

January 14, 2025

Dr. Zivan Aviad-Bar

Chief Medical Officer

Israel Defense Forces

Dear Sir,

Re: Information Regarding Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya

Recently, we have seen numerous declarations and received inquiries from international bodies regarding the IDF bombing of hospitals in Gaza, and the arrest of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, Director of Kamal Adwan Hospital. Not long ago, we received a request for information from the Royal College of Paediatrics in the United Kingdom, as well as from the World Medical Association (WMA), of which the Israeli Medical Association (IMA) is a member. Certain WMA members are seeking to issue a press release accusing Israel of unlawful arrest, torture, and destruction of the healthcare system in Gaza.

We are aware of the complexity of the matter and the concern that Dr. Abu Safiya may have been a Hamas operative currently under investigation in Israel. However, our inability to provide additional information regarding his situation places the IMA, and the State of Israel more broadly, in a difficult position. Ethical standards applicable to every physician in Israel mandate that we refrain from harming hospitals and medical personnel. Even when such institutions or individuals may be exploited for warfare and terrorism, every effort must be made to minimize harm to the healthcare system.

We therefore respectfully request concrete information about the status of Dr. Abu Safiya. This will allow us to reassure the above-mentioned organizations that, as we believe, the IDF is acting solely out of concern for the security of the State of Israel, and not out of any other considerations.

Sincerely,

Prof. Zion Hagay

President