza alone again after the surgery for follow up treatment at Gaza hospitals. She did not stay long afterwards; Just one week then passed away with bitterness a couple of days ago leaving a message to the free World to speak out loudly in defending the rights of all children like her.





Aisha Lulu is and will not be the only victim of the Israeli Occupation access restrictions policy. This is repeated on daily basis under the Occupation over the successive years. According to the World Health Organization report on access right monitoring, the approval rate of the patient and companion permits from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, including Jerusalem, was declining dramatically. The patient approval rate in 2018 was the second lowest since the year 2008, with only 61%. On the other hand, under half of patient

companion permit applications from the Gaza Strip (48%) were only approved in the same year. West Bank patients and companions face similar obstacles in getting permits to East Jerusalem hospitals and other facilities that require the Israeli authorities' approval.

Denying patient companions permits, especially for children, is a blatant violation of all international and human rights conventions and agreements. Accordingly, the Palestinian Ministry of Health calls on the World Health Organization, OHCHR, UN agencies and organizations, Human and humanitarian and child rights organizations and institutions and the international community for the prompt intervention and exerting pressure on the Israeli authorities to allow the smooth access of patients WITH their COMPANIONS to the health facilities wherever the service is available, especially those referred from Gaza Strip to West Bank including East Jerusalem or other places that require the Israeli permits. It is a right of every child and patient to have his/her first-degree companion beside him/her during the treatment journey. It is the responsibility of all to defend human and child rights.

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Ministry of Health