

14 January 2021

Israeli/OPT: charges brought against human rights defender Sami Huraini

On 9 January 2021, the Israeli army stormed the house of human rights defender **Sami Huraini** and arrested him. On 13 January the Military Court of Ofer ordered his release on a bail of 10,000 Israeli shekels (approximately 2,600 Euros) and precautionary measures. Sami Huraini is accused of 'insulting a public police border', 'disturbing the public order', and 'entering a closed military area'.

[Sami Huraini](#) is a Palestinian human rights defender and a board member of the Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC), a committee that opposes the extension of the illegal Israeli settlement through peaceful demonstrations. Sami Huraini is also a member of the grassroots initiative 'Youth of Sumud', an initiative that was established to peacefully resist the Israeli occupation and the illegal Israeli settlements in Southern Hebron. Sami Huraini has also been involved in protecting the Palestinian civilians from settlers attacks, by escorting Palestinian children to schools and accompanying Palestinian farmers to their lands close to the green line.

On 9 January 2021, at 2:00 a.m. the Israeli army stormed Sami Huraini's house and violently arrested him. The human rights defender was taken to Kiryat Arba settlement police station, where he was interrogated for few hours. His lawyer was not allowed to participate in the interrogation. After the interrogation Sami Huraini was transferred to Ofer prison. The Military Public Prosecutor accused the human rights defender of 'insulting a public police border', 'disturbing the public order' and 'entering a closed military area'. On 13 January 2021, The Military Court of Ofer ordered the release of the human rights defender on a bail of 10,000 (approximately 2,600 Euros), and under precautionary measures which include reporting to the police station every Friday from 8:30 to 3:30. His next hearing session is scheduled to be held on 1 March 2021.

Human rights defender Sami Huraini is being frequently harassed by both the Israeli settlers and Israeli authorities for his peaceful human rights work. His village Tuwani is a border village on the green line, and as a result his community are frequently subjected to harassment and attacks. The arrest of Sami Huraini comes after his participation in a peaceful demonstration on 8 January 2021. The demonstration was organised to protest against Israeli army violence, particularly after the shooting of Palestinian activist Harun Abu Aram, on 1 January 2021, who was shot in the neck from point blank range, which left him with quadriplegia.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned regarding the charges against human rights defenders Sami Huraini. Front Line Defenders believe that Sami Huraini is being charged solely as a result of his peaceful human rights work.

Front Line Defenders urge the Israeli authorities to:

1. Immediately drop all charges against Sami Huraini as it is believed that they are solely motivated by his legitimate and peaceful work in defence of human rights;

2. Lift the precautionary measures against Sami Huraini, as it is believed that this measure have been taken against him on account of his legitimate and peaceful work in defence of human rights;
3. Cease targeting all human rights defenders in OPT/Israel 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 including judicial harassment.

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