

Israel Releases Mordechai Vanunu After Three Months in Prison

Whistleblower says repeatedly harrasing and arresting him over unauthorised meetings is 'Israel's problem'

By [Jo Adetunji](#)

Global Research, August 15, 2010

[The Guardian](#) 8 August 2010

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Militarization and WMD](#)

Vanunu was convicted for holding unauthorised meetings with foreigners, including journalists and his Norwegian girlfriend in 2007. Photograph: Ammar Awad/Reuters

[Mordechai Vanunu](#), the Israeli whistleblower who spent 18 years in jail for exposing [Israel's](#) nuclear capabilities was released today after completing a further three-month sentence.

Vanunu, 56, a former technician at a secret nuclear plant near the desert town of Dimona, was convicted after handing over details of Israel's nuclear arsenal to a British newspaper in 1986.

The revelations led to the belief that Israel held a sizeable nuclear arsenal – a claim Israel has neither confirmed nor denied under its policy of “ambiguity”.

Vanunu served much of his 18-year sentence in solitary confinement.

His latest three-month sentence came after the Moroccan-born whistleblower was convicted of holding unauthorised meetings with foreigners – banned under the conditions of his release – including journalists and his Norwegian girlfriend in 2007.

Since his release in 2004 Vanunu's movements have been subject to strict conditions, including a ban on leaving Israel, but it is not the first time that Vanunu has been arrested and imprisoned for breaking them. Despite the length of time Vanunu has spent in prison, Israeli security agencies claim he still holds information which could threaten national security.

After his release, Vanunu said: “All this harassing me and arresting me again and again is Israel's problem, not my problem.”

Vanunu was originally sentenced to six months for breaking conditions again, although this was reduced on appeal. He refused the option of community service in West Jerusalem voicing fears that he could be attacked.

After leaking secret nuclear details in 1986 Vanunu was kidnapped in a honeytrap set by Mossad agents in Rome. Israel has since sought to keep a close eye on his whereabouts, subjecting him to a military order which is renewed every six months. Amnesty International called Vanunu a prisoner of conscience, who had been forced to live under the “draconian”

military order after serving his full term.

Speaking before his sentence in May and in English – Vanunu refuses to speak Hebrew in public – said: “Everyone knows that Israel has [nuclear weapons](#) but no one is talking about it. The world doesn’t want nuclear weapons – not in Israel, not in the [Middle East](#) and not anywhere in the world.”

The original source of this article is [The Guardian](#)

Copyright © [Jo Adetunji](#), [The Guardian](#), 2010

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Jo Adetunji](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca