



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

Abu Dis Human Rights report

A month in Abu Dis, June 2018

The human rights violations against people in Abu Dis and Palestine continued in June 2018 a way that has become routine. People are trying to get on with their lives in a normal way but their lives are systematically interrupted by movement restrictions, separation from family members, economic and environmental problems. People are becoming accustomed to violence from the Israeli army that every month leaves a number of boys (usually) injured, families, including those with babies, suffering from tear gas, and sees a number of people violently arrested or returned home suffering from their time in jail and their families suffering from fines of thousands of shekels.

The arrest of Tarek Jamous this month (24th) points to two issues. Firstly, the Israeli army found no reason to charge him with any offence, but still – as in other cases- demanded a fine. Many thousands of shekels are raised by the Israeli army in this way and Tarek's case is not alone in the fine being for no stated reason. The family were faced with two choices: either to pay the money for his release, or to insist that the case went to military court, in which case he would be faced with soldiers acting as witnesses against him and face imprisonment PLUS (no doubt) a fine.



Secondly, Tarek's arrest points to the real difficulties of having the occupation army within a civilian area, and in particular to the problems faced by families like his that are right next to the military camp in Abu Dis. Many houses, shops and businesses in that area suffer physical damage on a regular basis, and the people living in the houses have no-go areas around them, and a higher risk of being in interaction with the military.

Across Palestine this month

Terrible figures In June 2018, eighteen Palestinians were shot and killed by the Israeli army. Four of them were under sixteen. One was a woman. Sixteen of them were in Gaza, where the Great Return March is still continuing, every Friday (see previous reports). Two thousand, two hundred people (2,200) were wounded with live ammunition in Gaza. Two

were killed in the West Bank. Others, as this report from Abu Dis shows, were wounded; not



all of them declared themselves to clinics or ambulances out of fear. This month, 430 people were newly arrested from the West Bank and Jerusalem. Fifteen of them were children and thirteen were women. Twenty-four Palestinian houses or parts of houses were destroyed by the Israeli military this month - one of

these in Abu Dis.

Settlement expansion The aggressive expansion of the settlement movement is a reality across the West Bank and it is currently being led by a settlers' movement that puts up unauthorized 'outposts' wherever they want to. Note that all Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law but these outposts are often called 'illegal' which refers only to Israeli law and neither to the rights of the Palestinians to all of their land nor to international law (and the Geneva Conventions).

The settlers in the 'outposts' that are 'illegal' under Israeli law are working hard to extend the settlements, putting strong pressure on their government and able to create a strong political crisis for the Israeli government. The immediate challenge is that Israeli law allows for evacuation of these 'illegal' settlers which they are resisting strongly.

Last year, the Knesset passed a law in favour of the settlers in the West Bank that will, if implemented, present a further threat to all Palestinians of losing their homes, lands and



rights to their properties to any Israeli settler who claims these. The law is controversial on many levels inside the Israeli political administration: it arose when the Israeli government attempted to remove settlers from 'outpost' settlements, saying that they could not make them secure where

they are, but the settlers and those supporting them want the law to be passed so that they are not required to leave the areas that they have taken over.

This has not yet been implemented or repealed although no so-called 'outposts' (temporary settlements which predate the permanent settlement housing on areas that had not been agreed by the Israeli authorities) have been evacuated since that time and the threat remains. The new law would prevent the Israeli authorities from removing any 'outpost' and would give illegal settlers the right to keep building their houses on privately-owned Palestinian land. In effect, a group of Israeli settlers would be allowed to take over any land wherever they liked. It would provide the Palestinians the right to claim some money for the land, which is like a form of compulsory purchase by private individuals - thus creating a legitimisation mechanism for the settlers to take over more lands around Palestinian villages.

In June, twenty-three Palestinian municipal councils working with Israeli Human Rights Organisations raised a case with the Israeli High Court (because of another recent law, this case could not be taken by Palestinians) to attempt to have the law repealed.

In Abu Dis, this month:

Friday, June 1st: After the midday prayer, a demonstration began with people gathering near mosques on both sides of town, moving towards the town centre. At the crossroads to the military camp, the Israeli army put up a checkpoint, stopping cars and asking for people's IDs. Some children threw stones at the soldiers and the army shot tear gas and began to shoot. Then clashes took place which lasted from the evening until the middle of the night. At least one person was shot in the knee with a live bullet. Three people were arrested. The Israeli army set up a flying checkpoint in the middle of the town and took three cars away from West Bankers who were driving cars with Israeli number plates.

Saturday, June 2nd: Very early in the morning, the Israeli army came into Abu Dis and invaded houses in many parts of Abu Dis, shooting tear gas in the areas around. One of the houses belonged to Radhi Afaneh. The army invaded it looking for his son Moayyad (around 18) whom they didn't find. Instead they took Radhi and his other son as hostages to put pressure on Moayyad to surrender for the military.



Sunday, June 3rd: In the early morning, the Israeli military invaded the town near Al-Quds University and shot tear gas and rubber bullets.

Later in the morning, Moayyad Afaneh went to the Israeli police station in Maaleh Adumim settlement; his father and brother were freed but Moayyad was arrested.

Monday, June 4th: In the early morning the Israeli military started shooting tear gas and live ammunition from the military camp located on a hill inside Abu Dis,



Photo: Moayyad on his way to Maaleh Adumim settlement to give himself in, in order to release his brother and his father

Tuesday, June 5th: At 7 in the morning, the Israeli military invaded Abu Dis, using tear gas and rubber bullets to arrest

Mohammad Abbas Ayyad and Mohammad Jamal Awad from their houses.

In the evening the Israeli army released a Palestinian young man Mohannad (who has special needs and was arrested on 9th May – see our May report) after his family paid a fine of 7,500 shekels to the court.



Sunday, June 10th:

The Israeli army

invaded Abu Dis at around 7am. They went to the houses of Huthaifa Bader, Mohammad Al-Afendi and Waleed Sharaf and arrested them all; they had all previously been imprisoned by the Israelis. They put up checkpoints in the middle of town and shot tear gas which led to the closure of the boys' schools as the head teachers decided the students were safer out of school.



Monday, June 18th: In the evening there were demonstrations and the Israeli military shot tear gas which resulted in breathing difficulties for many local people.

Wednesday, June 20th: The Israeli military invaded the town to demolish parts of a Palestinian house belonging to Hussain Weheesh and his family. The army had not given Hussain any warning and claimed security reasons because his house is next to the Israeli Security Wall. The International Court found the Wall illegal in 2004, but the Israelis have continued to fortify and protect it and have declared that there should be no buildings for 150 metres on the east of the wall.



Friday, June 22nd: After the midday prayer, a demonstration began as on many Fridays, resulting in clashes with the Israeli military all over Abu Dis, near the University, near the crossroads to the military camp and on the main street of Abu Dis. The army shot tear gas all over the town which was a problem for everyone, restricting their movement and causing difficulties with breathing.



Sunday, June 24th: The Israeli military invaded a young man called Tareq Jamous whose house is not far from the military camp. They accused him of throwing stones and took him to Maale Adumim police station, but they did not charge him. However they demanded a fine of 500 shekels.

Monday, June 25th: The Israeli military closed down the Container checkpoint which connects Abu Dis (and the road to the north of the West Bank) with Bethlehem (and the south of the West Bank) for four hours, starting from 8 in the morning in the early hours of the work day. This created a huge traffic jam and disruption to people's work and studies.



The Israeli military invaded Kubsa, the commercial area of Abu Dis near the Palestine Bank, shooting many tear gas cannisters and live ammunition.

Tuesday, June 26th: In the early hours of the morning, the Israeli military invaded the area around Al-quds University; shooting tear gas and live ammunition.

Wednesday, June 27th: In the early hours of the morning and continuing until the morning, the Israeli Military invaded the town and created a flying checkpoint in Al-Ras neighborhood. They entered the house of Said Al-Afandi and arrested his son Mohamad who is 16, a student in the eleventh grade at Abu Dis Boys' School.

Friday, June 29th: As on other Fridays, there were demonstrations after the Friday prayer, and the Israeli army shot tear gas and rubber bullets around the streets in many areas of Abu Dis. The Red Crescent sent an ambulance to the area and treated a number of people on the spot and took other people out of the area: they reported on a large number of injuries from bullets and tear gas.

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