

# BUSHRA AND HER SON



At 3am on a cold winters night, Bushra, a mother of five, woke up in her Palestinian village to loud banging at her front door. Bushra was alone with the children and when she went to the door four masked and heavily armed Israeli soldiers stormed into the house and went upstairs to the girl's bedroom. "Leave them asleep" shouted Bushra, "they are my daughters".

The soldiers moved to the boys' bedroom and poked Anan, Bushra's 15yr old son, in the back with his gun. "He throws stones one of them told me" said Bushra as they forced him out of bed, "we want to take him." The commander blindfolded Anan, tied his hands behind his back and took him outside. By 4am Anan had been kicked and slapped and verbally abused and was on the floor of a military vehicle on his way to a military interrogation centre at Benyamina, a settlement. "I didn't sleep that night, I cried and cried and the neighbours stayed with me till the morning" said Bushra.

In the morning Bushra arrived at Benyamina to be with her son during the interrogation. She waited for over 3 hours but when her son was brought in the interrogator wouldn't allow her in. She sat outside and listened while the interrogator shouted and yelled at her son. The following day Anan appeared in front of a military judge and the prosecutor presented photographs to the judge and claimed they were evidence against Anan. The judge then dismissed the evidence against Anan as insufficient and decided to release him.

A few weeks later soldiers again came to Bushra's house in the middle of the night. They came with the same photos which the judge dismissed. Again Anan was taken out of bed, slapped and kicked and verbally abused, interrogated without his parents and released again on lack of evidence.

Story by Salwa Duaibis

Reprinted with permission of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center

# PALESTINIAN LOSS OF LAND 1947 TO PRESENT

Map used with permission of Australian Friends of Palestine Association (AFOPA)



*"We call upon Christians in Churches on every continent to pray for the Palestinian and Israeli people... We call upon all Churches that remain silent, to break their silence and speak for reconciliation with justice in the Holy Land."*

Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, 2006

## DONATE

Donate to our work "Palestine Israel Account"  
BSB: 702-389 Account Number: 05209480

**CONVENORS** Rev Gregor Henderson and Ros Harper

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jessica Morrison **m** 0431 519 577 **e** [contact@pien.org.au](mailto:contact@pien.org.au)

**FOLLOW** [twitter/PIENAustralia](https://twitter.com/PIENAustralia)

**LIKE** [facebook/PalestineIsraelEcumenicalNetwork](https://facebook.com/PalestineIsraelEcumenicalNetwork)



# PALESTINE ISRAEL ECUMENICAL NETWORK

*Australian Christians who seek lasting peace for the people of Palestine and Israel. We aim to equip and inform Australian churches, inspired by Christ's vision for universal reconciliation.*



[WWW.PIEN.ORG.AU](http://WWW.PIEN.ORG.AU)

[WWW.PIEN.ORG.AU](http://WWW.PIEN.ORG.AU)

## QUICK FACTS

### 1 REFUGEES

During the establishment of Israel in 1948, approximately 85% of Palestinians were displaced. Palestinians represent the largest (now 5 million) and longest lasting refugee population in the world. Many are in refugee camps (in Gaza and the West Bank or in neighbouring countries) without any citizenship.



**2 THE WEST BANK** has been under military occupation since 1967. Palestinians in the West Bank live amongst military checkpoints and are surrounded by a separation wall, the route of which has been declared illegal by the International Court of Justice.

**3 THE GAZA STRIP** also occupied, is under blockade, inflicting illegal collective punishment of the population and limiting the supply of the basics of life, including food, medicines and fuel.

**4 UNDER** the 4th Geneva Convention it is illegal to transfer population to occupied territories. However there are now 500,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

**5 THE NUMBER OF CHRISTIANS** living in Israel and Palestine has decreased significantly due to the occupation from 350,000 in 1948 to about 200,000 today.

**6 HOUSE DEMOLITIONS** are a common problem for Palestinians, with 622 structures demolished by Israeli forces in 2011.

**7 SETTLER VIOLENCE** has more than doubled in recent years. In 2011 10,000 Palestinian olive trees were destroyed and 183 Palestinians injured.

## JOIN US IN WORKING FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

**1 JOIN US** The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network is full of people who want to play a part. Contact us to join working groups or sign up at [www.pien.org.au](http://www.pien.org.au) for updates.

**2 LEARN MORE** The conflict isn't overwhelmingly complicated—but some good information helps. Good articles on politics, theology and personal stories are on our website. Hear also from Palestinian Christians at [www.kairospalestine.ps](http://www.kairospalestine.ps)

**3 PRAY** Subscribe to weekly prayers from Sabeel at [www.sabeel.org](http://www.sabeel.org) or include prayers or liturgies about Palestine in your church service.

**4 INVITE A SPEAKER ON PALESTINE** There are people across the country and from many denominations who would love to come and speak to your church or group about their personal experiences in Palestine:Israel. Book by emailing [contact@pien.org.au](mailto:contact@pien.org.au)

**5 VISIT PALESTINE** Ethical tourism resources at [www.atg.ps](http://www.atg.ps)

### 6 BOYCOTT SETTLEMENT GOODS

The National Council of Churches National Forum invites churches to consider boycotting goods made in the illegal settlements. [www.pien.org.au/bdscampaign](http://www.pien.org.au/bdscampaign)

### 7 JOIN A LOCAL ADVOCACY GROUP

Our website has a list of national groups. [www.pien.org.au](http://www.pien.org.au)



### 8 JOIN THE WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE

in Palestine:Israel. A world-wide week to pray and act for Palestine. Hold an event or include prayers in your church. [www.worldweekforpeace.org](http://www.worldweekforpeace.org)

### 9 SIGN THE KAIROS CALL [www.kairospalestine.ps](http://www.kairospalestine.ps)

### 10 VOLUNTEER

**Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel**

Led by the World Council of Churches, 3 months. [www.ncca.org.au/eappi](http://www.ncca.org.au/eappi)

**Christian Peacemaker Teams**

Led by USA peace churches. Offers 2 week delegations, then longer volunteer opportunities. [www.cpt.org](http://www.cpt.org)



*"Palestinians are utterly frustrated by the impact of Israeli policies on their lives. They can't move freely around their territory. They can't plan their communities. They are evicted from their homes. Their homes are regularly demolished."*

United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs  
Baroness Valerie Amos, May 2011