



Camden Abu Dis update August 2010

RAMADAN KAREEM – Greetings for Ramadan to our friends in Abu Dis and to those of you in Britain for whom it is relevant.



Quote of the year (proving that Camden Abu Dis has made itself known...)

A CADFA member from Jerusalem, living in Camden, tells us he was in a taxi recently when the subject of Palestine came up. When he said he comes from there and specifically from Jerusalem, he was asked, "Jerusalem – is that somewhere near Abu Dis?"

:D :D :D

Nizar Issa at the CADFA BBQ

Members' news

CONGRATULATIONS to Shireen and Bahir who have swum/ ridden/ run a Triathlon on behalf of CADFA. Shereen says...

"For those who are interested in sponsoring me and Bahir - we both completed the London Triathlon yesterday [8th August] - **1.5k swim, 40k bike, 10k run. So, if you've got any money to spare, then now's the time to hand it to Cadfa, which was our chosen charity.** On 22nd June you can watch the event on telly. I'm the one wearing the Free Palestine badge and Palestine colours on my wrists."

Please if you can donate (by post or via the website) will you tell us that it is to sponsor Shireen and Bahir? They have put in huge effort to help us and we hope to be able to tell them it was really worth it!

ALF MABRUK +++ Congratulations to Sarah and Ahmad

The first Camden Abu Dis wedding? (that we know of)

SARAH – a Camden teacher - went on a CADFA visit to Abu Dis having met a group of Abu Dis kids in her classroom during a CADFA youth visit to Camden. That was two years ago. Then she went as a volunteer to Abu Dis. Then AHMAD – who was very involved in things going on at Dar Assadaqa - came as a speaker to a CADFA conference – and many of you have met him. Well, they got engaged last October and married (in Britain) this month. We hope you two are very happy together!

AGM

Thank you to those who attended the AGM on 20th July. Our Annual Report for 2010 is now on the website at: <http://www.camdenabudis.net/docs/CADFA%20annual%20report%20%202009-10.pdf>

The following were re-elected as trustees:

- Munir Nusseibeh, Chair
 - Luca Salice, Vice-Chair
 - Annika Miller-Jones, Treasurer
 - Cristina Piccoli, Secretary
 - Mike Fletcher, Trustee
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THANKS TO SO MANY OF YOU

We would like to say a formal thank you to some of the people who have helped to make CADFA's work possible this year –helping to keep us going, positive, creative and determined... There have really been too many volunteers to name, though we hope you will all come to CADFA's birthday event and we can all say thank you to each other!

This year though has been another year of growth in CADFA and the money issue has underlain all sorts of things. So we would like to single out Beth and Pat and Jonathan who have sustained our increasingly-complicated finance system. A really big **THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU.**

Membership due in September – please pay by monthly standing order

It was agreed at AGM that we will change our membership fee to encourage people to pay by monthly standing order (minimum £2 a month to be a member, except concessions – minimum £1).

One-off membership then rises to £30 a year.

This will help enormously by cutting down work with reminders and help us build a reliable financial base. So of course we hope to encourage people to donate more if they can.

You can set up your standing order through your bank (to CADFA, sort code 08-92-99, account number 6518 0334) OR on one of our forms (we'll send you one if you need one). You can do it via Paypal on the website if that is better for you.

News from Abu Dis. *Just some samples...*

An evening in Abu Dis:

“ This night the 15th of August at around 10 pm there brothers Osama 34, Ibrahim21 and Abdurrahman 15 years old went all to visit their grandmother who lives near the cross road which reach the military camp in Abu Dis, because of the hot weather they decide to set all out side the house which is right near the main street.

Few minutes later an Israeli police border jeep went down the military camp and stop near the brothers, four soldiers went out of the jeep and ask the brothers about their IDs and without any reason they all start to beat the youngest brother Abdurrahman with their guns and with heavy wood stacks.

Osama and Ibrahim tried to help their brother but also was beaten badly people on the street and the shops around also came to help when the soldiers start to throw tear gas and sound bombs, around 20 other soldiers came from the military camp, they surrounded the area.

Two of the three brothers was badly injured mostly on their heads but the soldiers refuse to allow the ambulance to take them to the hospital instead the soldiers arrest them and take them to the military camp.

Nabil Bader who is the father of the three brother went to the military camp and spent more than one hour trying to see his sons, a military officer told him that he can take his sons to the health center but he want to be sure that there will not be any complains to the police aginst the army.

The father who lost his older son Abdullah when an Israeli soldier shot and killed him the first intifada 1990 was not ready even to think before agree to what that officer asked.

The brothers was after that sent to Almaqased health center in Abu Dis with their grandmother who also was injured trying to protect her grandsons.

More than 200 people from Abu Dis came to see what happened and some of the youths close the main street and the army start to shot tear gas and sound bombs I still can hear it now.”

Rawan Thawabteh arrested again at 3 in the morning.

Members of women’s links may remember writing to a young woman who was imprisoned in Israeli prisons in 2004 at the age of 16. (Her story is in women’s newspapers that came from Abu Dis.) She was freed in February 2008 and set out to study law – but was arrested again by Israeli soldiers at 3 am a few days ago. We don’t have further news (as her parents did not know what had happened to her, at time of writing).

An upsetting video of a small child

Among the things that have been sent to us recently by friends in Palestine is a very upsetting video from Hebron showing a young child’s distress as family members are arrested and he is ignored and left on his own, following the jeep

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WAct4G1rj4>



Summer volunteer

CADFA in Abu Dis

Volunteer for CADFA in Abu Dis or Camden – Please contact us!

Hear about the experience of our most recent volunteers in Palestine – Tuesday 21st September, 7.30pm... see below**

Kids' summer camp

This summer, five CADFA volunteers were in Abu Dis, four of them working on the Dar Assadaqa summer camp – a project supported by CADFA, and an important one, as this was the only summer camp for children in Abu Dis this year. It sounds as if it was lively and good fun, and the volunteers have returned to London full of energy to help with CADFA's work here.



**** Come and hear about the summer camp at a talk with pictures at CADFA's open meeting on Tuesday, 21st September, 7.30pm at Torriano Meeting House.****

There are some more photos from the summer camp at:

http://cid-cf95bb571ff121d3.photos.live.com/play.aspx/Dar%20Assadaqa%20summer%20camp%202010/938%5E_1145.JPG?client=wnf&sa=559101366



Shehadeh Mohsen Diabetic Clinic

The diabetic clinic continues its useful work, and has been doing extra things with the patients in the last few weeks. One of them was an outing to the old city of Nablus. Another (pictured) was a special education session on how diabetic patients can deal with fasting in Ramadan. (Note this picture was taken in Dar Assadaqa which has been substantially repainted this summer.)

Abu Dis event on 18th September

On 18th September in Abu Dis, there will be a book launch of our new book "Stories from our Mothers," which is the twin event to the one to be held in London on 25th September (see below).

Money – our fundraising efforts continue.

We put out a serious appeal earlier this year and we are grateful to you all for your responses. Many thanks to those who collected/ donated/ thought up funding schemes/ joined the fundraising group. We are not out of the woods yet, but your efforts have given us a big boost.

Unfortunately, it is clear now that we were right and the funders we were hoping might help us this year have a lot less money now due to the current economic climate. We are keeping a serious eye on this and welcome forthcoming efforts.

Three messages to you now:

(1) We are planning to KEEP GOING.

(2) In order to continue, we are going to have to have more fundraisers and ask you for your help in thinking of ways to raise the money to enable us to go on with our work.

(3) We are making a big effort now to build up the number and amount of standing orders. Please would you consider making a standing order if you don't have one and maybe, if you do have one, see if you might raise it little – if that is possible

Raffle

We will be having a grand CADFA raffle during the autumn. Please let us know if you have access to any good prizes. Thank you.



A really special barbecue

Thank you very much Munir and friends for arranging such a lovely and memorable BBQ on 18th July. Here was one of the emails just afterwards: “Last Sunday in Mecklenburgh Square was very,very special, quite magical, I thought, with **everything** gelling beautifully - weather, setting, people, food, music. (It really is a wonderful venue for a barbecue.)”

Thank you very much to those who cooked and helped and played and also to those of you who came!

CADFA in Camden

The annual report now on the website goes only up to the end of March. We have been very busy since then in Camden.

Youth visit in June

Our fifth kids' visit in June was another stunning success. The kids were happy, the visit was interesting, the school and youth club visits went well. Here was comment after the visit from one school...

"I really want to stress how universally acclaimed your visit was. The Year 8 students have all written thank-you cards - so we'll have to have follow-up meeting to hand them over. The ones I've seen are rather wonderful. I wonder if we might be able to use the film next year as a Year 9 (as they will then be) assembly. It might be nice to think of idea/s to develop. The kids were so interested. The staff also..."



The kids' own reports were glowing, and the Camden and Abu Dis kids were so sad to leave each other. Note, only 15 of the 16 kids in the project are in this pic above, as one girl didn't join us in Brighton. (We had 8 from Camden and 8 from Abu Dis)



Youth film coming

The kids made film throughout the week, some of which is now on YouTube on the CamdenAbuDis channel. Those short films express their interest in their work together. They will be re-edited together with further footage taken during their visit to make a film that will be given to schools and youth clubs in both Camden and Abu Dis.

Hiroshima Day

The CADFA banner and several CADF A members were at a memorial

on 6th August to the victims of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki . A survivor of the bomb gave us some paper cranes for peace which we will give to children in Abu Dis.

Stalls

CADFA has been well-represented at community festivals all over Camden – thanks to those of you who have helped with this. (The Mayor tells us wherever he goes we turn up...) We want to continue to be at community events of all sorts, so do tell us of places you think we should be, and also please offer to help!

Things for sale

We have really special inlaid boxes, scarves, bags, mugs, olive oil, books... **Everything you need for presents – don't forget!**

Stories from our Mothers – Film, video conference and book



Work on the women's project continued after the women's visit in March. Ausra Linkeviciute has made a lovely film of the two women's visits (to Palestine and to Britain), and stories told by the Palestinian women have been put together with some of the British women's stories and photos to make a book, "Stories from our Mothers" that will be launched here in a special event on **Saturday 25th September.**

Next visit to Abu Dis/ Palestine

We are planning two visits to Palestine in October 2010 (depending on the numbers of people) – one, we think, just before, and one during the half term in October – with a possible one for teachers at that point (not yet confirmed). Do contact us for further information.

View from the CADFA guesthouse balcony, Abu Dis.



Ways to join in – be active in Camden

We really welcome your involvement and there are many ways to be involved. The following groups are active

- Women's links
- Education links
- Health links
- Student links
- Youth links
- Fundraising group

Many specific jobs to do... We need regular help with our mailouts, putting videos on to You Tube, with press, with events, with sales, with our prisoner campaign..... So many things.

Please do contact us: we welcome your help **contact @camdenabudis.net**

This autumn we will be trying to make the most of the speakers, books, films and other resources we have in order to talk to as many people as possible about the human rights situation in Palestine. Please see if you can encourage groups you know to ask us for any of these...

Please contact us if your organisation wants a speaker or CADFA material...

Available in the autumn (and keep an eye on the website)

- * Tom and Ahmed speaking tour*
- Roaming *booklaunches with our Stories from our Mothers film and our new book*
- Kids' film
- Photo exhibition
- And all of our books.

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

promoting human rights

and respect for international humanitarian law

Charity number 1112717