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EQUITY IN HEALTH: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

PALESTINE AND ISRAEL: IMPACT OF 73 YEARS OF COLONIALISM, APARtheid AND Genocide

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INTRODUCTION

Occupation of Palestine was structured through a colonialist and orientalist perspective. Edward Said, in his work, emphasizes that the vision of Palestine was structured as an occupied land, the Palestinians as a barbaric population, and the East was once again inferior to the West. Resistance movements were labeled as terrorists. The counter-hegemonic vision is highly silenced, at the same time that there is a devaluation of the culture and history of these people. An apartheid regime is also installed, where Palestinian citizens are deprived of their land with their population surrounded and controlled in all aspects of daily life.

In May/2021, Israeli attacks on Palestine began once again, killing more than 250 people and leaving almost 2,000 injured in the coastal enclave of the Gaza Strip. In only 11 days, many Gazans lost their homes and livelihoods, suffering both physical and psychological injuries. Gaza’s vital infrastructure, including water and sanitation networks, health and educational facilities, were also damaged. Half of the electricity lines in Gaza didn’t work and more than a dozen medical facilities, including the central COVID-19 testing lab, were damaged. Today, the situation remains and Palestinian rights continue to be under attack.

METHODS

Narrative Review of literature Data were taken from the Humanitarian Needs Overview (2020 and 2021), as well as reports from Médecins Sans Frontières organization (MSF). Theoretical foundation was carried out through a search on Google Academic, Pubmed and Scielo platforms, in which were selected articles between 2010 and 2021, on english and portuguese.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to 2021 OCHA data, Palestine has a total population of 5.2 million people, of which, 2.45 million require some form of humanitarian assistance. Among these people, 60% have severe needs, while in 2020, there were 40%. Approximately 77% of the people with severe needs are in Gaza.

A recurrent problem is the expansion of Israeli settlements and the annexation of land to Israeli territories, which is against international law. The most recent famous episode was the occupation of the Shalil Jerah neighborhood. Majority of the people in need are related to protection and forced displacement consequences (2.1M). It is important to note that Israel controls the entry and exit of people and goods throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, which creates a shortage of supply and explain the 1.5M people who have needs related to access to essential services.

CONCLUSIONS

The Palestinians, since the occupation of their territory, has lived in an apartheid regime by a colonizing power that subjugates its inhabitants and exposes them to constant violence and loss of fundamental rights. International humanitarian aid for the 2.45 million people living in vulnerable situations will not be enough to end the inequality experienced in the region. All this is caused by the region's political context, which is increasingly dominant and segregated.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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