

2016-12-22

Fråga-svar

Syrien. Sjukhus i IS-kontrollerade områden och regeringsstöd till sjukhus i oppositionellt kontrollerade områden

Fråga

Är det möjligt att sjukhus i ett område som kontrolleras av IS drivs av eller med hjälp från biståndsorganisationer som t.ex. FN eller Röda korset/halvmånen?

Är det möjligt att regimen bistår sjukhus i oppositionella områden med t.ex. medicin, utrustning, löner till anställda? Det aktuella sjukhuset är Al Bab Hospital i Al Bab, Aleppo.

Svar

Sjukhus i IS-kontrollerade områden

Migrationsverket, Lifos (2015-08-03):

Problem för sjukvårdspersonal i områden kontrollerade av den s.k. Islamiska Staten (IS) är sannolikt underdokumenterade. På grund av bristen på tillträde och insyn – liksom en utbredd rädsla bland befolkningen – är rapporteringen från IS-kontrollerade områden sparsam. De uppgifter som finns tyder emellertid på att gruppen vill underställa sjukvården sin kontroll och styra den utifrån sina prioriteringar. Utifrån den allmänna kunskapen om gruppens intolerans och brutalitet kan det naturligtvis antas att det finns en tydlig hotbild mot sjukvårdspersonal som hävdar principen om opartisk vård. (s. 8)

Baskaran, Archit (2015-11-01):

Daesh fighters have, to date, been attacking numerous civilian hospitals and foreign health providers serving with organizations such as Doctors without Borders, abducting and killing patients, doctors, nurses and international health aid workers, etc.

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The potential short-term solutions to mass health catastrophe for most wars would be the obvious provision of healthcare by international agencies and relief organizations. This is not feasible with Daesh. Not only has Daesh refused to negotiate with international third parties to allow for foreign medical aid delivery, but they have also obstructed the importation of medicine for hundreds of thousands people, for example, in the Al-Hasakah governorate.

PBS Frontline (2014-02-11):

Officials of three Syrian medical associations said ISIS had stormed a number of hospitals in past months, seizing or assassinating patients and abducting medical personnel. Its drive against hospitals has led to an exodus of doctors from Syria, adding to an already severely strained health care system.

One official of a Syrian relief organization that operates in the country and claims to be neutral in the conflict said his group had suffered from both the government and ISIS.

Norwegian Refugee Council/Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2014-10-21):

In areas under the effective control of ISIL and Al Nusrah Front their attacks on international humanitarian workers have prevented the delivery of humanitarian access (RT, September 2014; Syria Deeply, September 2014). (s. 15)

FN

Reuters (2015-03-13):

Other U.N. agencies say they are struggling to get vital aid to millions of civilians in territory held by the fighters - but Islamic State is refusing to talk to them.

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Jens Laerke, spokesman for the U.N. humanitarian agency OCHA, said talks on humanitarian access were going on with other armed groups but "ISIL does not want to speak to the humanitarian agencies more than the other way around".

Laerke konstaterar vidare att OCHA främst skapar kontakt med IS och andra väpnade grupper på lokal nivå. En representant från World Health

Organization uppger att det är problematiskt att leverera sjukvård till civila i Syrien och att situationen i IS-kontrollerade områden är svår. WHO förhandlar inte direkt med IS organisation men andra kanaler för att få tillträde till IS-kontrollerade områden utforskas (Reuters, 2015-03-13).

UN News Service (2016-01-19):

"If you are talking about Deir al-Zour for example, where we have the city under-siege by the Islamic State group, ISIL, we are extremely concerned about the plight of some 200,000 people in the western part of the town," [OCHA spokesperson Jens Laerke] warned. "We do not have unhindered access to the place."

Läkare utan gränser

Médecins Sans Frontières (2015-03-11):

By 2013, we were running six hospitals in opposition-held areas, providing thousands of consultations, deliveries, and surgical interventions. Negotiations with the numerous armed groups, while challenging, allowed us to send international medical teams to work side-by-side with Syrian colleagues. We had to repeatedly negotiate agreements with different local commanders to ensure respect for our presence, for the safety of our teams, and for non-interference with our medical activities. The groups changed frequently, and we renegotiated agreements with commanders from Jeish el Mujahideen, Islamic Front, Jahbat Al Nusra, different factions of the Free Syrian Army, and ISIS (later renamed Islamic State - IS), among others.

However, we were never able to provide direct assistance to the majority of the Syrian people caught up in the heart of the conflict. Violence and insecurity, attacks on health facilities and medical workers, and the absence of government authorization to work in Syria have been some of the main obstacles to extending medical activities. Yet, however unsatisfied we were with our limitations, we were still doing more than what we can do today.

In mid-2013, when fighters with ISIS (renamed Islamic State in 2014) arrived in areas where MSF had been running most of its hospitals, agreements were reached with their commanders that they would not interfere with the medical management of the hospitals and that MSF medical structures and staff would be respected. However, on January 2, 2014, ISIS abducted 13 MSF staff members. Among them were eight Syrian colleagues who were released after a few hours. The remaining five international staff members were held captive for up to five months. The abduction precipitated the withdrawal of our international teams and the closure of MSF health facilities in ISIS-held areas.

Médecins Sans Frontières uppger vidare att lokala ledare för IS har begärt att MSF återupptar sin verksamhet i IS-kontrollerade områden. Detta har inte accepterats av MSF på grund av den tidigare brutna överenskommelsen och attackerna på MSF:s personal. De garantier som MSF krävt från IS ledarskap, att dess personal och patienter inte ska komma till skada, har inte getts (Médecins Sans Frontières, 2015-03-11).

Médecins Sans Frontières Spain (2015-03):

Negotiated access with IS and JN in Aleppo was difficult and mined with mistrust between September 2013 and early 2014, with discussions marked by growing intolerance and suspicion towards foreigners, while a campaign of kidnappings against foreigners escalated. Moreover, numerous local journalists and aid workers, including medical staff, faced detentions, torture and executions during the withdrawal of IS to Ar-Raqqa city (160 km east of Aleppo).

On 2 January 2014, thirteen colleagues from MSF Bernas hospital were abducted by IS militants from their project base in the province of Latakia. National staff members were released the same day and, after months of negotiations, three international staff members were released in April, while the remaining two were released in May. This incident constituted the main turning point for MSF with severe consequences on the medical mission. Not only did it force MSF to close four hospitals and health centres in Al-Raqqa, Idlib, Aleppo and Latakia, it also meant a de facto end of almost all international staff presence in Syria with a shift to management with Syrian personnel only. MSF decided in August 2014 to end all visits of international staff inside Syria so long as the context remained unchanged and security guarantees offered by the armed groups remained unreliable. Meanwhile, negotiation attempts with IS have to date been unsuccessful. (s. 25-26)

Röda korset/Röda halvmånen

PBS Frontline (2014-02-11):

ISIS also has targeted humanitarian aid workers. Six employees of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross and one employee of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent were abducted in northern Syria in October, and three of the seven are still being held. The action has frozen ICRC movements into northern Syria, and other aid agencies have largely followed suit.

Zaman Al Wasl/Reuters (2015-03-13):

The Red Cross has only sporadic access to areas of Iraq and Syria held by Islamic State, despite huge needs of 10 million people living under their control, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross said on Friday.

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The ICRC has access to "some places" in Syria held by Islamic State, Maurer said, citing its water and sanitation repairs in Raqqa, the northern Syrian province.

"It is a very complex environment, it's not a situation on which we can rely on unified chains of command which would immediately give us assurances on security and safety to move in those difficult circumstances," he said.

Deutsche Welle (2015-12-06):

The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the organization was seeking permission from "Islamic State" (IS) to provide humanitarian aid in the huge swathe of territory controlled by the terrorist group.

Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy (2016-10-16):

Francois Stamm, the head of the ICRC's regional delegation in Washington, spoke of the organization's difficulties in engaging with armed militant groups like ISIS and Boko Haram. So far, the ICRC has been unable to establish contact and find common ground with these groups, particularly in the medical field.

Reuters (2016-10-18):

[The ICRC] had not yet managed to establish dialogue with Islamic State, also known as ISIL, on the "basic rules of war".

Regeringsbistånd till sjukhus i oppositionskontrollerade områden

Migrationsverket, Lifos (2015-08-03):

I områden utanför regimen kontroll har de ordinarie sjukhusen attackerats och slutat fungera. Därmed har alltså ett improviserat, parallellt system av informella fältsjukhus uppstått i alltifrån kyrkor, källarlokalerna och vardagsrum. Denna sjukvård är underjordisk och tolereras inte av regimen, som ser den som direkt stöd till terrorister – en uppfattning som ges juridiskt stöd i tidigare nämnda antiterrorlagar. (s. 7-8)

Norwegian Refugee Council/Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2014-10-21):

The Syrian authorities not only prevented UN humanitarian agencies from distributing relief in opposition-held zones from neighbouring countries, but they also did not allow SARC to conduct cross-line assistance, invoking the principle of national sovereignty (HRW, June 2013; Al Jazeera, July 2014, ODI April 2014).

UN Human Rights Council (2015-02-05):

The demise of impartiality has been one of the defining characteristics of this conflict. Across the Syrian Arab Republic, government forces have refused to allow deliveries of essential medicines and surgical supplies. As an immediate consequence, field hospitals lack basic necessities and can offer only rudimentary medical treatment. In continuing a policy of denying medical care on the grounds that it may be used to treat injured combatants, government authorities act in direct breach of binding international humanitarian law obligations to ensure that wounded and sick persons are collected and cared for, and to ensure the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief. (s. 12)

Human Rights Watch (2016-05-23):

During the few times Syrian government security forces approved aid convoys to opposition-controlled areas, they often prohibit the inclusion of medical aid. In April, OCHA reported that local security forces did not approve the inclusion of surgical kits and intravenous fluids on a convoy to eastern Aleppo city, depriving 33,115 people of these vital medical treatments. Even when OCHA obtains prior approval from the Syrian government for delivery of medical supplies, security forces often strip humanitarian convoys of lifesaving aid. In May, OCHA reported that medical and surgical supplies were removed from four aid convoys to Homs, Aleppo, and Rif Dimashq governorates, depriving 78,902 people of critical medical treatment. (s. 38)

Amnesty International (2016-02-24):

Government forces continued to target health facilities and medical workers in areas controlled by armed opposition groups. They repeatedly bombed hospitals and other medical facilities, barred or restricted the inclusion of medical supplies in humanitarian aid deliveries to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, and disrupted or prevented health care provision in these areas by detaining medical workers and volunteers. The NGO Physicians for Human Rights accused government forces of systematically attacking the health care system in areas controlled by armed opposition groups and of responsibility for the deaths of the vast majority of the 697 medical workers killed in Syria between April 2011 and November 2015.

UN Human Rights Council (2014-02-12):

Hospitals in Aleppo city and Al Bab came under sustained shelling and aerial bombardments. In July 2013, Jaban hospital in Aleppo city was destroyed. On 11 September, a jet fired a missile at Al Bab field hospital, killing 15 people, including a doctor, four paramedics and eight patients, and injuring many others. The hospital had moved its location three times owing to shelling attacks.

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Government forces blocked medical supplies and equipment from besieged areas. People seeking medical treatment have been arrested or turned back at checkpoints.(s. 17)

UN Human Rights Council (2016-08-11):

Perhaps nowhere has the government assault on medical care been felt more strongly than in the opposition-controlled areas of Aleppo city and governorate, where at least 20 hospitals and clinics have reportedly been destroyed since January. Many of those attacks have caused the death of medical personnel and first responders. (s. 8)

Denna sammanställning av information/länkar är baserad på informationssökningar gjorda under en begränsad tid. Den är sammanställd utifrån noggrant utvalda och allmänt tillgängliga informationskällor. Alla använda källor refereras. All information som presenteras, med undantag av obestridda/uppenbara fakta, har dubbelkontrollerats om inget annat anges. Sammanställningen gör inte anspråk på att vara uttömmande och bör inte tillmätas exklusivt bevisvärde i samband med avgörandet av ett enskilt ärende. Informationen i sammanställningen återspeglar inte nödvändigtvis Migrationsverkets officiella ståndpunkt i en viss fråga och det finns ingen avsikt att genom sammanställningen göra politiska ställningstaganden. Refererade dokument bör läsas i sitt sammanhang.

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