

URGENT ACTION

RELEASE PALESTINIAN SURGEON DR. KHALED AI SERR

On March 25, 2024, the Israeli military detained Palestinian surgeon, Khaled Al Serr, along with other medical staff, from Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis in the occupied Gaza Strip. Until July 4, 2024, his fate and whereabouts remained unknown. He is held in Ofer military prison in the occupied West Bank without charges or trial under the abusive Unlawful Combatants Law. Dr. Khaled Al Serr reported that he has been tortured, humiliated, and denied access to adequate medical care. Israeli authorities must immediately release Dr. Khaled Al Serr and, pending his release, must ensure that he receives adequate medical treatment, is treated humanely, and protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Second Urgent Action 53.24**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Brig. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi

Military Advocate General

Israel Defence Forces

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CC: Israeli Embassy in the United States

Ambassador Michael Herzog

3514 International Drive, NW,

Washington DC 20008

Email: consular@washington.mfa.gov.il

Twitter/X: <https://x.com/IsraelinUSA> or

<https://x.com/AmbHerzog>

Dear Brig. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi,

I am writing to urge you to order the immediate release of Palestinian surgeon, **Khaled Al Serr**, who is currently held in Ofer military prison in the occupied West Bank without charges or trial.

Dr. Khaled Al Serr, 32, was detained by the Israeli military, with several other medical staff, on March 25, 2024, following a raid on Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis south of the occupied Gaza Strip. For over three months, his whereabouts remained unknown, and he was held in conditions that amount to enforced disappearance. On July 4, 2024, his whereabouts were disclosed by the Israeli military. On July 23, 2024, he was allowed his first – and so far, only – visit by his lawyer.

In the testimony he gave to his lawyer, Dr. Khaled Al Serr said that since the first day of his detention, he was subjected to various forms of torture and humiliation. As a result, he sustained injuries to his chest and ribs. He suffers from constant abdominal pain and nausea. Despite repeated pleas for medical treatment, he was denied access to adequate medical care by the Israeli military and Israel Prison Service. In addition to being tortured himself, Dr. Khaled Al Serr reported witnessing the torture, including sexual violence, against other detainees.

Therefore, I urge you to secure the release of Dr. Khaled Al Serr and all other Palestinians, including health workers, arbitrarily detained by Israel. Pending his release, ensure that he receives adequate and timely medical care and access to all the medication he requires and ensure he is protected from torture and other ill treatment. Dr. Khaled Al Serr's account of torture and other ill-treatment must also be impartially and independently investigated.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On March 25, 2024, **Dr. Khaled Al Serr**, a 32-year-old Palestinian surgeon from the occupied Gaza Strip, was detained by the Israeli military from Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, along with other health workers. For over three months, his family tried to locate him but only on July 4, 2024, were his whereabouts disclosed following a request submitted by the Israeli human rights organization, Hamoked. Dr. Khaled Al Serr is currently held in Ofer military prison in the occupied West Bank without charges or trial under the abusive Israeli law on 'Unlawful Combatants'. His detention order was confirmed by a judge in a remote court hearing held over the phone in the absence of a defense counsel and based on information that was not disclosed to Dr. Khaled Al Serr. On July 23, 2024, Dr. Khaled Al Serr received his first – and so far, only - legal counsel visit.

In the testimony he gave to his lawyer, Dr. Khaled Al Serr said that since the first day of his detention, he was subjected to various forms of torture as well as humiliation, including beating and physical assault, nonstop cursing, kicking all over his body, including with rifle butts on the chest, back, and face. Additionally, authorities repeatedly denied him access to adequate healthcare. He added that on the day of his detention from Nasser hospital, he was forced to stay completely naked for hours. Dr. Khaled Al Serr and other detainees were held in a civilian house inside Gaza for the first five days of detention, during which soldiers regularly abused him. He was then transferred to Sde Teiman, where he was only interrogated once. In addition to being tortured himself, Dr. Khaled Al Serr reported witnessing the torture, including sexual violence, against other detainees.

Following the Hamas-led attacks on October 7, 2023, Israeli authorities invoked the Unlawful Combatants Law for the first time in five years, initially to hold alleged participants in the October 7 attacks, and later to hold thousands arrested during ground operations in Gaza. Many of those arrested were civilians and included health workers, human rights defenders, journalists, and people with disabilities. By September 6, 2024, 9,900 Palestinians were held in Israeli prisons as “security” detainees without charges or trial. This means that over 50% of Palestinians held as “security” detainees are detained without charges or trial. The arbitrary deprivation of liberty is a key tool by which Israel enforces its system of apartheid against Palestinians.

Israel’s widespread use of detention against health workers from the occupied Gaza Strip is a key component of the ongoing assault on the healthcare system in Gaza. Healthcare workers continue to endure increasingly horrific and inhumane conditions whilst caring for their patients due to military operations and the blocking of adequate medical supplies and fuel. These healthcare workers are working long shifts without access to food and clean water, and often with communications blackouts. According to the World Health Organization, as of August 20, 2024, 128 Health workers remain detained, while of the 36 main hospitals that used to serve over 2 million Palestinians in Gaza, only 16 are partially functional, with severe limitations on the types of services they can deliver.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Hebrew, Arabic, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: March 25, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Khaled Al Serr (he/him).

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-free-forcibly-disappeared-palestinian-surgeon-iopt-53-24/>