



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

World Service

member of **actalliance**

lutheranworld.org

LWF Public Statement

October 5, 2021

Over the last few weeks, we have observed an increase in the spreading of rumors about the leadership of the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH). As of last Friday, it has turned into a widespread public campaign of support for Walid Nammour, CEO of the AVH.

The LWF management wants to make it clear that the hospital is well run and that there are no suspicions of fraud, misappropriation of funds or any other type of financial wrongdoing in the hospital. The LWF management rejects any defamation against the AVH CEO or any other staff of AVH or LWF. AVH has always been held to the highest international standards and has a record of clean audits, successful external evaluations and Joint Commission International Accreditation.

The LWF Communion Office has received letters and emails declaring support to Mr. Nammour. Furthermore, there are articles in local media portraying Mr. Nammour as a victim of his own success. The management of LWF is frequently portrayed as being manipulated by his alleged opponents. LWF rejects these claims.

The LWF management does not take decisions on the basis of rumors and public campaigns. LWF highly respects the privacy of its staff and is therefore prevented from responding to any private matter relating to staff members. LWF fervently requests that all other parties will similarly respect this privacy and trust that the LWF acts to protect the rights of its employees. We are working on a continuous basis to support the management and the operations of the hospital and to follow up on all and any issues that need our attention. In the meantime, LWF encourages staff, partners and supporters to help stop the spread of rumours and public campaigning about AVH.

We are deeply grateful to the Palestinian public for their support and commitment to AVH. The strength of the hospital has always been its staff, working as a team, pulling together for the shared mission of service to patients. This mission has been at the core of LWF's work in Jerusalem for over 70 years. It will continue to guide our work in the future.