

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

WHILE IT IS customary to save an acknowledgment for one's partner until the end, I part with convention because my wife, Margaret Lorber, supported me in writing this book from beginning to end. She was my constant adviser, a tough editor of every draft—gentle in her incisive critiques—and cheerleader throughout. This book would not have been possible without her wisdom and love.

My great thanks go to the hundreds of health workers and humanitarians who have shared their experience of working in war and political conflict over the past two decades despite knowing that doing so was not likely to offer them greater security. I am awed by their dedication to the people they serve. Four of them, Khassan Baiev, Markus Geisser, Luan Jaha, and Şebnem Fincancı, who I had known as many as twenty years ago, agreed to speak to me again as I was writing this book, offering even more detail about their lives and thoughtfully reflecting on their experiences. I am also grateful to my many colleagues and former colleagues at Physicians for Human Rights and Johns Hopkins who participated in human rights investigations and research projects described here, and to the students whose energy and indefatigable work contributed so much to them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I especially thank the extraordinary research help from my former student and dedicated nurse Sarah Woznick, who conducted interviews in the Central African Republic and shared her knowledge from many years of working in conflict-affected countries for MSF. I also appreciated the willingness of Michael Barnett, Rohini Haar, and Trevor Keck to read through an entire draft, and their graciousness in pointing out errors, offering suggestions for improvement, and encouraging me to keep at it.

Others who had detailed knowledge of a country or topic took the time to fill in gaps, track down an elusive fact, correct mistakes, or provide new insights about a chapter. They included Abudar Alganadi, Tayseer Alkarim, Francois Bellon, Lt. Col. Daniel Beaudoin (retired), Alexander Breitegger, Bill Davis, Will Cragin, Matt DeCamp, Mohammad Darwish, Anne Decobert, Nancy Ebb, Colette Gadenne, Tom Geoghegan, Vince Iacopino, Ashley Jackson, Khalil Fahim, Mohamad Katoub, Larry Lewis, Gen. Louis Lillywhite (retired), Rob Malley, Luke Mogelson, Racha Mouawieh, Nuriya Oswald, Stephen Pomper, Diana Rayes, Paul Spiegel, Zaher Sahloul, Rohan Talbot, Sandrine Tiller, and Paul Wise.

I am indebted to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has strict rules regarding outsiders who wish to tell the stories of their work, for permitting me to tell the story of Markus Geisser in Afghanistan. Sebastien Carliez, Mary Werntz, Maciej Polkowski, Juan-Pedro Schaerer, Reto Stocker, Jerome Meyer, and Fiona Terry all kindly reviewed the chapter for accuracy and to ensure that I didn't inadvertently reveal confidences. I thank Médecins Sans Frontières for its willingness to permit interviews with its staff in the Central African Republic.

My work on this problem began when I was executive director of Physicians for Human Rights. There I was mentored by its founders, board members, and activists, who were pioneers in the field of human rights, revealing abuses against health care in war when no one was paying much attention. They include Charlie Clements, Jim Cobey, Carola Eisenberg, H. Jack Geiger, Bob Lawrence, Jennifer Leaning, and Ron Waldman. Susanah Sirkin, my longtime colleague on the staff at PHR, is not only an indefatigable human rights defender but a good friend who always has reminded me why we were doing this work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many other colleagues helped shape my understanding of the issues over the years and provided insights that I absorbed so thoroughly that I often don't remember from whom I gained them. They include Elizabeth Adams, Joe Amon, Carol Bales, Karl Blanchet, Alexandra Boivin, Rudi Coninx, Larissa Fast, Norbert Goldfield, Maria Guevara, Amy Hagopian, Samer Jabbour, Ambassador Jimmy Kolker, Joanne Liu, Diederik Lohman, Maurice Middleburg, Jason Mills, Steve Morrison, Roisin Read, Hazem Rihawi, Stephanie Rinaldi, Les Roberts, Annie Sparrow, Bertrand Taithe, Ahmad Tarakji, Adriaan van Es, and Christina Wille. I am fortunate to work with wonderful colleagues (and former colleagues) at the Center for Public Health and Human Rights, and the Center for Humanitarian Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: Stef Baral, Chris Beyrer, Gilbert Burnham, Michele Decker, Courtland Robinson, Sheree Schwartz, Sonal Singh, Mija Ververs, and Andrea Wirtz tolerated my obsession with the subject and taught me a lot. I am grateful, too, to Mohammad Darwish, Sandra Hsu Hnin Mon, and Natalya Kostandova for their translations.

Thanks, too, to Donna McKay, executive director of Physicians for Human Rights, for permission to use copyrighted material from its reports and releases, including *Endless Brutality: War Crimes in Chechnya*, copyright © 2001 Physicians for Human Rights, *Perilous Medicine, The Legacy of Conflict on Health in Kosovo*, copyright © 2009 Physicians for Human Rights and "Raqqqa Offensive Has Destroyed the City's Health Care System," copyright © 2017, Physicians for Human Rights. I also appreciate permission to use the following copyrighted material: "Check-points," *Boston Review*, copyright © 2012 Oded Na'aman; "On the Frontlines of Eastern Burma's Chronic Conflict: Listening to the Voices of Local Health Workers," *Social Science and Medicine*, copyright © 2014 Elsevier; "Providing Health Care Under ISIS: A Qualitative Analysis of Healthcare Workers Experiences in Mosul, Iraq Between June 2014 and June 2017," *Global Public Health* copyright © 2019 Taylor and Francis 2019. Some of the interviews discussed in this book were originally conducted in connection with research I carried out at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I thank the school's Institutional

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Review Board for permitting me to use portions of the interviews for this book.

Many people provided financial support for the research for this book. I am especially grateful for the generosity of Kathy and Ed Ludwig, Conrad Fischer, and Kelly Kellogg for their major significant support for the research for this book. I deeply appreciate the support I received from Nan Aron and Bernie Arons, Fred Baurer and Sharon Pollack, Andrea Capachietti, Greg Carr, Marshall Dinowitz, Nancy Ebb and Gary Ford, Claire Engers and David Silberman, Irene Frary, Norbert Goldfield, Elaine and Dave Leaverton, and Thalassa Scholl.

Finally, I cannot sufficiently convey my gratitude to journalist, writer, and friend Marianne Szegedy-Maszak, who encouraged me to write the book, guided me in figuring out how to structure it and convey its stories, and edited multiple drafts. Caelyn Cobb, my editor at Columbia University Press, was willing to take a chance on the book and bring it to the finish line.