URGENT ACTION

RELEASE PAEDIATRICIAN AND HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

On 27 December 2024, the Israeli military raided Kamal Adwan hospital in Mashrou' Beit Lahiya and arbitrarily detained its director, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya. Since then, he has been held without charges or trial, under orders that have been indefinitely renewed based on the Unlawful Combatants Law. On 16 June 2026 Israel's Supreme Court upheld the latest detention order against him, which would keep him in detention until at least October. Since 3 June, Dr. Abu Safiya has been held in solitary confinement while continuing to be denied access to adequate healthcare. Israeli authorities must immediately release him. Pending his release, they must ensure his protection from torture and other ill-treatment and provide him with adequate healthcare.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Maj. Gen. Itai Ofir
Military Advocate General
Fax: +972(0)35694526
Email: Pazar@idf.il / s.patzar@idf.il

Dear Maj. Gen. Itai Ofir

*I am writing to you to reiterate my demand for the immediate and unconditional release of **Dr Hussam Abu Safiya**, a 53-year-old paediatrician and the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in the occupied Gaza Strip, who was arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared by Israeli forces on 27 December 2024, along with other staff and patients. On 16 June 2026 Israel's Supreme Court rejected Dr. Abu Safiya's appeal, upholding the continuation of his arbitrary detention until at least October 2026.*

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya has been held in solitary confinement since 3 June, exceeding the 15 consecutive days permitted under the Nelson Mandela Rules, which violates the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. Authorities are also denying him appropriate care for his health conditions. Prior to his arbitrary arrest, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya was one of the most prominent voices of Gaza's decimated healthcare sector.

Testimonies collected by Amnesty International and other human rights groups reveal a dreadful reality inside Israeli prisons and detention centres, where Palestinian detainees, including health workers, face systematic torture and other ill-treatment and are denied their right to a fair trial and due process, along with access to adequate food and medical care.

In light of this grave situation, I urge you to secure the immediate release of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and all other Palestinians, including health workers, arbitrarily detained by Israel. Pending Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya's release, I urge you to ensure his protection from all forms of torture and other ill-treatment, including prolonged solitary confinement, and expedite his access to adequate medical care while in detention.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 27 December 2024, the Israeli military arbitrarily detained Dr Hussam Abu Safiya, a paediatrician 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 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 12 December 2023, Israeli forces had raided the same hospital, also arresting staff and patients. From January to September 2024, the hospital received the wounded from areas 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 had split the occupied Gaza Strip down the middle. Its staff treated those wounded in Israel's 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. The hospital also received and treated children and infants affected by severe malnutrition and dehydration. Throughout that period, Dr Hussam Abu Safiya and his colleagues provided human rights and humanitarian organizations with reliable information about the health situation of Palestinians in the North of Gaza.

During Israel's ongoing genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Israel has arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared hundreds of Palestinian healthcare workers from Gaza, who have been held 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 in the course of caring for his patients and carrying out his medical duties. On 28 April 2026 an Israeli District Court approved the extension of Abu Safiya's arbitrary detention under the Unlawful Combatant Law without filing any charges against him. On 16 June 2026 Israel's Supreme Court rejected Dr. Abu Safiya's appeal for his immediate release, upholding the continuation of his arbitrary detention until at least October 2026. Since 3 June 2026 Abu Safiya is held in solitary confinement exceeding the 15 consecutive days permitted under the Nelson Mandela Rules, which violates the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. The Israel Prison Service is denying him care for his heath conditions.

Attacks by Israeli forces have severely impacted health workers and medical facilities and crushed the healthcare system of the occupied Gaza Strip. All major hospitals in the North Gaza Governorate are located within the so-called "yellow line," currently under the full operational control of Israeli forces and local armed groups they back.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English and Hebrew.
You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 27 October 2026.
Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

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

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/8923/2025/en/