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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 15, 2024

The Honorable Michael Herzog
Israeli Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of Israel
3514 International Drive NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing to request your urgent assistance in helping a constituent of mine safely return home to New Jersey.

On April 26, 2024, Dr. Ghada Abukuawaik of Paterson, New Jersey, embarked on a humanitarian mission with the Palestinian American Medical Association in collaboration with the World Health Organization to Gaza. On May 1, she arrived in Gaza and started working at the European hospital in Khan Younis. Dr. Abukuwaik was scheduled to return home on Tuesday, May 14, and has now been told her trip will be delayed due to the border closures by Israeli authorities.

Dr. Abukuwaik is an active community member and pharmacist in Paterson. She and her colleagues traveled to Gaza to help preserve innocent lives. I hope and expect that your government will work closely with the U.S. Department of State to ensure Dr. Abukuawaik and all her American colleagues are granted expeditious passage from the war zone and safe return to the United States.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Pascrell Jr".

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress