

# Israel destroys Gaza



**When soldiers stormed Kamal Adwan hospital they showed the world how Israel has obliterated health services all across Gaza.**

Israeli soldiers attacked Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip on 27 December, torching large sections and ordering hundreds of people to leave. The laboratory, surgical unit, engineering and maintenance department, operations theatre and the medical store were burnt and severely damaged.

Fifteen critical patients, 50 caregivers and 20 healthworkers were forced to transfer to the Indonesian Hospital, itself attacked with Kamal Adwan and Al Awda hospital in December. After the transfers, Israel attacked the Indonesian Hospital again. It *“no longer provides any services to patients or the wounded”*.

Over 1,000 healthcare workers have been killed in Gaza in the past 15 months. Hundreds have been held in Israeli captivity; at least four healthworkers have been killed in detention.

Paediatric intensive care specialist Dr Tanya Haj-Hassan told the UN Security Council of recent phone calls from colleagues in Gaza. *“They tell us they are targets because they are healthcare workers, that wearing scrubs and white coats is like wearing a target on their backs. Why?”*

*“Because hospitals and healthcare workers represent life and a will to keep people alive.”*

Dr Sara Al-Saqqa works for the UN in Gaza. She told Dr Haj-Hassan *“I never thought that international law or human rights institutions would allow two million people to be locked in a cage and systematically massacred!”*

## **Dr Hussam Abu Safiya**

On 27 December Kamal Adwan director Dr Abu Safiya was beaten and taken to the notorious Sde Teiman detention camp initially. He may face torture like Dr Al Bursh, the Gaza surgeon who died after months in Israeli prisons.

Dr Safiya’s fate is now the focus of international campaigns demanding his release. “Doctors Against Genocide” inspired hospital staff to take sick leave in 15 US cities and Quebec, mounting “pop-up” Kamal Adwan clinics.

**Bombing hospitals, detaining and killing healthworkers aims to destroy the present and future for all Palestinians in Gaza. It is genocide.**