

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

Notices - April 2011



Child prisoners

More and more arrests in Abu Dis of young people.

Most recently we've been told of a boy, arrested before his 14th birthday, who came to court and (unusually) the judge said that he should be released as his confession was signed on a Hebrew sheet and there was no evidence that he had understood it; that there is no way for trivial or unclear charges that he should have been arrested through a house invasion in the middle of the night, etc.. These comments from the judge were remarkable because these things are USUAL in the case of child prisoners - see our other reports.

His father also said that when the soldiers came into their house, they went into his son's room and started beating him while he was still asleep.

The result of the judgement was not that the boy was released – Other children were brought to bear witness against him and he is still in jail.

17th April is Palestinian Prisoners' Day.

CADFA is collecting a letter about child prisoners – Please sign and return it if you haven't done so – or you can do it online here.

We will be delivering the letter in late April/ early May (following the conference we are trying to see if there is any possibility of giving it to BOTH the Camden MPs at once to deliver to the Foreign Office) – please look out for details.

On 23rd April there will also be a CADFA conference in Palestine of together with the Human Rights Clinic at the Al Quds University in Abu Dis. **CHILD PRISONERS will be a main feature of the conference** and we expect to discuss future action on the issue with local human rights organisations and also with the families of prisoners.

Human Rights Reports

We produce these in English and Arabic every month. Please look (on the website) and also think of good ways to let others know what they say.

Upcoming events

- **NO open meeting in April** because of the timing of the holiday
- **Meeting for CADFA volunteers in the evening of 23rd April** – email for venue
- **Open meeting on Tues May 17th** will focus on (1) CHILD PRISONERS (2) on our SUMMER CAMP IN ABU DIS – an open day for volunteers.

- **Meal and concert at House of Lords on 18th May.** Tickets for this very special event will be available for this from 1st May, but **the first tickets will be given to Friends of CADFA (see below).**

15th July is pencilled in for a CADFA concert with NIGEL KENNEDY – Our advice is to avoid putting anything else on that date and tell your friends!!!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are now taking applications from people to work with the children's summer camp at Dar Assadaqa for a month in July, and also from people who can spend three months during the school year as a volunteer in Abu Dis. English teachers specially wanted but others may be useful – Please write to us if you would like to apply for either. A good place to start is with the information for volunteers pack on the website.

CADFA activities

CADFA recently had many meetings and activities during the **women's visit from Palestine** for International Women's Day. It was great to do things with community centres, women's organisations and student unions across the local area. More and more people are in touch to offer to help in Camden and Abu Dis and we are specially happy that so many of them are young and energetic!

Teachers' visit This next week will see **9 teachers from different schools** in Camden set off for Abu Dis to work in their partner schools and develop plans for curriculum co-operation. This is the next step in Education Links – it follows long years of work in schools and several visits in both directions – and we hope it will set the schools up to work together for the next few years. Very exciting!!



Conferences

Thank you very much to those who participated in the Camden CADFA conference. This was bursting with good ideas for the next few months. It was also an opportunity to screen a new short film about the Bedouin living in Wad Abu Hindi next to Abu Dis. Look out for that – it was good. We will be showing it again.

CADFA will be involved in two conferences in Palestine – a **CADFA conference for local Abu Dis people** – and a **national Palestine - Britain twinning conference in Ramallah** (the mirror of the one that is held by the Twinning Network annually in Britain in November).

Future activities

We had a good, practical and positive conference last week. But at the end we had to tell people what a difficult financial situation we are currently in. We are afraid that at this point we are unable even to confirm our children's visit (which we have had annually for the past 5 years). We very much want to run it as these visits are an amazing way to involve local children and young people in thinking about human rights in Palestine - but we are waiting still for the overdue result of a funding bid... and to be honest, we are worrying.

Fundraising

Many thanks to the people who have taken seriously our call for help on the financial front –

KATY who is doing a sponsored slim – You can sponsor her here ...

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=KatyGold>

SHEREEN and BAHIR who are doing the Triathlon in July – Shereen wrote this:

I'm supporting Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association.

CADFA works in Camden to promote

awareness about the human rights situation in Abu Dis. As part of this work we are building friendship links between individuals and organisations in Camden and Abu Dis, and supporting a number of projects there. We encourage and organise visits between Camden and Abu Dis, and help find volunteers for projects in Abu Dis We collect and distribute information about the human rights situation in Abu Dis through publications and on this website We help groups make links in areas such as education, health, youth, and these groups organise positive projects together with people in Abu Dis We run campaigns on human rights issues such as child prisoners, and urgent action campaigns when they are needed We welcome the involvement of organisations and individuals who support our aims

Please go to <http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/cadfa> to see my fundraising page and sponsor me online.



Munir, Tom and Andrew all have plans for fundraising concerts at various points during this year.



And we are starting this new scheme for people who have a bit of time to help us NOW:

Friends of CADFA.

FRIENDS OF CADFA will each be working hard now to get at least £60 in new monthly standing orders for CADFA by the end of April- hoping to rescue us now so we can go on with our activities.

As a big thank you we will be inviting Friends of CADFA free to the House of Lords meal – We think that will be a brilliant present for them and that their efforts may be what we need to rescue our activities in future.

If you can join them, please get in touch.



PLEASE JOIN CADFA

(if you are not already a member)



PLEASE JOIN OUR ACTIVITIES IF YOU CAN

MANY different ways of being involved

Our active links groups include

- Women
- Education
- Health
- Students
- Youth

We hope you have a good break and that the sun keeps shining – and hope to see you afterwards at one of our activities 😊

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association Charity no 1112717

www.camdenbudis.net