

GAZA -

- (1) Appeal and progress of the aid collected /
- (2) Report from Gaza /
- (3) Action on Saturday (tomorrow)/
- (4) Gaza concert on 17th Feb at Rosslyn Hill Chapel



(1) Special thanks to those groups and individuals who have contributed to **CADFA's Gaza appeal**. This is to let you know that we have managed so far to send two lots of money over and a third is on the way. Attached (on p3 and 4 here) are

- a letter from an Abu Dis doctor to us about the money we have sent (p5)
- a press release from Abu Dis (p6)
- and also some photographs of aid being put on a lorry in Abu Dis. The banner on the front of the lorry in Arabic says **Aid to our people in Gaza - the popular committee in Abu Dis**. The boxes marked from us contain medical equipment.





The aid is getting to Gaza though it takes extra time as permissions have to be negotiated with the Israelis and things have to come off and on the trucks at checkpoints. We and the Abu Dis Committee are still collecting. If you would like to make donations, please do so via Paypal on the website and note that is is for Gaza, or send a cheque to the address below and put GAZA on the back of the cheque. We will get that money there very quickly.

(2) This **letter came this morning from Gaza**

This is from a previous CADFA volunteer in Abu Dis (a British doctor) who is now in Gaza. Attached is the picture she refers to (gaza126)

hi, what to say? the aftermath of the massacre leaves destroyed families and buildings, no sign of cement coming in, rafah still intermittently closed, many patients transferred to egypt and lost into black hole of buearocracy and families cannot trace. medical staff and people still shellshocked although cars and people on the streets

again but all people have the memories of the events of 20 days bombardment, charred bodies and probably no family is intact. we visited a number of homes where people often children sit with legs in plaster, dressings on multiple wounds not sure what happened and what is going to happen as the medical services probably did break under the strain and now only with all the visitors is there an ongoing care. medical staff here need time off but still sit in clinics trying to cope. Money will no doubt pour into the system now but unless there is some justice over the use of unconventional weapons on a civilian population so the extent that almost every street had bits of phosphorus mixture that kids play with to make it ignite 20 days later in some cases. That also needs clearing up safely particularly as rain water or heat of the summer could reignite these remnants. children are already getting fingers and faces burnt as they play with remnants in the streets. reports will come out but all effort must be made to bring some justice to the palestinian people. Phosphorus and possible other materials used may also have a later carcinogenic effect. I am ok and being accompanied by Greek and Uk colleagues some of the time which is good when seeing and hearing about these events. such weapons should not even be produced for any use. there are also very disturbing reports of executions by il ground personnel. no wonder il has done its best to keep all journalists and foreigners out as long as they could and for most of the war and still making it very difficult for entry with egyptian beaurocratic help even to deciding that a psychiatrist was not 'medical enough - not needed' in thi situation and therefore not allowed in.

knowing when to leave will be difficult as it will take many years and perhaps never for all the physical scars and rebuilding to be done as well as the unseen psychological ones. but much will be healed and helped if there is some justice here. without that the physical scars on the bodies and buildings here may be patched up but the deeper psychological ones will remain without the healing salve of some restorative justice.

the picture is as it says - the american school in gaza targetted by il probably with munitions from usa. what an education we are giving here.

Sonia



(3) Please do come if you can to our die-in protest at the slaughter in Gaza...
tomorrow, Saturday 1-2 at Mornington Crescent.

This will be in parallel with Abu Dis. See pictures attached to see how we envisage it - though with more people we expect!



Also an article from the Camden New Journal on Tuesday's protest outside the Israeli Ambassador's house in Camden. Tomorrow we are calling for a lot more people, so **please come and bring some friends and also if you can a white sheet to lie under (and something to lie on).**

Great Britain is a High Contracting Party of the Fourth Geneva Convention. CADFA are calling on our government to pursue its responsibilities under that convention, and so to take the initiative in investigating + prosecuting for war crimes.

(4) **Please book your ticket ASAP and invite all your friends to the SONGS FOR GAZA concert on Tuesday 17th Feb.**

It will be a very special concert with musicians from Abu Dis including the amazing oud player Ahmed Eriqat (some of you heard him last year) who has written some special songs for Gaza to be played on Palestinian TV.

It is school half-term so difficult for some of you - If you can't come but would like to donate, you can do this via the website or cheque, as above.

And **please please please spread the word - Can you please send on the leaflet (also attached)?**

Many thanks for your help.

28th January 2009

Dear friends in Camden

This is to thank you for the two lots of help with medical supplies for Gaza that you have already sent, and for your promise to help more. We are happy to work together with you to try to support the people of Gaza who need help very much.

We are using the money that you send to buy medical supplies and medicines. The first lot was used for simple medical supplies like blood bags and bandages which doctors in Gaza asked for. We put these with the supplies gathered by people in Abu Dis (food, blankets etc) on a United Nations truck and sent it via Israel to Gaza. The medical supplies were to go straight to the hospitals.

The second lot of money has been used to buy medicines that doctors in Gaza need, which we ordered from Palestinian medical manufacturers in Birzeit near Ramallah. This has gone together with other medicine ordered by the Palestinian Health Relief and carried on transport belonging to the Palestinian Red Crescent to the Gazan hospitals.

These supplies going via Israel manage to get into Gaza but slowly and with difficulty. Everything has to be negotiated with Israel and unloaded and reloaded at checkpoints.

After the terrible Israeli attack and destruction to Gaza, the people of Gaza are still suffering badly and are still under siege from Israel and it is important that we keep working for them.

We very much value your effort and look forward to continuing to work together.

Dr Abdullah Abu Hilal
GP in Abu Dis at the al-Muqassed Clinic and the Camden Clinic
Camden Abu Dis Health Links representative on the
Abu Dis Committee to Support Gaza

PRESS RELEASE FROM ABU DIS 28-1-09

[translated from the Arabic, which follows]

The popular committee of solidarity with Gaza in Abu Dis has sent two lorries of humanitarian aid to Gaza

Today 28-1-09 the committee of solidarity with Gaza in Abu Dis sent two lorries of humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza via the UNWRA.

The coalition committee began collecting donations in kind at the headquarters of the Water Society in Abu Dis about twenty days ago. Crowds of local people have given generous donations of basic foodstuffs, covers, clothes and medical equipment.

Also sharing in the effort were friends and members of solidarity committees in Britain, specially from the borough of Camden in London which has been making friendship links with the town of Abu Dis. Donations from Britain to the popular committee were sent through the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association. These donations were used to buy necessary medical equipment to send to Gaza.

The committee says that it will continue to gather supplies in support of our besieged people in the Gaza until further notice, until the unjust siege is lifted from them.
