Tales to tell

Thursday 15/01/08

Short texts & updates from the blogger

The army at the door... Posted January 15, 2009 by talestotell

9:45 am GMT/11:45 Gaza time: Families from neighbouring buildings trying to run to safety to hospital from fire & gunfire. Most staff wearing masks due to fear of phosphorous gas attack.

9:04 am GMT/11:04 Gaza time: fire out window 10 yards from babies in incubators, putting out fire with pots and pans as hose does not reach.

8:51 am GMT/10:51 Gaza time: a rocket hit the back of the hospital, where

there are only houses. A fire has started. Doctors are running to put it out. A second rocket hit the same point. Doctors are running back to care for their patients & away from the rockets.

7:26 am GMT/9:26 Gaza time:

Al-Quds hospital now has army outside, snipers next door, 50 hits near us during the night and 4 hits to us. Fire in apartments behind. Wounded kids near who we can't collect though would like to ask if I can help with this. Taken from the Tales to Tell blog, read more at: talestotell.wordpress.com

Sniper shots to Jabalia ambulance



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Shot fired at ambulance

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Osama from the Jabalia medics appeared briefly yesterday at Al Quds, with an ambulance with bullet holes in. It had been shot at by an Israeli sniper apparently on Friday between 1.30 and 2pm, and had to turn back without reaching its callout. Five shots were fired, Osama said.

"Please take care of yourselves," I said to him. "If we die, it's ok." he said. "What will be left? I think no-one will help us."

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Evacuation attempts

During Monday there were some more evacuation attempts; it sounds like the one EB was on got about 50 people out of 3-4 houses, but they think there are many left.

The ambulance S was on didn't have any luck, the road was completely barricaded and they weren't allowed to leave their vehicles, so they shouted from where they were but weren't able to make contact with anyone, though they'd been getting emergency calls from the area. S came back startled by how close the army was. It's supposed to be his night off (between two 24 hours shifts) but he now doesn't want to leave the hospital, so he's just keeping on going.

Just now (a little after midnight, into the 13th now) two of the medics have made another coordination with Israel via the Red Cross to go into an occupied area to fetch a woman in labour. This *might* mean they're allowed to reach her and *might* mean they're not shot at while they try, but neither is guaranteed.

Red Crescent and Red Cross have to ask for permission to respond to emergency calls from the Israeli army – 80% of the time the army don't reply or say no. That's 80% of calls not responded to

And remember that 50% of Gazans are under 18 – most of the people here are children

Taken from the Tales to Tell blog, read more at: talestotell.wordpress.com

The Gaza strip is about the length of Seaford to Worthing, and as wide as to the A27. So it's like being shelled, rocketed and bombed from the downs and the sea, with 4 times th population, only 35 respirators, and now the hospitals are being bombed

I appeal to you as medics, NHS staff, ambulance drivers, doctors, nurses, to show your solidarity with the hospitals of Gaza being attacked now – Al-Quds is the main hospital in Gaza City and it is under attack now

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