

# ELCA Peace Not Walls

## Update on Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH)



**Did you know the Lutheran World Federation operates a hospital in East Jerusalem?**

**Your advocacy is crucial to encourage the U.S. government to support AVH by helping to cover its cancer treatment costs for Palestinian patients from the West Bank and Gaza.**

- Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) is the first and only hospital to provide radiation therapy for cancer patients in the Palestinian territories and the only medical facility in the West Bank offering pediatric kidney dialysis.
- AVH faces ongoing cash flow problems as a result of the inability of the Palestinian Authority (PA) to pay on a regular basis the fees for cancer patients it refers to the hospital.
- AVH has received vital support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in recent years (nearly \$57.42 million in cancer-related machines, lab equipment and training) that has raised the level of cancer treatment available through AVH for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

### **President Biden visited AVH July 15, 2022:**

The visit was part of a two-day presidential visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories. President Biden's visit to the hospital is the first visit of a sitting US president to East Jerusalem. The US President announced a USD 100 million multi-year commitment toward the East Jerusalem Hospital Network (EJHN), of which AVH is a member.

The President in his address emphasized the United States will continue to work with Palestinian leaders, the Israeli government and international partners to ensure that the EJHN remains "sustainable, available, and is able to provide the high-quality care" that Palestinians deserve.

Palestinians and Israelis, he noted, "deserve equal measure of freedom, security, prosperity and dignity, and access to health care when you need it, is essential to living a life of dignity for all of us."

### **Take action:**

- Contact Congress: <https://blogs.elca.org/peacenotwalls/avhaction/>
- Sign up to receive action alerts from Peace Not Walls (select "Middle East Network") on the signup form: [www.elca.org/advocacy/signup](http://www.elca.org/advocacy/signup)
- When traveling to the Holy Land, schedule a visit to the hospital: contact LWF Rep Sieglinde Weinbrenner [sieglinde.weinbrenner@lutheranworld.org](mailto:sieglinde.weinbrenner@lutheranworld.org)