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Global Nursing Caucus Calls for Justice for Bulgarian Nurses, Palestinian Doctor and Libyan Children

Yokohama, Japan; Geneva, Switzerland, 29 May 2007 - Nurses from more than 80 countries represented at the global conference of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) called for a just, fair and expeditious treatment of the five Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian physician charged by Libyan authorities for allegedly infecting Libyan children with HIV. The ICN's Council of National Representatives (CNR) called for the death sentence to be quashed in view of the science and evidence which points clearly to the fact that the children were infected well before the medical workers arrived at Benghazi hospital.

"We strongly urge all parties to reach a mutually agreeable resolution that will bring justice for the imprisoned health professionals, address the pain of the families and ensure continued resources for the treatment of the surviving children," stated Dr Hiroko Minami, President of ICN. "As nurses, we call also for attention to the importance of stringent practices in infection control, so as to prevent any further hospital acquired infections."

ICN urges its member organizations, individual nurses, health and human rights organizations and governments to lend their voice and influence to the effort to ensure justice for the children and the health professionals.

Editor's note

The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** is a federation of 129 national nurses' associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses for nurses since 1899, ICN is the international voice of nursing and works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

The **Council of Representatives (CNR)** is the governing body of the International Council of Nurses, composed of the official representatives of ICN member National Nurses Associations.

For further information contact Linda Carrier-Walker
Tel: +41 22 908 0100 - Fax: +41 22 908 0101
Email: carrwalk@icn.ch - web site www.icn.ch

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