GCMHP 6th International Conference
Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine

Final Narrative Report
Gaza- Palestine
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The organizing committee would like to thank everyone who participated and helped in the success of GCMHP’s 6th International conference. A special thanks to the conference organizing, scientific and honorary committee, chairpersons, and all the participants. A special thank and gratitude to the conference sponsors including: GIZ’s German Association, The Palestine Children’s Relief Fund (PCRF), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), The Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority and Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).
Introduction

The three Israeli assaults on Gaza city which included killing and injuring tens of thousands, the massive destruction of houses and the economic infrastructure, and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless have left severe psychosocial effects on Palestinian society. These psychosocial effects have long-term negative consequences on future Palestinian generations. Also the illegal Israeli siege on Gaza is leading to negative consequences on the Palestinian basic rights of movement, labor, health, and education. This is considered as an act of collective punishment.


Executive Summary

Gaza Community Mental Health Programme-GCMHP has held its 6th International conference entitled "Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine" in Gaza City with the participation of more than 800 professionals, researchers and activists in mental health and human rights from governmental and non-governmental organizations, university faculty, students and media in 19th and 20th April, 2016.

Thirty six papers were presented by international and local professionals and mental health experts. Thirty three professionals participated in the conference from different countries such as: Jordan, USA, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, South Africa, Germany, and UK in addition to some Palestinians from the West Bank.

It's worth to mention that for the first time in Gaza Strip open space sessions were used and it was a very successful technique where people actually participated and exchange their ideas and knowledge in a many dynamic and interactive ways.

The conference aimed to enhance the professional cooperation and exchange knowledge between Palestinian and international professionals working in mental health and human rights. It also promoted effective methods and approaches to enhance the resilience and hope amongst the Palestinian children, families and community. This conference contributed to the international community to have a greater understanding of the current situation and advocates for creating change in Palestine, and to highlight GCMHP’s role as a leading organization in mental health and human rights which carried the legacy of Dr. Eyad El-Sarraj. The two days conference was attended by hundreds professionals in the field of mental health and human rights. Further, it included scientific posters, recorded massages for international participants who couldn't attend or were prevented from getting into Gaza city by the Israeli Authorities, storytelling session where people spoke about the difficult situation that the Palestinians experience after 2014 war in addition to children's drawings art exhibition.

Conference Committees

The conference included three major committees which are: Scientific Committee, Honorary Committee and Organizing Committee. The Scientific Committee was providing the organizers with the scientific review and evaluation of papers. The Honorary Committee included scholars and mental health experts from the local and international communities. The Organizing Committee carried out all the conference preparations and logistical arrangements.
**Presenters and Participants**

The conference received high international and local attention. Where 25 professionals, researchers and mental health and civil society activists came from outside Gaza particularly from USA, UK, Switzerland, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Jordan, Germany and Palestinians from the West Bank. In addition to more than 800 local professionals, researchers and activists in mental health and human rights from governmental and non-governmental organizations, universities, students and media agencies participated in the conference.

**Conference Themes**

The major themes discussed in the conference workshops and panels are:

- The siege and political realities and their impact on mental health
- The Palestinian experience: waiting for peace, mental health interventions in the areas of conflicts
- Dr. Eyad El-Sarraj legacy and role of GCMHP in the future.
Preparation Phase
The Conference Organizing Committee
Training at the West Bank
GIZ Germany, one of the conference sponsors, conducted three preparatory workshops in the West Bank for the conference organizing committee to enhance the local capacity in organizing conferences and events by introducing more participatory approaches and by assisting the Programme in designing the conference.

The three workshops were facilitated by Dr. Claudia Gross, an international process facilitator. During the workshop, the team agreed on all the needed organization and preparations for the conference such as: the conference venue, schedule, publication and creative ideas were collected.

Pre-Conference Activities
On the 10th of November, 2015 GCMHP announced its sixth international conference asking mental health and human rights professionals to send their papers to be presented at the conference. The conference announcement and call for paper was widely distributed on the Palestinian Universities, Ministries, NGO's, research institution and media. It was also sent for professionals and international figures in addition to publishing it on social media so researchers can send their abstracts. Tens of professionals, activists, scholars, academics and researchers both in international and local levels submitted their abstract of papers. The abstracts were gathered and upraised by the scientific committee and full papers where requested by the end of November.

By which thirty papers were approved by the scientific committee to be presented in the conference according to the abstracts submissions guideline which were sit by the conference scientific committee. Also, all field preparations including procurement processes, reservations, designs, printings, invitations, places constructions etc. were implemented on time and as planned.
Conference Activities
Reception Event
On the 18th of April 2016, GCMHP had a reception for the conference international participants, and local public figures and partner organizations. During this event, Dr. Maged Abu Ramadan, Vice Chairman of GCMHP Board of Directors, delivered a speech where he welcomed the participants and thanked them for their willing to come to Gaza and their efforts to support GCMHP’s 6th International Conference "Mental Health and Human Rights".

Children’s Drawings Exhibition
During the conference, GCMHP held a Children’s drawings Exhibition. The Exhibition reflected the suffering of the Palestinian children, resulting from the Israeli war in 2014.
First Conference Day
First Conference Day

The first conference day started by the plenary opening session with Quran reciting and the Palestinian national anthem. Dr. Maged Abu Ramdan vice chairman for GCMHP’s Board of Directors delivered the opening speech where he welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending, he also stressed on the importance of this conference for the Palestinian people. Then speeches by the conference sponsors representatives Mr. Tor E. Gjerde, Head of the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority, Ms. Gudrun Kramer, Head of GIZ in Palestine, Mr. Johan Schaar, Head of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and, Ms. Feletcia Adeeb, Vice President of Palestine Children’s Relief Fund (PCRF). A film about the late Dr. Eyad El Sarraj the founder of GCMHP and the pioneer leader of mental health in Palestine was presented. Then, a keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Yasser Abu Jamei the Director General of Gaza Community Mental Health Programmem, where he explained the psychosocial reality of Palestinians in Gaza strip and GCMHP’s role in meeting the high and urgent community needs. He also talked about the conference objectives and themes, and he thanked the local and international participants who contributed to the success of this scientific event. Mr. Bo Schack, the Director of the UNRWA’s Operation in Gaza made a brief speech where he stressed the importance of the mental health services and the significance of organizing such conference wishing GCMHP the best and assuring UNRWA support for mental health sector in Gaza Strip. The Plenary session was attended by hundreds of local and international participants in addition to public figures including Ambassador, Mr. Mohammed al- Amadi, head of Qatar Committee for Gaza Reconstruction. At the end of the plenary session, the conference participants were divided into four simultaneous workshops in the morning and other four workshops in the halls Hope, Peace, Resilience, and Unity.
Morning Workshops

Hope Hall

Dr. Bill Slaughter, President U.S. Gaza Mental Health Foundation chaired the session entitled “The legacy of Dr. Eyad El-Sarraj- Communicating Agony and Hope”.

Speakers:

1. Ms. Donna Baranski Walker, Founder & Executive Director of Rebuilding Alliance presented her paper about “Expanding the influence of Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, a vital, independent voice of compassion and reason”.
2. Dr. Nancy Murray, Co-Founder and Trustee Gaza Mental Health Foundation, Inc. presented her paper “Breaking the siege in the USA: reflections on the legacy of Eyad El-Sarraj
3. Dr. Victoria Brittain from UK, a journalist and author who has been a friend of Dr. Eyad and of GCMHP for 25 years presented her paper entitled “The normalization of torture in the USA, and the unseen hand of Dr. Eyad El-Sarraj behind US clinician who defied the power structure”.

GCMHP’s Sixth International Conference 2016 - Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine
Peace Hall
Dr. Samir Qouta, Psychologist and Professor at the Islamic University was a chairperson of a workshop entitled “Trauma, Siege and Resilience”.

Speakers:
1. Mr. Marwan Diab, Public Relations and Media Director at GCMHP presented his paper entitled “Can psychosocial intervention improve peer and sibling relations among war-affected children”.
2. Ms. Ann-Charlotte Nilsson, CEO and Founder ACN International Affairs Counseling from Sweden presented a paper “Aggression, acts of terrorism and finding resilience against using violence”.
3. Ms. Shefa Obaid, Woman Protection and Empowerment Program Specialist at International Rescue Committee from Jordan presented a paper entitled “Developing and enhancing resilience in traumatized families and communities”
Resilience Hall
A workshop entitled “Interventions in the areas of conflict” was chaired by Dr. Taysir Diab, the Director General Deputy for Technical Affairs at GCMHP.

Speakers:
1. Ms. Ferdoos Alissa, Lecturer, Social Science Department at Bethlehem University in West Bank presented through Skype a paper entitled “The effectiveness of EMDR treatment in treating PTSD and depression symptoms among the parents or the caregivers and the wives of the young martyrs from Bethlehem area”.
2. Dr. David Henely and Dr. Henrik Pelling the experts in the field of rehabilitation and Autism and doctors from Sweden presented their paper on “Enhancing the quality of medical and educational services for children with Autism in the Gaza Strip”.
3. Ms. Khitam Abu Shawareb, social worker at GCMHP presented her paper entitled “The Effectiveness of Counseling program to reduce the symptoms of attention deficit and hyperactivity among kindergarten children”.
An open space session entitled “The siege and political realities and their impact on mental health” was chaired by Ms. Rawya Hamam, the Director of Research and Training Department at GCMHP.
Afternoon Workshops:

Hope Hall

Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura, Director of PCHR Democratic Development Unit chaired a workshop entitled “Human Rights Violations and Mental Health”.

Speakers:

1. Dr. Ashraf Kagee, Professor from Stellenbosch University in South Africa presented his paper entitled “Is post-traumatic stress disorder applicable among South African former political detainees”.
3. Mr. Issam Younis, Director of Al Mezan Center for Human Rights had a paper entitled “Un-punished Crimes: The reality of justice in the occupied Palestinian territories” presented by Mr. Samir Zaqout, Head of Field Research Unit at Al Mezan Center for Human Rights.
Peace Hall
Dr. Sami Owaida, a Psychiatrist from World Health Organization (WHO) chaired a workshop entitled “Youth: Strength and Vulnerabilities”.

Speakers:
1. Ms. Ayda Kassab, Psychologist at GCMHP presented a paper entitled “Post-traumatic stress and some personality traits of students at Palestinian universities in the Gaza Strip”.
2. Dr. Bassam Abo Hamad, Public Health Specialist at Al Quds university talked about the “Adolescent girls in the Gaza Strip face significant psychosocial vulnerabilities in the context of recurrent trauma”.
3. Ms. Pam Bailey, International Secretary, Founder & Director of We Are Not Numbers Organization: Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor also provided a paper entitled “We are Not Numbers: combatting depression among young adults in Gaza through facilitated storytelling”.

**Resilience Hall**
Fourteen poster presentations of scientific research studies by researchers, students and professionals discussing the topics of: trauma, violence and depression have been shown.

**Unity Hall**
An open space session entitled “Palestinians Waiting for Peace” was chaired by Mr. Hasan Zeyada, the Director of Gaza Community Center at GCMHP.
Social Event
Another important event was conducted by GCMHP on the eve of the first day of the conference 19th April, 2016. This event included many cultural parts such as: Dabka, Palestinian songs and Palestinian Poem by a female adolescent.
Second Conference Day
Second Conference Day

Dr. Nancy Murray, Co-Founder of Gaza Mental Health Foundation-USA chaired the plenary opening session where four speeches were delivered. Ms. Gerri Haynes, a palliative care consultant and former president and current board member of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility-USA talked via Skype call about her love to the Gaza and her relationship with the late Dr. Eyad El Sarraj. Also, she presented her memories when she met him and talked about his role as a pioneer in the field of mental health and some of awards and recognition he got during his life.

Dr. Mona Al Farra, a physician and vice president of Palestinian Red Crescent Society also talked about the role of Dr. Eyad El Sarraj in establishing many of health and cultural centers in the marginalized areas and his support to the vulnerable groups in society such as children and women.

Mr. Abed Al Nasser Ferwana, a researcher and expert in detainees affairs, delivered presentation in which he talked about Palestinian detainees and the impact of torture on their well-being. Also, he spoke about the role of Dr. Eyad El Sarraj in helping the former detainees and defending their rights.

After that, Dr. Brian Barber, a Professor at Tennessee University, delivered a presentation through which he showed the methodology and findings of his research study entitled “the long term effects of political conflicts on adolescents in Palestine.

After the end of the plenary session, the conference participants were divided into four groups where they joined four simultaneous workshops in the morning and other four workshops in the afternoon.
Morning Workshop
Hope Hall
Mr. Issa Al Nahal Member of GCMHP Board of Directors chaired the session entitled “Eyad El- Sarraj: The model”.

Speakers:
1. Dr. David Henely and Dr. Henreik Pelling provided their paper entitled “Eyad El-Sarraj a Friend and Colleague”.
2. Dr. John Eenwyk, a Clinical Director at The International Trauma Treatment Program from USA presented his paper entitled “The Early life of Dr. Eyad El-Sarraj”.
3. Dr. Hazem El Sarraj, one of Dr. Eyad’s family talked about the personality of Dr. Eyad El Sarraj and his life and vision.
Peace Hall
Dr. Akram Nafee, Psychiatrist at GCMHP chaired a workshop entitled “Psychological interventions for Gaza children”.

Speakers:
1. Dr. David Hutton, Head of the Community Mental Health Programme for UNRWA in Gaza presented his paper “MHPSS: What it means for UNRWA.
2. Ms. Enas Jouda, Psychologist at GCMHP presented her paper “The effectiveness of treatment Program using Psychodrama to reduce the symptoms of depressive disorder among Women”.
3. Dr. Bahar Hashemi, Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist works at PCRF- USA presented her paper “Mental health interventions for children in the war areas: A case from Gaza”.

Resilience Hall
Pam Bailey, Founder and Director of We are Not Numbers organization chaired a storytelling session which included victims of the 2014 war telling their stories during the war times.

Five families who witnessed the war shared their stories, some of them were women who lost their beloved children, a father who lost some of his children, a child who lost his leg and others who lost their houses and they are still homeless.
Unity Hall
Dr. Brian Barber, a Fellow at New America and Founding Director of the Center of Political Conflict at the University of Tennessee, USA chaired an opening space session entitled “Mental Health Interventions in Areas of Conflict”.
Afternoon Workshops
Hope Hall
Dr. David Becker, Psychologist from Germany chaired a workshop entitled “Care for Caregivers”.

Speakers:
1. Ms. Zahia Qarra, psychologist at GCMHP presented her paper entitled “Traumatic Experience, coping strategies and its relationship with death and anxiety after the 2014 war”.
2. Dr. Jamil Tahrawi, Associate Professor in mental health at Islamic University in Gaza talked about the attitudes of psychologists in Gaza towards clinical supervision.
3. Ms. Rawya Hamam, Director of Training & Research Department at GCMHP delivered a presentation entitled “My Experience in clinical supervision in the context of Gaza Strip”.

GCMHP’s Sixth International Conference 2016 - Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine
Resilience Hall

Mr. Mohammed El-Zeer, Director of Deir Al Balah Community Center in GCMHP chaired a workshop entitled “Trauma through Palestinian history”.

**Speakers:**

1. Sabreen Mousa, social worker at Palestine Trauma Center talked about a research study entitled “Trans-generational traumatization and its relations with coping: the Palestinian experience (1948-2011)”.
2. Mr. Khaleel Migdad and Mr. Ibrahim Mohmmed Al-Toom, Statisticians at El-Wedad Society for Community rehabilitation presented their paper entitled “The impact of the Israeli aggression on the mental health of children in Gaza Strip”.
3. Mr. Nedal El Shamaly, social worker at GCMHP presented his paper entitled “Five personality factors among patients with depression attending Gaza Community Center”.
4. Ms. Ursula Hauser, Pyscho-Dramatist- Medico International presented in a recorded message a paper entitled “Psychodrama in the context of war and Post-war experience”.
Unity Hall
An open space session entitled “Dr. Eyad El-Sarraj’s Legacy and role of GCMHP in the future” was chaired by Mr. Husam El-Nounou, the Director of External Relations and Fundraising Department at GCMHP.
Closing Session and Conference Statement
On the second day of the conference Dr. Yasser Abu Jamei Director General of GCMHP and Mr. Issa Al Nahal delivered a speech thanking everyone who contributed to the success of the conference. Then conference statement was issued by Mr. Hussam Al- Nounou, head of the media committee tackling the conclusions and demands of the participants after two days of discussion. The statement also talked about the participants strong believes in the connection between mental health and human rights where there can be no mental health for Palestinians under occupation, siege, and other violations of their basic human rights.

The Conference in Media
- GCMHP started the preparation for its sixth International conference entitled "Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine". The Media Committee represented by Mr. Husam El Nounou and Mr. Eyad El Hasani conducted many visits to a number of media agencies such as: El Kitab channel, Palestine today channel, Hona Al Quds channel, Maan TV live channel, Russia Day channel and Al Jazeera channel. Also, they visited number of local radio broadcasts such as: Al Quds, Al Aqsa, Al Shaab, Al Watan and press agencies such as: Associated Press, Maan, Reuters and Press House Association. Further, they visited the Government Media Office of the Ministry of Information.
- The Media Committee held a meeting for local and
International press which was attended by number of press agencies, channels and local radio broadcasts representatives to inform them about the important preparations for the conference through PowerPoint presentation to show them the preparations of the Media Committee for the conference. Also, journalists questions about the conference answered.

- A radio promo has been broadcasted on Al Quds, Al Shaab and Watan radio three times a day for ten days.
- The committee prepared a list for all journalists on international and local levels in Gaza Strip, contacting them through printed invitations and by email and invited them to participate and cover the conference activities. About 500 media representatives were emailed with media materials.
- Launching a landing page for the conference through the official website of the Programme to disseminate the goals, themes, sponsors, speakers, location, schedule, workshops, book of abstracts, information sheet and statistics of the participated countries, speakers, participants and workshops.
- In addition, there was documentation for all the conference activities and coverage for all workshops during the days of the conference.

**Media Appearance**
- The conference attracted wide media coverage and was covered in all the local media in Palestine, tens of articles and reports were published about the conference, and its importance for Palestine. Radio programs, press interviews and TV interviews were conducted with the conference organizers. International media covered the conference, focusing on the siege and people's psychological conditions in Gaza Strip.
- More than thirty articles about the conference were published locally and internationally.
- More than 20 TV interviews and reports, tens of radio interviews were conducted with the conference organizers.

**Social Media**
- During the preparations for the conference, an event was published on the Programme’s Facebook page, a hashtag entitled MHHR was published on twitter, a sponsored advertisement was published which included: a radio promo, goals and themes of the conference, the hashtag, the Net streaming and Facebook and Twitter pages of the Programme. There was huge media coverage during the conference in social media pages, all the activities of the conference were documented and a special design for each activity in the conference for the speakers, chairperson and photos for the conference preparations and activities were published. 275 tweets were made about the conference, facebook and twitter were updated regularly, were many pictures and activities were posted during the conference.

**Life streaming of the Conference**
- The conference was broadcasted online through the net-streaming technology where locals and internationals were able to follow lively the conference activities. This was to insure that people who weren’t able to come or can’t come are able to follow the conference online.

**Press Releases**
- Two press releases were issued summarizing all the first and second day in both English and Arabic.
- On the closing of the second day, a conference statement by the participants was issued and published widely in English and Arabic.
Despite the huge success of GCMHP 6th International conference, there were many challenges and difficulties occurred during the conference organization. In the preparation stage, some of the organizers' permits were refused to attend conference preparatory workshops in Ramallah. The most prominent one was the fact that getting permits for the internationals wasn’t guaranteed and that forced the organizing committee to make plan B which was booking for the internationals in Ramallah Hotels. Another difficulty was Israeli prevention for many internationals to enter Gaza city to participate in the conference. In fact, this assumption was put in to consideration from the early stages; therefore the organizing committee prepared another plan which was video conference and recorded messages for those who were prevented. In addition, some internationals were reluctant to participate due to security reasons.
Annex1 “Conference Invitation”

Gaza Community Mental Health Programme has the pleasure to invite you to participate in GCMHP’s 6th International Conference “Mental Health & Human Rights in Palestine” that will take place at Al Mashal Hotel in Gaza city on 19th – 20th April, 2016.

Your attendance is highly appreciated.

Annex2 “Reception Invitation”

Gaza Community Mental Health Programme has the pleasure to invite you to participate in the Reception of GCMHP’s 6th International Conference “Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine” that will take place at 7:30 pm on Monday April 18th 2016 at Al MASHAL Hotel in Gaza city.
Annex 3 "Social Event Invitation"

For more information, see;

Annex 4 "Conference Schedule"
Annex 5 "Book of Abstracts"

For more information, see:
http://www.mediafire.com/download/k21njm0n71c3j8x/conference+book+of+abstracts.pdf
Annex 6 "Conference Committees"

Conference Committees:

Organizing Committee:
- Alaa Hamroush, Conference Coordinator, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme
- Husam El-Nourou, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme
- Issa El-Nahhal, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme
- Mariam Diab, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme
- Walid Safi, GIZ
- Yasser Abu Jamer, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme
- Yousef Ghaiali, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme

Honorary Committee:
- Benedetto Saraceno, International Consultant in Psychiatry and Public Health, Italy
- Derek Summerfield, South London and Maudsley, UK
- David Henry, Child Neurologist, Sweden
- Gudrun Kramer, GIZ, Germany
- Gemi Haynes, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, USA
- Hanan Ashrawi, Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Palestine
- Johan Schaar, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Jerusalem, Sweden
- John Ennyk, The International Trauma Treatment Program, USA
- Marwan Diaqiri, Specialist in Medical, Educational and Developmental Psychology, Israel
- Mohammed Abu Shahla, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, Palestine
- Nancy Murray, Gaza Mental Health Foundation, USA
- Noam Chomsky, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, USA
- Raji Sourani, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Palestine
- Nana Nashashibi, Palestinian Counselling Center, Palestine
- Riad Zanoun, Former Minister of Health, Palestine
- Ruchama Marton, Psychiatrist, Founder of Physicians for Human Rights, Israel
- Tor E. Gjerde, The Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority, Norway
- Veronique Hulmann, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Jerusalem, Switzerland

Scientific Committee:
- Bahar Hashimi, Palestine Child Relief Fund, USA
- Bill Slaughter, Gaza Mental Health Foundation, USA
- Brian Barbar, Center for the Study of Youth and Political Conflict, USA
- David Becker, Berlin Open University, Germany
- Dyaa Sae光, World Health Organization, Palestine
- Essam Younis, Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Palestine
- Jess Ghannam, University of California, San Francisco, USA
- Martin Kemp, UK Mental Health Foundation, UK
- Mark Humphrey Yos Ommeren, Mental Health Advisor, WHO, Switzerland
- Nimisha Patel, University of East London, UK
- Rajaa Leena Punamaki, Tampere University, Finland
- Rita Giacaman, Bir Zeit University, Palestine
- Samir Ousta, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, Palestine
- Suheib Abu Kmet, Consultant in Psychiatry, UK
- Tayseer Diab, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, Palestine
GCMHP 6th International Conference
Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine-
19th-20th April 2016

Conference Information for the Participants
Conference Information for the Participants

Dear Conference participant:
Thank you for registering for GCMHP International Conference “Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine- Enhancing Resilience and Hope”. Your participation represents part of a greater dialogue and understanding on the subject of mental health and the essential human rights concerns stemming from the crisis that Palestinian people live. Your involvement in this event is greatly appreciated. We have provided some details regarding the conference and travel arrangements to facilitate your travel and stay in the region. We hope your visit to Palestine will be will a unique and informative experience and look forward to welcoming you to Gaza.

Travel and Logistical Arrangements
All logistical arrangements for your stay in Gaza have been organized by the conference committee. Upon arrival to the Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv or Karamah crossing- Jordan on Monday 18th April 2016 from 7 am to 2 pm., transportation will be provided to take you to the Erez crossing into Gaza. Please ensure that we have your correct flight details so that we can facilitate your airport pick up. Please be aware that the immigration procedures upon arrival to Israel, as well as at the Gaza border, are often difficult and could take up to several hours. For this reason, we strongly advise that you arrive to Ben Gurion no later than 1 or 2 pm if you intend to cross into Gaza the same day. Erez crossing allows people to get into Gaza till 7.00 pm only. We are expecting the majority of conference participants to arrive on 18th April 2016. Taxis will be making the one hour drive between Ben Gurion airport and the Erez border crossing throughout the day. Furthermore, you will find a taxi driver holding your name on a sign and will pick you up from the airport to take you to the Erez crossing.

Erez Border Crossing (we recommend Monday 18th April 2016)
The Erez border crossing typically opens between 7 am and 7 pm, Sunday through Thursday (between 7 am and 3 pm on Fridays) (closed Saturdays), although opening hours are subject to change and closure, without notice. The Conference Committee has been working on your permits into Gaza and do not expect problems as partners from GIZ have offered to help us in this regard, although ultimate approval rests with the Israeli authorities.

As the taxi drops you at the Erez crossing, you will first need to check-in with Israeli officials at the outside gate. The officers at the gate will communicate with the border authorities inside for your approval to enter the main building. This process typically takes 15-45 minutes, but can vary depending on the number of travelers at the checkpoint on any given day. Once through the outside gate, you will proceed to the main building to the border permit station and the line for immigration. Once you have successfully passed immigration, you will walk through a series of halls and gates, which bring you outside the main building.
Upon leaving the main building, you will find local porters who can carry your bags for the duration of the walk into Gaza for a maximum of 20 shekels ($6). You may opt to carry your own bags, however please keep in mind that the walk across the border into Gaza is quite distant. Following your walk to the Gaza side of the border, you are expected to go through the Palestinian Authority passport control, then through the Gaza (Local Authority) passport control. This process should take few minutes. You will be received by a member of GCMHP and a driver will be waiting to take you to your hotel.

**Hotels**

*We have arranged for accommodation for conference participants during the stay in Gaza, bed and breakfast will be covered by GCMHP and any other expenses is expected to be covered by the participants.* Internet is available. Hotel accommodation (bed and breakfast) is covered by the conference. For more information regarding hotel facilities, please feel free to visit their websites.

Archmed Hotel
www.almashtalarcmedhotels.com

**The Conference**

The conference will be taking place at Archmed Hotel which is the same place of your accommodation. Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided at the venue, while dinner will be provided at other locations following the day’s events. A schedule of events and workshops -subject to minor changes – will be provided. Power point and LCD will be available for speakers. We will attempt to arrange for printing and photocopying, however we advise that you print all materials beforehand.

**Security arrangements**

We have arranged to ensure security to be provided at the hotel and conference venue, by all means available to us. However, we do ask that if any person wants to leave the group or go out on his/her own for sightseeing or other reasons, to please inform us in advance to be aware.

**Contact numbers:**

Mrs. Alaa Hammouda, Conference Coordinator, Mobile: +972 597071862
Marwan Diab, Public Relations Director, Mobile: +972 599781777
Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, Telephone: +972 8 2641511\2641512

**Banks and Currency**

We advise you to get cash before entering Gaza and arrive with local currency. However, ATM machine is available at the conference venue. Credit cards and travelers cheques are typically hardly accepted.

If you intend to stay longer, please let us know and we will try to coordinate arrangements for your stay, although additional days will be at your own expense.
The currency in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel is the New Israeli Shekel (NIS). Current exchange rates are approximately the following. 1 USD = 3.9 NIS, 1 Euro = 4.75 NIS. US Dollars may also be accepted.

Tipping – Tipping is not required but is typically found in hotels and restaurants or with taxis. Baggage porters at the Erez crossing carry bags for a fee of 20 NIS ($6).

Taxis – Within Gaza City, taxis charge 10 to 15 shekels, while ‘Service’ taxis [carrying several passengers] cost 2 shekels.

Clothing – Moderate dress is found in Palestine. For women, head coverings are not necessary; however local customs include covering the arms and legs.

Weather – The weather in Gaza is expected to be typical of warm spring weather. The temperatures usually about 20-25c. This time of year and can be slightly humid.

**Leaving Gaza**
Due to the closing hours at the Erez border, if you intend to leave Gaza on the 21st April, 2016, you will need to reach the border crossing before 1 pm at the latest, and should inform us of your schedule so that arrangements can be made for your transportation.

**Donation**
Conference participants are encouraged to make donations. Please note that you can donate via cash money or using credit cards. The donations will go towards building GCMHP’s permanent headquarter. You will be provided with an official receipt of your donations.

If you have any other questions, please let us know.

Best regards,
Conference Organizing Committee
Annex 8 "Conference Photos"
Annex 9 "Conference and Media"

Here are some interesting articles published about the conference:

“Planting hope is our main duty.”

So declared Dr. Yasser Abu Jamei, the head of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP), during his April 19th keynote address to the 800 people who attended the organization’s 6th International ‘Mental Health and Human Rights’ Conference in Gaza City.

This is a tall order in the Gaza Strip’s crushing conditions. But Dr. Abu Jamei – who lost 28 members of his extended family in a single missile strike during Israel’s 2014 military onslaught – is determined to build on the legacy of the late Dr. Eyad el Sarraj, who founded the GCMHP in 1990 to instill hope and heal the spirit of a people who were exposed to violence and the loss of freedom and human rights on a daily basis.

To read the article, see: http://mondoweiss.net/2016/05/keeping-hope-alive-in-the-gaza-strip/

Attended by 800 professionals, including physicians and psychiatrists, researchers, university staff, students and activists in the field of mental health and human rights from governmental and non-governmental organisations, the conference aims to create an opportunity for scientific discussion and promote professional cooperation and exchange of knowledge between Palestinian and international professionals in the field of mental health and human rights.

To read the article, see: https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20160425-gaza-hold-mental-health-conference/

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https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20160425-gaza-hold-mental-health-conference/

**TV Interviews**

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   https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=LDcoPMaxRJM&feature=youtu.be
2. Palestine Today Channel  
   https://www.facebook.com/PalestineTv/videos/1101427719927221/
3. Palestine Channel  
   https://www.facebook.com/PalestineTv/videos
4. Palestine Today Channel

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2. Wattan Radio
3. AlQuds Radio  https://clyp.it/q5qd0bs

**TV Reports**

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GCMHP’s Sixth International Conference 2016 - Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine
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GCMHP's Sixth International Conference 2016 - Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine
Annex10 “Quotes from the Participants”

**Dr. Samir Qouta, Prof. at the Islamic University of Gaza.**

“This conference is considered as the most successful one in all scientific and international measurements and the workshops included precious scientific researches”

**Ashraf Kage, Professor Stellenbosch University, South Africa**

“The GCMHP 6th International Conference is one of the most important conferences I have attended in my work as a psychologist and a researcher. The focus on the mental health issues faced by the people of Gaza in the aftermath of the various wars was of great consequence to the field of global mental health. I met the most committed and dedicated people at the GCMHP. The importance of the work of the center among the people of Gaza cannot be over-emphasize”

**Shefa Obiad, Women Protection and Empowerment Program Specialist at International Rescue Committee, Jordan.**

“It was my pleasure to not only present at this prestigious conference, but to get the opportunity to meet the resilient people of Gaza that the world has heard so much about. I was humbled and taken back by the sheer number of attendees who are not only interested in the field of mental health, but are in the field daily working to support the community while also having experienced difficult circumstances themselves”.

**Dr. Bahar Hashemi, Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist - PCRF, USA.**

“It was an honor to be a part of the GCMHP 6th International Conference on Mental Health and Human Rights which brought together like-minded people with a common vision and commitment to people in Gaza. There is a shared dedication to promote healing in Gaza by advocating for the individuals in need and beyond that, to raise a voice for the community as a whole; raising a voice so the world better understands the root cause for trauma in Gaza. It is impossible to speak of mental health without also speaking about human rights in Gaza. The GCMHPs extraordinary efforts in organizing and executing this conference was evidenced by their ability to bring together over 800 people, including many attendees who were allowed to enter from around the world”

**Ann-Charlotte Nilsson, Founder of CAN International Affairs Counseling, Sweden.**

“Congratulations to the very successful conference, it was such a success at so many levels! I am very glad that I was able to come to Gaza, to meet you and all at the GCMHP as well as all the participants, and to attend the conference. You amazed a lot of us with your organizational skills and affectivity!” Ann-Charlotte Nilsson, one of the speakers.

**Dr. John Eenwyk, Clinical Director at the International Truman Treatment Program, USA.**

“Dialogues among practitioners are crucial to improving patient care. When the patient is an entire country, such dialogues become all the more important. Despite the challenges and frustrations of negotiating the Israeli siege of Gaza, practitioners from Europe and the United States joined together for Gaza Community Mental Health Programme’s Sixth International Conference on "Human Rights and Mental Health in Palestine." The ensuing dialogues were critical for understanding how to further mental health by ensuring that human rights are respected and championed”.
Annex 10 “Conference Statement”

During the last two days, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme-GCMHP has held its 6th International conference entitled "Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine" in Gaza City with more than 800 professionals, researchers and activists in mental health and human rights from governmental and non-governmental organizations, university faculty, students and media.

The conference participants feel that this conference was a significant opportunity for scientific discussion and exchange of ideas. This meeting will definitely enhance the performance and practice of mental health and human rights professionals and contribute to breaking the professional and political siege of Gaza. Participants believe the conference will enhance communication with the professional community worldwide.

Participants also stress their belief in the correlation between mental health and human rights. There will be no mental wellbeing of the Palestinians under occupation, siege and other violations of their basic human rights, including to meeting basic needs and the right to justice and dignity.

The conference participants express their gratitude for GCMHP as a leading organization in mental health and human rights in Palestine and as an important part of Palestinian civil society. They also appreciate the comprehensive and quality services that GCMHP provides to the Palestinian people. The fact that GCMHP has organized this conference on the 26th anniversary of the establishment of GCMHP by the late Dr. Eyad El Sarraj reflects the important role of GCMHP in the Palestinian society in this very difficult time of Palestinian life.
On this occasion, the participants salute the memory of Dr. Eyad El Sarraj, who developed the profession of mental health in Gaza and Palestine. Dr. Sarraj also had pioneered making connections between mental health and respect for human rights, justice and dignity.

This conference is evidence that GCMHP is on the track founded by Dr. Sarraj to serve Palestine in the different community mental health aspects including service provision, capacity building and knowledge management and research. The organization has been a catalyst in educating the Palestinian people.

After two days of discussions and the exchange of ideas in some thirty papers and presentations, the participants came to the following conclusions and demands:

1. The three Israeli assaults on Gaza which included killing and injuring tens of thousands, the massive destruction of houses and the economic infrastructure, and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless have left severe psychosocial effects on Palestinian society. These psychosocial effects will have long-term negative consequences on future Palestinian generations.

2. The participants emphasize the need to develop psychosocial services and programs for war and siege victims and for all those who are bereaved or lost homes or sources of income. Special attention should be paid to women, children and people with disabilities and injuries. Special rehabilitation programs should be developed for former political prisoners and other torture survivors. Palestinian political prisoners should be released from Israeli jails and until they are free their human rights should be protected according to the principles of international law should be protected.

3. Participants consider the Israeli siege on Gaza unethical and illegal, and leadings to negative consequences for the exercise of their basic rights of movement, labor, health, and education, and consider it an act of collective punishment in contradiction to international law. The siege should be stopped immediately.

4. Participants call for an end to the Palestinian internal division and stress the need for Palestinian unity to enable the Palestinian people to gain their national rights. If freed from occupation and siege, the Palestinian people would have the resources and capacities to contribute significantly to human civilization.

5. The international political legal and civil powers are called upon to act promptly and vigorously to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine. This occupation is the root cause of problems that Palestinians and the whole region suffer from. Ending the occupation would enable the Palestinian people to exercise their political and civil rights and would enhance their mental wellbeing. Any political solutions should be based on principles of democracy, justice and international human rights conventions, including the imperative to hold those who commit crimes against human rights responsible through international justice mechanisms.

Finally, participants salute all victims of human rights violations in Palestine and the whole world and the professionals working in mental health and human rights. Recognition is paid to those who lost their lives or property or dear ones while providing services for those who need them, and heartfelt hope expressed that peace in Palestine, the region and the world.

Gaza - Palestine
20 April 2016
Annex12 "Conference Press Statement – day 1"

Day 1: 19th April 2016

Press Release
Gaza Community Mental Health Programme-GCMHP organizes its 6th international conference entitled “Mental and Human Rights in Palestine”

Gaza city, GCMHP has organized today the first day of its sixth international conference entitled "Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine" at Al Mashtal Hotel in Gaza with a wide participation of more than 800 of professionals, specialists, professors, students and actors from governmental and non-governmental organizations in addition to a significant representatives of local and international media. The conference activities and sessions were broadcasted on special channel on internet.

This event aims to enhance the professional cooperation and exchange of knowledge between Palestinian and international professionals working in mental health and human rights. It also promotes effective methods and approaches to enhance the resilience and hope amongst the Palestinian children, families and community. This conference will contribute to the international community have a greater understanding of the current situation and advocates for creating change in Palestine, and to highlight the GCMHP’s role as a leading organization in mental health and human rights which carries the legacy of Dr. Eyad El-Sarraj. The conference lasts for two days, through which 36 work papers will be presented by specialists in fields of mental health and human rights.

The plenary opening session was started with Quran reciting and Palestinian national anthem, then, Dr. Majed Abu Ramdan the vice chairman of Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, presented a speech on behalf of Dr. Mohammed Abu shahla the Chairman of Board of Directors of GCMHP through which he welcomed the partners, friends and attendance, emphasizing on the hardship of conducting the conference under siege despite the obstacles imposed and he also presented the historical development of GCMHP and the challenges faced within these periods. Dr. Abu Ramdan thanked also all international and local sponsors who are contributing in the success of this event.

A film was presented about the late Dr. Eyad El Sarraj the founder of GCMHP and the pioneer leader of mental health in Palestine, which showed the different stages of his life and activism in mental health and human rights in Palestine.

Then, representatives of the sponsors made speeches, Mr. Tor E. Gjerde, Head of the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority (NRO) delivered a speech representing donors consortium which includes the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Jerusalem, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), and the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority (NRO), where he talked about their role in raising international awareness about the importance of mental health sector in Gaza Strip. Mr. Gjerde presented also the hard situations of Palestinian inhabitants at Gaza and he stressed the commitment of supporting the GCMHP in the coming years. Ms. Gudrun Kramer, Head of GIZ in Palestine and through video-conference said that the conference is
coming to send a strong message that there is a the psychological destruction resulted from the three offensives and siege imposed on Gaza. She also expressed their proud of the partnership with GCMHP in organizing such events. Mr. Johan Schaar, Head of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) in Jerusalem made a speech through video-conference where he expressed his sorrow for not being able to come to Gaza for the same reasons that limit Gazans from mobility. He expressed his appreciation for the partnership with GCMHP and all the efforts they do saying “this conference is a good occasion to celebrate our long partnership with GCMHP”. At the end, Ms. Feletcia Adeeb, Vice President of Palestine Children’s Relief Fund (PCRF) made a speech, where she stressed the importance of organizing similar conferences in Palestine and its effects on the political security and psychosocial reality in Palestine.

Mr. Bo Schack, the Director of UNRWA Operation in Gaza made a brief speech where he stressed importance of mental health services and the significance of organizing such conference whishing GCMHP the best and assuring UNRWA support for mental health sector in Gaza Strip.

Dr. Yasser Abu Jamei the Director General of Gaza Community Mental Health Programme delivered keynote speech where he explained the psychosocial reality of Palestinians in Gaza strip and GCMHP’s role in meeting the high and urgent community needs. Dr. Abu Jamei presented the conference’s objectives and themes, and he thanked the local and international participants and attendees who are contribute in the success of this scientific event. He also explained how important it is for Palestinians to have peace and the actual meaning of peace for them stressing the importance of creating hope for the Palestinian people and the new generations to come.

After the end of the plenary session, the conference participants were separated into four simultaneous workshops in the morning and other four workshops in the afternoon. The workshops divided into the halls (Hope Hall, Peace Hall, Resilience Hall, and Unity Hall).

**Morning workshops:**

- **(In the Hope Hall),** Dr. Bill Slaughter from USA chaired the session entitled “The legacy of Dr. Eyad El- Sarraj- Communicating Agony and Hope”, where Dr. Nancy Murray from USA presented her paper “Breaking the siege in the USA: Reflections on the legacy of Eyad El- Sarraj, where she talked about a special relation she had with Dr. Eyad El-Sarraj and GCMHP and the long partnership in making efforts to change public opinion in the USA. She also talked about establishing Gaza Community Mental Health Foundation in the US to support and make solidarity work for GCMHP in the USA. Then, Ms. Donna Baranski Walker from Rebuilding Alliance-USA presented her paper about “Expanding the influence of Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, a vital, independent voice of compassion and reason” where she talked about the long partnership between Rebuilding alliance and GCMHP especially in the project of rebuilding the house that Rachel Corrie was trying to protect when she was killed by Israeli bulldozer. She also talked about the different activities of public awareness and advocacy that GCMHP is doing in the USA. Finally, Dr. Victoria Brittain from UK presented her paper which included a topic of “The normalization of torture in the USA, and the unseen hand of Dr. Eyad El- Sarraj behind US clinician who defied the power structure” where she talked about the legacy of Dr. Eyad especially the core values of resisting oppression and torture. She also talked about the different examples of people from around the world who were effected by Dr. Eyad’s values and principles.

- **(In the Peace Hall),** Dr. Samir Qouta the Psychologist and Professor at the Islamic University was a chairperson of a workshop entitled “Trauma, Siege and Resilience”, where three work papers was presented by specialists and academics. Mr. Marwan Diab, Head of the Public Relations at GCMHP presented his paper entitled “Can psychosocial intervention improve peer and sibling relations among war - affected children” where he talked about the war effects on the mental health and how to deal with them through some techniques and he also talked about the protection of children during wars. Then, Ms. Ann-Charlotte Nilsson from Sweden presented a paper focused on a topic of “Aggression, Acts of Terrorism and Finding Resilience Against Using Violence” where she focused on what has become Known the third Intifada in the Jerusalem and its reasons and psychological consequences and the relation with the aggression. At the end of this workshop, Ms. Shefa Obiad from Jordan
presented a paper entitled “Developing and Enhancing Resilience in Traumatized Families and Communities” where she discussed the idea of unity of inhabitants at specific areas after experiencing the traumatic events and crisis which contributes in enhancing the resilience.

- (In the Resilience Hall), A workshop entitled “Interventions in the areas of conflict” was chaired by Dr. Taysir Diab, the General Deputy of Technical Affairs at GCMHP. Through which, Ms. Ferdoos Alissa from Bethlehem University presented a paper entitled “The effectiveness of EMDR treatment in treating PTSD and depression symptoms among the parents or the caregivers and the wives of the young martyrs from Bethlehem area”. During the session, Dr. David Henely and Dr. Henrik Pelling the experts in the field of rehabilitation and Autism from Sweden discussed through their paper a topic of “Enhancing the Quality of Medical and Educational Services for Children with Autism in the Gaza Strip”. Finally, Ms. Khitam Abu Shawareb, the mental health professional at GCMHP pointed through her paper to “The Effectiveness of Counseling program to reduce the symptoms of attention deficit and hyperactivity among kindergarten children”.

- (In the Unity Hall), an open space session entitled “The siege and political realities and their impact on mental health” was chaired by Ms. Rawya Hamam, the Director of Research and Training Department at GCMHP. Through which the participants were divided into five groups to discuss main issues such as immigration of youth, the role of Intellectuals in razing the community awareness and a presentation of most important findings and recommendations.

**Afternoon Workshops:**

- (In the Hope Hall), Mr. Hamdi Shaqqura from the Palestinian Center for Human Rights-PCHR chaired a workshop entitled “Human Rights Violations and Mental Health”, where Dr. Ashraf Kagee from South Africa presented his paper entitled “Is post-traumatic stress disorder applicable among South African former political detainees” where he talked about a concept of PTSD and presented some results of a research he conducted on this topic. He also emphasized that PTSD has universal characteristics however should be understood within the sociopolitical context in each country. Then, Ms. Sohayla S. Abu Jalala talked about “Life Satisfaction and its Relation with Psychological Stress due to Siege of Governmental Sector Employees in Gaza” where she presented findings of her research. Finally, Mr. Sameer Zaqout from Al Mezan Center for Human Rights presented on behalf of Mr. Issam Younis a paper entitled “Un-punished Crimes: The reality of justice in the occupied Palestinian territories” where he explained that huge human rights violations were committed by Israeli occupation and many international powers did not advocate for justice under the slogan of “give peace chance”. Mr. Zaqout stressed his opinion that Palestinian decision to join ICC is a big chance to achieve justice for Palestine.

- (In the Peace Hall), Dr. Sami Owaida the Psychiatrist from World Health Organization(WHO) chaired a workshop entitled “Youth: Strength and Vulnerabilities”, where Ayda Kassab, the Psychologist at GCMHP presented a paper entitled “Post-traumatic Stress and some Personality Traits of Students at Palestinian Universities in the Gaza Strip” where she presented finding of her research study. Then, Dr. Bassam Abo Hamad the professor and expert in the health sector talked about the “Adolescent Girls in the Gaza Strip Face Significant Psychosocial Vulnerabilities in the Context of Recurrent Trauma” where he talked about problems of refugees during war time and services presented in this context and he also explained the coping strategies used by male and female adolescents. At the end of this workshop, Ms. Pam Bailey also provided a paper entitled “We are Not Numbers: Combatting Depression among Young Adults in Gaza through Facilitated Storytelling” where she presented some experiences of Palestinian youth who belong to Palestinian factions and its relation.

- (In the Unity Hall), an open space session entitled “Palestinians Waiting for Peace” was chaired by Mr. Hasan Zeyada, the Director of Gaza Community Center at GCMHP.

- (In the Resilience Hall), fourteen poster presentations of scientific research studies of researchers, students and professionals on trauma, violence and depression have been shown.

The conference participants expressed their satisfaction of the conference scientific value and logistical arrangements. It is worth to mention also that the conference activities attracted wide media coverage including active social media.
Annex13 “Conference Press Statement – day 2”

Day 2 : 20th April 2016

Press Release
Gaza Community Mental Health Programme-GCMHP organizes its 6th international conference entitled “Mental and Human Rights in Palestine”
Gaza city, GCMHP has continued for the second days of its sixth international conference entitled “ Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine” at Al Mashtal Hotel in Gaza.

Dr. Nancy Murray, President of Gaza Mental Health Foundation-USA chaired the plenary opening session where four speeches were delivered. Ms. Gerri Haynes, A palliative care consultant and former president and current board member of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility-USA talked via Skype call about her love to the Gaza and her relationship with the late Dr. Eyad El Sarraj. Also, she presented her memories when she met him and talked about his role as a pioneer in the field of mental health and some of awards and recognition he got during his life.

Dr. Mona Al Farra, a physician and vice president of Palestinian Red Crescent Society. Also, she talked about the role of Dr. Eyad El Sarraj in contributing in establishing many of health and cultural centers in the marginalized areas and his support to the vulnerable categories such as children and women.

Mr. Abed Al Nasser Ferwana, a researcher and expert in detainees affairs, delivered presentation in which he talked about some statistics related to Palestinian detainees. Also, he spoke about the role of Dr. Eyad El Sarraj in helping the former detainees and defending their rights. In addition, he spoke about some of torture experiences of detainees in Israel jails.

After that, Dr. Brian Barber, a Professor at Tennis University, delivered a presentation through which he showed the methodology and findings of his research study entitled “ the long term effects of political conflicts on adolescents in Palestine.

After the end of the plenary session, the conference participants were divided into four groups where they joined four simultaneous workshops in the morning and other four workshops in the afternoon. The workshops divided into four main halls ( Hope Hall, Peace Hall, Resilience Hall, and Unity Hall).

Morning workshops:
• (In the Resilience Hall), Dr. Pam Bailey from USA chaired the storytelling session, through which some Palestinian victims shared their stories and suffering during and after the last offensive on Gaza. Issam Jouda from the North of Gaza talked about the moments when his wife and his three children got martyred as a result of Israeli shelling targeting his house. He demanded perusing occupation in the international courts. Habeeba Al- Taaban from the Middle of Gaza Strip talked about the injury of her only 6-year-old daughter which she had after 23 years of marriage. Her daughter was critically injured and still severely suffering. Mr. Salman Abu Khousa talked about the stories of martyrdom of his children, Yassin and Israa as a result of targeting his house for the third time. His house was destroyed in 2002, 2004 and 2014. Nidaa Al Masri from the North of Gaza talked about the destruction of her house and replacement to one of the UNRWA shelters, which was also targeted while they were there. Najah Abed Al Dayim narrated the story of the martyrdom of her husband and son and the critical injury of her other son. Finally, Kareema Rayan narrated the story of her son’s death whom she had after 13 years of marriage. He died when he was covering the incidents of offensive at the time of ceasefire declared by the Israel Occupation.
• (in the Hope Hall), Mr. Issa Al Nahal Member of GCMHP Board of Directors chaired the session entitled “Eyad El-Sarraj: The model”; where he talked about the early life of Dr Eyad El Sarraj. Dr. John Eenwyk from USA presented his paper entitled “The Early life of Dr. Eyad El-Sarraj”. Then, Dr. David Henely and Dr. Henreik the experts in
Rehabilitation and Autism from Sweden provided their paper entitled “Eyad El-Sarraj a Friend and Colleague” where they presented a book showing stages of Dr. Eyad El Sarraj’s struggle. Finally, Dr. Hazem El Sarraj, one of Dr. Eyad’s family talked about the personality of Dr. Eyad El Sarraj and his life and vision.

- (In the Peace Hall), Dr. Akram Nafee the Psychiatrist at GCMHP chaired a workshop entitled “Psychological interventions for Gaza children”, where a number of work papers were presented by specialists and academics. Dr. David Hutton, from UNRWA presented his paper entitled “MHPSS : What it means for UNRWA”, where he talked about the Gaza situation and the interventions provided by UNRWA in the Palestinian territories in the field of mental health. He also discussed the relationship between the UNRWA psychosocial interventions and other programs. Then, Ms. Enas Jouda the mental health worker at GCMHP presented a paper which focused on a topic of “The Effectiveness of Treatment Program Using Psychodrama to reduce the Symptoms of Depressive disorder among Women” where she talked about anxiety and depression symptoms, she also presented the effectiveness of some psychodrama techniques. At the end of this workshop, Dr. Bahar Hashemi, the Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist from PCRF-USA presented a paper entitled “Mental Health Interventions for children in the war areas: A case from Gaza”, where she talked about PTSD and its effect on the children’s education achievement, and she also presented the problems of five children as samples.

- (In Unity Hall), Dr. Brian Barber, A Fellow at New America and Founding Director of the Center of Political Conflict at the University of Tennessee, USA chaired an opening space session entitled “mental health interventions in areas of conflict”, through which the participants discussed some experiences and interventions provided in the field of mental health in Gaza.

**Afternoon Workshops**

- (In the Hope Hall), Dr. David Becker, Psychiatrist from Germany chaired a workshop entitled “Care for Caregivers”. Ms. Zahia Qarra Psychologist at GCMHP presented her paper entitled “Traumatic Experience, coping Strategies and its relationship with Death and Anxiety after the 2014 war” where she focused on the findings of her research studies. Then, Ms. Rawya Hamam the Director of Research and Training Department at GCMHP delivered a presentation entitled “My Experience in Clinical Supervision in the Context of Gaza Strip”, where she explained the concept of supervision and her experiences as a therapist, trainer and supervisor. Finally, Dr. Jamil Tahrawi, President of Mental Health friends Association talked about the attitudes of psychologists in Gaza towards clinical supervision.

- (In the Resilience Hall), Mr. Mohmmed El-Zeer the Psychologist and Director of Deer Al Balah Community Center in GCMHP chaired a workshop entitled “Trauma through Palestinian History”. Dr. Samir Quota Professor from Islamic University talked about a research study entitled “Trans-generational traumatization and its relations with coping: the Palestinian experience (1948-2011)”. Then, Mr. Khaleel Migdad and Mr. Ibrahim Mohmmed Al-Toom presented their paper entitled “The Impact of the Israeli Aggression on the Mental Health of Children in Gaza Strip” where they talked about the results of their study. At the end of the workshop, Mr. Nedal El Shamaly the social worker at GCMHP presented his paper entitled “Five Personality Factors among Patients with Depression Attending Gaza Community Center” through which, he highlighted the results of his study.

- (In the Unity Hall), an open space session entitled “Dr. Eyad El- Sarraj’s Legacy and role of GCMHP in the future” was chaired by Mr. Husam El-Nnounou, the Director of External Relations and Fundraising Department at GCMHP.

After the end of the afternoon workshops, the conference participants met in the closing session where Mr. Issa Al Nahal Member of GCMHP Board of Directors chaired the session stressing that the success of this conference is a big achievement for GCMHP. Then Dr. Yasser Abu Jamei Director General thanked all those who contributed in the success of this conference including participants, speakers, chairpersons and sponsors. He attributed this success to the dedication and sole of late Dr. Eyad El Sarraj. Then, Mr. Hussam Al nounou Director of External Relations and Fundraising Department at GCMHP read the conference statement. Then, Mr. Al Nahal announced closing the conference.
Headquarter:
Southern El Remal – Sheikh Ejleen – cross from Gaza Municipality Beach Club.
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Fax: +970 82641510
Email: info@gcmhp.net
Website: www.gcmhp.com

Gaza Community Mental Health Center:
Al Remal – Farah Building - Shuhada St. intersection with Al Jawazat St.
Tel. No.: +970 8 2828695- +970 8 2865949

Deir El - Balah Community Mental Health Center:
Al Basa – next to Al Salah Islamic Association
Tel. No.: +970 8 2537040 - +970 8 2531590

Khan Younis Community Mental Health Center:
Jalal St., North Al- Farra Tower, Al - Astal Building, first floor – Tel. No.: +970 8 2053977

Free Telephone Counselling line: 1800 222 333