

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

INTERNAL DOCUMENT

LINES FOR RESPONSE

27 November 2023

On 26 November Human Rights Watch (HRW) published its [analysis](#) of the explosion that took place at Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza on 17 October 2023, which although inconclusive, suggests it was caused by an apparent rocket-propelled munition, noting that Palestinian armed groups commonly use such rockets. HRW calls for an investigation to determine who fired it.

What is Amnesty International's conclusion on the explosion?

Amnesty International is continuing its investigations into the blast at al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza on 17 October, analysing publicly available videos and photographs, as well as satellite images. As yet the organization has not concluded that investigation.

Amnesty International is also continuing to investigate several other attacks in the occupied Gaza Strip, including strikes on medical facilities, to determine the full range of crimes under international law committed.

There must be an independent impartial investigation into all attacks on hospitals and all other suspected violations of international law committed by parties to the conflict. The World Health Organization (WHO) has continued to document "[multiple and ongoing attacks](#)" on health facilities in Gaza with devastating consequences that have killed and injured patients and medical staff and, damaged hospitals' infrastructure and put several hospitals out of action. In northern Gaza there are only three hospitals still functioning, and across the Gaza Strip the health sector has collapsed amid severe shortages of fuel and medical supplies, as it struggles to treat tens of thousands of wounded in weeks of relentless Israeli bombardment and siege.

Commented [1]: Should we make this specific to hospitals. Like - There must be an independent impartial investigation into all attacks on hospitals and all other suspected violations of international law committed by parties..

HRW has also [documented](#) repeated, unlawful attacks by the Israeli military on medical facilities in Gaza.

Attacks on health care, including the targeting of hospitals and medics and arbitrarily restricting the delivery of essential aid such as medical supplies, fuel, and water, violates international humanitarian law, which requires that hospitals, medical personnel, patients and civilians be respected and protected at all times. Amnesty International has called on Israel to refrain from attacks on hospitals and for all warring parties to refrain from conducting hostilities near hospitals. Doing so endangers the lives of sick and injured patients, the medical staff working under desperate conditions to save lives, and the hospitals themselves.

Amnesty International is calling for independent, impartial investigations to be conducted into all suspected violations of international law, including attacks on hospitals, by all parties in this current escalation of the conflict.

Amnesty International reiterates its call for the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which opened an investigation into the situation in Palestine in March 2021, to expedite its investigation and for all parties to fully cooperate with it. Amnesty International also calls for the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories to be allowed to enter Gaza to collect evidence and investigate serious violations of international law committed in Gaza. Human rights organizations such as Amnesty International should be given access to the Gaza Strip to conduct their own investigations into the situation on the ground, including indiscriminate and disproportionate air and ground strikes and other violations of international humanitarian law by all parties.

Did Secretary General Agnes Callamard's [post](#) on X in response to the strikes killing hundreds of civilians on the grounds of Baptist Hospital al-Ahli in Gaza City on 17 October place blame on the Israeli Defense Forces?

On the evening of 17 October, Amnesty International's Secretary General posted on X

noting that hundreds of people had reportedly been killed at the al-Ahli in Gaza. Her post made no attribution of responsibility to any parties or individuals in relation to the explosion.