



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

Abu Dis Human Rights report

A month in Abu Dis, March 2018

Introduction

It is terrible to say that the human rights violations against people in Abu Dis and Palestine continued in March 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. (Photograph is outside Ofer jail)



Across Palestine

Closures and checkpoints continue to dominate people's lives. This report shows the number of flying checkpoints as well as fixed checkpoints that slow down Palestinians' travel in any direction. This month, the Israeli newspaper (Haaretz) published a report about Israeli security activities inside the Occupied Territories. They have been updating their security information about Palestinians by increasing the number of flying checkpoints and are asking for personal information such as their mobile numbers, car registrations and where they have travelled from and where they are going. They aim to randomly collect new information from people who are not registered on Israeli intelligence files.



Military violence In March, the situation deteriorated further following the U.S. administration's decision to move the United States embassy to occupied Jerusalem, a statement that

they consider occupied Jerusalem as the capital of the Israeli state. This serious step continued to be met by protests across the West Bank and Gaza, and this month the Israeli army killed 21 people and injured hundreds including the Gaza protestors on Land Day.

30th March is known as '*Land Day*' in memory of the demonstrators shot and killed in Galilee in 1976 protesting against land being taken from them on a military excuse. On this day in 2018, the Great Return March started on the Israeli borders of Gaza. Peaceful demonstrations by Palestinians were assaulted by the Israeli army where 17 were killed by Israeli snipers and hundreds were injured.

House invasions and imprisonment by the Israeli army continued this month, and there was evidence of bad treatment of the prisoner Ahmed Yazid Ariqat. According to joint reports by Human Rights Organizations during this March, 609 Palestinians were newly imprisoned across the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem, including 95 children and 13 women. In Abu Dis, Ahmed Ariqat was arrested by undercover forces, and others in the middle of the night.



The Israeli military continued to charge huge costs to the families of prisoners for their 'canteen' while inside prison— perhaps 1400 NIS a month (or more if they smoke or have special medical or other needs). In addition, the Israelis ask huge fines when people are released after arrest – whether found guilty or not. *The Prisoners' and Released Prisoners' Legal Committee* added together the fines raised from 69 Palestinian boys who were imprisoned in Ofer Prison, and found that their families were between them being made to pay 116,000 shekels.

Ongoing threats in Jerusalem: This month, the Israeli Knesset approved a new law, allowing the interior minister to withdraw Jerusalem ID's and deportation from the city of Palestinians who (according to Israel) do not show loyalty to the state of Israel. This Knesset decision was supported by the Israeli High Court. A Palestinian house in Jerusalem, near Abu Dis, was destroyed.

Pressures on Bedouin in the E1 area: Television this month (the only way the Palestinians will hear) reported that Israeli settlers have organised a new special unit which aims to increase pressure on people from the Bedouin community in the E1 area, to help the army to displace them from their lands and houses. Their methods include surrounding the Bedouin and making it difficult for them to access their land, blocking roads, streaming sewage in their areas and direct attacks.



In and around Abu Dis, this month:

Thursday 1st March: In the early morning, the army invaded School Street in Abu Dis. The soldiers placed a flying checkpoint near the main entrance of Al-Quds University. They fired tear gas towards the boys' schools, which led to schools closing for the safety of the students. Late in the evening on the same day, the Israeli army returned to Kubsa and there

were clashes with young people. The army shot tear gas and live ammunition until 1 am in the morning. The Red Crescent reported that five young people were injured by rubber bullets.

Friday 2nd March: After the Friday prayer, in the early afternoon, there was a demonstration in the centre of Abu Dis. It began peacefully but ended with the Israeli army shooting from a checkpoint that they set up near the military camp. The army fired tear gas into the area of Kubsu. An Israeli special undercover force invaded Abu Dis in a Palestinian car. At the cross-roads leading to the military camp, they arrested Ahmad Yazid Arekat, a school student aged 15. They took Ahmad to the military camp, and then to the interrogation centre in the nearby Israeli settlement. Clashes continued until the early evening.



The Prisoners' and Released Prisoners' Legal Committee – a Palestinian human rights organisation issued a report describing the brutal treatment that Ahmed faced. He was arrested by Israeli soldiers dressed as Palestinians, and taken to the military camp in Abu Dis. There he was beaten by the soldiers and a woman soldier shot him in the leg with a tear gas cannister from close range. He was left with no food or water for a long time and was not allowed to use the toilet for hours. He was later moved to the interrogation center in Maleh Adumim settlement.



Sunday 4th March: In the early morning the Israeli army invaded Abu Dis. They put a checkpoint across School Street and later threw tear gas, which shut the whole road and stopped the boys' schools from opening on Sunday.



Tuesday 6th March: The Israeli army started building a new checkpoint on the lands of Isaweeh in Jerusalem. Late in the evening the Israeli army closed the Container checkpoint on the main north-south road in Palestine, stopping movement between Abu Dis and Bethlehem for two hours.

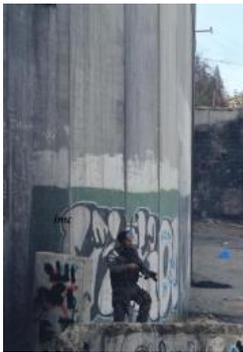
Wednesday 7th of March: The Israeli army set up a checkpoint in Kubsa and stopped cars to check IDs. Local boys protested against the checkpoint and the army fired tear gas towards people's houses which reached right up to Al-Ras neighborhood.

Thursday 8th March: At 3am the army invaded the Ar Ras area of Abu Dis, near the Bank of Palestine. They shot tear gas at the houses and invaded and searched the house of Samira Iraqat. No one was arrested.



Friday 9th March: In the early afternoon there was a demonstration in the middle of Abu Dis. The Israeli army invaded Abu Dis, shooting tear gas and rubber bullets in Kubsa and Ar Ras area. Five young men were wounded with rubber bullets.

Monday 12th March: The Israeli army invaded Ibrahim Mohsen's house in Ar Ras area of Abu Dis, and arrested him in the early hours of the morning. Shooting and tear gas reached the old side of the town.



Friday 16th March: In the evening, the Israeli army raided the house of Emad Abbas, in University Street, Abu Dis. They arrested his son Karam. At the same time, the army set up a checkpoint on the crossroads to Maleh Adumim, and closed the road leading to Azarieh and Abu Dis for more than two hours. This caused a huge blockage in the area and cut the only road that leads north-south in the West Bank.

Monday 19th March: In the early hours of the morning, the Israeli army invaded houses in Azarieh and student houses on University Street in Abu Dis. They searched houses and shot tear gas.

Tuesday 20th March: In Jabal Al-Mukaber, Jerusalem (across the Separation Wall from Abu Dis and very close to the Wall), the Israeli military came with an Israeli court order and forced Faisal Mohammad Jumaa', a Palestinian citizen, to demolish his own house. The Israeli municipality had refused to give him planning permission for what they claimed was military reasons (although the majority of Palestinians who seek planning permission are routinely



refused by the Israeli military – in dramatic contrast to Israeli settlers who are encouraged to build). Faisal Jumaa' was left with two choices: either to demolish his house by himself or pay a bill of 70,000 shekels for the Israeli military to demolish it.

Friday 23rd March: In the evening, demonstrations closed down the main street in Abu Dis. The Israeli army invaded the town near the Separation Wall in Kubsa to, injuring many Palestinians with live bullets and causing breathing problems with tear gas suffocations. A young Palestinian man was seriously injured with live ammunition and transferred to the hospital in Bethlehem.



Saturday 24th March: The Israeli army put up a flying checkpoint on the main road near Maale Adumim settlement, blocking the way to Abu Dis and Azzariyeh, causing traffic jams for hours that affected the whole area.

Tuesday 27th March: The Israeli military court extended the administrative detention of Raed Rabee from Abu Dis for another 4 months. He had already spent eight months in prison, as he had been given 4 months, extended to a second 4 months – and this is the third 4 months with no trial.

Wednesday 28th March: The Israelis imposed a complete “shut down” for 8 days on the West Bank and Gaza, for the Israeli holidays. This has a big effect on movement between all the Palestinian cities, as a local resident explained: “This means that some movement is impossible. The main checkpoints are closed. Other checkpoints have more soldiers on them and are very slow to go through. Permissions to go to Jerusalem for example are not honored. If you have permission to go to a surgery in a hospital, you cannot get there. The doctors, teachers, general workers cannot get to Jerusalem to work – This is about Israeli holidays but the Palestinians suffer.”



Thursday 29th March: At 3 in the morning, the Israeli military invaded the street next to Al-Quds University to search a building for students, while shooting tear gas bombs around the area.

Friday 30th March: 30th March is known as ‘Land Day’ in memory of the demonstrators shot and killed in Galilee in 1976 protesting against land being taken from them on a military excuse. On this day in 2018, the Great Return March started on the Israeli borders of Gaza. Peaceful demonstrations by Palestinians were assaulted by the Israeli army where 17 were killed by Israeli snipers and hundreds were injured.



There was a demonstration in Abu Dis during the afternoon: the military invaded the main street, the street near the military camp and the University Street in Abu Dis. Very many young people were hurt by live bullets and by inhaling tear gas.

Saturday 31st March: The troubles from Friday continued until early Saturday morning. There was a big presence of Israeli army and the town was full of tear gas and bullets.

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