

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000129/25

**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
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(The Left)**

(14 January 2025)

Subject: Case of Dr Hussam Abu Safiya

Dr Hussam Abu Safiya, the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza, has been detained by the Israel Defense Forces since 27 December 2024. The World Health Organisation has called on Israel to release Dr Abu Safiya. Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said it had received information that the health of Dr Abu Safiya has deteriorated due to the torture he has endured during his detention, particularly while being held at the Sde Teiman detention centre.

Will the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

1. Call for the immediate release of Dr Abu Safiya?
2. Apply diplomatic and economic pressure to Israel to ensure Dr Abu Safiya's release?
3. Work to ensure the full protection of healthcare staff who are engaging in life-saving work amid Israel's brutal military campaign?

Submitted: 14.1.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission

(12 March 2025)

The EU is aware of the case of Dr Abu Safiya. Media and non-governmental organisations report that the doctor is being held in arbitrary detention in poor conditions following his refusal to follow evacuation orders, remaining instead in Kamal Adwan hospital to treat his patients.

The EU is also aware of the case of Dr Adnan Al-Bursh, Head of the Orthopaedic department at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, who was held under similar allegations in Ofer prison and passed away after nearly four months in detention.

An Israel Defense Forces press release ⁽¹⁾ states that Dr Abu Safiya is being investigated on suspicion of being a Hamas terrorist operative.

The EU is aware of the appeal for the doctor's release by Amnesty International and similar demands made by human rights advocates and healthcare professionals around the world.

The EU has consistently called on all parties in the Middle East to take all feasible precautions to avoid harm to civilians, humanitarian workers and facilities, in line with their obligations under international humanitarian law ⁽²⁾. Violations of international humanitarian law need to be thoroughly and independently investigated and accountability ensured.

The EU continues to raise its concerns about the human rights' situation at bilateral and multilateral level and will do so in Dr Abu Safiya's case should an ongoing investigation warrant such action.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/idf-press-releases-israel-at-war/december24-pr/the-idf-and-isa-completed-a-targeted-operation-against-a-hamas-command-center-in-the-kamal-adwan-hospital-in-jabaliya/>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/qa3lblga/euco-conclusions-27062024-en.pdf>