

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

promotes human rights and respect for international humanitarian law. We make links + create positive projects between groups in Camden and Abu Dis.

There is more information on our website,

www.camdenabudis.net

Abu Dis & the refugee issue

Abu Dis is a small Palestinian town in the Jerusalem suburb, currently divided from Jerusalem by the Israeli Separation Wall. It has been under Israeli military occupation since 1967. We have been told by people there how important the issue of refugees' rights is to them, because

Many refugees from 1948 live in the area

Approximately two-thirds of the people in Abu Dis left as refugees from the war in 1967 & have not been allowed to return

Every family has members who are not allowed to return and live in Abu Dis

There is huge pressure on the land as large swathes are taken over for Israeli settlements (which are illegal under international humanitarian law)

Life is made extremely difficult for people by the Separation Wall, checkpoints, pass laws and denial of their human rights

There is constant pressure on Palestinians to live in smaller and smaller areas, and the threat of being made to leave Palestine altogether, to add to the number of refugees, feels real.

Please join us

Name
Address
Email

Tick as appropriate:

- I would like to join Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association and enclose £10/£5 (concession)
- I would like to make a donation of _____ to Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association (please make cheques payable to CADFA)

I am a UK taxpayer and I would like CADFA to be able to recover tax paid on my donations

I would like to make a standing order to Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

My bank account number is

Sort code is

Bank

Bank address

To the bank manager: Please make a monthly payment to Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association at the Co-op Bank, Sort code 08-92-99

Account Number 6518 0334

of _____ (figs) _____ (words)

With the first payment on _____ (date)

Signed _____

Dated _____

Please return to

CADFA, PO Box 34265, London NW5 2WD



PALESTINIAN REFUGEES



Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

جمعية صداقة كامدن أبوديس

Promoting human rights and respect for international humanitarian law

Charity number 1112717



Refugees

Since its beginning in 1948, Israel has pushed Palestinians to leave their land in the areas under Israeli control [1], and despite international law demanding the right for refugees to return, they have not allowed them to do so. There are currently an estimated six million Palestinians in the diaspora.

Cases of Palestinian people being prevented from returning to their country are still continuing. But there have been two huge waves of refugees. Abu Dis and area houses refugees from the first of these, and itself lost refugees in the second wave.

1947-1948

In 1947-8, there were huge pressures on Palestinians in villages and towns in the west of Palestine to leave. The Zionist armies pushed people from their homes by force: "Half of the indigenous people living in Palestine were driven out, half of their villages and towns were destroyed, and only very few among them ever managed to return." [1]

From 1948 onwards, an unknown number of people tried to return but many were shot or disappeared at the borders. The same happened after 1967.

[1] Ilan Pappé, "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine" (2007)

Abu Dis

Like other places in the West Bank, Gaza and adjacent countries, Abu Dis houses many refugees from 1948 – in the case of Abu Dis, most of them from West Jerusalem and its villages [2]. The refugee community now spans four generations. In Abu Dis, there is an UNWRA [3] school for the children of these refugees.

1967

The Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967 created many more refugees. Abu Dis found itself in the front line, and so most people had to move to save their families [4].

Prevented from returning

Just as in 1948, so in 1967: once it had taken over the land, Israel rapidly closed the border and prevented the Palestinians from returning. People who had been out of the West Bank and Gaza in June 1967 were not allowed to return. Abu Dis lost an estimated two-thirds of its population.

Many thousands found themselves refugees like the people of 1948, hoping and waiting to return.

[2] See CADFA's book, "Voices from Abu Dis" (2008)

[3] United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

[4] See CADFA's book, "The First Six Days"(2007)

"Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country." (article 13)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

"...the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so"

United Nations Resolution 194, 1948

*Photo above, Palestinian refugees 1948;
Front photo, Abu Dis refugees 1967*