



## Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

### Abu Dis Human Rights report

### A month in Abu Dis, May 2020

The human rights violations against people in Abu Dis and Palestine continued in May 2020. People in Abu Dis are trying to get on with their lives in a normal way but their lives are constantly affected by the facts of the Israeli occupation.

May is a tense month in Palestine. For the Palestinians, this is the time of Nakbeh, the commemoration of the disaster in 1948 when much of Palestinian land was lost and hundreds of thousands of people were pushed from their towns and villages. For the Israelis, this month celebrates the beginning of their state in 1948, and there are festivities which prompt checkpoint closures and

movement restrictions across Palestine that have an impact on many aspects of Palestinian life.



Palestinians 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. Between 30 and 40 people are in prison which has a big effect on all of their families. This reports tells of a series of army invasions and imprisonments by the army in May.

Less dramatic but just as severe are the 'quieter' human rights issues that people from Abu Dis suffered from this month, such as separation from family members, residency issues and economic and environmental problems caused by the occupation.



## Across Palestine this month

In May 2020, four Palestinians were shot and killed by the Israeli army. Two of them were drivers, driving into their towns, one in Hebron and one in Nabi Saleh near Ramallah. They were both shot and killed by the army on the checkpoints. Another was a 15-year boy from Athahureya in Hebron. The fourth was an autistic young man from Jerusalem, Iyyad Halaq, who was chased and killed by the Israeli army, although the person who was with him was shouting to the soldiers that he was disabled and he was posing no threat to anyone. (Iyyad's case became for a while internationally well-known as this was shortly after the killing of George Floyd in the United States)

This month, 340 people were newly arrested from the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza. Twenty-five of them were children under the age of 18. This month there were ten women arrested (unusually high). This month the highest number of new prisoners was from Jerusalem and its suburbs including Abu Dis – 129.

This month nine Palestinian houses were destroyed by Israeli military order. Four of them were in Jabal al-Mukkaber and Silwan in Jerusalem. Their owners destroyed them themselves in order to avoid paying the Israelis the threatened costs of destruction.



**Settlement expansion**-The Israeli army issued land confiscation orders for 140 donums of the land of Azzoun al-Atmeh, a part of the West Bank that is surrounded by the Wall on all sides. The land that was taken was outside this wall – though east of the main Separation Wall – and is agricultural land full of olive and almond trees.

In Silwan, one and a half donums under private ownership was taken to build a new Jewish graveyard. Three and a half donums from the village of Ya'abudin the north were taken for settlement expansion. A new settlers' road was made near Dora in the south.

The Israeli defence minister approved a plan for 7000 new housing units in Efrat settlement, built on Al-Khader village land south of Bethlehem. The Israeli army worked for two weeks to

build a new road for settlers of 7km around Huwara village south of Nablus which took 406 donums from the local villages, Beita, Huwara, Awerta, Bourin, Yitma and Assawiya.

### **In Abu Dis, this month:**

**Friday 1st May** After the Friday prayer, there was a demonstration starting near the mosque by the Wall. The Israeli army came from the military camp and shot tear gas and rubber bullets. Fifteen young people were wounded with rubber bullets and they were looked after by first responders in the street.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** Before the middle of the night, there was shooting with heavy guns from the top of the Cliff Hotel which the Israelis have made into a military camp. The soldiers shot tear gas cans around the area of the (inactive) Palestinian parliament building and Kubsa. A four-year boy in Aizariyeh, Mohammed Abu Daamous was hit in the face with a tear gas cannister, which broke his nose.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May** This is the Nakbeh Day, commemoration of the Palestinian disaster in 1948. There was a march starting near the Youth Club in the middle of Abu Dis through the town. When they got to the crossroads by the military camp, soldiers came down from the camp and shot live ammunition. Three young people were shot with live ammunition. Ahmed Abdullah Mohsen (17) had seven bullets in his two legs. Ali Younes Atallah (15) had a bullet in his knee and a bullet in his shoulder. Mohannad Mohammed Awwad (19) had bullets in both his legs. The three of them were taken in an ambulance to the Health Centre where they managed to stop the bleeding, before taking them to hospitals in the West Bank.

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May** Huthaifa Badr was morning, after the Israeli army invaded his Huthaifa did a long hunger strike to achieve administrative detention (detention with no again taken under administrative detention. long-standing health problems but had been the army beat him as they arrested him and Huthaifa's family were told by the lawyer



arrested early in the house. A year ago, his freedom from trial) but he was once Huthaifa had some well on arrest. However on Tuesday morning, that Huthaifa had had to

go straight to hospital, raising fears of what had happened to him. The family were told that he had spent two nights in a hospital and then was taken to a jail.

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May** 'Odai Badr and Yaacub Dabouh were arrested from their houses when the Israeli army invaded their houses in the early morning. The Israeli army took them both for investigation to the notorious Al Muskobiyeh jail.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May** 'Odai Shhadeh (14) and Suhaib Jaffal (17) were arrested, both of them with their fathers, in an early morning army invasion to their homes. They spent the night in



Maale Adumim police station (the sons and the fathers apart from each other) and in the morning they were all taken to Ofer Jail, still kept apart, and the Israelis put them all separately under investigation; the fathers did not see their sons but were there to put pressure on the sons.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** Once again there were demonstrations and the Israeli army shot tear gas and rubber bullets all over the area of Ar- Ras, till late in the night. No injuries were reported but the local families were affected by the tear gas which remained for a long time.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May** The sister of Suhaib Jaffal, a first-year university student, was asked to go to Ofer Jail to be part of the investigation on her brother. To take a woman in this way is not familiar. The father of 'Odai Shhadeh was also taken.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May** After the midday prayer, the Israeli army set up a checkpoint in the middle of town which created clashes with young people. The Israeli army shot tear gas and rubber bullets, mainly to Ar-Ras neighbourhood and the west side of Abu Dis near the Wall. No injuries were reported but shooting and tear gas which remained until late at night.