

Treatment Denied

**A Report on Israeli Policy of Denying Patients Treatment Abroad,
Claiming Treatment is Available in the Gaza Strip or is only for
"Improving Quality of Life" and not for "Life-Saving"**



September 2018

Introduction:

This report addresses the Israeli policy to deprive the Gaza Strip's patients of traveling for treatment in hospitals in Israel and the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, and neighboring countries under the pretext that their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip's hospitals or just for improving "quality of life" and not posing danger to their lives.

The report emphasizes that this policy has affected patients suffering from serious diseases such as cancer and cardiac patients, and those who need urgent and complicated surgeries in advanced health centers in addition to affecting the eye and osteopathic patients, claiming according to the Israeli criteria that their treatment is for improving "quality of life" and not "lifesaving." Due to this policy, patients' health conditions have seriously deteriorated.

The report also reviews the Israeli practices against the patients, whose diseases are classified as "not lifesaving" cases or their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip hospitals, by mainly delaying replies to their permit applications for months; replying after longtime that the application is still under security check; banning patients from traveling without explaining the reasons, and neglecting and disregarding patients' treatment appointments.

Based on testimonies given by Consultant Doctors, specialists, and administrators working in the Gaza Strip hospitals, the report also refutes the Israeli authorities' claims that the treatment for these patients referred abroad is available in the Gaza Strip hospitals or that the diseases of these patients do not pose danger to their life "quality of life".

The medical specialists emphasize that patients are referred for treatment abroad after exhausting all therapies in the Gaza hospitals. This happens when there is serious threat to patient's health if he does not resume his treatment abroad. The specialists also emphasize that running out of certain types of medical supplies and medicines and breakdown of many medical devices made the Gaza Strip's hospitals incapable of treating some diseases or conducting certain surgeries. Therefore, many patients whose cases are relatively less serious were referred abroad for treatment after they could have been treated in the Gaza Strip hospitals. Moreover, the constantly busy operating rooms that may be reserved for long periods reaching to 6 months in advance would lead to referring patients who are in need for urgent and complicated surgeries to be treated abroad.

First: policy of depriving patients of traveling for treatment under the pretext that their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip or claiming their diseases do not threaten their Life

For years of closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, Israel has deprived thousands of patients of traveling for treatment under the pretext that their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip's hospitals or claiming their diseases do not threaten their lives, considering treatment of such diseases is only to improve "quality of life."

Israel has adopted this policy since September 2007 when the Israeli government took a decision to tighten the closure on the Gaza Strip and impose severe restrictions on the movement of its residents. These restrictions included the criteria relevant to giving patients permits that allow them to travel via Beit Hanoun "Erez" Crossing to receive treatment abroad (Israel, the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, and neighboring countries). These restrictions have made the travel of Gaza Strip patients for treatment from very serious and deadly diseases and whose treatment is not available in the Strip's hospitals very complicated and exhausting.

Israel has practiced the policy of depriving patients of travel for treatment under the pretext that their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip hospitals and the policy of distinguishing between the patients who has a life-threatening disease "lifesaving cases" and those whose lives are not endangered "quality of life", though practicing such policy impacts health of patients, who suffer from serious diseases and do not have their treatment in the Gaza Strip hospitals.

This policy has also deprived thousands of patients of their right to receive treatment and deteriorated their health conditions. Although the term of "lifesaving" according to the Israeli criteria is very clear as it is related to patients who suffer from life-threatening diseases, the term of "quality of life" is still unclear and used by the Israeli authorities to deprive hundreds of patients of their right to treatment, including patients who suffer serious diseases and were deprived of traveling for treatment due to this vague term.

It should be noted that the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) declared that only the Gaza Strip's Patients whose treatment is not available in the Strip and who has no travel ban for security reasons shall be given exit permits for treatment. Moreover, the Israeli authorities apply the policy of distinguishing between the patients, who suffer life-threatening diseases "lifesaving cases", and those whose lives are not endangered "improving quality of life", but without this being officially announced. These criteria are alien to the medical ethics and even violate the international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Second: obstructing the travel of 6,401 patients referred for treatment abroad and an increase in the number of the denied permits under the pretext that their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip

According to the statistics obtained by PCHR's fieldworker from the Coordination and Liaison Department in the Palestinian Ministry of Health, since the beginning of 2018, the Israeli authorities have obstructed the travel of 6,401 patients of those referred for treatment abroad in the Israeli hospitals or in the hospitals of the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem.

The Israeli authorities have denied patients' permits for many reasons: security reasons or without clarifying the reasons; not replying to the patient's permit under the pretext of under security check; asking the patient to change the treatment appointment or submit a new application; asking the patient for a security interview; considering patient's application inappropriate; considering the patient's case "improving quality of life" and not a "lifesaving" case according to the Israel classification.

The Israeli authorities adopt many practices against the patients, considering their diseases as "non-lifesaving" cases or their treatment is not available in the Gaza Strip hospitals; thus, they deny them permits for treatment in the hospitals in Israel and the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, and the neighboring countries. Most prominent of these practices are: delaying the reply to the patients' applications for months; replying after long periods that the application is so far under security check; depriving patients of traveling without clarifying the reasons; and disregarding the patients' treatment appointments. All of this cause big troubles to patients who suffer serious and incurable diseases that would require them to renew their medical referrals, book a new appointment in the hospitals they are referred to for treatment and start all over again all documents and papers needed for the treatment abroad.

Through Legal Unit's follow-up of the patients they receive at PCHR, the number of patients' applications rejected under the pretext of having their treatment in the Gaza Strip's hospitals has increased since the beginning of 2018. Moreover, the Israeli authorities continue to adopt the policy of distinguishing between patients and permanently apply it not only to the cases classified by the Israeli authorities to "improve quality of life" but also to cases classified as "lifesaving". For example, many cancer and cardiac patients were subject to these criteria. Moreover, classifying some of the eye and orthopedic diseases under the pretext of being cases to improve "quality of life" or their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip's hospitals has seriously deteriorated patients' health.

Since the beginning of 2018, PCHR's Legal Unit received 811 complaints from patients who were banned by the Israeli authorities from traveling for treatment abroad in the hospitals of the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, and Israel. Therefore, the Legal Unit intervened and contacted the Israeli authorities to enable those patients to travel. The unit received positive responses to 280 applications (approval), negative responses to 208 applications (rejected again) while it is so far waiting the responses to 329 applications (under security check). The Israeli authorities justified denying the travel of some of those

patients by claiming their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip hospitals or claiming that their diseases are not life-threatening and treatment for their diseases are considered to improve "quality of life". It should be noted that Legal Unit's work comes after the patient referred for treatment exhausts all ways and his application filed by the Coordination and Liaison Department in the Ministry of Health has been rejected by the Israeli authorities.

Third: Refuting the Israeli authorities' claims that the treatment for the patients referred for treatment abroad is available in the Gaza Strip Hospitals

PCHR's follow-up emphasizes that the treatment for most of the Gaza Strip patients referred for treatment abroad is not available in the Gaza Strip's hospitals and they are in desperate need for treatment abroad. The medical consultants and specialists working in the Gaza hospitals say that patients are referred for treatment abroad after exhausting all therapies in the Gaza hospitals and in case there was great danger posed to patient's health when not completing his treatment abroad. Moreover, running out of certain types of medical supplies and medicines and breakdown of medical devices in the hospitals make the hospitals incapable of providing treatment for some diseases or conducting certain types of surgeries and so referring patients with less serious diseases for treatment abroad after they could have been treated in the Gaza Hospitals. Moreover, the constantly busy operating rooms that may be reserved for long periods reaching to 6 months in advance would lead to referring patients who are in need for urgent and complicated surgeries to be treated abroad as their surgeries cannot be delayed for 3 or 6 other months.

The following are testimonies given by medical specialists addressing the reasons behind referring patients who suffer from cancer, orthopedic diseases, eye diseases, cardiac and internal diseases, and diseases in need for urgent surgeries and laparoscopies for treatment abroad.

1. Cancer:

Dr. Mohamed Abu-Selmia, Director of Al Rantisi Specialized Pediatric Hospital, Consultant Pediatrician and former Head of Oncology Department at Al-Rantisi Hospital, said to PCHR's fieldworker that referring patients for medical treatment abroad happens in two cases: the first is when there is no treatment for the patients at the Gaza Strip's hospitals while the second is the inability to diagnose the patient's disease so the patient is referred to conduct certain laboratory tests, which are also not available in the Gaza Strip. Abu Selmia added that the laboratory tests are very necessary for patients, particularly the PET scan, which shows the response of cancer patients for treatment, and this type of scan is not available at the Gaza Strip. Dr. Abu Selmia further refuted the Israeli authorities' claims relevant to the availability of treatment in Gaza for some patients who were referred abroad. He stressed that the Palestinian Ministry of Health imposes strict conditions on the referrals for treatment abroad as patients' medical reports are checked for authenticity. Abu Selmia said that the Israeli authorities refused travel of many cancer patients to receive chemotherapy abroad claiming that it is available in Gaza. He added that

when the chemotherapy is actually available in Gaza, the patients are not referred abroad and receive it in Gaza; however, they are referred abroad only when the chemotherapy is not available in Gaza. In this case, it is necessary to refer the patient abroad to resume his treatment especially that the chemotherapy regimen is a treatment protocol that is weekly and regularly taken (3 or 4 times a month according to the patient's health condition). If the patient stopped the treatment, this would lead to serious complications and deterioration in the patient's health condition and sometimes may lead to death. Moreover, there are many cases where cancer patients receive medical treatment in Gaza, and this actually happens; however, running out of medicine and medical consumables and breakdown of medical devices needed for patients' treatment force doctors to refer them for treatment abroad that is rejected by the Israeli authorities under the pretext that treatment is available in Gaza.

2. Orthopedic Diseases:

Dr. Khamis Qanitah, Orthopedic Specialist at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, said to PCHR's fieldworker that the doctors and the Higher Medical Committee are the only competent for determining if the patients can be treated in the Gaza Strip or need to be referred abroad for treatment. Dr. Qanitah confirmed that patients in need for joint replacement surgeries (knee and thigh) are the most patients denied for treatment abroad under the pretext that their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip. Actually, doctors can conduct such surgeries in Gaza, but they need "special devices and medical supplies" that are not available all the time in the Gaza Strip. Dr. Qanitah added that doctors currently refer dozens of patients abroad to undergo such surgeries due to running out of various sizes of joints and other types of them. Furthermore, lack of medical supplies also forced doctors to refer many patients of less serious diseases for treatment abroad such as shortage of special screws for the knee joints and dislocated shoulders and vertebral fixation devices. He elaborated If those supplies were available, doctors could have conducted such surgeries in the Gaza Strip's hospitals.

3. Eye Diseases:

Walid Shaqura, Director of St John Eye Hospital in the Gaza Strip, said to PCHR's fieldworker that referring patients for treatment abroad (St John Eye Hospital in occupied Jerusalem) only happens if these patients do not have treatment at the Gaza Strip hospitals. Shaqura emphasized that developing the work at the Gaza Hospital contributed to decreasing medical referrals abroad whether to the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, or to Egypt. However, there are still many eye diseases that cannot be treated in Gaza, including eye tumors and patients who need cosmetic eye surgeries as there are no specialists for such cases. Moreover, doctors are forced to refer patients due to the lack of medical devices that diagnose some eye diseases, including Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT). Shaqura added that some diseases that can be treated in the hospital are referred for treatment abroad due to the huge number of patients on the waiting list and their urgent need for treatment; such as urgent retinal surgeries and corneal transplant surgeries. The number of patients who are on the hospital's waiting list for such surgeries is more than 400, forcing doctors to refer the urgent cases of corneal transplant for treatment

abroad, especially waiting so long would deteriorate their health conditions. This also applies to pediatric eye surgeries as there are huge numbers of patients on the waiting list.

4. Cardiac and Internal Diseases:

Dr. Mohammed Zaqout, Internal Medicine Specialist at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, said to PCHR's fieldworker that one can't always predict of the medical cases that can be treated at the Gaza hospitals because the healthcare conditions in the Gaza Strip is not stable, which negatively affect the medical supplies and devices. Therefore, when these supplies are available, many diseases can be treated at the Gaza Strip hospitals; however, if they are not, doctors are forced to refer new categories of patients, who used to be treated in Gaza, for treatment abroad. For example, according to Dr. Zaqout, dozen patients of Rheumatism are referred for treatment abroad due to lack of their medicines "advanced medical injections" in the Gaza Strip. If the required medicines were available in the Gaza Strip, doctors would not have referred the patients for treatment abroad. Moreover, dozens of cardiac patients are referred for treatment abroad due to the lack of medical devices and medicines needed for their treatment at the Gaza Strip hospitals. Though cardiothoracic surgeries can be conducted at the Gaza hospitals, the lack of heart valves, stents and pacemakers in addition to devices required for making physiological studies on the heart in different times force doctors to refer a large number of patients for treatment abroad. This applies to many patients such as endocrine and thyroid patients and patients with diabetes, who need nuclear scans, which are not available in the Gaza Strip, to diagnose their diseases, in addition to patients with neurological diseases "Myasthenia Gravis", who need blood wash via a medical device that is not available in the Gaza Strip.

5. Urgent Surgeries and endoscopic surgery:

Dr. Marwan Abu Se'adah, Head of the Surgery and Endoscopy Department at Shifa hospital in Gaza City, said to PCHR's fieldworker that patients are referred for treatment abroad after exhausting all therapies at the Gaza Strip hospitals and in case there was great risk to the life of patient when the latter does not resume his treatment abroad. Dr. Abu Se'adah added that most of the Gaza's patients, who need surgeries and endoscopy, receive treatment in the Gaza Strip hospitals, but some major and complicated surgeries can't be performed due to the lack of human resources and medical devices; thus, those patients are referred for treatment abroad following the approval of the Higher Medical Committee in the Treatment Abroad Department. Thus, Israeli authorities' rejection of referring these patients for treatment abroad is unfair and puts them in grave danger that might lead to their death. Dr. Abu Se'adah pointed out that some diseases can be treated and surgeries can be conducted in certain periods and it is difficult to conduct them in other periods, particularly in the emergencies, due to shortage of medical devices and supplies in addition to the fully busy and always reserved operating rooms where surgeries are usually scheduled for the next 6 months. In this case, doctors refer patients, who need urgent and complicated surgeries, abroad. Thus, the Israeli authorities do not have the authority to reject the permit applications of these patients to be treated abroad because only the patients' doctors can estimate the seriousness of their health condition and their need for these surgeries and

determine the hospitals' capability in Gaza to conduct these surgeries and provide treatment for them.

Fourth: The Position of the Treatment Abroad Department towards the Israeli Authorities' Claims that Treatment is Available for Patients Referred for Treatment Abroad in the Gaza Strip's Hospitals

The Palestinian Ministry of Health works on providing treatment services for all patients in its hospitals and cannot bear the financial burdens and high expenses of treatment abroad. Therefore, the Ministry does not easily approve referring patients, who can be treated in the Gaza Strip hospitals. The Ministry also imposes strict conditions on the referrals abroad, and patients' medical reports issued by their doctors are complicatedly examined to make sure that these patients cannot be treated in the Gaza Strip hospitals, before being approved by the Ministry for treatment abroad.

Dr. Mohammed Rouqah, the Follow-up Director of the Treatment Abroad Department in the Palestinian Ministry of Health, said to PCHR's fieldworker that the basic criterion in referring patients for treatment abroad is that the treatment service is not available in the health ministerial institutions either due to the lack of medical experts capable of treating the patient or the lack of medical equipment and devices required for treating this patient. Dr. Rouqah reviewed a series of conditions in the cases to be referred for treatment abroad, including patient's obtaining a referral form from his doctor that confirm the importance of referring the patient for treatment abroad because the treatment is not available in the governmental centers. The patients should also obtain an approval from the head of the department in the hospital treating the patient and the patient's report should be examined so he could then have the approval of the Higher Medical Committee in the Treatment Abroad Department. Dr. Rouqah stressed that the Medical Committee does not approve referring any patient for treatment abroad if he can be treated inside the Gaza Strip hospitals, refuting the Israeli claims due to which they reject permits of many patients referred for treatment abroad.

Fifth: Suffering of Patients Denied Treatment Abroad under the Pretext of its Availability in the Gaza Strip or that their Diseases are not life-threatening

The Israeli authorities deprive patients of their right to treatment abroad, claiming that their medical treatment is available in the Gaza Strip hospitals or their diseases are not life-threatening and considered to improve "quality of life." As a result, health of hundreds of patients deteriorated. Not only the Patients classified by the Israeli authorities as "improving quality of life" suffered due to this policy, but also the patients of "lifesaving" cases. This policy has affected cancer and heart patients, who need urgent and complicated surgeries in advanced medical centers. It has also affected the eye and orthopedic patients. The following are some cases of patients denied treatment abroad under the pretext that their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip's hospitals or that their diseases are not life-threatening.

- M. Q. (29), from Khuza'a, east of Khan Yunis, was shot with an explosive live bullet that cut his right leg nerve and fractured and lacerated his left leg joint. He received medical treatment at the European Hospital in Khan Yunis for more than a month after undergoing an operation to insert titanium plates in his leg. The doctors on his case along with Swiss Medical Delegation said that the nerve shall be treated, the open wound shall be patched in his right leg and he should undergo a left leg joint transplant surgery immediately. They added that the medical treatment for his case is not available in the Gaza Strip's hospitals. The Medical Committee in the Treatment Abroad Department decided to refer him for treatment in al-Maqased Hospital in occupied Jerusalem. M. Q. got his appointment on 25 July 2018, but the Israeli authorities rejected his permit to travel via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing without any reasons. Later, the Israeli authorities rejected his request twice on 01 and 30 August 2018. Due to deterioration of his health condition, he submitted a new application via PCHR's Legal Aid Unit and attached with his application a medical report clarifying that any delay in his treatment will lead to amputation of his leg. On 04 September 2018, the Israeli authorities responded to PCHR's lawyer and emphasized their refusal to the patient application, claiming that his health condition is considered for improving "quality of life" and not "lifesaving", so he could receive treatment in the Gaza Strip's hospitals. According to the doctor, who follows up the M. Q.'s case, he is suffering now severe infections in his legs and pus around the titanium plate. As a result, he lost function in both legs and any further delay in his treatment would lead to amputation of his leg.
- Kh. A, (47), married and mother of 7 children living in al-Saftawi neighborhood, north of Gaza City. She has suffered severe pain in her left eye for 3 years and received treatment in St John Hospital in Gaza, where doctors said that she suffered cataract and retinal detachment, so she needs treatment abroad. Her health condition was referred to the Medical Committee at the Treatment Abroad Department, which decided to refer her for treatment at St John Hospital in occupied Jerusalem. Over the last 2 years, she submitted 4 applications to the Israeli authorities to travel via Erez Crossing and access her healthcare, but the Israeli authorities refused all her applications for various reasons. On 14 August 2018, she submitted a new application to the Israeli authorities via PCHR's Legal Unit, attaching a medical report regarding her case. The medical report clarified that she needs a cataract surgery and retinal detachment surgery. On 28 August 2018, the Israeli authorities responded to PCHR's lawyer and emphasized their refusal to her application, claiming her treatment is available in St John Hospital in Gaza. The doctor on her case in St John Hospital in Gaza said that the Israeli claims are not true and she needs to receive her treatment abroad. The doctor added that any delay would make her lose vision in the left eye and would damage the other eye .
- KH. 'A (26), single and living in Jabalia refugee camp, north of the Gaza Strip, was hit with an explosive live bullet to the right leg, causing severe laceration to the joint. After that, he received medical treatment at the Gaza Strip's hospitals, where the doctor on his case decided an immediate joint transplant surgery. The medical treatment for his case is not available in the Gaza Strip hospitals, so KH. A. was referred to the Medical Committee at Treatment Abroad Department and decided to refer him abroad for treatment in Nablus Specialist Hospital. He got his appointment in late July and

submitted his permit application to the Israeli authorities to travel via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing, but his application was denied twice. After the deterioration of his health condition, on 08 August 2018, he submitted a new application to the Israeli authorities via PCHR's Legal Unit, attaching his medical report. The medical report clarified that any delay in conducting the surgery would lead to amputation of his leg. The Israeli authorities replied to PCHR's lawyer on 13 August 2018 and confirmed their refusal to the patient's permit, claiming that his treatment is available in the Gaza Strip. According to the doctor on his case, Kh. A. suffers severe pains that made him unable to sleep or move because there are severe infections and pus in his leg.

- A. S. (21), from Jabalia refugee camp, north of the Gaza Strip, has suffered for 3 years cyclic vomiting and severe pain in his abdomen due to having diaphragmatic hernia. He underwent a surgical repair of the diaphragmatic hernia in the Gaza Strip hospitals. A year earlier, he suffered similar symptoms and underwent medical examinations and CT scans of the abdomen and chest. The CT scan showed a large hernia in the diaphragm in addition to other complications such as Gastric varices. The doctor on his case confirmed that his treatment is not available in the Gaza Strip's hospitals and he needs a medical referral to an advanced surgery center abroad. His medical file was referred to the Medical Committee at Treatment Abroad Department, which decided to refer him for treatment in al-Maqased Hospital in occupied Jerusalem. A. S. received his appointment on 24 May 2018, but the Israeli authorities rejected his permit application. They also rejected his other application on 19 July 2018 without any reasons. After his health condition deteriorated, he submitted a new application to get a permit via PCHR's Legal Unit and attached his medical report, which confirmed that any delay will lead to more deterioration of his health condition, especially as he vomits blood and suffers from severe pains in his abdomen. On 10 September 2018, the Israeli authorities replied to PCHR's lawyer and confirmed their rejection to the patient's application, claiming that his treatment is available in the Gaza Strip's hospitals.
- R. K. (18), from al-Nusirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, suffers serious complications in the left foot after a car accident that caused laceration to the foot bones and tendons, amputation of 3 fingers, and severe damage to the joint. Over the last years, R. K. received treatment at the Gaza Strip's hospitals and at al-Maqased Hospital in occupied Jerusalem. She underwent 30 surgeries. Since the beginning of 2017, she has submitted many applications to the Israeli authorities in order to get a permit to travel via Beit Hanoun (Erez) Crossing and access healthcare in al-Maqased Hospital to complete her treatment and undergo a surgery; however, the Israeli authorities rejected all her applications without any reason. As a result, she has suffered serious complications and paralysis, so the doctor on her case decided to refer her to al-Maqased Hospital one more time to undergo many surgeries to repair the nerves and joint and a cosmetic surgery for her distorted foot. The Medical Committee at Treatment Abroad Department decided to refer her to al-Maqased Hospital and booked an appointment for her on 30 August 2018. She submitted an application to the Israeli authorities via PCHR's Legal Unit. The Israeli authorities replied to PCHR's lawyer and confirmed their rejection to the patient's application, claiming that his treatment is available in the Gaza Strip's hospitals. The patient now is afraid that her foot will be amputated as the doctor on her case confirmed that this would happen if she did not leave the Gaza Strip for treatment .

Recommendations:

Over the years of the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, the Israeli authorities have denied thousands of patients the right to travel for treatment, claiming that their treatment is available in the Gaza Strip's hospitals or their diseases are not life-threatening and their treatment is considered as improving "quality of life". This contravenes Israel's obligations as an occupying power towards the civil population of the Gaza Strip, lacks any legal basis and violates the international humanitarian law and international human rights law, which guarantee the right to life, bodily integrity and human dignity.

Therefore, PCHR calls upon Israel to:

1. Immediately stop the policy of imposing severe restrictions on the Gaza Strip's patients referred for treatment abroad that would deny them travel and receive treatment.
2. Remove all obstacles preventing the Gaza Strip's patients from traveling abroad for treatment .
3. Immediately stop using the policy of distinguishing between patients of "lifesaving" cases and patients of cases to "improve their quality of life."
4. Open the crossings designated to supply the Gaza Strip with basic materials, so that the healthcare facilities can obtain all their needs of medicines, equipment and medical devices.

PCHR also calls upon the international community to pressure Israel in order to:

1. Allow all patients who have no treatment in the Gaza Strip hospitals to travel and get treatment abroad without any delay.
2. Abide by the basic rules and principles adopted by the United Nations, including the right to the highest attainable standard of health.