

# URGENT ACTION

## RELEASE PEDIATRICIAN AND HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

On December 27, 2024, the Israeli military raided Kamal Adwan hospital in Mashrou' Beit Lahiya and arbitrarily detained its director, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, along with other medical staff and patients. The raid put the hospital, the last functioning major medical facility in the North Gaza governorate, out of service. For months, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya has been the most prominent voice for Gaza's decimated healthcare sector. Israeli authorities must immediately release him. Pending his release, they must disclose his whereabouts, grant him access to a lawyer, ensure his protection from torture and other ill-treatment, and provide him with adequate healthcare.

### 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 **Urgent Action 3.25**. 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 Defense Forces  
Fax: +972(0)35694526  
Email: pazar@idf.il

**CC: Israeli Embassy in the United States**  
**Ambassador Michael Herzog**  
3514 International Drive, NW,  
Washington DC 20008  
Email: [consular@washington.mfa.gov.il](mailto:consular@washington.mfa.gov.il)

Dear Brig. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi,

I am writing to you to demand the immediate release of **Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya**, a pediatrician and the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in the occupied Gaza Strip, who was arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared by Israeli forces on December 27, 2024, along with other hospital staff and patients, following a deadly raid on the hospital, which put it out of service.

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, 51, has for months acted as one of the most prominent voices of Gaza's decimated healthcare sector, providing information about the healthcare situation in the North Gaza governorate, particularly since Israeli forces laid a near-total siege to the area since October 6, 2024. He continued to bear witness and treat children despite the killing of his son in October 2024.

Testimonies collected by Amnesty International and other human rights groups reveal a dreadful reality inside Israeli prisons and detention centers, where Palestinian detainees, including health workers, face systematic torture and other ill-treatment.

I urge you to secure the release of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and all other Palestinians forcibly disappeared and arbitrarily detained by Israel. Pending Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya's release, I urge you to disclose his whereabouts and ensure his protection from all forms of torture and other ill-treatment, including coercion. Also pending his release, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya must be granted access to legal counsel and adequate medical care while in detention.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

On December 27, 2024, the Israeli military arbitrarily detained **Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya**, a pediatrician and the director of Kamal Adwan hospital in Mashrou' Beit Lahiya in the North Gaza governorate, along with other hospital staff and patients receiving treatment. The raid, the latest in a series of attacks on healthcare facilities in North Gaza over the past three months, put Kamal Adwan, the last remaining major hospital in the area, out of service. Earlier, in October 2024, Israeli forces raided the hospital and detained medical staff and patients. On December 12, 2023, Israeli forces had raided the same hospital, also arresting staff and patients. While that raid put the hospital out of service, it was thanks to the efforts and dedication of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and his colleagues that the hospital managed to re-open and resume its work. From January to September 2024, the hospital received the wounded from across North of Wadi Gaza, including Gaza City, who could not seek medical attention elsewhere due to the establishment by the Israeli army of the so-called Netzarim Corridor that has split the Gaza Strip down the middle. Its staff treated those wounded in attacks on starving people queuing for flour and aid, known by Palestinians as the "flour massacres" as well as those wounded in other strikes and shelling. Throughout that period, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and his colleagues provided human rights and humanitarian organizations with reliable information about the health situation. Since October 2024, Israeli forces have been waging a devastating and concentrated offensive on the North Gaza Governorate, placing the whole area under near-total siege, cutting it off from Gaza City, killing and injuring thousands of civilians, and forcibly displacing most of the area's remaining inhabitants. During those months and until the December 27 raid, Kamal Adwan hospital was effectively the last lifeline for those who remained in North Gaza governorate, estimated at just 75,000. Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya was their voice.

During Israel's military campaign and its ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, Israel has arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared hundreds of Palestinian healthcare workers from Gaza without charges or trial. Health workers have been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, held in incommunicado detention, or subjected to conditions amounting to enforced disappearance.

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, like many health workers before him, was detained while caring for his patients and carrying out his medical duties. On January 9, the Israeli Magistrate's Court in Ashkelon extended his detention without charge, under the Unlawful Combatants Law, until February 13; and they extended the ban on Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya meeting a lawyer until January 22. They continue to refuse to disclose his whereabouts.

Attacks by Israeli forces have severely impacted health workers and medical facilities and crushed the healthcare system. The UN Human Rights Office documented at least 136 strikes on 27 hospitals and 12 other medical facilities, resulting in significant casualties among doctors, nurses and other civilians. Israel's decimation of the healthcare system in Gaza forms part of its deliberate infliction of conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of Palestinians, as prohibited under the Genocide Convention.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** September 4, 2025

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya (he/him).