

*Translation of leaflet in Arabic for people in Abu Dis, Sept 09*

## **CAMDEN ABU DIS FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION**

### **WHO ARE WE?**

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association is a human rights charity. We started in 2004 and became a charity in 2005. We are based in Camden (London) and we work together with people and organisations in Abu Dis to spread awareness about the human rights situation in Palestine and to encourage people in Britain to work to change it. Our work started small but we have grown steadily during the past five years owing to the very hard work of our volunteers in London. We work with other groups in the Britain-Palestine Twinning Network to spread this type of work across Britain.

### **WHAT SORT OF WORK DO WE DO?**

During the past few years our work has included organising...

**VISITS** We organise visits to Palestine and from Palestine to Britain, for example visits of women, school children, teachers, musicians. The reason for these visits is to raise awareness of human rights issues in Palestine.

**VOLUNTEERS** We find volunteers from Britain to work in Abu Dis, often English teachers but this has included lawyers and others

**TWINNING LINKS** We encourage people and organisations in the two places to work together, for example women, youth, health workers, trade unionists

**PROJECTS IN ABU DIS** We have helped to support the Dar Assadaqa Community Centre, but we have links with other organisations as well – community centres, unions, schools, the Al Quds University, for example. We help Camden and Abu Dis people to work together and to stay in contact with each other

**PUBLICATIONS** We provide information on our website [www.camdenabudis.net](http://www.camdenabudis.net), leaflets on important issues like prisoners, settlements, the Wall, refugees. We have made a number of books:

*The First Six Days* (about 1967), *Voices from Abu Dis* (the human rights situation in people's own stories), *For Hamam* (a handbook about human rights in Palestine that is meant for young people).

We have some short films from our projects including some made by young people during our projects in Abu Dis.

**CAMPAIGNS** We campaign on the issue of human rights in Palestine at several levels: demonstrations in the street, letter-writing about particular issues, public meetings, pressure on our representatives in the British and European parliaments.

**HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS** Each month a report on human rights violations in Abu Dis is put on our website in English and Arabic. We organise urgent action campaigns and work with other human rights organisations on particular issues.

Everything we do is meant to inform people and encourage them to be active in support of human rights. Our organisation has grown in the past five years and we are always looking for ways to do things more effectively.

### **SOME OF OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES**

Music visit to Britain

CADFA conference in London

Youth visit to London

Camden volunteers in Abu Dis

Demonstrations in London

Letters to our MPs

Women's visit to Britain

## **SOME THINGS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT YEAR**

Women's visit to Abu Dis

Shehadeh Mohsen diabetic clinic

Support for youth activities at Dar Assadaqa

+ we want your good ideas!

## **HOW ARE WE ORGANISED?**

In Camden (London) our members elect a body of trustees who are in charge of our work. We also have a number of links groups (women, youth, education etc) which work with people in their own field to spread awareness of the human rights issues in Palestine to people in their own field in Britain, and seek to work together with people in Abu Dis on projects that will be useful. So for example, the women's group in London is working now (2009-10) with the Dar Assadaqa women's group to organise a project called *Stories from our Mothers* (ask for more information).

## **CAMDEN ABU DIS RELATIONS WITH ABU DIS**

We are very pleased to be in contact with people from Abu Dis, old, young, men, women and from different organisations. As a charity, we have no link to any political party in Britain or in Palestine, and hope to work with everyone who has the aim of promoting human rights in Palestine.

We have a special relation to Dar Assadaqa Community Centre, as we have helped it from the beginning, but it is important that people from other Abu Dis organisations know that we are very happy to work with you too.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Our website is [www.camdenabudis.net](http://www.camdenabudis.net)

You can find there, for example, the annual reports from our past four years – and a lot more information. A lot of our information is translated to Arabic but if

you find something that you want to read and it is not in Arabic, please tell us and we will arrange translation.

## **CONTACTING US**

Our website: [www.camdenabudis.net](http://www.camdenabudis.net)

Our email: [contact@camdenabudis.net](mailto:contact@camdenabudis.net)

Facebook group: Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

You can get our books, leaflets etc from Dar Assadaqa, near the old mosque, Abu Dis, tel 02 279 4523

Our phone number in London: 0044 845 458 1167

Our co-ordinator in Abu Dis: Abdulwahab Sabbah 0522 343 757