

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
L'ASSOCIATION MEDICALE MONDIALE, INC
ASOCIACION MEDICA MUNDIAL, INC



Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister of Israel
Prime Minister's Office
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6 November 2025

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the World Medical Association (WMA), the global federation of National Medical Associations representing millions of physicians worldwide. Acting on behalf of patients and physicians, the WMA endeavours to achieve the highest possible standards of medical care, ethics, education and health-related human rights for all people. As such, the WMA plays a key role in promoting good practice, medical ethics and medical accountability internationally.

One of our main missions is to support physicians at risk around the world. Dr Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza, is one such physician. Dr Safiya has been detained by the Israeli authorities since his arrest on 27 December 2024, while performing his medical duties. According to consistent reports from the media and human rights groups, Dr Hussam Abu Safiya is being held without charge and denied his right to a fair trial and a due process. Other health professionals are reportedly being held in similar conditions.

The right to a fair trial is one of the pillars of judicial systems around the world and is recognised as a fundamental human right. It is enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Israel ratified in 1991, thereby committing itself to guaranteeing that legal proceedings are conducted in a fair, impartial manner and in accordance with the rules of procedure by an independent court.

We urge you to uphold Israel's human rights obligations and take all necessary measures within your power to ensure that Dr Hussam Abu Safiya and all other arbitrarily detained health professionals are guaranteed a fair trial in accordance with legal procedures. Failing that, they must be released immediately and unconditionally. While in detention, we urge you to ensure that all detainees are treated with respect for their inherent dignity and have access to healthcare, food and decent sanitary conditions.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind Israel of its duty to respect the Geneva Conventions and other applicable instruments of humanitarian law, to protect patients, health care personnel and facilities, as well as logistical means for food and medical aid in Gaza.

I thank you for your attention,

Dr Jacqueline Kitulu
WMA President

Copy: H.E. Ambassador Daniel Meron, Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN in Geneva
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