



CADFA UPDATE 3rd Nov 11

Linking together for human rights



Weather changing in Abu Dis/ Children in Dar Assadaqa

Reasons to keep going

Being active makes a difference...

- (1) Following the efforts (that many of you joined in) to make the threat to demolish two Bedouin schools near Abu Dis a public one, the decision has been referred to the Office of the Defence Minister delayed, so they are still standing
- (2) After a hunger strike of **TWENTY-TWO DAYS** (some prisoners did less), the prison management made concessions and it came to an end
- (3) The Palestinian MPs who have been at the Red Cross in Jerusalem for months protesting against the removal of their blue IDs,

which will push them from Jerusalem, have been told that the decision to take their IDs is not legal.

BUT we need to go on being active...

- (1) The threat of demolition still hangs over the schools
- (2) While just over 1000 Palestinians were released from Israeli jails recently in exchange for Gilad Shalit, thousands remain inside, including people imprisoned with no trial and children
- (3) The Israeli security are appealing against the decision by the Supreme Court, still determined to expel the MPs.

Thank you all for your efforts and let's keep going.

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See info below
about the
**PRISONER MARCH
ON 13th NOV
+ PLEASE JOIN US.**



CADFA meeting on child prisoners in June

COMING UP ... NEXT WEEK!
**Public events during the Palestinian students''
visit.** (Updates to follow)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Sunday 13th Nov | 2pm | Prisoner march | Meet Chalk Farm nr Haverstock School |
| Sunday 13th Nov | 3.30 | Memorial to Motassem Odwan | SOAS |
| Sunday 13th Nov | afternoon | Poetry and music | SOAS |
| Monday 14th Nov | 6pm | „Look at our Lives'' - University students from Palestine | SOAS |
| Tuesday 15th Nov | 6pm | Film showing "Salt of this Sea" | UCL, room tbc |
| Weds 16 th Nov | Time tbc | „Look at our Lives'' - University students from Palestine | LSE, room tbc |
| Saturday 19th Nov | 10 am to 4pm | Launch of „Look at our Lives'' photo exhibition + „Students and Human Rights'' workshop | SOAS |
| Saturday evening 19th Nov | 7-9 pm | Farewell party for Palestinian students | Somers Town Community Centre |

**Camden Abu Dis Friendship
جمعية صداقة Association**

كامدن أبوديس

CADFA work in Abu Dis

Dar Assadaqa – the community centre that we support in Abu Dis - was told in the summer that it had to leave its rented home, and the Camden Clinic - with the diabetic clinic that we support – had been given notice and had to shut in the summer.

But the owners changed their minds in relation to Dar Assadaqa which in the last few weeks has been getting a thorough overhaul. Here are some pictures – We are looking forward to seeing it when it is finished.

A back room in Dar Assadaqa with two separate entrances has been renovated with a view to housing the clinic there.

They are currently working on a new fence that will create the

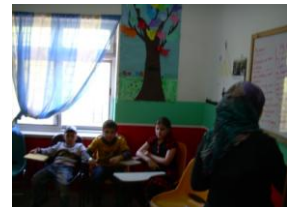


garden that the women in particular have wanted for ages. And planning an outing for the kids and the women on Saturday 26th November ☺

Our first four EVS volunteers are working hard in local organisations and in the programme of classes and activities for women and children in Dar Assadaqa. They are doing a variety of things including helping to strengthen the twinning links that are in existence between organisations in Camden and Abu Dis – helping to organise penpal links in



one school, for example, and to strengthen the links between the women in Dar Assadaqa and the women's links group here. They will also be visiting the partner places (Beit Sourik and Jenin Camp) of our London partners (Hackney and Newham) with a view to strengthening those partnerships.



If you are under 30 and interested in the EVS scheme, do see our website for information and deadlines –

www.camdenabudis.net/volunteerinpalestine.html

CADFA work in Camden

Women's links

Camden Abu Dis Women's links welcomes new members + this is to let you know early of our plan for

February 4th.



Women with a CADFA volunteer in Dar Assadaqa

**** Women's visit from Palestine.****

We are raising money now for a young women's visit from Palestine in March, which would be the 7th CADFA women's visit - now a useful and proud tradition we don't want to break!

We're seeking money from various trusts etc but have also made a plan for an **International Food Festival on Saturday 4th February 2012** – the plan is that that will be a fundraiser. We are looking for cooks, musicians, entertainers and

helpers (as well as people to come along). Let us know if you can help!

****Women's visit TO Palestine****

Our last women's visit to Palestine was now 2 years ago and we think it's time for another one. Plans need to be developed but we are thinking of another skills-sharing

visit working with women's centres there - The last one was really exciting. Do be in touch if you would like to be part of such a visit. In particular, we'd like to include women who haven't been there before.

****Other women's links work****

The Camden women's links group has linked to the women's group in Dar Assadaqa Community Centre Abu Dis and raised money towards the current garden

**A date for your diary:
Human Rights Day
10th December
CADFA will hold a special
event... More information to
follow**

development there ... had great joint projects with them including the 'Stories from our Mothers' book (women's lives in Palestine), the film of the same name and the

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forthcoming CD of readings from the book by Julie Christie and Jennie Stoller....

Students' links

The big effort at the moment is to prepare for our exciting student exchange, 'Look at our Lives' – The official project summary is here →

ARE YOU A STUDENT?

Currently SOAS student union is linked to the Al Quds student union and the UCL twinning is coming up for review at the time that the Palestinian students are here. We are happy that students from the following universities are now active with us – SOAS, UCL, LSE, King's, UEL, Queen Mary's. Imperial



Do you come from another university and would you like to join the activities?

IF YOU ARE NOT A STUDENT

Please note the list of public activities attached and hope to see you at some of them.

Note we are still looking for some help with DRIVING, COOKING, PUBLICITY, PRINTING PHOTOS CHEAPLY for the final

There is much more to do and we welcome your involvement).

exhibition – let us know if you can help.



Pictures by one of the students who is coming on the 'Look at our Lives' project.

Project summary:

Look at our Lives (Meetings of Palestinian and British students)

This exchange will bring eight students from Al Quds University, Palestine to spend nine days with students from UCL and SOAS in London. They will meet to compare their experiences and find out about their lives as students through a photography project that will become the basis for stronger links between the student bodies in the two countries.

Before travelling, the Palestinian group will take photographs of their lives as students to become material during the exchange visit. British students will prepare to host the exchange. The two groups will meet using the computer messenger in order to make arrangements for the visit.

Their programme together in Britain will be an exploration of London and student life with a camera. They will prepare photographs for an exhibition that will compare student life in

Palestine and Britain, their rights as students and human rights issues.

The exhibition will be launched in a final workshop day with other students from London. Other students from Al Quds University will join through a computer link. The final session of the workshop will be a discussion between the two groups about future activities between the student groups.

Following the visit, the exhibition will continue to be used with student groups and the photographs will be put on a website and in small booklet in English and Arabic to allow use in both countries.

Education links

**** More work in schools ****



of the Camden schools a **WHOLE YEAR** are about to get involved in being penfriends with an Abu Dis school... In another, A **WHOLE YEAR** have had PHSE lessons on the right to move freely within your country (and the situation in Abu Dis) and will have another... In another, one of the students is doing her project on Palestinian child prisoners and has sent a questionnaire to children from Abu Dis met in the summer... We are hoping that the Palestinian students coming next week will visit one of the local colleges... Lots is going on.

On 24th November Education Links will organise a celebration of children's rights

The British school children and students who have been involved in our Youth in Action projects will be presented with certificates. The plan is to have the DVD from the summer children's project ready by then – Watch this space!

CADFA education links meeting
NEXT THURSDAY 10th
November at Kentish Town
Community Centre at 5.15
pm....

Please, Camden teachers from linked schools, could you check if at least one of you could come?



Things are moving on and our Twinning Volunteers in Abu Dis are beginning to make a difference! In one

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BUY YOUR PRESENTS FROM US PLEASE.

Beautiful small bowls from Palestine, cards, calendars, oil, soap....

Come and collect them, buy from our events – or ask us for a stall at your event.

Health links

The health links group sent one member to Abu Dis on a CADFA visit in July to meet doctors and other health professionals there. Health activities currently focus on the Diabetic Clinic that we started two years ago to serve patients who are being refused permission by the Israelis to go to Jerusalem for treatment. The clinic has just moved and is looking good.

You can help with the efforts of CADFA Health Links by

Looking out items that can be sold on ebay: please let Ben know if you have anything that you don't need and that he can sell for this purpose: health@camdenabudis.net

Finding old books and preparing cakes and plants, helping at or just coming to a...

GRAND BOOK, CAKE AND PLANT SALE at Kentish Town Community Centre on 3rd December.



An English school girl introducing her Palestinian friends + the human rights issues that affect them, in a school assembly this summer.

THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO HELP CADFA

Get in touch if you'd like to volunteer.

TWINNING CONFERENCE

26th November CADFA has been an active member of the national Britain Palestine Twinning Network since it started in a conference in Camden in 2005. We have held most of its conferences in Camden but for the past three years, the idea has been to move the conference around the country. And though the CADFA contribution has continued to be very strong at

the conference, not many of you Londoners have bothered to travel! Can we do better this year? Can any of you make 26th November in Liverpool? If you are members of CADFA and book (with us) NOW, the entrance will be free – you just need to sort out your travel so you get there!

Volunteer blog

The EVS volunteers in Palestine are putting some things on this blog...

<http://palestinianlife.wordpress.com/>

Visit Palestine with CADFA.

Next visits early Jan and early April (latter will include the twinning conference in Palestine + also is very green and beautiful (round the edge of the soldiers and Wall and bypass roads etc). Talk to one of our previous visitors and you'll be encouraged to go, we know.

The earlier you book, the cheaper the tickets. The tour, food, lodging and support while you're there costs £460 to CADFA members and £520 to people who are not CADFA members. This is a subsidised price and we prioritise people who have not been before.

But in any case..

Please join CADFA.

The number of people involved in our activities continues to grow and grow – Now our ambition is to encourage you all to actually become members (which means a monthly standing order).

The easiest way to do this is through your own bank + then write and tell us...

Our bank details are...

Sort code 08-92-99

Account Name Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

Account Number 6518 0334

But if you'd rather use a form that we give you, let us know.