

**“Ibrahim Abu Dayya” [Obituary]. *Al-Tha’r* (Beirut), Thursday 20 November 1953 (p. 8). Translated by The Palestinian Revolution, 2016.<sup>1</sup>**

Is there an Arab who has not heard of Ibrahim Abu Dayeh?

Is there a Palestinian who has not known “Abu al-Abed”?

He was born in Surif,<sup>2</sup> and before he turned 18 he joined the revolutionaries,<sup>3</sup> carrying out heroic feats that could not have been undertaken except by one who had the courage of Ibrahim, the resoluteness of Ibrahim, and the intelligence of Ibrahim.

When the latest Arab-Jewish war took place, Ibrahim was the first to carry his weapon in defence of the Arabness of his land. In the battle of Qastal, his wounds did not deter him from saving the dead body of the martyr commander Abdel Qader al-Husseini. And when the Arabs lost Abdel Qader and searched for a new commander, Ibrahim stood out, having assumed the leadership of the fighters despite his wounds, leading them from victory to victory.<sup>4</sup> The battle of Qatmoun, during which he fought valiantly alongside his few men, was the greatest testimony to his rare bravery and true valour.

At the end, Ibrahim was injured in his spinal cord and was unable to move. When Palestine was sold,<sup>5</sup> he became a refugee in Lebanon, enduring his pains and his wounds, and ceaselessly calling for avenging and taking back the stolen homeland.

On his deathbed, at that moment when a human being reveals his true nature, Ibrahim asked those around him to sing a patriotic song and to vow not to forget Palestine.

Ibrahim died, as he had lived, a hero.

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<sup>2</sup> Surif is a village in the north-western corner of the Khalil (Hebron) countryside. Abu Dayeh was born there in 1919, and he died in the American University Hospital in Beirut on March 6, 1952.

<sup>3</sup> This refers to Ibrahim’s participation in the 1936-39 revolt.

<sup>4</sup> Following the death of Abdel Qader al-Husseini in April 8, 1948, Ibrahim was a candidate for assuming the general command of the Palestinian Al-Jihad al-Muqadas paramilitary units. However, Khalid al-Husseini was selected for this post by the Arab Higher Committee.

<sup>5</sup> This refers to the attitude of the Arab leaders during the war and the armistice agreements. King Abdullah of Jordan was particularly accused of collusion with the Zionist movement in return for acquiring the West Bank for himself. Since the 1980s, declassified Israeli and British documents have reinforced this early popular interpretation of the events of 1947-51. See Shlaim, Avi. *Collusion Across the Jordan: King Abdullah, the Zionist Movement and the Partition of Palestine*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988.