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By Chris Hedges
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The Silence of the Damned



Sources: The Chris Hedges Report / Illustration: The Sword of Damocles .Mr. Fish

Translated for Rebellion by Paco Muñoz de Bustillo

Israel seeks to destroy not only Gaza's health system and infrastructure, but also UNRWA, which provides food and aid to 2 million Palestinians. The aim is to make Gaza uninhabitable and ethnically cleanse the 2.3 million Palestinians who live there.

There is no [effective health system](#) left in Gaza. Babies are [dying](#). Children are having limb [amputations](#) without anesthesia. Thousands of cancer patients and those in need of dialysis [go untreated](#). Gaza's last hospital for cancer patients has [ceased to function](#). Around 50,000 [pregnant women](#) lack a safe place to give birth. Cesarean section operations are being performed [without anesthesia](#). Miscarriages have [increased](#) by 300%

since the start of the Israeli attack. The wounded [bleed](#) to death. [There is no](#) sanitation system or drinking water. Hospitals have been bombed. Nasser Hospital, one of the last active hospitals in Gaza, is [on the verge of collapse](#). Clinics have been [destroyed](#), as well as many [ambulances](#) (79 in Gaza and 212 in the West Bank). [Around 400](#) doctors, nurses and health workers have been killed, [more than the total](#) number of health workers killed in conflicts worldwide since 2016. [A hundred](#) more have been detained, interrogated, beaten and [tortured](#), or disappeared by Israeli soldiers.

Israeli troops routinely penetrate the hospitals to carry out forced evacuations (last Wednesday, In the [hospital al-Hamal](#) of Khan Younis and expelled the doctors and patients) and rounded up detainees including wounded, sick and medical personnel. On Tuesday, Disguised as health workers and civilians, Israeli soldiers entered in the Ibn Sina hospital in Jenin (West Bank) and [killed](#) three Palestinians in their sleep.

Cuts in funding for the United Nations Agency United Nations for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) collective punishment for alleged involvement in the October 7 attack on 12 of its 13,000 workers. horror, turning the attacks, the hunger, the lack of health care and the spread of infectious diseases in Gaza in a tidal wave of death.

Charges without evidence, which include the allegation that the 10% of all UNRWA staff in Gaza have links to militant groups Islamists, appeared on *Wall Street Journal*. The reporter, Carrie-Keller Lynn, served in the Israeli army. Given the numerous lies Israel has employed to justify its genocide, including the "[babies" beheadings](#)" and "[rapes massive](#)", it is reasonable to assume that it may be another invention.

The allegations, of which there are few details, are based on the in confessions of Palestinian detainees, most certainly after have been beaten or tortured. These accusations were enough for 17 countries, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Australia and Japan, will cut or delay funding for this vital UN agency. UNRWA is the only thing standing between the Palestinians in Gaza and the United States. famine. A handful of countries, including Ireland, Norway and Turkey, They maintain their funding.

Eight of UNRWA employees accused of involvement in the October 7 bombing in southern Israel, which killed 1,139 people and 240 were kidnapped, they were fired. Two have been suspended. UNRWA He has promised an investigation. They represent 0.04% of the staff of this UN agency.

Israel intends to destroy not only the health system and the infrastructure, but also UNRWA, which provides food and It helps 2 million Palestinians. The goal is to make

Gaza uninhabitable and ethnically cleansing the 2.3 million Palestinians who live there. Hundreds Thousands are already starving. More than 70 per cent of homes have been destroyed. More than 26,700 people have been killed and more than 65,600 injured. There's thousands of disappeared. About 90 per cent of Gaza's population before the The war has been displaced and many are living in the open. The Palestinians have been [forced to to eat](#) grass and drink contaminated water.

Noga Arbell, former official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Foreign Ministry, he said during a debate in the Israeli parliament on 4 September. January: "It will be impossible to win the war if we don't destroy UNRWA, and this destruction must begin immediately."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday reiterated the call to shut down UNRWA, stating that it was "totally infiltrated by Hamas."

The abolition of UNRWA calls into question the status of UNRWA. refugees of the Palestinians, jeopardizing the "[right to return](#)," the long-rejected demand by Israel that Palestinians are allowed to return to their homes in what is now Israel.

"It is time for the international community and the understand that UNRWA's mission must end," Netanyahu told visiting U.N. delegates, according to a statement from his office. "It aims to preserve the issue of Palestinian refugees. If we want to To solve the Gaza problem as we intend to do, we must replace UNRWA by other UN agencies and other organizations."

More than 152 UNRWA staff in Gaza – including directors teachers, health workers, a gynecologist, engineers, support staff and a psychologist – have been [killed](#) since the Israeli attacks began. More than 141 installations of the UNRWA have been bombed to rubble. The figure of The death toll is the largest loss of personnel during a conflict in the history of the United States. the UN.

Destruction of health facilities and attacks doctors, nurses, assistants and other health personnel is especially disgusting. It means that the most vulnerable, the sick, the infants, the wounded, and the elderly, and those who care for them, are often sentenced to death.

Palestinian Doctors Call on Doctors and Organizations doctors from around the world who denounce the assault on the health care system and Mobilize your institutions to protest.

"The world must condemn acts against professionals doctors that are happening in Gaza," writes the hospital's director Al-Shifa, Muhammad Abu Salmiya, who was detained along with other medical personnel by the Israelis in November 2023 while evacuating the hospital with a World Health Organization (WHO) convoy, and which remains under custody. "This message is an appeal to all human beings, to all medical communities and

health professionals in the world to call for an end to these attacks in and around hospitals, such as and as corroborated by international law, the UN and the WHO."

But these institutions—with a few notable exceptions— such as the American Public Health Association, which has called for a ceasefire. have remained silent or, as in the case of Dr. Matthew K. Wynia, director of the Center for Bioethics and the Humanities at the University of Colorado, They have tried to justify Israeli war crimes. These doctors, who somehow they find it acceptable that one child is killed in Gaza for every 10 minutes on average- are complicit in genocide and violate the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Humanity. Geneva. They defend death as the solution, not life.

Robert Jay Lifton, in his book "The Nazi Doctors: Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide" (medical assassination and the psychology of genocide) writes that "the Genocidal practices require the active participation of educated professionals doctors, scientists, engineers, military commanders, lawyers, clergymen, university professors and other teachers—who combine to create not only the technology of genocide but much of its ideological foundation, climate morality and organizational process."

In November 2023, a group of 100 Israeli doctors defended the bombing of hospitals in Gaza, claiming that they were being used as Hamas Command Centers, Accusation Israel [Does Not Accuse has been able to verify.](#)

Deans of U.S. medical schools and major medical organizations, especially the Medical Association (AME), have joined the ranks of universities, universities, law schools, churches and the media to turn their backs to the Palestinians. GPE closed a debate on a ceasefire resolution among its members and has called for "medical neutrality", something it abandoned to denounce Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Denouncing this genocide has a cost, a cost that cannot be ignored. they plan to pay. They fear being attacked. They fear destroying their careers. They're afraid of losing financing. They fear losing their status. They fear persecution. They fear the social isolation. This fear makes them accomplices.

And what happens to those who do demonstrate? They are labeled as anti-Semites and defenders of terrorism. Professor of clinical psychology at George Washington University's Lara Sheehi was fired from her job. To the Former director of the NGO Human Rights Watch, Kenneth Roth, was denied a scholarship at Harvard's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy for its alleged "anti-Israel bias." St. Francis professor Rabab Abdulhadi was sued for supporting Palestinian rights. Shahd Abusalama was suspended from the UK's Sheffield Hallam University after a fierce campaign of defamation,

although the institution later settled its lawsuit for discrimination. Professor Jasbir Puar of Rutgers University is a He is a permanent target of the Israel lobby and is constantly harassed. The medical students and faculty in Canada are facing suspension or expulsion if they publicly criticize Israel.

The danger is not just that crimes will be reported Israeli. The most important danger is that the moral bankruptcy and the cowardice of institutions and their leaders.

This brings me back to Dr. Rupa Marya, professor of medicine of the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), whose call for stop bombing hospitals and examine the impact of Zionism as a racist ideology unleashed a torrent of vitriolic attacks on him. attacks tacitly endorsed by the medical school where he works.

The Canary Islands Mission, a Zionist organization that seeks to defaming and destroying the careers of students and professors who criticize Israel and defend the rights of the Palestinians, has slandered her as anti-Semite and has made her the target of his attacks. You've been cancelled He has been asked to give lectures and has received death threats and messages like: "Kill yourself, you filthy black subnormal," "Stalker bitch of Jews" and "White people are the best people on earth. You do it you know."

There is a striking contrast between the treatment of Dr. Marya and that of the doctors who cheer the genocide. To Matt Cooperberg, UCSF physician and Helen Diller Chair of Urology, "liked" posts on social media such as "ELIMINATE THE PALESTINIANS ON THE MAP" and a quote from former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir: "We are able to forgive the [sic] Arabs for killing our children. We are unable to forgive the Arabs for forcing us to kill their families. children."

"The Cooperberg Chair is funded by the Helen Diller Family Foundation, the largest donor to St. John's University. Francis, who to date has allocated about \$1.15 billion to the health campus," writes Dr. Marya. "In 2018, due to a error on a tax form, it came to light that the foundation funded the Canary Islands Mission. The foundation tried to delete their connection after this public exhibition'.

The doctor goes on to explain:

"As a faculty member at UCSF, the dermatologist Disgraced Howard Maibach exposed and injected chemicals into more of 2,600 incarcerated black and mixed-race people, in experiments that were carried out echo of the experiments denounced in the Trial of the Doctors a few years earlier that he entered the medical school of Pennsylvania. There he studied with Albert Kligman, who taught him how to exploit blacks for experiments documented extensively in the horror nonfiction book, Acres of Skin. Maibach also

promoted notions racial differences in the skin, promoting racist ideas of the pseudoscience of eugenics. Race is a social construct that enshrines supremacism. It's not a biological reality."

And that's not all. "Most of Maibach's experiments were conducted without informed consent, and although UCSF issued a apologies, Maibach is still employed by the university. His family supports the Friends of the Israeli Army, and he is represented by Alan Dershowitz, who also defended the bombing of hospitals in Gaza. Dershowitz tried prevent me from presenting a paper at the first National Conference on WADA Health Equity, in which scholar Harriet Washington, who studies medical experimentation on blacks, highlighted the practices of racists of Maibach. In the wake of George Floyd's murder, teachers, students and UCSF students of color brought Maibach's story to light, and many have expressed their horror at having to continue to sit in the same room as this man during the Dermatology Conference. But the problem isn't just a man. It's a system that allows someone with these values and actions to continue to be present in our community of learning and practice."

The dehumanization of Palestinians is straight out of the playbook of the Palestinians. all settler-based colonial projects, including ours. This racism, which labels people of color as "animals," human" is encoded in the DNA of our institutions. Infects those elected to lead these institutions. *It lies at the core of our national identity. That is why the two ruling parties and the The institutions that sustain them are on Israel's side.* Feeds the perverted logic of funneling weapons and billions of dollars in aid to maintain Israel's occupation and genocide.

History will not judge us kindly. But it will extol those people who, under siege, found the courage to say no.

Source: <https://chrishedges.substack.com/p/the-silence-of-the-damned>

Chris Hedges is an American journalist who won the Pulitzer Prize. He was a foreign correspondent for 15 years for The New York Times, serving as head of the Orient bureau and the Balkans.

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