

*INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PEACE SERVICE*  
*Deir Istiya, occupied Palestine*  
*palhouse [at] iwps-pal.org*  
*+972-(0)9-251-4644*  
*<http://iwps.info/>*

Date: 8 November 2012

## Two house demolitions in Hares

**Date of incidents:** 8 November 2012

**Place:** Hares, Salfit district, occupied Palestine

**Witnesses:** Residents of Hares, IWPS

*Note: IWPS withholds contact information as a courtesy to those involved. However, we will do our best to furnish you with the information you may require, upon request.*

### **Description of incidents:**

A heavy IOF presence and two bulldozers entered a lower area of Hares in order to demolish three houses. The army was there from 9 am until 3 pm and during that time approximately 100 soldiers and 9 army vehicles were present. The village has 35 houses that are under the threat of a demolition order and these are at different stages in the litigation process.

The three houses in question are needed for growing, extended families and are all on their privately owned land. The demolition orders were issued 3 years previously.

### Houses

1. H J S with 18 family members, ground floor had been completed, second storey started
2. A J, 14 family members currently living in 2 rooms, a second adjoining flat with a ground floor had been completed, second storey started.
3. A R. The villagers came out in number to protest and try to halt the demolitions. House no 3 was in an awkward position for the bulldozer to access and the bulldozers moved on to house no 1. The villagers followed, tear gas was thrown in response and there was a stand-off situation with the bulldozers positioned in front of the house guarded by jeeps and soldiers. The demolition was halted as lawyers had gone to Bet El to try to get permission for the families to appeal

A non-violent group stood between the house and the bulldozers including the family, villagers and IWPS members. The mayor received a fax apparently giving the court's leave to appeal but after much heated discussion the IOF Commander decided to go ahead. The house and surrounding area were then cleared by the army firing tear gas and sound bombs and the bulldozers proceeded to raze the house to the ground.

During the stand-off with the army, a Palestinian woman was lying on a mattress in front of the house 1 in a distressed state with physical effects from tear gas. The medics had called an ambulance but the blockade of army jeeps prevented it reaching her. When the area was cleared an IWPS member and another Palestinian carried her to a nearby house and she was eventually hospitalised.

Bulldozers continued to house no. 2 and the new structure was demolished. The villagers continued to protest and the IOF responded with tear gas, sound bombs, rubber coated bullets and live ammunition.

#### Injuries:

An IWPS volunteer witnessed a villager being beaten with a stick after the demolition started.

PRMS said they treated 35 people for asphyxiation and minor injuries.

The mother of the owner of house 1 had her hand broken when she was resisting, 6 relatives were hospitalised.

2 people had bullet wounds, one in the finger the other in the leg.

#### Detention:

3 people were detained and then released. One man was handcuffed until his house, house 2, was demolished.

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