

Affidavit

"I, the undersigned, Isidro Navarro, holder of Spanish Passport No _____, having been notified that I must tell the truth and nothing but the truth and that if I do not do so, I will be subject to criminal penalties under the law, hereby declare as follows:

This affidavit is being given in my capacity as acting Country Programme Manager of Oxfam Great Britain in Jerusalem, upon the request of the petitioners in case number HCJ 9132/07 to provide the court with information concerning humanitarian work and standards".

1. Oxfam Great Britain is an independent humanitarian and development organisation, registered as a British charity. We are an affiliate of Oxfam International.
2. Oxfam Great Britain started in 1942 as one of a number of groups in the UK formed to press for relief of people suffering from starvation in occupied countries in Europe. We were first involved in the Middle East in 1948 when it sent winter clothes and supplies to Palestinian refugees. We have been involved in humanitarian and development aid in Israel and Palestine continuously since then.
3. Oxfam Great Britain works on emergencies in more than 30 countries worldwide to overcome poverty by responding swiftly to provide aid, support and protection during emergencies; developing programmes and solutions that empower people to work their way out of poverty and; campaigning to achieve lasting change.
4. Oxfam Great Britain's Public Health department is currently running a project of buying and supplying electro-mechanical spares for water and wastewater pumping stations to our partner the Coastal Municipalities and Water Utility (CMWU). Because of the current closure Oxfam has been unable to supply the needed spare parts to CMWU because most of these electrical spare parts are bought from either from the West Bank, Israel or abroad and cannot enter Gaza. This project is worth 250,000 sterling pounds (£). In the near future, Oxfam is planning to distribute 1,000 hygiene kits in Um Nasser (North Gaza). These kits will include items for maintaining personal hygiene as well as rooftop water tanks. This project will be undertaken because the basic personal hygiene items are in short supplies in Gaza and those available are beyond the reach of the already deprived and vulnerable communities.
5. Oxfam Great Britain's Food Security and Livelihoods programme is currently supporting 136 refugee families by supplying them with fresh food locally produced. The food items are bought from small-scale farmers in Gaza that are suffering from the closure. The dynamic of the local market is distorted since the closure on Gaza started in June 2007 and local producers who are unable to export are dumping their goods on an already flooded market. The Food Security and Livelihoods department also support 18 women and 2 men working as seamstresses producing clothes distributed to poor families and schools.
6. The Food Security and Livelihoods department operates an ECHO-funded project of small-scale rabbit breeding. 255 families are supported. This project aims at giving poor Gazan families an income and also a way to increase their intake of proteins and improve the general quality of their diet. The 50 poorest families also received inputs to create a roof top garden to produce vegetable and feed their family members with sufficient fresh food items.
7. Oxfam's work in humanitarian situations is guided by our commitment to the Humanitarian Charter of the Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response was developed as part of the Sphere

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project which has involved 400 organisations representing 80 countries and The Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief. The Sphere Charter sets out fundamental principles that Oxfam subscribes to and respects; including, the humanitarian imperative that all possible steps should be taken to prevent or alleviate human suffering arising out of conflict or calamity in line with the right of civilians to protection and assistance.

8. Oxfam seeks to support and uphold international law and international humanitarian laws that concern the right to life, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom from cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment. International humanitarian law provides a background for our work by obliging states and other parties to agree to the provision of humanitarian and impartial assistance when the civilian population lacks essential supplies¹.
9. Oxfam are guided by international law which recognises that those who are affected by calamity or armed conflict are entitled to protection and assistance and that there are legal obligations on states and warring parties to provide assistance when people's capacity to cope has been exceeded or to allow that assistance to be provided, as well as to prevent and refrain from behaviour that violates fundamental human rights.
10. In following the Humanitarian Charter and legal standards Oxfam Great Britain commits to make every effort to ensure that people affected by disasters have access to at least the minimum requirements (water, sanitation, food, nutrition, shelter and health care) to satisfy their basic right to life with dignity.
11. Sphere guidance which Oxfam follows states that for humanitarian assistance to be effective and sustainable, to the greatest degree possible the affected population should actively participate in the assessment, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the assistance programme.²Water is essential for human life, health and dignity³. SPHERE standards determine that the minimum amount of water needed for drinking, basic cooking and basic hygiene is 15 litres a day per person, provided constantly or reliably. Water should be potable, without causing significant health risks. Moreover, people should have adequate facilities and supplies to collect, store and safely use sufficient quantities of water.
12. Safe excreta disposal is a major priority and the provision of appropriate facilities for defecation is essential for people's dignity, safety, health and well-being.
13. Surface water close to dwellings may lead to the contamination of water supplies and living environment, damage to toilets and dwellings, vector breeding and drowning. Proper drainage addressing storm water and wastewater disposal should be used to reduce health risks. Oxfam Great Britain has advocated for

¹ Articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948; Articles 6 and 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966; common Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949; Articles 23, 55 and 59 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Articles 69 to 71 of Additional Protocol I of 1977; Article 18 of Additional Protocol II of 1977 as well as other relevant rules of international humanitarian law; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984; Articles 10, 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966; Articles 6, 37 and 24 on the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989; and elsewhere in international law.

² In Gaza Oxfam Great Britain works with partners and local communities to assess needs and plan, implement, monitor and evaluate appropriate humanitarian responses such as financial support to water and sanitation services, support to local producers through purchasing their products at fair prices and distributing them to the most needy, emergency preparedness through stockpiling essential non-food items and advocacy and media work for change to policies that exacerbate widespread poverty and suffering.

³ Oxfam Great Britain has worked in Gaza with local partner the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility to provide fuel and spare parts to enable them to maintain essential water and sanitation services.

urgent attention to the unsafe condition of the Beit Lahia waste water reservoir in North Gaza which threatens 800 households and 2 schools.

14. Oxfam follows the Sphere handbook which combines the experience of 400 organisations working in 80 countries to state the best practice standards summarised below in paragraphs 15 to 24 inclusive.
15. The resilience of people's livelihoods (capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living linked to survival and future well-being) and subsequent food security (physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy and active life) determine their health and nutrition, survival and future well-being.
16. Everyone has the right to adequate food available in sufficient quantity and quality to satisfy the person's dietary needs. They need to have access to adequate and appropriate food and non-food items in a way that ensures their survival, prevents the erosion of assets and upholds their dignity.
17. Primary food production mechanisms (farming and fishing) must be protected and supported. This includes access to sufficient natural resources (farmland, pasture, water, rivers, lakes, coastal waters), appropriate levels of skills and capacities, availability of labour and inputs and security. People's access to income generating activities must be protected and promoted so they can generate fair remuneration and contribute to food security without jeopardising resources on which livelihoods are based.
18. People's safe access to market goods and services as producers, consumers and traders must be protected and promoted. This means there needs to be a regular supply of basic items including food at affordable prices.
19. Where a communities' normal means of accessing food is compromised by disaster (such as forced or non forced displacement, loss of crops due to a party to an armed conflict) food aid may be required to sustain life, protect or restore people's self reliance and reduce the need for them to adopt potentially damaging coping strategies. Food aid should meet short term needs and also contribute to restoring long term food security. Food assistance to refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) is based on assessment of their situation and needs and not on their status as refugees or IDPs. Rations of general food distribution are designed to bridge the gap between the affected population's requirements and their own food resources.
20. The most basic requirements for sustaining the lives and dignity of those affected by calamity or conflict include the right that everyone has to adequate housing which includes the right to live in security, peace and dignity with security of tenure. Key aspects of the right to housing include the availability of services, facilities, materials and infrastructure. The right to housing also extends to goods and services such as sustainable access to natural and common resources; safe drinking water, energy for cooking, heating and lighting; sanitation and washing facilities; means of food storage; refuse disposal; site drainage and emergency services. People should have adequate protection from cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health, structural hazards or disease vectors.
21. Everyone has the right to health embracing the right to equal access to health care and also to the determinants of health such as safe water and sanitation; adequate supply of safe food, nutrition and housing; healthy environmental conditions; access to health related education and information; non discrimination and human dignity and the affirmation of individual self-worth.
22. Health services in emergencies must be designed to support existing systems, structures and provides. There must be adequate services for preventing, detecting and treating communicable diseases including ensuring that people have access to effective diagnosis and treatment of those communicable diseases that contribute most significantly to preventable excess morbidity and

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- mortality. People also need to have access to appropriate services for the management of injuries .
23. The horrors, losses, uncertainties and other stressors of conflict can place people at risk of various psychiatric, psychological and social problems. People need to have access to social and mental health services to reduce mental health morbidity, disability and social problems.
 24. There is an increased incidence of acute complications from chronic diseases associated with disasters. These complications are generally due to disruptions of ongoing treatment regimens however a variety of other stressors may also precipitate an acute deterioration of a chronic medical condition. People have to have access to essential therapies for chronic diseases to prevent death.

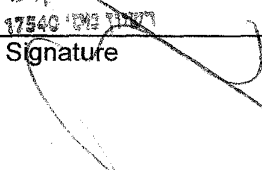
"I declare that this is my name, this is my signature, and that the content of the affidavit, which I have signed, is true


Oxfam GB
Signature Jerusalem

26.11.07 "
Date

And for the attorney:

"I, Adv. Ihab G. SAMAAAN of 19 Salah El-Din Str. Jerusalem, certify that on 26/11/2007, Isidro Navarro Paya, holder of Spanish Passport # _____, appeared before me, and after I put him on notice that he must tell the truth and nothing but the truth and that if he does not do so, he will be subject to criminal penalties under the law, he affirmed the truth of this statement above and signed it in my presence.


Attorney Signature