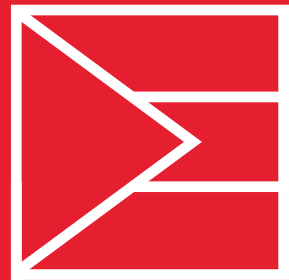


Israel's Abduction & Torture of Dr Hussam Abu Safiya

February 2025



London | Washington



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In the face of the most advanced colonial army in the world, Dr Hussam Abu Safiya stood alone, armed only with his white doctor's coat, the conviction of standing by his patients and staff, and the memory of his beloved son, Ibrahim, who was intentionally targeted and killed by the IOF.

As we write this, Dr Abu Safiya's legal counsel have confirmed the extent of the torture and severe abuse he is currently enduring at the hands of the Zionist entity: beatings, electrocution, solitary confinement and starvation.

In the last moments captured of him on film, Dr Abu Safiya is seen walking calmly towards the Israeli Occupation Forces' (IOF) tank, knowing he would likely be abducted and possibly killed. The man who had spent the past year saving Palestinian lives, exposing the extent of the IOF's attacks on the healthcare sector in northern Gaza, and calling for intervention had become too much of a threat for the Zionist entity.

Dr Abu Safiya's defiance and dignity in the face of his oppressors symbolises his strength in directing a hospital experiencing some of the most prolonged shortages, attacks, and number of casualties of any hospital in history.

Dr Abu Safiya's commitment to his work and his people throughout his life has made him a beacon of light in his community, long before the image that would sear the enormity of his character in the hearts and minds of the international community.

50 days since his abduction, we echo the global calls for the immediate release of Dr Hussam Abu Safiya, and all Palestinian hostages unlawfully held, abused and tortured in Israeli torture chambers.

We remember all the Palestinian healthcare workers martyred and injured for their herculean efforts to protect Palestinian lives.

May all Palestinian healthcare workers who have struggled to save lives in the face of the most barbaric genocide this world has witnessed be infinitely rewarded for their service to their communities, in this life and the next.

“[The IOF] detained me for a few hours and interrogated me about whether there were fighters inside the hospital, and demanded that I evacuate the hospital completely, but I refused and assured them that there were only patients inside the hospital. But 57 of the hospital’s medical staff were arrested, (...) So we are suffering from a severe shortage of doctors, especially surgeons. Right now, we only have paediatricians — it is a huge challenge to work under these circumstances.

I refused to leave the hospital and sacrifice my patients, so the army punished me by killing my son. I saw him die at the entrance gate — it was a great shock. I found a grave for him near one of the hospital’s walls, so that he could stay close to me.”

Dr Hussam Abu Safiya¹



01

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Who is Dr Hussam Abu Safiya?



01

Who is Dr Hussam Abu Safiya?

Dr Hussam Abu Safiya is a 51-year-old Palestinian physician, with a specialisation in paediatrics and neonatology. He is the Director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza.² Dr Abu Safiya is also MedGlobal's lead physician for Gaza.³

Due to the Israeli Occupation Forces' (IOF) bombardment of northern Gaza since October 2023, Dr Abu Safiya and his family had moved into the hospital permanently to ensure he could continue his work unobstructed.⁴

On 25 October 2024, the IOF brutally stormed the hospital, bombed its buildings, detained many patients and all hospital staff, and ordered healthcare workers – including Dr Abu Safiya – to leave the hospital and abandon their patients. After Dr Abu Safiya's defiant refusal to abandon his patients, his 15-year-old son, Ibrahim, was intentionally targeted by an IOF drone strike while he was sheltering at the hospital with his family.⁶

On 23 November 2024, Dr Abu Safiya was injured by a targeted IOF drone strike on Kamal Adwan Hospital while walking into his office after completing surgery, sustaining six shrapnel wounds to his leg.⁷

Throughout December 2024, Dr Abu Safiya was interviewed by multiple international news outlets, where he exposed the IOF's targeted attacks on hospitals, in violation of international law.⁸ On 23 December 2024, he told NBC News that Israeli sniper fire and tank shells had damaged Kamal Adwan Hospital's nursery and maternity ward, among other departments.⁹

On 27 December 2024, following repeated attacks since October, the IOF once again invaded Kamal Adwan Hospital, burnt and severely damaged essential buildings, and forcibly removed patients and staff.¹⁰ This forced the hospital out of service entirely. After the incessant bombardment, Dr Abu Safiya was abducted along with dozens of other medical staff.¹¹

Dr Abu Safiya and his family had previously declined repeated offers from Israeli forces to leave Kamal Adwan Hospital, refusing to abandon patients, colleagues and displaced Palestinians who had gathered at the hospital for refuge.¹²

The image and video footage of Dr Abu Safiya's final moments before his abduction resulted in an international outcry, with multiple health and civil society organisations coming forward to demand information on his whereabouts. The IOF initially told Physicians for Human Rights Israel that they had "no indication of the arrest or detention of the individual in question".¹³

The IOF then reversed its earlier position, stating that Dr Abu Safiya was "currently being investigated by Israeli security forces".¹⁴

On 8 January 2025, Dr Abu Safiya's mother died of a heart attack due to stress caused by his detention.¹¹⁸ Dr Abu Safiya was not allowed to attend her funeral.

On 9 January 2025, Dr Abu Safiya attended an occupation court hearing at Ashkelon Magistrates' Court, where his detention was extended to 13 February 2025. He was prohibited from accessing any legal counsel until 22 January.¹⁵

On 13 January 2025, it was reported that Dr Abu Safiya had been transported from Sde Teiman prison to Ofer prison.¹⁶ Both prisons are notorious for their torture of Palestinian hostages.¹⁷

Who is Dr Hussam Abu Safiya? continued...

On 11 February 2025, the family of Dr Abu Safiya provided an update on his condition:



“[Dr Abu Safiya] was subjected to severe mistreatment and torture by the army in the early days of his arrest and was held in solitary confinement for 24 days. After that, he was transferred to Ofer Prison [...].

Dr. Hossam’s health condition is stable, but he suffers from chronic high blood pressure and an enlarged heart muscle. He is currently receiving treatment. However, he is only provided with one meal a day, which is insufficient and of very poor quality.

Regarding his legal case, it is clean, and there are no charges against him. All the accusations attributed to him have been denied due to a lack of evidence, and the case is clear.

There is also a possibility of his release in the coming stages, as there are no charges against him from the Israeli public prosecution. He urges the world to help secure his release and the release of all detained healthcare personnel from all hospitals. They must be protected, their rights ensured, and they should receive care and be released as soon as possible.

[...] We call on everyone who can help to pressure for the provision of proper food, medicine, and his swift release.”¹⁸



Many fear that Dr Abu Safiya could be killed in IOF custody, like Dr Adnan Al-Bursh - a prominent orthopaedic surgeon in Gaza - who was barbarically tortured and raped to death in an IOF torture facility four months after being abducted, during the IOF’s ground invasion of Jabalia Refugee Camp.¹⁹

On 14 February 2024, the IOF ordered the continued detainment of Dr Abu Safiya under the Unlawful Combatant Law, which allows the IOF to prolong his detention without charge for a further 45 days until the charge is ratified.¹¹⁹ Once ratified, Dr Abu Safiya will be imprisoned for six months, which can be indefinitely extended.¹²⁰

“We saw what happened to Dr. Adnan Al-Bursh, and we are very afraid that that will happen to him also, because Dr. Abu Safiya is like a symbol of resistance, and Israel doesn’t like that. They want to cut the head of all resistance of the Palestinian people. For us, Dr. Hussam is more than a doctor. He’s a hero. We ask for the UN to put some pressure on Israel. We really call for the end of the impunity.”

Dr. Semia Sadfi Charbonnier
a general practitioner in Geneva.²⁰



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Exposing the Occupation: Dr Hussam Abu Safiya's Reporting of the Genocide



02

Exposing the Occupation: Dr Hussam Abu Safiya's Reporting of the Genocide

Dr Abu Safiya was intentionally and repeatedly targeted by the occupation due to his vocal and outspoken reporting of the IOF's genocidal attacks on the Palestinian healthcare system in northern Gaza.

Dr Abu Safiya's testimonies revealed extensive IOF war crimes and violations of international law to global audiences. By abducting Dr Abu Safiya, Israel attempted to silence the truth about their crimes.



8 October 2024

“I am Dr Hussam Abu Safiya, the Director of Kamal Adwan Hospital located in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. We have been informed by the army to evacuate the hospital within the next 24 hours. That means evacuating the medical staff as well as the hospitalised children and the wounded and injured. This means, we have a few hours left. If we don't evacuate of course or comply with the order, what we are asked to do by the Israeli occupation, I think we will be witnessing a scene that is similar to the one from Al-Shifa Hospital. And this is exactly what the Israeli army said: that Kamal Adwan Hospital will be another Al-Shifa Hospital if we don't evacuate as ordered by the Israeli army.”⁹⁶



Exposing the Occupation: Dr Hussam Abu Safiya's Reporting of the Genocide continued...



25 October 2024

“I mean, we’re a few hours away from the death of all of these people. Until when will this continue? Instead of receiving aid, we receive tanks... which are shelling the [hospital] building. Where is the law? Which law in the world allows for a hospital to be directly targeted? This is a catastrophe. [I] don’t know where the human rights have gone. Enough already. Enough of this happening too often. Our injured are turning into martyrs. And right now they are — last phone call between us and the coordinators was that they would be here within hours. Right now they are at checkpoints, trying to get aid into Kamal Adwan Hospital and we were awaiting this aid. Instead of receiving aid, we received tanks, directly shelling all the hospitals departments. Now some houses are being burned. What do they want from us? Brother, we are providing humanitarian aid. Our rights are supposed to be protected under humanitarian laws.”⁹⁷



25 October 2024

“The Israeli army detained me and demanded that I evacuate the hospital. I refused and assured them that there were only patients inside. But they arrested 57 staff members, leaving us with a severe shortage of doctors, especially surgeons. Now, only I and one other paediatrician remain. I refused to leave the hospital and sacrifice my patients, so the army punished me by killing my son.”⁹⁸



Exposing the Occupation: Dr Hussam Abu Safiya's Reporting of the Genocide continued...



27 October 2024

“The situation in general is extremely catastrophic. After the army’s withdrawal, about 31 people from our medical staff were either taken or arrested.

Which has now left us with very few numbers. Currently, in Kamal Adwan, I am here – Dr Hossam - with one other doctor. Meaning we are only two doctors, and I have over 145 injured people still here who need surgical services. I don’t have the service, it’s unavailable. I don’t have a medical staff capable of providing this surgical service. We have called on the world, pleading to open a humanitarian corridor to bring in medical teams that can try to save those who can be saved from among the wounded because every moment I lose more of the injured, turning them into martyrs. And now we have a large number who have died due to a lack of resources. Ambulances have been entirely paralyzed so we are asking the world to allow ambulances in to help transfer cases between hospitals. We need to urgently evacuate some patients because they need surgical interventions in our hospitals in Gaza [City]. Now all our supplies have reached zero; there is nothing we can honestly provide. The entire system is completely collapsing.

The circumstances since the Israeli occupation stormed Kamal Adwan Hospital have been extremely harsh. It’s indiscernible what we witnessed in terms of treatment here at Kamal Adwan Hospital. Honestly the situation is catastrophic. We need international protection for the staff who’re currently here. We needed international follow up to secure the release of those who have been detained. Our message [in this hospital] is a humanitarian message. We have lost everything in this hospital; even our children...

Everything we’ve built they have burned. They burned our hearts. They killed my son. They have burned our hearts on what they’ve done in the hospital. They burned the hospital entirely. My son was killed because we are carrying a humanitarian message. Our children are being killed. I buried my son by the hospital wall.

For all this, our reward was to see our children killed before our eyes and to bury them with our own hands.”⁹⁹



Exposing the Occupation: Dr Hussam Abu Safiya's Reporting of the Genocide continued...



3 November 2024

“In this war, we’ve had to learn to do everything. As Israeli forces stormed the hospital and detained the entire medical staff, I, together with my assistant physician, we were left alone between a rock and hard place, either to give up or start doing what we can to save lives.

We’ve been flooded with victims suffering all kinds of injuries... I have a message for the world – not only to the WHO, the Red Cross and the international community – but also to the proponents of international law and all those who pontificate on humanity and human rights: an urgent humanitarian passage must be opened without delay to have fuel and medical supplies delivered, and also to allow for specialised medical staff to come and lend a helping hand.

We have been abandoned by the whole world and left to work under unimaginably harsh and horrifying conditions.”¹⁰⁰



24 November 2024

“This will not stop us. I was injured at my workplace, and that is an honour. My blood is no more precious than that of my colleagues or the people we serve. I will return to my patients as soon as I recover.”¹⁰¹ - After being targeted by Israeli drone strike.



4 December 2024

“Drones are dropping bombs filled with shrapnel, injuring anyone in their path. The situation has become extremely dangerous. Kamal Adwan hospital has been subjected to a barbaric assault by drones, and once again, the occupation focuses its aggression on medical teams.

Just moments ago, three members of our medical staff were injured. One of them is in critical condition and is currently undergoing a complex surgical procedure in the operating room.”¹⁰²



Exposing the Occupation: Dr Hussam Abu Safiya's Reporting of the Genocide continued...



18 December 2024

“Yesterday marked one of the darkest, most challenging, and bloodiest days at Kamal Adwan Hospital.

Fighter jets targeted the hospital struck more than eight buildings in its vicinity. One of these buildings was occupied, and people went out engulfed in flames, with some tragically losing their lives.

This brutal assault resulted in the martyrdom of eight individuals, and there are still children trapped beneath the charred debris.

The situation became dire when, suddenly, bulldozers and tanks entered the area, firing directly at the hospital from all directions.

The intensive care unit, located on the western side, was directly hit. Tank shells struck the ICU, igniting a fire that forced us to evacuate patients rapidly. Miraculously, we managed to evacuate the emergency oxygen cylinders.

Unfortunately, the isolation department was completely burnt by flames.

Thank God we were able to extinguish the fire using our hands, as there were no fire extinguishers available, and the water supply had been cut off. We used blankets and our bare hands to control the flames.

The scene inside the ICU resembled a war zone, with bullets penetrating equipment, walls, and windows. It is incomprehensible why we are being targeted in this way.

We have been appealing to the world for over 75 days, yet nothing has been done. This inaction allows the occupiers to escalate their violence, and I fear they will continue to attack other departments, potentially destroying the hospital right before the eyes of the world. Unfortunately, this is our reality.

We currently have 71 injuries, and this is the only ICU in all of northern Gaza.”¹⁰³



Exposing the Occupation: Dr Hussam Abu Safiya's Reporting of the Genocide continued...

“

23 December 2024

*“The world must understand that our hospital is being targeted with the intent to kill and forcibly displace us. We urge the international community to intervene quickly and stop this fierce assault on us to protect the healthcare system, the workers and the patients within it. The situation remains extremely dangerous and requires urgent international intervention before it is too late.”*¹⁰⁴

”

“

24 December 2024

“Today is 24 December 2024. After a very difficult night at Kamal Adwan hospital, we are witnessing new developments. Since yesterday, robots have begun approaching the hospital. Two of these robots exploded just 50 metres from the facility, causing severe damage to the hospital.

*This is our reality, as you can see: strikes from [Israeli] quadcopters happening very close to the hospital entrance. We have endured this bombing all night. Another strike just landed nearby. Fragments are scattering everywhere as we speak. We are experiencing this live, in front of the world. They have been bombing us this way throughout the night, whether you're outside the hospital or inside it. Today, they began using quadcopters to attack us after spending all of last night bombing us with explosive-equipped robots. Israeli forces have introduced a new type of quadcopter. These larger drones carry bomb cases, each weighing around 20 kilograms. They drop these bombs on the surrounding houses, causing massive destruction.”*¹⁰⁵

”

“

25 December 2024

*“The hospital is being bombed now. Some of the internal walls have collapsed. The situation is unbearable.”*¹⁰⁶

”

Exposing the Occupation: Dr Hussam Abu Safiya's Reporting of the Genocide continued...



26 December 2024

“Unfortunately, last night [Wednesday/Thursday] was worse than the night before. The explosive robots were very close to the hospital, and much larger this time.

The hospital lacks the resources to adequately deal with such serious cases. We are making efforts to transfer patients to other hospitals, and I hope that [injured nurse] Hassan will be transferred to Al-Ahli Al-Madani Hospital [in Gaza City] for surgery and care.

The hospital is still under threat from drones, as one of the medical staff was injured by shrapnel from an explosive dropped by a drone, resulting in a neck injury.

Medical supplies are being transferred from other areas of the hospital to treat the injured carefully due to the ongoing shelling.

There are currently about 75 injured, in addition to their companions, and 180 medical personnel, bringing the total number of people in the hospital to about 350.

*The hospital suffers from a severe shortage of medical and food supplies and faces difficulty in receiving medical delegations.”*¹⁰⁷



29 December 2024

“We are the family of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya. It is no secret to anyone the immense efforts Dr. Hussam has made since the beginning of the war to support the only healthcare system for the residents of North Gaza, your families, friends, and loved ones. His most recent effort was after the military operation on North Gaza, following an 84-day siege. During this time, they endured the harshest trials, including hunger, oppression, bombardment, and threats, all for the sake of the patients.

Tragically, he lost his beloved son, Ibrahim, and he himself suffered severe injuries. It should be noted that my father is still affected by his injuries to this day. We do not know the fate of our father. We appeal to you to take action, raise awareness, exert media pressure, and produce reports to pressure the occupation for his immediate release.

Our father is now suffering from the extreme cold. You have all heard from eyewitnesses who were recently released about how my father was forced to strip off his clothes, including his medical coat, and was used as a human shield.

*We implore every living conscience, every international organization, and institution to act urgently.”*¹⁰⁸



“We at Medical Aid for Palestinians are extremely concerned for the life and safety of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and all Palestinian healthcare workers detained by Israeli forces. These detentions, alongside systematic assaults on hospitals in North Gaza, have left tens of thousands of people without access to healthcare and forced them to flee southwards.

Dr. Abu Safiya spent weeks and months sending distress calls about Israeli military attacks on Kamal Adwan Hospital, and the dangers posed to his colleagues and patients. His warnings were met with deafening silence from the international community. It is long overdue for the UK and other nations to act decisively to protect Palestinians from ethnic cleansing, ensure the safety of healthcare workers, and hold Israel accountable.”

Fikr Shalltoot

the Gaza Director of Medical Aid for Palestinians.⁸⁶



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IOF Attacks on Healthcare in Northern Gaza



03

IOF Attacks on Healthcare in Northern Gaza

11 December 2023

- On 11 December, Kamal Adwan was accommodating:
 - 65 patients, including 12 children in the ICU
 - Six newborns in incubators
 - 3,000 internally displaced civilians trapped in the facility with extreme shortages of water, food and power.⁶³
- An IOF strike on the maternity department of Kamal Adwan killed two Palestinian mothers.⁶⁴

12 December 2023

- After several days of IOF siege, the IOF once again raided Kamal Adwan Hospital.⁶⁵
- WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated: “I’m extremely worried about reports of a raid at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza after several days of siege”, and the welfare of 65 patients, including several needing intensive care, and 45 medical staff at the hospital.⁶⁶
- In an interview with CNN, Dr Abu Safiya reported that the IOF forced all men between the ages of 16 and 65 to leave the hospital to be searched, and had arrested more than 70 medical staff, who were abducted to an unknown location. Only five other doctors had been permitted to stay at Kamal Adwan Hospital to attend to patients in the intensive care unit and premature babies. Dr Abu Safiya also reported that the hospital had no water or power, and doctors were working with primitive flashlights to follow up on the patients left in the hospital.⁶⁷

16 December 2023

UN Agency OCHA reported that “an Israeli military bulldozer flattened the tents of a number of internally displaced persons outside [Kamal Adwan] hospital, killing and wounding an unconfirmed number of people”.⁶⁹

IOF Attacks on Healthcare in Northern Gaza continued...

19 May 2024

The IOF's continuous destruction of Northern Gaza, specifically IOF attacks in the vicinity of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, caused the hospital to go out of service for the first time.²¹

21 May 2024

- IOF strikes hit Kamal Adwan Hospital four times, resulting in damage to the intensive care unit, reception, administration, and roof. The World Health Organisation (WHO) determined the hospital was “no longer functional”.²²
- The hospital was evacuated under Israeli fire, with patients in intensive care and attached to machines unable to be moved.²³

22 May 2024

IOF missiles struck emergency department of Kamal Adwan.²⁴

24 May 2024

IOF airstrikes struck Kamal Adwan Hospital twice overnight.²⁵

1 June 2024

- Photos taken on 1 June 2024 showed extensive damage caused by IOF attacks to the main electricity generator and other essential equipment at Kamal Adwan Hospital.²⁶
- The 10-bed stabilisation centre at Kamal Adwan Hospital, the only facility treating severe acute malnutrition in northern Gaza, was forcibly displaced on IOF orders.²⁷

20 August 2024

- As of 20 August, Kamal Adwan was the only functioning neo-natal intensive care unit left in Gaza.
- Ahmed Zeyad, Head of ICU at Kamal Adwan, released a press statement:

“We have newborns who are dependent on ventilators to breathe. We need electricity to administer fluids and power working incubators, otherwise the infants will face imminent death. We are using solar power right now, which has been interrupted five times within just the last hour. This affects the care we provide in this unit.”²⁸

5 - 6 October 2024

- The IOF began a full siege of Northern Gaza, forcing civil defence workers to stop working due to sniper fire and targeted Israeli attacks, leaving countless Palestinians trapped under the rubble.²⁹
- The three hospitals within the vicinity of Jabalia, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya – Kamal Adwan, Indonesian, and Al-Awda – were prevented by the IOF from accessing vital supplies and providing critical care to patients and those injured within the surrounding area.³⁰
- Footage released showed dozens of Palestinian men – including medical staff – stripped and rounded up near the Indonesian hospital.³¹

IOF Attacks on Healthcare in Northern Gaza continued...

8 October 2024

- The IOF besieged Kamal Adwan Hospital and fired at the hospital's administration office.³²
- The IOF demanded the removal of all patients and medical staff at Kamal Adwan, Indonesian, and Al-Awda hospitals, threatening that they would face the same fate as Al-Shifa Hospital.³³
- Dr Abu Safiya reported that the IOF seeks to dismantle the health system in northern Gaza as part of an effort to ethnically cleanse Palestinians from the north, urging international bodies to intervene.³⁴

10 October 2024

- A UN inquiry found that Israel had implemented a **concerted policy to destroy Gaza's healthcare system** during its attacks, which constituted war crimes and the crime against humanity of extermination.³⁵
- Between October 2023 and October 2024, over 100,000 Palestinian patients in Gaza died due to the lack of treatment, including hundreds of patients with kidney issues due to shortage of medical supplies and access to hospitals.³⁶
- Around 12,000 patients were reported to be fighting cancer without any kind of medication across Gaza.³⁷

12 October 2024

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society announced that all ambulances in northern Gaza had halted operations due to fuel shortages caused by ongoing IOF ground attacks and blockade.³⁸

24 October 2024

- Following a mission to visit Kamal Adwan Hospital, the WHO Representative for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Dr. Rik Peeperkorn, recounted:

“[At a checkpoint near Kamal Adwan, there were] thousands of women and children leaving the area, walking, limping, with their few belongings towards Salah al-Din and, actually, towards Gaza City... We saw very few men or adolescent boys. We saw men being screened. [At Kamal Adwan, the team] saw mayhem and chaos.

*The emergency ward was overflowing, and we saw numerous patients being brought in...horrific trauma patients. [Staff are] completely overwhelmed...also very much underequipped to deal with that”.*³

- 23 patients and 26 caregivers from Kamal Adwan Hospital had to be transferred south to Al-Shifa Hospital, located in Gaza City.⁴⁰

IOF Attacks on Healthcare in Northern Gaza continued...

25 October 2024

- 600 people, including patients and staff members, remained trapped at Kamal Adwan amidst the enduring IOF siege, including 195 patients and 70 medical staff members.⁴¹
- Less than 24 hours after a WHO Medical Aid Mission had delivered essential supplies to Kamal Adwan Hospital, IOF artillery shells were fired at the hospital at 2am.⁴² The IOF attack destroyed vital medical supplies, including a dialysis unit, and severed the oxygen generator.⁴³ The attack resulted in the killing of two Palestinian children in Kamal Adwan's ICU as a direct result of oxygen supply failure.⁴⁴
- Following the shelling, the IOF raided Kamal Adwan Hospital and detained hundreds of patients, staff, and displaced civilians sheltering in the hospital.⁴⁵
- Dr Abu Safiya was among those detained during the raid. He was instructed to leave but refused to abandon his patients and staff.⁴⁶ Following his refusal, an Israeli drone targeted and killed Dr Abu Safiya's 15-year-old son, Ibrahim.⁴⁷

26 October 2024

Israeli forces withdrew from Kamal Adwan Hospital following their raid.⁴⁸

31 October 2024

- IOF attacks on Kamal Adwan destroyed another shipment of medical supplies provided by the WHO.⁴⁹ The UN Secretary-General spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, stated:

“OCHA reports that the third floor of Kamal Adwan Hospital was bombed today, resulting in the loss of medical supplies that was delivered just five days ago [in] a joint mission of the World Health Organization and with the support of OCHA.

Hospitals are under assault and rescue teams are unable to work due to the arrests of personnel and the confiscation of essential equipment, including ambulances and a fire truck. In the north, intense hostilities continue, especially in Jabalia, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun.

OCHA also tells us that, aside from limited missions, almost no aid operations have been permitted into North Gaza...dwindling supplies, high casualties, frequent air strikes on health care facilities and widespread displacement continue to worsen an already dramatic humanitarian situation.

The word ‘functioning’, when it comes to a number of these hospitals in Gaza, may be misleading...these hospitals are trying to survive.

Through great effort, we delivered goods just five days ago. Those goods are now destroyed.”⁵⁰

IOF Attacks on Healthcare in Northern Gaza continued...

3 November 2024

- A WHO delegation arrived at Kamal Adwan Hospital to evacuate patients amidst IOF attacks.⁵¹
- IOF attacks on the paediatric ward wounded several people, including a 13-year-old girl, and IOF tank fire hit the hospital's critical water supplies, the courtyard, and the neo-natal ICU.⁵²
- The IOF then stormed the hospital and gathered medical staff, patients, and the wounded in the hospital's courtyard.⁵³

4-5 November 2024

Repeated IOF strikes damaged Kamal Adwan's water tanks, further compounding the hospital's dire conditions.⁵⁴

23 November 2024

- An IOF drone strike directly targeted Dr Abu Safiyya's office, causing him to sustain serious shrapnel injuries to his leg.⁵⁵
- In addition to his own injuries, Dr Abu Safiyya also reported:
 - 58 wounded people who were besieged in the hospital, including children and women
 - At least 8 in critical condition staying in intensive care
 - 14 in the children's department.⁵⁶

6 December 2024

- An IOF strike on Kamal Adwan Hospital's northern gate killed four Palestinians and wounded nine others.⁵⁷
- The IOF stormed Kamal Adwan Hospital once again, with reports of heavy artillery fire and aerial attacks.⁵⁸ The attacks killed four doctors and dozens of civilians, with at least 17 shrouded bodies visible in the hospital's courtyard.⁵⁹ Witness accounts stated the IOF used drones to target civilians sheltering inside the hospital.⁶⁰
- The IOF attacks also destroyed critical medical supplies.⁶¹
- Dr Abu Safiyya released a statement on the attacks:

“Initially, there was a series of airstrikes on the northern and western sides of the hospital, accompanied by intense and direct fire. They approached me and ordered me to evacuate all patients, displaced persons, and medical staff, gathering everyone in the hospital's courtyard and forcibly taking them to the checkpoint.

*In the morning, we were shocked to see hundreds of bodies and wounded individuals in the streets surrounding the hospital. The situation is catastrophic in northern Gaza, particularly in the vicinity of Kamal Adwan Hospital.”*⁶²

14 December 2024

For the third consecutive day, the IOF – accompanied by tanks – raided Kamal Adwan Hospital, conducting mass arrests and ill-treatment.⁶⁸

IOF Attacks on Healthcare in Northern Gaza continued...

23 December 2024

Dr Abu Safiya reported that IOF bombing was continuing from all directions, affecting the building, departments, and staff.⁷⁰

Around 400 civilians remained inside the facility, including babies in need of oxygen and incubators.⁷¹

25 - 26 December 2024

- Explosive-laden IOF robots destroyed parts of Kamal Adwan Hospital, with shrapnel from the explosives penetrating the hospital building and hitting a patient's room, resulting in a direct head injury to nurse Hassan Al-Dabous.⁷²
- These explosions destroyed most of the hospital's facilities, including doors, windows and internal barriers, leaving the ICU almost out of service.⁷³
- Dr Abu Safiya reported that the hospital contained 75 injured patients, in addition to their companions, and 180 medical personnel, amounting to a total of 350 people within the hospital.⁷⁴

26 December 2024

- A direct IOF strike killed around 50 people in the hospital's compound, in addition to five staff members of Kamal Adwan Hospital.⁷⁵ The members of staff killed were:
 - Dr. Ahmad Samour, Pediatrician
 - Esraa Abu Zaida, Laboratory Specialist
 - Abdul-Majid Abu Al-Eish, Paramedic
 - Maher Al-Ajrami, Paramedic
 - Fares Al-Houdali, Maintenance Specialist.⁷⁶

27 December 2024

- The IOF set fire to parts of the Kamal Adwan Hospital compound and once again raided the hospital,⁷⁷ causing all communication to be lost with hospital staff and journalists within the vicinity.⁷⁸
- The IOF then forcibly removed approximately 75 patients and injured civilians from the hospital and into the courtyard in freezing temperatures,⁷⁹ which had resulted in three babies freezing to death in the previous 72 hours.⁸⁰
- Video footage emerged of dozens of stripped Palestinian men being marched out of the hospital by the IOF with their hands up.⁸¹
- Dr Abu Safiya was unlawfully detained by the IOF for refusing to leave the hospital and abandon his patients and staff, alongside tens of others.⁸² Later, news of his abduction is confirmed.
- Dr Eid Sabbah, Director of Nursing at Kamal Adwan stated:

“If the occupation empties the hospital, medical services in the northern Gaza Strip will be completely halted.”⁸³

- In total, an estimated 350 people, including patients, were forced to leave the hospital.⁸⁴
- Some patients later arrived at the Indonesian Hospital, which was not able to provide any care after being forced out of service by the IOF on 24 December.⁸⁵

“Gaza’s healthcare workers are the living embodiment of the oath to ‘do no harm,’ even as the world around them shattered that very promise. They were the living embodiment of ‘do no harm’ while harm was being done to them. And if there ever comes a day when the medical oath must be rewritten, it is the healthcare professionals of Gaza who must author it, for they understood its true meaning more than anyone.”

Sara H.

member of Healthcare
Workers For Palestine.⁹⁵



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The IOF's Targeting of Palestinian Healthcare Workers



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The IOF's Targeting of Palestinian Healthcare Workers

Since October 2023, over 1,057 Palestinians healthcare workers have been massacred by the IOF in Gaza.⁸⁷

One of the first healthcare workers martyred was Dr Iyad al-Rantisi, Director of Women's Health at Kamal Adwan Hospital, who was killed in IOF custody on 17 November 2023 – six days after being abducted in northern Gaza whilst wearing his medical uniform.⁸⁸ The IOF hid news of Dr al-Rantisi's murder and withheld his body from his family until June 2024.⁸⁹

Since September 2024, at least three physicians have been killed in IOF captivity and over 330 health workers have been abducted by the IOF.⁹⁰

At least 31 of the healthcare workers held hostage were subject to torture and other abuses, including the use of stress positions, deprivation of adequate food and water, threats of sexual violence and rape, and degrading treatment.⁹¹

One of the health workers killed was orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Adnan Al-Bursh, who was tortured and sexually abused to death after being abducted and held in an IOF torture facility in May 2024.⁹²

One paramedic abducted at the Sde Teiman detention facility stated that he was suspended from a chain attached to handcuffs, electroshocked, denied medical care for broken ribs caused by beatings, and administered what he believed was a psychoactive drug before interrogations.⁹³ He said:



“It was so degrading, it was unbelievable. I was helping people as a paramedic, I never expected something like this.”⁹⁴



“The Israeli government’s mistreatment of Palestinian healthcare workers has continued in the shadows and needs to immediately stop. The torture and other ill-treatment of doctors, nurses, and paramedics should be thoroughly investigated and appropriately punished, including by the International Criminal Court (ICC).”

Balkees Jarrah

acting Middle East director
at Human Rights Watch.¹⁰⁹



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Global Condemnation of the IOF's Attacks on Dr Hussam Abu Safiya and Kamal Adwan Hospital



05

Global Condemnation of the IOF's Attacks on Dr Hussam Abu Safiya and Kamal Adwan Hospital



Amnesty International

14 January 2025

“On 27 December 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 of Gaza’s decimated healthcare sector. Israeli authorities must immediately release him. Pending his release, they must disclose his whereabouts and grant him access to a lawyer and ensure his protection from torture and other ill-treatment and provide him with adequate healthcare.”¹¹⁴



World Health
Organization

World Health Organisation

25 October 2024

“Since this morning’s reports of a raid of Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, we have lost touch with the personnel there. This development is deeply disturbing given the number of patients being served and people sheltering there.

Prior to this, [WHO] and partners managed to reach Kamal Adwan Hospital late last night, amid hostilities in the vicinity, and transferred 23 patients and 26 caregivers to Al-Shifa Hospital.

The team also delivered 180 units of blood, trauma and surgical supplies and medicines for over 5000 patients.

Kamal Adwan Hospital has been overflowing with close to 200 patients - a constant stream of horrific trauma cases. It is also full of hundreds of people seeking shelter.”¹¹⁰

- *Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Chief.*

Global Condemnation of the IOF's Attacks on Dr Hussam Abu Safiya and Kamal Adwan Hospital continued...



World Health Organisation

25 November 2024

“Continued attacks on Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern #Gaza have caused an additional 14 injuries in the past 48 hours, including the hospital director and the very few remaining doctors and nurses — this is deplorable/intolerable/deeply concerning. The attacks on Kamal Adwan Hospital must stop immediately, and safe passage for a humanitarian mission must be ensured, so that health personnel can be deployed and medical supplies provided for the remaining patients.”¹¹¹

- *Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Chief.*



Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor

3 January 2025

“The Israeli government bears full responsibility for the life of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, amid alarming indications of torture and ill-treatment since his detention in late December.

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor has received information that Dr. Abu Safiya’s health has deteriorated due to the torture he endured during his detention, particularly while being held at the Sde Teyman military base in southern Israel. Euro-Med Monitor warns of the grave risk to his life, following patterns of deliberate killings and deaths under torture previously suffered by other doctors and medical staff arrested from Gaza since October 2023.”¹¹⁵

Global Condemnation of the IOF's Attacks on Dr Hussam Abu Safiya and Kamal Adwan Hospital continued...



MedGlobal

23 November 2024

“MedGlobal is alarmed and appalled by the ongoing attacks on northern Gaza’s Kamal Adwan hospital, which on Sunday wounded the hospital’s director Dr. Husam Abu Safiya, MedGlobal’s lead physician in Gaza, along with a dozen other hospital personnel.

Dr. Abu Safiya reported that he was hit by an Israeli quadcopter strike while in his hospital office, resulting in shrapnel injuries to his thigh and back that has caused serious bleeding and requires surgical care. Like so many of his patients and staff, he is now in need of a level of care that his hospital struggles to provide – due to the ongoing attacks and siege that has severely damaged or destroyed key hospital infrastructure, cut off access to medical supplies and other aid, and prevented additional medical aid personnel from reaching the hospital.

In addition to the ongoing and sustained attacks on the hospital and its personnel, many hospital personnel remain illegally detained by Israeli forces, including MedGlobal’s nurse at Kamal Adwan and a total of six MedGlobal-affiliated staff. All of these actions are totally unacceptable and violate International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

We stand unequivocally with Dr. Abu Safiya, with our colleagues who have been wrongfully detained, and with all of the staff and patients desperately trying to survive the siege and attacks on Kamal Adwan and the surrounding area. We are dismayed by the ongoing pattern of direct bombings of healthcare facilities and staff, who should never be targets in any conflict. These are egregious violations of IHL.”¹¹²



Medical Aid for Palestinians

9 October 2024

“The Kamal Adwan Hospital has been forced to shut down most of its services as the Israeli military expands its invasion of the north, but the steadfast medical teams in the emergency department are still receiving and treating people injured in attacks. Newborn babies from the MAP-supported neonatal intensive care unit at Kamal Adwan have been evacuated to the Patient Friends Hospital in Gaza City – which MAP is also supporting – but ambulances are being detained at military checkpoints.”¹¹³

“We endured extremely difficult moments in inhumane conditions. The occupation army made no distinction between medical staff, patients, civilians, or journalists.”

Mohammad Al-Sharif

Palestinian journalist in Kamal Adwan Hospital when Dr Abu Safiya was arrested.¹¹⁶



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Western Media Bias



JENIN OPERATION

**Thousands flee
refugee camp**

© France24

06

Western Media Bias

Western media has justified IOF war crimes against Kamal Adwan Hospital, its patients, and staff, by proliferating Israeli lies that attacks on Kamal Adwan Hospital were legitimate military targets.

The Telegraph

Israel 'captures Oct 7 Hamas fighters' in hospital raid

BBC NEWS

One medic left at Gaza hospital as Israel says it arrested '100 terrorists'

FRANCE 24

Israel army says ends raid against 'Hamas centre' in north Gaza hospital

REUTERS

Israeli troops capture around 100 Hamas militants in north Gaza hospital, military says

“Dr Abu Safiya has dedicated his life to protecting the health and lives of children in Gaza, providing care under conditions no medical professional should have to endure. His arrest is not only unjust – it is a violation of international humanitarian law, which upholds the protection of medical personnel in conflict zones. We urgently call for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr Abu Safiya.”

Dr Zaher Sahloul

president and co-founder of MedGlobal,
and close colleague of Dr Abu Safiya.¹¹⁷



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