

Urgent Action Office 3-1992 Yonge Street Toronto ON M4S 1Z7 Phone: (416) 363-9933 Fax: (416) 363-3103 urgentaction@amnesty.ca
First UA: 53/24 Index: MDE 15/8136/2024 Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories of June 7, 2024

ISRAEL/OPT FREE PALESTINIAN DOCTOR DETAINED BY ISRAELI MILITARY

On March 24, 2024, Israeli forces detained Palestinian doctor Khaled Al Serr from Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, Gaza. He has since been held in conditions amounting to enforced disappearance. Over two months later, Israeli authorities still conceal his fate and whereabouts. His family has only received scant information from his colleagues and released detainees.

Israeli authorities must immediately release Dr. Khaled Al Serr. They must also disclose the whereabouts and legal status of all Palestinian health workers from Gaza who have been forcibly disappeared. Until Dr. Al Serr is released, authorities must inform his family of his fate, whereabouts, and grounds for detention. They must ensure he has access to a lawyer, medical care, and family visits.

Write to the Military Advocate General of the Israel Defense Force urging him to:

- Immediately release Dr. Khaled Al Serr.
- Disclose the whereabouts and legal status of all Palestinian health workers from Gaza who have been forcibly disappeared.
- Ensure that unless they are charged with internationally recognized criminal offenses and prosecuted in fair trials, these Palestinian health workers be released.
- Pending his release, ensure that the prison authorities immediately inform Dr. Khaled Al Serr's family of his whereabouts, fate and grounds of arrest, if any.

Write to:

Brig. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi

Military Advocate General

Israel Defense Forces

Fax: +972(0)35694526

Email: pazar@idf.il

Salutation: Dear Brig. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi,

And copy:

His Excellency Iddo Moed

Ambassador

Embassy of the State of Israel

50 O'Connor Street, Suite 1005

Ottawa, ON K1P 6L2

Tel: (613) 750-7500 Fax: (613) 750-7555

Email: info@ottawa.mfa.gov.il

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On March 24, 2024, Israeli forces detained Dr. Khaled Al Serr, a 32-year-old Palestinian surgeon, from Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, Gaza. He was taken along with other health workers. His family learned about his detention from his colleagues. Since then, they have received no information from Israeli authorities about his condition, whereabouts, or the reasons for his arrest. Released detainees reported that Dr. Al Serr was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment.

Since October 7, 2023, and particularly since the start of ground operations in Gaza at the end of October, Israeli authorities have used the Unlawful Combatants Law to detain thousands of Palestinians without charges or trial. Detainees, including Dr. Al Serr, have been held incommunicado, outside the protection of the law, in conditions amounting to enforced disappearance. These actions violate international humanitarian and human rights law. Torture, ill-treatment, and enforced disappearance are crimes under international law. Arbitrary detention during armed conflict and occupation is a war crime and may amount to crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The detention of health workers like Dr. Khaled Al Serr is part of ongoing attacks on Gaza's healthcare system. Healthcare workers face horrific conditions, long shifts without food and clean water, and frequent communication blackouts due to military operations. As of June 5, only 16 of Gaza's 36 main hospitals are partially functional, severely limiting the services they can provide.

Join our campaign to demand the immediate release of Dr. Khaled Al Serr and an end to the enforced disappearance of Palestinian health workers. Send your letter to the Israeli authorities now.

Please take action as soon as possible until August 2, 2024! The UA will be duly updated should there be the need for further action.