

Horrendous events in Jerusalem (and boy shot and wounded in Abu Dis)

Sunday 27th September 2009

There were horrible + serious events in Jerusalem yesterday: a continuation of the push of the settler movement in the area of the Al Aqsa Mosque, which resulted in many injuries including the shooting in the leg of a boy from Abu Dis.



A large group of settlers from a group known as “Temple Mount Trustees” came into the Mosque, along with protection from the Israeli police. The Palestinians resisted their entry – they blocked their way with their bodies, threw shoes at them. The Israeli Border Police closed the main gates of Al Aqsa Mosque and started shooting tear gas and rubber bullets.

17 people were injured and 7 arrested. Clashes went on till early in the morning on 27th: shooting in the Mosque compound could be heard from Abu Dis.

A large group of Israeli settlers went to the Al Aqsa Mosque on the occasion of their feast Yom Kippur. The Al Aqsa Mosque was full of old people and children. The Israelis had put a ban on adults under 50 entering the mosque because of this occasion.



Still today, 28th September, Jerusalem is full of Israeli army (even more than usual) and settlers who are still intending to go into the Mosque. This is a very real threat: there is a movement among the settlers to take over and divide the mosque, in the way that happened to the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron following the massacre of Palestinians at prayer by Baruch Goldstein in February 1994.

There have been three massacres in the Mosque at this time of year:

8th October 1990 (23 people killed in Al Aqsa Mosque)

23rd September 1996 “the tunnel uprising” when the Zionists started to build tunnels under the Mosque (7 people killed)

29th September 2000 when Sharon and 1000 soldiers went into the Mosque – five people were killed, including one from Abu Dis – and this was the beginning of the Second Intifada



DEMONSTRATIONS

Across the West Bank and Gaza including in Abu Dis, Aizaria and Sawahreh, there were demonstrations last night to protest against what had happened and against the movement to take over the area of the Al Aqsa Mosque and to divide it.

WA’EL YOUNIS BADR, aged 16, from the 11th grade in Abu Dis Boys’ School, was one of the young people who took part in a demonstration in Abu Dis against what was happening in Jerusalem. He was shot in the leg by an Israeli soldier, and has been taken for an operation to the hospital in Ramallah.

** Wa’el Younis was a familiar name to people in CADFA in May 2007 when he was fourteen and when the Israeli army invaded his house searching for him and threatened that if he was not brought to their police station, they would track him down and kill him. At that point CADFA wrote an open letter to the Israeli Embassy, our MPs and many newspapers, saying what his family had been told and asking for reassurances that he could go safely to the police station with a friend or family member. CADFA did not get an answer but the soldiers did not return to the house, and eventually Wa’el (who had been forced out of fear to leave home for some time) was able to return home and go back to school. **

CADFA RESPONSE

Jerusalem is a central issue to all Palestinians and of course massively important to people in Abu Dis, who are from the Jerusalem suburb, though cut off from the city by the Separation Wall. Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association are going to write letters of concern to our representatives about what happened and about this important issue. We welcome your suggestions about useful activity locally in Camden to draw this issue to people’s attention.