

Health Professionals' Immunity in War

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A profession is an advanced form of a job in which experience and work skills are acquired through and in the company of knowledge and science. The prestige, authority, independence, and social desirability of a profession are greater and more prominent than a job. That is why, in the Gallup survey, professions such as nursing, medicine, pharmacy, and teaching, and even firefighters, have obtained higher scores in terms of honesty and honor than other professions. Health professionals also bear obligations to their stakeholders, including patients and society, due to their activities in these professions. When talking about the profession and professional obligations, one cannot ignore the professional. The profession, the professional, and the professional obligations form the sides of a triangle, the dignity and honor of which cannot be discussed and examined separately. All three of them together form a valuable and precious set for providing better and more appropriate services to human society.

Health professionals have always had a high status among people throughout history due to their work in the profession and their commitment to professional obligations that are

in line with human values and ethics and have a worthy place in society. They sacrifice their comfort and convenience for other people who have suffered from a physical or mental disorder or impairment at some point in their lives. They prioritize the interests of patients over their own interests and dedicate themselves to the health and safety of individuals in crises such as the spread of epidemics such as Corona or wars. They risk their lives so that the lives of others are not endangered and harmed. They try to maximize profitability in such difficult circumstances.

Now that health professionals, health providers, or providers, dedicate themselves to the health of society and people, all societies and people are responsible and committed to such sacrifices. Everyone is responsible to ensure that they are not harmed. Everyone is committed to preserving their honor and dignity so that they can fulfill their professional obligations in a worthy and appropriate manner. Everyone has a duty to protect their safety, health, and immunity from potential dangers.

The medical profession and other health-related professions that are related to human life are

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considered sacred professions. Therefore, the profession itself and the practitioners of these professions are also at the heart of this sacred space. Infringing on the dignity of these people, especially when performing their professional duties, is considered an unethical act. It is an unforgivable act. Human societies and official and international institutions must not only protect this dignity and respect themselves, but must also stand up to those who harm professional dignity and respect. Academic, scientific, research, civil and human rights institutions must confront violators and disrupters of ethical norms and not allow such immoral behavior. Moral anomalies must be isolated in the world. Write, speak and publish against them everywhere and at all times.

Today, the world is witnessing serious and irreparable harm and extremely dangerous and unethical behavior against health professionals and even practical health facilities such as hospitals and ambulances. Palestinian professionals carrying out their professional activities are being torn apart under merciless fire. Ambulances that are a symbol of providing services to critically ill patients are being attacked and destroyed with devastating missiles. Israel is burning hospitals that are a symbol of comfort and providing services to the sick and terrorizing hospitalized patients with the terrifying sounds of terrible bomb explosions. Hospitals, ambulances and health professionals, which were always the red line of wars and all warring parties had to guarantee their security, have today become war zones. The ethical codes that emphasize the protection of professionals, hospitals, and ambulances and their immunity from the harms and dangers of war have been violated and moral boundaries have been destroyed. It seems that doctor-killing, patient-

killing, and ambulance-killing have become normal behaviors in Israel, which repeated these inhumane acts in Iran and attacked hospitals and ambulances, showing that the Israel does not adhere to any moral obligations or norms.

In response to such unethical and unethical behavior, various groups, including health professionals themselves, have been given duties and obligations. Making it public and in the media, bringing it to the attention of all health professionals around the world, and provoking the world's medical community against these unethical behaviors are examples of these human and professional duties. Writing articles, giving scientific lectures, boycotting and severing scientific ties with Israel are other duties of academics, researchers, and scientists. Insisting and emphasizing the implementation and practicality of medical ethics codes in international institutions in order to exert pressure is also considered a professional duty.

Medical ethicists are another group of health professionals who are not only familiar with the field of health and clinical care and research, but also have a thorough knowledge of ethics and professional conduct and international codes. In such circumstances, where the immunity of health professionals in different parts of the world has been damaged and the continuation of the professional responsibility of health and care activists has been faced with difficulty and sometimes impossible, this group of experts should emphasize international ethical and behavioral codes in scientific, clinical, research forums and lectures. If possible, they should write articles on this basis and spread and publish them in various ways all over the world.

International institutions such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization,

UNESCO, and other organizations, as the compilers of ethical codes and human rights guidelines, and as observers, should emphasize their proper implementation by individuals and countries, and pressure countries not to violate ethical and human boundaries, and if these unethical behaviors are repeated, isolate them, and incite and encourage all countries to boycott the country that is destabilizing the security and immunity of health professionals and to cut off scientific, research, and economic relations with them. Sometimes attacks on medical centers and health professionals may be accompanied by justifications. For example, the military forces are hidden in those places and behind the health professionals. However, the sanctity and immunity of hospitals and those working in these centers and ambulances are so important and respected that they cannot be justified. Those justifying this unethical act may have a conflict of interest and want to justify their unethical act. The Golden Rule, which was proposed by Immanuel Kant (a German philosopher), of course, before Kant expressed the Golden Rule, Imam Ali (a.s.) had expressed it centuries before him, says: Treat others as you would like to be treated. Therefore, when hospitals, health professionals and ambulances are attacked, this act may be repeated against them. In that case, no hospital, no doctor, nurse or ambulance in the world will be safe, and a very dangerous move in the world will become a general rule of thumb. Therefore, it is everyone's responsibility to prevent war damages against the health sector, strongly condemn this act, and take effective measures.

A comprehensive movement against the immoral and inhumane behaviors of bombing hospitals, killing patients, and shooting ambulances can

isolate the perpetrators of such behaviors and arouse the hatred of human society against them.