



HAJ SAMI SADEQ, Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories

Haj Sami Sadeq is a Palestinian community activist in Aqaba village in the Jordan Valley area of the Occupied West Bank.



UNDER OCCUPATION

The West Bank has been occupied by the Israeli authorities since 1967. Aqaba, like 60 per cent of the West Bank, is classified as "Area C" and no structure can be built or even repaired in "Area C" without a permit from the Israeli army. Permits are almost impossible to obtain. Amnesty International is concerned that the Israeli authorities restrict construction by Palestinians in an attempt to force them to leave these areas. Meanwhile, Israeli settlements, illegal under international law, continue to be built in the very same areas where construction by Palestinians is forbidden.

BUILDING A FUTURE

Following Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Aqaba became increasingly isolated, and prohibitions on Palestinian building forced many residents to leave. As head of the village council, Haj Sami Sadeq secured international funds and worked with villagers to build community structures, such as a kindergarten, a medical centre, a primary school, a mosque and paved roads. The village now has electricity and phone lines. Those who had been forced to leave are returning. But, because the new buildings were built without permits

from the Israeli military, they are at continued threat of demolition.

Haj Sami Sadeq continues to face any challenges head on, energetically campaigning for his village and community.

To support Haj Sami Sadeq's work please go to: www.amnesty.org/worldcup2010

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