



## Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

### Abu Dis Human Rights report

### A month in Abu Dis, July 2018



The apartheid system imposed by Israel on Palestine involves systematic mistreatment of Palestinians at all levels – and this continued this month. This included quieter and less dramatic human rights violations that have become routine but are a severe pressure on people: movement restrictions, separation from family

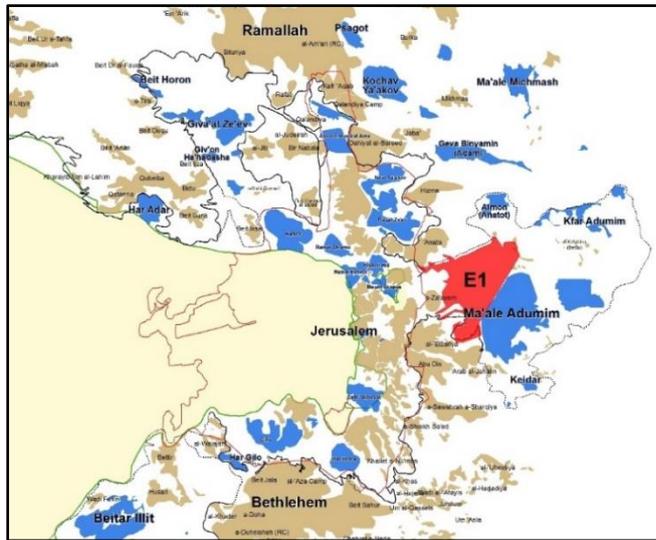
members, economic and environmental problems in addition to interactions with the military – house invasions, arrests as well as woundings and killings.

During this month, apartheid was pushed on further when the Israeli Knesset gave approval



to a new 'Nation State Law' as one of the so-called Basic Laws of Israel. Although the effort has been in this direction from the beginning, the law for the first time enshrines Israel as “the national home of the Jewish people” in such a way that it removes the equality (even in name) for others in Israel – primarily the Palestinians who remained after 1948. At the same time, the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is continuing aggressively both to keep Gaza under an inhuman siege and to take over West Bank land and there is no indication that the talk of “two states” is anything but a red herring.

In Gaza, big demonstrations for the right to return continued to be met by Israeli snipers both killing and maiming – and a flotilla of international boats attempting to break the siege of Gaza was once again violently prevented by Israel from reaching the shore.



In the West Bank, the extension of the E1 settlement project in 12000 donums of land to the east of Jerusalem started under Sharon in 1998 has been held off for years by the level of international disapproval (see red area on the map – blue areas are existing settlements). However for years now the people of Abu Dis and the villages around have watched the infrastructure for the project going in: roads being made,

water systems put in place. Now, Trump has given the green light to Netanyahu to expand settlements, and the movement can be felt on all levels – laws allowing Israeli land ownership, permissions for new settlement projects and the push to clear Palestinians from the land. This month, Israel pushed ahead with land expropriations from Palestinians in order to build new towns for Israelis. The area around Abu Dis has since 1953 been lived in by Bedouin (the villages of Jabal al-Baba, Abu Nuwar, Wadi Abu Hindi, Khan al-Ahmar) who were pushed out of the Negev by Israel, and were living in this area before the occupation of the West Bank.

During July 2018, 26 people from the West Bank and Gaza were killed by the Israeli army, among them, 8 children. Over two thousand were wounded. Five hundred and fifty were arrested, including 185 under 18 and 19 women and girls – becoming a part of around 6000 Palestinians held in Israeli jails. Thirty-six internationals were arrested, including those on the flotilla to Gaza and those who were joining protestors to support Al Khan al-Ahmar village in its struggle against eviction.



**In Abu Dis, this month:**

**On Monday 2nd July** The Israeli army together with the Israeli civil department engineers went to the area of Al Khan al-Ahmar village (population over 200, from 40 different families). They measured the houses, preparing to destroy them, and gave people orders to leave.

**On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** in the evening, there was a protest near Kubsa in Abu Dis to protest these moves by the Israelis. The Israeli army responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. The Red Crescent reported that two teenagers were wounded by the army. The shooting continued until late in the night.



**Tuesday 3rd July** The Israeli army delivered a military order to villagers in Al Khan al-Ahmar, declaring that from the following Friday, it would be a closed military area. This order announced house demolitions.



**On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July** Early in the morning, the brought bulldozers to the area of Al Khan al-Ahmar. They closed two side streets which lead from the main Jerusalem-Jericho road to the village.



While this was happening, the Israeli army invaded another local Bedouin village, Abu Nuwar, and destroyed two houses.



In the afternoon, the army invaded Al Khan al-Ahmar and were met with a protest; the army attacked the residents. Many people were beaten, and some people were arrested including women and old people, and many people were hurt by tear gas, by being beaten and by rubber bullets.



**There was shocking video of this day – See [HERE](#)**

**On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July** Early in the morning, the Israeli army broke into the house of Jamal Dandan in the University Street of Abu Dis. The area was full of tear gas and gunshots. They arrested Jamal (early 60s), his son Ali (around 30) and asked for his son Yazan. They took Jamal and Ali to the military camp in Abu Dis and kept them overnight.

Later in the morning there were further clashes and attacks on Al Khan al-Ahmar, following the activities yesterday. The Israeli army arrested some internationals and also the Director of B'tselem human rights organisation, and declared a curfew.

**On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July** In the afternoon, after the Friday prayer, the Israeli army made a checkpoint on the crossroads to the military camp, and put police jeeps on the University Street and Kubsa. They stopped people as they came out of prayer. There were clashes and the army started to throw tear gas in University Street and in Kubsa, and the army used trucks to spray sewage-smelling spray against houses and shops in University Street to try to keep people away. This disgusting smell stays around for hours; the street smelt disgusting for the whole evening and night, so the small shopkeepers on University Street lost trade.



**On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July** The curfew continued at al-Khan al Ahmar, and the Israeli army attempted to stop people coming into the area by instituting fines if anyone stopped even briefly on the nearby road.



In the morning, the Israeli army closed the whole area of East Jerusalem, with Border Police jeeps blocking the road. This caused a huge traffic jam – many people turned back to Ramallah or to Bethlehem as it was so difficult to get past.

**On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July**, the Israeli Knesset adopted a law saying that individual Israeli civilians could buy, register and hold land in the West Bank even inside the Palestinian towns. Up to this point, settlements have been built on land outside the towns, which Israel has claimed is 'state land'. So this move is a change – it is possible from this point for individual Israelis to

get hold of properties and demand army protection for them to settle and develop there. It reminds people of the story of the first settlement in Hebron in 1967, when settlers came to stay in a hotel in Hebron and then decided to stay, and demanded army protection – they built the Israeli settlement of Kiryat Arbaa inside Hebron in this way. The fear is that this approach can be taken anywhere in the West Bank from now.

**On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July**, the army closed the area on the east of Abu Dis (the area that had held the protest village of Bawabet al-Quds). They brought in prefabricated housing to construct a small village which is intended for the residents of Al Khan al-Ahmar. They blocked the roundabout near this area, which brought a lot of traffic into the centre of Abu Dis. The Israeli army put a new steel gate across the one remaining road to Al Khan al-Ahmar.



**On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July** At around 3am, the Israeli army invaded the house of Jamal Dandan again, and also the adjacent homes of his son Ali. This time they arrested his son Yazan. They also invaded the house of Mohammad Daes and arrested his son Mahmoud. Yazan and Mahmoud were taken to the Israeli military camp and then sent to the Maale Adumim settlement police station for interrogation.

**On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July** The destruction of Al Khan al-Ahmar was fiercely contested both locally and internationally. Today the Israeli High Court stopped the army from destroying the village of Al Khan al-Ahmar (decision is on the left) after lawyers proved that the land of Al Khan al-Ahmar was owned privately by Palestinians from Abu Dis, Aizariyeh and Anata. The court allowed the military until 16th July to appeal against the decision. By this time, hundreds of solidarity groups from all over the country and internationals too had found a way to Al Khan al-Ahmar despite all the



Israeli restrictions and curfews in order to show their solidarity and to protest against the demolition of the village. **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July** The Israeli army invaded University Street and threw tear gas all round the street. They focused on the cafes that students go to. They invaded the the Yaffa Café, made young people go outside

and line up against the wall, searched them, checked their IDs and released them.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July** There was an early-morning by the Israeli army to the Halabiyeh area of Abu Dis where the Bader family live. They invaded four houses, made the houses leave their homes at 3am, searched and made a big mess inside the houses and then left, without giving any reason.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July** As last week, and as on so many Fridays, the Israeli army made a checkpoint on the crossroads to the military camp in the afternoon, after the Friday prayer and put police jeeps on the University Street and Kubsa.. They stopped people as they came out of prayer. There were clashes and the army started to throw tear gas.



**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July** Early in the morning, the army invaded the area of Al Ras in Abu Dis. They went to the house of Ali Mohsen, looking for his son Ahmed. They searched the house and took away a Ford Transit belonging to the family.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July.** There was a special march by young people and others in Abu Dis in commemoration of the killing of Mohammed Lafee on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017. This march started outside his family house and went to the middle of Abu Dis near the Youth Club. The Israeli army started to throw tear gas and shoot towards the young people. According to Abu Dis Health Centre, four young people were wounded with rubber bullets. Clashes continued until late in the evening.

**On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July** in the early hours of Saturday morning, the Israeli army broke into Dar Assadaqa, CADFA's centre in Abu Dis - a centre for young people and the base for CADFA's work in Palestine - and turned it upside down. Dar Assadaqa was not singled out; the army also invaded a local shop where they destroyed belongings worth around 2000 NIS, a Women's Society and offices in the same building and the house of Naif Jaffal which is in a separate building. A large number of soldiers entered Naif Jaffal's house with dogs and searched all over the house. They put his wife and two small daughters in one room with

soldier and a dog in the same room. They took Naif outside the house and held him there for two hours. He was given a military order to go and meet the Intelligence officer in Maale Adumim on the following day. When he went, he was made to wait for hours and was shouted at but he was accused of nothing and was not held.



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** Early in the morning, the army invaded the house of Khalid Sharaf in Wad al-Jheer. They searched the house and arrested his son Mohammed. Mohammed's brother Walid was first arrested in 2010 when he was 17 – his case was taken up by CADFA both because he was a child prisoner and because he had a health problem which was ignored by the Israelis when he was arrested. Walid has been arrested since that time and is currently held by the Israelis under administrative detention (detention without trial).



**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July** CADFA visitors on their first time in Palestine were shocked today to visit Jabal Al Baba (a regular part of the programme) and find the children's summer camp held up as the nursery school and women's centre were being demolished by the Israeli army.

They wrote...

*"Today we visited Jabal Al Baba Palestinian Bedouin camp to visit a charity project there that works with children who have been traumatised by the ongoing violence under Israeli occupation. Although based on private land owned and donated by the Vatican to the Bedouin population there to live on, the Kindergarten and Women's Co-operative building were clearly deemed very dangerous as Israeli soldiers, workmen, bulldozers and trucks arrived on site without notice or permits, amongst the arriving children, and dismantled and cleared the buildings. A journalist was denied access but the UN did arrive to make a report about what happened. The land on which the camp is based is strategically located between two Israeli settlements built illegally (according to International law) and is a key location for the illegal Israeli expansion in (the Occupied Territories of) Palestine."*

And, following up from the raid on Dar Assadaqa mentioned above, they wrote....

*“We meet [at Dar Assadaqa] every morning 9am. A few days ago it was raided by Israeli troops at in the mornings was raided by Israeli troops, as well as the women’s centre in Abu Dis. This morning on our way to the site we found a Palestinian woman from the woman’s centre next door completely hopeless because her centre was completely turned upside down by Israeli troops. She looked lost and had no idea what to do or where to begin to rebuild. She had to ask our team leader for the keys to his base because he rebuilt his in the last few days and she needed a space to plan to deal with the aftermath.*”

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July** As other Fridays, this was a day of clashes, tear gas and shooting by Israeli



soldiers in Abu Dis, in particular in University Street, the crossroads to the military camp and the Al Ras neighbourhood. People in Abu Dis were today upset at the bad news

from Jerusalem, where a man had been coming out of the Old City after Friday prayers among a crowd of people including little children; video showed that his only action had been to raise his hands and that he was when he was shot by killed by Israeli soldiers.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July** Today, Ahed Tamimi from Nabi Saleh was released from Israeli jail. People from Abu Dis and elsewhere point out that she is only one of hundreds of child prisoners in Israeli jails – but she has become world-famous as a young activist, since she was imprisoned as a child 8 months ago.

