

# CADFA UPDATE

Linking together  
for human rights



**1<sup>st</sup> September 2011**

**EID Mubarak** to our friends in Abu Dis and to others in Palestine and the UK.

Hope all of you had a good summer and that it's given you lots of energy for the autumn!

## A NEW OFFICE FOR CADFA

At the time of writing, we are in discussion with several organisations about possible location for a small office for CADFA (it does need to be in Camden). We need this as our work is increasing and we are serious about going on into the future. We have to find somewhere that won't cost us too much and we are looking out actively for the best place.

If you have ideas or offers, of accommodation, please let us know.



→→ FROM ABU DIS →→

كُلِّ عَامٍ وَلِقْتَمُخَيْرٍ

(Eid greetings)

At the end of the last academic year in Abu Dis, more than 100 students celebrated success in their towjehi (school leaving exam) – they are preparing to go on to university in the autumn. In June a group of young visitors from Abu Dis really enjoyed their time in London. They have returned to go on working on the environment theme through the environment club in Dar Assadaqa community centre. Their activities this summer included a visit to Tulkarem district to find out about the situation there particularly regarding water and waste.



This summer, we didn't run a kids' summer camp at Dar Assadaqa itself but joined with the local effort to make a joint summer camp for the whole of Abu Dis. We were glad to have a British volunteer from CADFA to work on photography with students from the Al Quds University who are preparing for a visit to Britain in the autumn.

Ramadan this year was very hot, and made worse by the Israeli procedures against local people, in particular making it harder for people to go to pray in the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. A new checkpoint was put in place near Maale Adumim settlement which made it harder for people to travel between north and south of the west bank.

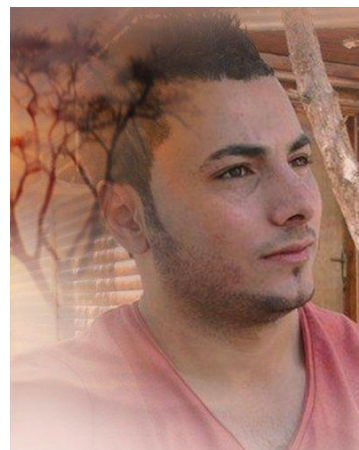
## YEAR OF THE STUDENT

### YEAR OF THE STUDENT

With our activities anticipated this year, it looks like being year of the student for CADFA, and we welcome you back to what we plan to be an energetic and youthful year ☺ All of you, young and older, academic and otherwise are welcome to join in though – this is not about leaving anyone out but about building on our youth projects and reaching more new people. Hope you will join us!

### IN MEMORY OF MOTASSEM

**Motessem Adwan , media studies student from Al Quds University, was killed by Israeli soldiers on an invasion into Qalandia Refugee Camp on 1<sup>st</sup> August.** We are writing of course to extend our deepest sympathy to his family and the student visitors when they come will be telling people more about what happened in this case, and about the other deaths, misery and oppression caused by the Occupation.



Motessem unfortunately is one of many killed by Israeli soldiers, and we and our friends in Palestine have little hope from a letter of protest to the Israeli Embassy, though we

On 1<sup>st</sup> August, Israeli soldiers invaded the Qalandia Refugee Camp and killed two young men. One of them, Matassem Adwan aged 22, was a student from the Al Quds University in Abu Dis.

There are currently 17 child prisoners from Abu Dis in Israeli jails. We are taking up the case of Walid Sharaf whose serious health problems are not being taken into consideration.

We have had bad news on accommodation both for the Camden Clinic and for the Dar



Assadaqa community centre. The clinic was asked to leave its accommodation and currently searching for new accommodation. Very sadly for us (though happily for them) the owners of Dar Assadaqa are coming back to it and we are having to search for somewhere else suitable and affordable. We hope soon to be able to tell you of the venue of our third Dar Assadaqa (as we last moved 3 years ago).

We had another successful visit from Britain in July (picture above shows some soldiers at the Dead Sea) and are now preparing for a student visit from here to Britain in the autumn. We are looking forward to a new group of CADFA volunteers arriving here in October. Dar Assadaqa is preparing a new programme of activities now that Ramadan – these will start in our present building and then move, we hope, to somewhere else nice.

Abdul Wahab (CADFA co-ordinator, Abu Dis)

have considered it. Like the family, we have no hopes from an enquiry.

We are dedicating our efforts with students this year to his memory .

## NEW CADFA YEAR

### ANNUAL REPORT

The CADFA trustees' Annual Report 2010-11 is now on the website [www.camdenabudis.net](http://www.camdenabudis.net).

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SEPTEMBER is the new year for CADFA so this is a reminder to those of you who have paid your membership annually that your membership is due. We just don't have time for lots of checking and reminding, so we are asking people from this year to join us by standing order. There are two ways to do this – fill the form on the back of this update, or start a standing order through your bank and send an email to let us know.

- Our bank details: CADFA
- Co-operative Bank
- sort code 08-92-99
- account number 6518 0334

We hope everyone who gets this will join us to strengthen what we are doing. – We aim to double our standing orders this year, so

**please also**

**ask a friend to join us.**

This will help us survive.

## VOLUNTEERS TO PALESTINE

### EVS PROJECT – GOOD NEWS FOR CADFA



We're very pleased and excited to be running a project that for the first time allows us to cover the costs of young volunteers going to Palestine to work on twinning work at Dar Assadaqa. The first group will go in early October and six other groups will follow. You can find more information at [www.camdenabudis.net/volunteerinpalestine.html](http://www.camdenabudis.net/volunteerinpalestine.html)

Note – this project is for people aged 18-30 but we welcome older volunteers too – do contact us.

## YOUTH LINKS

### KIDS' VISIT ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS



In June, fourteen visitors from Palestine joined with children and young people from Camden in a fantastic project focusing on the environment. The visit included camping together, visiting places in London, meeting young people in twelve schools and colleges and a final Environment and Human Rights Day.

Work from the kids' visit is being put together on to a DVD which will be launched at our Children's Rights day in November – look out for details.

## STUDENT LINKS

### STUDENTS' VISIT COMING – LOTS OF HELP NEEDED

During the summer, a group of students from Al Quds University started work on photos and human rights presentations in advance of a students' visit to SOAS, UCL and other universities to meet students from London and do a joint project culminating in a photo exhibition. This project will be funded by Youth in Action.



*Students in Abu Dis preparing for their visit to London.*

Now is time for students to get involved in the planning – contact us soon, please, as we'll have a visitor from the Al Quds University coming on a planning visit in early October and we want to make this first students' exchange as amazing as our kids' ones have been.

## EDUCATION LINKS

Education links were pushed forward by our visit of teachers from Camden to Abu Dis in April when plans for joint curriculum work were made. With the huge number of things going on in the summer, there was no time

for a feedback meeting at that stage, so we will be shortly be giving you a date.

Currently nine schools in Camden have made links with schools in Abu Dis and we are working to help them keep these links alive.

## MUSIC UPDATE

CADFA's musical links are continuing and we are working now on another music visit.

In 2007, we asked members to help us to fund a music teacher for children in Dar Assadaqa. The request was stimulated by a strong response to Camden Saturday Music! Starting these classes was brilliant as at that time there was no group music provision at all for children in the area. We're happy to say that recently a new cultural centre has opened in Abu Dis, financed by the council of Reze in France. This is exciting - we have been shown all the instruments that they have bought, and they are paying for music teachers.

Dar Assadaqa provides a member of the board of the Abu Dis Cultural Centre and has decided that as it has its own specialities in work with women and children (including language, the environment and human rights) it will not to continue separate music classes at this stage.



*Abdissalam Khair played at a CADFA concert in London in July*

## SUPPORTING OTHER TWINNING GROUPS

### NEW PARTNERS

We're very pleased this autumn to have two new partner groups, both working on twinning with Palestine, with a big focus on students and young people. NEWHAM-JENIN and HACKNEY-BEIT SOURIK will take part in the students' visit (above) and we hope to involve them too in another young people's visit next year.

## CAMPAIGNS

### CHILD PRISONER CAMPAIGN –



**More than 'the Abu Dis dozen' – 17 Abu Dis children in prison at the moment**

Our child prisoner campaign continues. We have continued to raise the issue alongside all of our activities.

During our kids' visit, 1000 letters about child prisoners were presented by an ex-child



[www.camdenabudis.net](http://www.camdenabudis.net) OR [www.cadfa.org](http://www.cadfa.org)

prisoner (now aged 14) to the two Camden MPs to go to the Foreign Office. We have received a copy of a letter from Alistair Burt. It is encouraging as it has a different tone from other letters we have had, suggesting that the government take this seriously and will take this up at European level.

We gave copies of the child prisoner letters to Jean Lambert MEP to take to the European Parliament. Here is an article from the local newspaper which shows this.



■ Palestinian and Acland Burghley students meet MEP Jean Lambert

### Students highlight plight of child prisoners

The views of Camden's schoolchildren have been taken to the European Parliament by Green MEP Jean Lambert.

Pupils met with the MEP to hand over hundreds of letters highlighting the dire situation faced by Palestinian child prisoners languishing in Israeli jails.

The children were joined by 12 young people from Palestinian town Abu Dis as part a special week-long visit organised by

the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association. The human rights charity works to raise awareness of the humanitarian situation in the town as well as establish links between the two places.

Ms Lambert said: "It is absolutely unacceptable for children and young people to be locked away in adult detention centres and to be forced to appear before military courts, often without legal representation."

**We need to keep the pressure on. We need your help.**

Our two MPs asked us to give a third copy to the Quartet, c/o Tony Blair. We think the best use of this idea is to make a another feature of delivering them . We would like volunteers to walk with us (some blindfolded) and to make more publicity out of the event.

We are still deciding on the date – pls contact us to be part of the group.



*An ex-child prisoner being interviewed for TV during the kids' visit to London in June.*

The issue of child prisoners in Israeli jails is getting better known – Pls see this article from the [Independent](#) – Someone has got hold of a video of a six-hour interrogation...

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/how-israel-takes-its-revenge-on-boys-who-throw-stones-2344037.html>

## HEALTH LINKS

### **WANTED! - EBAY ITEMS FOR THE CLINIC**

The Health Links group is working hard to support the Shehadeh Mohsen diabetic clinic that we started two years ago now to care for diabetic patients in Abu Dis who are *prevented from going to Jerusalem clinics by Israeli refusal of permission to travel past the Separation Wall. A special thank you to Shereen and Bashir for their amazing efforts in a triathlon, and to Ben and Liz for running collections, gathering old phones etc. Ben is currently looking for items he can sell on Ebay (all proceeds to Health Links) – Please let us know if you have anything that might be saleable.*

## WOMEN'S LINKS

### **WOMEN'S VISIT NEXT MARCH**

The women's links group is keen to organise another Palestinian women's visit next March for International Women's Day . It is amazing to realise that this will be the SEVENTH women's visit as we have run one each March since 2006. We are thinking that in line with our other activities this year, this will be a visit of young women/ students. The women's links group welcomes the involvement of new people now.:)

## ACADEMIC LINKS

We're expecting a visit soon from a representative from Al Quds University – If you work in a university in Camden, please contact us to arrange a meeting.

## VISIT PALESTINE

Our most recent group visit to Abu Dis and tour of the West Bank in July was once again hailed as 'excellent' by the people who went on it. We do encourage you to join a visit if you haven't been.

**Our next anticipated visits to Palestine are in OCTOBER, JANUARY and APRIL – Please let us know in good time if you are interested in joining any of these.**

At our AGM in July we had some discussion about the cost of our visits – They are currently subsidised by us. We are keen to continue them because people learn a lot + many return ready to be more active. Our Palestinian friends find the interest in their situation expressed in these visits encouraging. At time of writing the cost for an 8-day tour remains at £520 (or £460 to CADFA members).

## HELP NEEDED

### VOLUNTEERS IN LONDON

We have a number of regular volunteers and a great number of helpers who make our visits, events and campaigns possible, and many thanks to them. We are though still in need of help and would like to hear from you if you can give us some of your time on a regular basis. At the moment we are particularly interested to find people who can

- organise CADFA sales and stalls
- help with press
- run fundraising events

as well as join in on-going links groups and campaigns.



*Julie Christie and Jennie Stoller reading from 'Stories from our Mothers' – We hope soon to have a CD of these readings. The books are available from us or via bookshops/ Amazon.*

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### COMING UP NEXT

**Tuesday 20th September, 7.30. CADFA Open Meeting at Torriano Meeting House, 99 Torriano Avenue NW5.** This meeting will be IN MEMORY OF MOTASSEM. It will include feedback and pictures from recent visitors to Palestine, news of our campaigns and projects and plans for our next child prisoner activity

**Saturday 1st October – Tottenham Palestine Literary Festival** will include readings from our ' Stories from our Mothers' – More details to follow.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Pencil this in please!**  
***CADFA is about to be SEVEN*** - our official birthday is 4<sup>th</sup> October. Possible best day to celebrate is Saturday? Ideas welcome... Details to follow.

# JOIN CADFA

Linking together  
for human rights



Name

Address

Email

Telephone

- I would like to join Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association.
- I am a UK tax payer\* and would like CADFA to reclaim tax on my membership + donations ( This is possible for up to 6 years in the past, and in the future until you change this.)
- I would like more information about volunteering for CADFA
- I would like more information about CADFA visits to Palestine
- I am interested in
  - Academic links
  - Student links
  - Education links
  - Health links
  - Community links
  - Youth links
  - Women's links
  - Union links
  - Art work
  - Music
  - Fundraising
  - Other (please say) \_\_\_\_\_

## My bank account details:

Bank

Bank address

Sort code

Account number

## To the bank manager:

Please pay

### Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

Co-operative Bank

sort code 08-92-99

account number 6518 0334

the following sum every calendar month

\_\_\_\_\_ (sum)

\_\_\_\_\_ (in words)

starting on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to

CADFA

PO Box 34265

London NW5 2WD