

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2014

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EMERGENCY MEDICINE DOCTOR **MADS GILBERT** TO SPEAK ABOUT GAZA UNDER SIEGE AT CONFERENCE ON JUSTICE AND HOPE FOR PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS

PORTLAND, OR . . Dr Mads Gilbert, specialist in disaster and emergency medicine, will speak about his work and the current situation in Gaza City's Al Shifa Hospital on Friday, April 4th and Saturday, April 5th at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St.

Dr Gilbert's lectures will be presented at the **SEEDS OF JUSTICE AND HOPE FOR PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS: WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US** conference hosted by the Portland action group of Friends of Sabeel North America. Sabeel is an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians.

In addition to his research and medical practice at the University Hospital of North Norway, Dr Gilbert co founded NORWAC, a Norwegian Palestinian aid organization. Since 1981, he has directed and participated in many international medical missions in conflict and war zones in Palestine, the Palestinian diaspora, Asia and Africa. Most recently he served at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City during the Israeli military attack Pillar of Defense from Nov 14 21, 2012. Gilbert is a specialist in anesthesiology and a leader of the emergency medicine department of University Hospital of North Norway, and has been a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Tromsø since 1995.

Dr Gilbert is the co author, with his colleague Erik Fosse, of *Eyes in Gaza*, a harrowing account of their experiences in Al Shifa Hospital during Israel's deadly assault on Gaza in December 2008 January 2009. For a time, they were not just the only western doctors in Gaza, but among the handful of western witnesses to Operation Cast Lead. Dr Gilbert's searing testimonies were broadcast worldwide on ABC, BBC, CBS, CNN and more.

*They bombed the central vegetable market in Gaza city two hours ago. 80 injured, 20 killed. All came here to Shifa. Hades! We wade in death, blood and amputees. Many children. Pregnant woman. I have never experienced anything this horrible. Now we hear tanks. Tell it, pass it on, shout it. Anything. DO SOMETHING! DO MORE! We're living in the history books now, all of us!*

Dr. Gilbert is also noted for his accomplishments in treating hypothermia. According to Wikipedia, following a skiing accident in January 2000 Anna Bågenholm was trapped for more than an hour in icy waters, head under water, and was pronounced clinically dead, but survived after the efforts of Gilbert and his team. Her body temperature was 13.7°C, which represented the lowest survived body temperature recorded. Gilbert was awarded Årets Nordlending 2000 ("Northern Norwegian of the year, 2000", by the readership of the Tromsø newspaper Nordlys. Gilbert's breakthrough in treating extreme hypothermia has been chronicled in Cheating death : the doctors and medical miracles that are saving lives against all odds by Sanjay Gupta, as well as being featured in CNN's television program Another Day: Cheating Death.

In 2013, Gilbert was made a commander of the Norwegian Order of St. Olav for his overall contributions to emergency medicine.

On Tuesday, April 1st, Dr. Gilbert will be a keynote speaker at a special preconference event at the University of Washington's Western Regional International Health Conference.

Information about speakers and tickets to the conference to be held April 4 and 5 may be purchased at [http://sabeel\\_pdx.brownpapertickets.com/](http://sabeel_pdx.brownpapertickets.com/)

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Advance interviews with Mads Gilbert and other speakers on Israel Palestine issues may be arranged by contacting:

[sabeel.pdx.2014@midwestpeace.net](mailto:sabeel.pdx.2014@midwestpeace.net)

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