

Gaza: doctors' testimonies demand a permanent ceasefire

BMJ 2025; 389 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.r1176> (Published 06 June 2025) Cite this as: *BMJ* 2025;389:r1176

Rapid Response:

Re: Gaza: doctors' testimonies demand a permanent ceasefire

Dear Editor,

No one can be indifferent to the sufferings of Palestinians during this terrible war.

Likewise, people of conscience will recognize how Israelis suffer too.

All of this fighting can stop in an instance, under either of two scenarios: the first, Hamas (which started this terrible conflict with a massacre of 1200 Innocents on 7 October) surrenders. Please explain what they are fighting for. Or, failing that, this organization accepts the Witkoff ceasefire proposal (which Israel has agreed to).

The *BMJ* and its editor would demonstrate a lot more credibility if they called on Hamas, which initiated this conflict to stop fighting. Then all the children would cease dying and rehabilitation on both sides of our fraught border could commence.

With respect, and a fervent wish for an end to this conflict,

A. Mark Clarfield MD FRCPC

Professor (emeritus), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-sheva, Israel

Adjunct professor, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada

Competing interests: I and my family have been the target of thousands of missiles sent Hamas, Hizbullah and more latterly the Houthis

09 June 2025

A. Mark Clarfield

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Medical School for International Health, PO Box 653 Beer-sheva 8410501 Israel