

Advocacy dossier

Issa Amro

عيسى عمرو

At liberty **Palestine**

Issa Amro is the founder and coordinator of Youth Against Settlements in Hebron and was convicted by an Israeli military court in 2021 over his peaceful protest activity. He remains at liberty but faces continued harassment, including a seven-hour detention by Israeli forces on 2 October 2026.

01
The case at a glance

Issa Amro is the founder and coordinator of Youth Against Settlements in Hebron and was convicted by an Israeli military court in 2021 over his peaceful protest activity. He remains at liberty but faces continued harassment, including a seven-hour detention by Israeli forces on 2 October 2026.

Status **At liberty**	Arrested **2 Oct 2026**	Country **Palestine**
Sentence Three-month suspended prison sentence with two years' probation and a fine of 3,500 NIS, imposed by the Ofer Military Court on 22 March 2021.		
Charges Participating in demonstrations without a permit (three counts) Obstructing security forces (two counts) Assault (one count)		

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Drop any charges that remain on record against Issa Amro in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Issa Amro faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Issa Amro can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal.

04 Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

02

How the case unfolded

29 February 2016

Arrest

Arrested outside his home in Tel Rumeida

Israeli forces arrested him outside his home in Tel Rumeida, Hebron. He was released on 1 March 2016 and charged with organising illegal protests.

7 June 2016

Charge filed

Eighteen charges brought before military court

Eighteen charges were brought against him before the Israeli military court, including assault and participating in marches without a permit.

4 September 2017

Arrest

Arrested by Palestinian security forces over a Facebook post

Palestinian Preventive Security forces arrested him in Hebron after he posted comments on Facebook criticising their arrest of a local radio journalist the previous day. Amnesty International described the arrest as an attack on freedom of expression.

6 January 2021

Conviction

Convicted on six counts by Ofer Military Court

The Ofer Military Court convicted him on six counts: three of participating in a rally without a permit, two of obstructing a soldier and one of assault.

26 January 2021

Other act

UN experts say his conviction appears politically motivated

Michael Lynk, Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory, and Mary Lawlor, Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, said the conviction of 6 January 2021 was part of a systematic pattern of detention, judicial harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders, and appeared politically motivated.

22 March 2021

Verdict

Given a suspended sentence and a fine

The Ofer Military Court imposed a three-month suspended sentence with a two-year probation period and a fine of 3,500 NIS. Taking part in peaceful demonstrations during probation could lead to imprisonment.

7 April 2021

Case closed or dropped

Palestinian charges over a Facebook post dropped

The Hebron Magistrate's Court dropped the charges brought by the Palestinian Public Prosecution in 2017 over a Facebook post criticising the arrest of a journalist.

28 November 2022

Arrest

Arrested after filming a soldier assaulting an activist

Israeli forces arrested him after summoning him for questioning at the Jabara police station near Kiryat Arba, days after he filmed an Israeli soldier assaulting an Israeli activist during a visit by Israeli anti-occupation activists to Hebron. His lawyer, Riham Nasra, said he was accused of obstructing soldiers.

30 November 2022

Release order

Court orders his release pending investigation

A court ordered his release pending an investigation. It did not grant the prosecution's request to extend his arrest, to place him under house arrest outside Hebron or to bar him from contact with Israeli activists for three months.

13 February 2023

Physical assault

Soldier filmed throwing him to the ground and kicking him

At a military post in Hebron, an Israeli soldier was filmed grabbing him by the jacket and neck, throwing him to the ground and kicking him. The military said the soldier did not follow its code of conduct; the soldier was jailed for 10 days.

October 2023

Ill-treatment

Held for about 10 hours at a military base, says he was beaten

In the days after 7 October 2023 he was detained by soldiers and settlers in military uniform and taken to the military base in Tel Rumeida. He said he was handcuffed, blindfolded and beaten for hours before being released after about 10 hours.

20 October 2023

Other act

Forced out of his home, declared a closed military zone

Soldiers forced him out of his home in Tel Rumeida and declared it a closed military zone. In early November 2023 he was staying with friends and still recovering from injuries to his back, legs and hands.

April 2026

Threats and intimidation

Settler attacks his home as a soldier looks on

An Israeli settler was filmed throwing rocks and trying to break into his home in Hebron while an Israeli soldier watched. The settler was briefly arrested and then released.

2 October 2026

Deprivation of liberty

Held for seven hours at a military base

Israeli forces detained him and held him incommunicado at a military base for about seven hours for allegedly being too close to a settlement. His lawyer said he was blindfolded, handcuffed behind his back and badly treated.

2 October 2026

Release

Released overnight

He was released overnight after being held at a military base for about seven hours.

03
The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Issa Amro is at liberty in Hebron. On 2 October 2026 Israeli forces held him for about seven hours at a military base before releasing him overnight; no new charges against him have been reported.

Background and Work

Issa Amro is a Palestinian human rights defender from Hebron, in the occupied West Bank. According to the Right Livelihood Foundation, he was born in Hebron in 1980 and studied engineering at Palestine Polytechnic University, where he led a student campaign to reopen the university after its closure in 2003. In 2006, while working with the Israeli rights group B'Tselem, he began a project to give cameras to Palestinian families in Hebron so that they could document abuses.

In 2007 he founded Youth Against Settlements, a Hebron group that uses non-violent means to oppose Israeli settlement in the city. Its best known work is the Open Shuhada Street campaign, which calls for the reopening of the city's main street to Palestinians. In 2019, after Israel ended the mandate of the international observer mission in Hebron, volunteers from the group began escorting Palestinian children to school. UN experts have also described him as a founder of the group Hebron Defenders. In June 2013 he addressed the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva as a representative of a non-governmental organisation.

In 2024 he and Youth Against Settlements received the Right Livelihood Award for non-violent resistance to the occupation. In the same year he and the Israeli activist Maoz Inon were named laureates of the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law.

The Case

Israeli forces have arrested or detained him many times. In August 2013 five UN special rapporteurs said he had reportedly been arrested 20 times in 2012 and six times in 2013 without charge, and raised an incident on 8 July 2013 in which soldiers allegedly beat him and threatened to shoot him.

On 29 February 2016 Israeli forces arrested him outside his home in Tel Rumeida, and in June 2016 eighteen charges were brought against him before an Israeli military court, including assault and taking part in marches without a permit. On 4 September 2017 the Palestinian Preventive Security forces also arrested him, after he criticised on Facebook their arrest of a local radio journalist; Amnesty International called the arrest an attack on freedom of expression.

On 31 October 2022 the army declared a closed military zone around his house, a day after he tried to file a police complaint about harassment during the olive harvest. On 28 November 2022 he was arrested after being summoned to the Jabara police station near Kiryat Arba, days after he filmed a soldier assaulting an Israeli activist. On 13 February 2023 a soldier at a military post in Hebron was filmed throwing him to the ground and kicking him; the soldier was jailed for 10 days.

Detention Conditions and Health

In October 2023, in the days after 7 October, soldiers and settlers in military uniform detained

him and took him to the military base in Tel Rumeida. He told Al Jazeera that he was handcuffed, blindfolded and beaten for hours before his release after about 10 hours. On 20 October 2023 soldiers forced him out of his home and declared it a closed military zone; he later returned after a legal challenge, according to the Right Livelihood Foundation.

In April 2026 a settler was filmed throwing stones at his home and trying to break in while a soldier watched. On 2 October 2026, after he went to help a Palestinian family who he said had been attacked by armed settlers outside Hebron, Israeli forces held him at a military base for about seven hours for allegedly being too close to a settlement. His lawyer said he was blindfolded, handcuffed behind his back and badly treated. He told Democracy Now that he had told the soldiers he had a shoulder injury and that he still had physical pain after his release.

Legal Proceedings

On 6 January 2021 the Ofer Military Court convicted him on six counts: three of taking part in a demonstration without a permit, two of obstructing a soldier and one of assault. On 22 March 2021 it imposed a three-month suspended sentence with two years' probation and a fine of 3,500 NIS. On 7 April 2021 the Hebron Magistrate's Court dropped the charges that the Palestinian Public Prosecution had brought against him in 2017 over his Facebook post. In the November 2022 case, a court ordered his release pending investigation on 30 November 2022 and rejected the prosecution's request to place him under house arrest outside Hebron.

International Response

UN experts have raised his case repeatedly. In August 2013 Richard Falk, Juan E. Méndez, Maina Kiai, Margaret Sekaggya and Frank La Rue urged Israel to stop the harassment and abusive treatment of him. On 26 January 2021 Michael Lynk and Mary Lawlor said his conviction appeared politically motivated and was part of a systematic pattern of detention and judicial harassment of human rights defenders. Front Line Defenders and Amnesty International have also taken up his case.

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