



CADFA notices 21st Feb 09

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MUSIC VISIT

Many thanks to the great CAMDEN BAND from Abu Dis (pictured) for visiting us and for their great performances (We look forward to telling you very soon about funds raised)



Human rights work

Our human rights report for January will be on the website in the next day or two. It tells what has been happening in Abu Dis at the same time as the severe Israeli attacks on Gaza. We produce these reports every month in English and Arabic. Do keep an eye on them. Over time they build up into a very grim picture.

Over the past few years we have steadily responded to human rights violations and have not always known how much notice is taken of our letters (sometimes mass letter-writing, sometimes centrally-sent from CADFA). But we have been told by a number of organisations (Red Cross, B'tselem...) that **“there is something special about Abu Dis”** – we seem to be managing to get some things taken notice of that are ignored in other places.

That, and the context of the horrors in Gaza and the systematic human rights

violations in the West Bank, tell us that we must keep going.

So we are asking for some help, asking you to join our regular activities and some special events, and also looking for people who will join us in a lobby of the European Parliament about human rights in Palestine...

Please read on...

HELP NEEDED: We still need accommodation for women, specially on **4th March** (when we will have all the Palestinian women visitors and some twinning people from northern towns to accommodate) - Also some during the following week

- We are also looking for an **empty flat/ house** in the week **beginning 13th June** for the kids and their carers too – Pls contact us if you can help*
- **Please return your raffle tickets – or bring them to the draw on 7th March!!**

COMING UP:

Friday 27th Feb - women's links meeting (private house near King's Cross so email for details)

Saturday 28th Feb - buddies are running a table at the Camden School table-top sale to raise money for the Abu Dis children's visit to Camden in June. What they have includes **LOADS OF GREAT NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS** (and much more) - Do go and support them!

Saturday 28th Feb - meeting for the teachers going to Abu Dis in April

Saturday 28th Feb - meeting for visitors going to Abu Dis/ Palestine in mid-April on the general twinning visit (if you are interested to join this it isn't too late - get in touch!)

Sunday 1st March Youth links meeting - active planning now for the youth visit in June! Please join us! 2pm in a café in Camden Town – contact us for details

Education links / Health links/ Student links/ Academic links... Contact us if you would like to be involved!

WOMEN'S VISIT ORGANISED BY CADFA ON BEHALF OF THE TWINNING NETWORK: 4-11 MARCH

Wednesday 4th March, meal to welcome 11 women from Palestine -

Please book if coming:
£7 for good Palestinian meal

++Saturday 7th March 12-4 Calthorpe Project + CADFA together: International Women's Day event ++

Many great activities

Palestinian food

Women's music

Palestinian women speakers

See flier on the website: and we hope to have the full programme on the website during the next week.

Sunday 8th March: NITA DHINSA is running the Paris half-marathon on behalf of CADFA with half specifically for Abu Dis Boys' School!

-----**!!!!!!!GO NITA!!!!!!**

Sponsor her via our website:

<http://www.camdenabudis.net/DONATIONS.html>

Saturday 21st March, 5-10pm: Charity Ball at Queen's Crescent Community Centre [women only]. Organised by Sisters United, proceeds to CADFA. See flier on the website.

Lobbying the parliaments...

The EU Israel Trade Agreement and human rights.

What we know on the ground demonstrates the systematic violation of the human rights of Palestinians. A useful way to pressure for change is enforce article two of the EU-Israel Trade Agreement (which calls for human rights) as the threat of suspension of the agreement that enables 20% of Israel's exports must be a powerful incentive.

Our government's responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention

As a signatory, our government should be active in seeking, investigating and prosecuting those responsible for grave breaches of international humanitarian law (the rules of war) – or "war crimes"

On 11th March there will be a lobby of the Westminster Parliament about Palestine.

As CADFA will be at the end of the women's visit – the visitors will be returning to the airport that afternoon – we will take part in the following way:

- We will write a letter to each of our MPs about human rights in Palestine, **asking them to work to ensure the enforcement of article 2 of the EU Israel Trade Agreement and asking the government to assume its responsibility in relation to grave breaches of international humanitarian law.**
- We will invite them to an early lunch to meet the Palestinian women before they leave, and if they can come, raise these issues with them
- We encourage our members and supporters to attend the lobby between 2 and 6 – or write to your MP - and raise these issues yourselves with the MPs if possible,

On 31st March, there will be a lobby of the European Parliament in Brussels about Palestine.

The Peace Cycle organisation will be handing in a petition that also focuses on article two of the EU Israel Trade Agreement. (see / sign here: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/Suspend-EU-Israel-Trade-Agreement>)

We would like some CADFA supporters to lobby the EU Parliament on the same day – maybe to cycle though that is not essential – Please contact us if you are able to take part.

And if you are a cyclist... even better!!



News from Abu Dis

The situation in Abu Dis is described each month in the human rights report – do look at it on the website www.camdenabudis.net

The boys who were shot at the end of December

Hamam Mohsen is recovering slowly in hospital and his family are delighted that he is now responding – He is still paralysed on his right side, though, and recovery will take a long time. We have sent our good wishes and we know the family appreciate any messages of support.

Mohammed Eriqat was – after a month - allowed visits from his family. He was in handcuffs in a hospital bed. However he has now been taken to prison and once again his family do not know where he is and they are concerned about his getting the treatment he needs. We are raising this again at MEP level.

Dar Assadaqa

The community centre that we support in Abu Dis is full of activities in particular for women and children and they are also planning courses with local trade unions. Our current CADFA volunteer is working hard in Dar Assadaqa (as well as in local schools), teaching English, helping prepare the women who are coming to visit Britain, running special groups with the kids who will be coming in the summer, and more. The women are working on a magazine in English and Arabic and we will have copies of it to sell during the women's visit. The CADFA music teacher is working there too, along with a drama teacher, a dabkeh (dance) group and much more.

The kids have been making models of Dar Assadaqa's garden as they hope it will be, while in Camden we have been selling raffle tickets to try and raise the money for it.

Aid to Gaza

We have sent money for medical supplies and medicine to Gaza, via the Abu Dis Committee for Support for Gaza. The money we have already sent has been turned into medical supplies and medicine and has left; we are about to send another lot as a result of the concerts done by the musicians in London, and expect that to be in Gaza very quickly too.

Next CADFA visit to Abu Dis and Palestine will be April 2009. Please contact us if you would like to join

Camden activity on Gaza

Please see our new leaflet (attached)

CADFA sales (and can you help?)

Would you like

- CADFA books (Voices from Abu Dis, First Six Days...)
- CADFA mugs, plates, tee-shirts? Palestinian kaffiyehs (scarves), embroidery, oil?
- Could you organise a venue for us to sell them?

Are you a member of CADFA?

If not, would you like to help us by joining? We're sending a form along with this newsletter – and you can find one on the website at

<http://www.camdenabudis.net/joinus.html>

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

جمعية صداقة
كامدن أبوديس

*Promoting human rights and respect for
international humanitarian law*

PO Box 34265, London NW5 2WD

Tel + fax 0845 458 1167

contact@camdenabudis.net

www.camdenabudis.net

Charity number 1112717

