



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

جمعية صداقة
كامدن أبوديس

*Promoting human rights and respect for
international humanitarian law*

Trustees' Annual Report 2009-10

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Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association (CADFA) in 2009-10

Now we are five! And continuing to grow well and strongly. We are developing a model of work that promotes human rights and respect for international humanitarian law by developing creative projects between Abu Dis and Camden people.

This year, we have again contributed to building people's awareness about the human rights issues in Palestine both in Camden and, linking with the developing twinning movement with Palestine, in towns across the UK. Through enabling people to meet people, to hear their stories and to think about their lives, and through material organised in the same way, we are extending this awareness to new people who didn't think about the area before. This is managing to interest and involve a constantly-increasing number of people.

Our objectives are in the appendix. CADFA has kept a steady eye on our objectives and worked very hard this year. Our reason for action has stayed very strong: the human rights situation of the people in Abu Dis is poor and got worse this year in many ways.

The spark of hope that keeps us going is that around us there are now so many working purposefully to focus on the needs of ordinary people in Palestine and promote their human rights.

This report of the Trustees of CADFA is dedicated to the many people, both in Britain and in Palestine, who have worked together and taken part in these projects this year.

Human rights context 2009-10

During this year, in Abu Dis and Palestine.

- The Separation Wall, the military checkpoints, the pass system and frequent closures made a misery for people, affecting all aspects of their lives – work, health, education and family life.
- Military violence in the streets by the Israeli occupying army injured several boys including three whose bones were broken when they were beaten.
- Many young boys were imprisoned or beaten by the army.
- Young men from Abu Dis beaten up badly by Israeli soldiers near the Dead Sea.
- Houses were demolished and at least one family house in Abu Dis is currently under threat.
- As this year began in April 2009, the huge Israeli war on Gaza had barely finished. At the end of the year, in March 2010, the agony of Gaza has not lessened, as the Israelis maintain a siege on the area in defiance of international requests to let rebuilding happen and life continue there
- This year, we have been particularly concerned about the escalation in the pressures on Palestinians in Jerusalem. At the beginning of the year, with the eyes of the world on Gaza, there were new land expropriations, threats to Palestinian neighbourhoods, people evicted from their houses, house demolitions and settler violence. At the same time, round Abu Dis, hills are cut with new roads and the plans to extend the illegal Israeli settlements have gathered pace. As the people of Abu Dis and the West Bank tell us of their need to go to Jerusalem, so the people of Jerusalem tell us how they feel isolated from the West Bank and pressured by the army and by settlers.

You will find more information about the human rights situation in Abu Dis on our website and in particular at www.camdenabudis.net/humanrights.html

CADFA's work

The work of CADFA has brought people of Camden and around into increasing closeness with people of Abu Dis and its area. This year has seen a number of big projects.

Our work falls into four main areas:

- Visits and volunteers
- Information: public meetings, publications and the website
- Encouraging friendship links and projects with Abu Dis
- Campaign work including urgent actions

Main CADFA projects 2009-10

- **Human Rights through Twinning with Palestine**
funded by the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust



We sought grant-funding from a number of organisations to support our core human rights work, This work informs and supports all of our other work and we continue to need ongoing funding for it.

During 2009-10, we were given small donations for this work and one larger grant from the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust. This enabled us to continue with the collation of monthly human rights reports, provision of information – leaflets, speakers etc, urgent action work and campaigning.

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- **Camden Teachers' Visit to Abu Dis schools**
funded by the British Council



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association is working with the Camden local authority and a number of schools in Camden to help them build links with Abu Dis schools. In April 2009, we organised the second teachers' visit to Abu Dis schools through the British Council TIPD programme. Like our first teachers' visit in 2007, this was a huge learning experience for both Camden and Abu Dis teachers, and it led to further interest in school twinning between the two places.

-
- **Youth Ambassadors for Human Rights**
funded by EU Youth in Action



During summer 2009, we had our fourth youth visit from Palestine, and the most ambitious. This time, the eight young people from Abu Dis were joined in the project by eleven young people from Camden who were given time off their school timetables to join in a human rights project with them. This took them on visits across London and to schools and youth clubs in Camden, as well as to a final human rights workshop where the young people wrote stories that contributed to our new book.

A report on the Youth Ambassadors for Human Rights project can be found at <http://www.camdenabudis.net/docs/YHR09%20report.pdf>

- **Stories from our Mothers (Meetings of Palestinian and British Women)**

funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation



This women's project enabled British and Palestinian women to meet, talk, work and make things together, and to learn about each other's lives. Fourteen women from Camden community centres and other organisations went to Abu Dis and the West Bank in November 2009 and fourteen women from Palestine came to Camden in March 2010 for the hundredth International Women's Day. As well as getting to know women in London, the visitors went on an ambitious tour of Britain which also helped to strengthen Britain Palestine twinning links across the country. We reached 30 towns and boroughs altogether. A film is being made about the exchange visits, and stories told by the women are currently being gathered into a book to be produced during the next year.

- **Visits to Palestine and Britain**

with members of the Britain Palestine Twinning Network



CADFA arranged visits to Palestine throughout the year for people interested in learning about the human rights situation. We focused on ways of developing twinning and friendship links and helped to strengthen the developing twinning network inside Palestine by taking visitors to towns, villages, refugee camps and also organising a twinning workshop in April in the Al Quds University at Abu Dis.

We have helped many other twinning groups this year by providing speakers, taking people to Palestine, organising visitors to come to London (among these groups, Tower Hamlets, South East London, Haringey) – and have this year helped several new friendship links into being (among them, Worcester, Chesham, Hastings, Llanidloes).

There are reports from our visits on <http://www.camdenabudis.net/visitreports.html>

- **Young Film-makers for Human Rights**

PATRON: Ken Loach

funded by EU Youth in Action & Royal Jordanian.

In February 2010, we began work on the next youth project involving Abu Dis and Camden young people, which will enable another eight Abu Dis young people to come to Camden to meet children in Camden schools and youth clubs. The project this time will focus on film and anti-discrimination. At the time of writing, young people in both places are working on film about their own town, and looking forward to meeting each other in June.



CADFA, PO Box 34265, London NW5 2WD

Tel + fax 0845 458 1167

contact@camdenabudis.net www.camdenabudis.net

Charity number 1112717

New book: "For Hammam: A Handbook for Young People on Human Rights in Palestine"

- **A resource for young people and for schools**

We published our first human rights book in both English and Arabic, based on the stories of young people from Abu Dis and Camden. This has been distributed to schools and will be the basis of further work in both places



- **Hammam's visit to London**

Two of our visitors to London this year were Hammam Mohsen and his father who came as part of a twinning group in November 2009. Hammam was in the head wounded by Israeli soldiers in December 2008 and is still trying to recover. As well as launching the book that we named for him, he met young people involved in CADFA and visited Hampstead School which is twinned to Abu Dis Boys' School, which he attended until he was shot. Hammam's father was a main speaker at the Britain Palestine Twinning Conference.

CADFA work in Palestine

- **CADFA human rights work in Abu Dis**

Our co-ordinator in Abu Dis is at the heart of our work in collecting, disseminating and responding to information on the human rights situation in the local area. This work includes monthly human rights reports and leading human rights tours of the local area.

- **Dar Assadaqa, Abu Dis**

We continue to support this community centre in Abu Dis which is open to all sections of the community but is particularly strong in work with women and young people



- **Shehadeh Mohsen Diabetic Clinic, Abu Dis**

This year, the Camden Clinic Abu Dis responded to an important need by opening a once-a-week clinic for diabetic patients from Abu Dis who are not allowed by Israel to go to Jerusalem for treatment. We would like to thank the Parish of Hampshire Downs for a generous donation which made this possible. The clinic opened in October 2009. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OawvRnJWjo4>

- **Volunteers in Palestine**

Since 2005, we have kept a consistent presence of volunteers from Camden based in Abu Dis who have taught English, worked with children, helped with CADFA projects - and have also learned a huge amount themselves from the people there. Here is a typical email from a volunteer during the summer:

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“Do you want to include a pointer to my blog on the CADFA site? The address is www.abudisvolunteer.blogspot.com. Everything is going fine here. I am enjoying it a lot, making friends, learning a great deal, and practising my Arabic.”

- **Speaking out to the West**

We have asked volunteers in Palestine to help Abu Dis visitors to prepare to come on CADFA visits to Britain, working on language, context and presentation skills. We are finding an improvement in our visitors' confidence and level of preparation for speaking in public in Britain. This is also building people's skills to explain in English to Western visitors in Palestine about the human rights situation during visits to Palestine.

Building on the visits

By now we have taken hundreds of people to visit Palestine and see the human rights situation there for themselves. Our general and themed visits are very well-reviewed and many of the visitors come back and go on working with us. Many also disseminate their experiences in public meetings, or write about what they have seen.

- **Reports, blogs**

There are by now many reports and blogs and newspaper articles based on these visits. Some are attached to the website. Some printed reports that we have been given this year are:

Jo Bridger: Olive Oil, Israel and Palestine – A report for Lush and Sheffield University (summer 2009).

Anya Hainsworth: War Victims: Voices from the Occupied Land (Arches Quarterly, Dec 2009-Feb 2010)

Shereen Pandit: A Week in Palestine (International Labour and Resource Information Group, South Africa,2010)

Tom Suarez: Captive Audiences: Performing in Palestine (The Link, Dec 2008)

- **English and Arabic press**

Some of the articles in the British press have pointed to our work on prisoners (Red Pepper), themed visits to Palestine (Unison), visits to Britain (Hammam), help for the twinning network across Britain (Stirling). These are collected on the CADFA website at <http://www.camdenabudis.net/press.html>

There have been a number of articles in the Palestinian press on our work as well: <http://www.camdenabudis.net/pressarabic.html>

- **Film**

This year Nita Dhinsa worked on a film “Chapters from Palestine,” while Ausra Linkeviciute joined the Stories from our Mothers project in order to make a film

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about women's links that has been shown in parts this year and will be ready as a whole next year.

- **Photo exhibition**

Following the teachers' visit to Palestine, the NUT sponsored a wonderful exhibition of photos by Gerry Robinson and other teachers, held at King's Place under the title "Twin Impressions". The title refers both to the Camden school twinnings with Abu Dis and also to the findings of the visitors in Palestine: at one and the same time, lovely people and a very bad human rights situation.

Campaign work

- **Policy makers**

*This year we raised Palestinian human rights issues with policy-makers through letters and meetings with them. We contacted MEPs about the issues of **settlements, prisoners, the separation wall, refugees and Jerusalem** and called for the implementation of the human rights clause in the Europe-Israel trades agreement.*

*Following the Israeli government's attack on Gaza last year and the findings of the Goldstone Enquiry's report on its war crimes, there were attempts to bring the then Israeli Foreign Minister to court if she came to Britain. The British Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary talked of ways to ensure that this did not happen. We wrote to the government and to our MPs to raise our concern that **universal jurisdiction should not be compromised.***

- **Grassroots level**

We raised the issues of human rights in Palestine with local people through public meetings with speakers, themed events and all of our linking activities. New leaflets about settlements and refugees were printed. We have held events in the streets including a demonstration with a pretend Separation Wall, and on 12th August 2009, the 60th anniversary of the Fourth Geneva Convention, we held a visual event to call for our government to assume their responsibilities as a signatory of the convention.

- **Urgent actions**

We worked with Israeli human rights groups and wrote to policy-makers about

- *Mohammad Saleh (a sick prisoner in Israeli jails),*
- *Mohammad Eriqat (a child shot by Israeli soldiers and then taken to prison from hospital),*
- *young men captured and beaten brutally by soldiers at the Dead Sea,*
- *army invasion of shops in Abu Dis*
- *Mohammad Mahmoud Halabiyeh (a child whose legs were broken by beating on arrest by Israeli soldiers; his parents have still not been allowed to visit him in prison)*
- *new land expropriations in Abu Dis.*

In February, we asked CADFA members to take part in an urgent letter-writing campaign when Ammar Hadidoun from Abu Dis was given a house demolition order by the Israeli army. Thank you very much to all the people who wrote letters in response. At the time of writing (April 2010), his house is still standing.

See www.camdenabudis.net/urgentactioncampaigns.html

Looking ahead

- **Progress this year**

Each year we have grown in terms of members, supporters and activities, and again this year we grew solidly and reached hundreds of new people.

The accounts are attached. At year end we were waiting for receipt into our bank of £11,000 Youth in Action funding, £5000 from Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust, and money owed by visitors to Palestine and promised by twinning groups in relation to the women's project. If all of these are taken into account, it can be seen that, financially, we were continuing to grow.

This year we were given project funding which allowed us to pay a full-time member of staff in Camden from August onwards. This allowed us to prepare and follow-up our visits and activities thoroughly. In Camden we saw the deepening effect of this work in terms of people's awareness and wish to act to support human rights in Palestine. In Abu Dis, the year saw an extension of interest in our project activities and in our work more widely.

We achieved most of our aims from last year:

CADFA aims for 2009-10

Completed:

✓	Run another conference on an education links theme
✓	Produce a youth links calendar
✓	Bring a fourth group of young people from Abu Dis to Camden in summer 2009
✓	Print our refugee leaflet
✓	Run another teachers' visit to Abu Dis and strengthen the twinning links between the Abu Dis and Camden schools
✓	Run a course in Abu Dis to help with public speaking on visits to Britain
✓	Keep our co-ordinator post going in Abu Dis

In progress:

•	Work with the Camden lecturers' unions to strengthen academic links between the Al Quds University and the universities in Camden <i>The Stories from our Mothers visits have strengthened these links but we hope to work more with the lecturers' unions in the next year.</i>
•	Manage to fund at least one full-time post in Camden. <i>From August it has been possible to make our Co-ordinator full-time but this is still temporary.</i>
•	Print our environment leaflet <i>Written, but by end of year, printing still to do.</i>

- **Next steps for CADFA**

We want our work to continue to grow solidly.

Next year, among other things, we want to:

- Produce a book of women's stories – "Stories from our Mothers"
- Bring another group of young people to Camden in June 2010
- Take a group of teachers to Abu Dis
- Strengthen student links between the two places through visits
- Produce a short film about our work to be distributed through Camden
- Continue to work with schools on human rights in Palestine
- Create and advertise the Camden posts of director and administrator of CADFA and to establish a further post in Abu Dis
- Have a small office in Camden.

Thank you

The trustees would like to formally record their thanks for their hard work to the CADFA Co-ordinator, Nandita Dowson, and the Co-ordinator in Abu Dis, Abdul Wahab Sabbah.

So many people have contributed money, time and energy that has made our work possible. Some of you have helped us to finance our work; some of you have been formal volunteers in Camden or in Abu Dis; others of you have provided fantastic help with particular projects during the year.

We are showing what we can do together.

Very many thanks to all of you

Appendices

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association is a Camden organisation dedicated to promoting human rights in Abu Dis, a Palestinian town in the East Jerusalem suburb that is currently divided from Jerusalem by the Separation Wall, and in Palestine more generally.

Along with others in Palestine, people in Abu Dis suffer many violations of human rights as a result of the illegal Israeli occupation and its practices. We work to make links between organisations and groups in Camden and Abu Dis and help people to work on positive projects together, because we believe this is an effective way to draw the human rights situation in Abu Dis to the attention of people in Camden and to work with others locally to do something about it.

CADFA came into being during 2004, was constituted as a charity in June 2005 and gained recognition as a charity in January 2006. There is more information about CADFA and our activities on our website, www.camdenabudis.net

CADFA's objects

CADFA's objects are to promote human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) and respect for international humanitarian law in the area of Abu Dis, a region of Palestine, by all or any of the following means:

- Raising awareness of human rights and humanitarian issues relevant to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in general and to the situation of Abu Dis in particular;
 - Researching and monitoring abuses of human rights and infringements of humanitarian law in Abu Dis;
 - Educating the public about human rights and humanitarian law;
 - Promoting public support for human rights and the observance of humanitarian law;
 - Working to eliminate abuses of human rights and infringements of humanitarian law in Abu Dis;
 - Working to obtain and promote redress for the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law in Abu Dis and their families;
 - Providing support to and relieving need among the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families, in Abu Dis.
-

CADFA's trustees 2009-10 (AGM was on 21st July 2009)

Diarmaid Ward, Chair till left London in August 2009,
Munir Nusseibah, Trustee till August 2009, then Chair
Luca Salice, Vice-Chair
Cristina Piccoli, Secretary
Carmel Elwell, Treasurer till July 2009
Annika Miller-Jones, Treasurer from July 2009
Nandita Dowson, Trustee till July 2009
Mike Fletcher, Trustee from July 2009

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Organisations that supported CADFA in 2009-10

Thank you for your support to many individuals and to the following organisations:

- **Aimimage Films**
- **Anna Lindh Foundation**
- **Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust**
- **Calthorpe Community Centre, Gray's Inn Rd WC1**
- **Parish of Hampshire Downs**
- **Kentish Town Community Centre**
- **King's Cross and Brunswick Neighbourhood Association**
- **Phoenicia, Kentish Town Road NW5**
- **Rideau Lakes Publishing**
- **Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, NW3**
- **Torriano Meeting House NW5**
- **Unison Camden**
- **Youth in Action (European Union)**
- **Castlehaven Community Centre, Camden Town NW1**
- **National Union of Teachers, Camden**
- **SOAS Palestine Society**
- **South Camden Community School**
- **Maria Fidelis Convent School**
- **Gospel Oak Primary School**
- **Primrose Hill Primary School**
- **Edith Neville Primary School**
- **Hampstead School**
- **Al Quds University Palestine**

Some main events 2009-10

April 09	CADFA conference, London Teachers' visit to Abu Dis Twinning visit to Palestine
May 09	Reports back from visits to Palestine
June 09	"Twin Impressions" photo exhibition at King's Place Refugee Week Concert at South Camden Community School Youth Ambassadors for Human Rights visit to London
July 09	CADFA meal and AGM
August 09	"Three monkeys" demonstrate on anniversary of 4 th Geneva Convention Planning visit for Stories from our Mothers project
September 09	Launch of youth project film
October 09	CADFA birthday meal at Goodenough College – poems, speakers, film, music Shehadeh Mohsen diabetic clinic opens in Abu Dis
November 09	Stories from our Mothers women's visit to Palestine Stories from our Mothers workshop at Al Quds University Twinning visit to Palestine Launch of "For Hammam" book – Concert at SOAS with Lowkey MC Twinning visit to Britain CADFA visitors speak at Britain Palestine Twinning Conference
December 09	Health film show CADFA social with film and speakers
Jan 10	Castlehaven Centre social, film and speakers
February 10	Palestine weekend including Arabic classes, information meetings, social event with Abu Dis speaker and films
March 10	Stories from our Mothers Women from Palestine visit across Britain, Dozens of events across the country including Women's skills-sharing event at Kentish Town Community Centre and International Women's Day workshop at SOAS on 8 th March Shereen Pandit's 10 mile run to raise funds for CADFA

CADFA accounts 2009-2010

**CADFA ACCOUNTS - 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS**

	2008 / 09	2009 / 10
Balances Brought Forward	<u>4,250</u>	<u>14,832</u>
Reallocation		
Revised Balance Brought Forward	<u>4,250</u>	<u>14,832</u>
 RECEIPTS	£	£
Fundraising, Donations & Memberships	54,204	67,321
Gift Aid Received	1,863	2,270
Bank Interest Received	26	14
Travellers to Palestine	27,282	8,960
Income reallocated re the Guest House	0	0
Income reallocated re staffing	0	0
	<u>83,375</u>	<u>78,565</u>
 PAYMENTS	£	£
Visits to & from Palestine	30,642	39,562
Projects and Events	10,320	11,891
Publications & Printing	1,463	713
Advertising	407	530
Purchases	3,622	3,954
Bank Charges & Exchange (Gains) / Losses	-255	331
Other Running Costs	3,076	1,867
Staff costs	23,518	31,470
	<u>72,793</u>	<u>90,318</u>
 Surplus / Deficit for Year	<u>10,582</u>	<u>-11,753</u>
 Surplus Carried Forward	<u><u>£14,832</u></u>	<u><u>£3,079</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET

	As At 31 March 2009 £	As At 31 March 2010 £
UK Bank Balances	14,275.54	2,809.46
Palestine Bank Balances	747.58	573.40
Cash in hand or in transit	-191.33	-303.47
	£14,831.79	£3,079.39
Net Assets		
Surplus at 1 April	4,249.57	14,831.79
Surplus for the Year	10,582.22	-11,752.64
	£14,831.79	£3,079.15
Surplus at 31 March		

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Staff Costs

Staff costs cover remuneration paid to a co-ordinator in Abu Dis and a co-ordinator in Camden.

Related Party Transactions

The Camden co-ordinator, who was a Trustee of CADFA until 21st July 2009, was paid a total of £23,100 in the year under a contract of employment.

Accumulated Surplus

The surplus brought forward at the beginning of the year includes funding received in 2008/09 in respect of a youth visit project which covered the period from March to June 2009.