



Euro-Med Monitor  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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## **Petition: CALL ON THE ISRAEL AND EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTS TO ALLOW COVID19 MEDECIINES INTO GAZA**

We the undersigned MEPs express our concern about the latest spike in COVID19 cases in the Gaza Strip. Although the Gaza Strip has been one of the last places to be impacted by COVID19 globally, the exceptional situation there requires immediate action to allow medicines, protective gears, masks, and ICU units into the territory. The coastal enclave has been living under a 15-year-long Israeli and Egyptian siege which has exhausted its healthcare system.

Today, 32% of basic medicines are not available in Gaza. 62% of laboratory drugs are not available in the coastal enclave. Gaza's European Hospital, which is allocated to treat COVID19 patients is running on its full capacity. Only 100 ICU units are available in Gaza for a population of 2.1 million people.

Palestinian patients go through prolonged processes to cross the borders into Israel and Egypt. Many of them died waiting for permits to be issued. Many health facilities were destroyed during repeated conflicts. Medical crews were targeted and many of them work without being paid full salaries and in most cases medical crews get their salaries once every two months. In other words, the healthcare system is near collapse and it needed structural improvements even before the outbreak of the virus.

Gaza is one of the most densely populated places on earth. The skyrocketing numbers of COVID19 cases speak of this density. In the span or nearly three months, 23811Palestinians have tested positive for the virus, of whom 129 have passed away. If no immediate intervention is made, Gaza will experience yet another catastrophe.

To this end:

1. We call on the European Union to send immediate medical aid to the Gaza Strip through the World Health Organization (WHO).
2. We call on the governments of Israel and Egypt to immediately lift their blockade of Gaza and allow in the much-needed medical aid.
3. We call on all parties to the conflict in Gaza to save the civilians the plight of COVID19 and to put their differences aside.
4. We call on the Palestinian Ministry of Health to collobrate with the local health authorities in Gaza and WHO, and to put political differences aside, by increasing the Gaza health budget to combat COVID19.
5. We call on the EU to work with major powers and the UN to make sure that Gaza, which was decrified by a UN report as unlivable, has its share of COVID19 vaccines.



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