



- **Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya's Case Epitomizes Suffering of Hundreds of Palestinians Abducted from Gaza by Israeli Occupation**
- **49 Percent of All Palestinian Political Prisoners Held Arbitrarily Without Trial or Charge**

Palestinian Prisoner's Society

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Ramallah, occupied Palestine –The Israeli occupation's Supreme Court decision to uphold the detention of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya is a stark example of the policy of mass arbitrary detention that has targeted thousands of Palestinians abducted by occupation forces from the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS) said in a statement on Wednesday. Hundreds remain incarcerated under the so-called "Unlawful Combatants Law," which has become a legal tool for institutionalizing open-ended detention outside the fundamental guarantees of justice and international law.

The occupation's Supreme Court ruling is part of a long series of policies reflecting the extent of complicity of the Israeli judicial system in entrenching the ongoing genocidal treatment of Palestinian political prisoners. This complicity is manifested in granting legal legitimacy to the continued arbitrary detention of thousands of Palestinians. While those arrested from Gaza are held under the "unlawful combatants law," Palestinians from the occupied West Bank, Jerusalem and the 1948-territories, are held under "administrative detention" which operates in a similar fashion of keeping detainees indefinitely held without trial or charge. The occupation's supreme court also employs a policy of delaying and procrastinating in considering petitions related to prisoners' detention conditions and the grave crimes committed against them.

The PPS emphasizes that the horrific conditions in which Palestinian political prisoners are being held since the start of the genocide in Gaza marks a dangerous and unprecedented turning point, both in terms of the level, nature, and scope of violence used. Prisons and detention centers have been transformed into organized networks of torture, humiliation, and abuse. This increasingly threatens, in particular, prisoners serving long sentences, who face no real prospect of release, as well as thousands of sick and wounded prisoners enduring extremely severe health conditions amid systematic denial of medical treatment and care.

The PPS stressed that the crimes committed against detainees abducted from Gaza represent the most horrific and dangerous level within the broader system of ongoing violations. This information is based on hundreds of documented testimonies and statements that reveal a widespread and systematic regime of torture, including physical and psychological torture, starvation, humiliation, and sexual assault, including rape. This reflects one of the most organized and brutal forms of violence in contemporary history and constitutes a central aspect of the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people.

The PPS further noted that more than 100 Palestinian political prisoners and detainees have been killed and died in the occupation's custody as a result of torture, severe physical assault,



starvation, sexual assaults, and denial of medical care. The identities of only 90 of them have been publicly disclosed, including 52 detainees abducted from the Gaza Strip. Among those who were killed in custody were three doctors: Adnan Al-Bursh, Iyad Al-Rantisi, and Ziad Al-Dalou, which further indicates the systematic targeting of Palestinian medical personnel.

The PPS pointed out that, as of early June 2026, the Israeli occupation's prison services acknowledged holding 1,316 Palestinians classified as "unlawful combatants," the overwhelming majority of whom are from the Gaza Strip, in addition to detainees from Lebanon and Syria. This comes as arrests of Gaza residents continue even after the so-called ceasefire agreement, reinforcing ongoing policies of mass detention and systematic targeting of Gaza's population.

In this context, the PPS stated that approximately 49% of all Palestinian political prisoners and detainees are being held arbitrarily without charges or trial, whether classified as "unlawful combatants" or held under administrative detention. This clearly demonstrates an unprecedented expansion of arbitrary detention policies that violate the most basic principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

The Palestinian Prisoner's Society renews its urgent appeal to the international human rights community, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and all states party to international conventions to take immediate and effective action to exert genuine pressure on the Israeli occupation to secure the release of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, end the targeting of him, hold accountable those responsible for crimes committed against Palestinian political prisoners and detainees, and ensure international protection for them. Palestinian prisoners are being subjected to an integrated system of crimes and violations amounting to genocide, carried out within prisons and detention centers through a continuous and institutionalized structure of torture.

The total number of Palestinian political prisoners as of June 2026 is approximately 9,500 people.

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