

## The 14 Doctors' Trial

### Gaza STILL needs its doctors – FREE THEM NOW

Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI) petitioned the Israeli High Court of Justice on April 30, 2026, demanding the immediate release of 14 Palestinian doctors from Gaza — including surgeons, pediatricians, and senior specialists — whose detention orders are currently issued under the Unlawful Combatants Law. This petition came following a formal request by PHRI to the Chief of Staff of the Israeli military to revoke these detention orders, which received no response.

The detained doctors - including Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital, who was recently transferred to solitary confinement without explanation - represent part of Gaza's remaining specialized medical workforce. Their absence coincides with restrictions on the entry of external medical teams and patient evacuations, as well as the removal of international humanitarian organizations.

In the context of the collapse of Gaza's humanitarian systems, the continued detention of these doctors not only violates legal protections but actively obstructs the rehabilitation of the healthcare system and the provision of urgently needed care.

Despite facing no formal charges, dozens of these medical workers remain arbitrarily detained for prolonged periods without due process or meaningful judicial safeguards. Their detention comes amid severe restrictions on medical evacuations, the entry of international medical teams, and humanitarian access to Gaza. The removal of experienced physicians from an already decimated healthcare system has catastrophic implications for thousands of patients, including critically ill children and civilians in urgent need of care.

Testimonies from detained medical personnel over the past two years describe dire conditions of incarceration, including medical neglect, starvation and abuse amounting to torture, which have greatly contributed to the deaths of at least 103 Palestinian prisoners, including five medical workers from Gaza.

Even after the submission of an urgent petition to the Israeli Supreme Court and formal requests addressed to the Israeli military authorities, the State and the army have not yet substantively responded to our demands. In light of this continued inaction, it is critically important that the international community intervene and exert meaningful pressure to help secure the immediate release of the 14 detained doctors and all detained healthcare workers.

The detained Doctors are:

1. **Dr. Musab Samaan** – General physician, Al-Aqsa Hospital; detained 16 Feb 2024.
2. **Dr. Omar Amar** – Obstetrician/gynecologist; detained 3 Mar 2024.
3. **Dr. Ahmad Musa** – Surgeon, Nasser Hospital; detained 16 Feb 2024.
4. **Dr. Nahad Abu Taima** – Head of Surgery, Nasser Hospital; detained 16 Feb 2024.
5. **Dr. Medhat Abu Tabng'a** – Head of Surgery, Indonesian Hospital; detained 3 Mar 2024.
6. **Dr. Husam Abu Safiya** – Director, Kamal Adwan Hospital; detained 27 Dec 2024.
7. **Dr. Murad Alkuka** – Orthopedic specialist, Al-Shifa Hospital; detained 18 Mar 2024.
8. **Dr. Mahmud Hallak** – Intensive care physician, Nasser Hospital; detained 16 Feb 2024.
9. **Dr. Hamza Abu Sabha** – Orthopedic physician, Nasser Hospital; detained 16 Feb 2024.
10. **Dr. Ahmad Shahada** – Cardiologist, Nasser Hospital; detained 16 Feb 2024.
11. **Dr. Hassan Almukayed** – Vascular surgeon, Kamal Adwan Hospital; detained 25 Oct 2024.
12. **Dr. Raed Mahdi** – Pediatrician, Al-Dorra Hospital; detained 7 Dec 2023.
13. **Dr. Akram Abu Odeh** – Head of Orthopedics, Indonesian Hospital; detained 22 Nov 2023.
14. **Dr. Muhammad Ubaid** – Surgeon, Kamal Adwan and Al-Awda Hospitals; detained Oct 2024.

### Call to Action:

- **Demand immediate release:** Publicly and privately call for the cancellation of detention orders and the release of all arbitrarily detained 14 doctors.
- **Engage your government,** urging national authorities to take diplomatic and legal action to address these violations.
- **Issue public statements:** Condemn the detention and mistreatment of medical personnel and reaffirm the principle of medical neutrality.
- **Mobilize professional networks:** Raise awareness through conferences, publications, and campaigns highlighting violations against medical personnel.
- **Advocate collectively:** Join international coalitions calling for the immediate release of 14 detained doctors and protection of healthcare workers in conflict zones.

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