

August 31, 2026

Update on Progress since the Emergency Panel on Dr. Safiya

Thank you to those who attended the emergency panel. Your attendance from around the world is of paramount importance to advancing these issues. You can watch the recording [here](#).

Update on our progress in advocating for Dr. Safiya

The open letter written by Professor Naftali Kaminski to save the life of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya has been signed by 4,239 people from 110 countries as of July 21st. It was sent to the World Medical Association (WMA), American Medical Association (AMA), Israeli Medical Association (IMA), and other medical societies. The WMA [wrote](#) to Israel's Prime Minister, citing "grave concerns" for Dr. Abu Safiya's life — demanding an independent medical evaluation, an end to solitary confinement, and due process or release. The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), representing national medical associations across Europe, [called](#) on the EU Commission to urgently press for his immediate transfer to a hospital and an independent medical assessment. The IMA responded directly and disclosed that it has itself requested an independent medical examination of Dr. Abu Safiya. The BMJ [published](#) this call.

We are now pressing the IMA to make that demand public.

Update on forcibly detained Palestinian healthcare workers

Dr. Abu Safiya has been transferred out of the Rakefet underground facility. He remains indefinitely held without charge. Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI) request on his behalf for an independent medical examination has gone unanswered by the Israel Prison Service, despite newly disclosed medical records that corroborate his lawyer's report of severe beatings and resultant injuries he suffered in custody.

The broader pattern met by thousands of Palestinian detainees since October 2023 shows that Israeli detention facilities have become a network of torture camps, marked by physical violence, humiliation, denial of medical treatment, and inhumane living conditions. No court hearing has been set yet in the petition to Israel's High Court for Dr. Abu Safiya's release and the release of the other 13 doctors from Gaza, where they are desperately needed. Attacks against health care workers continue in the West Bank as well, with the detention of Dr. Mazen al-Rantisi in June 2026 and of Dr. Dima Amin ten days ago, on August 18.

This update was written by Professor Naftali Kaminski (Yale University), Tirza Leibowitz (Physicians for Human Rights Israel), and Dr. Ruth Gibson (Stanford University).