



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Monday September 10, 2018

East Jerusalem Hospitals Network: US Funding Cut Impact Will Be Devastating

In an urgently called meeting on Monday, 10 September, the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network discussed the impact of recent US funding cuts on the six hospitals in East Jerusalem. According to a budget approved by the US Congress, the six hospitals in East Jerusalem were scheduled to receive USD 25 million in settlement of bills for patients referred by the Palestinian Ministry of Health during financial year 2017.

The East Jerusalem Hospitals Network deeply regrets the decision by the US Administration to cut the funding for the six East Jerusalem hospitals. This decision will create serious cash flow problems at the hospitals and will cause delays in lifesaving and other urgent treatments which are available to Palestinians only from the East Jerusalem hospitals. Overall, the decision puts the health of five million Palestinians at risk.

The East Jerusalem Hospitals Network calls on the Palestinian Government, US Congress and the international community to do all it can to address the critical situation created by the US administration's funding cuts. In addition to urgent financial support to the hospitals, a long-term solution for sustainability must be found.

Currently, the six hospitals are owed over USD 80 million.

The East Jerusalem Hospitals Network consists of six hospitals: Makassed Islamic Charitable Hospital, Red Crescent Maternity Hospital, St. John Eye Hospital, The Jerusalem Princess Basma Center, St. Joseph Hospital and Augusta Victoria Hospital.

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