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Dubai Cares

Chaine De L'Espoir and Dubai Cares joint medical mission call upon the EU to intercede on behalf of humanitarian organizations

Mission includes specialized surgical team to treat child trauma

Paris, France, January 12th, 2009 [ME NewsWire]: A joint Dubai Cares and La Chaine de L'Espoir mission is en route to the Gaza Strip, where a specialized surgical and medical team will treat children wounded in the ongoing war. The 4-member medical team headed by Dr. Eric Cheysson, Vascular Surgeon and Vice President of La Chaine de L'Espoir is still waiting for the Israeli authority permission to cross to Gaza.

More than 890 people have been killed and more than 3700 injured in the fighting in Gaza, one of the most densely populated places in the world. According to the latest UN estimates, Palestinian children, who are dying at a heavy rate in this war, account for approximately one out of every three persons killed.

The mission follows an assessment of the needs of the civilian population in Gaza and a survey of local hospitals, which are struggling to cope with the high number of casualties amid limited specialized staff and diminishing levels of medical supplies.

Dr. Eric Cheysson, said: "Over the past three days we have made repeated requests to the Israeli government for safe passage into the Gaza strip. Until now all of our requests have been denied. Evidently there is a humanitarian crisis in Gaza which requires immediate assistance. We call upon the EU to intercede on behalf of humanitarian organizations to step up the pressure on the government of Israel to recognize the need for urgent relief and safe passage to humanitarian workers and aid. We have come here with a clear mandate and we will not leave until our mandate is fulfilled"

The joint Dubai Cares-La Chaine de L'Espoir mission will provide specialized medical services not currently available in Gaza to perform life- and limb-saving operations on injured children. In the absence of these specialized surgeons, treatable limb injuries can result in amputations.

About La Chaine de l'Espoir:

La Chaine de l'Espoir is a non-profit association engaged in facilitating access to medical care for the poorest children in developing countries. The association puts together high-level medical teams through its important network of French and best international specialists, surgeons, professional doctors and hospitals.

About Dubai Cares:

Dubai Cares is the world's largest charitable establishment solely devoted to improving primary education for underprivileged children. Its emergency interventions - which to date include interventions in Chad, Myanmar and Ethiopia - stems from its philosophy that guaranteeing the continuity of children's education is as important as ensuring their physical well being.