

The Jewish Voice for Peace Health Advisory Council (JVP-HAC) condemns the November 16, 2016 attacks by the Israeli military on the Ramallah offices of the Health Development Information and Policy Institute (HDIP).ⁱ HDIP is a NGO, founded in 1989 by Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, Secretary General of the Palestine National Initiative and founder of the Palestinian Medical Relief Society. According to employees of the HDIP, the assault on their offices occurred at night when Israeli army soldiers broke through office doors confiscating computers, servers and security camera footage. Employees stated that the office was badly ransacked with papers and broken glass strewn everywhere.

The HDIP is an internationally known and respected Palestinian public health NGO. Their mission is to provide support for policy makers, researchers, health care organizations and practitioners on health and development issues throughout Palestine. HDIP has provided health information and data to international organizations such as UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank.ⁱⁱ

According to HDIP founder and director, Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, “We think this is an attack on civil society organizations. The Israeli army can attack whenever they want, wherever they want.”ⁱⁱⁱ

This assault, one of 22 military raids that occurred in between November 15 and 16 is in contravention of multiple signed agreements and is an unconscionable assault on nonviolent resistance movements and on a highly esteemed public health and development organization.

The JVP HAC is a network of JVP members who work in the health fields. By extension of our professional values we are gravely concerned about violations of health and human rights of Palestinians as a result of Israeli policy and the military occupation of Palestine. As such we aim to call attention to and educate about the health impacts of the ongoing Israeli occupation.

Targeting of health facilities, health institutions and health workers is in violation of “medical neutrality” as stipulated by the Geneva Conventions. Military attacks such as on the HDIP offices are criminal acts. We call on the Israeli government to cease targeting health facilities including health NGOs. We call for accountability from the Israeli military authorities for this raid and the theft and destruction of HDIP property.

ⁱ Israeli Military Takes Computers and Servers from Palestinian NGO in Night Raid, <http://mondoweiss.net/2016/11/military-computers-palestinian/>

ⁱⁱ Health Development Information and Policy Center. <http://www.hdip.org/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Israeli Military Takes Computers and Servers from Palestinian NGO in Night Raid, <http://mondoweiss.net/2016/11/military-computers-palestinian/>