

Mohammad Sabaaneh, Palestinian Prominent Cartoonist and Employee of the Arab American University in Jineen Arrested since February, 16 with No Charges



Picture of Sabaaneh and his cartoon character “Abu Fayeeg”, text in Arabic reads: They think if they arrest you I will be silenced?

Mohammad is a 34 year old artist who was arrested by the Israeli occupation forces on February, 16 at the border crossing when he was on his way home to the West Bank while returning from a conference held in Jordan. Sabaaneh was initially held at Al Jalama detention facility without charges and was denied access to a lawyer or family visits.

This is the first time Mohammad is arrested. He is not affiliated with any of the Palestinian political parties and according to his family, his arrest came as a surprise to them because his work is more directed to arts and culture, for which he won many local and international awards. Mohammad is a popular editorial cartoonist of Al Haya Al Jadida daily, an artist and cultural worker with one book published and work published in various Arab newspapers including Jordanian Daily Al Ghad and Al Etihad in the United Arab Emirates. He is active in a number of community based organization and syndicates, and works at the Public Relations Department of the Arab American University of the West Bank city of Jenin.

After the “ambiguous” death of 30 year old Arafat Jaradat while in Israel’s custody, Mohammad’s family issued an appeal expressing their concern over his life and the conditions he might be held in.

“We are the family of Mohammed Abdel Ghani Saba'na, who has been arrested by the Israeli Occupation Army as he was coming back home from Jordan through Al-Karama crossing. And since that day his lawyers was unable to meet him and all their requests were rejected.

We – Family of Sabaaneh – and after the death of “ARAFAT JARADAT” during investigation by Israeli army, at Aljalameh compound or after that in Majeddo prison, We appeal to all parties especially humanitarian organizations all around the world to interfere fast to help us visiting our son to check on him and his safety we appeal to them to work hard to save our Son and all prisoners from the Occupation prisons to end their suffering by lifting their case up to international forums to assure their safety and their legal rights.

Family of Sabaaneh “

On February 25, Mohammad was transferred to Asqalan (Ashkelon) prison and yesterday February, 28 his arrest was extended 8 more days. To this moment, Mohammad is held with no charges and his lawyer is denied access to any information about the motives behind his arrest. His family was also denied to visit or see him.

More information:

<http://mondoweiss.net/2013/02/palestinian-cartoonist-international.html>

<http://www.cartoonmovement.com/news>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%87-%D9%84%D9%84%D9%81%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%AF-%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%86%D9%87/397722083575137>

http://occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com/2013/02/17/israeli-forces-arrests-palestinian-cartoonist-rsf_rwb-pressfreedom-fightcensors_en/