



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

Abu Dis Human Rights report

A month in Abu Dis, November 2015



November 2015 was a very difficult month in Abu Dis and Palestine as a whole. A quick look at the pictures that have been included in this report shows something of the pressure on people in Abu Dis at the moment. During November, CADFA issued statements on the situation early in November ([see here](#)) and on 22nd November ([see here](#)).

What follows is our monthly human rights report. The report concentrates on Abu Dis but this is just one part of Palestine, and people in Abu Dis feel very connected to what is happening elsewhere. This is true in relation to people killed, injured and arrested or tortured by the army; it is true when ambulances and health staff are attacked by the army and prevented from helping wounded people; it is also true when the media is attacked anywhere across Palestine.

From the end of September when the current troubles (intifada*?) began to the end of November, 107 Palestinians had been killed by the Israeli army or settlers. During November, according to Palestinian medical sources, there were 33 people from the West Bank and one from Gaza killed by the Israeli army and settlers during November. Among those killed in November, six were under the age of 18; four women (one older woman and two under 18).

The Palestinian Red Crescent said that 4000 people had been wounded – of course they are talking about people who had presented themselves for treatment.

940 people were arrested in November, which meant that 2400 people had been arrested since the end of September. Among them, 24 had serious wounds and were taken to hospital as prisoners, which means their hands are cuffed and they cannot have family visits etc. And in November, nine people aged under 18 (they are 16–17) were given administrative detention: this means that they have been put into prison without trial – which happens frequently to adults but this is the first time since the 1980s that juveniles have been imprisoned under administrative detention.



It should be remembered that the people of Abu Dis suffer many quieter daily violations of their human rights. The report this month is unfortunately full of dramatic stories, but does not capture all of the ongoing restrictions and violence of the occupation: the huge Separation Wall, the ID system and the checkpoints all around, 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. We are particularly worried about the situation for the children who often do not finish their school day due to disruptions of tear gas, general strikes when people who have been killed, and whose childhood is coloured by stories like those below.

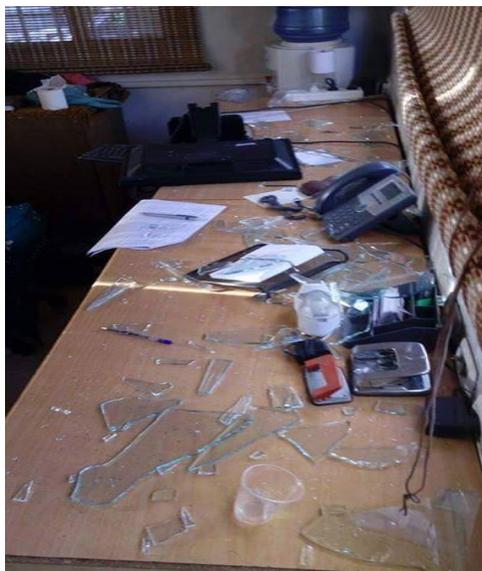
1st November – Israeli authorities released a girl, Noor Hatim Eriqat (21 years old) who had been arrested on 27th October with her sister near the Ibrahim Mosque. Her sister Jihan Hatim Eriqat (17), a student in Abu Dis Girls' School, remains in jail.

1st November – There was a huge march from Abu Dis in the evening in solidarity with the family of Moataz Qasim from Aizaria who had been killed on Jabaa checkpoint two days before. The Israeli army attacked the march and threw tear gas. There were clashes between young people and the army. Tear gas was thrown into people’s houses.

2nd November, early in the morning – The Israeli army invaded a number of houses in the old part of Abu Dis: they searched them; they did not say why and they did not arrest anyone. There were clashes with some of the boys in the streets before the army left the town.



In the middle of the day, the Israeli army invaded the university and started to shoot inside the University itself. They made an explosion to break the main gates of the University and the main gate of the adjacent Abu Dis Council building. When they finally left, it was a scene of breakage and destruction.



A number of students were wounded with rubber bullets, but two students were badly wounded with live ammunition and were taken to the hospitals in Ramallah.

3rd November – In Hebron, the offices of three radio stations were shut down by the Israeli military, with their equipment taken away and international media were forbidden by the military to sell their material to some Palestinian TV channels.

3rd November – There was a students’ march in Abu Dis to remember Mohannad Halebi, a student from the Al Quds University who was killed in October, one month previously, The Israeli army attacked the march and again invaded the Al Quds University again, invaded some of the faculties and shot and wounded some students.

5th November – The Container checkpoint (south of Abu Dis on the road to Bethlehem) was completely closed in both directions from the afternoon for more than six hours. There was no reason given but this caused huge disruption as this was the end of the Palestinian working week when people were trying to go home;

Friday 6th November – There were clashes between young people and soldiers close to a military tower in Aizariyeh – young people set fire to this tower – and at the crossroads near the military camp in Abu Dis. Many young people were wounded by tear gas and rubber bullets

7th November – The army set up a checkpoint in the road near Maale Adumim and searched cars one by one. This is the main exit from the area to the north for people in Abu Dis, Sawahreh and Aizariyeh so this caused a lot of traffic chaos for hours.



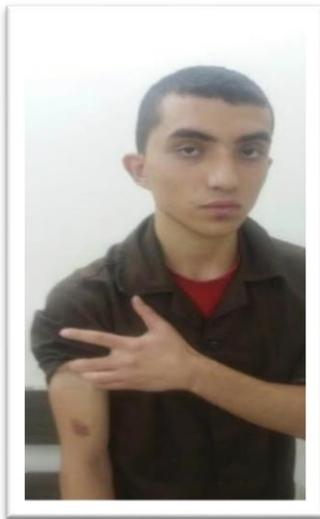
7th November – There was a women’s march in Abu Dis, from the Youth Club to the main crossroad near the military camp, protesting against the human rights violations against Palestinian people. When they got to the crossroads on the main road below the military camp, the army fired tear gas against them.



8th November – A group of Israeli settlers near Maale Adumim settlement (east of Abu Dis) attacked Adnan Jahaleen while he was walking on the street. He reported that some settlers stopped their car near him and got out

and sprayed pepper spray into his eyes, and drove away. Some Palestinians managed to call an ambulance and take him to hospital in Jericho.

9th November – The lawyers of 13-year-old Ahmed Manasreh gave a statement. Ahmed is one of the children whose case had become very famous in Palestine in this last period. In early October, Ahmed was filmed lying badly injured with a wound to his head while passing Israeli settlers shouted that the soldiers should kill him. He was arrested and later a film of a part of his interrogation was released, in which the interrogator shouted at him but the boy repeated that he could not remember what was happening and asking for a doctor as his head hurt him. It appears he will be charged with attacking an Israeli settler. It appears that if he is found guilty when he is over 14, he can be given a life sentence in jail. So while the lawyers are trying to get his case dealt with straight away, they believe that the Israelis are trying to delay it.



The photo shows Mahmoud Odeh, a student from Khthoureh University near Tulkarem, who gave a report about torture following his arrest on 9th November. He is showing the place where soldiers put their cigarettes out on his body. He reported this happening when he was in a military jeep having been arrested, and then being tied to a chair outside the military camp and beaten very badly with hands and the ends of guns. He says that while a military doctor came to check him, he had his hands untied, but then he was handcuffed again and blindfolded, and beaten again. He says that every soldier who came past him used to beat him or five times people put out cigarettes on him – on different parts of his body. He was released with no charge (and not even any interrogation) at the end of the day, in great pain.

10th November – The Container checkpoint, south of Abu Dis, was closed in both directions from the morning. A school boy from Jenin, Sadiq Ziad Gharbiyeh (16) was shot. Eyewitnesses said that the boy dropped a mobile phone,



but was then taken into the checkpoint. It appears from a video that a dog chased him, he ran, and he was shot by the army. The army held up ambulances who couldn't reach him until the boy was dead; his body was then taken by the army.



12th November – The Israeli army has entered hospitals many times in this last period and seized files and searched for people; but on 12th November, there was a particularly dreadful incident. Israeli special forces went into the Al Ahli hospital in Hebron, dressed as Palestinians, saying they had a pregnant woman who needed urgent attention. Once inside the hospital the 'woman' got out of the wheelchair she had been in (now obviously a man) and the whole group were evidently armed soldiers. They killed a man who was coming out of a bathroom and left him on the floor by as they left the hospital having arrested the person he was visiting and took him away.

Friday 13th November– There is no Friday in Abu Dis at the moment without clashes, tear gas, rubber bullets and injuries.

14th November– Hassan Al Bow (23), a student at Al Quds University who comes from Al Houli, was shot in his chest with live ammunition and killed. He was on a peaceful demonstration in his home town.



16th November– Students at Al Quds University made a tent for ‘azza’ to commemorate and grieve for Hassan Al Bow. His classmates and family attended. The University had a day off for this reason. The students had a march in the main street near the University. The army arrived with tear gas and bullets. During these past two months, three Al Quds students were killed by the Israeli army.

16th November– This was a year since the killing of Yousef al-Ramouni, the Abu Dis bus driver who was killed by Israeli settlers in Jerusalem and found hanging in his bus (Palestinians reported that settlers had been seen near the bus – see our reports from that time – although this was not officially confirmed). On 16th November, he was remembered in Abu Dis and people visited his father’s house.



17th November – Late in the night, there was a march in Abu Dis in memory of other people who had been killed by the army. The army intervened and threw tear gas around and even into houses in Abu Dis. The health centre reported that five people had been wounded by rubber bullets.



18th November – Palestinian lawyers said that Israel had opened a new jail – ‘Jivon’ in Ramleh – had been opened for children under the age of 16; they said that seventy Palestinian kids (mainly from Jerusalem) had been put into this jail, which had previously been a detention centre for illegal immigrants. The young people come from the West Bank, Jerusalem (mainly) and ‘48’ Palestinians from Israel. The lawyers say that the young people are not being looked after properly: they are worried about crowding (between 6

and 8 young people are living in a room), the food they eat and the lack of opportunity for exercise.

18th November – Mohammad Halabiyeh, a young man of 18 from Abu Dis, was shot with three bullets in his back. He was on the main road below the military camp. He was taken by ambulance to Al Muqassed Hospital where he was taken immediately to the surgery. The army invaded the hospital and wanted to arrest him but as he was being operated on, they spoke to his family. By the end of November he was still in a critical situation in hospital.

19th November – The lawyer of Shukri Hannash (15) from Abu Dis Boys’ School issued a statement. Shukri has been in jail since 28th September. His lawyer said that at the time of his

arrest, he was thrown on the ground by five soldiers and beaten badly by soldiers. They apparently beat the same places, his back and his feet, which meant that he couldn’t walk. The soldiers asked him to stand up – which he wasn’t able to do. Then they tied his hands and put him in a jeep and took him to the military camp in Abu Dis. There they put him in a dark room and made him take all his clothes off and sit on the ground. A soldier came with an electricity cable and started to beat him while he was naked. He has marks



on his back, a month later, from this beating. The same evening he was taken to Maale Adumim police station; he was interrogated for about two hours, to Orfa jail for about two weeks and later to Megiddo Jail (in the north of the West Bank) where he was in a section for children. He says that before he was taken to this section he was strip searched.

Friday 20th November – Again, this was a serious day in Abu Dis. There were clashes, tear gas, rubber bullets, wounded people. This happened on the main road on the way to the military camp.

22nd November – People woke in the morning to the news of the killing of a taxi driver near Maale Adumim settlement east of Abu Dis. This was Shadi Mohammed Khasib from Al

Bireh. Apparently his car hit another car, and he got out of the car: he was shot and killed by settlers.

When people heard this in Abu Dis, there was a demonstration in the town, and students came out of the University protesting against the killing. The Israeli army came with tear gas, rubber bullets and started shooting including directly towards the University. Clashes continued until the evening.



24th November – The Israeli army went with people from the Israeli Civil Department to Jabal al-Baba on the north side of Aizarieh (Abu Dis’s neighbor), and presented house demolition orders relating to the homes of Mahmoud Jahalin and Salem Jahalin. The Israelis say that these houses were built without licences.

24th November – In the evening there was a demonstration in Abu Dis, near the military camp, and the Israeli army came with tear gas.

Friday 27th November – The brother of the taxi-driver Shadi who had been killed five days before by

settlers was killed by the Israeli army in the same place that his brother had been killed. It seems that he had driven his car towards Israeli soldiers. He was shot and then left to bleed

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he died; the Israeli army took his away and this has not to date returned.

70 people who have been killed Israeli army have not been able to buried by their families as their have been kept by the Israeli military. People believe that Israel collecting an ‘exchange’ for a

future datein the way that they have done before.

30th November – The Container Checkpoint was once again closed for nearly the whole day which causes real problems not only for people from Abu Dis and Bethlehem but a much wider area, as this is the north–south road through the West Bank.



*Palestinians are now using the word ‘intifada’ to describe what has been happening in the last two months. There doesn’t seem to be any central organisation of the protests that are happening across Palestine but it seems that young people are protesting not only against Israeli occupation but against the Oslo accords which as one young person explained *“have been the backdrop of our upbringing, we thought things would get better and there would be a solution but they only get worse and worse.”*

Many of the protests are peaceful, some involve stone–throwing and some have involved attacks against soldiers or settlers. The approach of the Israeli army has been to shoot very quickly and indeed to shoot a second or third time when people are still moving. There have been repeated extrajudicial murders by the Israeli army and repeated allegations (and some videos) that people shot and labelled as ‘attackers’ were unarmed people who were shot and then had knives put near them.

