



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

جمعية صداقة
كامدن أبو ديس

*Promoting human rights and respect for
international humanitarian law*



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Charity number 1112717

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Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association (CADFA) in 2010-11

CADFA has kept a steady eye on our objectives (see appendix) and worked very hard this year. The poor human rights situation of the people in Abu Dis continues to give us strong reason for action. We are developing a model of work that promotes human rights and respect for international humanitarian law by developing creative projects between Abu Dis and Camden people that give people in a chance to hear the stories of life in Palestine. This is managing to interest and involve a constantly-increasing number of people.

As an organisation, CADFA is growing up. We have more workers, more volunteers and this year were pleased to have increasing recognition from organisations in both places. We noticed that we have gained the respect of some groups who had previously not chosen to be involved with us. We believe this because we have been around for several years now and proved ourselves both through the quality of our activities and by spending time explaining our work and the situation in Palestine carefully to people who had previously not understood them. In any case we see that increasing numbers of people in Camden are giving time to listen to the human rights experiences told by people in Abu Dis. We are particularly glad that by now, nine Camden schools have shown interest in linking with Palestinian schools.



Our work falls into four main areas:

- Visits and volunteers
- Information: public meetings, publications and the website
- Encouraging friendship links and projects with Abu Dis
- Campaign work including urgent actions

In addition,

- we work to support and encourage other groups interested in twinning with Palestine to promote human rights, and we are active within the Britain Palestine Twinning Network.

The work we have been doing has given hundreds of people the chance to interact and learn from people different from themselves. It has brought new experiences and skills to dozens of volunteers. We have been told that for children in Abu Dis, it has opened a window of opportunity to see the outside world. It has brought people in Britain and Abu Dis a knowledge of a different

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culture and an opportunity to extend their sympathies and also to learn a new language. Many new friendships have been made. Our congratulations to Sarah Boon, a Camden teacher, and Ahmed Afana from Abu Dis: having met through CADFA's visit and volunteer programme, they got married in 2010.

For CADFA, finance has been a challenge this year. This is further explored in the last section. We are still working determinedly to overcome that challenge so we can continue our work which aims to focus on the needs of ordinary people in Palestine and promote their human rights.

This report is dedicated with thanks to the many people, both in Britain and in Palestine, who have worked together and taken part in these projects this year.



Human rights context 2010-11

CADFA human rights reports are gathered every month and can be seen on our website at www.camdenabudis.net/humanrights.html. Below are some of the violations that were reported this year. Note however that often the things that Palestinians report are the dramatic things – people killed or arrested or beatings by the army. However, human rights violations are part of Palestinians’ life in every aspect. Currently, the current texture of ordinary daily life is coloured by occupation. Our website and books of people’s stories contain further information on this.

Army violence in Abu Dis

- Invasion of Al Quds University campus in May 2010 (a lecturer was arrested)
- Throwing sound bombs into the playground of Abu Dis Boys’ School in December 2010
- Beating many people severely in the streets of Abu Dis, including three brothers who were arrested in August 2010 and repeated incidents in 2011
- House invasions and arrests

Child imprisonment

Dozens of children were arrested in particular in the autumn of 2010. Although the Israeli authorities made some cosmetic changes to their procedures, the children continued to be tricked and beaten into confessions and treated badly in prison.



Abu Dis prisoners, mid-2010 (note how many of them were children)

Child arrests from Abu Dis this year included

- Several 13-year-olds
- Mohammed Hassan Eriqat who was still under medical treatment since he was shot by Israeli soldiers when arrested in 2008
- Walid Sharaf with a chronic illness who was not allowed to take his medicine with him
- Amir Bustami whose father suffered a heart attack inside the court
- Mahmoud Jaffal who showed the court how his thumbs had been shut in a drawer during interrogation and was later punished by being put into solitary confinement for over a month.

There are also thousands of Palestinian adults held in poor conditions in Israeli jails. From Abu Dis this year, this included

- Two teachers from an Abu Dis school and at least one lecturer from the University
- Mohammed Saleh Mohsen who is seriously ill in prison
- Sameer Abu Na'ameh who completed his 25th year inside Israeli jails
- Rawan Thawabteh (a woman who was first arrested at the age of 16) was arrested again
- Fadl Mbayed who is in administrative detention (imprisoned with no trial)

Restrictions on travel

The Israelis refused several people the right to leave Palestine, including a trade unionist and two ex-prisoners. Within Palestine and at Abu Dis, the Separation Wall, the military checkpoints, the pass system and frequent closures made a misery for people, affecting all aspects of their lives – work, education and family life.

Just some examples of ways this affected people's health situation in the past year:

- A worker was shot by Israeli soldiers in October while trying to get past the Wall near Abu Dis to work
- Children with severe cases of diabetes were not given permission to attend clinics in Jerusalem
- Very sick people who were finally allowed to go to hospital had to wait hours for co-ordination and permission to be taken in ambulances
- Old and sick people taken to hospital were not allowed family visits from the West Bank and died on their own in Jerusalem
- In January 2011 the Israeli authorities announced that West Bank women would no longer be allowed to go to Jerusalem hospitals to give birth.

Settlements



The pressures on Palestinians and on their land increased as despite international condemnation and a temporary freeze on settlement construction, the Israeli government allowed an extension of settlement building.

They continued work on a new segregated transport infrastructure of roads, buses and a new tram system to bring the settlements around Jerusalem and at the same time shutting the Palestinians out of the city.

- The Israeli government announced new decisions to continue building settlement units in and around Maale Adumim settlement which is built on Abu Dis and Aizariyeh land.
- This year the Israelis changed the names of the checkpoints that punctuate Palestine to Hebrew names – asserting a take-over of that land.

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- There was increased settler violence across the West Bank. Just one example (seen by CADFA visitors to the West Bank) was the burning of a girls' school in Assawiya village.



- In Abu Dis, there is less direct settler violence than there was in the 80s and 90s as the big local settlements have been secured by the Israeli authorities with checkpoints and a new framework of roads. The settlements still affect Abu Dis lives very badly through the extending loss of land, settlement rubbish and sewage, and though Palestinians are not allowed in the settlements without special permission, the police station on the settlement is known to those who have been arrested and to their families as a torture centre.

Problems for the Bedouin

People in the Bedouin village in the Abu Hindi valley between Maale Adumim and Qidar settlements (living on Abu Dis land) reported

- huge problems with being allowed to build and with having their houses demolished by the Israeli authorities.
- that settlers cause them great trouble including (some time back) sending burning car tyres rolling into a wedding, causing injuries to many women.
- though they live next to the pipes that carry water to the settlement, they have to travel to buy water from Abu Dis
- sewage pipes coming from Qidar settlement into their area
- living with no electricity and having their generator repeatedly taken by the army



Jerusalem

Last year we noted an escalation in the pressures on Palestinians in the middle of Jerusalem. This is of great concern to people in Abu Dis who are only separated from Jerusalem by the Separation Wall. They regard themselves as Jerusalemites, can see the Dome of the Rock and the housing of Jerusalem and can hear the sounds of shooting when there is trouble in the city.

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The escalation has continued. Palestinians are being forced out of houses and they are being taken over for Israeli settlers. Silwan has been a particular point of tension and many young people have been imprisoned or exiled from their homes there. This terrible picture is of a child who was driven into by a settler, and then arrested.

Three people have been killed by Israelis in Jerusalem this year, four Palestinian parliament members forced out of the city, one of whom was one moved by force to Ramallah and his Jerusalem ID taken.

CADFA's work

Main CADFA projects 2010-11

Human Rights through Twinning with Palestine

Funded by the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust



Our core human rights work, informs and supports all of our other work and we continue to need ongoing funding for it.

A grant from the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust and smaller donations from others enabled us to collate and translate monthly human rights reports, improve the human rights information on our website, produce leaflets on human rights issues and carry out urgent action work and campaigning.



Area-linking visit between Camden and Abu Dis schools

Funded by British Council



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association is working with the Camden local authority and nine schools in Camden to help them build links with Abu Dis schools. This year we worked with the Schools Improvement Service to run workshops for teachers, provided speakers and materials for schools and organised the third teachers' visit to Abu Dis schools funded through the British Council under their Area-Linking programme. Nine teachers (one teacher from each of these schools) have been meeting in preparation for a visit to Palestine in early April 2011, with the project of working with Abu Dis schools to plan on-going curriculum links.



Abu Dis speaker in a Camden school assembly



Young Film-makers for Human Rights

Funded by EU Youth in Action and Royal Jordanian Airways
Patron: Ken Loach
In partnership with City Learning Centre.



During summer 2010, we had our very

successful fifth youth visit from Palestine. Eight young people from Camden were given time off their school timetables to join eight young people from Abu Dis in a project making film



about human rights and anti-discrimination. This took them on visits across London and to schools and youth clubs in Camden. Together, they made a series of small films and the final product, a DVD called „Don't Divide Us“ was distributed to schools and youth clubs in Camden and Abu Dis.

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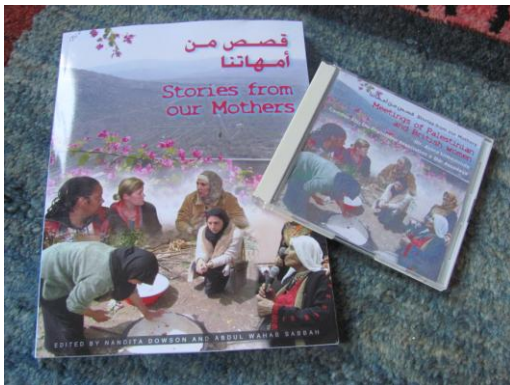
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Stories from our Mothers (Meetings of Palestinian and British Women)

Funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation



This women's project involving British and Palestinian women had included group exchange visits in the previous year. During this year, stories gathered during the visit were collated and translated. Women from both countries met in a video conference in June 2010, and a bilingual book was launched in Camden in September and in Abu Dis in October 2010. A film was also made about the exchange visits, and both book and film have been repeatedly shown and read from in public meetings in both countries.



New book and two new films:

Stories from our Mothers (Meetings of Palestinian and British women)

+ *Don't Divide Us*

The activities above have enabled CADFA to produce further resources for schools, colleges and the public. The Stories from our Mothers book and film were launched in London in September 2010 and in Palestine in October. „Don't Divide Us“ was first shown in London in a November event to mark UN Children's Day and then launched in both places

on Human Rights Day in December. Since then they have been shown many times across Britain to explain this type of twinning activity and to create awareness of the human rights situation in Palestine.

CADFA work in Palestine

CADFA human rights work in Abu Dis

Our co-ordinator in Abu Dis is at the heart of our work in collecting, disseminating and responding to information on the human rights situation in the local area. This work includes linking with local people, collating monthly human rights reports and leading human rights tours of the local area. This year we were able to pay a part-time project worker to help him.

Dar Assadaqa, Abu Dis

We continue to support this community centre in Abu Dis which is open to all sections of the community but is particularly strong in work with women and young people. We supported youth activities including a film club and an environment club during term time and a summer camp in the long summer holiday.





Linking with other organisations

Our co-ordinator has worked during the year to strengthen our relationship with many local organisations including the Abu Dis local council, the Ministry of Education, the Human Rights clinic at the Al Quds University. People from women's centres across the West Bank have been involved in the Stories from our Mothers project.

Shehadeh Mohsen Diabetic Clinic, Abu Dis

This programme continued during the year to serve diabetic patients from Abu Dis who are not allowed by Israel to go to Jerusalem for treatment.

Volunteers in Palestine

We have had seven volunteers from Britain in Abu Dis at different times during this year who worked with local women, schools and young people. We have worked this year to improve and formalise our support system for volunteers.



CADFA volunteer teacher (centre) in Abu Dis

Strengthening links between Camden and Abu Dis

Camden is becoming famous in Abu Dis and the work of CADFA is getting more widely known in Camden. CADFA stalls were a regular presence during Camden summer fairs and festivals. Links between community centres have been strengthened through the Stories from our Mothers visits, health links were strengthened by the visit to Camden of Dr Huda Dahbour in March 2011 and the growth in friendship between schools is discussed above.



We were very pleased to welcome the Deputy Mayor of Camden to the launch of the Stories from our Mothers book in September 2010, and the Abu Dis Mayor sent a letter and video message for the Camden Mayor who opened our Youth Event at Maria Fidelis School in November. The picture shows the Camden Mayoress, CADFA co-ordinator and Palestinian visitors at the Coram's Field International Women's Day event in March 2011.

This year, links between CADFA and the student unions in SOAS, UCL, LSE, King's College strengthened. British students have joined our visits to Palestine and also volunteered at Dar Assadaqa; Palestinian visitors spoke at meetings in the universities in London. We have run a number of joint events with the student unions and have together begun to plan for a student visit from Abu Dis to Camden during next year.

Visits to Britain and Palestine



This year, CADFA organised three visits to Britain: the children's visit in June 2010, a visit to coincide with the Britain Palestine Twinning Conference in November and a women's visit for International Women's Day in 2011. This year our priority was to bring visitors from our partner twinning groups (Tower Hamlets-Jenin and Pendle-Beit Leed). Each visit included visits to local organisations to strengthen links and public meetings to talk about the human rights situation in Palestine.

CADFA arranged four group visits to Palestine during this year and also

arranged tours for our volunteers who were in Palestine helping with the Dar Assadaqa summer. Visitors went to towns, villages and refugee camps and learned about the human rights situation. Each visit is designed according to the interests of people going: this year one of our visits focused on music, two of them paid special attention to education and two of the visits were designed to help and encourage for people from twinning groups across Britain. Our general and themed visits are very well-reviewed and many of the visitors come back and go on working with us. Many also disseminate their experiences in public meetings, or write about what they have seen.

In March, some of George McSweeney's photos were exhibited in Flapjack's café in Kentish Town.

There are reports from our visits to Palestine on <http://www.camdenabudis.net/visitreports.html>



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Campaign work

During the year, we have raised issues of individual and general human rights violations in a number of ways. Urgent action issues this year included: sound bombs thrown into Abu Dis school playground, treatment of child prisoners Khalil Qreia, Mohammed Halabiyeh, Mohammed Eriqat, Walid Sharaf and also a fire set by settlers in Assawiya School (where we have been



working closely with the Assawiya-Llanidloes twinning group).

Our lawyer wrote on our behalf to the North West London Waste Authority about Veolia, a company which is involved in building the infrastructure for the illegal settlements around Jerusalem.

We have worked in different ways on different issues, writing sometimes to our representatives and sometimes

working with our members and friends to make mass letters to the Israeli authorities or to our representatives. CADFA has written letters to MPs, the Foreign Office, MEPs and has visited our MP to talk in particular about the issue of child prisoners which was very important this year.

We have produced new information leaflets about child prisoners.

We have worked with Palestinian and Israeli human rights organisations to seek help for people suffering human rights violations and for their families – We have regular contact with B'tselem, Addameer, Defence for Children International.

We have organised public meetings with speakers to inform and demonstrations to draw attention to the issues.

We have worked to widen the dissemination of our monthly human rights reports and often write shorter reports on specific issues both to inform and to urge action.

E-campaigning

We are changing some of the ways that we communicate generally, using Facebook as well as email, and we have recently organised an e-petition for the first time, running this together with a letter that we are collecting in hard copy on the subject of child prisoners to be delivered to the Foreign Office and the EU Parliament following 17th April (Palestinian Prisoners' Day).

Supporting other twinning links with Palestine

Working with the Britain Palestine Twinning Network
Partnerships with Tower Hamlets-Jenin and with Pendle-Beit Leed



We continued to be a strong member of the Britain Palestine Twinning Network, helping new groups to find twinning partners, providing speakers and advice, leading workshops at the Palestinian Network conference in Bil'in in April and in the British



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Network conference in Bristol in November, helping organise another Palestinian conference for April 2011 in Abu Dis.

This year we worked in partnership with Tower Hamlets and Pendle groups, helping them to strengthen their grassroots twinning links with Palestine and organising twinning visits in both directions.



Looking ahead

Progress this year

Once again this year we grew solidly and reached hundreds of new people. There was a steady increase in interest in our work in both Camden and Abu Dis. While the human rights situation in Palestine is grave, there are many markers of a strong interest and wish to do something about it in Camden and more widely in Britain.

CADFA's work was helped by having more staff than previously. We now have a co-ordinator and part-time administrator in Camden, a co-ordinator and part-time project worker in Abu Dis. This small team is doing the work of a much bigger team, leading our human rights work, running projects well, keeping on top of the administration as CADFA grows and seeking funding to allow the work to continue. We also have a good team of volunteers. Our organisation is maturing and the people involved remain positive and hard-working.

It was a hard year however in terms of finances. We now have big monthly responsibilities and to date have managed to cover them through a combination of appeals, sales, events and funding bids. With more funded projects this year requiring more complex systems and checks, we have improved our systems for those bigger projects and also examined the income and costs of the smaller projects that we run. We have found that we had underestimated the real cost of the visits we run both to and from Palestine. We are still keen to do these visits as they help us meet our objectives but we will need to review their pricing for the future.

This year, several big payments owed to us came to us very late and at year end we are still waiting for second-tranche payments from Youth in Action and Anna Lindh. We also found that some of the grants that we hoped to apply for were not open for applications when expected, which caused us a good deal of worry. In June/ July we alerted members to an emergency and are very grateful to our membership for working hard to help us. For the first time we borrowed money from some members to tide us over until the funds expected would arrive. A fundraising team of members got together and worked to help us by organising a number of memorable fundraising events and seeking further standing orders. We want to thank all of these friends very much for their help. We remain very much in need of help and would appreciate your suggestions.

The annual accounts are attached.

Of our aims from last year, we achieved all that related to our work and activities. Owing to the uncertainty of our funding, we were not able to make the staff posts permanent or to open the small office in Camden. We have however costed this into recent funding applications and hope to make progress on it during the next year.

CADFA aims for 2010-11

Completed:

- ✓ Produce a book of women's stories – "Stories from our Mothers"
- ✓ Bring another group of young people to Camden in June 2010
- ✓ Continue to work with schools on human rights in Palestine
- ✓ Produce a short film about our work to be distributed through Camden
- ✓ Strengthen student links between the two places through visits
- ✓ Take a group of teachers to Abu Dis (date of visit early April 2011)

Partly done:

- Create and advertise the Camden posts of director and administrator of CADFA and establish a further post in Abu Dis.

Still to do:

- ✗ Have a small office in Camden.

Next steps for CADFA

During the next year we hope to:

- Produce an introductory book on twinning with Palestine to promote human rights
 - Bring another group of young people to Camden in June 2011
 - Strengthen women's and student links through further visits
 - Support school twinning links between Camden and Abu Dis
 - Work to strengthen the Twinning with Palestine movement nationally
 - Keep raising the profile of the Child Prisoner Campaign
 - Support youth, community, women's, education and health projects in Abu Dis to at least the level of this year
 - Maintain at least the staffing level of 2009-10 and start a small office in Camden.
-

Thank you

The trustees would like to formally record their thanks for their hard work to the CADFA staff:

CADFA Co-ordinator, Nandita Dowson,
Co-ordinator in Abu Dis, Abdul Wahab Sabbah
CADFA part-time administrator, Mercedes Malcomson
Project worker in Abu Dis, Najah Ayyad

In addition so many people have contributed money, time and energy that has made our work possible. Some of you have helped us to finance our work; some of you have been formal volunteers in Camden or in Abu Dis; others of you have provided fantastic help with particular projects during the year. Many many thanks to all of you. Without you it would not have been possible. We hope that when you look back at what we have achieved together this year, you feel proud and motivated to carry on to another busy and purposeful CADFA year 2011-12.

Appendices

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association is a Camden organisation dedicated to promoting human rights in Abu Dis, a Palestinian town in the East Jerusalem suburb that is currently divided from Jerusalem by the Separation Wall, and in Palestine more generally.

Along with others in Palestine, people in Abu Dis suffer many violations of human rights as a result of the illegal Israeli occupation and its practices. We work to make links between organisations and groups in Camden and Abu Dis and help people to work on positive projects together, because we believe this is an effective way to draw the human rights situation in Abu Dis to the attention of people in Camden and to work with others locally to do something about it.

CADFA came into being during 2004, was constituted as a charity in June 2005 and gained recognition as a charity in January 2006. There is more information about CADFA and our activities on our website, www.camdenabudis.net

CADFA's objects

CADFA's objects are to promote human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) and respect for international humanitarian law in the area of Abu Dis, a region of Palestine, by all or any of the following means:

- Raising awareness of human rights and humanitarian issues relevant to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in general and to the situation of Abu Dis in particular;
 - Researching and monitoring abuses of human rights and infringements of humanitarian law in Abu Dis;
 - Educating the public about human rights and humanitarian law;
 - Promoting public support for human rights and the observance of humanitarian law;
 - Working to eliminate abuses of human rights and infringements of humanitarian law in Abu Dis;
 - Working to obtain and promote redress for the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law in Abu Dis and their families;
 - Providing support to and relieving need among the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families, in Abu Dis.
-

CADFA's trustees 2010-11 (AGM was on 20th July 2010)

Munir Nuseibeh, Chair
Luca Salice, Vice-Chair
Cristina Piccoli, Secretary
Annika Miller-Jones, Treasurer
Mike Fletcher, Trustee
Shereen Pandit, Trustee from March 2011

Organisations that supported CADFA in 2010-11

Thank you for your support to many individuals and to the following organisations:

- **Al Quds University Palestine**
- **Anna Lindh Foundation**
- **Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust**
- **British Council**
- **Calthorpe Project, Gray's Inn Rd WC1**
- **Edith Neville Primary School**
- **Global Generation**
- **Gospel Oak Primary School**
- **Hampstead School**
- **Maria Fidelis Convent School**
- **National Union of Teachers, Camden**
- **Primrose Hill Primary School**
- **SOAS Palestine Society**
- **South Camden City Learning Centre**
- **South Camden Community School**
- **Torriano Meeting House NW5**
- **Youth in Action (European Union)**

Some main events 2010-11

April 10	Nita Dhinsa ran a half-marathon for CADFA Prisoners' Day activity CADFA conference, London Twinning visit to Palestine including twinning workshop in Bil'in Music visit to Palestine
May 10	Meeting on human rights and the Palestinian nakba Meeting for teachers on Palestine and human rights in the classroom
June 10	Video conference between women in Camden and Abu Dis CADFA at Camden Green Fair and then at summer fairs all over Camden Young Film Makers for Human Rights: youth visit to Britain Refugee Week Concert at South Camden Community School
July 10	Tour of Palestine for summer volunteers CADFA garden party and barbecue CADFA AGM
September 10	Launch of Stories from our Mothers book at Somers Town Community Centre, Camden
October 10	Launch of Stories from our Mothers book at Al Quds University, Abu Dis Twinning visit to Palestine Meeting about volunteering in Abu Dis with feedback and photos from recently-returned volunteers
November 10	Youth event for UN Children's Day at Maria Fidelis School: new youth film Poetry for Palestine – CADFA Eid event CADFA visitors speak at Britain Palestine Twinning Conference, Bristol
December 10	Human Rights Day concert at Rosslyn Hill Chapel + new youth film
February 11	Ken Loach film benefit at Tricycle Cinema with new youth film Visit to Palestine
March 11	Women's visit from Palestine International Women's Day Stories from our Mothers film and discussion at Calthorpe Benefit for Twinning Network at Somers Town Community Centre Meal in Brick Lane to celebrate the link between CADFA and Tower Hamlets Opening of photo exhibition, „Wailing at the Wall“ in Flapjack's Café (open for a month) Stories from our Lives" events at UCL Stories from our Lives" events at King's College CADFA at Coram's Fields International Women's Day event CADFA at „Celebrate Palestine" event at SOAS

CADFA ACCOUNTS - 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

	2009 / 10	2010 / 11
Balances Brought Forward	14,832	3,079
RECEIPTS	£	£
Fundraising, Donations & Memberships	67,321	63,861
Gift Aid Received	2,270	2,205
Bank Interest Received	14	45
Travellers to Palestine	8,961	14,849
Income re the Guest House	0	2,471
	<u>78,566</u>	<u>83,430</u>
PAYMENTS	£	£
Visits to & from Palestine	39,539	23,597
Projects & Events	11,914	14,063
Publications & Printing	713	2,746
Advertising	530	690
Purchases	3,954	3,586
Bank Charges & Exchange (Gains) / Losses	331	-380
Other Running Costs	1,867	1,298
Staff costs (Camden and Abu Dis)	31,470	40,364
	<u>90,318</u>	<u>85,964</u>
Surplus / Deficit for Year	<u>-11,752</u>	<u>-2,534</u>
Surplus Carried Forward	<u>£3,079</u>	<u>£545</u>