



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

Abu Dis Human Rights report

A month in Abu Dis, December 2020



Israeli bulldozer destroying a small factory in Wadi Jheer

Pressures on the people of Abu Dis

continued this month because of the Corona crisis and the Israeli occupation.

This month, Covid vaccinations began to be rolled out in the Israel which was being hailed as one of the fastest to vaccinate its people, but they were not providing vaccinations for Palestinians in the West Bank or Gaza despite their obligations as a military occupier under the Geneva convention. Israel put new restrictions on entry to Jerusalem, allowing some Palestinians to go to work in the health and building sectors, but stopping many others from going. However, the Corona crisis did not slow down the activities of the Israeli occupation in Palestine - as this report

shows. there were very many military activities including house invasions and other uses of force.

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 sadly 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 report this month shows the Israeli army repeatedly blocking the ways in and out of Abu Dis along the main north-south road that affects the whole of the West Bank south of Ramallah.



Water tanks on Abu Dis roofs

Problems with water

Most parts of Palestinians' lives are affected by the military occupation and apartheid imposed by Israel. Water is one example, with the allocation of water in the West Bank itself controlled by Israel and unequally divided, so there is already a general shortage of water in Abu Dis. Israeli settlers moving into the West Bank have at least six times as much water available per head as the Palestinian population. The Israeli settlements have watered lawns, flowers and swimming pools – just as dramatic, they have continuous water coming to their homes through a mains supply. Palestinian homes have water tanks on the roofs as they have occasional distribution of water – in Abu Dis often for two days a week only, so it has to be saved; and they are used to running out of water especially in the hot weather.

A real crisis ensued in mid-December because the main pump in the Wadi Jheer pumping station broke. This usually gives 70% of the water in the area, and the people in lower areas depended on 30% of water from Israeli companies – They refused to give more than this quantity or to raise the pressure so the majority of people in hilly Abu Dis and surrounds were not able to get mains water and were forced to pay for private tankers to bring water, and then pump it to the tanks on their roofs.



Ali Abu Alaya (13). Al Moghayer village

Across Palestine this month

Prisoners and administrative detention The Israeli policy of mass imprisonment of Palestinians continued.

This month, 340 people were newly arrested in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza. This month 25 of them were under the age of 18 and two were women.

Army and settler violence This month four people were killed by the Israeli army and settlers including a child (pictured) killed by army in Al Moghayer village next to Ramallah, a Palestinian worker who was killed on the building site in a settlement near Bethlehem where he was working and a deaf man who was shot and killed at Qalandia checkpoint – it was later discovered that he hadn't heard soldiers shouting at him. A youth from Jenin was also shot and left to bleed to death in the Old City in Jerusalem

Israeli settlers burned and destroyed 927 olive trees, mainly in the area of Nablus.

House demolition The Israeli army gave demolition orders on a total of 120 constructions belonging to Palestinians (including houses and other buildings) right across the West Bank and Jerusalem. They destroyed 59 of these, of which 29 were homes.



Mess made in houses by Israeli army searches

Settlement expansion This month, the Israeli Knesset approved 4 new settlement projects around Nablus and between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, including between them 9000 new housing units.

There were military orders to confiscate hundreds of donums in the area south of Nablus and in 50 donums south of Hebron.

In the area of the Jordan Valley the engineering section of the Israeli civil department took the measurements of 35 thousand Donom land belonging to Toubas district.

In Abu Dis, this month:

There were still five Abu Dis prisoners on administrative detention - held in Israeli jails with no trial. There were between twenty-five and thirty other prisoners from Abu Dis in Israeli jails including at least four children. The Israeli authorities had have not returned the

body of Ahmed Eriqat who was killed on 23rd June and his family continued to campaign for the return of his body so they could bury him.

Tuesday 1st December. At 4 in the morning, Israeli army invaded the area of Al Mitten, on the old side of the town, and entered the house of Nabil Badr. They searched his house and the adjacent houses belonging to his three sons, and confiscated their cars. Then they left, shooting tear gas and sound bombs in the area.

Wednesday 2nd December.

At 3 in the morning, there was another house invasion by the Israeli army. The army entered the houses of two young men (brothers) Mohammed and Ibrahim al-Kaloty in Kubsa. The army pushed all of the people in their families out of the houses in the cold of the morning, searched the houses and then arrested the brothers. They left, shooting tear gas and sound bombs which filled the area and the area of Al Kharijeh, under the military camp.

Friday 4th December. After the Friday prayer, there was a demonstration in the area of Kubsa. The army shot tear gas and rubber bullets across the wall and down from the area of the Israeli military camp and Cliff Hotel. Clashes continued until the evening.



Israeli soldiers during night time arrest

On that evening at 6pm, the Israeli army closed the Container checkpoint south of Abu Dis for about four hours, which created a huge traffic jam both north and south of the



Night- time photo at Container checkpoint when it was closes

checkpoint. At the same time, the army put a checkpoint on the crossroads near Maale Adumim and stopped Palestinian cars.

Sunday 6th December. At about 10 in the evening, Israeli soldiers came out of the military camp, shooting tear gas into the areas. They shot into the tyres of some cars that were parked locally and made a checkpoint on University

Street where they remained until the middle of the night.

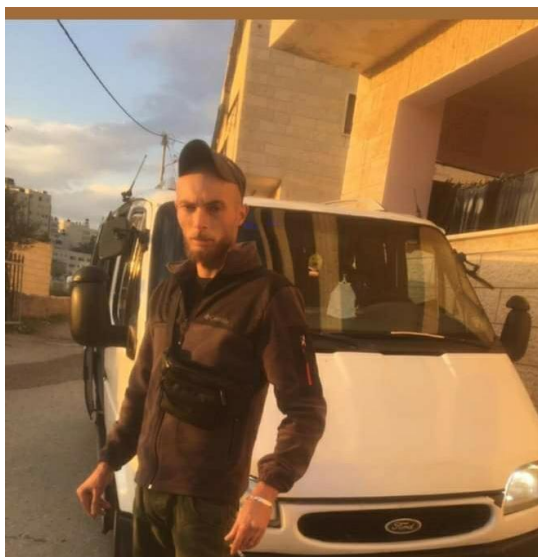
Monday 7th December. Starting at 3 in the morning, the Israeli army invaded the houses of Mohammed Saleh Mohsen, Walid Sharaf and Ra'ed Rabiye, all ex-prisoners. They searched the houses, arrested the three of them, and clashes started on University Street – young people protesting the army's actions and the army shooting tear gas.

That evening, the three of them were arrested. They reported that they had been taken to Maale Adumim settlement where the Israeli intelligence officer who warned them against protests against the Israeli occupation. He threatened them with arrest and said that if there were demonstrations, the army would not hesitate to shoot.

Wednesday 9th December. Again at 3 in the morning, the Israeli army invaded houses in Abu Dis, this time the houses of Mohammed and Shukri Halashin the area of Al Ras. The two families were taken out of the houses in the cold of the night and the houses were searched. Islam Shukri Halash (20) was arrested and his father and cousin Mohammed were given military orders to go to the Israeli Civil Department to meet with the Intelligence Officer.

Both of them went, had to stay till 6pm and were given back their IDs and sent home.

On the same morning, the army arrested the house of Hassan Nawafleh in the old side of Abu Dis, and arrested his son (18) who had been released from prison just a few weeks before he was arrested again. Again the family were turned out in the cold and the house was searched.



Waleed Sharaf before his arrest

Thursday 10th December. At around 2 in the morning, Ali Salah (a trade unionist and activist) was arrested on the stairs of his building when he was coming back home from work. His family did not know what had happened till they found later from cameras that Israeli soldiers had been waiting in the building and then kidnapped him as he arrived. The Red Cross told the family that Ali had been taken to Al Jalameh – a building used as a jail during the British Mandate and called 'the slaughterhouse' by Palestinian prisoners because of the very harsh treatment that people get there during interrogations.

At around 3 am on the same morning, the army invaded the house of Mahmoud Afaneh. Mahmoud's son Mujahed (27) was arrested. There were many clashes at the time around the Youth Club and heavy shooting and tear gas in the air, all the way up the main street to Al Ras. About ten young people were wounded by rubber bullets, and one was sent to hospital.

Friday 11th December. There were demonstrations in the afternoon between Kubsa and Jabel Abu Kamel where the Israeli military camp is. The Israeli army shot tear gas and rubber bullets at the demonstrators. This continued till the middle of the night.



Bulldozers finished but army checkpoint remained

Saturday 12th December The Israeli army on the Container checkpoint shot towards a car that they said had gone through the checkpoint without stopping. No one in the car was hurt and it continued to Bethlehem. The army shut the checkpoint completely for the rest of the day, causing big transport problems, with many people unable to reach their homes that day.

Sunday 13th December. At around 3 in the morning, the Israeli army invaded the house of Khalid Mohsen In the area of Al Ras. They pushed the family out of the house, searched the house



Israeli military jeep (having made an arrest in Abu Dis) among the rush-hour traffic in Aizariyeh

and arrested his son Yazan (20). Then they went on to Kubsa and invaded the house of Meher Hamdan and again searched the house and arrested his son Atta (20).



Night-time house raid and arrest by Israeli soldiers

Monday 14th December. The Israeli army together with officers from the Civil Department invaded the area of Abu Nuwar, a Bedouin village on the east side of Abu Dis. They measured the area and before they

left gave orders to demolish four homes belonging to Bedouin families.

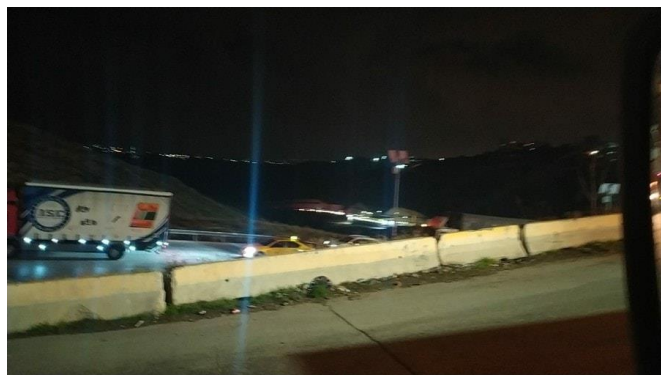
Wednesday 16th December. The Israeli army invaded the area of Azzayem, north of Abu Dis, where they destroyed three Bedouin homes, and took away the material that they were built from. Local people say that that take this material and sell it on their own market.



Israeli army flying checkpoint put up to divide the settlers (who will turn left here to Maale Adumim) from the Palestinians who will be blocked and stopped on their way (right) to Aizariyeh and Abu Dis

Monday 21st December News came through the Israeli military website saying that a boy from Abu Dis was killed in Jerusalem. In fact an 18-year old was shot in the old city of Abu Dis and left bleeding on the ground – Young people gathered in Abu Dis to protest – the army began to shoot tear gas. After some hours it became clear that the young man who was shot was from Qabatiya in Jenin area. However the clashes continued in Abu Dis – there were injuries from rubber bullets and one young man who was shot in his feet and was taken to hospital. **Tuesday 22nd December.** In the morning, the Israeli army together with officers from the Civil Department and bulldozers, came to Wadi Jh eer in Abu Dis, where they destroyed a small factory making food for animals and a sales room belonging Mahmoud al Basha, which had been there for some years. The Israelis said that he did not have planning permission to put a building there.

When the army had finished, and Israeli Border Police jeep went down into Wadi Jheer and set up a checkpoint that remained there for three hours. Some youth began to throw stones at the army from the hills above and the soldiers shot a lot of tear gas in the air before leaving.



Night time in closed Container checkpoint

Thursday 23rd December. There was an early-morning military checkpoint near the crossroad to Maale Adumim, which created a long traffic jam from 6.30 to 9 am.

That evening, the Container checkpoint was closed again for four hours which created a problem for many local people.

Friday 25th December – there was a closure of the whole area, with the Israeli army putting a military checkpoint on the main road near Maale Adumim settlement and slowing movement of cars through the Container checkpoint (so at the two main points on the north- south road.

That evening, there was a march from the youth camp to the military camp; the Israeli army threw tear gas before going and chasing young people away from the area. Clashes continued till 9 in the evening.

Thursday 31st December. There was a march from the youth camp to the military camp; the Israeli army threw tear gas before going and chasing young people away from the area. Clashes continued till 9 in the evening.



Traffic apartheid: This army jeep is at the intersection of the Palestinian road (right) through Aizariyeh and the settlers' road to Qidar (left), , holding up the Palestinian traffic in order to give priority to the settlers.