

= Tubas =

Tubas (/ ʔtuʔbʔs / or / ʔtjuʔbʔs / ; Arabic : توباس , Tûbâs) is a Palestinian city in the northeastern West Bank , located 21 kilometers (13 mi) northeast of Nablus , a few kilometers west of the Jordan River . A city of over 16 000 inhabitants , it serves as the economic and administrative center of the Tubas Governorate . Its urban area consists of 2 271 dunams (227 hectares) . It is governed by a municipal council of 15 members and most of its working inhabitants are employed in agriculture or public services . Jamal Abu Mohsin has been the mayor of Tubas since being elected in 2005 .

Tubas has been identified as the ancient town of Thebez / תֵּבֵז / ? a Canaanite town famous for revolting against King Abimelech . During the late 19th century , during Ottoman rule in Palestine , Arab clans living in the Jordan Valley came to live in Tubas , and it became a major town in the District of Nablus , particularly known for its timber and cheese making . It came under the British Mandate of Palestine in 1917 , was annexed by Jordan after their capture of the town in the 1948 Arab - Israeli War , and then occupied by Israel in the 1967 Six - Day War . The Palestinian National Authority has had complete control of Tubas since the city was transferred to its jurisdiction in 1995 .

= = History = =

= = = Ancient period = = =

The city 's name Tubas derives from the Canaanite word Tuba Syoys or " illuminating star " . Tubas was identified by Edward Robinson to be the Canaanite / Israelite town of " Thebez " mentioned in the Bible . Thebez was ruled by the Israelite King Abimelech of Shechem . When the people of Shechem (at that time a Canaanite city) revolted against him , Thebez joined the revolt . A Biblical story relates that Abimelech attempted to destroy Thebez in response to its participation in the revolt and when he and his army attacked a tower in the town , a woman hurled a millstone at Abimelech , killing him .

Archaeological remains such as cemeteries and olive presses indicate that Tubas was inhabited during the Roman era of rule in Palestine . Jerome mentioned Thebez being 13 Roman miles east of Neapolis (Nablus) . Besides the Biblical story , nothing has been known about Thebez before or after the revolt .

= = = Ottoman period = = =

In 1596 it appeared in the Ottoman tax registers as " Tubas " , in the nahiya of Jabal Sami in the liwa of Nablus . It had a population of 41 households and 16 bachelors , all Muslim . Taxes were paid on wheat , barley , summer crops , olive trees , occasional revenues , goats , beehives , and a press for olives or grapes .

In the late 19th century during Ottoman rule in Palestine , groups of Arabs belonging to the Daraghmeh clan ? mostly shepherds and farmers who lived in the Jordan Valley ? migrated northward to the site because of its fertile ground , proximity to several springs , and its high elevation compared to the Jordan Valley and Wadi al Far 'a plain ; Mount Gerizim was visible from the area . The Daraghmeh clan had lived in the Jordan Valley since the 15th century and in addition to Tubas , they founded or inhabited the nearby hamlets of Kardala , al Farisiya , Khirbet al Malih , Kishda , Yarza , and Ras al Far 'a . Soon after being established in Tubas , Arabs from Najd , Syria , Transjordan , Hebron and nearby Nablus came to settle in the area . During this period , Tubas became the site of clashes between the ' Abd al Hadi and Tuqan clans of Nablus and suffered incursions by Bedouins from areas east of the city . The Jarrar clan did not inhabit , but administrated Tubas , as it was located within the nahiya (" subdistrict ") of Mashariq al Jarrar .

Tubas was one of the largest villages in the District of Nablus . Most of the inhabitants resided in mud @-@ built houses or tents in order to work on their distant lands in the Jordan Valley and to graze their sheep and goat flocks . According to traveler Herbert Rix , compared to other towns of its size in Samaria , Tubas was " well @-@ to @-@ do " and had abundant amounts of timber which was harvested for firewood . Tubas , unlike the villages in the rest of the district , depended on livestock and not olives for income . Livestock products included cheese , clarified butter , woolen rugs , tents , ropes , and cloth bags . In 1882 a boys ' school was established in the town .

In 1877 Lieutenant Kitchener , of the Palestine Exploration Fund survey team , reported uncovering an Arabic inscription buried in the wall of the village mosque recording its building and dedication . He also wrote that the villagers had paid a bribe of £ 100 in gold to the Pasha of Nablus to avoid their young men being conscripted into the Turkish army fighting in Crimea . He noted that they would probably have to repeat the payment .

The Palestine Exploration Fund noted that the Samaritans believed that the tomb of Asher , known locally as Nabi Tota (" the good prophet ") , was located in Tubas . The tomb served as a shrine in local Muslim tradition .

= = = Modern era = = =

In 1917 , the British captured Palestine from the Ottomans , and in 1922 ? 23 Tubas was incorporated into the British Mandate of Palestine . In 1947 , the United Nations drew up a partition plan to divide Palestine into Jewish and Arab states ; Tubas and the surrounding villages and hamlets were to be included in the Arab state . During the 1948 Arab ? Israeli War , Fawzi al @-@ Qawuqji led 750 Arab Liberation Army (ALA) soldiers to Tubas from Transjordan and set up base there ; Tubas would serve as the ALA 's headquarters in central Palestine throughout the war . Transjordan (became Jordan in April 1949) annexed the city along with the entire West Bank , after gaining control of it during the war . In 1955 the first girls ' school was opened . Tubas was under their control until 1967 , when Israel occupied the West Bank during the Six @-@ Day War .

Tubas was transferred to Palestinian National Authority (PNA) control in 1995 under the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip . During the Jordanian and Israeli periods , the city was under the administration of the Nablus Governorate , but in 1996 , the PNA declared Tubas and the immediate area to be an electoral district , and later , an independent administrative area ? the Tubas Governorate .

Tubas did not see as much violence in the Israeli ? Palestinian conflict as nearby Nablus and Jenin , but a number of incidents occurred during the Second Intifada , which began in 2000 . In April 2002 , the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) killed six active Hamas members in the town , including Ashraf Tamza Daraghmeah ? the chief Hamas commander in Tubas and the surrounding area . On August 31 , 2002 , an Israeli Apache helicopter fired four Hellfire missiles at a civilian car suspected of carrying a local al @-@ Aqsa Martyrs Brigades commander and a nearby home . The strike instead killed five civilians , including two children , two teenagers and a 29 @-@ year @-@ old Fatah activist accused of being a member of the al @-@ Aqsa Brigades . The Israeli Defense Minister , Binyamin Ben @-@ Eliezer , issued a statement expressing " regret " over " harming " civilians in Tubas . Ben @-@ Eliezer described the raid in Tubas as a " mistake " , and promised that the army would investigate the incident . On August 21 , 2009 , a clash between the Sawafta clan and another city clan left a member of the former dead and 38 others injured . Five homes were also burnt and Palestinian Security Forces arrested five people in connection to the death .

= = Geography = =

Tubas is located in the northern West Bank with an elevation of 362 meters (1 @,@ 188 ft) above sea level , whereas most of the Tubas Governorate is located within the Jordan Valley to the south . In a 1945 land survey , Tubas along with nearby Bardala and Kardala consisted of 313 @,@ 123 dunams (31 @,@ 312 hectares) of which 220 @,@ 594 was Arab @-@ owned and the remainder being public property . As of 2005 , its total land area consists of 295 @,@ 123 dunams (29 @,@

512 hectares) , of which 2 @, @ 271 is classified as built @-@ up , roughly 150 @, @ 000 used for agricultural purposes and about 180 @, @ 000 confiscated by Israel for military bases and buffer zone .

Tubas is 21 kilometers (13 mi) northeast of Nablus , 3 @. @ 7 kilometers (2 @. @ 3 mi) west of the Jordan River and 63 kilometers (39 mi) east of the Mediterranean Sea . Nearby localities include the town of Aqqaba to the north , Tayasir and Aqabah villages to the northeast , Ras al @-@ Far 'a to the southwest , the Palestinian refugee camp of Far 'a to the south and the al @-@ Bikai 'a village cluster to the southeast .

It has a moderate climate ; the summer is hot and dry , and the winter is cold and wet . The average annual temperature is 21 ° C (70 ° F) , and the average annual humidity rate is 56 % .

= = Demographics = =

Tubas had a population of 3 @, @ 349 in 1922 , while in the 1931 census , taken by the British Mandate of Palestine authorities , Tubas , (including Kashda and Jabagia) had 773 occupied houses and a population of 4 @, @ 097 , mostly Muslims , but also including 29 Christians . In Sami Hadawi 's 1945 land and population survey , Tubas and nearby Bardala had a combined population of 5 @, @ 530 . In 1964 , Tubas alone had a population of 5 @, @ 880 . About 1 @, @ 100 residents fled Tubas after the 1967 Six @-@ Day War mostly to the Souf refugee camp in Jordan , while 260 immigrated there and in 1981 its population was 5 @, @ 300 .

In the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics ' (PCBS) first official census in 1997 , Tubas had a population of 11 @, @ 760 inhabitants . The gender make @-@ up was 50 @. @ 8 % male and 49 @. @ 2 % female . Tubas has an overwhelmingly young population with 52 @. @ 7 % of the city 's residents below the age of 20 . People between the ages of 20 and 34 constitute 24 @. @ 7 % , 17 @. @ 7 % between the ages of 35 and 64 , while people above the age of 64 constituted 4 @. @ 9 % of the population . The census also revealed that refugees made up 6 @. @ 1 % of the total residents .

In the 2007 census by the PCBS , Tubas had a population of 16 @, @ 154 , increasing around 33 % from 1997 . The city represents roughly a third (33 @. @ 4 %) of the Tubas Governorate 's total population . The city 's modern @-@ era founders , the Daraghmeh clan , constitute 70 % of Tubas ' inhabitants . The clan has several smaller branches , including the Mslamany , Abd al @-@ Razeq and Abu Khazaran families . The Sawafta family make up 25 % , the Husheh make up 3 % and the Fuquha represent the remaining 2 % . The inhabitants of Tubas are predominantly Muslims , but there is a community of approximately 60 Palestinian Christians , all belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church . The Christian community worships at the Holy Trinity Church in the city and are serviced by a priest from nearby Zababdeh .

= = Economy = =

The economical situation Tubas during the 1993 ? 99 period was prosperous , however since the start of the Second Intifada in 2000 ? 01 , Tubas ' income level has decreased by roughly 40 % . Prior to the Intifada , the average household income was 2 @, @ 500 NIS , receding to about 1 @, @ 500 NIS . A major factor that has resulted from the conflict was the confiscation of agricultural land located within the city 's or its governorate 's jurisdiction by Israeli settlements or military authorities . According to the PCBS , in 1999 , approximately 52 % of the citizens were within the working age (15 @-@ 64) . Of the city 's labor force , 48 % are females . The unemployment rate increased dramatically from 20 % in 1999 to 70 % after the year 2000 . Prior to the Intifada , 35 % of the total labor force worked in Israel .

Currently , agriculture constitutes 60 % of Tubas ' economic activity , public services comprise 17 % , trade is 10 % , Israeli labor is 8 % , construction and industry make @-@ up the remaining 5 % . In the city , there are 240 shops and stores , 70 service institutions and one big ready mix concrete factory 30 small ones .

The main economic sector in Tubas is agriculture . There is a total of 150 @, @ 000 dunams of

arable land , of which 124 @, @ 450 dunams are covered by forests and 10 @, @ 604 dunams cultivated . Although the land is fertile , there is a lack of water for irrigation . The only spring used is the nearby Ein Far 'a . Field crops account for 49 % of the cultivable land , while fruit orchards account for 40 % and vegetables make @-@ up 11 % . Israeli trenches around the neighboring villages of Ras al @-@ Ahmar and Khirbet al- ' Atuf prevent access to nearly 40 % of Tubas ' arable lands .

Many Tubas residents keep livestock , mostly sheep ; in 2005 , there was a total 6 @, @ 670 sheep . Other livestock owned include 96 heads of cattle , 880 goats and 126 @, @ 500 poultry . In addition , 123 beehives were kept . In 2006 the Golden Sheep Dairy factory was founded in Tubas with help from UCODEP , an independent Italian company . The factory specializes in the production of Italian cheese and primarily targets cosmopolitan consumers in Ramallah , Bethlehem and Jerusalem as well as international workers and diplomats living in the West Bank .

= = Government = =

Tubas serves as the muhfaza (" capital " or " seat ") of the Tubas Governorate . Since 1995 , Tubas has been located in Area A , giving the PNA full control over its security , administration and civilian affairs .

Tubas has been governed by a municipal council since 1953 , when it was granted permission to do so by Jordanian authorities who controlled the West Bank at the time . The council is made up of 15 members including the mayor , and is headquartered in the municipal hall in the center of the town . The municipality has over 60 employees . Responsibilities of the municipality include civil administration , urban planning and development , social development services , distribution of social services , the issuing of building permits and infrastructural maintenance : water , electricity and solid waste collection .

Auqab Daraghmeh was succeeded by Jamal Abdel Fattah Mahmoud Abu Mohsin , an independent candidate , elected in the 2005 Palestinian municipal elections . During the elections women won two seats , and though Tubas is normally a Fatah stronghold , all seats were won by independent political lists .

= = Education = =

In 2004 @-@ 05 , Tubas had twelve schools ; four for males , three for females and five co @-@ educational . There were 4 @, @ 924 students and 191 teachers . In addition , six kindergartens are located in the city , and have a total of 620 pupils . In 1997 , the literacy rate was 86 % ; females comprised 78 @. @ 3 % of the illiterate population . Of the literate population , 25 @. @ 7 % completed elementary education , 23 @. @ 3 % completed preparatory education and 22 @. @ 1 % completed secondary or higher education . Many students throughout the Jordan Valley receive their education in Tubas . The Al @-@ Quds Open University based in Jerusalem , has a campus in Tubas known as Al @-@ Quds Open University @-@ Tubas Educational Region . In 2006 , 1 @, @ 789 students were enrolled in the university , it had 90 professors and 24 other employees .

= = Local infrastructure = =

Tubas contains six mosques . The main mosques are the Abd ar @-@ Rahan Mosque , the al @-@ Tawled Mosque , Umar ibn al @-@ Khattab Mosque , and Shaheed Mosque . The Holy Trinity Orthodox Church is also located in Tubas , in the northern part of the city . The church was built in 1976 to serve the small Orthodox Christian community . It consists of a prayer room , a fellowship hall , an office , and a library for children . The Sawafta family has an old palace in Tubas as well .

Since Tubas is the capital and largest city in the Tubas Governorate , it acts as the main provider of services to the towns and villages of the governorate . All Palestinian National Authority offices that serve the governorate are located in the city . There are 21 government institutions in Tubas , including a post office , the Palestinian Ministry of Labor office , the Palestinian Ministry of

Agriculture office , the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs office , the fire department and a police station .

= = = Transportation = = =

Buses and taxis are the primary means of transportation in Tubas . The total length of paved roads is 10 @, @ 000 meters (33 @, @ 000 ft) , whereas there are 10 @, @ 000 meters (33 @, @ 000 ft) of deteriorating paved roads and 25 @, @ 000 meters (82 @, @ 000 ft) of road that are entirely unpaved . Tubas is located on Highway 588 connected to the main Ramallah @-@ Nablus road (Highway 60) by a network of northeastern offshoots of the road , that pass through the villages of Azmut , al @-@ Badhan and Ras al @-@ Far 'a . It is connected to Jenin from a northern road which passes through ' Aqqaba , Zababdeh and finally to Jenin . Travel to Jordan is through Highway 57 which is connected with Highway 588 just to the south of Tubas .

= = = Health care = = =

The city contains five health centers run by various organizations including the Palestinian Red Crescent . There are no hospitals in Tubas , nor in the Tubas Governorate ; Residents must travel to Nablus for hospital treatment , but there are two ambulances in Tubas for emergency transportation . There are four clinics in the city : Two are run by non @-@ governmental organizations , one by the Palestinian National Authority and one is privately owned . The clinics lack modern equipment and specialists , however . In addition , ten pharmacies exist in Tubas .

= = = Utilities = = =

Approximately 60 % of the residents have telephone connection , and roughly 90 % are connected to the water . The Tubas Municipality administers all water resources in and around the city . In addition , to the water network there is one spring (Far 'a) in the immediate area which is the main provider of water for use in households . The city also has a water reservoir with a capacity of 900 cubic metres (31 @, @ 783 cubic feet) . This is primarily used to provide water to the urban areas of city during Summer , and is only available once on a weekly basis .

From 1963 to 1997 local municipal @-@ owned electric generators provided Tubas with all of its electricity needs . In 1997 , the city connected with the Tubas Area Electricity Network which is provided by the Israeli Electric Cooperation . In that period , 99 % of households in the city were connected with electricity . Solid waste management in Tubas is operated by the municipality and Joint Services Council . It is collected 3 @-@ 4 times daily from the residential area , which is sent to a shared dumping site 3 kilometers (1 @. @ 9 mi) from the city . The main disposal method used is burning . Tubas is not connected to the sewage network , therefore all households dispose of their waste water in cesspits , a major source of pollution in groundwater .