

Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health and Human Rights

May 30, 2002 Washington DC.

I would like to thank the Jonathan Mann Human Rights Award Committee for this award, in my name and on behalf of all of the people in PHR. Your recognition of our efforts means so much to us, and the encouragement carried by this award gives us strength to go on doing our work.

PHR has succeeded in forming a solid organization which keeps growing along the last 14 years. Our group has a clear understanding that medicine and human rights are inseparable. We therefore struggle for equal health care for all, as a part of our agenda for social and human rights.

PHR has created connections—personal, professional and political—between three groups: Israeli Jews, Israeli Palestinians, and Palestinians from Palestine. In the present context this achievement is special and indeed extraordinary. These wonderful relationships could be formed because the moral and conceptual premise and goals of our activities are solidarity and respect.

The responses we get in Israel are sometimes positive and encouraging. But our work has also aroused much opposition. In the last year and a half, Israeli society has undergone a significant regression as regard to human rights and to tolerance toward others. The kind of personally-directed violence, in the form of death threats I've received lately, is something I hadn't heard before. In this situation our work especially needed and particularly important.

There is still so much to do, and unfortunately, as of now we still aren't seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. We are very grateful that you chose us to receive the Jonathan Mann Human Rights Award. Your faith in us and your support, expressed in this award, help us continue our struggle in these difficult times.