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LD 1351

Dear Committee Members,

On today's 'Democracy Now' episode it was reported that in March of 2025, 15 medics of the Red Crescent were killed by Israeli forces in Gaza. When this was first reported, Israeli officials claimed the ambulances were a convoy of unmarked/unlit vehicles that approached an Israeli military checkpoint. Israeli forces opened massive machine gun fire on the vehicles and their occupants (audio was recorded of the gun fire) and killed or fatally wounded the 15 health care workers. It turned out that the ambulances were clearly marked and well lit and that they had received previous Israeli clearance to be in the area.

The Israeli forces proceeded to bury the ambulances and their dead, or fatally wounded occupants in sand in a mass grave with heavy equipment, perhaps bulldozers. Video footage of the incident was discovered in a cell phone of one of the slain health care workers.

When this was revealed the Israeli officials said it was an error and that the reason the workers and their ambulance were buried in the sand in a mass grave was to prevent wild animals from getting the corpses.

This is atrocious and a gross violation of international law. It is a war crime.

If the IHRA definition of antisemitism in LD 135 is adopted, criticism and protests against such atrocious acts by the Israeli government and military could be construed and potentially prohibited as antisemitism. This would be absurd and unconstitutional. Please reject LD 135.

Thank you.