

Sworn Statement

After having been warned to tell the truth and nothing but the truth or else I shall be subjected to penal action, I the undersigned, Kamal Kamel 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-Zeid, Tel.: 0599651757, holder of ID # 955362660, born on 21 February 1964, a worker and a resident of the Qabatiya, Jenin Governorate, would like to declare the following:

At approximately 2:30 am on Tuesday, 27 September 2005, I was awoken by the noise of Israeli military vehicles moving in the vicinity of my home located in the Kmeil Quarter. When my family (my wife and 9 children) heard shooting, we all got up. The situation continued until 3:00 am, when we heard the military jeeps' megaphones say, "Abu-al-Kamel get out of the house, the Israeli Defense Army is encircling your home." I quickly went to open the door. There I saw a number of Israeli soldiers spread out in front of my house, in addition to a number of military jeeps.

In Arabic, the Israeli soldiers asked me to lift up my clothes from the upper half of my body, and then to pull down my clothes on the lower half of my body, which I did, but then they asked me to remove my underwear, which I absolutely refused to do. They then told me to walk towards them.

When I reached one of the jeeps, a medium sized brown skinned Israeli officer got out of it. He asked me to tell him the names of my children, starting with the eldest. He then made me repeat their names again. I started with my eldest son, Kamel Abu-Zeid, who is 18 years old, and the officer interrupted me and said, "Where is Kamel?" I told him he was in the house. He then asked me to go and get Kamel out of the house, which I did. As soon as Kamel left the house, one of the Israeli soldiers cuffed his hands behind his back with a piece of plastic, blindfolded his eyes, and put him in the jeep I was standing next to.

The above-mentioned soldier asked me to evacuate the rest of my family from the house. I ordered my wife Kawthar Abu-Zeid (35 years old), 'Abd-al-Rahman (15 years old), Sawsan (13 years old), Sana' (12 years old), Basel (10 years old), Na'el (8 years old), Hiba (5 years old), Yasmin (4 years old), and Hala (1 year old) to evacuate our home, and they did so. The soldiers then ordered my wife and children to go to a yard located opposite our home whilst I remain beside the jeep.

At the same time, the soldiers began interrogating my son, Kamel, asking him about weapons in the house. "Where are the arms which you have inside your home?" Kamel answered, "There are no arms inside our house." The soldiers then assaulted him and beat him in front of me. When Kamel started to shout in pain, I ran towards him to ask the soldiers to stop beating him. As a result, the soldiers threatened me and told me to return to where I was originally standing. At that moment, around 20 soldiers took Kamel out of the jeep and beat him severely with their feet, hands, and the butts of their guns, whilst continuously asking him, "Where are the arms?" My wife, children and I began crying, but the soldiers kept on beating him. My wife and I could no longer watch our son being beaten, and we ran towards the soldiers and asked them to stop beating him. They then put Kamel back in the jeep. Again the

officer asked about the weapons in our home. I swore that there were no weapons inside our home. The officer said, "Abu-Kamel you will regret this if we find any weapons inside your home." Then he asked if there was anybody else inside the house, and I answered no.

At this moment, specifically at 3:30 am, additional Israeli forces arrived in the area. I saw approximately 15 soldiers breaking into our home; all of them were carrying guns with lasers, and wearing night goggles on their eyes. The soldiers stayed for around half an hour inside our home, during which they carried out search operations. From outside, we could hear the sounds of them breaking the porcelain and glass contents of our home. The soldiers then left the house, carrying a big suitcase which they had taken from our home, and put it in one of the jeeps.

Meanwhile, approximately 80 other soldiers accompanied by three big dogs broke into our home. These soldiers remained in our home until 6:00 am before they started to leave. As they were leaving, I saw a wire with a button at the end in the hand of one of the soldiers. To me, this meant the wire was running through the inside of our home. Then, I realised that the Israeli army wanted to explode and demolish my home. Feeling both angry and sad, I hurried towards the wire in order to cut it and stop the demolition, but the soldiers threatened to shoot me. I looked down at myself and saw tens of small laser red lights on my body. I knew that the soldiers would kill me if I cut the wire, so I returned to my wife and children. The soldiers took us around 80 metres away from our house, and the jeeps started to move away too. At 7:00 am the demolition took place.

Our home, which provided shelter for my children, turned into piles of stones within seconds. My son Kamel was arrested and the Israeli army claimed that the suitcase which they had taken from our home contained bombs, weapons, and ammunition. Even if their claim was correct, why did the army demolish our home? They could have seized it instead. It seems that they were punishing us for something we did not commit. I currently live with my family in a rented house and I do not know what is going to happen to my son, Kamel. It is worth noting that my son Kamel was neither an activist, nor wanted to be one, and this was the first time that the Israeli army broke into our home.

The Israeli occupation destroyed my life and demolished the home I built, through considerable exhaustion and suffering, for the shelter and protection of my wife and children. It is a brutal and cruel occupation that deprives man of his son, home, and future.

This is my statement and hereby I sign, 1 October 2005

Signature: Kamal Abu-Zeid

Name not withheld

Field Research: Tareq al-Haj Mahmoud