



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

Abu Dis Human Rights report

A month in Abu Dis, Sept 2014

The people of Abu Dis continued to suffer on a daily basis from the restrictions and violence of the occupation: the huge Separation Wall, the ID system and the checkpoints all round them, the constriction and loss of land to the settlements, and the almost-daily incursions of fully-armed Israeli soldiers because of the presence of a military camp right in the middle of town.



Abu Dis is situated between Jerusalem on its west and the huge settlements on the east – and the areas between Abu Dis and the settlements where currently the Jahalin Bedouin live. North of Abu Dis is Aizariyeh and the complex route to Ramallah, and south is the Container checkpoint that leads to Bethlehem and Hebron. This **month's report shows how affected Abu Dis is by all these areas** around it, and of course it is affected strongly by the atmosphere throughout the **West Bank, which was turbulent before and after this summer's war on Gaza.**

During the war and after the Gaza ceasefire (at the end of August), **while people's** attention was elsewhere, the push by Israeli settlers and the Israeli government on Jerusalem intensified. The pressures on Palestinians and to take away their houses continued, and now the pressures by settlers to get into the Al Aqsa Mosque and to press for a division of the mosque (as in Hebron) also increased. In Abu Dis, during this month, there were demonstrations by young people against this situation and attacks on them by the Israeli army.



On the 3rd September, the Israeli authorities renewed the administrative detention order on Hassan Eissa Shehadeh for another six months: this is imprisonment without trial. Hassan had been in administrative detention for four months, and on the day that he was expecting to be released, he was given an order that he had to stay in prison, still with no trial

As we wrote at that time..

“Imagine being arrested with no charge by the Israeli military, taken away from your family and kept in the tent-prison under the hot sun of the Negev Desert.

Imagine knowing that 6 months is a standard amount of ‘administrative detention’ but you are given four months – so you think that when the four months is up you will be released. Imagine getting to the last day (today), and preparing yourself, saying your goodbyes to the people in prison around you, hoping that their time inside will be short, but with the hope inside you to see your family by the end of today. Excited, relieved, can’t wait? Looking forward to meeting your little children – will the smallest one remember you? In what way will they have changed?

“And then the Israeli intelligence say, the plans have changed. You have an extended term of administrative detention – another six months to do with no trial and no hope of release till they decide to let you go.”

On 7th September, the Israeli army closed Container checkpoint, preventing people from coming or going to Hebron from the north for a full day. This is a picture of a 2km traffic jam. Soldiers wearing masks stopped people who tried to walk through the checkpoint, searching them and checking their IDs.



On 8th September, Mohammad Sinaqrut, a young boy aged 16, was shot by Israeli soldiers during a demonstration in Wad al-Joz, Jerusalem. This led to clashes all over Jerusalem as soon as people heard what had happened. In Wad al-Joz, the

army wounded thirty young men with rubber bullets, plastic bullets and tear gas. There were clashes in Suwaneh, Silwan and the Mount of Olives.

Mohammad was seriously injured and died a few days later.



On 9th September, the Israeli army invaded the Al Quds University and Abu Dis Boys' School, shot tear gas all round and the school boys had to leave the school.

On 15th September, the Israeli army gave military orders to the Bedouin in 22 different places to leave their small villages – this was mainly around Jerusalem – as part of a plan called 'Plan 20' which aimed to empty thousands of donums of land to connect the settlements around Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley together. Many of these families have had their homes knocked down more than once in the past ten years, and they refused to leave, rebuilding their homes again and again.

On 22nd September, Abu Dis Local Council received a military confiscation order for more than 1,200 donums of Abu Dis land on the east of the town. This was at the time that the Bedouin were being told to leave their homes, because the Israeli plan is to take land from Abu Dis and house the Bedouin there. The Local Council are working to challenge this.



On 29th September, Israeli bulldozers destroyed a house close to the Separation Wall. This house had been built in the 1950s and recently extended.

Until the Wall was built near it, the house was within the borders of the Israeli Jerusalem municipality. After Oslo, the house was put into Area C

(under full Israeli control) so it wasn't possible to get a licence to extend it from the Palestinian Authority or (in practice, as the owner was a Palestinian from the West Bank) from the Israeli authorities. The Israelis did not knock it down but destroyed the house to make it unliveable, and neither giving permission for the house to be completely taken down nor for it to be repaired, while at the same time charging its owner the costs of the destruction

CADFA volunteers wrote about this [here](#):

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We hope you will join us and join in some of our many activities