

Affidavit

I, the undersigned, Hassan Khalaf, holder of I.D. 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:

1. My name is Hassan Khalaf. I am the General Manager of Alshifa hospital. I make this affidavit to provide information on the functioning of Shifa Hospital and its vulnerability to cuts in supply of medicine, equipment, fuel, and electricity.


Shifa Hospital's Reliance on Fuel

2. Shifa is the main public hospital in Gaza, located in Gaza City. It contains 585 beds.
3. We rely on electricity to run the hospital. In cases of electricity outages, the hospital relies on standby generators that are operated by diesel fuel. It can take up to 1.5 minutes for the generators to begin operating, during which time most systems are without power. We have UPS equipment that permits limited emergency backup for critical systems.
4. During power outages, the operation of the hospital is disrupted. This delay created a backlog for patients and interrupting their care. When there is a delay or problem in the functioning of the generators, patients' lives are put at great risk.
5. Diesel fuel is necessary for several functions: first, the generators as back-up during times of power cuts; second, the hospital's washing machines (which run solely on diesel); third, for the incinerator which serves all the hospitals in Gaza Strip; fourth, for the oxygen stations; and fifth, for the sterilization system.
6. The Ministry of Health in Ramallah purchases the fuel for the hospital through a private supplier in Gaza, with whom it has a contract. However,



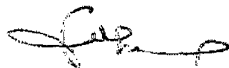
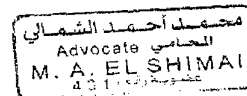
محمد أحمد الشمالي
Advocate المحامي
M. A. EL SHIMAI
عضوية رقم 431

أشهد على صحة التوقيع

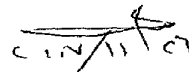

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when we do not get enough fuel that way, we try to procure additional donated supplies, purchased through private contractors in Gaza.

7. Since the middle of November, we are experiencing an increase in the frequency of the power cuts in our area, to approximately 3 hours per day. The increase is gradual and explained by the onset of the winter. During the winter, as the demand for electricity increases power cuts are becoming more frequent. Our dependence on diesel therefore increases.
8. In general, the full quantity of fuel reserves for the hospital generators should be 56,000 liters, divided between the different systems. We rarely have the full quantity.
9. On November 8, 2007, we ran out of diesel for the washing machines and as a result we could not operate them for a day and a half. We could not transfer diesel from other storages in the hospital, since the system is organized in a way that does not allow to transfer from system to system. We could not wash our daily laundry and had difficulty providing clean sheets to patients. Shifa hospital is a big hospital, and paralyzing the washing machines for a day and a half has significant effect on the care we provide to patients, especially in terms of hygiene and sanitation.
10. Shifa's washing machine system also serves additional, smaller hospitals and clinics in the area.
11. The operation of the sterilization system in the hospital is dependents on the operation of the washing machines, since the sterilization system is powered by steam from the washing machines room.
12. When we ran out of diesel on November 8, UNRWA informed us that they would purchase for us 10,000 liters of diesel from the private supplier with whom they work. But we received only 3,000 liters of diesel, because the private supplier with whom UNRWA works did not have enough fuel to fill the entire order.

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أحمد على أحمد التوامع



Spare parts crisis:

- 13. Since June 2007, the operation of the hospital has deteriorated. Part of the medical machinery and equipment of the hospital stopped working, including two elevators in the surgery department and maternity department, and seven kidney dialysis machines. We are unable to fix them because of shortage in spare parts, which are not entering the Gaza Strip.
- 14. We have been trying to invite expert technicians to evaluate and repair our equipment, but we need Israeli approval in order for them to enter Gaza. We also will need Israeli approval to remove equipment in need of repair, to bring it to an outside laboratory, and to fix it. Thus far, we have had difficulty getting Israeli permission to remove the equipment for repair. We have shortages of 35 items out of 473 items specified in the WHO's list of essential drugs for the health sector in Gaza, including drugs needed for cancer patients, something which directly harms their health.
- 15. The shortages of electricity, fuel, medicines, and equipment are already ~~impairing our ability to provide essential equipment and medicines.~~ Our cuts.
- 16. I declare that this is my name, this is my signature, and that the content of the affidavit, which I have signed, is true.



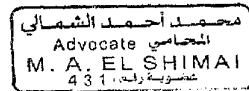
Signature


26. 11 07.

Date

I certify that on November 14, 2007, Hassan Khalaf, holder of ID # _____, 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



أشهد على صحة التوقيع

26/11/07