

4 August 2017

## Occupied Palestinian Territories/ Israel: Human rights defender Badie Dweik threatened and beaten by Israeli Military Forces

On 4 August 2017, Israeli soldiers conducted a raid of the home of **Badie Dweik** in Hebron. Israeli forces physically attacked the human rights defender and threatened him with arrest if he participates in a peaceful protest due to take place that same day at Khursa, Dura in Hebron.

[Badie Dweik](#) is a human rights defender who organises campaigns for the protection of human rights defenders in Hebron and calls for an end to Israeli occupation. The human rights defender has established many NGOs that organise peaceful actions calling for the Palestinian right to self-determination. He is a leading member of *Human Rights Defenders Palestine* (تجمع المدافعين عن حقوق الانسان), which works to expose Israeli military and settler violations against the Palestinians in occupied Hebron. Badie Dweik also collaborates with the Hebron team of human rights observers brought by the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. His work involves documenting and providing information on violations committed against Palestinians. He also provides training on protection for human rights defenders, particularly in the Hebron governorate.

In the early morning of 4 August 2017, Israeli soldiers raided the home of Badie Dweik in Hebron. The Israeli soldiers entered the human rights defender's home and forcibly dragged him down the stairs. Badie Dweik was beaten, interrogated and threatened with arrest if he participated in a peaceful protest due to take place that same day in Khursa, Dura. The military commander also threatened the human rights defender with continued raids on his home if he continues his work with Human Rights Defenders Group.

This is not the first raid that the human rights defender has been subjected to. On 24 February 2017, Israeli soldiers came to the home of Badie Dweik at around 1:00 am and [threatened](#) him and his colleagues with arrest if they participated in a peaceful protest taking place that same day as part of the “Dismantle the Ghetto, Take Settlers Out of Hebron” campaign. The human rights defender is regularly harassed and threatened by Israeli forces in an attempt to deter him from his human rights work. Two incidents were documented in 2016 showing Israeli soldiers harassing and intimidating Badie Dweik. In one [incident](#), the human rights defender was prevented from walking in Hebron city. In the other incident, a soldier threatened Badie Dweik and his family at their home while they were held at gun point.

Front Line Defenders would also like to highlight the increased repression of human rights defenders and civil society in the OPT. In particular, Front Line Defenders is concerned by the increasing number of raids being conducted in recent weeks by military forces on media institutions documenting rights violations against Palestinians. Additionally, intimidation, arbitrary arrests, beatings, threats, and interrogation have been reported by [MADA](#) (The Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms).

Front Line Defenders condemns the raid, threats and physical attack against human rights defender Badie Dweik by Israeli authorities as it believes these actions to be directly connected with his peaceful and legitimate work in defense of human rights.

**Front Line Defenders urges the Israeli authorities to:**

1. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the intimidation and threats against Badie Dweik, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
2. Stop all forms of harassment against Badie Dweik and all other human rights defenders in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Hebron specifically;
3. Ensure the safety of Badie Dweik and all other human rights defenders in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
4. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.