



ABDALLAH ABU RAHME, PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AT RISK.



Abdallah Abu Rahme (44) is a former school teacher, Coordinator of the Bil'in popular committee and member of the board of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Coordination Committee, a nonviolent resistance movement which opposes to the Israeli Military Occupation of the West Bank, the construction of the Wall and the expansion of the settlements, denouncing Human Rights abuses perpetrated by the apartheid system promoted by the Israeli Government in the occupied Palestinian territory.

On October 11 2010, Abu Rahmah was sentenced to **twelve months imprisonment** for his prominent role in Bil'in's successful campaign against the construction on of the Wall on its lands. Abu Rahmah **was convicted of two charges - incitement and organizing illegal demonstrations, but was cleared of all charges connecting him with direct violence.**

Under military law, incitement is defined as "The attempt, verbally or otherwise, to influence public opinion in the Area in a way that may disturb the public peace or public order" (section 7(a) of the Order Concerning Prohibition of Activities of Incitement and Hostile Propaganda (no.101), 1967), and carries a **10 years maximal sentence.**

Abu Rahmah was to be released from prison on November 18th , when his prison term ended, but was kept in jail for another 4 months on the order of the Military Court of Appeals. The controversial decision directly conflicted with the jurisprudence of the Israeli Hight Court on the issue, instructing that only in the most extenuating of circumstances should a prisoner be kept under arrest after his term has been served.

On May 13th 2012, Abdallah was arrested again in front of Ofer Military Prison at a nonviolent demonstration commemorating the Naqba day and in solidarity with Palestinian political prisoners, many of them also in hunger strike, protesting against the administrative detention. He was held for few hours and released on bail. Later on, at the beginning of 2013, Abu Rahme was summoned to the court and accused of "disturbing a solider on duty".



On October 21st 2014, Abu Rahme has been declared guilty and on December 1st, the Military Court will state the sentence. Abdallah has a suspended sentence from 2010 of 4 months, which will be added to the new prison sentence, to be read on January 5st.

Abdallah is being punished for exercising his right to protest and for defending the rights of the Palestinian people in a nonviolent manner.

In 2010 [Catherine Ashton](#) recognized him as a Human Rights Defender and [The Elders](#) called for his immediate release, calling him a prisoner of conscience, as well as Human Rights organizations such as [Amnesty International](#) or [Frontline Defenders](#).



Diplomats from Spain, Malta, UK and EU representatives have attended his trials and the Spanish parliament issued a [statement](#) expressing their concern over Abdallah's incarceration. The Parliamentary Intergroup for Palestine considers the Bil'in peaceful struggle against the construction of the Separation Wall, which was declared illegal, as a defense of the primacy of law and international law in the face of arbitrary decisions, which ignore not only the reiterated resolutions of the United Nations' political bodies, but also Israel's own legal organization.

In a statement issued on 13 January 2011, France "deplores the aggravation of the sentence handed down against Abdallah Abu Rahmah during the appeal judgment delivered by an Israeli military court." France joins the United Kingdom in issuing an official statement against the verdict.

Adv. Gabi Lasky, Abdallah Abu Rahmah's lawyer says, *"Israel has tried violent means to hinder and stop the popular unarmed demonstrations in the West Bank. **Military courts are instrument of the occupation and their verdicts are devised to help the occupation continue.** This decision makes a mockery of the law and justice itself."*

For further information please contact

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