



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

Abu Dis Human Rights report

A month in Abu Dis, December 2017

This month saw a dramatic escalation of violence across Palestine as a result of Trump's decision* to move the US embassy to Jerusalem, supporting the Israelis' view that Jerusalem is theirs and rejecting the Palestinians' claim. This prompted much



anger on the Palestinian side as this was one line that had not been crossed till now, and there were demonstrations all over Palestine. The army intervened violently. There were many killings, injuries and arrests. Abu Dis itself saw clashes on an almost daily basis and many young people have been wounded. It seems that the Israelis are using a new sort of bullet that is especially dangerous as it is silent: one of these bullets injured a young man in the middle of Abu Dis.

Women too

The pictures we have been given for this report and the news inside it seems to suggest that the stress of military occupation and human rights violation are particularly on men. That is partly because of the centrality of men in demonstrations for example. It is also because of the



photographs that people are happy to publish in public. But this is far from the case. Women and children also suffer badly both from direct contact with the Israeli military (the huge shocks of house invasions or the arrest of relatives, the effects of tear gas in whole neighbourhoods, the on-going facts of checkpoints) and from the systematic human rights violations that interrupt Palestinian life at every turn: confinement in a small area, movement restrictions, separation from family members, economic and environmental problems.

Across Palestine this month there were terrible statistics ...

14 people shot by the Israeli army and killed: 11 in Gaza in the big demonstrations still continuing from March and strengthened in protest at Trump's declaration; and 3 in the West Bank.

A huge number of people were shot by the Israeli army and injured by live ammunition: 1,084 (these were people who reached hospital and will discount a number of minor injuries). Of these, 43 were children and 7 were journalists

703 people were arrested by the Israeli army including four from Gaza. 208 of them were from Jerusalem alone; 100 under 18; 14 women; 2 Palestinian parliament members; 5 university students; 4 journalists.

In this month, at least 535 houses were invaded. There were four houses demolished by the Israeli military in Jerusalem and suburbs. There was a land confiscation order, saying that 3379 donums would be taken. As well as hundreds of fixed checkpoints, this month 431 'flying' checkpoints were reported to have been put up by the Israeli military.



In Abu Dis, this month:

Friday, December 1st: There were demonstrations at Kubsu, on the main street leading to Abu Dis which led to clashes and army activities in the night for several hours. The Red Crescent reported many injuries from rubber-coated bullets and people living in the area also complained of tear gas being fired towards their houses.



Wednesday, December 6th: The US President Trump was expected to make an announcement about moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. There was a general strike in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza in protest.

Thursday, December 7th: Owing to Trump's decision, there was a general strike and demonstrations all over Palestine. In the morning, the Israeli military invaded Abu Dis in the area of University Street next to the Al Quds University and the three Abu Dis boys' schools. They entered the playground of Abu Dis Boys' School and fired tear gas, causing the boys to run away in all directions. The Red Crescent reported that three boys were shot with rubber bullets outside the school. The school was forced to close and students were evacuated for their safety.

Friday, December 8th: Owing to Trump's decision, there was a general strike and demonstrations all over Palestine. At the end of the day the Red Crescent reported that 4 young Palestinians had been killed by the Israeli military in these demonstrations across Palestine.

Once again, in the morning, the Israeli military invaded Abu Dis, firing tear gas in the area of the main street. This affected many people as it went to peoples' homes and caused many breathing difficulties. One tear gas cannister hit a shade outside someone's house and caused a fire which spread into the home through the window.

Saturday, December 9th: Owing to Trump's decision and to the killings from yesterday, there were demonstrations all over Palestine. There were also demonstrations in Abu Dis and the Red Crescent reported many injuries from rubber bullets, live ammunition, and breathing problems caused by tear gas.

Sunday, December 10th: This was Human Rights Day, a reminder of the lack of human rights experienced by Palestinians under occupation. Demonstrations continued in Abu Dis and many injuries from rubber bullets and breathing problems caused by tear gas were reported.

Wednesday, December 13th: In the early hours of the morning at around 2 am, the Israeli military invaded Abu Dis and arrested Emad Shehdeh and son Mohammad from their house, and invaded Waleed Ayyad's house and arrested his son Ali.



Thursday, December 14th : In the early hours of the morning, the Israeli military broke into the Student Council office in Al-Quds University's main campus in Abu Dis (see pictures inside the rooms). They ransacked the office and took away Palestinian flags and other things belonging to the Student Council.

Friday, December 15th: 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 tear gas into the area around Kubsa (the main street of Abu Dis) and on the University Street.

Saturday, December 16th: The Israeli military invaded Abu Dis to arrest a university student Laith Awwad(23). They held him for three days.

Sunday, December 17th: Owing to Trump's decision and to the killings from yesterday, there were demonstrations all over Palestine. The Israeli military invaded Abu Dis and put checkpoints in front of the Al Quds University and next to the Wall, nearby. Students stopped school children and university students, shouted and pushed them. This caused uproar in the playgrounds of the schools, and the army shot tear gas into the schools and into the Al Quds University groups. This led to the evacuation of the schools and the University for the safety of the students.

In the late evening, the army blocked all movement on the main street of Abu Dis at Kubsa near the Wall.



Monday, December 18th:In late afternoon, early evening, there was a demonstration in Kubsa (between Abu Dis and Aizarieh). Tear gas was thrown around the area going towards citizens' houses and many injuries and arrests were reported. Two boys from Aizaria were arrested by undercover Israeli forces, dressed as Palestinians, and taken to the military camp.

Friday, December 22nd: After the Friday prayer, there were demonstrations to reject the American announcement. The military fired tear gas and live ammunition in the middle of the

town. The Red Crescent reported that 14 Palestinians had been killed since the day Donald Trump announced the move of the US Embassy to Jerusalem.

Friday, December 29th: There were demonstrations in Kubsa, the main street in Abu Dis, near the Separation Wall which – far from being a geographical fact, was put there by Israel after 2002 and has caused great harm to local people. In 2004, the International Court of Justice said that it violated

the human rights of the Palestinians and should be taken down. The Israelis have ignored this judgement and continued to build and fortify the Wall. On 29th December, young men from Abu Dis and Aizaria tried to make a hole in the Wall (see picture) but then Israeli military invaded the town violently. There were reports of many injuries from rubber bullets and live ammunition and breathing difficulties from tear gas.

Saturday, December 30th: There were demonstrations in Kubsia the main street in Abu Dis. The Israeli army invaded, fired tear gas and live ammunition. An ambulance was hit with a bullet. Two people were injured with live ammunition. One of the injuries was critical: one boy was shot under his ear and needed to be transferred to a hospital.

Sunday, December 31st: Again there was a demonstration in Kubsia in the evening. The Israeli military invaded the main street in Abu Dis, and fired tear gas towards people.



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