

World Health Organization calls on Israel to release Kamal Adwan Hospital director



Geneva, January 7 (RHC)-- The World Health Organization (WHO) has called on Israel to release the well-known director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya was abducted on December 27, 2024. The UN agency says it has received no updates on his safety since. In a statement released on Monday, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO director-general, called for the immediate release of Abu Safiya

"Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza remains completely out of function and we have received no updates on the safety and wellbeing of its director Dr Hussam Abu Safiya since his detention on 27 December," Ghebreyesus wrote on X.

"We continue to urge Israel to release him. We repeat: attacks on hospitals and health professionals must end. People in Gaza need access to health care," Tedros said.

The director general of the Palestinian Health Ministry in the Gaza Strip, Munir al-Bursh, said Abu Safiya is understood to be held in the Sde Teiman military prison, notorious for torture.

"Abu Safiya was seen in Sde Teiman Prison and signs of beating and torture appeared on his body. The Israeli occupation denied at first his arrest and then admitted it," Bursh said.

Abu Safiya was abducted when Israeli forces stormed the bombed-out Kamal Adwan Hospital. All medical staff, patients and their relatives were taken out at gunpoint and transferred to an unknown location.

The last photo of Abu Safiya showed him walking alone towards a row of Israeli tanks that had amassed outside the facility.

In November 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, his former war minister, for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its campaign of genocide.

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