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## **MERCY Malaysia Statement in Support of UN Secretary-General António Guterres's Call for a Humanitarian Corridor to Gaza**

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Kuala Lumpur, 13 October 2023 – MERCY Malaysia stands firmly in support of the UN Secretary-General's demand to establish a humanitarian corridor to help civilians in the Gaza Strip as Israel ratcheted up military strikes. This appeal is rooted in the dire and worsening situation in Gaza, where the lives of countless innocent civilians are at risk due to the critical depletion of essential supplies. Our shared humanity compels us to act swiftly and decisively to address this crisis.

Gaza, a place already grappling with long-standing challenges, is now teetering on the brink of catastrophe. The current humanitarian situation is deeply distressing, with the people of Gaza facing dire shortages of necessities. Civilians including women, children, and the elderly, are enduring unimaginable hardships, and their lives are in jeopardy. We cannot turn a blind eye to their plight.

Dr. Ahmad Faizal Perdaus, President of MERCY Malaysia, underscores the urgency of this situation, stating, "The world is witnessing a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions in Gaza. The people of Gaza are not only running out of food, water, and electricity, but they are also on the verge of losing access to life-saving medical supplies and essential services. The need for a humanitarian corridor to provide aid into Gaza has never been more pressing."

MERCY Malaysia fully supports the UN's call for the immediate establishment of a humanitarian corridor into Gaza to ensure the unimpeded flow of essential humanitarian assistance. This corridor must be protected, respected, and accessible to all organizations and agencies engaged in humanitarian relief efforts. It is imperative that humanitarian actors, including our own teams, can operate freely and safely to deliver assistance where it is needed most.

The establishment of a humanitarian corridor into Gaza is not a matter of politics or borders. It is a matter of humanity. It is a matter of saving lives and alleviating suffering. The dire situation in Gaza demands an immediate response. The humanitarian corridor must facilitate the delivery of vital supplies, such as food, clean water, medical equipment, and fuel, to ensure that the people of Gaza can meet their basic needs and access life-saving services.

MERCY Malaysia stands ready to collaborate with all partners and agencies in this endeavor, committed to alleviating the suffering of the people of Gaza. We urge the international community to stand with us and take swift, decisive action in response to this humanitarian crisis. The time for action is now, as further delay could lead to even more devastating consequences.

In closing, the President of MERCY Malaysia affirms, "We cannot ignore the cries for help coming from Gaza and must act swiftly and decisively, fulfilling our collective duty to protect and assist those in desperate need. This unabated bloodshed and targeting of civilians must end."

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