

Getting past the Wall for a blood transfusion

An 83-year-old patient from Abu Dis
April 2008



Al Hajeh Sabreah in Al Muqassed Medical Centre Abu Dis - waiting for a blood transfusion – and first waiting for an answer from the Israeli side.

On 14 April Al Hajeh Sabreah Abu Helal, 83 years old, came to the Al Muqassed medical clinic in the West Bank town of Abu Dis, complaining of general weakness and difficulty of breath. After many investigations she was discovered to have acute anemia (her haemoglobin was 6). . She was referred to Al Muqassed Hospital in Jerusalem to investigate the cause of the anemia, and for a blood transfusion.

We, as usual, sent a special report to the hospital. This was then sent to the Israeli side in order to find out if she could obtain permission to enter Jerusalem. After a long wait we were informed that she couldn't be given a permit because of security reasons. Her son went to the Muabar Al Zaytuneh (checkpoint*), and attempted to speak to soldiers there to allow his mother to pass through to the hospital, but the soldiers refused. PTO→



Al Hajeh Sabreah with her son at Muabar Al Zaytuneh checkpoint

*(*this is one of the huge checkpoints in the Israeli Separation Wall which now cut Abu Dis and the West Bank away from East Jerusalem where the local hospitals and other services are located)*



Al Hajeh Sabreah with her son at Muabar Al Zaytoneh checkpoint – returning with him after they were refused permission to pass through

After several telephone calls to human rights organizations in Israel, she was given permission to go to the hospital alone, without anyone from her family, who have also been refused for security reasons.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the ambulance was called and she was taken to the Al Zayem checkpoint to go to hospital. But after checking her ID and her son's ID, the soldiers at the checkpoint told them that her son should return home, and that she should go to the hospital by Israeli ambulance and pay 600 Israeli shekels.

Human rights organizations were called again until they agreed to let her go to the hospital with her son in the same ambulance.

She is now in hospital alone, and no one from her family can visit her.



Al Hajeh Sabreah in the ambulance at Al Zayem checkpoint : she is again waiting for permission to go to the hospital.

Dr Abdullah Abu Helal, Abu Dis, Palestine

(For more on the health situation in Abu Dis since the construction of the Israeli Separation Wall , see www.camdenabudis.net)