



## Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

### Abu Dis Human Rights report

### A month in Abu Dis, January 2017



The report this month tells some of the more dramatic events that happened in the Abu Dis, but it should be remembered that Palestinians living under military occupation suffer many quieter daily violations of their human rights.

People are trying to get on with their lives in a normal way but interrupted by movement restrictions – the Wall, checkpoints – separation from family members through the ID system or refusals to let people live with each other, economic and environmental problems. These are some of the racist restrictions imposed on Palestinians under Israeli occupation. In the last few months, the violations have become worse – more land confiscations, more movement restrictions, and more military violence of all sorts.

During January 2017 violations against the human rights of Palestinians continued across Palestine and inflamed the situation in Abu Dis itself. During this period, seven Palestinians (one a child) were killed in the West Bank; fifty Palestinians were wounded; 260 were arrested in just one month, including 80 children under 18.





The background to this all was the push to extend the settlements. In January, the Israeli army issued permission to build 566 new units in Jerusalem and the surrounding E1 area, in settlements called Ramot and Pizgat Ge'ev NE of Jerusalem, Har Homa (built on the Abu Ghnaim mountain) and Maale Adumim

next to Abu Dis.

Ahmed Manasrah – well known across Palestine because in autumn 2015 a video of him, aged 13, lying bleeding on tram tracks in Jerusalem having been shot by an Israeli soldier was spread on social media – was given 12 years in prison and a fine of 80,000 shekels (for many families this could be two years' income). Two other boys of 13 and 14 years old were each



given sentences of 11 years in prison and a fine to each family of 50,000 shekels.

The Israeli government were encouraged by the President Trump in the US and made moves to annexe Maale Adumim into Israel – though they were asked by him not to do that at this stage

### **In Abu Dis, January 2017**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** The Israeli army cut down 4000 newly-planted trees in These trees were planted by people from Abu Dis and Sawahreh during the last year, trying to protect their land after the Israeli Civil Department left land confiscation orders on the land (not sending them to anyone) last June.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** Israeli bulldozers knocked down two



Bedouin houses in the area of Bir Maskoub on the east of Abu Dis.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January**, late in the night, the Israeli army invaded and searched houses in the old side of Abu Dis, near the old Mosque. Boys threw stones towards the army who invaded one of the houses, and the army began shooting tear gas and sound bombs and this continued until Friday morning. Nobody was arrested.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January**, in the afternoon, an Israeli Border Police jeep made a checkpoint on the road through Wadi Jheer, Abu Dis, stopped drivers and took some cars from them on the grounds that they are Israeli. This is a big issue in the area around Jerusalem and explained below\*

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January**, the Israelis filled the area round Jerusalem with checkpoints. They made obstacles on every route into the city. This created a transport chaos for all Palestinians travelling to work or study in this area

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January**, Mahmoud Jaffal was released after 2 years in prison. Mahmoud was imprisoned when he was 13: at that time he was one of twelve child prisoners whose case was taken up by CADFA as “the Abu Dis dozen”. Mahmoud has been in and out of prison since that time.



**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**, in the morning at the beginning of the school and university day, there was a demonstration outside the Al Quds University after the Israeli put a checkpoint outside the University. The Israeli army responded to the demonstration by firing tear gas into the University and into the schools.

**Wednesday 11th January**, a group of Israeli soldiers walked through the town from the military camp which is within Abu Dis and chased children in the street. They threw tear gas in the middle of the town and up towards the University.



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January**, the Israelis put a ‘flying checkpoint’ on the road to Jericho and the Dead Sea and stopped a car which had 7 Abu Dis people in it: Mohammed Khalid Jaffal, Amir Khalid Jaffal, Jamal Khalid Abu Hilal, Mohammed Khanafseh, Yahya Nawafleh, Dawoud Mohsen, Wasim Tayim. They were all taken by the army to the Israeli Civil Department building next to Jericho and spent four hours there, until the Palestinian Co-ordination managed to release them.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January**, the Israeli army threw tear gas near the crossroads to the military camp in the middle of Abu Dis.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January**, the Israeli army invaded a student accommodation building on the University Street and forced 20 of the students living there to stand in the street while they searched the whole building. people threw stones towards tear gas and rubber bullets. army finally left the building



**Wednesday 18th January**, Knesset members and some on the Israeli government to began a movement called

Clashes started as young the army and the army fired Nobody was arrested; the at 5 in the morning.

Maale Adumim settlers and of the Israeli ministers called annexe Maale Adumim. They “The Land of Israel” and

launched a draft bill to this effect. The Mayor of Maale Adumim was invited to the inauguration of Donald Trump as President and the “Land of Israel” movement was invigorated by the election of Trump as President.

**Thursday 19th January**, in the early morning, there were clashes between young people and the Israeli army on University Street.



**Friday 20th January**, Palestinian activists tried to resurrect the protest village Bab al-Shams set up a couple of years ago in the area near Abu Dis and Aizariyeh village but destroyed by the Israeli army. This time the Israeli army came and arrested six people including one young woman. They also used

their traffic police to harrass journalists who came to cover the protest, holding their cars and saying that they were entering a military area – which is not the case. One of these journalists was already being harassed by the Israelis because he had issued a video of a boy being shot in cold blood by Israelis near Hebron. This time they challenged him and pushed him and gave him a fine for bringing his car into what they said was a military area; he explained that he didn't even have a car!

**Friday 20th January**, there were tear gas and sound bombs around the area by the crossroads that led towards the military camp in Abu Dis.

**Sunday 22nd January**, people in Abu Dis organised a candle-lit march in the streets of Abu Dis on the first anniversary of the boy Mohammed

Nabil aged 17 who was killed by the Israeli army in Abu Dis a year ago. School students and some of his family members marched from the Old Mosque in Abu Dis to the place he was



shot: the crossroads to the military camp. The army shot tear gas from inside the military camp which stopped people from continuing, as there were young kids and women among the protestors.

**Monday 23rd January**, according to a report in the Israeli paper Ha'aretz, the Israeli Ministry of Education took school students who were not attending school for agricultural work experience on the outskirts of Maale Adumim, which (Ha'aretz suggested) encouraged their interest in the settlement movement.



**Monday 23rd January**, early in the evening, an Israeli undercover force invaded Al-Ras neighbourhood. They appeared as civilians with guns. They chased a young man (Islam Ali Rabea' aged 19) to his house where they captured and arrested him – and then the army came and threw tear gas inside the houses belonging to the Rabea' families. There are around 20 Rabea' families living in that neighbourhood.

**Wednesday 25th January**, Mustafa Abu Hilal (19) was arrested at a flying checkpoint near Maale Adumim settlement and taken to the Maale Adumim police station before being taken to Ofer Prison near Ramallah. Mustafa had been released a few days previously, having been arrested in December – his crime appears to be protest activity on Facebook.

**Wednesday 25th January**, at a flying checkpoint on Wad al-Jheer Street, another young man who had recently been arrested, Abed Jamal Rabea' was arrested – the photo shows his mother begging the Israelis to



release him, while he is being held on the ground. While the army was holding Abed in the middle of the valley, young boys came to shout at them – They brought new army reinforcements who also invaded and searched houses and threw tear gas that filled the east side of Abu Dis near the University.

**Thursday 26th January**, the Israelis knocked down another Bedouin house in Jabal al-Baba



Bedouin village – The house had been donated by the European Union.

**Thursday 26th January**, in the middle of the night. The Israeli army invaded the house of Mohammed Nabil, who had been shot by the Israeli army a year ago. They pushed the family out into the cold while they searched the house

and kept them outside until early in the morning on Friday.

**Monday 30th January**, the Israelis invaded houses in Abu Dis in the night. They arrested



Mohammed Fayez Rabea'. They also searched the houses of Emad Qurea and Nizar Qurea. They were told to go to the intelligence officer at Maale Adumim Police Station the next morning.

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