



PRCS Statement on False Allegations Against PRCS Complex in Gaza Strip

22.11.2023

On Monday night, 20.11.2023, the Israeli Occupation Forces Spokesperson, posted a video with allegations made against PRCS, interrogating a man named Hamuda Riad Asad Shamalehk; claiming to be an employee at the Ministry of Health; giving fabricated testimony on what he saw while seeking refuge at the PRCS complex in Gaza. Some of the atrocious claims he made included Hamas using the PRCS complex and Al-Shifa Hospital as operational locations to hide weapons; in addition, he claims that this led to the usage of civilians seeking refuge as “human shields”.

PRCS strongly denies and condemns these false allegations, and reaffirms its commitment to its humanitarian mission to aid and save lives according to its humanitarian mandate.

PRCS respects the responsibilities granted through International Law and in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. The idea of using the PRCS’ facilities for military purposes is inconceivable and has not and will not be allowed to take place.

It is completely appalling to be forced to continuously reject false allegations, and respond to fabricated stories that deliberately incite and endanger the lives of medical teams. This is not the first time false allegations have been made against PRCS premises, ambulances, and teams; which have never been confirmed to be true.

The PRCS complex, which had 14’000 IDPs (not 40’000 IDPs as the video suggests), was under strict siege, with tanks surrounding it for many days. The IDPs staying at the complex were always informed about the threats made by the Israeli Forces against it to be evacuated, yet they refused to leave as they couldn’t find a safe route nor any safe place to go to. All of the complex was eventually evacuated, as the hospital went out of service with no Food, Water and Fuel supply. Everyone inside left in front of the besieging Occupation Forces and all were checked and questioned.

In fact, the teams who were distributing water and food for the IDPs at the hospital did not recognize this person among them.

PRCS warns the International community of the danger of being misled by misinformation spreading with the purpose of distracting the public from the disaster that is unfolding, or justifying attacks against healthcare facilities. Nonetheless, the provocation made due to such false allegations threatens the lives and mission of PRCS and healthcare in general. PRCS holds Israeli Forces accountable for any danger or threat against its teams, facilities, and missions.

PRCS continues to call upon the international community for urgent interventions to exert pressure on the Occupying Power to ensure the protection of civilians, healthcare facilities, and medical teams operating in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

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