

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003029/26
to the Commission**

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(16 July 2026)

Subject: Urgent appeal for the release of Dr Hussam Abu Safiya

Palestinian paediatrician Dr Hussam Abu Safiya, former director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza, has been arbitrarily detained by the Israeli authorities since 27 December 2024, without charge or trial. According to his lawyer, Amnesty International ⁽¹⁾ and the United Nations ⁽²⁾, he has been subjected to prolonged solitary confinement, torture, ill-treatment and deprivation of medical care. His current condition has raised serious concerns for his survival. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has called for his immediate release.

His case forms part of the broader context of the Israeli Government's grave violations of international humanitarian law. The latest report ⁽³⁾ of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry documents systematic violence against children in the Gaza Strip, with more than 20 000 children deliberately killed between 7 October 2023 and 7 October 2025, corroborating concerns repeatedly raised by Dr Abu Safiya himself.

In view of the above, could the Commission clarify:

1. What initiatives it has undertaken to secure the immediate release of Dr Abu Safiya and ensure respect for his fundamental rights?
2. Whether it intends to urge the Council to implement the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement and support an embargo on arms exports to Israel in light of the violations documented by the United Nations?

Submitted: 16.7.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(2 September 2026)

The EU has been following closely the case, and it has been raised with the Israeli authorities and called on Israel to ensure full respect for fair trial guarantees and prisoners' rights in the case of Dr Abu Safiya and other detained Palestinians, including detained medical personnel.

The EU acknowledges Israel's legitimate security concerns and its right to investigate credible allegations of involvement with terrorist organisations, while recalling that such investigations should be conducted in full compliance with Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including with regard to the treatment of detainees and due process guarantees.

The decision on a possible suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement ⁽¹⁾ requires unanimity in the Council. In light of the situation in Gaza and the West Bank discussions have continued in the Council among Member States on possible options.

The control on the export of arms by Member States is subject to national legislation, the Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP ⁽²⁾ and the Arms Trade Treaty ⁽³⁾ (ATT).

The competent authorities of Member States take final decision whether to authorise or deny an individual export or transit license of military equipment, in accordance with the said legal frameworks. Member States are solely responsible to ensure compliance with applicable laws, including the Common Position and the ATT.

¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/release-dr-hussam-abu-safiya/>.

² <https://www.internazionale.it/ultime-notizie-reuters/2026/07/06/israel-s-detention-of-prominent-gazan-doctor-is-arbitrary-un-body-says>.

³ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/coi-report-23jun26/>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/eu-israel-association-agreement>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32008E0944>.

⁽³⁾ <https://old.thearmstradetreaty.org/>.