

## **Israel's Declaration of Gaza Strip as Enemy Entity will Strangulate Gaza and Lead to Catastrophe for Civilians**

Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP) is gravely concerned regarding the decision of the Israeli Security Cabinet which considers Gaza Strip as **Enemy Entity** and makes a plan to impose collective punishment against civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

According to information by media sources, the Israeli plan aims to reduce providing the Gaza Strip with electricity and Fuels to the minimum level that will be sufficient only for public sector use only. This is in addition to imposing more restrictions on the movement of goods and individuals through crossings dominated by Israeli occupation forces, and restrictions on flow of money transfer through banks.

GCMHP considers this decision as an illegal and immoral and contradicts with principles of International law and Human Rights as well as of Israel's responsibilities as an occupying state. GCMHP also views this declaration as the beginning to tighten the policy of strangulation against the Palestinian civilians and a form of collective punishment that will harm basically more than 1.5 million civilians of children, women, elderly, and unemployed workers as well as increase their sufferings.

This decision has serious mental consequences on the Palestinian people. The vast majority of the Palestinian people are suffering from symptoms of anxiety, depression, despair and hopelessness as a result of Israeli occupation practices of siege, and poverty.

We, at Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, warn against the serious consequences resulted from this decision and implementation of Israeli government plan. We assert that humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip will deteriorate severely to a genuine humanitarian catastrophe.

Gaza Community Mental Health Programme calls upon the international community and human rights groups all over the world to intervene immediately to pressure Israeli government in order to stop its plan for strangulating the Gaza Strip. Such reality, if happened, will increase the humanitarian suffering and will lead to more political and security instability in the region and the whole world.

**Gaza Community Mental Health Programme**