



Declassified¹

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22 April 2026

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Minutes

of the hearing on the situation of women and children in the Palestinian territories on Friday, 13 March 2026 in Paris

Ms Saskia Kluit, Chairperson, opened the hearing and welcomed Ms Celine Galli, Medical Doctor, who would present the situation of healthcare workers in Gaza who were detained by the Israeli authorities.

Ms Galli was a physician in the Netherlands and a member of “Doctors for Gaza”, a Dutch advocacy group within a network of over 100 similar organisations of healthcare workers worldwide. She began her presentation with figures: over 400 healthcare workers had been detained by Israel since October 2023, with around 100 still in detention. Data had been obscured by the Israeli army. Prisoners’ conditions were atrocious. Over 70 Palestinian prisoners had died, including four healthcare workers, and over 1 700 healthcare workers had been killed in total, averaging two per day. 85% of Palestinian detainees had not been convicted further to the unlawful combatant law and administrative detention which had created an unlawful “intermediate” legal category, had allowed detention without charges based on confidential evidence not accessible to detainees and their lawyers, and permitted keeping people until the undefined “end of the conflict”, often without access to lawyers. According to the NGO Physicians for Human Rights Israel, more than 80% of the detained healthcare workers had been taken from their workplace while they were giving patient care.

The Red Cross access to all Palestinian detainees had been blocked since 13 October 2023, with this restriction confirmed by the High Court of Israel. This represents a blatant breach of international law. There were multiple systemic abuses reported by detainees: blindfolding for days, interrogations with loud music, sleep deprivation, stripping and humiliation, suspension from ceilings, extreme beatings, electrocution, threats and acts of rape, blows to the testicles, and severe malnutrition, with average weight loss of 15 to 30 kilos in a few weeks. There was a deliberate targeting of doctors. As one doctor had said, “When they realise someone is a doctor or an academic, the treatment becomes harsher”. Israeli whistleblowers, including a doctor from the Sde Teyman detention camp, reported cases of continuous shackling resulting in amputations, complications and death, cases of malnutrition, medical neglect, and seizures caused by withholding epilepsy medication. Released health workers (after zero evidence had been found against them) had been detained for an average of 250 days, and 75% of still detained doctors had been held for over 400 days without trial or charges.

Testimonies of medical workers in detention gave evidence of torture during interrogations. For example, a paramedic stated “He hung me in the warehouse and electrocuted me...I have signs on my hands and feet from being electrocuted”, and a nurse said “They beat me with their knees on my flanks until I was short of breath. He pulled my hair and covered my face with sand and made me eat from it.”

In August 2024, CCTV footage was leaked showing Israeli soldiers gang-raping a blindfolded and handcuffed Palestinian detainee, who was later hospitalised with severe injuries. Military prosecutors reviewed and authenticated the evidence, examined medical records and initially charged the soldiers. However, public outrage in Israel largely focused on the leak of the video and the arrest of the soldiers rather than the act of torture itself. Media figures and some politicians, including members of Government, criticised the arrests, and protesters even called for the soldiers’ release. Reports from the NGO B’Tselem and testimonies from former detainees indicated that similar abuse, including sexual violence and torture, had occurred systematically across multiple detention facilities. Despite the video evidence, the soldiers were ultimately released without charges, while the official accused of leaking the footage faced legal consequences.

¹ The minutes were approved and declassified by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development at its meeting on 22 April 2026.

This case was particularly relevant to healthcare workers, as many of the detained medical personnel reportedly passed through facilities where such abuse had been documented. These acts were not isolated incidents but rather part of a broader, systematic pattern, covered up at the highest political level.

Ms Galli showed pictures of her colleagues in the field, four of them had been killed in detention or shortly after being released. A paediatrician was released with clear signs of blindfolding, handcuffing and starvation. Two hospital directors in Gaza were released after 22 months of torture. One paediatrician had been detained since December 2024 and had lost more than 40 kilos, with no charges against him or trial.

Ms Galli concluded by calling for accountability and an end to complicity: independent investigations, Red Cross access, legal representation, immediate release of colleagues, and an end to starvation policy. Protection of medical personnel was non-negotiable. She ended with the last words of one of her colleagues written on a hospital whiteboard, "We did what we could, remember us", and urged the Committee to act and, at minimum, not to give political, military or financial support to the system causing mass incarceration and killing of health workers.

The Chairperson thanked the speaker and opened the floor for questions.

Mr O'Reilly thanked Dr Galli and called her presentation a "chronicle of horrors". Although he and others were already informed on the issue, he had not realised the full extent and horror of the assault on medical staff. Such a testimony called for no more comments. Ireland had recognised the State of Palestine and acted as strongly as possible diplomatically.

Mr Tacoy expressed compassion for those suffering in war, particularly in Gaza, and regretted that attention had shifted away due to other geopolitical issues. An international initiative called "Board of Peace" had been launched, with countries promising action for Gaza, but no tangible outcomes had followed, and political leaders had remained largely silent. Colleagues should hold governments to account and revisit these commitments, as people in Gaza were still enduring severe hardship.

In follow-up to this hearing, **the Chairperson** proposed to consider tabling a motion for a resolution calling for the release of incarcerated humanitarian workers and asked members for their support.

Mr O'Reilly supported this proposal as General Rapporteur on the situation of women and children in the Palestinian territories.

Ms Galli noted that framing a motion around humanitarian workers risked excluding Palestinian healthcare workers and asked to explicitly include them, emphasising that the situation in Gaza was closely linked to broader regional dynamics and the future of international law. Failing to hold perpetrators to account for clear violations would normalise such abuses and weaken the enforcement of humanitarian law in future conflicts. Gaza should not be treated as a separate issue but as part of a wider pattern of impunity that was setting a dangerous precedent.

The Chairperson thanked the participants and closed the hearing.

List of presence / *Liste de présence*

(The names of members who took part in the meeting are in bold /
Les noms des membres ayant pris part à la réunion sont en caractères gras)

Chairperson / Présidente:

Ms Saskia Kluit (Netherlands / Pays-Bas)	
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Vice-Chairpersons / Vice-Présidentes :

Ms Carmen Leyte (Spain / Espagne)	
Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova (Ukraine)	
Mme Sophia Chikirou (France)	

Members / Membres	Country / Pays	Alternates / Remplaçant-e-s
Ms Ogerta Manastirliu	Albania / <i>Albanie</i>	Mr Ardit Bido
Mr Cerni Escalé	Andorra / <i>Andorre</i>	Mme Bernadeta Coma
Mr Armen Gevorgyan	Armenia / <i>Arménie</i>	Ms Hripsime Grigoryan
Ms Claudia Arpa	Austria / <i>Autriche</i>	Ms Doris Bures
Mr Andreas Minnich	Austria / <i>Autriche</i>	Ms Agnes Sirkka Prammer
Mme Anne Lambelin	Belgium / <i>Belgique</i>	Mr Andries Gryffroy
M. Benoît Lutgen	Belgium / <i>Belgique</i>	Mme Véronique Durenne
Ms Darijana Filipović	Bosnia and Herzegovina / <i>Bosnie-Herzégovine</i>	Mr Šemsudin Dedić
Ms Atidzhe Alieva-Veli	Bulgaria / <i>Bulgarie</i>	Mr Kostadin Angelov
Ms Maya Dimitrova	Bulgaria / <i>Bulgarie</i>	Mr Ilian Iontchev
Mr Marko Pavić	Croatia / <i>Croatie</i>	Ms Rada Borić
Ms Christiana Erotokritou	Cyprus / <i>Chypre</i>	Mr Constantinos Efstathiou
Ms Ivana Mádllová	Czechia / <i>Tchéquie</i>	Mr Ondřej Šimetka
ZZ...	Czechia / <i>Tchéquie</i>	ZZ...
Ms Camilla Fabricius	Denmark / <i>Danemark</i>	Ms Charlotte Bagge Hansen
Ms Hanah Lahe	Estonia / <i>Estonie</i>	Ms Kadri Tali
Ms Minna Reijonen	Finland / <i>Finlande</i>	Mr Pekka Aittakumpu
Mme Sophia Chikirou	France	Mme Sabrina Sebaihi
M. Alexandre Dufosset	France	Mme Liliana Tanguy
M. Alain Milon	France	M. Alain Cadec
Mme Maud Petit	France	M. Jean Laussucq
Ms Birgit Bessin	Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>	Ms Martina Kempf
Mr Vinzenz Glaser	Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>	Ms Christin Willnat
Ms Inge Gräßle	Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>	Mr Julian Joswig
Mr Serdar Yüksel	Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>	Ms Franziska Kersten
Mr Georgios Stamatis	Greece / <i>Grèce</i>	Mr Dionysios-Charalampos
Ms Maria Syrengela	Greece / <i>Grèce</i>	Ms Maria-Nefeli Chatziioannidou
Ms Mónika Bartos	Hungary / <i>Hongrie</i>	Mr Zoltán Bóna
Ms Mónika Dunai	Hungary / <i>Hongrie</i>	Mr István Hollik
Ms Kolbrún Áslaugar Baldursdóttir	Iceland / <i>Islande</i>	Mr Ragnar Þór Ingólfsson
Mr Joseph O'Reilly	Ireland / <i>Irlande</i>	Mr Rónán Mullen
Ms Elena Bonetti	Italy / <i>Italie</i>	Mr Roberto Rosso
Ms Aurora Floridia	Italy / <i>Italie</i>	Mr Giuseppe De Cristofaro
Mr Alessandro Giglio Vigna	Italy / <i>Italie</i>	Mr Graziano Pizzimenti
Mr Stefano Maullu	Italy / <i>Italie</i>	Ms Domenica Spinelli
M. Andris Bērziņš	Latvia / <i>Lettonie</i>	Mr Edmunds Cepurītis
Mr Marc Risch	Liechtenstein	Mr Joachim Vogt
Ms Orinta Leiputė	Lithuania / <i>Lituanie</i>	Mr Zigmantas Balčytis
Mme Stéphanie Weydert	Luxembourg	M. Paul Galles

Mr Michael Farrugia	Malta / Malte	Mr Joseph Beppe Fenech Adami
Mr Ion Groza	Republic of Moldova / <i>République de Moldova</i>	Ms Ana Calinici
M. Régis Bergonzi	Monaco	Mme Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo
Mr Miloš Konatar	Montenegro / <i>Monténégro</i>	Ms Edina Dešić
Ms Saskia Kluit	Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i>	Mr Theo Bovens
Ms Carla Moonen	Netherlands / <i>Pays-Bas</i>	Mr Felix Klos
Mr Bekim Kjeku	North Macedonia / <i>Macédoine du Nord</i>	Mr Sadula Duraki
Mr Per Vidar Kjølmoe	Norway / <i>Norvège</i>	Ms Seher Aydar
Mr Szymon Hołownia	Poland / <i>Pologne</i>	Ms Magdalena Biejat
Ms Danuta Jazłowiecka	Poland / <i>Pologne</i>	Mr Mirosław Adam Orliński
Mr Jan Filip Libicki	Poland / <i>Pologne</i>	ZZ...
Mr Nuno Fazenda	Portugal	Zz...
Mr Carlos Silva Santiago	Portugal	Zz...
Ms Georgeta-Carmen Holban	Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>	Ms Mirela Elena Adomnicăi
Ms Dumitrina Mitrea	Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>	Mr Iulian Bulai
Mr Robert-Ionatan Sighiartău	Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>	Ms Maria-Gabriela Horga
Mr Gerardo Giovagnoli	San Marino / <i>Saint-Marin</i>	Ms Alice Mina
Mr Vladimir Đorđević	Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>	Mr Predrag Marsenić
Ms Tatjana Pašić	Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>	Ms Jelena Milošević
Ms Veronika Remišová	Slovak Republic / <i>République Slovaque</i>	M. Pavol Goga
Mr Dean Premik	Slovenia / <i>Slovénie</i>	Ms Iva Dimic
Ms María Fernández	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>	Ms Luz Martinez Seijo
Mr José Latorre	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>	Ms Nerea Ahedo
Ms Carmen Leyte	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>	Mr José Antonio Bermúdez De
Ms Sofia Amloh	Sweden / <i>Suède</i>	Ms Annika Strandhäll
Ms Victoria Tiblom	Sweden / <i>Suède</i>	Ms Boriana Åberg
Ms Sibel Arslan	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>	Mme Céline Amaudruz
Mme Valérie Piller Carrard	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>	Mr Niklaus-Samuel Gugger
Mr Murat Cahid Cingi	Türkiye	Mr Mustafa Canbey
Ms Gökçe Gökçen	Türkiye	Mr Namık Tan
Mr Berdan Öztürk	Türkiye	Ms Sevilay Çelenk
Mr Sevan Sivacioğlu	Türkiye	Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat
Ms Olena Khomenko	Ukraine	Ms Larysa Bilozir
Ms Yuliia Ovchynnykova	Ukraine	Mr Andrii Lopushanskyi
Ms Lesia Zaburanna	Ukraine	Mr Rostyslav Tistyk
Baroness Thérèse Coffey	United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>	Mr Dan Aldridge
Mr Mike Reader	United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>	Ms Leigh Ingham
Ms Elaine Stewart	United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>	Ms Kate Osamor
Lord Don Touhig	United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>	Ms Michelle Welsh

Other parliamentarians / Autres parlementaires

Mr / M. Pablo Hispan, Spain / Espagne

Partners for Democracy / Partenaires pour la Démocratie

Mr / M. Allal Amraoui, Morocco / Maroc

Mr / M. Hassan Arif, Morocco / Maroc

Secretariat of Delegation or of Political Group / Secrétariat de Délégation ou de Groupe politique

Ms / Mme Marina Giovannini, Italy / Italie

Mr / M. Sabih Gazi Öztürk, Türkiye

Experts / Expert·es

Ms / Mme Celine Galli, Medical Doctor / Docteure en médecine

**Representative of the Turkish Cypriot Community (*) /
Représentant de la communauté chypriote turque (*)**

Mr / M. Hasan Taçoy

(*) In accordance with Resolution 1376 (2004) / Conformément à la Résolution 1376 (2004)

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development /
Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable

Ms / Mme Catherine Du Bernard

Ms / Mme Aiste Ramanauskaite

Ms / Mme Jannick Devaux

Ms / Mme Claire Dubois-Hamdi

Ms / Mme Özgü Tan

Head of the Secretariat / *Cheffe du Secrétariat*

Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*

Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*

Secretary to the Committee / *Secrétaire de la commission*

Assistant/ *Assistante*