

Cut off from hospital

Abu Dis is a small Palestinian town in the suburb of Jerusalem. It has been cut off from the main part of Jerusalem since 2002 by the Separation Wall built by the Israeli occupation forces.

The health care situation in Abu Dis is very difficult. The Separation Wall, Israeli checkpoints and closures have kept people inside Abu Dis and forced up unemployment and poverty.

“My son was seriously hurt and was taken to a Jerusalem hospital on his own. We are not allowed to visit him.”

They have also cut Abu Dis off from its hospitals and specialist units in Jerusalem. People can see the hospitals close to them—but usually cannot go. A population of about 14,000 relies on two small clinics.



The Separation Wall has been built right through Abu Dis cutting it off from Jerusalem.

**Camden Abu Dis
Friendship Association (CADFA)**
جمعية صداقة كامدن أبوديس
*promoting human rights and
respect for international humanitarian law*

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Support the RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE

[Left] An Abu Dis boy shot in the street by an Israeli soldier;

[Right] Shehadeh Mohsen, a diabetic patient from Abu Dis, who was killed by an Israeli soldier at a checkpoint in the Separation Wall, when he was trying to reach a hospital in Jerusalem .



CAMDEN ABU DIS HEALTH LINKS

health@camdenabudis.net

www.camdenabudis.net

Killed at the checkpoint

The Israeli Separation Wall combined with a pass system aimed at keeping West Bank Palestinians out of Jerusalem stops people from travelling easily for the treatment they need.

Even if they do get permits from the Israeli army, there is no guarantee that patients will be allowed to pass. Doctors in Abu Dis currently estimate that of people given referral letters to the local hospitals in Jerusalem, only one third get there.

The Israeli Separation Wall and the pass system stop people from getting to the local hospitals

Shehadeh Mohsen, a diabetic patient from Abu Dis, had a permit to go through the checkpoint, but was killed by the Israeli army while he was trying to go to regular appointment in a Jerusalem hospital .



Afaf Bader had her baby at an Abu Dis checkpoint when soldiers refused to let her through to hospital when she was in labour



An Abu Dis doctor - 80 patients before lunch – while the Jerusalem hospitals are emptying

Pressure of Occupation

Living under Israeli Occupation has a bad effect on both physical and psychological health. Experience of terrible events – shootings, imprisonments, torture, army raids – either directly or to members of their families - have traumatised children and adults. The Wall and the closures are dividing and pressuring families. Israeli settlement waste on Abu Dis land is a health hazard.

Large increase noted in Abu Dis of stress-related illnesses such as diabetes and cancer— including among children

Meanwhile, Abu Dis doctors struggle to cope with a shortage of drugs, specialist equipment and also time – Sometimes doctors now see 80 people in a session.

**Please join us ** Camden Abu Dis health links projects

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association is promoting awareness of the human rights situation in Abu Dis and working to change it.

Since 2005, the health links group has

- Made links between people working in health in Camden and health workers in Abu Dis.
- Supported the local clinics
- Helped with the start of a small clinic to provide emergency health care after the

Settlement waste on Abu Dis land: suspected cause of cancer hotspot

building of the Wall.

- Provided medicine for Abu Dis & for Gaza.
- Started the Shehadeh Mohsen Diabetic Clinic (October 2009)



Special health day at the Camden Clinic

In 2010, we aim to

- Raise more funds for the Diabetic Clinic
- Find volunteer health workers for local clinics
- Raise awareness in Camden about the health situation in Abu Dis including the environment.
- Organise a health fact-finding visit to Palestine.