

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

His name is **Mordechai Vanunu**.

Anti-war and anti-nuclear missiles non-violent activist.

This is what happens to him if he leaves Jerusalem and visits Palestine – he is arrested and returned to base after detention, interrogation and seizure of personal effects. (see picture on right)



On this occasion (December 24, 2004) he was trying to go to Bethlehem for midnight Mass. He is not allowed freedom of movement or freedom of speech in Israel.

Mordechai Vanunu (left foreground) with 2 Israeli guards, Christmas Eve

He is a prisoner, and the State of Israel is his prison.

[He spent eleven and a half years in solitary confinement in Ashkelon prison from September 1984 to March 1995.](#)

Taken out of solitary because of international pressure, he was released to the yard of the prison but allowed to mix only with hostile Israeli prisoners, not with Palestinians. He was kept here between 1995 and 21 April 2004, when he was released, having served his full sentence of 18 years less six months.

Since 21 April 2004, he remains in Jerusalem, under the watchful eye of The Israeli secret police, forbidden to leave Israel – even to go to Palestine. The Israeli State renewed all the restrictions on his freedom on April 21, 2006.

He is forbidden too to speak to foreigners, give interviews, go near embassies, go near the boundaries of Israel, change address without notification, use e-mail. He has been arrested several times, detained, charged, released. His room in the hostel where he stayed for two years has been raided – on one occasion by 30 officers, who terrified pilgrims visiting St George's Church to which his hostel was attached.

His only crime was that he told the truth. He revealed that Israel had a nuclear arsenal – and he knew this because he had worked in the Dimona plant. Although himself coming from a Jewish Moroccan family who had settled in Israel, he had quickly identified with the Palestinians who suffered exile and repression within Israel and Palestine.

He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize on numerous occasions and has won innumerable other prizes including the alternative Nobel and the Yoko Ono award.

Quotes: "I have sacrificed my freedom and risked my life in order to expose the danger of nuclear weapons which threatens this whole region."

"All those who are standing behind me, supporting me ... all are heroes ... I am a symbol of the will of freedom ... you cannot break the human spirit."