

Thank You Dr. Kressly and the American Academy of Pediatrics!

After Dr. Kressly became President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, she took the courageous step of writing to former Secretary of State Anthony Blinken to ask his help in finding Palestinian pediatrician Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, a medical profession leader in Gaza. Dr. Hussam was arrested by the Israeli Army and his whereabouts have been unknown since.

The letter also raised alarm about the lack of access to care for the innocent children in Gaza.

You can click on [this link](#) to read Dr. Kressly's letter.

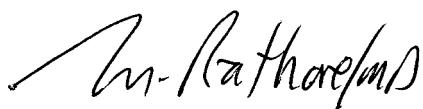
The Academy merely raising the issue with the United States government increased the status of the Academy in my mind and thousands of other members who have agonized over the suffering of children for the past 15 months.

Let's hope that the tenuous ceasefire stays in effect. With hostages being exchanged, there is hope.

A lot of work remains ahead. There are thousands of physically disabled children, maimed in the war, who need long term care. Thousands of orphans need homes. And all of these children need counseling and mental health services. These children are suffering the ultimate adverse childhood events (ACEs) and all will have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Something the Academy has stressed as causes of poor health of children. With the medical system decimated, healthcare infrastructure destroyed, and thousands of healthcare professional killed or injured, delivering necessary support will be a herculean effort. Many organizations, like the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund (www.PCRF.net) led by Dr. Barbara Zind, a pediatrician from Grand Junction, Colorado and MedGlobal (www.medglobal.org) started by Dr. John Kahler, a pediatrician from Chicago, and many others would be instrumental in this effort. All of us can contribute to this effort with our expertise and experience.

The Academy can play the largest role in recovery of children in Gaza. With the Academy's resources and it's 67,000 members, we can advocate for resources, provide expertise, and train the pediatric healthcare force in Gaza.

There is a lot that needs to be done. The challenges are huge. But who is better in meeting the challenge than pediatricians, especially American pediatricians. With the help and guidance from our professional home, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American pediatricians can assist in alleviating the suffering children in Gaza.



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