

Gaza: Doctors on the Frontline—British surgeons working in the midst of the “utter inhumanity” of Israel’s genocide

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In its recent resolution determining that “Israel’s policies and actions in Gaza meet the legal definition of genocide,” the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) points out that

the government of Israel has engaged in systematic and widespread crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, including indiscriminate and deliberate attacks against the civilians and civilian infrastructure (hospitals, homes, commercial buildings, etc.) of Gaza, which, according to official UN estimates, at the date of this resolution, has killed more than 59,000 adults and children in Gaza...

and that

the actions of the Israeli government against Palestinians have included torture, arbitrary detention, and sexual and reproductive violence; deliberate attacks on medical professionals, humanitarian aid workers and journalists; and the deliberate deprivation of food, water, medicine, and electricity essential to the survival of the population.

Nothing in the documentary *Gaza: Doctors on the Frontline*, a recent Sky News production presented by correspondent Alex Crawford, focusing on British doctors working in the Gaza war zone, will contradict the grim, incriminating finding of the IAGS.

The half-hour film is a harrowing chronicle of the human cost inflicted on the civilian population, as well as medical professionals, in Gaza. It treats the wholesale destruction of medical facilities, the injuries to children and the emotional toll on those providing care amid ongoing mass violence.

The documentary follows British surgeons Victoria Rose, a plastic surgeon, and Tom Potokar, a burns and reconstruction specialist who has been traveling to Gaza for the past seven years. They work in Gaza hospitals under relentless Israeli bombardment. Over a three-week period the film reveals how hospitals have become frontlines of war.

Video diaries and raw footage captured by the doctors themselves document the immediate aftermath of Israeli bombings, the disaster inside overwhelmed emergency rooms and the toll of treating badly injured children and adults.

With foreign journalists barred from entering Gaza, *Doctors on the Frontline* presents the testimony and video evidence recorded by the doctors, who see their role extending beyond medicine to bearing witness for humanity.

The doctors’ video blogs contain unprecedented footage from inside the Gaza European Hospital near Khan Younis, capturing the immediate aftermath and devastation of repeated Israeli airstrikes on the facility.

Dr. Potokar’s footage reveals horrors in the hospital corridors—smoke-filled and crowded with injured people, as operating theaters become unusable and parts of the hospital are abandoned for safety reasons.

The doctors also record the frantic efforts to continue care: clearing rubble, attempting to restart operations and debating whether to fully evacuate as fresh strikes occur.

Dr. Potokar uses phrases such as “huge open wounds

and" "massive shrapnel wounds," and describes "distinctive phosphorus burns." He characterizes many burns as extensive, with some patients having 40 percent or more of their bodies burned, including deep burns. The wounds are often infected and complicated by severe trauma, leading to amputations and traumatic brain injuries.

The surgeon explains that the patients with the most severe burns are primarily women and children, who make up about three-quarters of the burn cases.

"Absolute mayhem" is how he describes the aftermath of one Israeli assault, which results in 28 people killed and dozens injured, forcing the evacuation of the European Hospital as it becomes too dangerous to operate there. He laments the brutality of the attack, calling the bombing an unforgettable stain on humanity.

Dr. Rose, via her video diaries, documents an unending influx of malnourished and grievously wounded children, some with limbs blown off and others with extensive burns, underscoring a humanitarian crisis worsened by repeated attacks on health infrastructure.

The blogs counter official Israeli lies about the presence of Hamas command centers beneath hospitals; both doctors deny having seen any evidence of such military use during their time there.

At one point, ten major surgeries a day are being performed with the bulk of them children. A seven-year-old legless girl and a severely burned toddler, sole survivor of his family, make for difficult viewing.

Dr. Rose conveys the scale of amputations and disabilities among child patients, employing terms like 'massive amounts of skin loss' and describing children who had 'limbs blown off,' including 'bits of their arms and legs.' She notes that about 50 percent of the patients she treats are children with severe blast injuries leading to amputations.

Over 35,000 children aged six to 59 months have been treated for acute malnutrition in 2025, with more than 200 associated deaths reported by the Ministry of Health. Only a small number of specialized stabilization centers remain functional, with extremely limited bed capacity. This age group is especially vulnerable because their nutritional requirements are higher as they grow, but their smaller stomach capacity requires more frequent meals. In many low-resource settings, feeding during this period is insufficient to meet their needs.

No visas are granted. The "Gaza Lullaby" is the constant drones and gunshots. Clearly, the Palestinian population at large is the target of the Israeli fascists, as

the IAGS makes clear with its charge of "indiscriminate and deliberate attacks against the civilians and civilian infrastructure."

Later in the short film, we see the Israeli military shooting at starving people chaotically running at a so-called food distribution center.

Additionally, the footage shows Israeli Air Force warplanes conducting a massive bombing run on May 13, 2025, with at least nine "bunker busting" bombs (among a reported 50 total munitions dropped in just 30 seconds) striking the European Hospital's courtyard, main entrance and surrounding areas.

The IDF big lie, as noted, is that Hamas "exploits hospitals in Gaza for terrorist purposes, cynically endangering civilians." The Zionist regime claimed strikes conducted on the European Hospital on May 13 "did not damage the building itself or harm any patients."

The WSWS has argued that "Gaza is not the product of misguided policies that can be corrected, but flows from the very nature of the Zionist project and its close reliance on imperialism to realize it."

The imperialist war criminals in Washington, Berlin, London and Paris—who belong on the defendant's bench on charges of war crimes alongside Netanyahu and his fascist entourage—have facilitated and continue to support the genocide for their own great power ambitions.

The Gaza genocide is the most horrendous contemporary manifestation of barbaric capitalism. The mass anger expressed by millions of people in global protests against Israel's imperialist-backed genocide, including the growing opposition inside Israel itself, must be turned towards a fight to mobilise the industrial and political power of the international working class.

"We have reached the point of utter inhumanity," declares Dr. Potokar in the documentary. Utter inhumanity indeed, but, of course, it's not "we," but Zionism and imperialism that are fully responsible.



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