



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

Abu Dis Human Rights report

A month in Abu Dis, July 2020

The human rights violations against people in Abu Dis and Palestine continued in July 2020 in a way that has become routine – People in Abu Dis 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.



The Israelis went back on the promise they had given to Ismail Khalaf, one of the administrative detainees who did a long hunger strike a year ago and was due to be released with no additional terms give in early July. This month they renewed his detention by another 6 months (still with no trial). Meanwhile the other Abu Dis hunger striker from 2018, Huthaifa Badr, is also once again imprisoned with no trial.

This month marks three years since the killing of two young people in Abu Dis (Mohammed Lafee and Yousef Kashour) and one month since the killing of Ahmed Eriqat at the Container Checkpoint. The Israelis still have not returned the body of Ahmed Eriqat who was killed on 23rd June and his family have been leading a campaign for the return of his body so they can bury it. This is not entirely an individual issue; currently the Israelis are holding 63 young people in their refrigerators. This seems to be both to put pressure on the families and potentially (as has happened before) for bargaining purposes in the future?

Many other human rights issues – in the summer, the distribution of water taken from the Palestinian hills, at any time the issues of movement, passes, and residency – are not described in the actual actions listed below.

The Maqassed Health Centre that has been under huge threat relating to the stoppage of funds to the Maqassed Hospital had a potential stop date at the beginning of July. It managed to struggle on but with minimum services.

No annexation of the West Bank yet

This month was marked, too, by the date (1st July) that – encouraged by Trump’s plan (January 2020). Netanyahu had put as a date for the annexation of large areas of the West Bank. People in Palestine were united in their opposition to this move, which



represented a statement to the international community that Israel had no intention of moving from the important agricultural areas of the Jordan Valley or from the illegal settlements that they had built since 1967, but there were divisions of opinion about the level on which it represented a change, because Israel (as shown in these reports) had for over 50 years been taking over the lands and already has total control in those areas and of the West Bank as a whole. The 1st July passed without a declaration of annexation but this threat has not yet gone away (see cadfa.org/resources/).

Across Palestine this month

In July 2020, two Palestinians were shot and killed by the Israeli army, and a prisoner aged 75 who had been in prison for years died from lack of care and treatment.

This month, 429 people were newly arrested from the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza. Thirty-two of them were children under the age of 18.

This month a huge number of Palestinian houses or parts of houses under construction were destroyed by Israeli military order: eighty-five(85) including one in Abu Dis. In Jerusalem, six houses were knocked down by their owners in order to avoid being given huge bills by Israel for destroying them.

Settlement expansion Agreement was given to more than 460 settlement units in the Israeli illegal settlements including 240 in the area around East Jerusalem. Hundreds of donums of land were confiscated, much of it this month in the areas around Bethlehem.



In Abu Dis, this month :

Wednesday 1st July Early in the morning, the Israeli army destroyed a house under construction by the Al Sorkhi family next to Abu Dis sports field (near the University). There was immediately a demonstration against this destruction, and the army fired tear gas across the Separation Wall on the other side towards the demonstrators. Demonstrations and tear gas continued until the middle of the night.

Thursday 2nd July In the afternoon, there was a large women's demonstration called by the family of Ahmed Eriqat, calling for the return of his body. They marched from the Abu Dis youth club towards the military camp. The Israeli army shot tear gas and rubber bullets towards the women and around the whole area.



Friday 3rd July After the prayer, the Israeli army put a checkpoint in the middle of Abu Dis at the crossroads to the military camp; there was a demonstration and the Israeli army shot tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition. Thirty-eight young people were wounded including one who was shot with live ammunition in his chest. There were demonstrations all over Abu Dis. The army threw tear gas towards the university and in the university garden trees and the garden caught fire – this was put out by fire fighters from the Abu Dis fire station.

Saturday 4th July There were demonstrations by young people again, near the military camp. The army shot tear gas and rubber bullets. The Red Crescent said that they dealt with seven injuries, including one teenager who was seriously injured with broken bones having fallen from a high wall when the army chased him. And one boy was injured in his foot with live ammunition shot by an Israeli soldier.

Monday 6th July At around 3 in the morning, the Israeli army invaded the areas of Ar-Ras and University Street. They entered three houses belonging to the Rabiya and Mohsen families. Nobody was arrested but clashes started – demonstrations and Israeli gun shooting – that went on till early morning.

Thursday 9th July At around 8 in the morning, the Israeli army blocked the road to Palestinian traffic driving out of the area at the corner near Maale Adumim settlement. The army stopped



many Palestinian cars and gave people fines for not wearing masks against Corona. This caused a huge traffic tailback.

On the same day, there was another afternoon demonstration by women going to the military camp, demanding the return of the dead body of Ahmed Eriqat.



Friday 10th July There was again a demonstration in the late afternoon in Kubsa and at the crossroads to the military camp. According to the Red Crescent, there were 40 young people who had to be treated, either with tear gas or injuries from rubber bullets. The clashes continued till the middle of the night.

Sunday 12th July Ismail Khalaf from Abu Dis who was in prison with administrative detention was due to be released but was given a renewal of his detention for another six months (see introduction).

Tuesday 14th July There was an early-morning invasion of Abu Dis. Israeli border police came with their jeeps into the old town of Abu Dis behind the old mosque, and shot tear gas and live ammunition around the area. There were no reports of anyone being wounded.

Thursday 16th July There was another afternoon demonstration by women going to the military camp, demanding the return of the dead body of Ahmed Eriqat.

Friday 17th July There was again a demonstration in the late afternoon in Kubsa between Abu Dis and Aizariyeh, and the Israeli shot tear gas round the area from the other side of the Separation Wall.

Monday 20th July There were demonstrations in the middle of Abu Dis in memory of the



killings two years ago of Mohammed Lafee and Yousef Kashoor who were killed in protests against the Israelis' putting electronic gates on Al Aqsa Mosque (see our human rights reports in 2017). There was a stand and speeches outside the Youth Club, and then a march going up to the military camp, when the Israeli army threw tear gas to disperse the demonstrators.

Tuesday 21st July These demonstrations continued. Seven youth people were wounded by the Israelis shooting rubber bullets and two more were injured with live ammunition - The Red Crescent reported that they were all injured in the lower part of their bodies.

Wednesday 22nd July. The army invaded Abu Dis old town at three in the morning and entered the house of Khalid Rabiye. They searched the house without giving any reason and they did not arrest anyone. There were demonstrations throughout the rest of the night and the army responded with tear gas.

Friday 24th July The Israeli army shot tear gas shot all round the area of Ar Ras, near the military camp.

Adumim settlement by the **Monday 27th July** There was a protest stand in front of Maale women of the Eriqat family and activists from the local area calling for the return of Ahmed Eriqat's body, with signs written in Arabic, English and Hebrew. They were there for about two hours before the Israeli army made them leave the area.

Friday 31st July. After the midday prayer, there were demonstrations in Kubsa. The Israeli army threw tear gas from the other side of the Separation Wall which affected the whole area reaching Ar Ras neighbourhood.

