

KURVE Wustrow condemns the attacks from the Israeli army and settlers on our civil peace service partners in Palestine

We are witnessing with great concern the current wave of violence in Palestine and Israel. Especially worrying is the unjustified and disproportional usage of violence by the Israeli army against the Palestinian population, as well as the attack against our Palestinian cooperation partners Youth Against Settlements (YAS) and Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC).

On the 28th of October 2015, at 2 am one of the leading **YAS activists** and spokesperson, **Mohammed Zoghour** was arrested from his house by the Israeli army and secret service and taken to the investigation center Ashkelon, Shikma Prison. Since his arrest Zoghour has not been permitted to have contact with his lawyer. The reason for his arrest is still unclear. On the 05. November his detention was extended for the second time by 8 days. During the review of the remand in custody he stated, that he explicitly is against violence. He further stated that during custody he has been badly treated, humiliated and has had insufficient sleep.

Zoghour's detention is to be seen against the background of repeated attacks on the YAS Center and its activists and increased repression against the population in Hebron. Two weeks before Zoghour's arrest, the YAS center was attacked by a group of 30 Israeli Settlers, ten of which were heavily armed. There upon a YAS activist was detained for a couple of hours by the Israeli police. A few days later further 3 YAS activists were temporarily detained by the Israeli army. This took place in Shuhada street, a street partially inaccessible for Palestinians, after YAS had published video material, which shows how soldiers put a knife next to the body of a just shot Palestinian. On the 07 of November the Israeli army occupied the center for 26 hours and detained among others Issa Amro - YAS director and internationally recognized Human Rights Defender. During the occupation the house was searched and ransacked, film equipment destroyed and memory cards taken. The Settlers had free access to the house during the time of the occupation of the house.

On 25th of October **Wa'el Fageeh**, one of the leading nonviolent activists from Nablus, was arrested when returning from a protection workshop which was organized by the Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (**PSCC**) in the scope of our civil peace service project "Strengthening non-violent initiatives". According to the PSCC the Israeli army purposefully detained him to bring him to the military prison in Ofer. After one week, it became known that he is apparently being accused of participating at an activity at a checkpoint. Similar to the arrests of various young PSCC activists from Nabi Saleh in the recent weeks, the PSCC presumes that Fareq's arrest is actually in connection with his continuous non-violent activities in the Nablus area.

Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)¹ states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". Article 9 states: (1) "Everyone has the right to liberty and security of the person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. (...)" (2) "Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reason for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him".

¹ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CCPR.aspx>

The arbitrary arrests and violent attacks on our cooperation partners are in violation of article 9 of the ICCPR, as well as of the Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.² Further more Article 49 and 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibit the transfer of prisoners outside the occupied territories, as in Mohammad Sgheir's case. Furthermore sleep deprivation is a form of torture and contravenes the international binding UN- Convention Against Torture³

These violations of international law are occurring in the context of a wave of violence between Disraeli and Palestinian civilian population as well as between the Israeli army and police and Palestinian civil society. Since October this wave of violence has caused the lives of over 70 Palestinians and 8 Israelis and injured 7,490 Palestinians and over 126 Israelis in the OPT and Israel⁴. The violence of the Israeli army against the Palestinian population, especially in the recent weeks, is alarming and unjustifiably disproportional. Various renowned Human Rights Organizations have clearly classified the killing of Palestinians by soldiers in the recent weeks as extra-judicial killings.⁵

KURVE Wustrow distances itself and from all forms of violence and explicitly supports Palestinian and Israeli initiatives and Human Rights Defenders, who defend Human and Civil Rights and engage to end the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian territory with non violent means. The attacks on our cooperation partners are to be seen, among others, as intimidation attempts of such non-violent initiatives.

In solidarity with our cooperation partners we demand

- **to stop torturing Mohammed Zoghour and immediately grant him access to his lawyer and to publicly communicate the reasons for his arrest.**
- **public and fair trial for Mohammed Zoghour and Wa'el Faqueeh.**
- **to immediately end all arbitrary arrests and violent attacks on our cooperation partners by the Israeli army and police**
- **for the Israeli state to comply with its obligation, determined under international law, as occupying power, to protect the Palestinian population, including our cooperation partners, from violent attacks by the army, police and settlers.**
- **To end the occupation of the Palestinian territory.**

2 <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>

3 <http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/catcidtp/catcidtp.html>

4 <http://www.ochaopt.org/poc27october-2november-2015.aspx>

5 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/10/israeli-forces-must-end-pattern-of-unlawful-killings-in-west-bank/>,
http://m.btselem.org/press_releases/20151013_mounting_violence