

April 27, 2017

Canadian Friends Service Committee is the peace and social justice agency of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada. Since 1931 CFSC has had a commitment to achieving just peace through pacifism and active nonviolence. We believe that disciplined nonviolent direct action is an important power-based aspect of peacebuilding.

Many of our members have visited Hebron in the Occupied West Bank and have been deeply troubled by the horrible conditions there, documented and brought to light by civil society groups including Youth Against Settlements (YAS). We have been inspired by the nonviolent work of YAS and its founder Issa Amro.

We believe that the charges brought against Issa Amro dating back to 2010 are unjust attempts to repress legitimate dissent and nonviolent struggle for human rights and equality. Issa is an internationally renowned human rights defender and is principled in his philosophical and practical commitment to active nonviolence as the route to peace.

For this reason, we are dismayed that he faces 18 charges including assault, demonstrating without a permit, and insulting a soldier. These charges are inconsistent with Issa's behaviour and beliefs as we know them. For more information see: <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/27/opinion/whos-afraid-of-nonviolence.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/27/opinion/whos-afraid-of-nonviolence.html</a>

We encourage you to support Issa through endorsing, signing, and/or sharing the petition <a href="http://FreeIssa.org">http://FreeIssa.org</a> as you are able.

in Friendship,

The Peace Committee of Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

