

FAX: 08454581167

**Palestinian General Delegation
London - United Kingdom**

المفوضية العامة الفلسطينية لندن - المملكة المتحدة

Telephone: +(44) 20 8563 0008
Fax: +(44) 20 8563 0058
E.mail: info@palestiniangd.org.uk
www.palestiniangd.org.uk



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To whom it may concern

Subject: Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association
Date: 11.09.2008

This is to vouch for the work of Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association which has been in existence for four years, and in that space of time has made itself into a very useful support for the human rights of the Palestinian people.

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association have shown the effectiveness of twinning with Palestine as a way of campaigning for Palestinian rights. It has worked energetically at a local level to bring information to Britain about the situation of the Palestinian people, and has developed a new model which is proving to be effective.

Part of its work has been to organise many effective visits of people from Abu Dis to Britain during the past three years - this has included three groups of children, three groups of women and several other visits. These visitors meet people at the grassroot level in Britain, speak in schools and universities and other organisations to thousands of people, and together with speakers from CADFA who demonstrated the success of their work, persuaded many new people to become active on the issue of Palestine.

Camden Abu Dis also runs regular themed tours of Palestine to witness the situation on the ground. They work widely with all sorts of organizations to bring information and encourage the participation of people in Britain to work for Palestinian rights. Their Education Links is particularly inspiring - they have encouraged two pairs of schools to twin, others to make links, and organized visits of groups of teachers in both directions. For example, following a trip to Palestine that Camden Abu Dis organised for Camden students, Camden school students organized assemblies on the issue of Palestine, and posted information on their website.

Camden Abu Dis has a very useful website - www.camdenabudis.net - and it has produced a number of publications, including "The First Six Days" - published in 2007 - an oral history of 1967 from an Abu Dis point of view, and "Voices from Abu Dis" - forthcoming in autumn 2008 - telling the Palestinian narrative through individual human stories. It started a campaign about the issue of Palestinian children prisoners.

5 Galena Road, Hammersmith, London W6 0LT

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association has worked on joint projects with people in Palestine – supporting a community centre, a women's group, a music teacher, internet in schools and a small clinic. It works with a wide range of organizations in Palestine and produces a human rights report about Abu Dis in English and Arabic each month, thus outlining the human rights violations by Israel.

Camden Abu Dis is also a main engine within the Britain Palestine Twinning Network, which started as a result of a conference in Camden in September 2005. This growing twinning movement now has some thirty partnerships, and Camden Abu Dis has done a lot to further this movement and to support other groups. It currently organizes further visits between the two communities on behalf of the network and it is committed to sharing its strong experience with other groups and to helping other twinning friendships to form.

We are very keen to support the work of Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association, which has been successful in involving and raising awareness among the British people to think and contribute towards the ending of Palestinian suffering. Its work is extremely valuable and welcomed. We invite you to support Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association in every way possible.

Yours sincerely

Ambassador Manuel Hassassian



Manuel Hassassian

Palestinian Delegate General to the UK