

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

L'ASSOCIATION MEDICALE MONDIALE, INC
ASOCIACION MEDICA MUNDIAL, INC



His Excellency Mr. Ahmed al-Sharaa
Interim President of the Syrian Arab Republic
Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the UN Office at Geneva
International Centre Cointrin (ICC), Bloc C (2nd Floor)
Route de Pré-Bois 20, Case postale (P.O. Box) 1903
CH-1215 Geneva 15
missionsyria.unog@gmail.com
missionsyria@bluewin.ch

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Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the World Medical Association (WMA), the global federation of National Medical Associations representing millions of physicians worldwide. Acting on behalf of patients and physicians, the WMA endeavours to achieve the highest possible standards of medical care, ethics, education and health-related human rights for all people.

We have received reports of attacks on civilians and healthcare personnel and facilities in the Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafieh neighborhoods of Aleppo. It is alleged that hospitals, clinics, ambulances and medical personnel have been deliberately targeted or prevented from fulfilling their duties.

The WMA unequivocally condemns all acts of violence directed against healthcare. International humanitarian law is very clear that civilians, medical personnel, health facilities and humanitarian relief operations must always be granted special protection. Any attack on them constitutes a major violation of international law and may amount to a war crime.

The WMA urges the Syrian authorities to fully comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including by ensuring the protection, without discrimination, of all civilians, medical personnel, ambulances and health facilities in the Aleppo region and throughout the country. Physicians and other health professionals must be able to carry out their duties in a safe environment, without obstruction or interference, in accordance with the principle of medical neutrality. We also urge you to facilitate independent investigations into all alleged violations of international humanitarian law and to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

We thank you in advance for your immediate attention to this crucial matter, which aims to preserve the dignity, safety and health of all people living in Syria.

Respectfully,

Dr Jacqueline Kitulu
WMA President

Centre International de Bureaux
Immeuble A "Keynes"
13, chemin du Levant
01210 FERNEY-VOLTAIRE
France

Website : www.wma.net
Telephone : (33) 4 50 40 75 75
Fax : (33) 4 50 40 59 37
E-mail address : wma@wma.net

Postal Address :
Boite Postale 63
01210 FERNEY-VOLTAIRE Cedex
France