

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write with urgent concern about the life-threatening conditions facing Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, a Palestinian pediatrician detained by Israel without charge or trial. Israeli authorities have detained him now for nearly two years, reportedly without adequate medical care. As recently as early July, Dr. Abu Safiya's lawyer warned that his physical condition had deteriorated to the point of near-death.¹

Dr. Abu Safiya is the longtime director of Kamal Adwan hospital in Gaza City. During the war in Gaza, he played a critical role in providing wounded civilians with vital medical care. Among his most well-documented contributions was the construction of a malnutrition unit that treated hundreds of children.² To perform such lifesaving work, Dr. Abu Safiya overcame extraordinary hardships, including injury, extensive damage to his hospital and the loss of his own son.³ Yet on December 27, 2024, the doctor's record of service was cut short when Israeli authorities arrested him while he was on duty at his hospital. No formal charges were ever presented against Dr. Abu Safiya, and to this day, he has yet to receive a trial.⁴

For over 18 months, Dr. Abu Safiya has languished in Israeli jails, including an underground facility previously shut down due to the poor conditions its detainees faced. According to his lawyer, authorities have repeatedly denied him adequate access to medical care, food and toiletries, causing him to lose significant weight.⁵ He has reportedly received multiple beatings, which have accelerated the deterioration of his physical health. On July 2, 2026, Dr. Abu Safiya's lawyer visited him and found that the severity of his injuries had rendered him nearly unrecognizable. His body bore fresh bruises, and he struggled to remain conscious.⁶

¹ <https://www.amnestyusa.org/blog/emergency-leahy-appeal-dr-hussam-abu-safiyas-life-at-imminent-risk-in-israeli-detention/>

² <https://apnews.com/article/gaza-palestinian-doctors-israel-ceasefire-release-9d5258814292cfc32c16f90e8d63e675>

³ <https://www.haaretz.com/gaza/2026-07-04/ty-article/.premium/gaza-hospital-director-jailed-in-israel-in-life-threatening-danger-lawyer-says/0000019f-2e64-ddb2-af9f-3e74b4b30000?fromLogin=success>

⁴ <https://www.amnestyusa.org/blog/emergency-leahy-appeal-dr-hussam-abu-safiyas-life-at-imminent-risk-in-israeli-detention/>

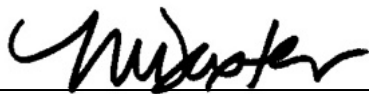
⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <https://www.amnestyusa.org/blog/emergency-leahy-appeal-dr-hussam-abu-safiyas-life-at-imminent-risk-in-israeli-detention/>

In response to a global outcry about Dr. Safiya's medical condition and lack of due process, the Israeli government has asserted that he presents a danger to state security.⁷ Yet no charges have been filed against him, and the evidence behind that assertion has never been disclosed to Dr. Abu Safiya or his legal team. Regardless, nothing obviates any government's obligation to provide basic medical care and due process to detainees. We urge you to engage your Israeli counterparts to end Dr. Abu Safiya's indefinite and dangerously inhumane detention.⁸

Given the imminent threats to Dr. Abu Safiya's life, we urge you to do everything in your power to ensure he receives the necessary medical care. We also urge you to advocate for an end to his seemingly indefinite detention during any upcoming engagements with the Israeli government. International human rights law clearly affords due process to all individuals accused of wrongdoing, and Dr. Abu Safiya is no exception.⁹ Indeed, in defending Dr. Abu Safiya's right to a fair trial, the Trump Administration can begin to affirm its commitment to the wellbeing of Palestinians, a fundamental pillar of the President's twenty-point plan.¹⁰

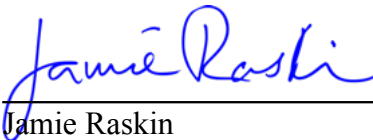
Very truly yours,



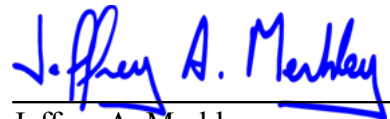
Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

⁷ <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/israel-security/2026-08-14/ty-article/.premium/israels-top-court-intel-supports-claim-gaza-hospital-director-was-hamas-member/0000019f-fc35-d569-a5ff-fc7503920000>

⁸ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2026/07/israel-opt-fears-mounting-for-arbitrarily-detained-palestinian-doctor-hussam-abu-safiya-amidst-reports-his-life-is-in-grave-danger/>

⁹ <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

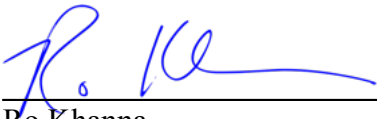
¹⁰ <https://www.cfr.org/articles/guide-trumps-twenty-point-gaza-peace-deal>



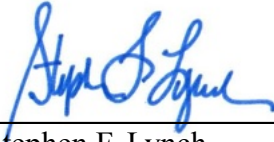
André Carson
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



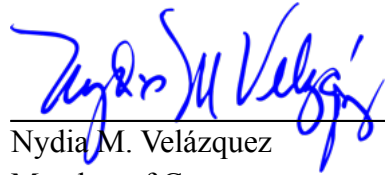
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



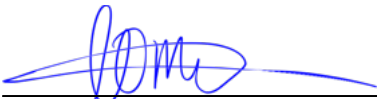
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



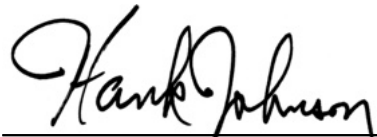
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



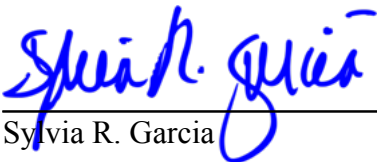
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



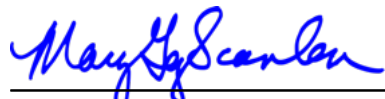
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



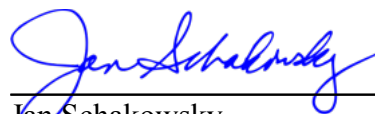
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



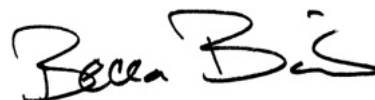
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



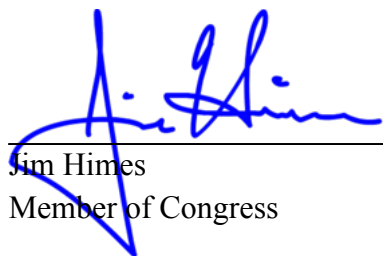
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



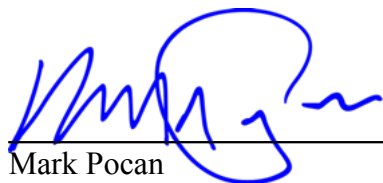
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



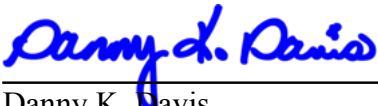
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



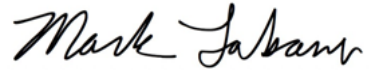
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



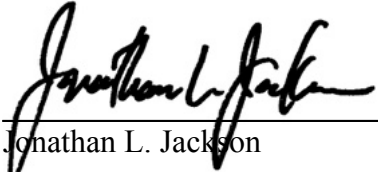
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



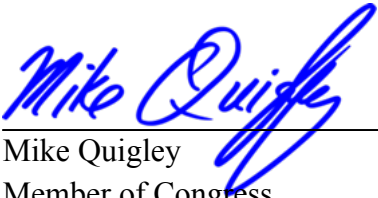
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



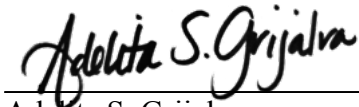
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



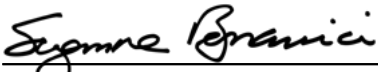
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



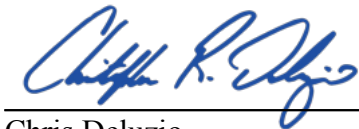
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



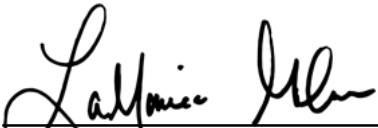
Adenita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



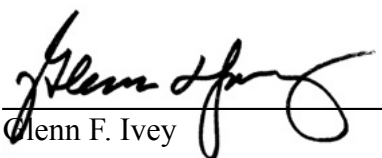
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



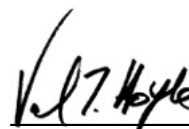
Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress



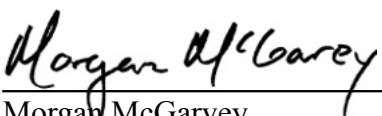
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



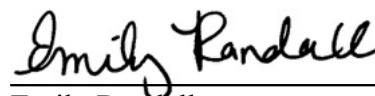
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



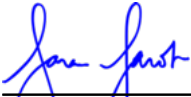
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



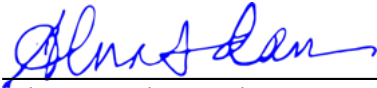
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



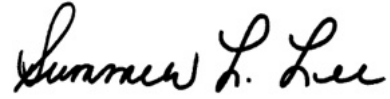
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



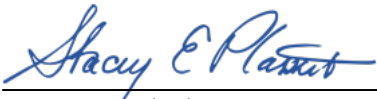
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



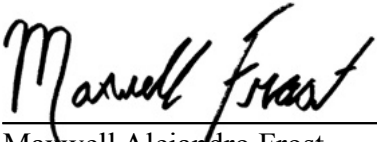
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



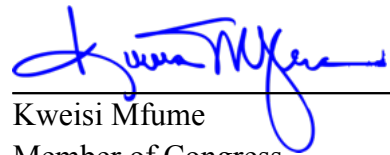
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



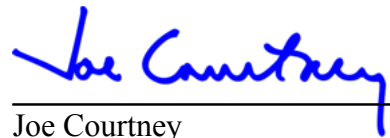
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



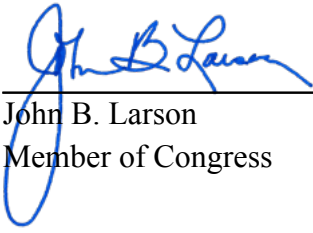
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



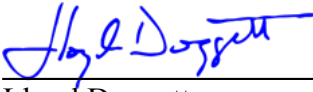
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress