

PRISONERS' HUNGER STRIKE – Camden Abu Dis News – 14th Oct 2011



Thanks to all those who came by yesterday to the prisoner event and to those who got in touch to say it was a hard time for you - it shows it is a live issue among us here as it is for our friends in Palestine.

The talks by Munir (CADFA chair) and Rafeef Ziadeh were interesting. Main points included

(MUNIR)

- Hugeness of the prisoner issue in Palestine
- Most families affected
- Completely bound up with the Occupation, and those in prison include child prisoners (see our other information to you) and, for example, a woman with a Jerusalem I D arrested for driving with her son in the car (he had a green West Bank I D)
- the strength of the prisoners' movement from the time of the British mandate onward
- the fact that the rights that are now being taken from prisoners by the Israelis were hard won through previous struggles and hunger strikes
- but they are rights not privileges

(And a member of the audience commented on the privileges and freedoms allowed to Israeli prisoners including the person for example who killed the prime minister Rabin, and a man who killed 7 Palestinians - in great contrast to the treatment of Palestinians who have done no such thing).



(RAFEEF)

- laid out the demands of the prisoners on hunger strike, including an end to the use of solitary confinement and a protest against forbidding prisoners to study
- children, too, are being prevented from study
- said cosmetic improvements in jail wouldn't do the whole job as the issue is the treatment of Palestinians under Israeli occupation
- says that apartheid is systematic different treatment within one country and that is what there is in the West Bank, where Israeli kids are treated as children till 18 and dealt with by civil courts as juveniles but Palestinians are subject to military courts and treated as children till 16 and not looked after as juveniles
- said that the mums holding pictures of their children outside Red Cross offices across Palestine are the real heroes
- the next 3 days are a real threat to the hunger strikers as there is a Jewish holiday and the spotlight on the prisoners' care will disappear – and there is a threat of removing the salt and water that they need
- she told of the **meeting next Thursday at 6pm in ULU on boycott, divestment and sanctions**
((This is not a cadfa meeting but includes the Israeli historian Ilan Pappé and Palestinian Karma Nabulsi and may be of interest))

FURTHER CADFA ACTION ON PRISONERS



We are working on the idea of a 'prisoner march' at end Oct/ early Nov. But the date isn't confirmed.

Look out for more re hunger strike.

CADFA www.camdenabudis.net

