

Abstract of Master thesis, Submitted 22 October 2015:

Titled: Under the conflict Umbrella: Is the access to Ambulance and Pre-hospital services equal to all Palestinian residents in the city of Hebron in the H1 and H2 areas?- Palestine.

Dima Amro, Staff Nurse, Charite- Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Supervised by: Gabriella Arcadu.

Key words: ambulance and pre-hospital care, Hebron, Access to health, conflict.

The city of Hebron has been affected by conflict for 66 years. However, the movements restrictions in H-2 area sharply escalated with the outbreak of the Second Intifada. This has undoubtedly had a negative impact on accessing health care services in general. However, the extent of the problem remains unknown, in particular the access to the ambulance and pre-hospital services amongst Palestinian residents in the city of Hebron.

The aim of this thesis is to explore the perceived impact of a number of selected actors of the ongoing conflict in accessing ambulance and pre-hospital services in the city of Hebron.

Data was collected through two main routes: literature review of the relevant data in articles and other publications; and semi-structured interviews with open- ended questions that were developed based on relevant literature review.

Purposive maximum variation sampling was used to identify key informants. These included Palestinian residents in both H-1 and H-2 areas, and representatives from national or international organizations with a role of providing health services or observing the situation in Hebron e.g. Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, Christians Peacemaker Team, the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). These informants, who amounted to a total sample size of 27 informants, were then interviewed to explore their perceptions of access to ambulance and pre-hospital services in both H-1 and H-2 areas.

A qualitative inductive phenomenology research approach has been adopted to analyze the data collected through the interviews.

The main findings of this research show a disparity in the perceived access to ambulance and pre-hospital services between the two areas in Hebron. In the H-2 area, which is under the direct Israeli military control, findings show more restrictive procedures on movement of Palestinian vehicles and pedestrians resulting in more problematic access to ambulance services. The presence of Israeli settlers and the resulting violence appears to be one of the main factors affecting free movement and therefore access to health services. In H-1, findings show a different situation. Usually residents enjoy free movement, and informants have described access to ambulance and pre-hospital services as “normal”. However, the situation changes when

political instability rises in the region with restrictions in movement also increasing. Therefore, the difference between H-1 and H-2 in access to ambulance and pre-hospital services is high during periods of stability, and tends to fade to become almost the same during unstable situations where there is increased military activity.

In conclusion, the results show that the access to ambulance and pre-hospital services in Hebron is negatively affected by occupation and settlers' violence . Furthermore, the emerged results were directly linked to both occupation and settlers violence causing psychological and economic effects on Palestinian population. This study also reveals the different violations of the International laws and Human rights, and demonstrates the urgent adherence to international laws that is required in the context of Hebron, to enable it's Palestinian residents to attain their right to health.