

09 May 2019

Israel/OPT: human rights defender Sari Jaradat shot by Israeli soldiers

On 3 May 2019, human rights defender and journalist **Sari Jaradat** got shot by Israeli soldiers while covering protests in Beit Sira village, west of Ramallah.

[Sari Jaradat](#) is a member of the Human Rights Defenders Network Palestine (تجمع المدافعين عن حقوق الانسان), which denounces human rights abuses committed against Palestinians in Hebron by the Israeli military. As part of the work for the network, Sari Jaradat trains activists in documenting human rights violations. He also works as a correspondent for several local and international media agencies.

On 3 May 2019, after the Friday prayer, protests erupted in Beit Sira village, west of Ramallah, demanding the release of the corpses of two Palestinian prisoners, Yousef Anqawi and Amir Darraj, who had died while in Israeli detention.

The Israeli soldiers responded with force, firing rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas at the peaceful protesters. Sari Jaradat was documenting the protest when he got shot in the right foot with a rubber-coated metal bullet. The human rights defender was taken to the Ramallah Hospital to receive the necessary medical care. He was released on the same day but as he recovers from his injuries, he is housebound and so unable to work for a month.

The targeting of journalist and human rights defender Sari Jaradat, which took place on the World Press Freedom Day, constitutes a clear breach of the human rights standards concerning the protection of journalists in conflict zones.

Front Line Defenders expresses concern about the attack against Sari Jaradat, as it believes that it was solely motivated by his peaceful human rights work on the documentation of the excessive use of force during peaceful protests in Palestine.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Israel/OPT to:

1. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the attack against Sari Jaradat, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
2. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of human rights defender Sari Jaradat;

3. Cease targeting all human rights defenders in Israel/OPT and guarantee in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw attention to Article 12 (2): *“The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration”* and to Article 18 (2): *“Individuals, groups, and non-governmental organisations have an important role to play and a responsibility in safeguarding democracy, promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and contributing to the promotion and advancement of democratic societies, institutions and processes.”*

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Anderson

Executive Director