

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
L'ASSOCIATION MEDICALE MONDIALE, INC
ASOCIACION MEDICA MUNDIAL, INC



Honorable Dr. Haider al-Abadi
Prime Minister
Republic of Irak
albadi2@hotmail.com
nazdar_sherzad@yahoo.com
media@pmo.gov.iq

10 November 2014

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the World Medical Association (WMA), the global federation of National Medical Associations representing the 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. As such, the WMA plays a key role in promoting good practice, medical ethics and medical accountability internationally.

Our attention has been drawn to the worrying health conditions in the Camp Liberty based in Iraq. According to testimonies and reports from human rights organisations¹, the basic rights of the 2700 residents - such as access to physicians and medicine, the confidentiality of physician-patient relationship or the right of patients to have interpreter and accompanying nurses when needed – are frequently violated. Furthermore, numerous reported cases relate to situations where hospitalisation of patients and purchase of medicine have been prevented. Other examples include cancellation of medical appointments, delayed transfers of patients to hospital, or denial permission to travel outside the Camp to receive treatment. These on-going obstructions have resulted in the rapid deterioration of the health conditions of several patients of the Camp Liberty and even in the death of some.

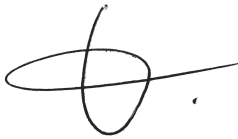
We are extremely concerned by this situation that reveal flagrant violations of medical ethics principles and human rights standards. The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is a fundamental element of human rights enshrined in article 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights that Iraq has ratified in 1971.

¹ Including: Amnesty International, France Libertés, ACAT Suisse, Women's Human Rights International Association, Fondation Danielle Mitterrand.

We urge the Iraqi authorities to respect its commitment and take action as a matter of urgency in order to ensure to the residents of the Camp Liberty full access to adequate health care facilities, whether inside or outside the camp. It is also fundamental that health personnel work with the assurance that medical ethics principles, such as confidentiality, are entirely respected without any reservation.

I thank you for your attention and trust that you will take promptly all the necessary steps related to our demands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Xavier Deau
President of the World Medical Association

Cc: Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dr Dainus Puras, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health