

# CAMDEN ABU DIS FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1112717

## Details

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**Other names** CADFA

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2006-01-13

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 53 Fortress Road  
Kentish Town  
London  
NW5 1AD

**Phone** 0203 730 9890

**Email** [contact@cadfa.org](mailto:contact@cadfa.org)

**Website** [www.cadfa.org](http://www.cadfa.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** CADFA'S CHARITABLE 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 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 IN PARTICULAR AND PALESTINE MORE WIDELY; \* 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 IN PARTICULAR AND PALESTINE MORE WIDELY;; \* WORKING TO OBTAIN AND PROMOTE REDRESS FOR THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND INFRINGEMENTS OF HUMANITARIAN LAW IN ABU DIS IN PARTICULAR AND PALESTINE MORE WIDELY 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 IN PARTICULAR AND PALESTINE MORE WIDELY.

**Activities:** Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association works to promote human rights and respect for international humanitarian law in Abu Dis. Palestine. We educate the public through publications, public meetings, friendship links and visits in both directions, and promote positive projects in Abu Dis in such fields as education, health and youth work.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE AREA OF ABU DIS, PALESTINE
- Occupied Palestinian Territories
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

| Period end | Income   | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £186,846 | £173,656    | -      | -         |
| 2024-03-31 | £145,356 | £124,755    | -      | -         |
| 2023-03-31 | £115,555 | £118,132    | -      | -         |
| 2022-03-31 | £84,989  | £87,628     | -      | -         |
| 2021-03-31 | £73,471  | £71,730     | -      | -         |

# Trustees

| Name             | Role | Appointed  |
|------------------|------|------------|
| Cristina Piccoli |      |            |
| Feza Haque       |      | 2025-09-12 |
| Fiona Millar     |      | 2020-10-04 |
| HUGH WALLIS      |      | 2016-06-16 |
| Peter Ashan      |      | 2021-10-16 |
| Rumana Choudhury |      | 2024-04-19 |

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# Accounts

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## CADFA Trustees' annual report 2024-25



# CADFA Trustees' annual report 2024-25

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## Intro -Context

This was one of the worst years, full of the worst news we could imagine. The Israeli onslaught on Gaza went on and on and there was a continual flow of appalling news, horror after horror. At each stage we thought we had heard the worst there is, only to be shown more - bombardments, displacement, imprisonment, torture, and destruction of hospitals, schools and universities. Tens of thousands of people killed and counted (so official numbers), hundreds of thousands dead (Lancet report July 2024), wounded, homeless, hungry and subjected to purposeful famine with food convoys blocked. People herded from their homes – new Nakba pictures of roads full of people walking miles carrying their belongings- and usually southwards in the Gaza Strip, with worries that what Israel (and America) want to do is to push the Palestinians from Gaza. Safe zones bombed, aid workers targeted, paramedics murdered. Slaughter of journalists. After a huge effort to get a ceasefire was achieved for just over a month, Israel didn't want this, and returned both to bombing and to blocking food, water and aid in January.

Although a huge movement against the genocide spread across the world and other governments tried to stop it via the international courts (ignored by Israel), in the UK our local and national politicians were largely silent, some presumably watching their jobs as the party bosses and establishment lined up clearly with Israel. The UK as well as the US continued to supply arms and spare parts for the Israeli military and actively help, sending spy planes over Gaza from Cyprus. All the good words we had heard about human rights, the rule of law, free speech were increasingly hollow. With exceptions, the media were quiet about what was going on. Speaking about Palestine though widespread was framed as extreme - it was frowned on in schools, the



Palestinian flag was taken as a challenge, protests were met with increasingly harsh policing.

Extremist politicians focused on ethnic cleansing and 'settlement' building were in charge in Israel and heartened by the immunity the world's powerful were giving them, they pushed forwards in the West Bank too. Hundreds of Palestinians were killed<sup>1</sup>,

refugee camps attacked with fighter planes and huge bulldozers, pulling up the infrastructure, knocking down homes and displacing tens of thousands. New settlement projects were put in place as the rate of destruction of Palestinian homes in the West Bank and Jerusalem increased. Military gates were put in at the entrances to Palestinian villages, the number of checkpoints increased and the Palestinian roads across the West Bank became slower and more dangerous, as not only the Israeli army but emboldened Israeli settlers became a threat to travellers.

See Appendix F for a human rights report from Abu Dis, and Appendix G for information on what was happening to the towns, villages and refugee camps of our friends from the Beyond the Checkpoints project.



<sup>1</sup> In this year around 500 people were killed by Israel (492) just in the West Bank and Jerusalem. 3,342 people were recorded as wounded, In this one year in the West Bank and Jerusalem, there were 14,137 night raids by the Israeli army into civilian areas (this is counting areas invaded, not individual homes) and 9318 people arrested.

## CADFA's work

CADFA continued to be very active on all the areas we had set ourselves while constantly asking ourselves if we were doing the best we could in the horrible context. We made good progress against the objectives that we had set ourselves (appendix C) with the exception only of the following:

## Visits to Palestine

We said that if we could, we would run visits to Palestine this year and we didn't do that. The situation was not secure for our visitors and importantly we were concerned not to put any pressure on our friends whose lives were being made more difficult by the Israeli occupation by the week.

We also felt that the changed context made it more important to be running visits of Palestinians to the UK. Our motivation is to promote human rights (not just to help people to go because they like to go). For most of twenty years we had run visits to

Palestine (taking hundreds of visitors) in order to raise awareness about what was happening in Palestine and a large number of the visitors then became activists for Palestinian human rights – the visits then were actively helpful in pushing for change. However this year the context had changed: by now many people have been learning about Palestine in the UK through such work and Israel's appalling actions in Palestine were themselves alerting people to the urgent need for change. We felt that now people did not need to go to Palestine in order to find out enough to have reasons to be active. Our job should be to encourage interested people to listen to reports from Palestinians and work for change, including helping Palestinians to come here to speak to an ever wider group of people.

## Visits from Palestine and the Building Hope | Voices from Palestine project

This year, the Building Hope project that had started in 2022 really came into its own. We are now working widely across England and Wales with partners of many sorts – Palestine twinning groups, Palestine solidarity groups (not always PSC), youth organisations and groups of CADFA members in particular places. In Palestine, we have many partners from our work on visits to and from Palestine over the years, and with these partners ran the Beyond the Checkpoints project for another year. In Feb-March we ran a youth visit (reviewed in last year's annual report and the report that can be found on our website). The strong outcomes of that visit pushed us to run three visits from Palestine this year and to continue the Beyond the Checkpoints project for young people in Palestine although it was a difficult year.



## Planning and training visit to the UK



We are working to pass on what we have learned over some years to a wider group of individuals and to other groups and involving more people in central parts of our work. We gave importance this year to clarifying understandings with everyone we were working with. We ran training sessions for people central to our projects before our visits, during our planning visit in July and throughout the February Building Hope Conference visit. Feedback from all of these was good.

In July, we brought our Palestinian co-ordinator to London to take part in a planning and training visit to reach all of the new partners in our upcoming youth visit. This was an opportunity to work with our partners, establish understandings, train in policies and procedures necessary for the youth visit (such as around safeguarding) and strengthen the team that was going to run the youth visits. It also gave an opportunity for him to speak at a number of meetings around the country about the current situation in Palestine. (list places Bradford, Blackburn, Derby, Birmingham, Cornwall, Hackney, Camden) We showed the youth visit film from the Feb-March visit during the trainings and meetings and this was well-received.

## Beyond the Checkpoints



This exciting project that was now in its third year has usually taken a group of Palestinian young people from nine or ten different towns, villages and checkpoints to visit each other's home places. The young people develop their human rights advocacy skills by learning to present their own home town to the others.

We also organise opportunities for the participants to talk to young people from the UK on Zoom and give them the opportunity to apply for a CADFA youth visit to the UK. We have found the young people on our recent visits to the UK have really benefited from the project and come stronger and more confident on the visits as a result.

In the current conditions in the West Bank and Jerusalem, we had to consider carefully whether the Beyond the Checkpoints project should be run this summer. For the young people, the joy of the project had been the visits to other parts of their country but the slowness and danger of the roads between towns made it impossible to take forty young people around the country this year.

Our Palestine co-ordinator discussed this with the partners and they each found three or four young people who joined the project regularly on Zoom. Each group contributed presentations about their own home place and discussed the other participants' presentations. Each small group then had the chance to present on Zoom to people from the UK through our 'Let's Talk About Palestine' sessions – and they said that they had enjoyed the project, although this method was obviously second-best to the visits that have usually happened. At the end of the project, thirty-five young people applied to join CADFA visits to the UK.

## Beyond the Checkpoints youth visit to the UK October

We had a wonderful youth visit from Palestine in October. We would like to thank all the friends of CADFA who worked so hard to raise money and to support the young visitors on this project.

This was the second youth visit in 2024. There is so much to say about these amazing visits. Even in this time of horror, both of these visits (like the women's visits before them, in March and July 2023) showed the Building Hope | Voices from Palestine project living up to its name. We have run dozens of visits since 2005 and always find that they are well worth all the hard work that they entail, that people love meeting Palestinian visitors and that they love to come, that there is massive enjoyment (as well as tiredness!), massive learning and fueling of motivation to be active. We have made them central over the years as they are such a good way of new people meeting Palestinians, of people new and old learning more, of spreading awareness, building the movement for human rights in Palestine.... but these visits, this year, have been extraordinary.



Extraordinary for the people in and around them and for the level of energy they created.. We ended each visit with a crowd of really excited young people who had had a wonderful time, hundreds of people who had helped in one way or another across the UK and thousands of people each time who had met the visitors or seen them

in schools, community events and public meetings – and new groups wanting to be involved. We have pictures and short films and reports articles and speakers and an optimism that people really need at this dire time.

Extraordinary also for the seeds they have planted for the future. Some (not all) of our partner groups were twinning groups at the beginning of the project but the project has encouraged others. We were very pleased (for example) that our youngsters' visit was cited as part of the

background to the twinning that Brent hope to make with Nablus. Ideas of new links arose in Cornwall, Bradford, Bedford and of renewing links in Birmingham.

We were very happy that this group included partners who were new to us and reached people for whom such visits, and the subject of Palestine was new.



After a long wait for visas we took the young Palestinians via Cambridge to the north (Lancashire and Yorkshire), through the Midlands (Derby and Birmingham) and south to Cornwall before returning to London. It was a wonderful visit where they met people of many different ages, took part in many different happy and creative activities. There were many memorable highlights of this visit – from the fierce hail that suddenly struck them on the top of Pendle Hill, to the vigorous dabke in meetings of hundreds of people and the boat trip in Cornwall where the Palestinians whose grandparents were from the Mediterranean coast sang songs about Jaffa at the top of their voices.



The young people were extremely happy (see their report here: <https://www.cadfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/24YV-visitors-reports-in-English.pdf>) Their liveliness and joy touched the hundreds of people they met in schools, youth clubs, leisure activities, touristic and community events. They gathered video during the visit to be made into another youth visit film. New links were made, new interests formed and once again in the middle of horror we felt that this project – difficult though it was – built help and determination for change in a positive direction.



## Building Hope | Voices from Palestine conference visit

In February 2025, we held a very special visit to the UK, which brought leaders from the Beyond the Checkpoints project in Palestine and people active in the Building Hope| Voices from Palestine project in Palestine and the UK. This meant that people from several twinning groups in both countries were with us. The aim was for a



serious discussion with an equal input from people in both sides, looking at what we were doing and thinking about next steps.

Fifteen Palestinian visitors joined us. They came from (Hebron, Al Walajeh, Abu Dis, Silwan, New Askar Camp, Beit Leed and Jenin Camp. The visit began with three days in London for discussion and training together before dividing the group into seven strands, each

two or three to a different place where our UK partners had worked to make a programme of visits and meetings for the visitors. These places were Pendle (with Burnley), Sheffield, Birmingham, Bedford, Hackney, East London (Tower Hamlets, Newham and Redbridge) and Camden (with Islington) These were formal and informal twinning groups (Pendle had long had a formal twinning agreement and Sheffield a new one), one new partnership (Hackney) and Birmingham which had had a link to Ramallah many years previously and our partners considered reviving it. East London had grassroots twinning links as do Camden.

Outside Camden, Mayors met our visitors but in Camden (as recently) we had no answer from the Mayor's Office calling on the Mayor to welcome our visitors from Abu Dis until we did a small demo outside the Camden Town Hall.

The many visits to groups across the country included women to women's centres, academics to universities, workers to trade unions and we also had visits to students' unions and students' university classes.



The whole Palestinian group and many of our UK partners reconvened for the conference in Birmingham. After this, a small group of visitors visited mid-Wales for yet another positive public event and then everyone to London for final events and a serious evaluation and we started to turn our attention to the challenge of running three youth visits to the UK in the following year.

## The Building Hope conference and outcomes from the visit



We had a full house for our conference and with all of our Palestinians and British friends a good set of speakers. Kamel Hawwash from the Birmingham Palestinian community gave a speech welcoming the delegates to Birmingham. Ayoub Khan the local MP was able to join and give a short speech. The UK and Palestinian teams reported back on their week's efforts in their UK communities telling us what had worked, what had been disappointing, lessons and next steps for the future. The workshops

were an important part of the day, in the morning focusing on grassroots links with Palestine and in the afternoon on preparation for youth visits from Palestine.

It was very clear that the work we are doing is fruitful in terms of building and sustaining links of all shapes and sizes. The group of visitors was once again very happy (though some rather tired) and a very big number of people from the UK were involved and there was largely positive feedback. Friends from Bradford newly made an agreement with friends in Hebron and announced it on the conference day. People involved in the new formal twinning between Sheffield and Nablus thought this visit got their twinning off to a new start. Hackney made links with Silwan through our efforts. Old links with Ramallah were renewed in Birmingham.

Even more important in the longer term was the big number of meetings across a wide number of communities where people could hear Palestinians talk and be inspired to work hard (or harder) for Palestinians' human rights. In Camden and Islington our old local partners were involved and we met new ones too (we also had a demonstration outside the Council as our Mayor -unlike mayors in the other places - chose not to meet the Abu Dis visitors. There were meals, talks and joint activities of many kinds. Overall it seems that **Building Hope | Voices from Palestine** is a good name for a project including such visits.



## Campaigning



As the shocking genocide continued, we took part in local and national protest action. We continued to write to our Camden MP Keir Starmer and direct petitions towards him, but held little hope of changing his position as he had taken clear sides with Israel and its actions and led a government that continued to arm Israel as well as discourage voices of protest. We thought that the most important thing in these terrible circumstances was to join with anyone we could, educate anyone we could, encourage everyone we could to take a stand and keep going.

We were challenged by Zionists in response to an advertisement that we put in the local paper – They took exception to the use of the words ‘genocide’ and ‘apartheid’ and clearly were pressing the local paper not to publish such ads in the future. We wrote a statement in response to this which is on our website and reproduced in

the appendix E but have not been able to include similar ads in the local paper since that time.

We had placard-painting meetings and joined local and national demos. We wrote a number of letters to the local paper. We made a number of leaflets that we distributed from our local demonstrations. We took part in demonstrations to Camden Council, at first about ceasefire and then about divestment. The Councillors did not want to listen and on their Mayor-making day in April 2024, we “made” a ceasefire Mayor in a mock Council meeting on the pavement outside which included voices from Palestine and a mock motion that was formally voted on and passed. The ‘ceasefire motion’ that was passed that day is in Appendix D



## Events in Britain



### Events at Café Palestina

At the beginning of the year, our 'Let's Talk About Palestine' meetings were always in-person on Wednesdays at Café Palestina and out of these Camden Friends of Palestine was started. We originally hoped that



this would be a local network of the different groups interested in Palestine but it became a separate group and moved out to meet separately. We aim to be good friends and colleagues of every group we can that is working for human rights in Palestine and indeed the number of groups of all kinds working on this issue was multiplying fast across the country. We were increasingly pulled into running the Let's Talk About

Palestine meetings sometimes on Zoom as people across the country wanted to take part.

Café Palestina was a good venue for all sorts of creative activities. We'd like to thank Yussuf for the Poetry 4 Palestine series, Les and Anne for Music 4 Palestine most months, Noura for Tatriz which took place three or four times during the year and Fiona for her creative sessions including placard painting. We had speakers in person when we could: our own visitors from Palestine and Professor Mazin Qumsiyeh from Bethlehem.

### Camden Palestine Day July

Once again, we ran a special outdoor event at Calthorpe Community Garden on 14<sup>th</sup> July. We chose to call it Camden Palestine Day rather than 'festival' as in the current context it was not possible to suggest a celebration. We took advantage of the presence of our Palestinian co-ordinator who gave a talk. Other parts of the day were music, Palestinian cooking and eating, art work, tatriz, stalls and much more.



## Members, volunteers and partner groups

There was a steady interest in CADFA leading to an increase in members and volunteers both in London and outside. Café Palestina helped this to some extent through offering Arabic classes

and events at a lower cost to members.



We had many new partners of different kinds – some groups came together to support visits and others were well-established youth groups or Palestine-oriented organisations. This year, our project partners the UK were (named by places):

Youth visit partners 2024-5:  
Derby, Birmingham, Pendle, Blackburn, Bradford, Cornwall and East London.

Building Hope Conference visit partners 2025: Bedford, Sheffield, Pendle, Birmingham, East London, Hackney, Radnor (Powys) & Chester.

We aimed to communicate clearly to our members and other interested people through frequent emails and a series of What's App groups that focus on action – as well as through the Wednesday and other meetings. We produced many leaflets and small booklets mainly around the time of visits. We know the importance of social media and film but we need to improve our skills in both of these! .



## Financial report

During 2024/5 our finances continued to improve. Having started the year with a surplus of £17.2k, we finished it with a surplus of £30.4k. Our income increased from £145.4k to £186.8k (+£41.5k or 29%). Our costs increased more; from £124.8k to £173.7k (+£48.9k), but they were still less than our income.

Note our accounts are “cash accounts” which means they accurately reflect the situation in our accounts at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> March. A number of payments (in and out) that relate to the year come in late (e.g. tax to HMRC; gift aid income). Also a few payments (in and out) relate to activities for the next (current) year (e.g. our next youth visit). If we adjust for these as best we can, our “real” end-of-year position is about a surplus of £24.9k (£5.5k worse).

The biggest increase in our income (£24.1k) was through “income generation” (i.e. stalls / events to raise money). Note however the costs of income generation went up by £22.6k, so the contribution to our surplus was about £21.0k. Most of the increase was from sales and events at the Café.

Membership income was up £6.4k reflecting a steady increase in membership. Membership was up 7% (from 274 to 294 at end of year) and membership income was up about 17% (slightly larger increase than the previous year).

General donations were up from £14.1k to £20.4k. Most of this was individual donations, including some where visitor hosts returned payments for expenses.

The situation in Palestine stopped us running visits there. The two main visits here (the youth visit and the twinning visit; there was also a planning / training visit for an individual) cost around £18k each in direct costs. Fundraising for visits raised about £54k. Whilst this more than covered the direct costs, it should be noted that these visits take a lot of organising, so we also need to cover some of our core costs (salaries etc). The surplus helped with the core costs and left us in a good position to run further visits next year.

Our improved financial situation has finally allowed us to make our “pension pot” sufficient to fund the amount owed to our worker in Abu Dis when he retires (in lieu of pension, as in his contract). Our financial situation also allowed us to fund a salary increase for our director (10%; from June; her first one since 2007!) and to boost her pension from the statutory minimum. We also funded an increase (10.6%) to our worker in Abu Dis from December (we agreed an increase from April 2025 for our assistant).

We would like to thank Café Palestina for its help to CADFA through events, funds from Arabic classes, encouraging new memberships and direct donations; the teams running the Marchmont Street stall and other stalls throughout the year; the volunteers who helped with the regular fundraising events such as Music 4 Palestine; the MC fund for a grant to help with transport and accommodation for our October youth visit; and to our partners and a number of individuals both for fantastic efforts in fundraising. Our visit expenses were often lower than their real cost as we had many gifts in kind to support the visits.

Our accounts (see below) show us ending the financial year in credit by £30,405 (after starting the year in credit by £17,216).

## CADFA ACCOUNTS - 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

|                                        | 2023/4        | 2024/5        |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>CADFA Charity</b>                   |               |               |
| Opening Balance                        | -3,386        | 17,216        |
| <b>Income</b>                          |               |               |
| Project grants                         | 0             | 0             |
| Other project Income                   | 47,643        | 56,834        |
| Membership                             | 38,354        | 44,770        |
| Donations                              | 14,140        | 20,374        |
| Visits to Palestine                    | 384           | 0             |
| Income generation (events, stalls etc) | 40,747        | 64,842        |
| Gift Aid                               | 4,097         | 25            |
| Total Income                           | 145,365       | 186,846       |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                     |               |               |
| Abu Dis running costs                  | 5,959         | 5,389         |
| Camden running costs                   | 20,688        | 30,427        |
| Staff costs                            | 51,985        | 55,147        |
| Project expenditure                    | 19,170        | 38,878        |
| Small project costs                    | 3,497         | 0             |
| Visits to Palestine cost               | 2,233         | 0             |
| Income generation costs                | 21,232        | 43,816        |
| Total Expenditure                      | 124,763       | 173,656       |
| <b>CADFA Outturn</b>                   | 17,216        | 30,405        |
| Opening Balance                        | -3,386        | 17,216        |
| Total Income                           | 145,365       | 186,846       |
| Total Expenditure                      | 124,763       | 173,656       |
| Surplus (Deficit) Carried Forward      | <b>17,216</b> | <b>30,405</b> |
| Surplus (Deficit) for the Year         | 20,601        | 13,189        |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>                  |               |               |
| Account Balance at 31 March 2025       |               | 49,605        |
| Pension Pot                            |               | -19,200       |
| Loans Outstanding                      |               | 0             |
| Late Transfers In                      |               | 0             |
| Late Transfers Out                     |               | 0             |
| Total                                  |               | 30,405        |

## BALANCE SHEET

|                                    | As at<br>31st<br>March<br>2024<br>£ | As at<br>31st<br>March<br>2025<br>£ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| UK Bank Balances                   | 30,376.31                           | 55,040.79                           |
| Cash in hand or in transit         | 39.53                               | -5,435.68                           |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                  | <b>£30,415.84</b>                   | <b>£49,605.11</b>                   |
| Surplus at 1 April                 | 3,814.36                            | 30,415.85                           |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year   | 20,601.49                           | 13,189.26                           |
| Added to Pension Pot               | 6,000.00                            | 6,000.00                            |
| <b>Surplus at 31 March</b>         | <b>£30,415.85</b>                   | <b>£49,605.12</b>                   |
| <b>Represented by:</b>             |                                     |                                     |
| UK Bank Accounts                   | 30,376.31                           | 55,040.79                           |
| NIS held in Abu Dis                | -145.68                             | -25.65                              |
| Jordanian Dinars held in Abu Dis   | 1.08                                | 0.99                                |
| US Dollars held in Abu Dis         | 1,706.17                            | 476.27                              |
| Balance on Camden Cash<br>account  | -163.34                             | -2.71                               |
| Balance on Stall Cash Account      | -122.72                             | -42.23                              |
| Balance on Cafe Account            | -1,911.13                           | -5,973.65                           |
| Balance on Just Giving<br>Checkout | 0.00                                | 0.00                                |
| Balance on PayPal account          | 172.79                              | 131.31                              |
| Balance on SumUp account           | 502.36                              | 0.00                                |
|                                    | <b>30,415.84</b>                    | <b>49,605.11</b>                    |

## Our objectives for 2025-26

Our 'charitable objects' (our aims as a charity) are as they always have been (appendix A). The objectives set last year (appendix C) will be a good checklist for this year too.

This year we aim in particular

- to run three youth visits from Palestine well, happily and safely
- to prepare further material to be used by schools and campaigners.
- to run special trainings with our teams on fundraising, social media and running youth exchanges.
- continue to be active in raising awareness and activity to oppose apartheid and genocide and promote human rights and respect for humanitarian law in Palestine.

We hope that there is better news as this year (2025) goes on, as this the most terrible time of the world that we remember. At the time of writing people are starving, dying and being maimed through bombing, displaced from homes, facing home demolitions and living through trauma all over Palestine. All of our work and effort is dedicated to building a wider movement to stop this happening and we thank everyone everywhere who puts humanity first.

## Thank yous

We would like to thank the CADFA staff team – Nandita, Abed and Meg - for their hard work

Also the wonderful on-going volunteers including Annika and her stall team who kept the Marchmont St stall going and the very many volunteers (too many to name) who helped on events, stalls demonstrations and particularly many helping with the visits.

A massive thank you to everyone who helped with fundraising in so many ways.

And to our great visitors and those friends who didn't come but stayed in touch with us in Palestine.

You are all so important in keeping CADFA going and making it meaningful – thank you all.

## In memoriam



This year we were very sorry to suddenly lose our old friend Angie, who had been active with CADFA since visiting Abu Dis in 2019. She regularly volunteered on the Marchmont St stall and helped regularly with our visits. We also appreciated the poetry she wrote particularly when she had just come back from Palestine. Angie died in her sleep in November 2024.

We were also really saddened by the death of young Raymi, a musician who performed with his lovely parents at several CADFA events including our Festival this summer and was tragically drowned in July 2024. We send so much love to both families.

# Appendices

## Appendix A - CADFA objectives

### From the CADFA constitution as amended November 2013

The Charity's object is to promote human rights (as set out in the International Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) and respect for international humanitarian law in 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 in particular and Palestine more widely;
- 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 in particular and Palestine more widely;
- working to obtain and promote redress for the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely;
- providing support to and relieving need among the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families, in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely.



## Appendix B -Trustees 2024-25

Peter Ashan (chair)

Cristina Piccoli (secretary)

Hugh Wallis (treasurer)

Fiona Millar (minutes secretary)

Rumana Choudhury

**Last AGM** was on 10th January 2025.

## Appendix C -The objectives we set for 24-25:

| <b>We said: Main areas we want to work on to strengthen and sustain this work are</b>                                                                                                      | <b>How did we do?</b>                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Extending our membership, involving new people across the country, encouraging our members to be active                                                                                    | Did well                                           |
| Working with existing partner organisations and with new organisations both in Camden and across the country                                                                               | Did well                                           |
| Developing and extending the <b>Building Hope  Voices from Palestine</b> project                                                                                                           | Did well                                           |
| Building our sustainability both financial and through training more CADFA leaders for different aspects of the work                                                                       | Did well                                           |
| <b>We will specifically work on</b>                                                                                                                                                        |                                                    |
| Regular human rights reports on Zoom and in person                                                                                                                                         | Regular talks                                      |
| Public events focusing on human rights in Palestine                                                                                                                                        | Did well                                           |
| Publications on social media and in print on human rights in Palestine                                                                                                                     | Kept this up but want to improve                   |
| Visits to Palestine - if the situation allows it                                                                                                                                           | Not possible                                       |
| Visits from Palestine to the UK: a second youth visit as part of Beyond the Checkpoints and (subject to funding) another, possibly including students and women to keep those links alive. | Did well                                           |
| School links and school materials on Palestine and human rights                                                                                                                            | Some visits to schools -want to make more material |
| Advocacy work (including Beyond the Checkpoints) and human rights campaigning                                                                                                              | Did well                                           |
| <b>Working for a ceasefire and an end to the genocide.</b>                                                                                                                                 |                                                    |

## Appendix D – Camden ceasefire motion

This was written by CADFA for a staged ‘council meeting’ outside Camden Town Hall in April 2024

### Camden Ceasefire Council notes that



(**Genocide**) Since October last year, around 40000 Palestinians in Gaza are known to have been killed by Israeli bombing and many more are lost under the rubble of homes or disappeared into imprisonment with no one knowing what is happening but the repeated discovery of mass graves with people found shot with their hands tied behind their backs. More people have died as a result of deprivation of food, clean water and medical care.

Tens of thousands of people have been disabled. Hospitals, universities, schools and homes have all been destroyed as well as historical mosques and other cultural centres. Hundreds of academics, doctors, poets, journalists have been killed and the majority of the population have been moved from their homes and continue to be pushed from place to place. This terror is happening at a massive rate and Israel is refusing to stop, even when asked by the International Court of Justice – which thinks that the charge of **genocide** is plausible, even when the United Nations passes ceasefire motions.

(**Matters to everyone**) This savage onslaught affects people across the world not only because of the sorrow people are feeling for the people of Gaza and the desperate wish for the violence and the inhumanity to cease, but because of the effect it has on the world order. The human rights declarations, the Geneva Conventions, the international courts that were set up to guard against genocide and abuse are all shown to be meaningless.

(**Apartheid**) The Ceasefire Council notes that the issue that has come to a head since 7<sup>th</sup> October was going on for decades before that. Accepting the idea of an ethnic state and since the beginning allowing it to dispossess the other people who were living there has led to an **apartheid** described by some South Africans as worse than the apartheid was in South Africa, and to human rights violations that have worsened every year.

(**Free speech**) The issue of Israel/Palestine has often been misrepresented. The IHRA definition of anti-semitism has helped to conflate anti-semitism and legitimate criticism of Israel (which are separate). The issue of Israel/ Palestine has been misrepresented as a problem between religions (which is not right). School materials often suggest a ‘balance’ between Israel and Palestine (which is fictitious in a context of dramatic power imbalance).

(**Human rights**) To solve all of these problems we need to ensure a proper focus on equality and human rights and respect for international law.

**(Camden cares)** There are huge movements across the world **to stop the genocide and the apartheid**. In Camden, too, the Camden Ceasefire Council notes the huge concern and in particular in the last seven months – the numerous letters, petitions with thousands of signatures, lobbying, events, demonstrations and now student encampments in universities. The Council further notes that many groups within the borough have worked hard over many years, campaigning against the violent apartheid in Israel and Palestine that goes back decades, building friendship and cultural links with Palestine and demanding consistency in our approaches to human rights and equality – which are for everyone.

**(Camden will speak out)** Trust in the words of politicians who talk of humanity evaporates when they support, excuse or stay silent on abuses especially on the scale of what is happening in Gaza at the moment. Camden (Ceasefire Council) will no longer stay silent on apartheid and genocide in Palestine as it is in the interests of Camden people and of humanity that we speak out.

Camden Ceasefire Council is clear that a council can have a role to play on international issues and is proud of the support that Camden gave to anti-apartheid action on South Africa in particular. Camden will seek to be remembered proudly in the aftermath of this terrible time too as a council that stood for equal human rights and for the end of injustice.

When the first demands for action against the genocide in Gaza reached Camden, they were for ceasefire. That is crucial, but as the Israeli government has made it very clear that it will not be limited by international law or bound by the judgements of the ICJ or the UN or any international body that wants to bring the racist violence to an end, the time has come for sanctions.

### **Camden Ceasefire Council resolves to**

#### **1 - Demand that the government urgently help end the genocide:**

- call for an immediate ceasefire
- demand that land crossings are opened so that food and aid supplies can go immediately into Gaza

#### **2 – End co-operation with Israel to help enforce human rights and international humanitarian law:**

- At Camden Council level to investigate our investments and divest from any that support Israel.
- To see if there are areas in the Council that co-operate with Israel and suspend any such co-operation agreements
- To demand at national level an end to arms exports and trade agreements with Israel

#### **3- Ensure free speech and critical thinking in relation to Israel/Palestine**

- End the Council commitment to the IHRA definition of anti-semitism

#### **4- Ensure that education on Israel/ Palestine promotes anti-racism, human rights and equality:**

- Establish a working party to look at school education and materials on Israel/Palestine.
- Establish community education initiatives open to all adults and all communities in Camden to explore the Israel/Palestine issue,
- Challenge the representation of the Israel/Palestine issue as a problem between religions

- In the context of power inequality, give extra emphasis to the experience and voices of the oppressed
- Ensure that all education on the subject is based on anti-racism, human rights and equality.

#### **5- Support the work of Camden groups seeking human rights and equality in relation to Israel/ Palestine.**

- Formally acknowledge the twenty-year-old relation between Camden and Abu Dis
- Name the pedestrian area at the junction of Kentish Town Road and Leighton Rd 'Shireen Abu Akleh Place' (Shireen was the famous journalist who was murdered in Jenin by Israeli soldiers two years ago).
- Encourage visits and positive projects between citizens of Camden and Palestine.

## **Appendix E In response to 'The Telegraph'**

### **Statement by Trustees of CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association) 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

In response to the Telegraph's article on 11th May and the Jewish Chronicle article on May 14<sup>th</sup>2024 about our ad in the Camden New Journal.

- (1) CADFA is a human rights charity, whose charitable object is to promote human rights and respect for international humanitarian law in relation to Palestine. The very first thing that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says is that

**"..the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind .."**

Again, article 2: our emphasis: **"Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."**

We completely believe this and act on it.

- (2) We are not a 'pro-Palestinian group' as the Telegraph calls us: we are a charity responding to the current need of a group of people who have been and are being misused. As we tell our Palestinian friends, although we are friends and there are many things we like about Palestine, we stand with them and for their rights as human beings not because they are Palestinians and would be standing up particularly for the rights of Black people in the time of apartheid in South Africa or for Jewish people at the time of Nazism.

- (3) We find ourselves in an extraordinarily terrible time, when Gaza has been bombed savagely for seven months, its people moved from place to place, are being shot and shelled and starved; killed, orphaned, maimed; forced to drink dirty water, deprived of health care with all the hospitals bombed; deprived of education, when most schools and all universities have been bombed; with academics, doctors, journalists, artists, aid workers including UN staff killed, ancient buildings destroyed along with a huge percentage of housing; with drones and artificial intelligence, white phosphorous and all sorts of ordinance used against human beings with no protection.
- (4) By now there are 40,000 people known to be killed and very many more dead under the rubble, dead from war-related reasons, shot after arrest, very many more than that disabled for life, traumatised for life, homeless. Children are being born without medical help when needed. Amputations are taking place with no anaesthetic. Children as well as adults are malnourished and this will affect their development for years. The air is full of poisonous metals and gases. None of the human rights or protections that they should have had are in place. We are probably seeing less than there is to see: over a hundred journalists have been killed. In a very disturbed world, we have not seen worse in our times.
- (5) South Africa brought a case to the International Court of Justice based not only on the mass killing in Gaza but on the extraordinary, public incitement from Israeli politicians. The court agreed that ‘genocide’ seems plausible; the court will now work its way slowly through a legal case. In the meantime, they told Israel to desist from genocidal acts. However, Israel does not choose to listen to the ICJ or to the UN or to any pressure for a ceasefire. Tens of thousands of people have been killed since that judgement; we have continued to see the glee on the faces of soldiers who are doing the most inhumane things, seen soldiers stand by while Israeli settlers block aid trucks or set them on fire. Based on the sheer scale of death, moving people around, inconsideration for the reproductive rights of mothers in Gaza, the (recorded) scheming of settlers who look forward to taking over Gaza, “genocide” seems factual and the need to stop it is urgent.
- (6) We have been working in the West Bank for over twenty years and have recorded the terrible violations of human rights that affect every aspect of people’s lives. We used this term ‘apartheid’ carefully, based on what we could see was happening, and well before respected organisations like Amnesty, Human Rights Watch, B’tselem showed the world that apartheid is in place.
- (7) We use the terms ‘apartheid’ and ‘genocide’ in a calm and factual way and (though we are very sad that they are needed) not in an emotive way. It is an offensive slur on our good name to suggest that these terms are used as a result of anti-semitism. Our Jewish members are some of those insulted by this suggestion.
- (8) We note that in both newspapers, a photograph of only a part of our ad is shown. Not shown to their readers is a sentence saying, “anyone who believes in equality and human rights is welcome”. We believe that this gives an indication of our approach the importance of equal rights to us, and that it gives the lie to any suggestion that we are racist or anti-semitic.

(9) We agree with a Palestinian who said, in response to these articles, “I would like to see an end to playing games with words while people are dying every moment all over Palestine due to the clear violations by the occupation – and this has gone on at least 76 years. The British government must also stop its double standards in regard to human rights and international humanitarian law.”

(10) We believe that our work has never been more important. In front of us we see a strong example of the UDHR’s reason for being: that

**“disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind.”**

The urgent thing at this terrible time is to achieve a situation where human rights are in place and the barbarous acts end.

CADFA Trustees May 2024



## Appendix F – The human rights year in Abu Dis

### The background to genocide – apartheid

Abu Dis (Camden's partner town in a grassroots twinning) is one of three towns in the East Jerusalem suburb, cut off from Jerusalem for the past twenty-plus years by the Israeli Separation Wall. When we first knew it, the focus of many people's lives was still Jerusalem for work, schools, health, shopping (although that was increasingly difficult). It is many years now since the Wall and its heavy checkpoints were fully implemented along with a system of different-coloured ID cards that allowed some to go to Jerusalem and blocked others, and of military 'permissions' that needed to be applied for if people needed to go to hospital, for example.

During these twenty years we have written about the fierceness of the apartheid system that Israel has been locking into place in the area since the occupation started – you can see stories in our books<sup>1</sup> and previous reports about the ways that people local to Abu Dis (just like in other parts of Palestine) have had land taken – on which in many cases Israeli settlements have been built - and been subject to systematic discrimination in every part of their lives - movement restrictions, military violence, house invasions and imprisonment, disruptions to education, family life and work. Israel has defined people on the basis of religion/ethnicity since its beginning in 1948 and has deemed Palestinians as lower- than-second-class in their own country from that time. Its efforts have been to control Palestinians in a wider area (including the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza from 1967) by pushing them into smaller and smaller parcels of land.

The Oslo agreement brought further complications including the division of the country into areas A, B and C (Israel immediately started building on area C) and through the creation of a Palestinian Authority that wasn't allowed real authority. And while the world is busied with the prospect (red herring perhaps?) of a two-state solution, Israeli governments have progressively built on the West Bank land and begun the process of annexing parts of it into Israel.

### This year

This year (2024-25), the Israeli project of taking over Palestinian land was in full force. The very far-right settlers' movement was controlling the Israeli government and its leaders like Ben Gvir and Smotrich were at once making speeches about their aim to drive Palestinians out and taking terrible, concrete steps towards this end. In Gaza, terrible things were being done to the



people– they were bombed and pushed from their homes and starved; there were horrendous atrocities -torture, disappearance, rape, attacks on journalists, health workers, universities, schools, hospitals, archaeological sites and homes in every city.

At the beginning of the year (in April 2024) there were huge movements across the world calling for ceasefire but (apart from a one-week pause earlier than that) there was no ceasefire till January 2025. Prisoner releases from both Gaza (Israeli hostages) and the West Bank (Palestinians) revealed in particular the awful treatment, torture and lack of food that the



Palestinians had endured in prison (where very often they had had no trial). The ceasefire was broken by Israel in March 2025, resuming fierce bombings and displacement of Palestinian people, with Israeli politicians stating clearly that they wanted to move them south and preferably out of the country – In this they seemed to be supported by a dismaying 85% of Israelis<sup>ii</sup>. Israel blocked the entry of food and aid and a serious famine was added to disease, bombings and misery of all sorts.

Meanwhile also in January, Israel started a big military operation in the West Bank. Ben Gvir had been calling for this since autumn 2023 (before October) and it seemed that in order to persuade him and the settler movement to agree to the temporary ceasefire in Gaza in January, they were given

additional freedom in the West Bank. The operation led to the killings of hundreds of people, destruction of refugee camps with attacks both from the air (fighter planes in civilian areas) and on the ground (destroying homes and infrastructure), fierce movement restrictions and a new intensity of military and settler violence across the West Bank. In many parts of the West Bank, villagers were terrorised by ‘radical settlers’ using stones, guns, fire and the support of the IDF to push them out of their fields and take over their agricultural areas. Permission and encouragement was given for the further spread of Israeli settlements and new settlements began to be built.

## Living in Abu Dis 2024-25

Every aspect of life in Abu Dis was affected by the occupation apartheid and life and human rights violations got harder for people this year.

## Movement

There was a distinct change in atmosphere in Abu Dis and the whole of the East Jerusalem suburb after October 2023 (as people became more confined, it seemed increasingly that Aizariyeh, Abu Dis, Sawahreh though they had separate councils were really one unit). People travelled very much less across the country. Jerusalem was cut off to most people most of the

time – permissions to go there were suspended or not given – and the West Bank roads were dangerous. At some stages it was impossible to go in and out of the East Jerusalem area with so many checkpoints and blockages around the towns. But also inside the area, the heavy presence of the army was new; in Abu Dis, it became familiar to see the army in particular near the university, near the youth club, near the roundabout and there were frequent flying

checkpoints daytime and night time, all affecting people's journeys to schools, universities, to the market, to work.

## Problems with water, sewage, electricity and the issue of rubbish

Water supply was now a real problem for local people, winter or summer. In the nearby Israeli settlements, lawns could have sprinklers, houses could have swimming pools and mains



supply for their drinking water. In Palestinian towns such as Abu Dis, people were dependent on weekly or twice-weekly pumping of water into tanks on their roofs and there just wasn't enough. Abu Dis has a water well in Wadi al-Jheer but the Israelis have a meter and restrict the amount the Palestinians can take. According to Abu Dis Water Society, Israel has allowed Abu Dis the same amount of water since 1990, but the number of people has gone up substantially in that space of time and the shortage of supply leads to problems for household water supply and also, sadly, sometimes between people.

Electricity is similarly limited in the local area and in recent years there have been power cuts every other day or so because of surges when demand goes up – this happens specially when the weather is very hot or very cold.

Israel has forced a complete change of system in handling rubbish, which is causing real problems for local people. Rubbish used to be collected by the local council and dealt with in the local area, but Israel doesn't allow this anymore so rubbish vans have to travel to Bethlehem or even Hebron to get rid of rubbish. Both of these cities are the other side of the Container checkpoint which is frequently closed. In such a case, the council can't deal with it and there is now rubbish piling up in the local valleys and in the streets.

The problem of sewage in the West Bank goes back years; there has never been the opportunity for Palestinians to build the infrastructure they have needed to deal with sewage as the population has continued to rise. Since the beginning of the Palestinian Authority, there has been a plan to build a sewage infrastructure and this has been budgeted for. However the Israelis refuse to allow the PA to carry this out, they say for security reasons. In the local Israeli settlements, there are some sewage systems built on Palestinian land and other sewage pours from the settlements on to Palestinian agricultural lands, poisoning it and going to the Dead Sea itself. In Abu Dis there is no civic infrastructure to treat or deal with sewage. Families with houses build septic tanks near their homes but increasingly people live in flats in big towers. There the septic tanks often overflow and there is a lot of leakage of sewage both underground and over the ground throughout the town already causing serious environmental issues and threatening worse for the future.

## Education and health

Abu Dis has nursery, primary and secondary schools as well as Al Quds University but children and students do not get the right to study peacefully. Since October 2023, children have been very uncertain about whether they will find their schools open on any day. The school buildings closed in October 2023 and stayed closed till the end of the school year. Young people studied remotely using Teams which was hard for people whose families didn't have computers in the home.

Since September 2024, the schools have been open again with a reduced week (four days instead of five) to deal with several issues: to cut travel for teachers in the dangerous conditions and also the fact that the PA didn't have enough money to pay the teachers. In addition to this, sudden invasions of the town by soldiers, checkpoints, tear gas and sometimes shooting can often shorten or end a school or college day. Following the frequent army invasions in the night, the army often stays in the town into the mornings which can prevent the schools from feeling it is safe to open. One estimate is that another five days a month have been lost to most schools in this month. So the children and students have lost a lot of education in the West Bank as well as in the complete disaster of Gaza.

Abu Dis has a health centre but no hospitals. People still depend on hospitals in Jerusalem which has real problems for patients and also for their families. Travelling in an ambulance from Abu Dis to the hospital has taken a long time ever since the Separation Wall was built, always with waits and problems in co-ordination with the Israelis. Now it takes at



فلسطينيات يحاولن الدخول للمسجد الأقصى من حاجز قلنديا في الضفة الأولى من رمضان (الجزيرة)

best four hours and often up to eight to move a patient from Abu Dis to Jerusalem. In addition to this, the Israelis frequently refuse to let West Bankers through into hospital, and it is also a problem when a patient is allowed through but no one is allowed to accompany them. This can mean that patients or their families choose to go to Bethlehem or Ramallah. There are real difficulties in both of those (the big Container checkpoint for example) and these cities don't have all the specialisms that Jerusalem can offer, meaning that some people have to go to Jordan for the treatment they need.

One of the serious problems endured by family after family is the difficulty of reaching close family members who are in hospital. For Palestinians, the Israelis have a system of 'permissions' which were often withheld, even before this year in which they were usually withheld. This means that close people can be ill, have babies, even die without the support that any family will want to give their loved ones.

## Economy: work and land

Since October 2023, many people have been unable to work. The number of people who could get into Jerusalem has been severely cut back by Israel limiting permits. People working in health can get temporary permits but people who work in education, building and other sectors cannot.



Many sectors of the economy have collapsed: particularly small businesses including shops and providers of services like builders. The Palestinian Authority the biggest employer in the West Bank - is short of money as Israel takes and refunds tax to the PA and often withholds it. This year, the PA paid people a maximum of 70% of their wages,

Prices have also been rising. In Palestine people expect price control and previously the PA had a ministry of consumer protection. Now no-one relating to the PA can work East Jerusalem which means that big traders sell at any price they like; prices can rise extortionately. Now, prices are lower in the PA areas but very much

higher in areas like Abu Dis as (with transport being very difficult for everyone) there is no effective competition.

Land has been the centre of the issue in Palestine certainly for the past century. Many Palestinians used to work in agriculture but Israeli take-over has made it harder to work on the land and people have sought other employment. When Israelis occupied this area in 1967, they started to build Israeli settlements and these have extended all the time, dramatically since Oslo, with more settlements and more housing units in settlements being built all the time.

In 1967, Israel took over large swathes of land between the town and the Dead Sea and declared it a military area. This land still had owners, some of whom have been persuaded to sell their out-of-reach land to other Palestinians and some of this appears to have reached third parties (Israeli) who have been building and preparing new settlements in that eastern part of Abu Dis.

This year, with the settlers' movement so powerful, there have been big announcements by Israel not only about new settlements but about annexation and taking over the land for good. The settlers' movement is currently in a key position in the government and is saying that if western countries recognise the Palestinian state, they will annexe the West Bank.

## Military violence and a lack of law

Israelis control the Palestinians through military aggression and military laws, confining and ordering them, invading houses and imprisoning people (see the examples below) but they do not provide any framework of security of security to help local people.

The Palestinian Authority has a police station in Aizariyeh, next to Abu Dis, but they are almost powerless. Local people have examples of times when the Palestinian police arrested drug dealers only to have Israel force their release, or when they could do nothing to investigate when a local man was killed. Because there is no effective authority, people sometimes take law into their own hands.

There is also a growth of armed gangs in the area, shooting, threatening, sometimes attacking places and asking for protection money – some businesses have been punished by being set on



fire. It is clear to local people that these gangs are supported by the Israelis, as there is a two-tier approach to the holding of weapons. If there is any suspicion of someone holding a weapon, most people will have their house raided by the army, but there are groups of people who have guns and no one challenges them. It seems to local people that these gangs are linked to the secret transfer of land that people think is sold by Palestinians somehow to Israelis - part of Israeli plans to build more settlements.

## A diary for this year

The issues above continued through out the year. The ‘diary’ below shows particular issues month by month. The items in quote marks were from CADFA posts during the year.

### April 2024

The second part of Ramadan was in April. Going to Jerusalem in particular to pray in Al Aqsa Mosque was important to Palestinians but it was extremely difficult. All of the ‘terminals’ in the Israeli Wall around Jerusalem were closed except for Qalandia, and the people who had permits to pray on Friday (some women over 55 and men over 60, if they applied and were allowed ‘permits’) had to travel at least an hour on the east side of the Wall to get to Qalandia. But then they would meet hundreds of thousands of people from all over the West Bank and the crowding and difficulty were even worse than they have been for the past few years.

On 10th April, it was Eid day and the Israelis imposed a complete closure on Jerusalem and cut the north and south of the West Bank from each other.

On 15th April, there was a decision by the Israeli government – ‘the High Council for Planning’ to approve 2300 settlement units at Maale Adumim settlement and 300 new units at Qidar settlement. This followed the annexation of more than 2000 dunums of land on the east of Abu Dis and Aizariyeh in between the two settlements in January 2024.

On 22nd April, four young people were wounded with bullets after the Israeli army invaded Al Quds University and area, saying they were going to maintain the Israeli Separation Wall which they had built alongside the University. The Israeli army also said that the area was closed for the military which stopped the University and the local schools from running.

On 25th April, the Israeli army invaded the old side of Abu Dis, searched a house and arrested one young man and also invaded Aizariyeh where they searched other houses and arrested three young men.

## May 2024

On 4th May, many people were affected by tear gas in the University and the area around. The Israeli army put a checkpoint near the University early in the morning which created chaos in the University, stopping the education day.

On 19th May, a young man from Bethlehem was wounded by Israeli soldiers at Container checkpoint when he was travelling south on his way home. Apparently he got out of the car to get into another and they shot him, then arrested him and took him away in a military ambulance and closed the checkpoint in two directions for the rest of the day. This caused major problems for anyone needing to travel north or south in the West Bank.



## June 2024

On 12th June at around midnight, around ten houses in the middle of Abu Dis were invaded, searched and seven young people were taken to the Israeli military camp. An old man in his seventies was wounded by bullets while he was driving to the mosque in Kubsa for the morning prayer – He had three bullets in his hands and was lucky, it seems, because the bullets hit the body of the car and lost some of their force before they hit him.

The seven young people were beaten and interrogated but all were released the next morning.





On 13th June, the Israeli army invaded Abu Dis in the middle of the day. They came in from Aizariyeh and reached the area of the youth club. They stopped twice, once in the middle of Abu Dis (stopped the traffic, asked people for their IDs and took away the DVDs from the CCTV cameras near the shops) and near Abu Dis Youth Club where they invaded the Karameh Mall opposite where they attacked the owner, made a mess inside the place and took the camera DVDs away.

## July 2024

On 1st July, three young people were arrested when the army invaded their houses in Ar Ras neighbourhood. The army searched their houses and stayed through the night in their homes.

On 22nd July, the anniversary of the killing by Israel of two young men, Youssuf Kashour and Mohammed Lafe in 2017, the Israeli army destroyed the memorial stone to the two on the

wall of the old graveyard and filled the area with tear gas.

On 30th July, the Israeli army invaded a house in Ar Ras and arrested a fourteen-year old and later released him on payment of a fine of 3000 NIS – he would later have to come to military court.

## August 2024

“

2nd August *Don't forget the West Bank. Pictures sent from Abu Dis today show blockages on the roads to Jericho and Bethlehem – one of the many difficulties stopping many people in the West Bank from moving between towns. The pictures don't express the extent of the problems people are suffering under apartheid there – little water in the great heat (in contrast to the settlers' swimming pools and sprinklers), army aggression and invasions, checkpoints, killings (over 500 since last October), imprisonment (over 9000 new prisoners), unspeakable torture in jails, attacks on universities keeping students at home, house demolitions, land seizures, new settlements, settler aggression, lost jobs, unavailable hospitals (as new "permissions" to go to Jerusalem are not given by Israel), fears of all sorts as Israel imprisons people sometimes for Facebook posts, sometimes for nothing anyone can see. Things are much worse than awful in Gaza, they are very bad in Jerusalem and we must not forget the West Bank.*



“  
5th August     *Waiting in the heat and hoping for the best. Morning pictures from Abu Dis and Aizariyeh with nobody around but the quiet menace of the Israeli Separation Wall always reminding of the apartheid occupation, the genocide and the threat of widening war.*

“  
20th August     *It's hard to raise a smile at all after hearing what they've been going through" (report from Abu Dis following the release of some of the thousands of West Bank prisoners that Israel has taken since October last year, usually with no charge or trial. They take them when they want to, abuse them systematically and release them if they want to.*



## September 2024

“  
5th September     *We remember Huthaifa and his camera from so many CADFA projects 10 or 12 years ago – he came to the UK on a student visit. We were so upset and worried to hear the Israelis imprisoned him 10 months ago.. so happy now to hear he has been freed!! So happy too to hear he has a new baby girl (while he was in prison) and we wish him, her mother*

*and the baby so much happiness... Now we need the release of the other 10,500 Palestinian prisoners, mainly arrested with no charge or trial – treated in a terrible way – and the end to the other daily horrors, fast*

On 15<sup>th</sup> September, at the time of talks on prisoner exchange – there was a major invasion to Abu Dis and Aizariyeh by the Israeli army. They invaded and searched a number of houses and arrested twelve young people from the two towns (7 from Abu Dis, 5 from Aizariyeh).

## October 2024



On the 1<sup>st</sup> October, the Israeli army put a checkpoint in front of Al Quds University in the early morning. They started to chase boys from the local schools and threw tear gas which led to the closure of the schools and the loss of a school day. There are three schools next to the University – a middle school, a secondary school and also a nursery school. This means that even very young children were affected by the gas and the trouble around them.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October, the Israeli army invaded the area of Kubsa (where Aizariyeh and Abu Dis meet), invaded some houses and arrested three young people.

## November 2024

On 4<sup>th</sup> November, a mosque on the west side of the Wall (not far from the University but separated from the area by the Separation Wall) was given a demolition order. The

Mosque had been built of corrugated iron twenty years previously. People came early in the morning and found a demolition order waiting on the land (this issue has since been taken to court so it has not yet been destroyed – May 2025 - but people are not allowed to use it).

On 15<sup>th</sup> November, an Israeli settler drove into the town, going near the mosque in Kubsa while the Friday prayer was going on. He shouted that he wanted to destroy the mosque because his god told him he should do; people pushed him away and he drove down into the middle of Abu Dis. He got out of his car and started shouting again, stopped cars, asked for IDs, threatened



people that this was his God's land. Some of the local young people put him in a car and drove him to the Maale Adumim police station. His car was set on fire. The police said he was a crazy man and apparently they themselves beat him – but still the army invaded the town and started to shoot randomly. A young girl student was injured in

her eye – she was looking out of the window of her accommodation when this chaos happened. There were many others wounded or suffering from tear-gas inhalation.



On 19<sup>th</sup> November, there was an early morning invasion to Al Quds University – The Israeli army entered the campus, searched the guards' rooms and the student council rooms. The father of Yamin Jaffal who was killed by the army in 2017 had in his room a collection of pictures of young people who had been killed since 2015. The room was messed up, the army tore the pictures from the walls and said that if they were put back, they would come back again.

## December 2024



“  
5th December *We cannot forget the West Bank either, or Jerusalem. Yesterday we were told by a father in Abu Dis of his family's*

*experience the night before when the Israeli army broke into his father's house and then his own, slashed all the tyres of local cars, and finally arrested his son, beating him up.*

On 12<sup>th</sup> December, the Israeli army invaded the town in the early evening. a house in Ar Ras was set on fire from tear gas cannisters shot by Israeli soldiers. The family in the house suffered from the tear gas - The Palestinian Fire Department managed to stop the fire.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December, the Israeli army invaded nine houses in Abu Dis and at least ten houses in Aizariyeh. Five young people from Abu Dis were taken to the military camp and kept there overnight where they were beaten and interrogated. They were released the next day.



24 December 2024

“ Israeli army in Central Abu Dis now.” (pic below)

## January 2025

On 4<sup>th</sup> January, the Israeli army invaded a house in Kubsah early in the morning and arrested three young men (brothers).

On 7<sup>th</sup> January, the Israeli army drove three military jeeps into the town. Near the youth club, they

stopped and threw tear gas and sound grenades towards shops – so the shop owners closed their shops and left. The army went to the university.



“ 18th January Living under occupation. Abu Dis this morning. The photo is a bit confusing – it looks as if the soldiers stuck the Israeli flags on to the Palestinian sign at the roundabout in central Abu Dis? Clearly they are bullying local young people and we're told they beat them saying they had been celebrating the ceasefire in Gaza.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January, there was another night invasion to Kubsah. The army turned the families out of four houses, leaving them in the winter cold for several hours while they searched their homes. In the end, four young people were arrested.

On 31<sup>st</sup> January, a car was set on fire by Israeli army shooting live ammunition into it near the old graveyard near Abu Dis. This was in the early evening. Three young men were wounded with rubber bullets and the area was full of tear gas

## February 2025

On 9th February, *“ This is not a moving traffic jam: this is a complete stand–still of traffic for hours and hours imposed by Israel by closing the Container checkpoint of the main Palestinian road north and south through the West Bank, upsetting social relations and crippling the economy. We thought it was bad before, but since the ceasefire Israel has increased its obstacles to every part of Palestinian life.*



On 10th February, *“ Just one morning – all so urgent – snippets of news today from visitors coming to us this week from Palestine and the West Bank later this week...*

- the army have gone into a building in town, we can hear shooting (Abu Dis)*
- the checkpoints are closed at Maale Adumim, no way for my sons to go to work*
- demolition orders have been given on a building in Wad al–Jheer*

The Israeli settlers in Maale Adumim demanded that the traffic system outside the settlement was changed to be permanently in favour of the settlers. From 12th February onwards, the Palestinians were forced to use a little side road, leaving the roundabout outside the settlement for the use only of the settlers.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, the Israeli army put a checkpoint outside the University Mosque in the early morning, stopping people from using the mosque for the noon prayer. The checkpoint was there until the afternoon. The army then moved to the centre of Abu Dis near the youth club, and



stayed there till late evening, shooting tear gas and stopping people and traffic from moving round the town.

March 2025

In the middle of the night, the Israeli army invaded three houses. The soldiers destroyed the main doors of the houses, took the families outside and arrested one man, beating him in

his house, taking him to the military camp, beating him again and releasing him later the same day.

“  
On 19<sup>th</sup> March *This was the night that the Israelis broke the ceasefire on Gaza. killed over 400 people in a matter of hours – and they continued to attack Palestinians and Palestinian places in the West Bank and Jerusalem.*

“  
On 24<sup>th</sup> March *Stop the genocide which is getting worse and worse. Unspeakable in*



*Gaza with so many Israeli bombs and killing including in hospitals and groups of refugee tents – and also terror on all sides for Palestinians in the West Bank and Jerusalem.*

*Yesterday's news was that Israel is pushing forward its annexation by treating THIRTEEN MORE Israeli settlements in the West Bank as part of Israel itself... a significant change of*

*administration.*

*Another friend in Silwan has had her home demolished. In Hebron الخليل a Palestinian family went out for iftar and came back to find that Israelis (defended by the Israeli army) had moved in and taken over the house.*

*Our friends in New Askar camp tell of endless army invasions and our friends from Jenin camp have been displaced along with 20 thousand others, losing their homes and everything else "there is nothing left from Jenin Camp" we were told.*

*This picture of cars is from near Abu Dis where the Israelis continue their endless rearrangement to prioritise Israeli settlements and constrict Palestinians – here by separating the road systems and hold up the Palestinian traffic.*



*This young man was imprisoned last October aged 17 and taken to Megiddo Prison. News came today that he has been killed.*

A 41-year-old man, Mohamed Abu Hammad was killed in Aizariyeh by the Israeli army. He was trying to drive down a side road to avoid the traffic chaos that was caused by the changes the Israeli army had put in place the previous month.



On 31<sup>st</sup> March, the Israeli army came in the morning and destroyed a stable for horses in Wad al Jheer and some temporary housing; they gave more demolition orders to a car wash and other farmers' buildings in this area. Note, this area is for people in Abu Dis called Wad al-Jheer but the Israelis call it Wadi Abu Hindi, seeming to link it to a military zone lived in by Bedouin



## Appendix G – The human rights situation in our *Beyond the Checkpoints* partners' hometowns 2024-25

In 2024-25, CADFA worked with partners in the following places through the *Beyond the Checkpoints* project. This is an indication of the human rights violations that people in those communities were facing at that time.

### Aizariyeh and Abu Dis in the Jerusalem suburb

See report above

### Al Walajeh, Bethlehem

Suffering badly from the Israeli Separation Wall, the closeness of the Israeli settlements, house raids and imprisonment. One young boy was killed at a checkpoint on his way out of the town. The children on the *Beyond the Checkpoints* project talked about the problems they had on the checkpoints going to school in Beit Jala.

### Beit Leed, Tulkarem

The Israelis blocked the main road to the village was blocked – local people had to make new routes in and out of the village through agricultural land. The Israeli army took over a water well and put a checkpoint on it – settlers took over the water. A new Israeli settlement was started between Beit Leed and Qalqilya – The settlers first put removable housing on the land and then started to build.

### Jenin Refugee Camp

Jenin has been right in the middle of Israeli aggression since October 2023 with a huge number of people killed (120 people up to the end of March 2025). Military attacks by the Israeli army from January 2025 including attacks from the air. Complete destruction of the refugee camp. Hundreds of housing units were destroyed, the main streets were dug up destroying the

infrastructure. There was a determined attempt by Israel to drive people from their homes and around 25000 people were forced to move out of the camp. They include the children and their families from the Jenin group in Beyond the Checkpoints. They have found places to stay in Jenin town and across the north of the West Bank as Israel is not letting them go home.

## New Askar Camp, Nablus

Like the other refugee camps, New Askar is under huge pressure from the Israelis who don't want the refugees to remain as a category. There were soldiers in the town every day, homes damaged in army invasions and a worry that what was happening to other refugee camps like Jenin and Tulkarem would happen here in a matter of time. The camp is very crowded with only one empty area – a hill - available for young people to play and this has become very dangerous as Israeli snipers target young people who are there. One of the boys who came on a CADFA visit to the UK was shot in the knee on the hill – three young people of his age were shot and killed

## Old City, Hebron

Palestinians in Hebron continued to suffer huge oppression – they are living under a strong curfew: they can move in the day but gates are closed at night and on Jewish holidays all day. There are extra checkpoints around the old city on top of the already-huge restrictions. The children from the Beyond the Checkpoints project spoke about how they wanted to go out of their homes but it wasn't safe. There were many military procedures against the area and the Ibrahimi Mosque has become largely taken over by settlers.

## Qabalan, South Nablus

The Israeli army has been building new roads, bridges and tunnels across the north of the West Bank to separate settlers and Palestinians. A new gate put on the road to Qabalan which means that people can easily be prevented from coming out of the village if the Israeli army decides on this. Land confiscation orders have been given to take over thousands of acres of land belonging to the village. A new group of settlers have put temporary housing on a part of their land

## Silwan, Jerusalem

Silwan, just south of the Old City of Jerusalem, is under massive threat from the Israeli project to take over Jerusalem only for Jews. Many of the Palestinian houses under threat of demolition and gradually people are being forced to demolish their own homes or pay the Israeli army to demolish them. The young people on the Beyond the Checkpoints project all know people whose houses have been demolished in this way or are under threat of demolition and this includes some of their own families. The Al Bustan Centre building was knocked down by the Israeli army but its work continues. At least one of the young people on the BTC project was arrested and then put under house arrest for a week. The defiance of local people is shown in the huge eyes painted on the buildings – **“Israel we can see what you are doing.”**

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<sup>i</sup> CADFA books are available from Café Palestina (in the shop or online)

<sup>ii</sup> Haaretz May 27th

| CADFA ACCOUNTS - 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 |        |         |        |         |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|                                                | 2023/4 |         | 2024/5 |         |
| <b>CADFA Charity</b>                           |        |         |        |         |
| Opening Balance                                |        | -3,386  |        | 17,216  |
| <b>Income</b>                                  |        |         |        |         |
| Project grants                                 | 0      |         | 0      |         |
| Other project Income                           | 47,643 |         | 56,834 |         |
| Membership                                     | 38,354 |         | 44,770 |         |
| Donations                                      | 14,140 |         | 20,374 |         |
| Visits to Palestine                            | 384    |         | 0      |         |
| Income generation (events, stalls etc)         | 40,747 |         | 64,842 |         |
| Gift Aid                                       | 4,097  |         | 25     |         |
| Total Income                                   |        | 145,365 |        | 186,846 |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                             |        |         |        |         |
| Abu Dis running costs                          | 5,959  |         | 5,389  |         |
| Camden running costs                           | 20,688 |         | 30,427 |         |
| Staff costs                                    | 51,985 |         | 55,147 |         |
| Project expenditure                            | 19,170 |         | 38,878 |         |
| Small project costs                            | 3,497  |         | 0      |         |
| Visits to Palestine cost                       | 2,233  |         | 0      |         |
| Income generation costs                        | 21,232 |         | 43,816 |         |
| Total Expenditure                              |        | 124,763 |        | 173,656 |
| <b>CADFA Outturn</b>                           |        | 17,216  |        | 30,405  |
| Opening Balance                                |        | -3,386  |        | 17,216  |
| Total Income                                   |        | 145,365 |        | 186,846 |
| Total Expenditure                              |        | 124,763 |        | 173,656 |
| Surplus (Deficit) Carried Forward              |        | 17,216  |        | 30,405  |
| Surplus (Deficit) for the Year                 |        | 20,601  |        | 13,189  |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>                          |        |         |        |         |
| Account Balance at 31 March 2025               |        |         |        | 49,605  |
| Pension Pot                                    |        |         |        | -19,200 |
| Loans Outstanding                              |        |         |        | 0       |
| Late Transfers In                              |        |         |        | 0       |
| Late Transfers Out                             |        |         |        | 0       |
| Total                                          |        |         |        | 30,405  |

| <b>BALANCE SHEET</b>             |                                      |                                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                                  |                                      |                                          |
|                                  | <b>As at<br/>31st<br/>March 2024</b> | <b>As at<br/>31st<br/>March<br/>2025</b> |
|                                  | <b>£</b>                             | <b>£</b>                                 |
| UK Bank Balances                 | 30,376.31                            | 55,040.79                                |
| Cash in hand or in transit       | 39.53                                | -5,435.68                                |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                | <b>£30,415.84</b>                    | <b>£49,605.11</b>                        |
| Surplus at 1 April               | 3,814.36                             | 30,415.85                                |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year | 20,601.49                            | 13,189.26                                |
| Added to Pension Pot             | 6,000.00                             | 6,000.00                                 |
| <b>Surplus at 31 March</b>       | <b>£30,415.85</b>                    | <b>£49,605.12</b>                        |
|                                  |                                      |                                          |
|                                  |                                      |                                          |
| <b>Represented by:</b>           |                                      |                                          |
| UK Bank Accounts                 | 30,376.31                            | 55,040.79                                |
| NIS held in Abu Dis              | -145.68                              | -25.65                                   |
| Jordanian Dinars held in Abu Dis | 1.08                                 | 0.99                                     |
| US Dollars held in Abu Dis       | 1,706.17                             | 476.27                                   |
| Balance on Camden Cash account   | -163.34                              | -2.71                                    |
| Balance on Stall Cash Account    | -122.72                              | -42.23                                   |
| Balance on Cafe Account          | -1,911.13                            | -5,973.65                                |
| Balance on Just Giving Checkout  | 0.00                                 | 0.00                                     |
| Balance on PayPal account        | 172.79                               | 131.31                                   |
| Balance on SumUp account         | 502.36                               | 0.00                                     |
|                                  | <b>30,415.84</b>                     | <b>49,605.11</b>                         |



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

#### Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

#### On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2025

#### Charity no (if any)

111217

#### Set out on pages

2 and 3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 03/ 2023**.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

23.08.25

**Name:**

Jo Tomalin

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

**Address:**

311 Springvale Rd

Sheffield

S10 1LL

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

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# Accounts

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## CADFA Trustees' Annual report

April 2023-March 24

**CADFA Charity 1112717**

**Linking Together for Human Rights**



**CADFA | Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association**  
**Charity 1112717**  
**53 Fortess Road NW5 1AD**  
**[cadfa.org](http://cadfa.org)**

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Introduction to the year

## The first six months

Work across the UK

Building Hope project

Women's visit from Palestine

Work in Camden and Islington

Work in Palestine

Health visit to Palestine

Beyond the Checkpoints



## The second six months

Campaigning against the genocide

Twenty years of CADFA

Youth visit from Palestine

## Human rights year in Abu Dis

Financial report

Objectives for next year

Thank yous



## Appendices:

**CADFA's** objects

CADFA in the press

Evaluations from the youth visit

## Introduction to the year 2023-24

### A year of two halves

Ninth Dec 2003 was the date of a meeting at Torriano Meeting House called 'Places in Palestine' when we aimed to build a twinning link between Camden and somewhere in Palestine. Our link to Abu Dis started that day. In early 2023, CADFA was excited to be in its twentieth year, and looked forward to a great celebration in December. But by December, though we had an event to note the day, it was not the time for a party as the world has changed for us, our Palestinian friends and perhaps for everybody.



This year divided into two clear halves. In some ways, it was consistent – through the

first part, we saw the Israeli violations on the Palestinians build and worsen as they had been doing for years, while in the UK, CADFA had a firm model of activities and strong plans for the second half of the year. But Hamas operations on 7th October were followed by Israel attacks on Gaza and escalation in the West Bank on a scale we could not have imagined. Writing in May 2024, anything before October 2023 seems to be years ago.

### A need to review

The first part of the report describes our 'normal' activities up to 7th October, though we were working in a situation that could not at all be described as normal.

The second part describes the CADFA year from October as the wild Israeli onslaught on Gaza became on-going. We threw ourselves into demonstrations and at first worried about whether our usual activities were appropriate.

The third part of the report focuses on the human rights background in Abu Dis – behind the genocide in Gaza, the situation in the West Bank was also getting worse.

Our financial report and objectives for the next year follow, and then in the appendices some illustrations of the work we did this year.

Our own work steadied with the excellent youth visit of Feb-March. In the face of current horror, nothing we can do is enough, but it was clear from the responses of the young people, our friends in Palestine and those hundreds who met them that these visits and the Building Hope project are a useful contribution: so we keep going.

## The first six months – April to September 2023

### Our work across the UK

Our regular work included

- **Education on Palestine - Let's Talk About Palestine** sessions, **Palestine for Beginners** and other **Zoom events**
- **Stalls and outreach** – weekly Marchmont St stall/ other stalls and talks for local organisations
- **Public events** in Cafe Palestina
- **Campaigning for human rights in Palestine** through letters, articles and demonstrations
- **Co-operation with our Palestinian partners: Beyond the Checkpoints** project
- **Volunteer conversation classes** for students at Al Quds University
- **Co-operation with partners in the UK** – this year with Peace groups, PSC groups, twinning groups, community groups across the country as well as many different organisations locally in Camden/ Islington
- **Communicating** through regular email newsletters, social media, our website
- **Preparing for and following up the visits to and from Palestine** that have been a major part of our programme for many years now



### Building Hope | Voices from Palestine

This CADFA initiative launched in 2022 draws on our years of work with partners across both countries. The plan is to run even more frequent visits of Palestinians to the UK to take their voices across the country.



We started 2023-24 with a women's visit to the UK, a conference in person at Cafe Palestina and online on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023, a plan for a youth visit in October and a student visit in January. With our partners in Palestine, we organised the Beyond the Checkpoints project to help prepare two groups of young people to visit the UK, and with the help of volunteers ran weekly conversation classes for students from the Al Quds University to help them prepare to speak about their lives. Our plans were delayed and changed by the brutal events in Palestine from October onwards.

## Women's visits from Palestine March & July 2023



Together with partners in many places across the country from Cornwall to Cardiff and Newcastle to Diss, we ran two exciting Palestinian women's visits to the UK which reached very many places and people across the community.

The larger visit (with more women) was in March 2023, just before the beginning of the 2023-24 year, and discussed in last year's annual report. Our March women's visit took Palestinian women in four small groups to the places shown on the map with red, black, green and white stars. The visit was so successful that we decided to run a second part to it in July in order to take



Palestinian women's voices to other areas of the country.

In July 2023, we brought three Palestinian women of different backgrounds and experience to Britain. They came from different parts of Palestine. One was from Jenin in the West Bank, one from Essawiya in Jerusalem and the third was from Nazareth, now living in Jerusalem.

This time, they went to areas that were largely new to our projects. They took part in a number of local activities and visited a school and a university; they met women in women's centres and men and women in community organisations. These were



interesting, strong women who gave well-received talks about their lives. under the title "Palestinian women's voices."



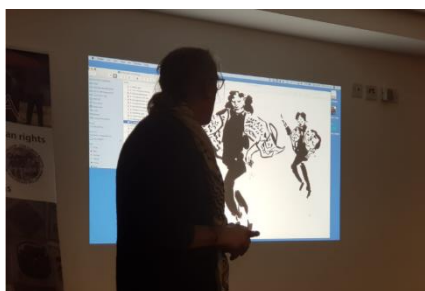
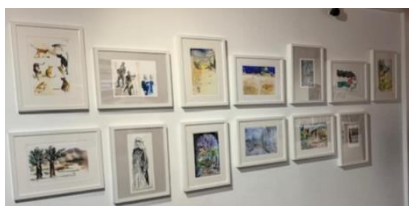


## Work in Camden & Islington



### Work with partners

We were glad to be invited to do a number of talks and hold stalls at events in different places. As well as the work of the visits, notable this year was a partnership with Twin Jenin/East London PSC that led to exhibitions of Tim Sanders' work at the Rich Mix and P21 galleries. Tim's pictures of Palestine were based on his CADFA visit to Palestine with health professionals in April.



### Events at Cafe Palestina

As the pandemic was officially over, we decided to hold fewer meetings on Zoom and more in-person meetings at Cafe Palestina. We took advantage of the café itself for a number of CADFA meals and used the event room for workshops including placard making (pictured) and meetings. We started to run 'Let's Talk About Palestine' in person, though we took advantage of Zoom to enable our co-ordinator in Palestine and other Palestinian friends to participate from there.

We also had in-person talks by people from Palestine whenever we could: these included

- Dr Mazen Qumsiyeh from the Museum of Natural History - May 23,
- Layan, a volunteer from from Badil - May 23,
- Nawal from Women in Hebron - June 23.
- CADFA's women visitors from Palestine - July 2023



## Campaigning work

(Pic shows some CADFA demonstrators on their way to a national march stopping at the on-going CADFA stall in Marchmont Street)

Even before October, the situation in Palestine (that had been getting worse during the whole time we had known it) took a serious turn for the worse with a new government in Israel including radical settlers from the West Bank and their supporters. See information about Abu Dis in particular in the pages below.

We brought the issue to the local community and all places our visitors went, through talks, materials, regularly wrote to our local paper, organised petitions, held regular demonstrations both locally and with friends across the country. We made a tiny mark in a growing movement for human rights in Palestine - but nothing was enough.

## Camden Palestine Festival

For the third year running, we were able to hold a Camden Palestine Festival at the lovely Calthorpe Community Garden in King's Cross – friends of CADFA for many years now, host of many of our activities and also guardian of the Camden Abu Dis olive tree that is getting bigger at the back of the garden! It was a wonderful day, the result of great effort by many local CADFA members with the help of musicians, embroiderers, artists, yoga teacher, dabkeh dancers, Calthorpe staff, cook from Cafe Palestina and others and headlining Mo'min Swaitat playing music from Palestine as well as our Palestinian women visitors.



# Work in Palestine

## Dar Assadaqa



*(Old photo from the days when Dar Assadaqa had an HQ)*

Our work in Palestine is based at Dar Assadaqa in Abu Dis. During the Covid years, Dar Assadaqa has lost both its headquarters and a flat we rented for volunteers and visitors to the pressures of



development (with the growing pressure of population and lack of space in Palestine, landlords wanted us out in order to renovate and sell or rent at a higher price).

We were grateful to the Abu Dis Council for finding us a temporary flat to house Dar Assadaqa but it is once again in a small old house and borrowing space from local organisations for meetings with young

people. Dar Assadaqa continues to work in partnership with many organisations in Palestine both for human rights reports and to build up activities like school and youth links and Beyond the Checkpoints.

We will not seek bigger premises again until our work with foreign volunteers and visitors is once again possible and needs this.

## Health visit to Palestine



In early April, we ran a very special health-focused visit to Palestine that had been in the planning since 2019, but had to be delayed from March 2020 because of the pandemic. This visit included thirteen visitors, mainly health workers, but it was also special as it had a particular link to the Tower Hamlets-Jenin twinning group and included an artist in residence (Tim Sanders) whose aim was to do some drawings and paintings of Palestine which would be used for publicity, education and fund-raising.

According to every visitor and the people who met them, this was an amazing visit. Based as usual in Abu Dis, the week included a wide variety of places and health-related contexts (clinics, hospitals and more) across the West Bank and Jerusalem. This included the north of West Bank – Jenin- because of the Tower Hamlets link. The visitors said how much they had learned and how shocked they were to see

the terrible situation. They did their best on return to feed back to organisations in Camden and Tower Hamlets and to help work for Palestinian human rights including CADFA and the Tower Hamlets group.

*"We thank you all for giving us the opportunity to make the visit, see so much, meet and make friends and family, and learn through you about the reality of life in the West Bank and all Palestine then, even before the current war, and now."*



Very sadly, this has been the last CADFA visit to Palestine to date.

## Beyond the Checkpoints



The Beyond the Checkpoints group met and listened to an old man who could remember the Nakba of 1948

Young people in Palestine often do not go much beyond their own town because of the difficulties caused by the Israeli occupation and in particular the many military checkpoints. Through years of visits of foreigners to Palestine, we found that our visitors had more opportunities to see the country than young people who grew up there managed to have.



We ran our great project Beyond the Checkpoints for a second summer. Through it, ten small groups of young people from different villages, towns and refugee camps in the West Bank travelled to each other's places. They learned how to show their own place to the others in the group, and learned about the human rights situation more widely than their own home town. They made short bits of video and collected photos as they went, finally working on presentations for a Zoom youth conference at which they told a UK

audience about the places that they lived in. Then they were invited to apply for a place on the Beyond the Checkpoints youth visit to the UK.

This year, the difficulties that the group suffered in those few weeks showed how the situation was getting worse and worse in the West Bank. It wasn't possible for them to visit Jerusalem. On one day, one group was unable to travel out of their area due to an army checkpoint. On another, the army

entered the bus carrying one of the groups and arrested the group leader for a few hours. In another place, the group were shown the destruction from recent army incursions.

The project definitely raised the knowledge and confidence of the young people in it, which a group of them demonstrated at the Youth Conference on 13<sup>th</sup> August and some during the youth visit to the UK later in the year.

## Second six months – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to end March 2024



### Campaigning against the genocide

The second half of the year was horrific. Everything changed suddenly in October 2023. News of atrocity after atrocity reached us. Following 7<sup>th</sup> October, Israel launched a brutally violent and ongoing attack on Gaza; the rest of the year became more and more terrifying with threats against the Palestinian people as a whole, a massive bombing campaign and then horrors of displacement, arrests, humiliations, depriving people of food and clean water: so much death, maiming and misery.

With the huge heat on Gaza, it was important to remember the West Bank too where harsh actions by soldiers and settlers



were leading to a huge number of killings and thousands of people were being taken into prison, experiencing a new level of cruel treatment. Our friends in Abu Dis, Jerusalem and the West Bank were suffering in many ways – work, schools, universities unable to function properly, many families with little money coming in, roads dangerous, and settler activity unleashed: many house demolitions, new settlements



started, pressure of all sorts on Palestinians near settlements.

Like people across the world, we first hoped that this horrific violence would last days only, then weeks, but it has drawn out into months. We were encouraged by moves by some countries, star among them South Africa, to challenge and stop the genocide, with a case in the International Court of



Justice, motions to the UN security council, appeals by people from Gaza and from international organisations. But it was clear that Israel would listen to no one, and the backing of the US and smaller countries like the UK provided both weapons and cover. In the first six months of this war on Gaza, tens of thousands of people were killed, many of them children, many, many more wounded,



huge numbers seriously disabled and people were beginning to starve.

We wrote letters to our representatives, to the press, organised petitions, wrote and distributed leaflets, organised local demos, joined other people's demos locally and nationally and called for an arms embargo on Israel and for divestment from Israeli



companies as a way to pressure for compliance with international law and human rights.

Our monthly Let's Talk About Palestine meetings at Cafe Palestina became weekly. Cafe Palestina was full of placard-painting and other workshops. We invited other organisations to join these meetings, joined with others in a kite workshop, demonstrations, a Camden Ceasefire Call directed at Camden Council. We visited councillors' surgeries, asked for deputations and organised demonstrations at meetings.

Out of these meetings, Camden Friends of Palestine emerged as a separate organisation. We continue (in the new year 2024-25) to co-operate with them and others in local events and the Camden divestment campaign.



## Twenty Years of CADFA



CADFA turned twenty in the terrible context of Israel's war on Gaza and pogroms and murders in the West Bank. Twenty years of building links between people and groups in the UK and Palestine - visits, projects and volunteer programmes contributed to the growing movement for human rights in

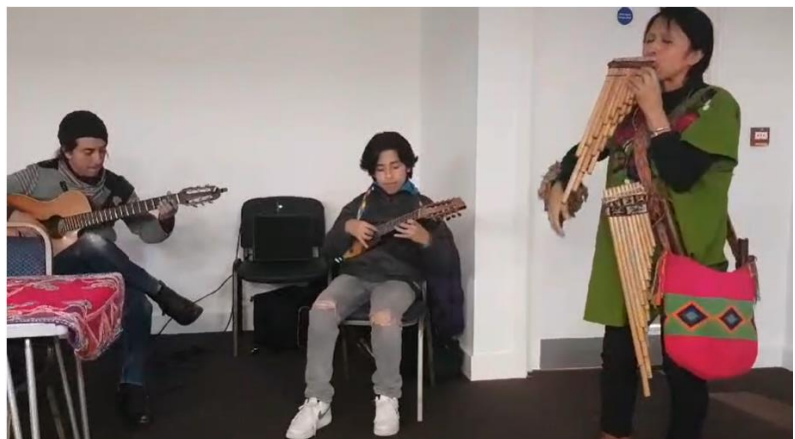


Palestine. However, our day to mark this was planned while Israel was bombarding Gaza with ferocity. Tens of thousands of people had been wounded and over ten thousand killed in a month, while Israeli settlers and the army were terrorising Jerusalem and the West Bank with around five people being killed every day. An event at Williamson Community Centre in Holloway was run in a spirit of solidarity and in order to explore the usefulness of linking work in the campaign against apartheid and for equality and human rights in Palestine.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to the evening: Raised Voices choir singing Solidarity Songs for Palestine, Nandita Dowson from CADFA on 'Twenty years of linking together for human rights', Tim Sanders (fine artist) and Sarah Saunders (photographer) on 'Art for human rights', a local human rights lawyer on 'What does the international legal framework offer



the struggle for equality and human rights? Looking at human rights, international humanitarian law, the law on apartheid, the international criminal court', Abdulwahab Sabbah from Palestine on 'What we want from linking together for human rights' and the Sagrada Famiglia trio (Phaxsi, Kanti and their son Raymi) for wonderful music from the Andes.



We were all so sorry to hear of the terrible news of the death of young Raymi in the summer of 2024.

# Beyond the Checkpoints

## Palestinian Youth Visit

### Feb-March 2024

This youth visit was one of dozens that CADFA has organised between the UK and Palestine since 2005 and was planned with our partners as part of the **Building Hope |Voices from Palestine** project. Work for it started months before but the visit was



planned for October 2023. That month, the world changed and Israel's war on Gaza got under way. We worried about the visit, postponed it twice but when it took place, the background was still the appalling genocide in Gaza and related tensions in the UK. This caused us to make some adjustments to our plan.

In the end, the visit ran in Feb-March 2024 and was an astonishing achievement. We brought a great group of ten young Palestinians aged 13 to 16 with four leaders, coming from several places in the West Bank, and took them to meet young people and community groups in several places in the UK. The partners across the country worked well as a co-operative team. The young people were secure, safe and happy. The visit achieved its aims and was full of positive activities and exchanges. People who came into contact with the group gave enthusiastic feedback and many new ideas for links and joint activities emerged.

Activities included meetings with young people including in schools and youth clubs, sightseeing, fun activities (included a boat trip, bowling, football, pool, table



tennis, craft activities - pom poms, kites, screen-printing, making video), meetings with local people often through welcome meals. The group was evidently happy and this was shown in their evaluations. They even enjoyed the long hours of travel as the visit moved from Malvern to Wales to Lancashire, filling the time with much singing and joking.

The young people were interested and communicative and have gathered together photos and video showing great times in schools, youth clubs and the wide variety of activities they experienced. This was put together in two short films, one by the Palestinian team and one by a group in the UK. Despite the very grim background, the interactions with Palestinian people created a feeling of possibility that encouraged many people to work for (or work harder for)



human rights in Palestine – the Building Hope project clearly lived up to its name.

This visit broadened people's knowledge of Palestine and their will to work for Palestinian rights. We were worried about running it in the present horrible context, but we discovered that the visit truly built hope and everyone needs that at the moment to keep going.



The young Palestinians were really heartened by the love and solidarity they found around them. Some of their top memories included the huge applause they got as they arrived to their first meeting at Newport: the enthusiasm and interest all the way through and the huge love they felt in the final event.

For people in the UK, it seems to have been a massive relief. In quite a different position from the young Palestinians, they were also under huge stress from the horrors of Palestine now compounded by the horror of a world that cannot stop it. The visit built ideas of possibility - strengthening the small groups across the country, bringing them new members, ideas of new visits, new



twinnings, new school activities, etc...It built respect for the Building Hope project and CADFA's work, and we hope to continue to broaden our membership, strengthen our work with our partners and look carefully at positive next steps, we hope, including the second youth visit that had been planned.

**Please note there is a full report of the visit on our website [CADFA.org](http://CADFA.org) and available in hard copy from Café Palestina.**



# The human rights year in Abu Dis

## The texture of daily life

The list of events that is written below – and the selection of comments from our reports during the year, in italics - includes more dramatic and public violations against the Palestinians in Abu Dis.

It is important to note that this is a partial picture of the human rights situation.

Palestinians suffer under a severe apartheid that affects every part of life, and the following important aspects (again only a selection) cannot be dated and described as events as they happen every month and every day.

- **Restrictions on travel** (the huge number of checkpoints, the Separation Wall, the ID (pass) system and the frequent Israeli ‘closures’)
- **Disruptions to family life** (with most families suffering divisions of some sort - people with different coloured IDs in/ out of the centre of Jerusalem, people whose families left in the 1967 war and have not been allowed back, etc)
- **Educational, economic, medical disruption** all arising from the

military control of the country and the severe racism of the treatment of the Palestinians

(There is more information and examples of how this affects people’s lives in our books, on the website, and from the descriptions of their lives that Palestinians bring with them on every visit to the UK.)

## Worse and worse in the West Bank and Jerusalem

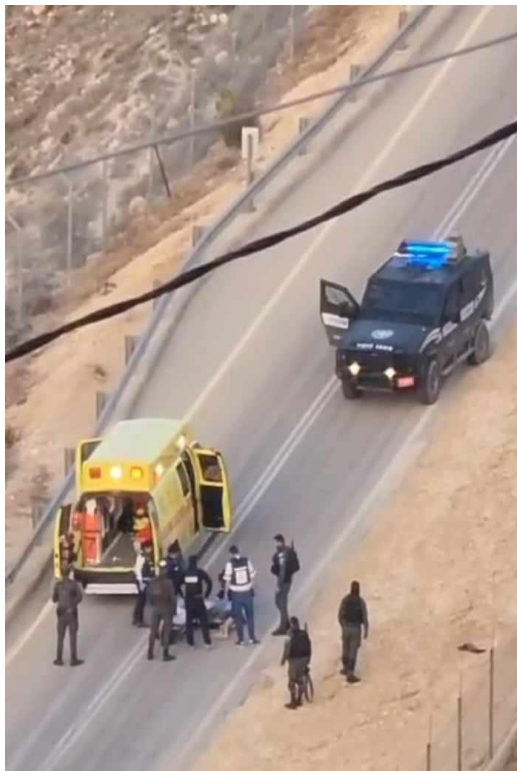
The situation was already terrible for Palestinians in the West Bank and Jerusalem; as the gleaming new Israeli settlements and settler highways spread across the hills, the Palestinians were increasingly confined into small areas, poor roads and the increasing threat of military and settler violence. In 2020, struck by the repeated killings at checkpoints, we sought records and found that 10,000 Palestinians had been killed from 2000 to 2020 (including so many from Abu Dis alone). This terrible situation certainly didn’t start in October 2023.

However, the situation got more raw with this radical settler government and the violence was increasing rapidly.



The West Bank was badly affected by what happened in Gaza – as well as the grief and worry from the continual appalling news, schools closed, roads

became dangerous, there were more and more army invasions and killings. Over four hundred Palestinians were killed in the West Bank between October 2023 and March 2024.



But in the shadow of Gaza, the Israeli settler project was moving ahead fast in the West Bank too, with increasing land expropriation, house demolition and a feeling that the impunity that Israel had had for years had deepened to the point that what was going on in the West Bank was internationally almost invisible.



*In the report below, italic sections are from CADFA reports during the year.*

## April 2023

Ramadan started at the beginning of April and at the same time the Israelis had Passover. They imposed a closure on the area round East Jerusalem from 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April for patients, schoolchildren and workers.

There were extra checkpoints put in near the University on the road from Sawahreh and the army stopped the traffic to check IDs.

On the night of 14<sup>th</sup> April, there was an army raid into Abu Dis. There was tear gas and shooting and the army invaded three houses in the middle of the night. One ex-prisoner was re-arrested and two others were given orders to go to the terminal and meet with the intelligence officer.

On the night of 17<sup>th</sup> April, the army invaded the Al Quds University and University Street. The army painted car oil on the Separation Wall, presumably to stop people from climbing the Wall to go to the Al Aqsa Mosque on Fridays.

On 20<sup>th</sup> April, the army invaded the area of University Street and entered a building of student accommodation. They arrested five students from the house. They threw tear gas canisters and shot in the streets.

Between 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, the Israelis imposed another complete closure on the area around East Jerusalem and down to Jericho (which divides the West Bank into two parts). This included Az Zaitouneh terminal. There was very slow movement for traffic going north-south in the West Bank for five days.

## May 2023

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Khader Adnan died in prison, imprisoned on administrative detention. He was very famous for a lengthy hunger strike roughly ten years before when he had held out for 65 days before his release was agreed. He had been arrested twelve times in his life and each time he had no trial. He had regularly gone on hunger strike to protest against his imprisonment. This time, the Israeli government included all the radical right who used to call for letting the prisoners die. He was arrested this time on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and he died after 87 days of hunger strike.



When the news came, there was a general strike across Palestine. In Abu Dis, there was a protest march. This was met by the Israeli army with tear gas and rubber bullets. Five people were wounded with rubber bullets and treated by the Red Crescent.

On the same day, a young man from Abu Dis was arrested in Jerusalem and beaten so badly he was hospitalised – and then sent to jail for being in Jerusalem with no permission.

On the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> May, the Israeli army started a military occupation against Gaza. There was again a general strike across the West Bank including Abu Dis. The next morning the army put up a checkpoint by the university which stopped the students. They shot tear gas in the area which led to

the closing of local schools and stopping teaching in the University.

There were two days of air strikes on Gaza, leading to the killing of 37 people. Demos continued in Abu Dis, and on 13<sup>th</sup> May, the Israeli army invaded the town in the early evening. There was shooting of tear gas and live ammunition up to midnight.



In the middle of May, an Israeli military court gave sentences for seven young people who had been in jail for some months. They gave sentences of up to six years each and fines of between six and ten thousand shekels. In the same week, three administrative detainees had their periods of detention renewed for the third time: another six months each.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May there was an army raid on a house in Ar Ras neighbourhood. The army beat a young man and his father in front of the family in sight of all the neighbours. The army shot tear gas and rubber bullets. Three young people were wounded with rubber bullets and one sixteen-year-old was arrested.

## June

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June there was a demo from the University area. When it passed the military camp, the army came down and started shooting. One young man was injured and taken to hospital in Bethlehem. The army chased the young people up to the Ar Ras area and entered and searched two houses.

On 5<sup>th</sup> June there was another demo. The army threw tear gas towards the demonstrators and this set fire to the garden of a house in Kubsa.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June, the army invaded several houses in the middle of the night in different areas of Abu Dis. They arrested three young people and during this time they beat their fathers in front of their families.

The same thing happened on 13<sup>th</sup> June. The army arrested two young people from their houses on the east of Abu Dis in the middle of the night and shot tear gas around in the area.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June, there was a general strike in protest against killings in Nablus (6 people) and Jenin (6 people) when refugee camps in the two towns were invaded by the Israeli army the day before (20 young people were



killed). At the end of the day, there was a march from the Youth Club in Abu Dis towards the military camp – The army attacked the march with tear

gas and rubber bullets. Seven young people were wounded by rubber bullets – one hit directly in his head. Three of them were taken to hospitals in Bethlehem.

In June on several occasions the settlers from Maale Adumim settlement threw stones at Palestinian cars on the road close to the settlement. On 21<sup>st</sup> June, settlers blocked the road completely (blocking the traffic between north and south of the West Bank) for the whole day.



## July

On 1<sup>st</sup> July the army closed the roads near the University and also at the main entrance to Maale Adumim. Near the settlement, settlers took charge of blocking the roads that lead people in the area to the north, Jericho and Jerusalem. Settlers stayed till late in the night on that day.



On 2<sup>nd</sup> July in the middle of the night, some Israeli special forces invaded Abu Dis in a Palestinian car and invaded a house. More soldiers joined them and they arrested a young man after beating his father (again).

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July, the Israeli army invaded Jenin Refugee Camp and seven young people were killed. In Abu Dis, there was a demo marching towards the military camp. The army started to shoot and wounded three young people with live ammunition who were taken to hospital in Bethlehem and Ramallah.

On 5<sup>th</sup> July there were army invasions to houses and two people were arrested.

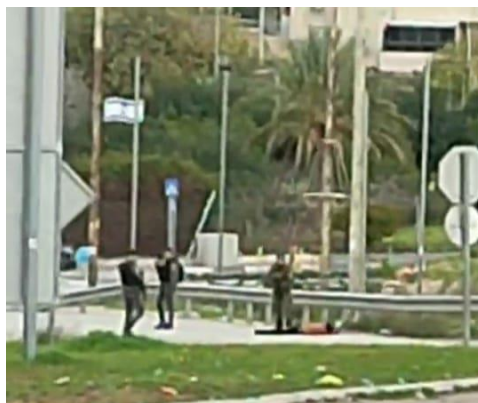
On 7<sup>th</sup> July there was a demo – the army shot into the crowd.

On 8<sup>th</sup> July, there were Israeli army on the streets near the Star Academy nursery.

On 12<sup>th</sup> July, the Israeli army made flying checkpoints in different places in Abu Dis. They took Jerusalem-plate cars and destroyed them (Israelis sell old cars to Abu Dis and the West Bank which people have to use unlicensed, but later the owners are punished for having these cars because of the colour of their IDs.)

On the same day a young boy who worked on delivery was shot by soldiers as he cycled through Abu Dis – He had to be taken to hospital with shrapnel in his knee.

On 16th July, the whole of the south of the West Bank was closed. For CADFA, this was the beginning of our Beyond the Checkpoints project. The arrest of the leader of one of the groups coming from Hebron is described in this CADFA report



### **Beyond the Checkpoints**

*16 Jul 23 GOOD and BAD news. GOOD first - the young people joining the Beyond the Checkpoints project from the north of the West Bank and from Jerusalem met for the first day induction to the project. It went well - for them the project got off to a good start.*

*BAD: the southern bus didn't get there because of troubles round Bethlehem and as we write the young people from there are (with their leaders) in a mosque near Bethlehem to keep safe with Israeli soldiers shooting outside, and the young people from the north now on their way home but with trepidation as there is news of settlers on the road.*

### **18 July 23 Beyond the Checkpoints Day**

*Day 1- both good and bad*

*The Beyond the Checkpoints project got under way today in Palestine – a good day for some and a very bad day for others.*

*The plan for today was to bring together groups of young people from the north and south of the West Bank and also from Jerusalem, meeting in Abu Dis for induction to the project and a visit to some parts of Abu Dis. The young people from the north and from Jerusalem made it, and by all reports the day went very well for them.*

*The young people from the south didn't make it however. They were collected from*

*their towns and set off north via Bethlehem and the Container Checkpoint towards Abu Dis. But there was a long queue at the Container checkpoint and after their bus had been held up for two hours (they sent us video of the queue), the driver turned the bus around and headed for home.*

*It got worse. Word came that the city of Hebron was closed in front of them and Bethlehem was in turmoil. The Israeli army was shooting. To look after the children, the driver stopped near a mosque and all of them went inside. It did not occur to them that a mosque was anything other than a safe place to be. They stayed there about an hour. But then the Israeli army came in, told everyone to leave the mosque – and arrested two people. One of them they didn't know and the other was the group leader of the youth group from Hebron.*

*This left his group sitting outside the mosque in a town that was not their own with the driver (who was a stranger) and worrying about their leader, for hours. Eventually the driver was able to return the children to their homes in Hebron, but without the leader. From Abu Dis, the northern groups went home full of trepidation as word was that there were angry Israeli settlers on every main road. But they got home OK.*

*By the time of writing and after several hours, the youth leader has finally been released.*

*What a difficult reminder of the context of the project and the dangerous reality beyond the checkpoints in Palestine.*

*We hope that, next time, the kids are actually all able to get beyond the checkpoints and to meet.*

## **26 July 23 Another death at the checkpoint caused by the Israeli occupation.**

*We are extremely sad to hear from Dr*



*Abdullah from Abu Dis of the death of Monadil Jabareen from Aizarieh (neighbouring Abu Dis in the Jerusalem suburb).*

*Yesterday, Monadil had a stroke and the emergency services decided he needed a hospital. But the Israelis have built the huge Separation Wall and military checkpoints between Abu Dis/Aizariyeh and the nearby Mount of Olives where the local hospitals are. You can see the hospitals from Abu Dis and Aizariyeh, but they have become very difficult to get to in emergency. Israel has created a massive division at the point of the Wall – they don't allow Palestinian ambulances to go through but require Palestinian patients to be transferred into an Israeli ambulance at the checkpoint, after a whole process of co-ordination.*

*This is another clear example of apartheid. The Israelis force Palestinians to live in enclosed areas with real restrictions on their movement. At the same time (against the Geneva Conventions which forbid the movement of an occupier's civilians on to occupied land), they have moved hundreds of thousands of Israeli civilians into*

*settlements on Palestinian land – those living in the huge settlements on Abu Dis/ Aizariyeh land (Maale Adumim, Qidar) can rush in minutes into Jerusalem on fast main roads.*

*Yesterday Monadil was driven to the checkpoints and the request for him to be transferred to an Israeli ambulance was sent to what is known as ‘the Co-ordination.’ He waited at the checkpoint while the medics tried to look after him for half an hour. The ‘permission’ for him to go through came too late. Sadly he died at the checkpoint – a direct result of the Occupation. We sent our deep condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.*

## August

On 1<sup>st</sup> August, Mohannad Mazaara (a youth of sixteen) was killed in front of Maale Adumim settlement. He was shot by the army who allowed him to lie on the ground



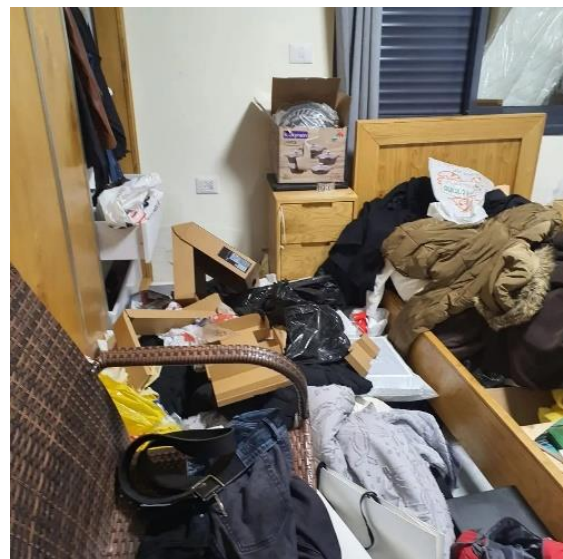
bleeding and did not allow an ambulance to reach him. The army invaded Jabl al Baba and arrested members of his family. Settlers gathered near the place and blocked Palestinian cars from travelling and attacked cars.

In the middle of the day, there was a demo in Abu Dis and the army wounded three people with rubber bullets – they were treated by the Red Crescent.

On 5<sup>th</sup> August, till late in the night, the Israeli army enforced a complete closure on the area, closing the Container checkpoint and preventing thousands of cars travelling and did the same near Maale Adumim settlement.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August, two houses were invaded in the middle of the night by the Israeli army. Again, houses were searched and members of the families were attacked by the army. Two young people were arrested.

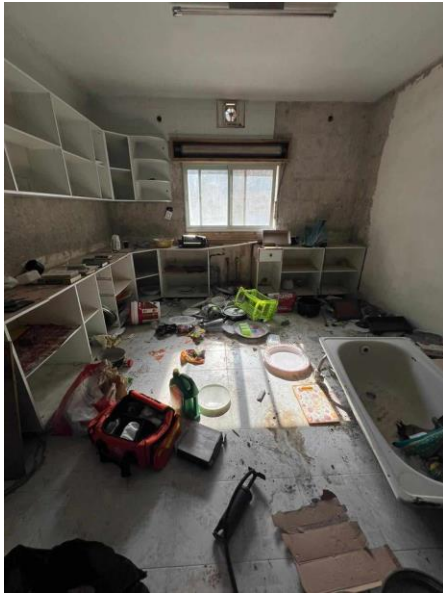
On 28<sup>th</sup> August, the army invaded a house and beat a father and two brothers as a way to make a third brother give himself up to the army. Again there was tear gas and shooting in the middle of the night.



## September

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September the Israeli army invaded ten houses in Abu Dis in the night as they like to do. They searched the houses, attacked the people in the houses and gave ten young people military orders to visit the intelligence officer at the military camp.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September, the army invaded the house that had been invaded on 28<sup>th</sup> August



and again attacked the owner of the house and his sons, again pressuring for the third son to give himself up.

This was repeated two weeks later. The father, his brother and their sons (thirteen people altogether) were arrested and detained for two days, told that they must give up the son that the army was looking for.

In September, the schools and the university lost seven education days when the Israeli army put checkpoints in the street and prevented young people from reaching their classes.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September, the army came again and invaded the houses of three uncles of the wanted man and arrested them together with four of their sons.

*15 Sep 23 The peaceful Friday morning\* in Abu Dis is filled today with the Israeli army who apparently have been everywhere since the early hours (\*Friday in Palestine is like Sunday in UK)*

*25 Sep 23 Collective punishment is prohibited by the Geneva Conventions. But Abu Dis has been suffering under collective punishment for a couple of weeks - major*

*night time invasions by the Israeli army, shooting in the streets, checkpoints in front of the Al Quds University right at the beginning of term - arrests and heavy beatings and a threatening letter from the army asking people to give up a young man wanted by the Israeli army.*

*It turns out that the young man in question was called for questioning by the Israeli army and was allowed back home. A couple of days later he was hunted again by the army but they didn't find him. The wildness of the occupation has increased - the army are punishing people as they chase him - many have been affected, physically hurt, prevented from getting to work etc - Some days ago the army set fire to a car scrapyard just out of the middle of town - dense, black smoke billowed across the town. - apparently they thought the youth was hiding in there. This is continuing.*

## October

Following the activities of 7<sup>th</sup> October (which are discussed elsewhere), there was immediately an emergency situation in the West Bank. In many areas (Hebron, Jerusalem etc) the Israeli Army imposed a curfew. In Abu Dis, the Palestinian Authority told all government buildings, the schools and the university to close.

The Israeli army declared a complete closure on the whole of the West Bank which prevented people from moving between areas or going in or out of the country, cancelling all military permissions to go to Jerusalem, which stopped people from going to work, hospital or other parts of their daily lives. Thousands of students were stranded in Abu Dis, unable to continue their study or to return home

safely – which they did gradually over the next few weeks.

Israel threw thousands of people from Gaza out of Jerusalem. This included people who were working in the city, and hospital patients and their families who were now not allowed to stay in the city. Hundreds of them came to Abu Dis where they lived in such places as a wedding hall in Kubsa.



It was a terrifying night in Abu Dis on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Twenty houses were invaded by the Israeli military. Fifteen people were arrested: old and young, fathers and their sons. People could hear the screams of the prisoners who were dragged along the streets and beaten severely.

*25 Oct A real genocide is taking place in Gaza - another 700 people were killed last night - three HUNDRED of these were children (way over 2000 children killed in the past two weeks, five or six THOUSAND people altogether). Real horror is unfolding on the people of Gaza and we must urgently keep up the campaign for a ceasefire! \* Twelve thousand tons of explosives have been dropped on Gaza since the beginning of the war, apparently like a nuclear bomb.\**

*But at the same time the Israelis are*

*terrorising the West Bank including shelling refugee camps from above. Dozens of people have been killed in the West Bank in the past two weeks (last night in Jenin, Qalandia, Askar camp in Nablus, Qalqilya), many wounded, hundreds arrested. \*At checkpoints Israeli soldiers are asking for people's phones and beating or arresting people who have shared info on what is going on\**

## November

Three young people were killed. Please see this CADFA report from the time.

### **6 Nov Stop the killing**

*We call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza to end the appalling killing, maiming and destruction there. We also cannot forget the West Bank where things have been extremely bad since 7th October (while not good, before).*

*The war in Gaza has given Israel cover to impose a siege and a war of a different kind on Palestinians in the West Bank. Roads closed with checkpoints and with concrete blocks, house demolitions, villagers being pushed out of their homes, the menace of heavily-armed settlers making it dangerous to bring in the olive harvest, the violent presence of Israeli soldiers preventing the opening of schools and universities, and all the killings and woundings.*

*This is all linked to the same effort by an increasingly extremist Israeli government to secure control over Palestinian land. While reputable human rights organisations have in the last few years (and Palestinians for the last few decades) pointed to the system of*

*apartheid that has imposed human rights violations on Palestinians while supporting the building of new colonial settlements for Israelis – Black South Africans who lived through apartheid there have no doubt that the term is apt – the current Israeli government is even more extreme. A few months ago we were warning it could become even more terrible. Well, we have got there.*

*Our friends in Abu Dis are still reeling from a night of particular violence by the Israeli army on early morning of 5th November. The Israeli army killed three young men and seriously wounded another nine. We have been sent appalling bits of video from Abu Dis: wild shooting by the army in a residential area, the demolition of a house and carrying of a body in a bulldozer, even video of soldiers taking selfies with the body.*

*“It was like a bloody war for six hours in Abu Dis,” we were told, “though completely one-sided, there were no weapons on the other side. The Israeli army appeared at two in the morning with drones, a helicopter and an estimated 100 soldiers. Some of them surrounded one house and began shooting into it. Others seem to have shot widely across the middle of the town, where people had come out, alarmed at what they could hear – some were shot and some were shot running to rescue the people who had been hurt.”*

*The Abu Dis community are at once mourning for three young men and deeply worried about the future of the other young men who remain critically ill. They are aware that these are three of the 155 so far killed in the West Bank since the 7th October, and believe that their town and the West Bank as a whole are being used as a training ground for Israeli sharp*

*shooters headed for Gaza.*

*The young men killed were Mohannad Afaneh aged 19, Mousa Zarour aged 22 and Nabeel Johar aged 20. We send our sorrow and solidarity to the families of all the young people and to the community that is suffering so much. (Allah yerhamhum)*

## December

The closure continued this month with extra military checkpoints on the roads. It was very hard for people to leave or enter the area.



On 9<sup>th</sup> December there was a night of army shooting and teargas when four people (brothers) were arrested from their homes in the old side of Abu Dis. As they were arrested, the four brothers and also their old father were beaten by the army. Another young man was arrested in the same way on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

On 29<sup>th</sup> December a young person from Aizariyeh (next to Abu Dis) was killed by the Israeli army.



*11 Dec Complete quiet in Abu Dis this morning as part of the 'total strike' for a ceasefire.*

*29 Dec Another funeral, another outrage, another loss in the horror of this time. So sad to hear that a lad from Aizariyeh next to Abu Dis has been killed by the Israeli army today. Mahmoud... another promising young life taken. Our sorrow and condolences go out to his family and all his friends and community.*

The Israeli army demanded that the Abu Dis Council would destroy the road itself – they refused. The Israeli military told the electricity company and the local water society to move their cables and pipes that were close to the road in question.

*18 Jan 24 Things are terrible in the West Bank too. Killings in double figures yesterday. Roads dangerous, education at risk (55 schools can't open properly for the new semester because of the army), economic activity slowed right down, army invasions, woundings, killings. Out of nothing here is what happened this morning when the Israeli army broke down the door of a family in Abu Dis, ransacked the house and stole gold jewellery and money.*

## January

The closure continued with a heavy presence of Israeli military across the area. Across the West Bank, huge numbers of people were being arrested and some of them were released, bearing terrible signs of mistreatment. Most of them had lost a lot of weight as they had not been given enough food, and they told terrible stories of bad treatment inside.

In January, the Israeli military gave notice that they were going to close part of the main road south from Abu Dis that went close between the Separation Wall and the University. They had already made the road more difficult some years before by building the Separation Wall.



## February

5<sup>th</sup> Feb – a young Palestinian from Jabal al-Baba next to Aizariyeh (next to Abu Dis) was shot next to Maaleh Adumim settlement.

On 12<sup>th</sup> February, a boy from Aizariyeh was also killed next to Maale Adumim settlement.

On 27<sup>th</sup> February, the Israeli military declared a curfew, moved its bulldozers in

and destroyed half of the road next to the university, making it wide enough only for one line of traffic for a length of 150 metres. The University remained closed which (fortunately) for the time being reduced the traffic but still it caused a lot of problems for cars going from Abu Dis to Sawahreh or to the south of the West Bank.

*5 Feb 24 Yet again yet again 🥹🥹. A young Palestinian lying wounded or worse near to Maale Adumim settlement outside Abu Dis. No one knows who it is yet. Such a horrible reality full of oppression and death all round. Strength to all good people*

*13 Feb 24 .... Mohammed Tariq Abusneineh from Aizariyeh, aged 15. ... was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier [yesterday]. الله يرحمك محمد*

*We send our deep condolences to his family and community.*

*This complete tragedy and crime is hard to write about. At the same time, the Israelis started bombing Rafah- having moved over a million people there from other parts of Gaza, they bombed it! Between 50 and 100 people were killed yesterday, many more injured if course and many more affected.*

*There are great fears for the next few days as the Israelis are listening to no one but themselves - the world is either mesmerised, impotent or turning very, very slowly to a realisation that genocide is real.*

*And there are now daily killings by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank, around 350 in the last 4 months. In the villages, the towns, the old city of Jerusalem. Words aren't enough to describe the horror that*

*is happening. We hope it can be stopped very, very soon.*

## March

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Israeli authorities closed the alternative road going south through



Wad al-Libban. People had started to use it a lot after 7<sup>th</sup> October as

Container Checkpoint had been closed – and it had become very important for example if people needed to take people to Bethlehem hospitals in an emergency, as now the Jerusalem hospitals had become completely out of reach.

At the same time, they shut another road that went through Wad Jabal al-Baba which people had used – though long and winding – in emergency.

So people from Abu Dis have to struggle through the half-blocked road to go to Container checkpoint and on to Bethlehem.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March, the Israeli Civil Department put a confiscation order on the walls of the area of east Abu Dis called Abu Nuwar. They also put a military order relating to 2,600 donums of Abu Dis land in the same area, declaring it a closed military zone. This area was inhabited by Bedouin families, and these orders began the pressure on them to leave.

# Financial report

During 2023/4 our finances in CADFA turned around. Having started with a deficit of £3.4k, we finished with a surplus of £17.2k. Our income increased from £115.6k the previous year to £145.4k (+26%). Our costs also increased but not by nearly as much; from £119.1k to £124.8k

There are a number of reasons for the increased income:

- (1) The movement of solidarity with Palestine owing to the events in Gaza brought more people to our stall, events and to Café Palestina.
- (2) Continued recovery from Covid meant that we could once again run events and activities that had been on hold.
- (3) Increased activities at Café Palestina, which sold our books and goods, ran collections, gave us the surplus from its Arabic classes and gave donations.
- (4) The continued efforts of CADFA members, including the Marchmont Stall team and others who ran stalls for CADFA and others who ran events at the Café and elsewhere. Sales of mugs etc produced after Tim Sanders visit with the health workers brought in about £2.4k, a good £1.0k more than the cost (with more to come in 2024 with the 2025 calendar).
- (5) The work of our visit partners in the Building Hope project who raised money for the youth visit in various ways.
- (6) Three grants totalling £9k, all for the youth visit, from MSN Trust, Birchwood Hall in Malvern and Taith (Welsh government funding).
- (7) Membership income was up £5.3k reflecting a steady increase in membership; up about 15% following a similar increase the previous year.

Donations were up from £2.5k to £14.1k. £3.3k of this was collected for MAP (for health support for Gaza).

The biggest increase in our income (£27.7k) was through “income generation”; £8.0k from sales at our stall doubling and the rest from sales and events at the Café. Note however the costs of income generation went up by £15.3k, so the contribution to our surplus was about £12.4k.

When looking at the income and expenditure for visits (both to Palestine and from Palestine), it should be noted that the major cost of these not shown here as part of visit costs, is our core cost (salaries etc). This year, we ran only one visit to Palestine: the health workers’ visit at the beginning of the year; most of the income and costs (ignoring core costs) appeared in the previous year’s accounts. The situation in Palestine stopped us running visits later in the year.

We raised enough money during the youth visit in Feb-March through the efforts of our members and partners in collections, events and small grants for us to be able to cover the immediate costs, the core costs that enabled it and to be confident enough to plan two more visits in 2024/5.

The relatively small increase in costs mainly reflected the increased income generation costs, reduced costs for visits to Palestine and the money collected for MAP mentioned above. Staff costs were virtually identical as there were not any changes in staffing or salaries (as there haven’t been for many years).

Our accounts (see below) show us ending the financial year in credit by £17,216 (after starting the year with a deficit of £3,386).

## CADFA ACCOUNTS - 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

|                                        | 2022/3        | 2023/4        |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>CADFA Charity</b>                   |               |               |
| Opening Balance                        | 192           | -3,386        |
| <b>Income</b>                          |               |               |
| Project grants                         | 0             | 8,950         |
| Other project Income                   | 50,905        | 38,693        |
| Membership                             | 33,073        | 38,354        |
| Donations                              | 2,479         | 14,140        |
| Visits to Palestine                    | 15,855        | 384           |
| Income generation (events, stalls etc) | 13,015        | 40,739        |
| Gift Aid                               | 228           | 4,097         |
| Total Income                           | 115,555       | 145,356       |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                     |               |               |
| Abu Dis running costs                  | 2,168         | 5,959         |
| Camden running costs                   | 19,987        | 20,679        |
| Staff costs                            | 53,771        | 51,985        |
| Project expenditure                    | 24,442        | 19,170        |
| Small project costs                    | 2,613         | 3,497         |
| Visits to Palestine cost               | 10,236        | 2,233         |
| Income generation costs                | 5,916         | 21,232        |
| Total Expenditure                      | 119,132       | 124,755       |
| <b>CADFA Outturn</b>                   | <b>-3,386</b> | <b>17,216</b> |
| Opening Balance                        | 192           | -3,386        |
| Total Income                           | 115,555       | 145,356       |
| Total Expenditure                      | 119,132       | 124,755       |
| Surplus (Deficit) Carried Forward      | <b>-3,386</b> | <b>17,216</b> |
| Surplus (Deficit) for the Year         | <b>-3,578</b> | <b>20,601</b> |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>                  |               |               |
| Account Balance at 31 March 2024       | 3,814         | 30,416        |
| Pension Pot                            | -7,200        | -13,200       |
| Loans Outstanding                      | 0             | 0             |
| Late Transfers In                      | 0             | 0             |
| Late Transfers Out                     | 0             | 0             |
| Total                                  | <b>-3,386</b> | <b>17,216</b> |

## BALANCE SHEET

|                                  | As at<br>31st<br>March<br>2023 | As at<br>31st March<br>2024 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                  | £                              | £                           |
| UK Bank Balances                 | 5,174.88                       | 30,376.31                   |
| Cash in hand or in transit       | -1,360.51                      | 39.53                       |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                | <b><u>£3,814.37</u></b>        | <b><u>£30,415.84</u></b>    |
| Surplus at 1 April               | 6,192.11                       | 3,814.37                    |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year | -3,577.75                      | 20,601.49                   |
| Added to Pension Pot             | 1,200.00                       | 6,000.00                    |
| <b>Surplus at 31 March</b>       | <b><u>£3,814.37</u></b>        | <b><u>£30,415.86</u></b>    |
| <b>Represented by:</b>           |                                |                             |
| UK Bank Accounts                 | 5,174.88                       | 30,376.31                   |
| NIS held in Abu Dis              | -311.57                        | -145.68                     |
| Jordanian Dinars held in Abu Dis | 2.10                           | 1.08                        |
| US Dollars held in Abu Dis       | 1,881.44                       | 1,706.17                    |
| Balance on Camden Cash account   | -2,526.63                      | -163.34                     |
| Balance on Stall Cash Account    | 65.65                          | -122.72                     |
| Balance on Cafe Account          | -1,110.98                      | -1,911.13                   |
| Balance on Just Giving Checkout  | 224.26                         | 0.00                        |
| Balance on PayPal account        | 415.22                         | 172.79                      |
| Balance on SumUp account         | 0.00                           | 502.36                      |
|                                  | <b><u>3,814.37</u></b>         | <b><u>30,415.84</u></b>     |

## Our objectives for 2024-25

### How did we do this year?

We met or made progress against the objectives we set ourselves for 2022-23.

**We said... The main areas we want to work on to strengthen and sustain this work** are

1. Extending our membership, involving new people across the country, encouraging our members to be active **YES**
2. Working with existing partner organisations and with new organisations both in Camden and across the country **YES**
3. Developing and extending the **Building Hope| Voices from Palestine** project **YES**
4. Finding new sponsors and/or ways to make this work sustainable.  
**We made good progress this year.**

**We planned to work specifically work on**

- Regular human rights reports on Zoom and in person **YES**
- Public events focusing on human rights in Palestine **YES**
- Publications on social media and in print on human rights in Palestine
- Visits to Palestine (aim to have three or four this year) **Only one because of the changed situation after October**
- Visits to the UK (aim to have three or four this year subject to funding) **We had two visits from Palestine this year and postponed two because of the changed situation after October**
- School links and school materials on Palestine and human rights **We stay**

**in touch with schools and made new links through the youth visit; we have materials that we would like to use more**

- Advocacy work (including Beyond the Checkpoints) **YES & related campaigning**
- In December 2023, celebration of 20 years of Camden Abu Dis links. **YES**

### Our objectives for 2024-25

**Many of our objectives for this year are the same as last year – Ones that are different from last year are in red**

**The main areas we want to work on to strengthen and sustain this work** are still

1. Extending our membership, involving new people across the country, encouraging our members to be active
2. Working with existing partner organisations and with new organisations both in Camden and across the country
3. Developing and extending the **Building Hope| Voices from Palestine** project
4. **Building our sustainability both financial and through training more CADFA leaders for different aspects of the work**

### We will specifically work on

- Regular human rights reports on Zoom and in person
  - Public events focusing on human rights in Palestine
  - Publications on social media and in print on human rights in Palestine
  - Visits to Palestine only if the situation allows it
  - Visits from Palestine to the UK: a second youth visit as part of
- Beyond the Checkpoints and (subject to funding) another, possibly including students and women to keep those links alive.
  - School links and school materials on Palestine and human rights
  - Advocacy work and human rights campaigning
  - Working for a ceasefire and an end to the genocide.

## Thank yous

CADFA is a small organisation, but we have so many people and other organisations to thank for their help and support this year. In both the UK and Palestine, there are our employees, our long-standing volunteers, helpers in particular projects and partner organisations. Our employees Nandita Dowson (Director) who kept the whole thing going in the UK and Abdulwahab Sabbah (Co-ordinator in Abu Dis) who kept it going in Palestine, and Meg Gent based in London for her support. Our group of trustees for the hours that they have put in. Our hard-working volunteers in many fields including Annika, Stuart and their stall team. Paul and Hugh for their help with the website, Kathy and the other English-group volunteers. So many volunteers in

particular in relation to the visits that it is scary to try to list them – we don't want to miss anyone! You know who you are! Your help was invaluable.

We want to thank all our members, everyone who fundraised for us, those who contributed, organisations that gave us small grants – and also people outside CADFA who helped in particular with our visits.

Particular thanks to some individuals for help with fundraising on a one-off or regular basis. A big thank you for your help to

- MSN Fund
- Taith & the Welsh Committee for International Affairs
- Palestinian Higher Council for Youth and Sports
- Cafe Palestina CIC

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 - CADFA's charitable objects

### **From the CADFA constitution as amended November 2013**

The Charity's object is to promote human rights (as set out in the International Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) and respect for international humanitarian law in 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 in particular and Palestine more widely;
- 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 in particular and Palestine more widely;
- working to obtain and promote redress for the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely;
- providing support to and relieving need among the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families, in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely.

## Appendix 2 – CADFA trustees

Elected at AGM 2023 (1) inquorate meeting on 19th November 2023

and (2) reconvened meeting on 19th April 2024

Chair Peter Ashan

Treasurer Hugh Wallis

Secretary Cris Piccoli

Minutes secretary Fiona Millar

Trustee Rumana Choudhary

## Appendix 3 - Some press cuttings from this year

**Neighbourhood Panel**, a response to the lack of a 'voice' for the community, will be held on Monday 23rd July 2023 at 2-4 pm. The panel will be held at the Camden Community Garden, WC1X 8LH. The panel will be held at the Camden Community Garden, WC1X 8LH. The panel will be held at the Camden Community Garden, WC1X 8LH.

**Left: Amy Mackenzie** on Monday evening at the Camden Community Garden, WC1X 8LH. The panel will be held at the Camden Community Garden, WC1X 8LH. The panel will be held at the Camden Community Garden, WC1X 8LH.

**Right: Amy Mackenzie** on Monday evening at the Camden Community Garden, WC1X 8LH. The panel will be held at the Camden Community Garden, WC1X 8LH. The panel will be held at the Camden Community Garden, WC1X 8LH.

**Entrance free/ Collection for Palestinian youth visit / Offers of help and participation welcome / \*Info on the Palestinian women's visit & on the festival from [contact@cadfa.org](mailto:contact@cadfa.org)**

**The slaughter goes on...**

VERY many residents will have seen us together with others in the Camden Friends of Palestine network, leafleting in the streets, "collecting petition signatures" and in frequent demonstrations for a ceasefire including a huge march to the town hall last Saturday calling on Camden Council to pass a ceasefire motion.

We thought we should explain to people who had our leaflets what has happened. Two councillors - Lorna Jane Russell of the Green Party, and one of the Labour councillors - did put in a ceasefire motion in time for next Monday's meeting but the local Labour Party, it seems, has made clear its displeasure at Labour councillors signing the motion so it had to be withdrawn.

National Liberal Democrat policy is for a ceasefire, so we hoped that one of the LibDem councillors would sign it in place of the Labour signatory, but apparently they think it too locally divisive.

We continue to call for a ceasefire motion, as this is a matter of life and death. In Gaza people continue to be slaughtered in number, over 30,000 since October, including people whose deaths were registered (over 24,000) and people lost under the rubble of destroyed homes and public buildings (around 8,000), including over 10,000 children.

What is happening is the most appalling and public genocide that we have seen; brutal, callous, racism bringing death and destruction on industrial scale, and the world is unsafe not only for Palestinians but for all of us if such disregard for international law is allowed to go on.

Our councillors will be aware of the South African genocide case against Israel now in the International Court of Justice and the fact that the majority of countries in the world have called for ceasefire at the United Nations. In the UK, opinion polls show that the majority of want this carnage to stop.

We believe Camden Council should make a ceasefire motion if it really believes in anti-racism and human rights, as it says that it does. Silence in this case is complicity with daily, hourly killings and untold misery on every level, which will follow us all down the years.

We will have a demonstration outside the council in Judd Street at 6.30pm, Monday January 29. Do please come.

People wanting to know more do please join CADFA (see [CADFA.org](http://CADFA.org)) or come along to hear Palestinian voices every week at 6.30pm downstairs at Cafe Palestina

**What about diplomacy?**

WE must be horrified by the scale of death and destruction we are witnessing and by the numbers that climb daily as Israel continues its bombardment of Gaza with the support of our government.

Over 25,000 people dead (United Nations OCHA figures from January 21), including more than 10,000 children; 1.7 million people displaced; homes, hospitals, bakeries and schools destroyed. Without adequate access to food, shelter, or clean water and a critical shortage of medical supplies and facilities, 2.2 million people are at imminent risk of death from starvation or disease. Some 625,000 students (100 per cent) have no access to education; 153 UN staff and 117 journalists have been killed.

There is overwhelming support among the British public - 71 per cent according to a recent YouGov poll - for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

There have been huge and continuing protests around the world from the start. South Africa has brought a compelling and detailed case at the International Court of Justice.

Yet our government is continuing to send arms to Israel in spite of all this and in spite of major concerns in the foreign office about Israel's actions.

We have just heard that the UK is again joining in US strikes against the Houthis in Yemen.

**On murdering neighbours**

ISRAEL'S PM Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that Palestinians cannot have their own state.

His declaration confirms that Israel has become an apartheid state. A hundred years ago there was a nation-state established in the name of the Jewish people. The victims were murdered in Hitler's camps and founded their own nation-state, Israel.

Now, as perpetrators, Israeli Zionists are victimising Palestinians, denying them their nation-state and destroying Palestinian homes, mosques, hospitals, schools and, of course, Palestinian women, children and men.

If this is not genocide it looks very like it.

It was Hannah Arendt, a Jew who fought anti-Semitism as a Jew, who pointed out that the Enlightenment concept of human rights for all mankind contains a paradox: that if a human has no nation-state, no nationality, then she/he has no way to enforce her/his universal human rights.

Without a nation such a person is a 'savage'.

Indeed, right-wing Zionists call Palestinians savages... It was another philosopher, Karl Marx, also a Jew, who pointed out that those who do not learn their history, are forced to repeat it. The first step to ending the genocidal murder of Gaza is to accept that Palestinians have the same rights to their own state as any other people.

Until Israel accepts that their genocide in Gaza creates yet another generation of terrorists they will have no rest and continue to murder their neighbours, the Palestinians.

**DR MARTIN ROSENDAAL, NHS**

**Deadline for Letters is noon**

**Keir Starmer MP**

**Casework Service and Advice Surgeries**

**Are you facing a problem my team and I might be able to help with?**

**If you live in Holborn and St Pancras please get in touch.**

Email: [keir.starmer.constituency@parliament.uk](mailto:keir.starmer.constituency@parliament.uk)  
Tel: 020 7388 7862

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BACP reg. No. 180747

**COME AND WORSHIP WITH US**

We are a group of non-denominational Christians

The Tenants' Ass'n Hall, 29A Chamberlain House, Phoenix Road, NW1 1EU (Entrance on Ossulston Street)

Worship: Sunday @ 10am  
Bible study: Wednesday @ 7.30pm by Zoom.  
FREE Bible course "Jesus: The Way"



# St David's Day hospitality for Palestinian youngsters

A GROUP of Palestinian youngsters were treated to some good old fashioned Welsh hospitality on St David's Day as they visited Powys.

On Friday, March 1, Radnor Palestine Links hosted a group of Palestinian youngsters who are touring England and Wales as part of a trip organised by the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association (CADFA).

For 10 days, these four boys and six girls, aged 13 to 16, and their four adult leaders, are enjoying a respite from the violence that they are experiencing in their home towns in the West Bank including Assawiye, Abu Dis, Jenin camp and Beit Leed ad Al Wlajeh.

By the time they reached Knighton they had already been greeted by Mark Drakeford, First Minister of the Senedd, and had visited Newport.

Arriving in Presteigne they met children of the same age at John Beddoes School and then spent an hour with the scouts in Knighton, sharing snacks, playing games and exchanging stories.

They then enjoyed a supper in a nearby house, with local people who brought food to share.

On Saturday, March 2, they met community groups in Craven Arms, before going on to Chester.

Despite the difficult situation, with the ongoing war in Gaza and armed settler violence in their villages in the West Bank, these children are getting a breath of fresh air and received a wonderful Powys welcome from the people they met during their visit.

They have been fed with Welsh cakes and lava bread and reciprocated with hummus, pitta bread and dates.

Everyone joined in their Palestinian dabke dance and some singing.

They were relieved to know that so many local people have been protesting on their behalf to try to get a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the violence in their home country.

For more information about Radnor Palestine Links, email [radnorpalestinelinks01@gmail.com](mailto:radnorpalestinelinks01@gmail.com) or alternatively visit the Radnor Palestine Links Facebook group.

■ Radnor Palestine Links. PIC: RPL

## Palestinian teens visiting Camden talk about West Bank life

13th March

CAMDEN

PALESTINE

CHARITY

PEOPLE



Some of the girls who visited the UK with the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association (Image: Nathalie Raffray)



By Nathalie Raffray

Senior Reporter

[@HamandHigh](#)

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No Comments

Palestinian children on an exchange trip to the UK spoke of their gratitude for the support they received during their visit.

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association (Cadfa) has been bringing Palestinian teenagers to the UK for 20 years in an exchange programme to promote awareness of the human rights situation in Palestine.

AD

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## Appendix 4 –

### Some placards and banners

Our twenty-year old embroidered banner was taken

on many marches. Countless new ones were made in Friday placard workshops or by Fiona with her great lettering. Many walked off into the crowds in the national demos—we are still searching for our favourite ones above.



## Appendix 5 – petitions for ceasefire on change.org

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Urge Camden Councillors to Support a Ceasefire in Gaza</b></p> <p>We are writing to ask you urgently to support a motion for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. We are in real distress as we sit and watch tens of thousands of people in Gaza being killed, wounded, made homeless, threatened with disease, hunger and starvation – and this is no natural accident but the declared intent of the leaders of...</p> |   |
| <p> <b>CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association)</b><br/>London, ENG, United Kingdom</p> <p> 2,884</p> <p> 18/01/2024</p>                                          |                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Make the ceasefire permanent</b></p> <p>Dear Keir Starmer We are writing as your constituents to add our names to CADFA's letter below, and to demand that the current "pause" in Gaza become an on-going ceasefire. We write to you both as our MP and as leader of the Labour Party. We are old, young, women, men, from different backgrounds, faiths and none and what we...</p>                                |   |
| <p> <b>CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association)</b><br/>London, ENG, United Kingdom</p> <p> 8,393</p> <p> 25/11/2023</p>                                          |                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Ceasefire now and human rights</b></p> <p>Dear Keir Starmer This is an urgent letter from your constituents. We the undersigned are hugely worried about Israel's war on Gaza which has already killed thousands, injured tens of thousands and included among other war crimes the bombing of schools and hospitals. We are very worried about a statement you are recorded as...</p>                              |  |
| <p> <b>CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association)</b><br/>London, ENG, United Kingdom</p> <p> 2,787</p> <p> 18/10/2023</p>                                    |                                                                                      |

## Appendix 6 - Evaluations of the youth visit

### Things that really struck the young Palestinians (they talked again and again about people's support):

- British people's great care for Palestine and its people, the love and kindness of the people, the beauty and nature of the country
- The last event in the church, how the people taking part were full of love and loyalty (caring about Palestine?)
- How many people care about Palestine
- Co-operation between each other
- People's kindness
- The great treatment we had from people and the great way the group worked together
- When we went to the church and we danced
- Really beautiful memories in Wales and the nice people there
- The places we visited and how the people treated us
- There were many people who supported our cause



## **From one of the supporting organisations**

“We discovered so much support locally. I don’t know how much people learnt about Palestine from our event - it depended on who they spoke to - some of them may have learnt much more than others but they will all have seen young Palestinians as real people- and very lovely real people in their case- and not just as statistics on the news. Hope it spurs us all on to do more by way of support.”

## **From a young person who met the young people in a youth activity in Wales.**

“Meeting the young people had a profound impact on my perspective of the current conflict, as it was the first time I'd been exposed to the voices of Palestinians, voices I believe are too often disregarded. Not only did I learn about Israel's violent retaliation after October 7th on a personal level, but also the context of everyday life before this escalation, and how oppressive this occupation has been on Palestinians for decades, a reality largely overlooked until now.

“One individual was incredibly remarkable in retelling his personal experience as a Palestinian under oppressive Israeli rule, being incredibly informative of their current reality.

“However what I value the most is our positive discussions with each other, the cultural exchange, and interest in language and traditions. Even playing video games

with each other is a cherished moment of relief amidst an unfortunate situation.

“I'd be honoured to keep in touch with these brave young people who have made their voices heard around the UK. I'm committed to supporting young people like themselves, from the basics such as informing family and friends on the current conflict, as they've not had the privilege of listening to first-hand experiences. And even introducing the topic to the school curriculum; educating other young people who may be exposed to misinformation from biased news outlets and our biased government.”

## **From the vicar of the church that hosted the final event**

“Last night was one of the most spiritual and moving of my entire seventeen years at Holy Cross and it was a privilege to host our young Palestinians to hear their testimonies, as well as to enjoy their dancing and positivity.

Thank you for all your own hard work in making it possible and my abiding respect and admiration for CADFA.... and the team for all you manage to achieve in what is certainly a cold geopolitical climate.”

## **And from one of the helpers at that event...**

“Before I left the church yesterday evening I've told (the vicar) that I hoped everything was in the same place as before we arrived and his answer was: this will be difficult, after all the happiness and joy he had seen during the evening the place wouldn't be the same anymore ❤️



Join CADFA

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## CADFA Trustees' Annual report

April 2023-March 24

**CADFA Charity 1112717**

**Linking Together for Human Rights**



**CADFA | Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association**  
**Charity 1112717**  
**53 Fortess Road NW5 1AD**  
**[cadfa.org](http://cadfa.org)**

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## Introduction to the year 2023-24

### A year of two halves

Ninth Dec 2003 was the date of a meeting at Torriano Meeting House called 'Places in Palestine' when we aimed to build a twinning link between Camden and somewhere in Palestine. Our link to Abu Dis started that day. In early 2023, CADFA was excited to be in its twentieth year, and looked forward to a great celebration in December. But by December, though we had an event to note the day, it was not the time for a party as the world has changed for us, our Palestinian friends and perhaps for everybody.



This year divided into two clear halves. In some ways, it was consistent – through the

first part, we saw the Israeli violations on the Palestinians build and worsen as they had been doing for years, while in the UK, CADFA had a firm model of activities and strong plans for the second half of the year. But Hamas operations on 7th October were followed by Israel attacks on Gaza and escalation in the West Bank on a scale we could not have imagined. Writing in May 2024, anything before October 2023 seems to be years ago.

### A need to review

The first part of the report describes our 'normal' activities up to 7th October, though we were working in a situation that could not at all be described as normal.

The second part describes the CADFA year from October as the wild Israeli onslaught on Gaza became on-going. We threw ourselves into demonstrations and at first worried about whether our usual activities were appropriate.

The third part of the report focuses on the human rights background in Abu Dis – behind the genocide in Gaza, the situation in the West Bank was also getting worse.

Our financial report and objectives for the next year follow, and then in the appendices some illustrations of the work we did this year.

Our own work steadied with the excellent youth visit of Feb-March. In the face of current horror, nothing we can do is enough, but it was clear from the responses of the young people, our friends in Palestine and those hundreds who met them that these visits and the Building Hope project are a useful contribution: so we keep going.

## The first six months – April to September 2023

### Our work across the UK

Our regular work included

- **Education on Palestine - Let's Talk About Palestine** sessions, **Palestine for Beginners** and other **Zoom events**
- **Stalls and outreach** – weekly Marchmont St stall/ other stalls and talks for local organisations
- **Public events** in Cafe Palestina
- **Campaigning for human rights in Palestine** through letters, articles and demonstrations
- **Co-operation with our Palestinian partners: Beyond the Checkpoints** project
- **Volunteer conversation classes** for students at Al Quds University
- **Co-operation with partners in the UK** – this year with Peace groups, PSC groups, twinning groups, community groups across the country as well as many different organisations locally in Camden/ Islington
- **Communicating** through regular email newsletters, social media, our website
- **Preparing for and following up the visits to and from Palestine** that have been a major part of our programme for many years now



### Building Hope | Voices from Palestine

This CADFA initiative launched in 2022 draws on our years of work with partners across both countries. The plan is to run even more frequent visits of Palestinians to the UK to take their voices across the country.



We started 2023-24 with a women's visit to the UK, a conference in person at Cafe Palestina and online on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023, a plan for a youth visit in October and a student visit in January. With our partners in Palestine, we organised the Beyond the Checkpoints project to help prepare two groups of young people to visit the UK, and with the help of volunteers ran weekly conversation classes for students from the Al Quds University to help them prepare to speak about their lives. Our plans were delayed and changed by the brutal events in Palestine from October onwards.

## Women's visits from Palestine March & July 2023



Together with partners in many places across the country from Cornwall to Cardiff and Newcastle to Diss, we ran two exciting Palestinian women's visits to the UK which reached very many places and people across the community.

The larger visit (with more women) was in March 2023, just before the beginning of the 2023-24 year, and discussed in last year's annual report. Our March women's visit took Palestinian women in four small groups to the places shown on the map with red, black, green and white stars. The visit was so successful that we decided to run a second part to it in July in order to take



Palestinian women's voices to other areas of the country.

In July 2023, we brought three Palestinian women of different backgrounds and experience to Britain. They came from different parts of Palestine. One was from Jenin in the West Bank, one from Essawiya in Jerusalem and the third was from Nazareth, now living in Jerusalem.

This time, they went to areas that were largely new to our projects. They took part in a number of local activities and visited a school and a university; they met women in women's centres and men and women in community organisations. These were



interesting, strong women who gave well-received talks about their lives. under the title "Palestinian women's voices."



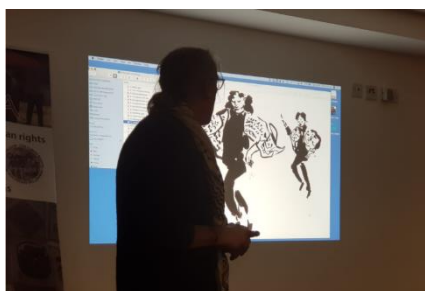
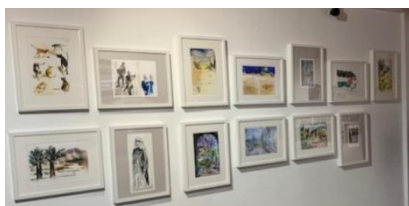


## Work in Camden & Islington



### Work with partners

We were glad to be invited to do a number of talks and hold stalls at events in different places. As well as the work of the visits, notable this year was a partnership with Twin Jenin/East London PSC that led to exhibitions of Tim Sanders' work at the Rich Mix and P21 galleries. Tim's pictures of Palestine were based on his CADFA visit to Palestine with health professionals in April.



### Events at Cafe Palestina

As the pandemic was officially over, we decided to hold fewer meetings on Zoom and more in-person meetings at Cafe Palestina. We took advantage of the café itself for a number of CADFA meals and used the event room for workshops including placard making (pictured) and meetings. We started to run 'Let's Talk About Palestine' in person, though we took advantage of Zoom to enable our co-ordinator in Palestine and other Palestinian friends to participate from there.

We also had in-person talks by people from Palestine whenever we could: these included

- Dr Mazen Qumsiyeh from the Museum of Natural History - May 23,
- Layan, a volunteer from from Badil - May 23,
- Nawal from Women in Hebron - June 23.
- CADFA's women visitors from Palestine - July 2023



## Campaigning work

(Pic shows some CADFA demonstrators on their way to a national march stopping at the on-going CADFA stall in Marchmont Street)

Even before October, the situation in Palestine (that had been getting worse during the whole time we had known it) took a serious turn for the worse with a new government in Israel including radical settlers from the West Bank and their supporters. See information about Abu Dis in particular in the pages below.

We brought the issue to the local community and all places our visitors went, through talks, materials, regularly wrote to our local paper, organised petitions, held regular demonstrations both locally and with friends across the country. We made a tiny mark in a growing movement for human rights in Palestine - but nothing was enough.

## Camden Palestine Festival

For the third year running, we were able to hold a Camden Palestine Festival at the lovely Calthorpe Community Garden in King's Cross – friends of CADFA for many years now, host of many of our activities and also guardian of the Camden Abu Dis olive tree that is getting bigger at the back of the garden! It was a wonderful day, the result of great effort by many local CADFA members with the help of musicians, embroiderers, artists, yoga teacher, dabkeh dancers, Calthorpe staff, cook from Cafe Palestina and others and headlining Mo'min Swaitat playing music from Palestine as well as our Palestinian women visitors.



# Work in Palestine

## Dar Assadaqa



*(Old photo from the days when Dar Assadaqa had an HQ)*

Our work in Palestine is based at Dar Assadaqa in Abu Dis. During the Covid years, Dar Assadaqa has lost both its headquarters and a flat we rented for volunteers and visitors to the pressures of



development (with the growing pressure of population and lack of space in Palestine, landlords wanted us out in order to renovate and sell or rent at a higher price).

We were grateful to the Abu Dis Council for finding us a temporary flat to house Dar Assadaqa but it is once again in a small old house and borrowing space from local organisations for meetings with young

people. Dar Assadaqa continues to work in partnership with many organisations in Palestine both for human rights reports and to build up activities like school and youth links and Beyond the Checkpoints.

We will not seek bigger premises again until our work with foreign volunteers and visitors is once again possible and needs this.

## Health visit to Palestine



In early April, we ran a very special health-focused visit to Palestine that had been in the planning since 2019, but had to be delayed from March 2020 because of the pandemic. This visit included thirteen visitors, mainly health workers, but it was also special as it had a particular link to the Tower Hamlets-Jenin twinning group and included an artist in residence (Tim Sanders) whose aim was to do some drawings and paintings of Palestine which would be used for publicity, education and fund-raising.

According to every visitor and the people who met them, this was an amazing visit. Based as usual in Abu Dis, the week included a wide variety of places and health-related contexts (clinics, hospitals and more) across the West Bank and Jerusalem. This included the north of West Bank – Jenin- because of the Tower Hamlets link. The visitors said how much they had learned and how shocked they were to see

the terrible situation. They did their best on return to feed back to organisations in Camden and Tower Hamlets and to help work for Palestinian human rights including CADFA and the Tower Hamlets group.

*"We thank you all for giving us the opportunity to make the visit, see so much, meet and make friends and family, and learn through you about the reality of life in the West Bank and all Palestine then, even before the current war, and now."*



Very sadly, this has been the last CADFA visit to Palestine to date.

## Beyond the Checkpoints



The Beyond the Checkpoints group met and listened to an old man who could remember the Nakba of 1948

Young people in Palestine often do not go much beyond their own town because of the difficulties caused by the Israeli occupation and in particular the many military checkpoints. Through years of visits of foreigners to Palestine, we found that our visitors had more opportunities to see the country than young people who grew up there managed to have.



We ran our great project Beyond the Checkpoints for a second summer. Through it, ten small groups of young people from different villages, towns and refugee camps in the West Bank travelled to each other's places. They learned how to show their own place to the others in the group, and learned about the human rights situation more widely than their own home town. They made short bits of video and collected photos as they went, finally working on presentations for a Zoom youth conference at which they told a UK

audience about the places that they lived in. Then they were invited to apply for a place on the Beyond the Checkpoints youth visit to the UK.

This year, the difficulties that the group suffered in those few weeks showed how the situation was getting worse and worse in the West Bank. It wasn't possible for them to visit Jerusalem. On one day, one group was unable to travel out of their area due to an army checkpoint. On another, the army

entered the bus carrying one of the groups and arrested the group leader for a few hours. In another place, the group were shown the destruction from recent army incursions.

The project definitely raised the knowledge and confidence of the young people in it, which a group of them demonstrated at the Youth Conference on 13<sup>th</sup> August and some during the youth visit to the UK later in the year.

## Second six months – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to end March 2024



### Campaigning against the genocide

The second half of the year was horrific. Everything changed suddenly in October 2023. News of atrocity after atrocity reached us. Following 7<sup>th</sup> October, Israel launched a brutally violent and ongoing attack on Gaza; the rest of the year became more and more terrifying with threats against the Palestinian people as a whole, a massive bombing campaign and then horrors of displacement, arrests, humiliations, depriving people of food and clean water: so much death, maiming and misery.

With the huge heat on Gaza, it was important to remember the West Bank too where harsh actions by soldiers and settlers



were leading to a huge number of killings and thousands of people were being taken into prison, experiencing a new level of cruel treatment. Our friends in Abu Dis, Jerusalem and the West Bank were suffering in many ways – work, schools, universities unable to function properly, many families with little money coming in, roads dangerous, and settler activity unleashed: many house demolitions, new settlements



started, pressure of all sorts on Palestinians near settlements.

Like people across the world, we first hoped that this horrific violence would last days only, then weeks, but it has drawn out into months. We were encouraged by moves by some countries, star among them South Africa, to challenge and stop the genocide, with a case in the International Court of



Justice, motions to the UN security council, appeals by people from Gaza and from international organisations. But it was clear that Israel would listen to no one, and the backing of the US and smaller countries like the UK provided both weapons and cover. In the first six months of this war on Gaza, tens of thousands of people were killed, many of them children, many, many more wounded,



huge numbers seriously disabled and people were beginning to starve.

We wrote letters to our representatives, to the press, organised petitions, wrote and distributed leaflets, organised local demos, joined other people's demos locally and nationally and called for an arms embargo on Israel and for divestment from Israeli



companies as a way to pressure for compliance with international law and human rights.

Our monthly Let's Talk About Palestine meetings at Cafe Palestina became weekly. Cafe Palestina was full of placard-painting and other workshops. We invited other organisations to join these meetings, joined with others in a kite workshop, demonstrations, a Camden Ceasefire Call directed at Camden Council. We visited councillors' surgeries, asked for deputations and organised demonstrations at meetings.

Out of these meetings, Camden Friends of Palestine emerged as a separate organisation. We continue (in the new year 2024-25) to co-operate with them and others in local events and the Camden divestment campaign.



## Twenty Years of CADFA



CADFA turned twenty in the terrible context of Israel's war on Gaza and pogroms and murders in the West Bank. Twenty years of building links between people and groups in the UK and Palestine - visits, projects and volunteer programmes contributed to the growing movement for human rights in

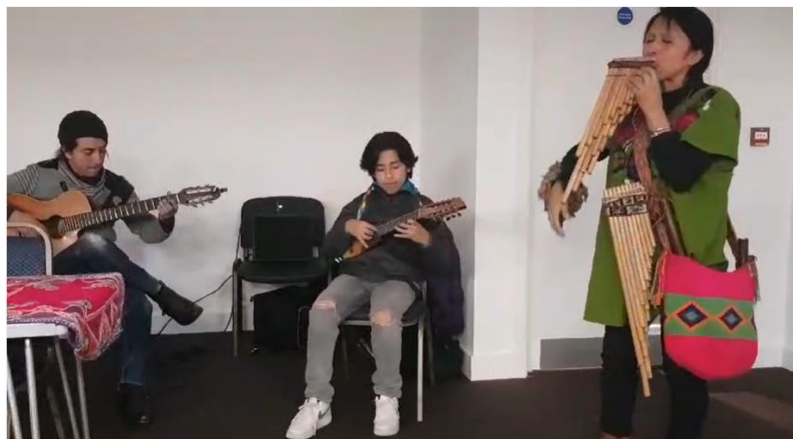


Palestine. However, our day to mark this was planned while Israel was bombarding Gaza with ferocity. Tens of thousands of people had been wounded and over ten thousand killed in a month, while Israeli settlers and the army were terrorising Jerusalem and the West Bank with around five people being killed every day. An event at Williamson Community Centre in Holloway was run in a spirit of solidarity and in order to explore the usefulness of linking work in the campaign against apartheid and for equality and human rights in Palestine.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to the evening: Raised Voices choir singing Solidarity Songs for Palestine, Nandita Dowson from CADFA on 'Twenty years of linking together for human rights', Tim Sanders (fine artist) and Sarah Saunders (photographer) on 'Art for human rights', a local human rights lawyer on 'What does the international legal framework offer



the struggle for equality and human rights? Looking at human rights, international humanitarian law, the law on apartheid, the international criminal court', Abdulwahab Sabbah from Palestine on 'What we want from linking together for human rights' and the Sagrada Familia trio (Phaxsi, Kanti and their son Raymi) for wonderful music from the Andes.



We were all so sorry to hear of the terrible news of the death of young Raymi in the summer of 2024.

# Beyond the Checkpoints

## Palestinian Youth Visit

### Feb-March 2024

This youth visit was one of dozens that CADFA has organised between the UK and Palestine since 2005 and was planned with our partners as part of the **Building Hope |Voices from Palestine** project. Work for it started months before but the visit was



planned for October 2023. That month, the world changed and Israel's war on Gaza got under way. We worried about the visit, postponed it twice but when it took place, the background was still the appalling genocide in Gaza and related tensions in the UK. This caused us to make some adjustments to our plan.

In the end, the visit ran in Feb-March 2024 and was an astonishing achievement. We brought a great group of ten young Palestinians aged 13 to 16 with four leaders, coming from several places in the West Bank, and took them to meet young people and community groups in several places in the UK. The partners across the country worked well as a co-operative team. The young people were secure, safe and happy. The visit achieved its aims and was full of positive activities and exchanges. People who came into contact with the group gave enthusiastic feedback and many new ideas for links and joint activities emerged.

Activities included meetings with young people including in schools and youth clubs, sightseeing, fun activities (included a boat trip, bowling, football, pool, table



tennis, craft activities - pom poms, kites, screen-printing, making video), meetings with local people often through welcome meals. The group was evidently happy and this was shown in their evaluations. They even enjoyed the long hours of travel as the visit moved from Malvern to Wales to Lancashire, filling the time with much singing and joking.

The young people were interested and communicative and have gathered together photos and video showing great times in schools, youth clubs and the wide variety of activities they experienced. This was put together in two short films, one by the Palestinian team and one by a group in the UK. Despite the very grim background, the interactions with Palestinian people created a feeling of possibility that encouraged many people to work for (or work harder for)



human rights in Palestine – the Building Hope project clearly lived up to its name.

This visit broadened people's knowledge of Palestine and their will to work for Palestinian rights. We were worried about running it in the present horrible context, but we discovered that the visit truly built hope and everyone needs that at the moment to keep going.



The young Palestinians were really heartened by the love and solidarity they found around them. Some of their top memories included the huge applause they got as they arrived to their first meeting at Newport: the enthusiasm and interest all the way through and the huge love they felt in the final event.

For people in the UK, it seems to have been a massive relief. In quite a different position from the young Palestinians, they were also under huge stress from the horrors of Palestine now compounded by the horror of a world that cannot stop it. The visit built ideas of possibility - strengthening the small groups across the country, bringing them new members, ideas of new visits, new



twinnings, new school activities, etc...It built respect for the Building Hope project and CADFA's work, and we hope to continue to broaden our membership, strengthen our work with our partners and look carefully at positive next steps, we hope, including the second youth visit that had been planned.

**Please note there is a full report of the visit on our website [CADFA.org](http://CADFA.org) and available in hard copy from Café Palestina.**



# The human rights year in Abu Dis

## The texture of daily life

The list of events that is written below – and the selection of comments from our reports during the year, in italics - includes more dramatic and public violations against the Palestinians in Abu Dis.

It is important to note that this is a partial picture of the human rights situation.

Palestinians suffer under a severe apartheid that affects every part of life, and the following important aspects (again only a selection) cannot be dated and described as events as they happen every month and every day.

- **Restrictions on travel** (the huge number of checkpoints, the Separation Wall, the ID (pass) system and the frequent Israeli ‘closures’)
- **Disruptions to family life** (with most families suffering divisions of some sort - people with different coloured IDs in/ out of the centre of Jerusalem, people whose families left in the 1967 war and have not been allowed back, etc)
- **Educational, economic, medical disruption** all arising from the

military control of the country and the severe racism of the treatment of the Palestinians

(There is more information and examples of how this affects people’s lives in our books, on the website, and from the descriptions of their lives that Palestinians bring with them on every visit to the UK.)

## Worse and worse in the West Bank and Jerusalem

The situation was already terrible for Palestinians in the West Bank and Jerusalem; as the gleaming new Israeli settlements and settler highways spread across the hills, the Palestinians were increasingly confined into small areas, poor roads and the increasing threat of military and settler violence. In 2020, struck by the repeated killings at checkpoints, we sought records and found that 10,000 Palestinians had been killed from 2000 to 2020 (including so many from Abu Dis alone). This terrible situation certainly didn’t start in October 2023.

However, the situation got more raw with this radical settler government and the violence was increasing rapidly.



The West Bank was badly affected by what happened in Gaza – as well as the grief and worry from the continual appalling news, schools closed, roads

became dangerous, there were more and more army invasions and killings. Over four hundred Palestinians were killed in the West Bank between October 2023 and March 2024.



But in the shadow of Gaza, the Israeli settler project was moving ahead fast in the West Bank too, with increasing land expropriation, house demolition and a feeling that the impunity that Israel had had for years had deepened to the point that what was going on in the West Bank was internationally almost invisible.



*In the report below, italic sections are from CADFA reports during the year.*

## April 2023

Ramadan started at the beginning of April and at the same time the Israelis had Passover. They imposed a closure on the area round East Jerusalem from 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April for patients, schoolchildren and workers.

There were extra checkpoints put in near the University on the road from Sawahreh and the army stopped the traffic to check IDs.

On the night of 14<sup>th</sup> April, there was an army raid into Abu Dis. There was tear gas and shooting and the army invaded three houses in the middle of the night. One ex-prisoner was re-arrested and two others were given orders to go to the terminal and meet with the intelligence officer.

On the night of 17<sup>th</sup> April, the army invaded the Al Quds University and University Street. The army painted car oil on the Separation Wall, presumably to stop people from climbing the Wall to go to the Al Aqsa Mosque on Fridays.

On 20<sup>th</sup> April, the army invaded the area of University Street and entered a building of student accommodation. They arrested five students from the house. They threw tear gas canisters and shot in the streets.

Between 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, the Israelis imposed another complete closure on the area around East Jerusalem and down to Jericho (which divides the West Bank into two parts). This included Az Zaitouneh terminal. There was very slow movement for traffic going north-south in the West Bank for five days.

## May 2023

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Khader Adnan died in prison, imprisoned on administrative detention. He was very famous for a lengthy hunger strike roughly ten years before when he had held out for 65 days before his release was agreed. He had been arrested twelve times in his life and each time he had no trial. He had regularly gone on hunger strike to protest against his imprisonment. This time, the Israeli government included all the radical right who used to call for letting the prisoners die. He was arrested this time on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and he died after 87 days of hunger strike.



When the news came, there was a general strike across Palestine. In Abu Dis, there was a protest march. This was met by the Israeli army with tear gas and rubber bullets. Five people were wounded with rubber bullets and treated by the Red Crescent.

On the same day, a young man from Abu Dis was arrested in Jerusalem and beaten so badly he was hospitalised – and then sent to jail for being in Jerusalem with no permission.

On the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> May, the Israeli army started a military occupation against Gaza. There was again a general strike across the West Bank including Abu Dis. The next morning the army put up a checkpoint by the university which stopped the students. They shot tear gas in the area which led to

the closing of local schools and stopping teaching in the University.

There were two days of air strikes on Gaza, leading to the killing of 37 people. Demos continued in Abu Dis, and on 13<sup>th</sup> May, the Israeli army invaded the town in the early evening. There was shooting of tear gas and live ammunition up to midnight.



In the middle of May, an Israeli military court gave sentences for seven young people who had been in jail for some months. They gave sentences of up to six years each and fines of between six and ten thousand shekels. In the same week, three administrative detainees had their periods of detention renewed for the third time: another six months each.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May there was an army raid on a house in Ar Ras neighbourhood. The army beat a young man and his father in front of the family in sight of all the neighbours. The army shot tear gas and rubber bullets. Three young people were wounded with rubber bullets and one sixteen-year-old was arrested.

## June

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June there was a demo from the University area. When it passed the military camp, the army came down and started shooting. One young man was injured and taken to hospital in Bethlehem. The army chased the young people up to the Ar Ras area and entered and searched two houses.

On 5<sup>th</sup> June there was another demo. The army threw tear gas towards the demonstrators and this set fire to the garden of a house in Kubsa.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June, the army invaded several houses in the middle of the night in different areas of Abu Dis. They arrested three young people and during this time they beat their fathers in front of their families.

The same thing happened on 13<sup>th</sup> June. The army arrested two young people from their houses on the east of Abu Dis in the middle of the night and shot tear gas around in the area.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June, there was a general strike in protest against killings in Nablus (6 people) and Jenin (6 people) when refugee camps in the two towns were invaded by the Israeli army the day before (20 young people were



killed). At the end of the day, there was a march from the Youth Club in Abu Dis towards the military camp – The army attacked the march with tear

gas and rubber bullets. Seven young people were wounded by rubber bullets – one hit directly in his head. Three of them were taken to hospitals in Bethlehem.

In June on several occasions the settlers from Maale Adumim settlement threw stones at Palestinian cars on the road close to the settlement. On 21<sup>st</sup> June, settlers blocked the road completely (blocking the traffic between north and south of the West Bank) for the whole day.



## July

On 1<sup>st</sup> July the army closed the roads near the University and also at the main entrance to Maale Adumim. Near the settlement, settlers took charge of blocking the roads that lead people in the area to the north, Jericho and Jerusalem. Settlers stayed till late in the night on that day.



On 2<sup>nd</sup> July in the middle of the night, some Israeli special forces invaded Abu Dis in a Palestinian car and invaded a house. More soldiers joined them and they arrested a young man after beating his father (again).

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July, the Israeli army invaded Jenin Refugee Camp and seven young people were killed. In Abu Dis, there was a demo marching towards the military camp. The army started to shoot and wounded three young people with live ammunition who were taken to hospital in Bethlehem and Ramallah.

On 5<sup>th</sup> July there were army invasions to houses and two people were arrested.

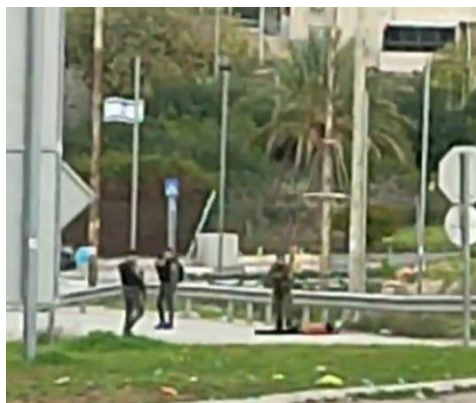
On 7<sup>th</sup> July there was a demo – the army shot into the crowd.

On 8<sup>th</sup> July, there were Israeli army on the streets near the Star Academy nursery.

On 12<sup>th</sup> July, the Israeli army made flying checkpoints in different places in Abu Dis. They took Jerusalem-plate cars and destroyed them (Israelis sell old cars to Abu Dis and the West Bank which people have to use unlicensed, but later the owners are punished for having these cars because of the colour of their IDs.)

On the same day a young boy who worked on delivery was shot by soldiers as he cycled through Abu Dis – He had to be taken to hospital with shrapnel in his knee.

On 16th July, the whole of the south of the West Bank was closed. For CADFA, this was the beginning of our Beyond the Checkpoints project. The arrest of the leader of one of the groups coming from Hebron is described in this CADFA report



### **Beyond the Checkpoints**

*16 Jul 23 GOOD and BAD news. GOOD first - the young people joining the Beyond the Checkpoints project from the north of the West Bank and from Jerusalem met for the first day induction to the project. It went well - for them the project got off to a good start.*

*BAD: the southern bus didn't get there because of troubles round Bethlehem and as we write the young people from there are (with their leaders) in a mosque near Bethlehem to keep safe with Israeli soldiers shooting outside, and the young people from the north now on their way home but with trepidation as there is news of settlers on the road.*

### **18 July 23 Beyond the Checkpoints Day**

*Day 1- both good and bad*

*The Beyond the Checkpoints project got under way today in Palestine – a good day for some and a very bad day for others.*

*The plan for today was to bring together groups of young people from the north and south of the West Bank and also from Jerusalem, meeting in Abu Dis for induction to the project and a visit to some parts of Abu Dis. The young people from the north and from Jerusalem made it, and by all reports the day went very well for them.*

*The young people from the south didn't make it however. They were collected from*

*their towns and set off north via Bethlehem and the Container Checkpoint towards Abu Dis. But there was a long queue at the Container checkpoint and after their bus had been held up for two hours (they sent us video of the queue), the driver turned the bus around and headed for home.*

*It got worse. Word came that the city of Hebron was closed in front of them and Bethlehem was in turmoil. The Israeli army was shooting. To look after the children, the driver stopped near a mosque and all of them went inside. It did not occur to them that a mosque was anything other than a safe place to be. They stayed there about an hour. But then the Israeli army came in, told everyone to leave the mosque – and arrested two people. One of them they didn't know and the other was the group leader of the youth group from Hebron.*

*This left his group sitting outside the mosque in a town that was not their own with the driver (who was a stranger) and worrying about their leader, for hours. Eventually the driver was able to return the children to their homes in Hebron, but without the leader. From Abu Dis, the northern groups went home full of trepidation as word was that there were angry Israeli settlers on every main road. But they got home OK.*

*By the time of writing and after several hours, the youth leader has finally been released.*

*What a difficult reminder of the context of the project and the dangerous reality beyond the checkpoints in Palestine.*

*We hope that, next time, the kids are actually all able to get beyond the checkpoints and to meet.*

## **26 July 23 Another death at the checkpoint caused by the Israeli occupation.**

*We are extremely sad to hear from Dr*



*Abdullah from Abu Dis of the death of Monadil Jabareen from Aizarieh (neighbouring Abu Dis in the Jerusalem suburb).*

*Yesterday, Monadil had a stroke and the emergency services decided he needed a hospital. But the Israelis have built the huge Separation Wall and military checkpoints between Abu Dis/Aizariyeh and the nearby Mount of Olives where the local hospitals are. You can see the hospitals from Abu Dis and Aizariyeh, but they have become very difficult to get to in emergency. Israel has created a massive division at the point of the Wall – they don't allow Palestinian ambulances to go through but require Palestinian patients to be transferred into an Israeli ambulance at the checkpoint, after a whole process of co-ordination.*

*This is another clear example of apartheid. The Israelis force Palestinians to live in enclosed areas with real restrictions on their movement. At the same time (against the Geneva Conventions which forbid the movement of an occupier's civilians on to occupied land), they have moved hundreds of thousands of Israeli civilians into*

*settlements on Palestinian land – those living in the huge settlements on Abu Dis/ Aizariyeh land (Maale Adumim, Qidar) can rush in minutes into Jerusalem on fast main roads.*

*Yesterday Monadil was driven to the checkpoints and the request for him to be transferred to an Israeli ambulance was sent to what is known as ‘the Co-ordination.’ He waited at the checkpoint while the medics tried to look after him for half an hour. The ‘permission’ for him to go through came too late. Sadly he died at the checkpoint – a direct result of the Occupation. We sent our deep condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.*

## August

On 1<sup>st</sup> August, Mohannad Mazaara (a youth of sixteen) was killed in front of Maale Adumim settlement. He was shot by the army who allowed him to lie on the ground



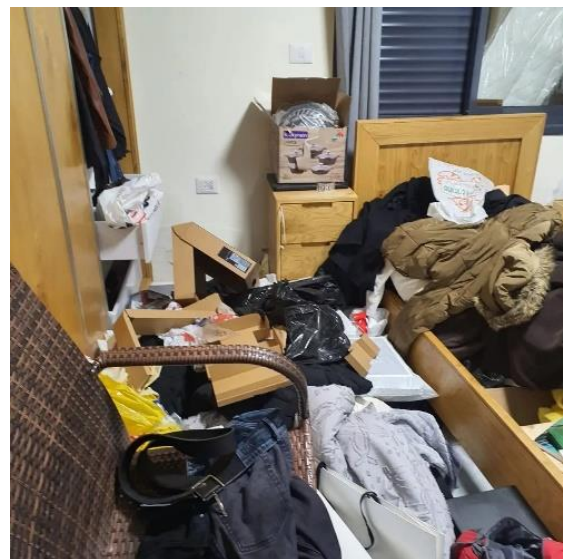
bleeding and did not allow an ambulance to reach him. The army invaded Jabl al Baba and arrested members of his family. Settlers gathered near the place and blocked Palestinian cars from travelling and attacked cars.

In the middle of the day, there was a demo in Abu Dis and the army wounded three people with rubber bullets – they were treated by the Red Crescent.

On 5<sup>th</sup> August, till late in the night, the Israeli army enforced a complete closure on the area, closing the Container checkpoint and preventing thousands of cars travelling and did the same near Maale Adumim settlement.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August, two houses were invaded in the middle of the night by the Israeli army. Again, houses were searched and members of the families were attacked by the army. Two young people were arrested.

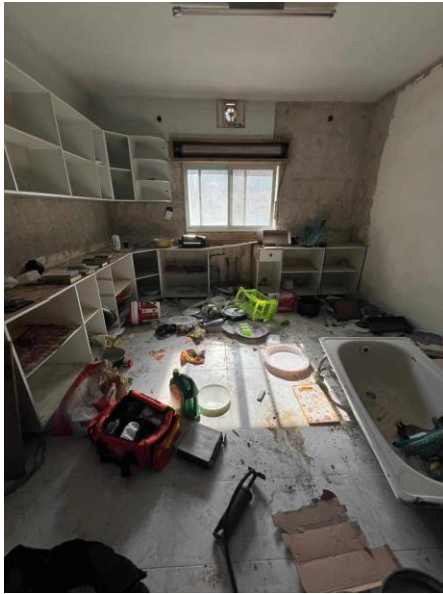
On 28<sup>th</sup> August, the army invaded a house and beat a father and two brothers as a way to make a third brother give himself up to the army. Again there was tear gas and shooting in the middle of the night.



## September

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September the Israeli army invaded ten houses in Abu Dis in the night as they like to do. They searched the houses, attacked the people in the houses and gave ten young people military orders to visit the intelligence officer at the military camp.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September, the army invaded the house that had been invaded on 28<sup>th</sup> August



and again attacked the owner of the house and his sons, again pressuring for the third son to give himself up.

This was repeated two weeks later. The father, his brother and their sons (thirteen people altogether) were arrested and detained for two days, told that they must give up the son that the army was looking for.

In September, the schools and the university lost seven education days when the Israeli army put checkpoints in the street and prevented young people from reaching their classes.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September, the army came again and invaded the houses of three uncles of the wanted man and arrested them together with four of their sons.

*15 Sep 23 The peaceful Friday morning\* in Abu Dis is filled today with the Israeli army who apparently have been everywhere since the early hours (\*Friday in Palestine is like Sunday in UK)*

*25 Sep 23 Collective punishment is prohibited by the Geneva Conventions. But Abu Dis has been suffering under collective punishment for a couple of weeks - major*

*night time invasions by the Israeli army, shooting in the streets, checkpoints in front of the Al Quds University right at the beginning of term - arrests and heavy beatings and a threatening letter from the army asking people to give up a young man wanted by the Israeli army.*

*It turns out that the young man in question was called for questioning by the Israeli army and was allowed back home. A couple of days later he was hunted again by the army but they didn't find him. The wildness of the occupation has increased - the army are punishing people as they chase him - many have been affected, physically hurt, prevented from getting to work etc - Some days ago the army set fire to a car scrapyard just out of the middle of town - dense, black smoke billowed across the town. - apparently they thought the youth was hiding in there. This is continuing.*

## October

Following the activities of 7<sup>th</sup> October (which are discussed elsewhere), there was immediately an emergency situation in the West Bank. In many areas (Hebron, Jerusalem etc) the Israeli Army imposed a curfew. In Abu Dis, the Palestinian Authority told all government buildings, the schools and the university to close.

The Israeli army declared a complete closure on the whole of the West Bank which prevented people from moving between areas or going in or out of the country, cancelling all military permissions to go to Jerusalem, which stopped people from going to work, hospital or other parts of their daily lives. Thousands of students were stranded in Abu Dis, unable to continue their study or to return home

safely – which they did gradually over the next few weeks.

Israel threw thousands of people from Gaza out of Jerusalem. This included people who were working in the city, and hospital patients and their families who were now not allowed to stay in the city. Hundreds of them came to Abu Dis where they lived in such places as a wedding hall in Kubsa.



It was a terrifying night in Abu Dis on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Twenty houses were invaded by the Israeli military. Fifteen people were arrested: old and young, fathers and their sons. People could hear the screams of the prisoners who were dragged along the streets and beaten severely.

*25 Oct A real genocide is taking place in Gaza - another 700 people were killed last night - three HUNDRED of these were children (way over 2000 children killed in the past two weeks, five or six THOUSAND people altogether). Real horror is unfolding on the people of Gaza and we must urgently keep up the campaign for a ceasefire! \* Twelve thousand tons of explosives have been dropped on Gaza since the beginning of the war, apparently like a nuclear bomb.\**

*But at the same time the Israelis are*

*terrorising the West Bank including shelling refugee camps from above. Dozens of people have been killed in the West Bank in the past two weeks (last night in Jenin, Qalandia, Askar camp in Nablus, Qalqilya), many wounded, hundreds arrested. \*At checkpoints Israeli soldiers are asking for people's phones and beating or arresting people who have shared info on what is going on\**

## November

Three young people were killed. Please see this CADFA report from the time.

### **6 Nov Stop the killing**

*We call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza to end the appalling killing, maiming and destruction there. We also cannot forget the West Bank where things have been extremely bad since 7th October (while not good, before).*

*The war in Gaza has given Israel cover to impose a siege and a war of a different kind on Palestinians in the West Bank. Roads closed with checkpoints and with concrete blocks, house demolitions, villagers being pushed out of their homes, the menace of heavily-armed settlers making it dangerous to bring in the olive harvest, the violent presence of Israeli soldiers preventing the opening of schools and universities, and all the killings and woundings.*

*This is all linked to the same effort by an increasingly extremist Israeli government to secure control over Palestinian land. While reputable human rights organisations have in the last few years (and Palestinians for the last few decades) pointed to the system of*

*apartheid that has imposed human rights violations on Palestinians while supporting the building of new colonial settlements for Israelis – Black South Africans who lived through apartheid there have no doubt that the term is apt – the current Israeli government is even more extreme. A few months ago we were warning it could become even more terrible. Well, we have got there.*

*Our friends in Abu Dis are still reeling from a night of particular violence by the Israeli army on early morning of 5th November. The Israeli army killed three young men and seriously wounded another nine. We have been sent appalling bits of video from Abu Dis: wild shooting by the army in a residential area, the demolition of a house and carrying of a body in a bulldozer, even video of soldiers taking selfies with the body.*

*“It was like a bloody war for six hours in Abu Dis,” we were told, “though completely one-sided, there were no weapons on the other side. The Israeli army appeared at two in the morning with drones, a helicopter and an estimated 100 soldiers. Some of them surrounded one house and began shooting into it. Others seem to have shot widely across the middle of the town, where people had come out, alarmed at what they could hear – some were shot and some were shot running to rescue the people who had been hurt.”*

*The Abu Dis community are at once mourning for three young men and deeply worried about the future of the other young men who remain critically ill. They are aware that these are three of the 155 so far killed in the West Bank since the 7th October, and believe that their town and the West Bank as a whole are being used as a training ground for Israeli sharp*

*shooters headed for Gaza.*

*The young men killed were Mohannad Afaneh aged 19, Mousa Zarour aged 22 and Nabeel Johar aged 20. We send our sorrow and solidarity to the families of all the young people and to the community that is suffering so much. (Allah yerhamhum)*

## December

The closure continued this month with extra military checkpoints on the roads. It was very hard for people to leave or enter the area.



On 9<sup>th</sup> December there was a night of army shooting and teargas when four people (brothers) were arrested from their homes in the old side of Abu Dis. As they were arrested, the four brothers and also their old father were beaten by the army. Another young man was arrested in the same way on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

On 29<sup>th</sup> December a young person from Aizariyeh (next to Abu Dis) was killed by the Israeli army.



*11 Dec Complete quiet in Abu Dis this morning as part of the 'total strike' for a ceasefire.*

*29 Dec Another funeral, another outrage, another loss in the horror of this time. So sad to hear that a lad from Aizariyeh next to Abu Dis has been killed by the Israeli army today. Mahmoud... another promising young life taken. Our sorrow and condolences go out to his family and all his friends and community.*

The Israeli army demanded that the Abu Dis Council would destroy the road itself – they refused. The Israeli military told the electricity company and the local water society to move their cables and pipes that were close to the road in question.

*18 Jan 24 Things are terrible in the West Bank too. Killings in double figures yesterday. Roads dangerous, education at risk (55 schools can't open properly for the new semester because of the army), economic activity slowed right down, army invasions, woundings, killings. Out of nothing here is what happened this morning when the Israeli army broke down the door of a family in Abu Dis, ransacked the house and stole gold jewellery and money.*

## January

The closure continued with a heavy presence of Israeli military across the area. Across the West Bank, huge numbers of people were being arrested and some of them were released, bearing terrible signs of mistreatment. Most of them had lost a lot of weight as they had not been given enough food, and they told terrible stories of bad treatment inside.

In January, the Israeli military gave notice that they were going to close part of the main road south from Abu Dis that went close between the Separation Wall and the University. They had already made the road more difficult some years before by building the Separation Wall.



## February

5<sup>th</sup> Feb – a young Palestinian from Jabal al-Baba next to Aizariyeh (next to Abu Dis) was shot next to Maaleh Adumim settlement.

On 12<sup>th</sup> February, a boy from Aizariyeh was also killed next to Maale Adumim settlement.

On 27<sup>th</sup> February, the Israeli military declared a curfew, moved its bulldozers in

and destroyed half of the road next to the university, making it wide enough only for one line of traffic for a length of 150 metres. The University remained closed which (fortunately) for the time being reduced the traffic but still it caused a lot of problems for cars going from Abu Dis to Sawahreh or to the south of the West Bank.

*5 Feb 24 Yet again yet again 🥹🥹. A young Palestinian lying wounded or worse near to Maale Adumim settlement outside Abu Dis. No one knows who it is yet. Such a horrible reality full of oppression and death all round. Strength to all good people*

*13 Feb 24 .... Mohammed Tariq Abusneineh from Aizariyeh, aged 15. ... was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier [yesterday]. الله يرحمك محمد*

*We send our deep condolences to his family and community.*

*This complete tragedy and crime is hard to write about. At the same time, the Israelis started bombing Rafah- having moved over a million people there from other parts of Gaza, they bombed it! Between 50 and 100 people were killed yesterday, many more injured if course and many more affected.*

*There are great fears for the next few days as the Israelis are listening to no one but themselves - the world is either mesmerised, impotent or turning very, very slowly to a realisation that genocide is real.*

*And there are now daily killings by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank, around 350 in the last 4 months. In the villages, the towns, the old city of Jerusalem. Words aren't enough to describe the horror that*

*is happening. We hope it can be stopped very, very soon.*

## March

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Israeli authorities closed the alternative road going south through



Wad al-Libban. People had started to use it a lot after 7<sup>th</sup> October as

Container Checkpoint had been closed – and it had become very important for example if people needed to take people to Bethlehem hospitals in an emergency, as now the Jerusalem hospitals had become completely out of reach.

At the same time, they shut another road that went through Wad Jabal al-Baba which people had used – though long and winding – in emergency.

So people from Abu Dis have to struggle through the half-blocked road to go to Container checkpoint and on to Bethlehem.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March, the Israeli Civil Department put a confiscation order on the walls of the area of east Abu Dis called Abu Nuwar. They also put a military order relating to 2,600 donums of Abu Dis land in the same area, declaring it a closed military zone. This area was inhabited by Bedouin families, and these orders began the pressure on them to leave.

# Financial report

During 2023/4 our finances in CADFA turned around. Having started with a deficit of £3.4k, we finished with a surplus of £17.2k. Our income increased from £115.6k the previous year to £145.4k (+26%). Our costs also increased but not by nearly as much; from £119.1k to £124.8k

There are a number of reasons for the increased income:

- (1) The movement of solidarity with Palestine owing to the events in Gaza brought more people to our stall, events and to Café Palestina.
- (2) Continued recovery from Covid meant that we could once again run events and activities that had been on hold.
- (3) Increased activities at Café Palestina, which sold our books and goods, ran collections, gave us the surplus from its Arabic classes and gave donations.
- (4) The continued efforts of CADFA members, including the Marchmont Stall team and others who ran stalls for CADFA and others who ran events at the Café and elsewhere. Sales of mugs etc produced after Tim Sanders visit with the health workers brought in about £2.4k, a good £1.0k more than the cost (with more to come in 2024 with the 2025 calendar).
- (5) The work of our visit partners in the Building Hope project who raised money for the youth visit in various ways.
- (6) Three grants totalling £9k, all for the youth visit, from MSN Trust, Birchwood Hall in Malvern and Taith (Welsh government funding).
- (7) Membership income was up £5.3k reflecting a steady increase in membership; up about 15% following a similar increase the previous year.

Donations were up from £2.5k to £14.1k. £3.3k of this was collected for MAP (for health support for Gaza).

The biggest increase in our income (£27.7k) was through “income generation”; £8.0k from sales at our stall doubling and the rest from sales and events at the Café. Note however the costs of income generation went up by £15.3k, so the contribution to our surplus was about £12.4k.

When looking at the income and expenditure for visits (both to Palestine and from Palestine), it should be noted that the major cost of these not shown here as part of visit costs, is our core cost (salaries etc). This year, we ran only one visit to Palestine: the health workers’ visit at the beginning of the year; most of the income and costs (ignoring core costs) appeared in the previous year’s accounts. The situation in Palestine stopped us running visits later in the year.

We raised enough money during the youth visit in Feb-March through the efforts of our members and partners in collections, events and small grants for us to be able to cover the immediate costs, the core costs that enabled it and to be confident enough to plan two more visits in 2024/5.

The relatively small increase in costs mainly reflected the increased income generation costs, reduced costs for visits to Palestine and the money collected for MAP mentioned above. Staff costs were virtually identical as there were not any changes in staffing or salaries (as there haven’t been for many years).

Our accounts (see below) show us ending the financial year in credit by £17,216 (after starting the year with a deficit of £3,386).

## CADFA ACCOUNTS - 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

|                                        | 2022/3        | 2023/4        |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>CADFA Charity</b>                   |               |               |
| Opening Balance                        | 192           | -3,386        |
| <b>Income</b>                          |               |               |
| Project grants                         | 0             | 8,950         |
| Other project Income                   | 50,905        | 38,693        |
| Membership                             | 33,073        | 38,354        |
| Donations                              | 2,479         | 14,140        |
| Visits to Palestine                    | 15,855        | 384           |
| Income generation (events, stalls etc) | 13,015        | 40,739        |
| Gift Aid                               | 228           | 4,097         |
| Total Income                           | 115,555       | 145,356       |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                     |               |               |
| Abu Dis running costs                  | 2,168         | 5,959         |
| Camden running costs                   | 19,987        | 20,679        |
| Staff costs                            | 53,771        | 51,985        |
| Project expenditure                    | 24,442        | 19,170        |
| Small project costs                    | 2,613         | 3,497         |
| Visits to Palestine cost               | 10,236        | 2,233         |
| Income generation costs                | 5,916         | 21,232        |
| Total Expenditure                      | 119,132       | 124,755       |
| <b>CADFA Outturn</b>                   | <b>-3,386</b> | <b>17,216</b> |
| Opening Balance                        | 192           | -3,386        |
| Total Income                           | 115,555       | 145,356       |
| Total Expenditure                      | 119,132       | 124,755       |
| Surplus (Deficit) Carried Forward      | <b>-3,386</b> | <b>17,216</b> |
| Surplus (Deficit) for the Year         | <b>-3,578</b> | <b>20,601</b> |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>                  |               |               |
| Account Balance at 31 March 2024       | 3,814         | 30,416        |
| Pension Pot                            | -7,200        | -13,200       |
| Loans Outstanding                      | 0             | 0             |
| Late Transfers In                      | 0             | 0             |
| Late Transfers Out                     | 0             | 0             |
| Total                                  | <b>-3,386</b> | <b>17,216</b> |

## BALANCE SHEET

|                                  | As at<br>31st<br>March<br>2023 | As at<br>31st March<br>2024 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                  | £                              | £                           |
| UK Bank Balances                 | 5,174.88                       | 30,376.31                   |
| Cash in hand or in transit       | -1,360.51                      | 39.53                       |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                | <b><u>£3,814.37</u></b>        | <b><u>£30,415.84</u></b>    |
| Surplus at 1 April               | 6,192.11                       | 3,814.37                    |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year | -3,577.75                      | 20,601.49                   |
| Added to Pension Pot             | 1,200.00                       | 6,000.00                    |
| <b>Surplus at 31 March</b>       | <b><u>£3,814.37</u></b>        | <b><u>£30,415.86</u></b>    |
| <b>Represented by:</b>           |                                |                             |
| UK Bank Accounts                 | 5,174.88                       | 30,376.31                   |
| NIS held in Abu Dis              | -311.57                        | -145.68                     |
| Jordanian Dinars held in Abu Dis | 2.10                           | 1.08                        |
| US Dollars held in Abu Dis       | 1,881.44                       | 1,706.17                    |
| Balance on Camden Cash account   | -2,526.63                      | -163.34                     |
| Balance on Stall Cash Account    | 65.65                          | -122.72                     |
| Balance on Cafe Account          | -1,110.98                      | -1,911.13                   |
| Balance on Just Giving Checkout  | 224.26                         | 0.00                        |
| Balance on PayPal account        | 415.22                         | 172.79                      |
| Balance on SumUp account         | 0.00                           | 502.36                      |
|                                  | <b><u>3,814.37</u></b>         | <b><u>30,415.84</u></b>     |

## Our objectives for 2024-25

### How did we do this year?

We met or made progress against the objectives we set ourselves for 2022-23.

**We said... The main areas we want to work on to strengthen and sustain this work** are

1. Extending our membership, involving new people across the country, encouraging our members to be active **YES**
2. Working with existing partner organisations and with new organisations both in Camden and across the country **YES**
3. Developing and extending the **Building Hope| Voices from Palestine** project **YES**
4. Finding new sponsors and/or ways to make this work sustainable.  
**We made good progress this year.**

**We planned to work specifically work on**

- Regular human rights reports on Zoom and in person **YES**
- Public events focusing on human rights in Palestine **YES**
- Publications on social media and in print on human rights in Palestine
- Visits to Palestine (aim to have three or four this year) **Only one because of the changed situation after October**
- Visits to the UK (aim to have three or four this year subject to funding) **We had two visits from Palestine this year and postponed two because of the changed situation after October**
- School links and school materials on Palestine and human rights **We stay**

**in touch with schools and made new links through the youth visit; we have materials that we would like to use more**

- Advocacy work (including Beyond the Checkpoints) **YES & related campaigning**
- In December 2023, celebration of 20 years of Camden Abu Dis links. **YES**

### Our objectives for 2024-25

**Many of our objectives for this year are the same as last year – Ones that are different from last year are in red**

**The main areas we want to work on to strengthen and sustain this work** are still

1. Extending our membership, involving new people across the country, encouraging our members to be active
2. Working with existing partner organisations and with new organisations both in Camden and across the country
3. Developing and extending the **Building Hope| Voices from Palestine** project
4. **Building our sustainability both financial and through training more CADFA leaders for different aspects of the work**

### We will specifically work on

- Regular human rights reports on Zoom and in person
  - Public events focusing on human rights in Palestine
  - Publications on social media and in print on human rights in Palestine
  - Visits to Palestine only if the situation allows it
  - Visits from Palestine to the UK: a second youth visit as part of
- Beyond the Checkpoints and (subject to funding) another, possibly including students and women to keep those links alive.
  - School links and school materials on Palestine and human rights
  - Advocacy work and human rights campaigning
  - Working for a ceasefire and an end to the genocide.

## Thank yous

CADFA is a small organisation, but we have so many people and other organisations to thank for their help and support this year. In both the UK and Palestine, there are our employees, our long-standing volunteers, helpers in particular projects and partner organisations. Our employees Nandita Dowson (Director) who kept the whole thing going in the UK and Abdulwahab Sabbah (Co-ordinator in Abu Dis) who kept it going in Palestine, and Meg Gent based in London for her support. Our group of trustees for the hours that they have put in. Our hard-working volunteers in many fields including Annika, Stuart and their stall team. Paul and Hugh for their help with the website, Kathy and the other English-group volunteers. So many volunteers in

particular in relation to the visits that it is scary to try to list them – we don't want to miss anyone! You know who you are! Your help was invaluable.

We want to thank all our members, everyone who fundraised for us, those who contributed, organisations that gave us small grants – and also people outside CADFA who helped in particular with our visits.

Particular thanks to some individuals for help with fundraising on a one-off or regular basis. A big thank you for your help to

- MSN Fund
- Taith & the Welsh Committee for International Affairs
- Palestinian Higher Council for Youth and Sports
- Cafe Palestina CIC

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 - CADFA's charitable objects

#### **From the CADFA constitution as amended November 2013**

The Charity's object is to promote human rights (as set out in the International Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) and respect for international humanitarian law in 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 in particular and Palestine more widely;
- 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 in particular and Palestine more widely;
- working to obtain and promote redress for the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely;
- providing support to and relieving need among the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families, in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely.

### Appendix 2 – CADFA trustees

Elected at AGM 2023 (1) inquorate meeting on 19th November 2023

and (2) reconvened meeting on 19th April 2024

Chair Peter Ashan

Treasurer Hugh Wallis

Secretary Cris Piccoli

Minutes secretary Fiona Millar

Trustee Rumana Choudhary

## Appendix 3 - Some press cuttings from this year



### The slaughter goes on...

VERY many residents will have seen us together with others in the Camden Friends of Palestine network, leafleting in the streets, "collecting petition signatures" and in frequent demonstrations for a ceasefire including a huge march to the town hall last Saturday calling on Camden Council to pass a ceasefire motion.

We thought we should explain to people who had our leaflets what has happened. Two councillors – Lorna Jane Russell of the Green Party, and one of the Labour councillors – did put in a ceasefire motion in time for next Monday's meeting but the local Labour Party, it seems, has made clear its displeasure at Labour

councillors signing the motion so it had to be withdrawn.

National Liberal Democrat policy is for a ceasefire, so we hoped that one of the LibDem councillors would sign it in place of the Labour signatory, but apparently they think it too locally divisive.

We continue to call for a ceasefire motion, as this is a matter of life and death. In Gaza people continue to be slaughtered in number, over 30,000 since October, including people whose deaths were registered (over 24,000) and people lost under the rubble of destroyed homes and public buildings (around 8,000), including over 10,000 children.

What is happening is the most appalling and public genocide that we have seen; brutal, callous, racism bringing death and destruction on industrial scale, and the world is unsafe not only for Palestinians but for all of us if such disregard for international law is

allowed to go on.

Our councillors will be aware of the South African genocide case against Israel now in the International Court of Justice and the fact that the majority of countries in the world have called for ceasefire at the United Nations. In the UK, opinion polls show that the majority of want this carnage to stop.

We believe Camden Council should make a ceasefire motion if it really believes in anti-racism and human rights, as it says that it does. Silence in this case is complicity with daily, hourly killings and untold misery on every level, which will follow us all down the years.

We will have a demonstration outside the council in Judd Street at 6.30pm, Monday January 29. Do please come.

People wanting to know more do please join CADFA (see CADFA.org) or come along to hear Palestinian voices every week at 6.30pm downstairs at Café Palestina

in our 'Let's Talk About Palestine' event. Together with Camden Friends of Palestine, we are running Poetry for Palestine – a fundraiser for Medical Aid for Palestine. This Friday 6.30pm.

**NANDITA DOWSON**  
Director, Camden Abu Ditt Friendship Association

### What about diplomacy?

WE must be horrified by the scale of death and destruction we are witnessing and by the numbers that climb daily as Israel continues its bombardment of Gaza with the support of our government.

Over 25,000 people dead (United Nations OCHA figures from January 21), including more than 10,000 children; 1.7 million people displaced; homes, hospitals, bakeries and schools destroyed. Without adequate access to food, shelter, or clean

water and a critical shortage of medical supplies and facilities, 2.2 million people are at imminent risk of death from starvation or disease. Some 625,000 students (100 per cent) have no access to education; 153 UN staff and 117 journalists have been killed.

There is overwhelming support among the British public – 71 per cent according to a recent YouGov poll – for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

There have been huge and continuing protests around the world from the start. South Africa has brought a compelling and detailed case at the International Court of Justice.

Yet our government is continuing to send arms to Israel in spite of all this and in spite of major concerns in the foreign office about Israel's actions.

We have just heard that the UK is again joining in US strikes against the Houthis in Yemen.

We seem to live in a world where there are only military options. What happened to diplomacy and negotiation? The atrocities in Gaza and their repercussions will not bring security for anyone in the region and are, indeed, exacerbating tensions.

Our political leaderships should realign themselves with public sentiment and the international laws that the UK helped to formulate. Their failure to recognise and respond to the outrage felt by a clear majority of the population can only lead to alienation at best, or radicalisation at worst.

It is both wrong and dangerous.

**GOPA ROY, NHS**

### On murdering neighbours

ISRAEL'S PM Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that Palestinians cannot have their own state.

His declaration confirms

that Israel has become an apartheid state. A hundred years ago there was a nation-state established in the name of Jewish people. The victims were murdered in Hitler's camps and founded their own nation-state, Israel.

Now, as perpetrators, Israeli Zionists are victimising Palestinians, denying them their nation-state and destroying Palestinian homes, mosques, hospitals, schools and, of course, Palestinian women, children and men.

If this is not genocide it looks very like it.

It was Hannah Arendt, a Jew who fought anti-Semitism as a Jew, who pointed out that the Enlightenment concept of human rights for all mankind contains a paradox: that if a human has no nation-state, no nationality, then she/he has no way to enforce her/his universal human rights.

Without a nation such a person is a 'savage'.

Indeed, right-wing Zionists call Palestinians savages... It was another philosopher, Karl Marx, also a Jew, who pointed out that those who do not learn their history, are forced to repeat it. The first step to ending the genocidal murder of Gaza is to accept that Palestinians have the same rights to their own state as any other people.

Until Israel accepts that their genocide in Gaza creates yet another generation of terrorists they will have no rest and continue to murder their neighbours, the Palestinians.

**DR MARTIN ROSENDAAL, NHS**

## Keir Starmer MP

### Casework Service and Advice Surgeries

*Are you facing a problem my team and I might be able to help with?*

*If you live in Holborn and St Pancras please get in touch.*

Email: [keir.starmer.constituency@parliament.uk](mailto:keir.starmer.constituency@parliament.uk)  
Tel: 020 7388 7862

### CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELLING

by a fully qualified & experienced counsellor

Are you feeling miserable and unhappy and unable to cope? Perhaps I can help you to sort out your problems and move on to a better, more fulfilled life.

Contact me on 07956 374 569 or [yvonneleigh@gmail.com](mailto:yvonneleigh@gmail.com)  
Evening appointments available.  
BACP reg. No. 180747

### COME AND WORSHIP WITH US

We are a group of non-denominational Christians

The Tenants' Ass'n Hall, 29A Chamberlain House, Phoenix Road, NW1 1EU (Entrance on Ossulston Street)

Worship: Sunday @ 10am  
Bible study: Wednesday @ 7.30pm by Zoom.  
FREE Bible course "Jesus: The Way"

Deadline for Letters is noon



# St David's Day hospitality for Palestinian youngsters

A GROUP of Palestinian youngsters were treated to some good old fashioned Welsh hospitality on St David's Day as they visited Powys.

On Friday, March 1, Radnor Palestine Links hosted a group of Palestinian youngsters who are touring England and Wales as part of a trip organised by the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association (CADFA).

For 10 days, these four boys and six girls, aged 13 to 16, and their four adult leaders, are enjoying a respite from the violence that they are experiencing in their home towns in the West Bank including Assawiye, Abu Dis, Jenin camp and Beit Leed ad Al Wlajeh.

By the time they reached Knighton they had already been greeted by Mark Drakeford, First Minister of the Senedd, and had visited Newport.

Arriving in Presteigne they met children of the same age at John Beddoes School and then spent an hour with the scouts in Knighton, sharing snacks, playing games and exchanging stories.

They then enjoyed a supper in a nearby house, with local people who brought food to share.

On Saturday, March 2, they met community groups in Craven Arms, before going on to Chester.

Despite the difficult situation, with the ongoing war in Gaza and armed settler violence in their villages in the West Bank, these children are getting a breath of fresh air and received a wonderful Powys welcome from the people they met during their visit.

They have been fed with Welsh cakes and lava bread and reciprocated with hummus, pitta bread and dates.

Everyone joined in their Palestinian dabke dance and some singing.

They were relieved to know that so many local people have been protesting on their behalf to try to get a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the violence in their home country.

For more information about Radnor Palestine Links, email [radnorpalestinelinks01@gmail.com](mailto:radnorpalestinelinks01@gmail.com) or alternatively visit the Radnor Palestine Links Facebook group.

■ Radnor Palestine Links. PIC: RPL

## Palestinian teens visiting Camden talk about West Bank life

13th March

CAMDEN

PALESTINE

CHARITY

PEOPLE



By Nathalie Raffray

Senior Reporter

[@HamandHigh](#)

Share [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

No Comments

Palestinian children on an exchange trip to the UK spoke of their gratitude for the support they received during their visit.

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association (Cadfa) has been bringing Palestinian teenagers to the UK for 20 years in an exchange programme to promote awareness of the human rights situation in Palestine.

AD

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with the news

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## Appendix 4 –

### Some placards and banners

Our twenty-year old embroidered banner was taken

on many marches. Countless new ones were made in Friday placard workshops or by Fiona with her great lettering. Many walked off into the crowds in the national demos—we are still searching for our favourite ones above.



## Appendix 5 – petitions for ceasefire on change.org

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Urge Camden Councillors to Support a Ceasefire in Gaza</b></p> <p>We are writing to ask you urgently to support a motion for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. We are in real distress as we sit and watch tens of thousands of people in Gaza being killed, wounded, made homeless, threatened with disease, hunger and starvation – and this is no natural accident but the declared intent of the leaders of...</p> |   |
| <p> <b>CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association)</b><br/>London, ENG, United Kingdom</p> <p> 2,884</p> <p> 18/01/2024</p>                                          |                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Make the ceasefire permanent</b></p> <p>Dear Keir Starmer We are writing as your constituents to add our names to CADFA's letter below, and to demand that the current "pause" in Gaza become an on-going ceasefire. We write to you both as our MP and as leader of the Labour Party. We are old, young, women, men, from different backgrounds, faiths and none and what we...</p>                                |   |
| <p> <b>CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association)</b><br/>London, ENG, United Kingdom</p> <p> 8,393</p> <p> 25/11/2023</p>                                          |                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Ceasefire now and human rights</b></p> <p>Dear Keir Starmer This is an urgent letter from your constituents. We the undersigned are hugely worried about Israel's war on Gaza which has already killed thousands, injured tens of thousands and included among other war crimes the bombing of schools and hospitals. We are very worried about a statement you are recorded as...</p>                              |  |
| <p> <b>CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association)</b><br/>London, ENG, United Kingdom</p> <p> 2,787</p> <p> 18/10/2023</p>                                    |                                                                                      |

## Appendix 6 - Evaluations of the youth visit

### Things that really struck the young Palestinians (they talked again and again about people's support):

- British people's great care for Palestine and its people, the love and kindness of the people, the beauty and nature of the country
- The last event in the church, how the people taking part were full of love and loyalty (caring about Palestine?)
- How many people care about Palestine
- Co-operation between each other
- People's kindness
- The great treatment we had from people and the great way the group worked together
- When we went to the church and we danced
- Really beautiful memories in Wales and the nice people there
- The places we visited and how the people treated us
- There were many people who supported our cause



## **From one of the supporting organisations**

“We discovered so much support locally. I don’t know how much people learnt about Palestine from our event - it depended on who they spoke to - some of them may have learnt much more than others but they will all have seen young Palestinians as real people- and very lovely real people in their case- and not just as statistics on the news. Hope it spurs us all on to do more by way of support.”

## **From a young person who met the young people in a youth activity in Wales.**

“Meeting the young people had a profound impact on my perspective of the current conflict, as it was the first time I'd been exposed to the voices of Palestinians, voices I believe are too often disregarded. Not only did I learn about Israel's violent retaliation after October 7th on a personal level, but also the context of everyday life before this escalation, and how oppressive this occupation has been on Palestinians for decades, a reality largely overlooked until now.

“One individual was incredibly remarkable in retelling his personal experience as a Palestinian under oppressive Israeli rule, being incredibly informative of their current reality.

“However what I value the most is our positive discussions with each other, the cultural exchange, and interest in language and traditions. Even playing video games

with each other is a cherished moment of relief amidst an unfortunate situation.

“I'd be honoured to keep in touch with these brave young people who have made their voices heard around the UK. I'm committed to supporting young people like themselves, from the basics such as informing family and friends on the current conflict, as they've not had the privilege of listening to first-hand experiences. And even introducing the topic to the school curriculum; educating other young people who may be exposed to misinformation from biased news outlets and our biased government.”

## **From the vicar of the church that hosted the final event**

“Last night was one of the most spiritual and moving of my entire seventeen years at Holy Cross and it was a privilege to host our young Palestinians to hear their testimonies, as well as to enjoy their dancing and positivity.

Thank you for all your own hard work in making it possible and my abiding respect and admiration for CADFA.... and the team for all you manage to achieve in what is certainly a cold geopolitical climate.”

## **And from one of the helpers at that event...**

“Before I left the church yesterday evening I've told (the vicar) that I hoped everything was in the same place as before we arrived and his answer was: this will be difficult, after all the happiness and joy he had seen during the evening the place wouldn't be the same anymore ❤️



Join CADFA

*[CADFA.org/JOIN/](https://CADFA.org/JOIN/)*

Useful links

*[Linktr.ee/CADFA](https://Linktr.ee/CADFA)*





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2024

Charity no (if any)

111217

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 03/ 2023**.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Jo Tomalin

Date:

09.10.24

Name:

Jo Tomalin

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

**Address:**

311 Springvale Rd

Sheffield

S10 1LL

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

---

# Accounts

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## CADFA Trustees' Annual Report 2022-23

**CADFA** (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association)

**Building Hope** | Voices from Palestine

**CADFA.org**



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| 1. Introduction                          | 4. Keeping CADFA going    |
| 2. CADFA's work 2022-23                  | 5. Objectives for 2023-24 |
| 3. Building Hope   Voices from Palestine | 6. Appendices             |



## INTRODUCTION

### The human rights situation in Palestine

2022-23 was another grim year of military occupation of Palestine. The situation, which was already full of serious on-going human rights violations, became even more extreme this year as the settlers' movement took a significant place in the Israeli government. Behaviour that used to be represented as individual incidents became daily and was much more clearly a public strategy. Israeli elections and political disagreements resulted in hard approaches to the Palestinians. This year saw more violence on Gaza and strong pressures to take over homes. Key ministers in the new Israeli government are radical Zionists, living in the West Bank in settlements - pressures to take over land, build settlements for Israelis and push the Palestinians out became mainstream. There is more discussion of the human rights year in Abu Dis in the appendix.



*The Israeli Separation Wall in Abu Dis (both pictures on this page)*

## Talking about human rights in Palestine

There is a struggle going on in the West at many levels when it comes to talking about Palestine. In the UK, more and more people now know at least a little about Palestine and more have an understanding and positive approach to Palestinian rights. At the same time, there are attempts to rule this discussion out of court as well as a good deal of misinformation. Despite its importance and despite Britain's own role, worries around the subject have limited discussion of what is happening in Palestine in schools and public bodies. Many suggest that the issues in Palestine are concerned with religion. Many official bodies have accepted the IHRA definition of antisemitism which (as feared when it was recently introduced) is having a chilling effect on some aspects of public discussion.



*After a talk about the CADFA book "Stories from our mothers"*

For CADFA, equality and human rights are the central question. We note that our own government claims that these are 'British values' and takes strong actions in relation to governments in other parts of the world that violate human rights but does not do so in relation to Israel/ Palestine. We should demand consistency. A focus on equality and the human rights for Palestinians enables people to understand what is going on and demands positive action for change.

## Palestinian voices and advocacy for human rights

CADFA's projects help people in the UK to learn more about Palestine and to talk about the issues and our work crucially involves linking people in the UK (and elsewhere) and Palestine which allows us to hear directly from Palestinians themselves.



*Yasmin Najjar during the youth workers' visit from Palestine*

Our work with young Palestinians in particular develops their skills, confidence and knowledge of western understandings which helps them to speak to western audiences - examples of this were our wonderful youth visit in June/July this year and the Beyond the Checkpoints project, both discussed below.

### This Trustees' report

Although it was set to the background of things in Palestine becoming even more grim than previously, 2022-23 was a hard-working year for CADFA full of purposeful activities. This Trustees' report shows how we met our objectives for 2022-23 through a series of exciting projects and led us to create the new **Building Hope | Voices from Palestine** project. It shows how we were sustained by a growing group of partners and widening team, looks at CADFA finances for the year 2022-23 and lays out our objectives for 2023-24.



*2Our old friend and previously Chair of CADFA, Dr Munir Nusseibeh, back in London for a visit*

## CADFA'S WORK 2022-23

### Campaigning for equality and human rights in Palestine



*One of many local protests against human rights abuses in Palestine*

As discussed in the Appendix below, this was another year full of pressure and grief in Palestine. CADFA was working at grassroots level with people who knew little about Palestine as well as people who knew more, trying to raise awareness, give information, counter active disinformation and create an understanding of the urgency of action; to work with our members, partners and friends to convey this to others and to try and persuade policy-makers to take action.

We disseminated information from Palestine and on human rights violations through Zoom links, social media, regular updates to our growing mailing-list, through Cafe Palestina, stalls, meetings in very many places and activities on the street. We took part in national demonstrations about Palestine and ran our own, often in the pedestrian area on the north end of Kentish Town Road. We had some great placards thanks to our trustee Fiona's design skills and our members' help painting.

We campaigned in general on the human rights violations, the increasing number of murders, and also began a campaign to Camden Council to have the place we demonstrate in named **Shireen Abu Akleh Place** in honour of the famous journalist who was gunned down by Israeli soldiers when reporting in Jenin in May 2022. For this we wrote to Camden Councillors, made an online petition, wrote to the local paper and had a number of small demonstrations.

We attempted to take up the issues with our representatives. We continue to send letters to our own MP (Keir Starmer), although see little hope from his partisan approach that does not want to hear of Israel's human rights violations.

We have encouraged our many partners to raise these issues with their reps and importantly a number of our visitors have been taken to visit MPs and members of the Senedd in Wales.

A key part of CADFA's work and an effective way of creating interest in the human rights situation in Palestine has been to bring people from Palestine and the UK together. This year we reached thousands of people in this way (this is not an exaggeration!).

### Linking together for human rights

For many years, we have organised group visits between the UK and Palestine, but this was not possible during Covid. We began this year, after two years of the world stopping and starting owing to lockdowns, wondering if our hoped-for youth workers' and youth visits from Palestine would be able to go ahead or not, and unsure about sending visitors to Palestine.



*CADFA visitors and hosts at Cafe Palestina*



*Campaigning to name the Kentish Town pedestrian area after Shireen Abu Akleh, the famous Palestinian reporter who was killed by the IDF in Jenin in May*

We continued with virtual meetings that brought people from across both countries together on Zoom ('Let's Talk About Palestine'). The work we did with schools was virtual. But we were indeed able to restart visits in both directions this year and by mid-year we had the confidence to go further and plan the **Building Hope | Voices from Palestine** project which is discussed below.

## CADFA's visits and main events 2022-23

- May-June 2022 - **Palestinian youth workers' visit to the UK**
- June-July 2022 - **Palestinian youth visit to the UK**
- August 2022 - **Beyond the Checkpoints** project in Palestine
- **Being Young in Palestine** youth conference on Zoom
- September 2022 - **First group visit to Palestine after Covid**
- **Building Hope** launch conference in Palestine
- October 2022 - **Building Hope** launches in the UK: **visit from Palestine**
- November 2022 - **Women's visit from UK to Palestine**
- December 2022 - **Human Rights Day** activities on Zoom
- Jan- Feb 2023- **Let's Talk About Palestine** sessions on Zoom
- March 2023 - **Palestinian women's visit to the UK**

## Meeting the objectives that we set last year

### (2022-23 Objective 1) Regular human rights reports to members and new people



*A school visit from outside London to Cafe Palestina*

Our co-ordinator in Abu Dis is in touch with the local community and aware of what is happening in Palestine more widely. He logs human rights violations on a regular basis and communicates about the situation in Palestine to us in the UK as well as showing it in more depth to our visitors to Palestine. This information reached people through our updates (roughly two a month), Facebook, our website and leaflets given out at Cafe Palestina at street activities and other events.

During the year, our co-ordinator gave reports to us in the UK regularly through 'Let's Talk About Palestine' and other Zoom meetings. He also came to the UK three times this year, with the youth workers' group, with the youth visit, and on a visit to meet different groups to launch the Building Hope project. In this way the human rights reports reached many towns

### (Objective 2) Develop work in schools: continue to link young people in the two countries; make school materials both for use with students and with teachers

We had two parts of our schools projects this year: one, the continuation of our Sonunu project (school links on Zoom) and two, the 'A Place Called Home' project working with Walsall schools on behalf of Walsall Council. We continued with our work in schools across the country, produced materials to explain the situation in Palestine and learned more about the problems that can weigh on school teachers or students who want to speak out freely on Palestine.

**Sonunu project** Our Sonunu project continued to be exciting. Zoom meetings bringing together very



*Sonunu project zoom meeting between girls in Camden and in Abu Dis*

different groups of young people - in the UK, some of the schools were rural and the children largely (not only) white and others much more mixed in big cities or largely ethnic-minority in smaller towns – and Palestinian young people in towns and villages. As usual there were numerous technical problems but very rewarding sessions with many surprises, new things learned. The groups all prepared presentations and we facilitated discussions on aspects that were new to them, keeping the focus on human rights.

The Palestinian young people involved in the Sonunu project were invited to apply to join the youth visit to the UK (see below) though in the end we decided to bring a group of boys this year hoping to give the girls a chance next time.

During that youth visit, young Palestinians continued the school work, visiting ten schools

and youth clubs across the country, joining in sports, discussions and leading assemblies in several schools.

## A Place Called Home

The Walsall project 'A Place Called Home' was a main focus for the early part of the year and its success and its disappointment were major learning points. Having spoken to many people around the two schools we were working in, it became clear that it was important to look together with teachers at ways of approaching the issue of Palestine. The question (as outlined here in the introduction) is not just the facts of what has happened and is happening in Palestine but the pressures on teachers and schools and the different ways Palestinian issues are represented. The government has written to schools to demand 'balance' – though their view of what that means is problematic in a context of a serious power imbalance! Ultimately, the project fell for the same reason.

The project made useful material for young people that looked at the context, at the question of balance itself, at the different ways that people look at what is happening in Palestine, and at human rights issues. We ran two successful training sessions for teachers from the schools.

Staff seemed very interested in the questions that were raised.

It was really disappointing, therefore, when the schools pulled out of the project, saying that they had expected an Israeli point of view as well as a 'Palestinian one.' We explained again that our approach (the pivot of our 'balance') is human rights and that none of our material took an ethnic approach, but we know that this is the political context in which we are working. The steering committee – who were very supportive - talked both to the schools and the Council, but the project had to come to an end.

### (Objective 3) Organise a youth worker visit from Palestine



*Boys from the Beyond the Checkpoints project talking to a CADFA meeting on Zoom*

We were very happy to run a youth worker visit from Palestine for ten days in May/June supported by the Palestinian Higher Council for Youth and Sports. This was the first visit from Palestine after Covid and a very positive experience for everyone who took part - the visitors, people from CADFA, young people and youth workers in youth organisations across London and the Midlands and audiences in public meetings called Being Young in Palestine.

During this visit, there were public meetings in Camden, Hackney, Islington, Stratford, Newham, Ilford, Brent, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and Cambridge.

The visit was a training visit to look at how to run youth visits to the UK in a safe and productive way. We had a number of useful workshops and good discussions throughout on next steps. The visit allowed us to reach new places for us, to raise the issue of human rights in Palestine to new audiences and to build new partnerships. One of the participants on the visit had a disability and spoke strongly about the issues of disability in Palestine - important everywhere, and with a special strength in Palestine where military action is creating further disabilities and military closures are making treatment more difficult. The idea was born too of a return youth workers' visit to Palestine and we will do this when we can.

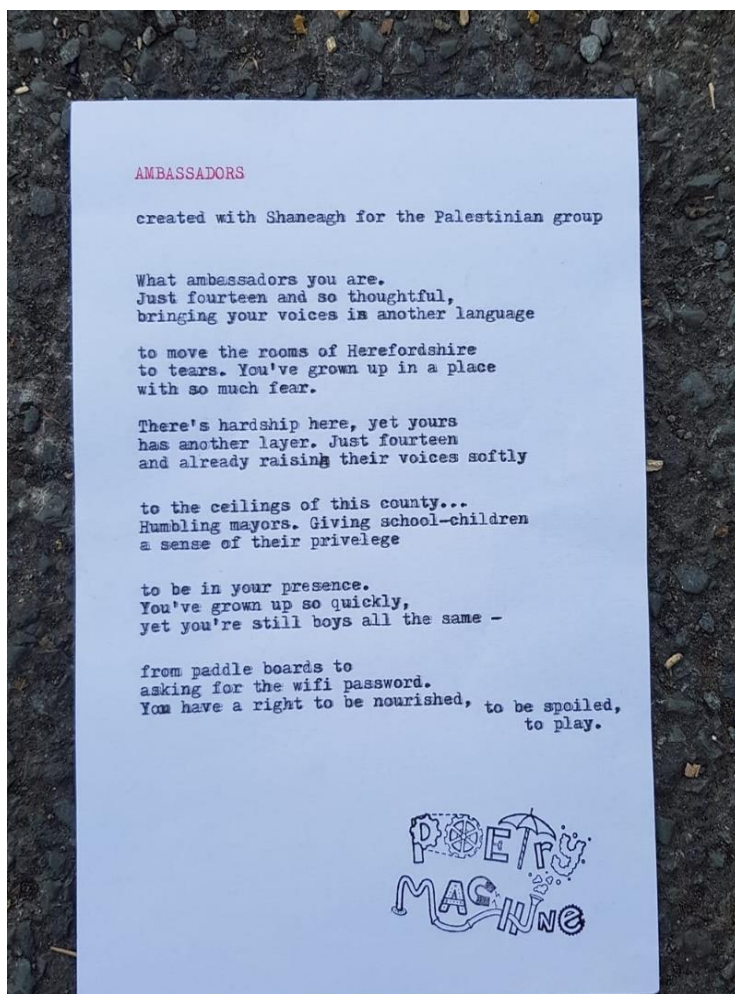
### (Objective 4) Organise a youth visit from Palestine

This was a great experience. There was tremendous co-operation by a number of people who between them

In June- July, we brought a group of six Palestinian school students aged 14 and 15 and two leaders to the UK for two weeks.



*Youth visitors from Palestine at Cafe Palestina*



The students came from four different towns in Palestine where their schools/ youth clubs were linked to UK schools through our Sonunu project. They spent time in London, Lancashire, Mid-Wales and the Midlands. They visited linked schools and others, saw many different places, played sports and took part in public activities designed to give them a voice to the wider world and spread the impact of the visit.

They were encouraged to write about, photograph and video the events of the visit as they went along and we hoped to use the last day to put these together into a youth film. However there was another exciting local event - a fair in Ledbury where it was possible to meet the Mayor and a youth worker – and the poem on the left was written for them! - and at the time of writing the video still needs to be made!

Despite this, it was a wonderful visit, involved very many people from school children to town Mayors, reached more people through social media and events and was spoken about in newspapers across the country. There was real interest and excitement in meeting and hearing from young Palestinians, from the fundraising activities before the visit (through Arabic in Wales, a raffle, a sponsored walk in the UK and one in Palestine, an appeal and the efforts of the different groups involved in looking for sponsors) to the variety of activities on the visit (visits to youth clubs and schools, visits to local places, public events that were appropriate for young people and private



*Youth visitors doing an evaluation of their time in the UK*

events including Eid activities). During this visit, there were public meetings in Ilford, Brent, Camden, Northampton, Nelson, Shrewsbury, Worcester, Hereford, Llanidloes, Knighton and Ledbury. The visit was safe, enjoyable and clearly positive for all the young people - they had a real sense of achievement - and had a strong impact on others.

We had a grant for this project from the MSN Fund who asked us to write in the final report about the reach of the project. We think those figures that we found for

our report to them are interesting: “The interaction with the young Palestinians was arranged in different ways and 950 young people met them in classes or workshops or listened to them in assemblies. Over seventy people were closely involved in the project (volunteers in the many small groups involved), around 350 people joined in public events ....In addition, though impossible to count, we suggest that possibly 3000 in the families and friendship circles of participants will have discussed and been affected by the visit and/or seen the posts, newspaper reports or the materials from the project.”

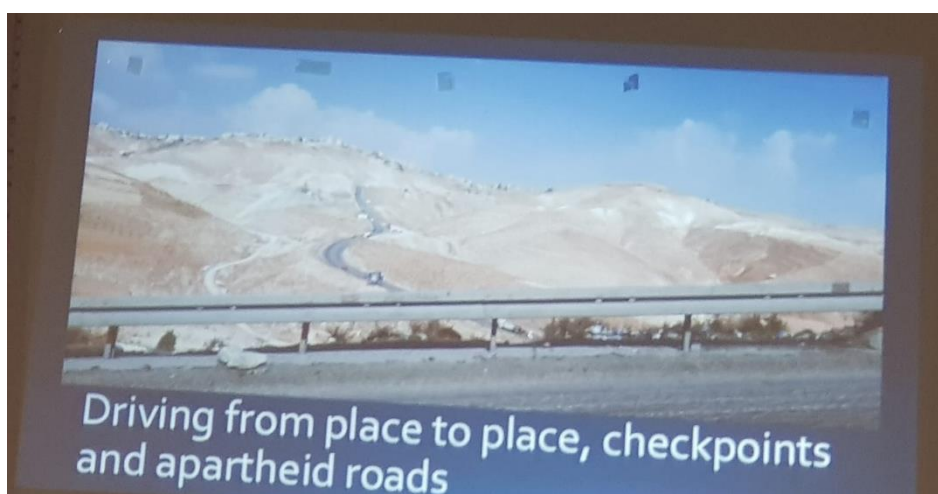
### (Objective 5) Start our visits to Palestine again

We were very happy that we could run these visits again. These visits drew on our years of visits and our good relationships with a number of good partner organisations whose help we very much appreciated. Each visit was different but well-planned and very successful.

As with all of our visits over the years, visitors had twin impressions. The visitors saw many places, had meaningful interactions with a range of people, strongly appreciated the welcome they got and liked Palestine. On the other hand, and the reason we believe it is important to take people there, is it is impossible to go to Palestine without seeing the terrible conditions of



*CADFA visitors to Palestine here learning about the effects of the Separation Wall on people's lives – here the Wall blocks the historic main road between Jerusalem and Amman*



*From a presentation by a visitor to Palestine after her return to the UK*

apartheid in which Palestinians are living, and we hope that our visitors will return to Britain armed with the tools and plans to be more active on Palestinian rights.

This year the things that people are seeing and hearing are even

more shocking. As the settlers' movement is given even more space and power, it is impossible to go for a week without coming across some real tragedy or appalling violation.



*Women from the UK cooking together with women from Abu Dis*

### **September 2022 - our first visit after Corona - a small, general visit to the West Bank**

which included the Building Hope launch conference in Palestine.

### **November 2022 - a women's visit to Palestine**

in partnership with an Abu Dis women's centre, visiting women's organisations across Jerusalem and the West Bank. Women from this visit helped prepare for a women's visit from Palestine to the UK in March.

### **Building for a health professionals' visit to Palestine**

At the end of the year, we were looking forward to a visit that had been planned for three years previously, before Covid. We look forward to writing about it in the next annual report.

## **(Objective 6) Rejuvenate Dar Assadaqa's youth work in Palestine**

Beyond the Checkpoints Before Covid, Dar Assadaqa used to run summer projects for young people that included outings from Abu Dis as well as a variety of activities in Abu Dis itself. These outings were a great relief for the young people, but they often concentrated on swimming pools and leisure.

This year we developed a new type of summer project with young people from Abu Dis and others who had taken part in the Sonunu project (Palestine - UK Zoom links between schools and youth clubs) to visit each other's villages and towns where they were shown round by their young hosts. This was a way for young people to learn more about their own



*The Beyond the Checkpoints group visiting an old olive press*

country and develop their skills of presenting it to others. They also spent some time making short video and photographic presentations.

The project finished with a youth conference on Zoom that allowed the young people to talk about their villages to people in the UK. They were also later given the opportunity to help show UK visitors round during the September visit to Palestine.



*The Beyond the Checkpoints group met and listened to an old man who could remember the Nakba of 1948*

It was very expensive in transport and very hot as run in August, but it was an extremely exciting project and we have decided to run another in 2023 and make this part of the preparation for a youth visit to the UK which we will move back later in the year.

## THE BUILDING HOPE | VOICES FROM PALESTINE PROJECT

Having got going again during this year, we carried out a mid-year evaluation of CADFA's next steps now the world was recovering from Covid. What is it that we do that is most effective?

Following the Covid virtual visits (very good but the people involved were already motivated to find out about Palestine), the youth workers' and the youth visits from Palestine in summer 2022 reminded us how much stronger an in-person visit from Palestine could be and how many people it could reach. Visits to Palestine are also important, but visits of Palestinians to the UK engage and educate many new people -they are an effective contribution to the growing movement calling for human rights for Palestinians.

We decided that we would try to work with old and new partners across the country to widen the work and increase the number of visits that bring Palestinian voices regularly right across England

and Wales and from this the **Building Hope | Voices from Palestine** project was born. We produced a new leaflet, a presentation for meetings and began to work on a plan for a number of visits a year - these depended on having sponsors and supportive partners so the first thing was to establish that others wanted to join in.

### Launch in Palestine in September 2022



The project was launched at a conference at Al Quds University in September. It was attended by our September group of visitors from the UK, but the main participants were Palestinian people from across the West Bank and Jerusalem who had been involved in CADFA's work for the past few years, some of them as children or students and others as adults or leaders of visits. It was good to

host old friends from Palestinian organisations that CADFA had worked with for years - the Higher Council of Youth and Sports, Al Quds University, schools, local council and others and to discuss new plans. Knowing that our work is respected is an encouragement to keep going. There was great enthusiasm for the project and many useful contributions.

### Launch in the UK in October 2022 (visit from Palestine)



*Talk by our Palestinian co-ordinator in Hereford*

Our co-ordinator from Palestine came to the UK for a series of project launch meetings in October. We were able to take him to visit existing partner groups and go to new places to meet small groups of interested people.

During this visit, there were Building Hope public meetings

on Palestine in Camden, Brent, Stratford (East London), Brixton, Exeter, Falmouth, Chichester, Milton Keynes, Leeds, Manchester, Pendle, Hereford and Cardiff

### Women's visit to the UK in March 2023

The first visit to Palestine organised by the Building Hope project was a group of ten women from the women's centres visited by the UK women's group in November. Their very first steps were difficult because of the way that the UK visa system echoes the apartheid distinctions imposed by Israel. In contrast to any Israeli settler living on their land, they had to go through a long, expensive and very inconvenient process full of unpleasant assumptions and the likelihood of being turned down. And all the visa applications were indeed turned down.

We had to launch a big campaign to get this situation overturned. With a lot of extra work and expense, they all received visas but one passport was mislaid by the visa office - so we will be bringing the person who could not come last time and another two on a separate leg of the same **Palestinian Women's Voices Tour** in July 2023.



*Palestinian women visitors at a women's meeting in Brent*



*Silwan in Jerusalem, where most people's homes are under threat as Israel is threatening to move people out and demolish houses. The eyes have been painted to say to the Israelis "we are watching you."*



*Speaker from a Silwan women's organisation talking about her life to a group in London*

The work was well worth it - these were an amazing group of women, strong, articulate, with a lot to say and real enthusiasm for taking their stories to people in towns small and big across Britain. The visit took the theme of International Women's Day. The women were in London for a few days and then divided into four small groups that went to places north-west, West Midlands, west and south-west of London (see map). In most cases, these were places that we had visited in the Launch visit (above). The visitors went to women's centres and other community venues and gave talks in schools, libraries, community centres, and at least one university.

During this visit there were public meetings in an incredible number of places Camden, Harlesden, Lewisham, Newcastle-under-Lyme, St Alban's, Luton, Presteigne, Knighton, Craven Arms, Barnstaple, Bristol, Manchester, Totnes, Chester, Bodmin, Truro, Cardiff, Northampton, Falmouth, Aberdare, Birmingham, Derby, Walsall, Nelson, Forest Gate, Wimbledon and Islington

## Half a year of Building Hope

The women's visit was a great start to **Building Hope** -We broadened the number of people involved in the leadership of the visit, stimulated new groups, reached young and old in many different organisations and really felt the enthusiasm for the project. We have plans to work on a second leg of the visit in July and further visits next year.

Although we managed to raise the money for the women's visit, the financial side of the project remains a challenge. We have new partners and have increased our membership (up about 15% over the year) but not yet enough to make us secure so this is an important job for 2023-24.

## KEEPING CADFA GOING

### Café Palestina



*The event room at Café Palestina is often used by CADFA*

CADFA's base in London is Café Palestina, a social enterprise cafe, shop and event space in Kentish Town, London. This year, the Cafe was recovering from the interruptions during the Covid years, and CADFA's work there began again. Downstairs as well as workspace there is a CADFA exhibition, space for meetings, workshops, speakers and events. Upstairs (on the ground floor) is the Cafe which also hosts CADFA events such as meals, iftars and

provides a base for CADFA visitors. CADFA's Palestinian library is hosted in the Cafe and our books and leaflets are available for people to read and discuss if they like to.



*At Cafe Palestina- A memorial to Andy Mingay, a long-standing member of CADFA who sadly died during this year.*

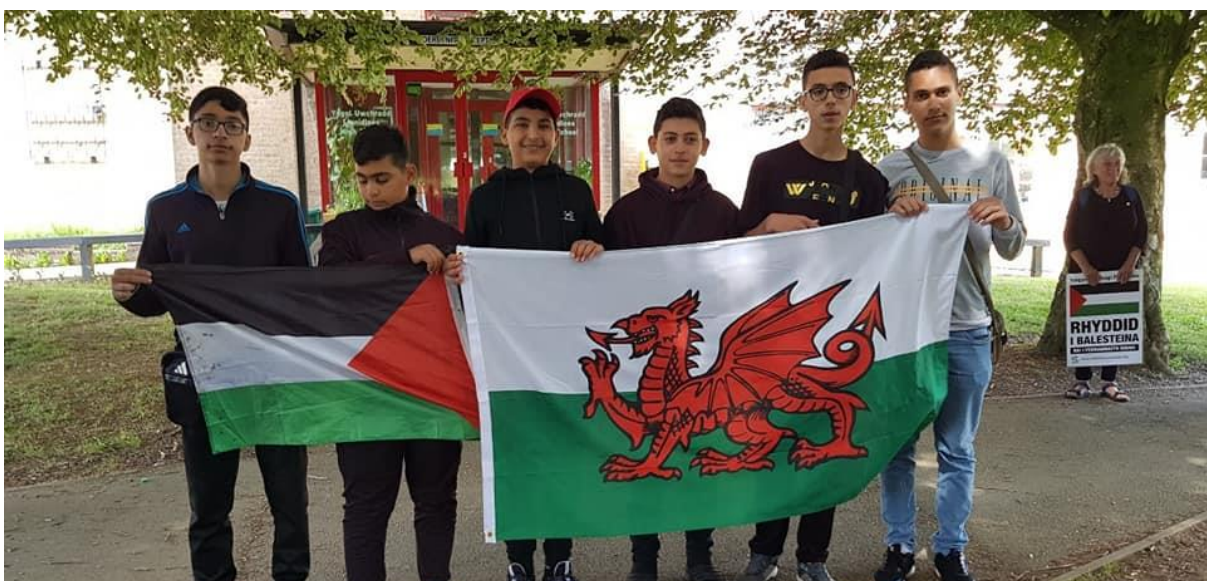
This year we were very grateful to the family of Adah Kay for donating her books about Palestine to join the others available there for people to read. Speakers at the cafe this year - as well as our visiting groups - included our old friend and CADFA Chair for several years Dr Munir Nusseibeh. We were really pleased when (among other

workshops), one of the schools we have been working with in Lancashire brought a group of young people down to visit the Cafe and have a workshop on Palestine, looking at the Palestinian items housed there and sampling Palestinian food.

## Dar Assadaqa

Our co-ordinator and our Palestinian activities are based at Dar Assadaqa in Abu Dis. Unfortunately owing to the pressure on people and therefore on housing in the Jerusalem suburb, the base of the organisation has had to move several times since it was started as CADFA's main partner in Palestine in 2006. Dar Assadaqa's previous accommodation in the centre of Abu Dis finished in April 2021 as the landlord wanted to redevelop the building. This was very sad for us - another old Abu Dis house being knocked down to be replaced by a tower block - and for us, this building was full of memories of good projects with both local people and visitors.

The CADFA co-ordinator spent some months working from our old rented 'guesthouse' but the same thing happened there: the landlord wanted to sell... so Dar Assadaqa moved to very small premises



*Boys from Palestine in Wales*

where our things could be stored and our co-ordinator could work. Covid meant that there were few activities in person so the accommodation problems were delayed for some time.

This year we were rescued by our friends: in January 2023, Abu Dis Council offered Dar Assadaqa some accommodation where our co-ordinator could work. However it is unfortunately very close to the Israeli military camp in Abu Dis and not safe for young people to come and go or for the youth activities that we used to have. The local Damaa Cultural Centre allowed Dar Assadaqa groups to meet there. Local friends hosted our visitors and the University made it possible for groups connected to them to use their accommodation. By the end of the year a new suggestion for an old house to become a 'proper' Dar Assadaqa centre has been made and we hope that by this time next year, the organisation may have moved again.

### Charity Commission Compliance visit

We noted in last year's annual report that, because CADFA works in Palestine, we became subject to a wide-ranging compliance investigation by the Charity Commission. They assured us that they were doing the same for every charity operating in Palestine. Providing papers and answering questions took a lot of time but the investigation did give us the opportunity for some useful conversations with the Charity Commission and helped us look sharply at all of our policies and procedures. The investigation was signed off in Sept 2022.

### The CADFA team

This year the Trustee team continued with the same members as the previous year. Our Director Nandita Dowson led the CADFA team in the UK and the Abu Dis Co-ordinator Abdul Wahab Sabbah led the team in Palestine. We added part-time administrators to our team, Anita and Gabi for three months from March- June followed by Meg in August who was still with us at the end of the year.

We had a huge number of volunteers including people who worked regularly throughout the year, (such as Annika's stalwart team on the Brunswick stall), people who worked on special events and many all over the country who joined in at the time of a visit to help host, drive, cook and accompany visitors. Others joined in to help CADFA in a sponsored walk, promoting a raffle and other fundraising events.



*3Dr Abdullah from the Health Centre presenting CADFA with a token of thanks during the women's visit to Palestine in November 2022*

## Building partnerships



*A talk by a returned CADFA visitor who is making a book of her photographs during the Arabic language residential - organised to raise money for the youth visit from Palestine.*

We began the year with links to many organisations across Britain and Palestine and through our renewed activities and the Building Hope project, ended the year with even more. Many of these in the UK are small organisations working on the issues of Palestinian rights - twinning groups (and the BPTFN network), PSC and Friends of Palestine groups - and others are all types of community and educational organisation.

In Palestine we have been happy to work with local people both individuals and organisations in many towns and villages for a number of years. The number, too, are expanding and new groups want to be involved in CADFA's work. We very much appreciate the support and recognition given to us by old friends and renewed this year including the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, Al Quds University, Abu Dis Council.



*A meeting with Dr Husam Zumlot, the Palestinian Ambassador, during the women's visit in March.*

We would like to thank the trustees of some small funds who believed in our work and gave us small grants towards the youth visit: MSN Fund, Euroquality Foundation. We are looking for more such funds to help us keep our projects going.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Our finances have reflected continued recovery from Covid. Our income has increased from £80.8k the previous year to £116.1k (+44%). Our costs have increased similarly; £82.1k to £119.3k. Our income and expenditure are almost back to the level before Covid (actually higher than some recent pre-Covid years).

This expansion of activities (in particular the Building Hope initiative) have required significant expenditure (in particular continued employment of a part-time assistant and bringing over many visitors from Palestine). Whilst these activities have generated income, it has been a continual challenge to ensure this covered our costs.

Our increase in income was almost exclusively from income raised around visits to Britain and other projects (this was over £50k, although at the expense of a drop of over £10k in general donations). The costs of these visits include about £25k of “direct” costs (flights, other transport, food & accommodation on the visits, etc), as well as needing to cover some of our “core” costs (staffing, CADFA accommodation, etc), as these require a lot of time organising. Our visits to Palestine generated over £15k in income, but as the direct costs of these were over £10k, they only made a small contribution to our core costs. Whilst membership increased by around 15% over the year, membership income was up less than half that (mainly because the membership growth was towards the end of the year).

Staff costs were up by around 10% reflecting employment of an assistant in Camden (1 day per week). Note there have been no increases in salaries (as there haven’t been for many years). Because of our challenging finances, we reduced the amount we were putting into the “pension pot” (set up the previous year) from £500 to £100 each month. The £100 approximately covers the increase in the gratuity in lieu of pension for our Abu Dis worker on his retirement from the extra year worked.

The loan made to our Abu Dis worker the previous year, has now been fully repaid.

Our accounts (see below) show us ending the financial year in deficit by £3,386 (after starting the year with £192). Including late items makes the position slightly worse; -£3,746 (compared with -£245 at the beginning of the year). We have been able to avoid interest charges by juggling our money (in particular borrowing from the Pension Pot). We are addressing this deficit in the budget for 2023/4.

| <b>CADFA ACCOUNTS - 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023</b> |        |               |        |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------|
|                                                           | 2021/2 |               | 2022/3 |                |
| Project grants                                            | 6,000  |               | 0      |                |
| Other project Income                                      | 977    |               | 50,905 |                |
| Membership                                                | 31,768 |               | 33,073 |                |
| Donations                                                 | 14,322 |               | 2,479  |                |
| Visits to Palestine                                       | 0      |               | 15,855 |                |
| Furlough                                                  | 10,392 |               | 0      |                |
| Income generation (events, stalls etc)                    | 19,039 |               | 13,015 |                |
| Gift Aid                                                  | 2,492  |               | 228    |                |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                       |        | <b>84,989</b> |        | <b>115,555</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                        |        |               |        |                |
| Abu Dis running costs                                     | 4,626  |               | 2,168  |                |
| Camden running costs                                      | 25,201 |               | 19,987 |                |
| Staff costs                                               | 50,036 |               | 53,771 |                |
| Project expenditure                                       | 80     |               | 24,442 |                |
| Small project costs                                       | 219    |               | 2,613  |                |
| Visits to Palestine cost                                  | 0      |               | 10,236 |                |
| Income generation costs                                   | 7,465  |               | 5,916  |                |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                                  |        | <b>87,628</b> |        | <b>119,132</b> |
| <b>CADFA Outturn</b>                                      |        | <b>192</b>    |        | <b>-3,386</b>  |
| Opening Balance                                           |        | 2,831         |        | 192            |
| Total Income                                              |        | 84,989        |        | 115,555        |
| Total Expenditure                                         |        | 87,628        |        | 119,132        |
| Surplus (Deficit) Carried Forward                         |        | <b>192</b>    |        | <b>-3,386</b>  |
| Surplus (Deficit) for the Year                            |        | <b>-2,639</b> |        | <b>-3,578</b>  |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>                                     |        |               |        |                |
| Account Balance at 31st March 2022                        |        | 6,047         |        | 3,814          |
| Pension Pot                                               |        | <b>-6,000</b> |        | <b>-7,200</b>  |
| Loans Outstanding                                         |        | 1,055         |        | 0              |
| Late Transfers In                                         |        | 0             |        | 0              |
| Late Transfers Out                                        |        | <b>-910</b>   |        | 0              |
| <b>Total</b>                                              |        | <b>192</b>    |        | <b>-3,386</b>  |

| <b>BALANCE SHEET</b>             |                                      |                                      |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
|                                  | <b>As at<br/>31st March<br/>2022</b> | <b>As at<br/>31st March<br/>2023</b> |  |
|                                  | <b>£</b>                             | <b>£</b>                             |  |
| UK Bank Balances                 | 3,330.94                             | 5,174.88                             |  |
| Cash in hand or in transit       | 1,805.74                             | -1,360.51                            |  |
| Loans                            | 1,055.44                             | 0.00                                 |  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                | <b>£6,192.11</b>                     | <b>£3,814.37</b>                     |  |
| Surplus at 1 April               | 2,831.03                             | 6,192.11                             |  |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year | -2,638.92                            | -3,577.75                            |  |
| Added to Pension Pot             | 6,000.00                             | 7,200.00                             |  |
| <b>Surplus at 31 March</b>       | <b>£6,192.11</b>                     | <b>£9,814.37</b>                     |  |
| <b>Represented by:</b>           |                                      |                                      |  |
| UK Bank Accounts                 | 3,330.94                             | 5,174.88                             |  |
| NIS held in Abu Dis              | -251.99                              | -311.57                              |  |
| Jordanian Dinars held in Abu Dis | 2.11                                 | 2.10                                 |  |
| US Dollars held in Abu Dis       | 166.59                               | 1,881.44                             |  |
| Balance on Camden Cash account   | 789.95                               | -2,526.63                            |  |
| Balance on Stall Cash Account    | 28.00                                | 65.65                                |  |
| Balance on Cafe Account          | 100.52                               | -1,110.98                            |  |
| Balance on Just Giving Checkout  | 0.00                                 | 224.26                               |  |
| Balance on PayPal account        | 970.55                               | 415.22                               |  |
| Loans to / from CADFA            | 1,055.44                             | 0.00                                 |  |
|                                  | 6,192.11                             | 3,814.37                             |  |



*Pause during a sponsored walk to raise money for the youth visit*



*The Saturday stall which raises money for CADFA and in particular for women's visits - and has gone on weekly for years, rain or shine!*



*Our Palestinian Arabic teacher learning how to make Welsh cakes during the residential Arabic course (fundraising for the youth visit)*



*CADFA trustee draws a raffle ticket (fundraising for the youth visit)*

## THANK YOUS

We considered listing the many helpers and friends that made this year's work possible, but here were so many, and some not even known to us, so we decided that this was impossible. We would like to extend strong thanks to the staff of CADFA, the regular volunteers, the people who joined to help with particular campaigns, the fundraisers with their many ideas, the hosts, drivers, cooks, accompaniers during visits, the partner organisations that welcomed our visitors and all those who arranged speaking opportunities, asked advice, gave advice.... There was help from many Palestinian friends as well. There have been so many of you in both countries, and we and our friends in Palestine are really grateful for and encouraged by your efforts.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023-24

This report and the appendix below show that the situation in Palestine is getting even worse. So we want to keep going, raising awareness and helping people find positive and useful ways to work for human rights.

### The main areas we want to work on to strengthen and sustain this work

are

1. Extending our membership, involving new people across the country, encouraging our members to be active
2. Working with existing partner organisations and with new organisations both in Camden and across the country
3. Developing and extending the **Building Hope | Voices from Palestine** project
4. Finding new sponsors and/or ways to make this work sustainable.

### We will specifically work on

- Regular human rights reports on Zoom and in person
- Public events focusing on human rights in Palestine
- Publications on social media and in print on human rights in Palestine
- Visits to Palestine (aim to have three or four this year)
- Visits to the UK (aim to have three or four this year subject to funding)
- School links and school materials on Palestine and human rights
- Advocacy work (including Beyond the Checkpoints)
- In December 2023, celebration of 20 years of Camden Abu Dis links.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 -Objectives of CADFA

#### From the CADFA constitution as amended November 2013

The Charity's object is to promote human rights (as set out in the International Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) and respect for international humanitarian law in 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 in particular and Palestine more widely;  
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 in particular and Palestine more widely;
- working to obtain and promote redress for the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely;
- providing support to and relieving need among the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families, in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely.

### Appendix 2 - Trustees of CADFA

- Tara Seaborn (Chair)
- Hugh Wallis (Treasurer)
- Cristina Piccoli (Secretary)
- Fiona Millar (Minutes secretary)
- Peter Ashan

All re-elected at the AGM on 6th November at Cafe Palestina.

### Appendix 3 - Some press articles/ letters

*Our youth visitors from Palestine appeared in a small paper in Ledbury (we don't have a better picture)*



## A letter from Abu Dis

ON Saturday evening I arrived in Abu Dis, Palestine, as part of CADFA's first women's visit here since Covid.

I last came here 15 years ago as part of CADFA's first Camden teachers' visit to Abu Dis.

This morning, Tuesday, the sun is rising across a very much more crowded town than I saw 15 years ago and I am wondering about the future of this town Abu Dis and this country Palestine, whose people are suffering even more than when I was here in 2007.

In 2007 I was shaken at the effect on the people of the new Separation Wall which dominated everything and everyone with its looming presence. The huge wall, built on their land, takes away much of it – including farmers' olive groves – and prevents them from freely going into their city to go to hospital, see relatives, shop, or worship (Abu Dis is a suburb of Jerusalem).

I was also shocked to find serious violations of human rights affecting the Palestinian people I met, at every turn. In the years since, reputable human rights organisations (B'tselem, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International) have come to agree with what the Palestinians have been saying for years – this horrible situation is apartheid, deepest racism.

When we arrived, I looked for the colourful walls of the Abu Dis youth club that I remembered from 2007 and found that the colours are no more. The building is now white with large images all round it of young people from the town recently killed by Israeli soldiers.

Speaking to Palestinian women, I hear of their fear of the checkpoints and what can happen to their children – there are increasing numbers of children killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers, with impunity for the soldiers, more than 100 this year and rising.

No wonder Palestinians have strong empathy with the Black Lives Matter movement and vice versa.

It is shameful that there is hardly any coverage in the UK media about this.

Camden has something very special in a local charity CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association), which has built links between people in the two countries for nearly 20 years now with the purpose of raising awareness of the situation here and campaigning for human rights.

I am a retired Camden teacher and my school benefited from visits from young Palestinians taking part in positive projects with young Londoners.

Despite the worsening situation making their lives almost intolerable the Palestinians I have met continue hoping for a better future for everyone.

I hope people will support CADFA's current project *Building Hope*. Readers can find out more about that from [cadfa.org](http://cadfa.org)

CADFA offers the opportunity to local people to go and see Palestine for themselves in a safe and organised way.

I do recommend these visits and suggest that interested people get in touch with [contact@cadfa.org](mailto:contact@cadfa.org)

FIONA MILLAR, NWS

favour of it being halved to just 12 weeks. With

### CHILDREN from Palestine spent four days visiting schools as part of a two-week youth exchange.

The boys, pictured, came from four towns and villages as part of a project organised by the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association.

They swapped stories with pupils at La Sainte Union before leaving London to visit schools around the country.

They have joined teenagers in this country trying their hand at rowing, football, trampolining, paddleboarding – and also seeing the dinosaurs exhibits at the Natural History Museum

"This is their first time outside Palestine," Abed, the Palestinian group leader, told me. "It was very hard for them to imagine being in a country where you can travel miles without a checkpoint."

CADFA was set up in 2003 initially to make links between Camden and a small town, Abu Dis.



Outside Kentish Town's own Palestinian cafe

category for its work in Ceredigion,  
Powys and Carmarthenshire.

the work they  
the last five years in the Cambrian

# Palestinian teens in Powys

By Anwen Parry

01938 557340

anwen.parry@countytimes.co.uk

LLANIDLOES' warm welcome has made a lasting impact on a group of teenagers from the West Bank in Palestine, who shared stories about their lives and experiences with people in the town.

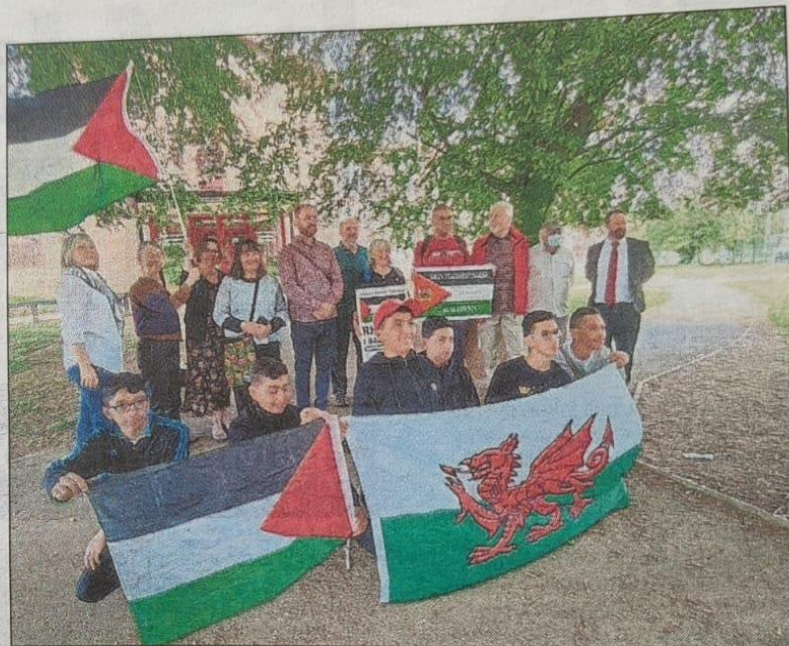
The group of six 15-year-old boys along with their two youth leaders were in Llanidloes last week, spending the morning at Llanidloes High School talking pupils and meeting people from the town at the Hanging Gardens.

Mary Browning, from Llanidloes As Sawiya Friendship Association, said: "These youngsters live under constant threat from hostility towards their community. They could be attacked at any time and even put in prison without trial for spurious reasons.

"Llanidloes High School and its calm and warm atmosphere must have been a wonderful contrast for them. It was really good that they were able to talk about their lives to so many of the pupils.

"The school could not have been more accommodating and hospitable. One of their leaders remarked that the welcome they received far exceeded any they had had on their tour so far. They had already been to several schools in different parts of England."

The boys received a warm welcome and met people from the town as well as members of Llanidloes-As Sawiya Friendship Association (LLASFA) and Montgomeryshire Palestine Solidarity Campaign. They were



■ The group of six 15-year-old boys along with their two youth leaders from the West Bank in Palestine visiting Llanidloes

treated to ice creams and given little gift bags as mementos of their visit to mid Wales.

Finally, on a day of warm sunshine, blue skies and calm waters, they spent time paddleboarding, courtesy of Andy Jobling, of Mavericks Paddleboarding on Llyn Clywedog. This was followed by a barbecue, provided by Clywedog Sailing Club.

Mary added: "The shouts of delight and laughter that echoed across the lake said everything about this experience, which should provide these youngsters with wonderful memories for many years to come.

"A huge amount of gratitude is owed to all those who generously gave their time and helped to make this happen.

"In particular CADFA, the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association which organised the whole UK visit, Llanidloes High School staff including headteacher Dan Owen and teachers Rhiannon Brewer and Gwenan Crawford for putting together a special timetable to give them opportunities to talk to most year groups; LLASFA and Montgomeryshire PSC, Clywedog Sailing Club and Andy Jobling of Mavericks Paddleboarding."



## Llanidloes Carnival makes

PARADES filled the streets of Llanidloes for the first time

Last weekend

## Appendix 4 - The human rights year in Abu Dis



*The Separation Wall in Abu Dis at this point runs down the middle of a road - it is Abu Dis on both sides, but has become a significant barrier to many aspects of life – social, educational, medical, economic...*

The pressure on Palestinians increased this year. The on-going apartheid, deep and structural discrimination, human rights violations against Palestinians, continued. In addition, the Israeli government crisis and the increased power of the extreme right wing and settlers' movement has been the background for increased pressure on the Palestinians. Much of this was physical violence - the settlers' movement created a militia (which has subsequently been agreed to by the government) which has invaded Palestinians' homes, acted very aggressively, killed people. Palestinians are aware of increased danger in the areas outside their towns – for people from Abu Dis, going near Maale Adumim can be dangerous. Sometimes people are stopped, sometimes settlers throw stones.



*Israeli army in Abu Dis*

At the end of March 2023, there were 37 prisoners from Abu Dis in Israeli jails and 15 on admin detention. There were not as many child prisoners as there had been but children have been arrested and their families fined.

The takeover by Israeli settlers of Palestinian land and property is continuing; seizure of land and building of settlements is the big issue. During this year, there were 960 house demolitions across Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Abu Dis is filling and growing. Traffic is everywhere, parking and traffic is a real chaos. Old buildings being are taken down and there is new building of tower blocks everywhere. "There are more people every day – in Abu Dis there are people coming into the city because of the university, people wanting to be around Jerusalem as well as population expansion. This is terrible," says a voice from Abu Dis, "What can it be like in 10 years time? Where can people live? How will they find space?"

Town planning doesn't work. We were told that the Palestinian Authority don't give the council any proper authority – it can't stop people building or make provision for parking. People can build without a licence or can pay the PA local authority ministry and buy permission – The Council can't do anything about it.

Together with this, the lack of a proper sewage infrastructure is like a time bomb.

## The Abu Dis year 2022-23

### April

Ramadan started at the beginning of April. People from Abu Dis were very keen to go into Jerusalem to the Al Aqsa Mosque to pray. Huge crowds at the checkpoints round the city, but Israelis didn't allow everyone to go into the city - just men over 55 and women over 40. This led to younger people taking the dangerous route and climbing and jumping the huge Separation Wall.

The Israeli army was in force in Jerusalem. Many young people were beaten and arrested on the way into the old city at Bab al Amoud. Settlers were pushing people from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah. "Unity" demonstrations brought together Palestinians from the West Bank, Jerusalem and inside 1948" (Israel)". There was a violent response from Israel - they bombed Gaza.



*Every child in Abu Dis knows the sight, smell and taste of tear gas*

This was a very bloody month in the West Bank too. On the 1st April there was a massacre in Jenin. There were then invasions of Nablus. This led to big demonstrations across Palestine including in Abu Dis. During April 2022, 23 people were killed in the West Bank.

[CADFA post]: "Terrible news from Palestine. Our friends there send us picture after picture of people shot by the Israeli army - young people, two women, a lawyer... "Say their names," people say (to show that like ourselves these are people with lives, histories, hopes, happiness, problems, mums, children), but we don't know all the names, and to tell the truth we have even lost count of the number over the last few days: countless families, countless communities grieving and fearing even worse - and

so are we."

In Abu Dis, on the night of 5th April there were army house invasions in Abu Dis and 3 people were arrested.

On 12th April, 4 people were arrested. The Israelis renewed the administrative detention order (detention without trial) for Huthaifa Badr and Mohammed Ebidat.



*Abdullah Jalal had his skull fractured by Israeli soldiers*

On 16th April there was a demonstration at the Al Quds University in support of Palestinian prisoners including Ahmed Munasra (age 19) who was arrested at the age of 12 and has spent the last 2 years in complete isolation inside Israeli prison and is now suffering serious mental health problems.

The demonstrators were also supporting the family campaign to get the Israelis to give back the body of Dr Mai Afana who was killed at an Israeli checkpoint on 16th June 2021 - Israel took away her body and did not return it.

18th April [CADFA report] "So many pictures of shameful brutality by Israeli soldiers in the past few days. This poor lad of 17, Abdullah Jalal, was taken to the Israeli army military

camp in Abu Dis today, kept there for two hours and beaten so hard with guns and sticks that when they let him go, his skull was fractured. We need the world to hear and protest and we need the cruel apartheid to stop fast."

## May

On 11th May, Shireen Abu Aqleh was murdered in Jenin, where military pressures had continued. The famous journalist was preparing to give a news report when she was repeatedly shot by an Israeli sniper.

On 15th May, Shireen Abu Aqleh's funeral was interrupted by the Israeli army who at one stage attacked the pallbearers causing the coffin to be dropped and nearly hit the ground.

There were demonstrations all over Palestine. On 15th May there was a demonstration in Abu Dis, near the university. The Israeli army shot tear gas and rubber bullets.

15th May - This was Nakba day [CADFA report] "Things in Palestine are unspeakable at the moment with a violent military in every place, pushing people from their homes, invading refugee camps, killing people including journalists, punishing mourners and here invading the campus of Al Quds University today."

On 17th May there were house invasions and arrests of 3 people in Abu Dis. This led to demonstrations and attacks by the army on demonstrators. Two people were seriously wounded with live ammunition, others wounded with rubber bullets.

## June

The tension continued this month, thirteen more people were killed in Jenin and Nablus. In Abu Dis, this was the anniversary of the killing of Dr Mai Afaneh whose body had not been returned.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Israeli army invaded dozens of houses in Abu Dis, ordering young people to report to the intelligence officer at military camp.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June there was a big demonstration in Abu Dis on the commemoration of the Nakseh (invasion and occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem in 1967).

On 7<sup>th</sup> June there were house invasions in the old part of Abu Dis. Three young people were arrested.



*Dr Mai Afaneh and her daughter. Mai was killed by Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint north of Abu Dis in 2021*

16th June A year after the killing of Mai Afaneh there was a demonstration in Abu Dis.

16th June [CADFA report]; “Today is the 1st anniversary of the killing of Dr Mai Afana, a young mother and lecturer from Abu Dis who was shot at an Israeli army checkpoint. This is a compilation of photos from the family who will be

marking today with a memorial but have not yet had the opportunity to bury her or say goodbye as the Israelis are still holding her body. This is a policy they have applied to dozens of people who were killed their families - refusing to return the bodies and further punishing the families and communities.”

These days there is always a water crisis in Abu Dis in the summer. Much of the water from the West Bank aquifer is taken to the Israeli settlements and the Israelis have made different rules for Israelis and Palestinians to take water. Palestinians have water pumped into tanks on their roofs only once or twice a week and in summer there is often not enough.

June saw the beginning of a deeper water crisis which left many homes without water at all because a water pump in Wadi Jheer was broken and stayed this way for 3 months.

## July

On 9th July, the Israeli army invaded blocks of student accommodation and four students were arrested.

On 22nd July, there were demonstrations in Abu Dis and the army took over University Street.

The water crisis continued. This was partly because a long process of agreements with the Israelis had to be made before new parts for the pump could be obtained.

## August

On 25th August, Mai's body was returned to her family. Israel had been keeping it as they are keeping dozens of others.

25 Aug [CADFA report]: "This poor child from Abu Dis not only suddenly lost her beloved mother Dr Mai Afana (she was shot by Israeli soldiers in June 2021) but then had to wait for 14 months - apparently not believing that her mother wouldn't come home - to say goodbye to her. The Israelis wouldn't give Mai's body back till yesterday."

## September

This was the beginning of the school year and - as had become familiar - Israeli army checkpoints were put up in the morning around the schools

Abu Dis Boys' School and Al Quds University lost 5 days because of army invasions.



*Fayiz Damdoun, killed by the Israeli army in October 2022*

On 20<sup>th</sup> September, three Abu Dis Boys' School students were arrested, held in police station in Maale Adumim and only released after paying money. Each family had to pay 5000 shekels each (a huge amount for many families – the Palestinian minimum wage is 1800 a month).

## October

1 Oct [CADFA post]; "Oh lord, another killing at the hands of the Israeli army in Aizaria next to Abu Dis... another young life ended, another family and community devastated - and total impunity for the soldiers."

2 October [CADFA post]: "Living under military occupation - pictures from Al Quds University Abu Dis (Israeli soldiers near the Separation Wall they built and some of the tear gas they

use - every adult and every child in the area knows its smell too well). This photo was the day after a 17 year old was killed in a drive-by shooting from an Israeli army jeep.

9 Oct [CADFA post]: “Terrible reports from Palestine at the moment, an escalation of suffering. People are trying to live a normal life but there are disturbances out of nothing - like the tear gas shot all round the middle of Abu Dis yesterday, affecting local families where there had been peace and quiet on a bank holiday. Bad news every day - yesterday women were among people beaten by soldiers near Damascus Gate in Jerusalem - terrible videos of women being forced to the ground and arrested. Last night Shufat Camp was under siege by the army with helicopters constantly overhead. More and more killings by the Israeli army - \*4\*(four people) were killed yesterday.



*Israeli army vehicles driving into Abu Dis at night*

“The racism is so deep that there is no concern at all for civilians young or old and total impunity for the soldiers. No one knows what is next. Palestinians have to worry and to watch out for their family members: it is so scary to have unpredictable armed killers on the streets. And why is this now? As Israel has yet another election coming, is this some sort of showing off? Or are they determined to create a response and greet it with worse??”

On 18th October, there was an Israeli army invasion of Al Quds University. More than fifty (50) people were hurt, some injured by rubber bullets and some overcome by tear gas.

## November

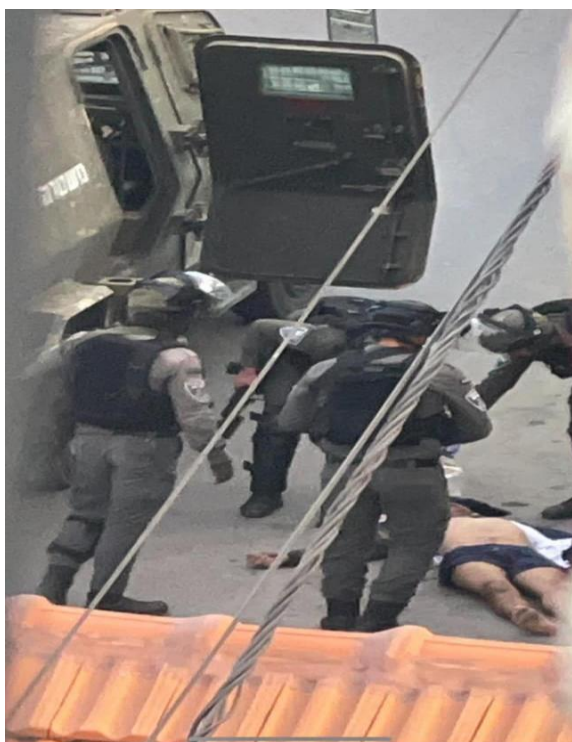
On 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Amer Badr, a twenty-year old from Abu Dis - son of a famous surgeon - was killed in the Old City of Jerusalem. He was on his way to the mosque. His parents were arrested at home and at work immediately. They wanted to see the CCTV pictures of his death - the whole of the Old City is covered in cameras. The Israelis (as they often do) said that the cameras were not working.

On 5<sup>th</sup> November, the Israeli army went into Abu Dis. There were clashes at the University. Several young men were wounded by live ammunition.

On 6th November, the Israeli army invaded Al Quds University. They shot tear gas and a hot cannister ignited dry grass and caused a fire.

On 11th November, there were clashes again at the University and a young man was wounded in his foot.

## December



*Yousef Rabiye was shot in his head by Israeli soldiers and is seriously disabled as a result*

On 9th December, nine houses in Abu Dis were invaded by Israeli soldiers in the night, and nine young people were arrested. All of them were given administrative detention (imprisonment without trial).

On 18th December, there were clashes between Israeli army and young people in Abu Dis, and the Israelis shot tear gas inside the Al Quds University

On 20th December, there was a demonstration in Abu Dis caused by the death in prison of Nasser Abu Hmeid who had been in prison for 22 years.

22nd December [CADFA report]: “Terrible news yesterday in Abu Dis as a youth of 17, Yousef Rabiye was shot in the head by Israeli soldiers. Dangerously wounded, he was put by the soldiers in their military jeep and the paramedics from the Palestinian ambulance that came to his rescue were not allowed to approach – but his mother came running when she heard what had happened, and she held him and the door of the military jeep, screaming, to prevent him from being taken away.

All Palestinians know of the number of young people shot and allowed by the Israeli soldiers to bleed to death. She and Yousef’s aunt held on to him and to the military jeep and in the end the soldiers relented and allowed the ambulance people to take him to hospital. He had an operation lasting some hours to take a bullet from his brain and tend to his fractured skull. Now the community is supporting the family and staying with Yousef and hoping and praying that he will get well.”

## January 2024

Jan 23 [CADFA report]: “Two days ago - A whole army of military vehicles filmed going through Abu Dis in the middle of the night. This one is heartbreaking. This family managed to film their son being taken away by the Israeli army in the middle of the night. You can hear the sadness and worry in his mum's (?) voice and someone (his father?) telling the boy to stay strong. Hoping he is released really quickly and that nothing more horrible happens to him while he is away. The experience of so many young people (specially boys) and their families in Palestine.”

## February

During the night, on the early morning of 20th December, Israel soldiers invaded some offices and several houses in Abu Dis and gave people orders to report to the Israeli military camp the next day.

## March

On 12th March, the Israeli army invaded Al Quds University. Seventy-one (71) students were hurt. Most suffered the effects of tear gas but some were injured by rubber bullets.

On 21st March, the Israeli army invaded Abu Dis, shooting tear gas and using live ammunition. They entered three houses, and arrested three young people.

In March, there were reports in the Al Quds University that the Israelis plan to take over 800 donums of land from Aizariyeh and the Jerusalem suburb area near Abu Dis, to use as a settlement rubbish dump.

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**CADFA**

**c/o Café Palestina**

**53 Fortess Road**

**London NW5 1AD**

**Charity number 1112717**



## CADFA Trustees' Annual Report 2022-23

**CADFA** (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association)

**Building Hope** | Voices from Palestine

**CADFA.org**



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## INTRODUCTION

### The human rights situation in Palestine

2022-23 was another grim year of military occupation of Palestine. The situation, which was already full of serious on-going human rights violations, became even more extreme this year as the settlers' movement took a significant place in the Israeli government. Behaviour that used to be represented as individual incidents became daily and was much more clearly a public strategy. Israeli elections and political disagreements resulted in hard approaches to the Palestinians. This year saw more violence on Gaza and strong pressures to take over homes. Key ministers in the new Israeli government are radical Zionists, living in the West Bank in settlements - pressures to take over land, build settlements for Israelis and push the Palestinians out became mainstream. There is more discussion of the human rights year in Abu Dis in the appendix.



*The Israeli Separation Wall in Abu Dis (both pictures on this page)*

## Talking about human rights in Palestine

There is a struggle going on in the West at many levels when it comes to talking about Palestine. In the UK, more and more people now know at least a little about Palestine and more have an understanding and positive approach to Palestinian rights. At the same time, there are attempts to rule this discussion out of court as well as a good deal of misinformation. Despite its importance and despite Britain's own role, worries around the subject have limited discussion of what is happening in Palestine in schools and public bodies. Many suggest that the issues in Palestine are concerned with religion. Many official bodies have accepted the IHRA definition of antisemitism which (as feared when it was recently introduced) is having a chilling effect on some aspects of public discussion.



*After a talk about the CADFA book "Stories from our mothers"*

For CADFA, equality and human rights are the central question. We note that our own government claims that these are 'British values' and takes strong actions in relation to governments in other parts of the world that violate human rights but does not do so in relation to Israel/ Palestine. We should demand consistency. A focus on equality and the human rights for Palestinians enables people to understand what is going on and demands positive action for change.

## Palestinian voices and advocacy for human rights

CADFA's projects help people in the UK to learn more about Palestine and to talk about the issues and our work crucially involves linking people in the UK (and elsewhere) and Palestine which allows us to hear directly from Palestinians themselves.



*Yasmin Najjar during the youth workers' visit from Palestine*

Our work with young Palestinians in particular develops their skills, confidence and knowledge of western understandings which helps them to speak to western audiences - examples of this were our wonderful youth visit in June/July this year and the Beyond the Checkpoints project, both discussed below.

### This Trustees' report

Although it was set to the background of things in Palestine becoming even more grim than previously, 2022-23 was a hard-working year for CADFA full of purposeful activities. This Trustees' report shows how we met our objectives for 2022-23 through a series of exciting projects and led us to create the new **Building Hope | Voices from Palestine** project. It shows how we were sustained by a growing group of partners and widening team, looks at CADFA finances for the year 2022-23 and lays out our objectives for 2023-24.

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*2Our old friend and previously Chair of CADFA, Dr Munir Nusseibeh, back in London for a visit*

## CADFA'S WORK 2022-23

### Campaigning for equality and human rights in Palestine



*One of many local protests against human rights abuses in Palestine*

As discussed in the Appendix below, this was another year full of pressure and grief in Palestine. CADFA was working at grassroots level with people who knew little about Palestine as well as people who knew more, trying to raise awareness, give information, counter active disinformation and create an understanding of the urgency of action; to work with our members, partners and friends to convey this to others and to try and persuade policy-makers to take action.

We disseminated information from Palestine and on human rights violations through Zoom links, social media, regular updates to our growing mailing-list, through Cafe Palestina, stalls, meetings in very many places and activities on the street. We took part in national demonstrations about Palestine and ran our own, often in the pedestrian area on the north end of Kentish Town Road. We had some great placards thanks to our trustee Fiona's design skills and our members' help painting.

We campaigned in general on the human rights violations, the increasing number of murders, and also began a campaign to Camden Council to have the place we demonstrate in named **Shireen Abu Akleh Place** in honour of the famous journalist who was gunned down by Israeli soldiers when reporting in Jenin in May 2022. For this we wrote to Camden Councillors, made an online petition, wrote to the local paper and had a number of small demonstrations.

We attempted to take up the issues with our representatives. We continue to send letters to our own MP (Keir Starmer), although see little hope from his partisan approach that does not want to hear of Israel's human rights violations.

We have encouraged our many partners to raise these issues with their reps and importantly a number of our visitors have been taken to visit MPs and members of the Senedd in Wales.

A key part of CADFA's work and an effective way of creating interest in the human rights situation in Palestine has been to bring people from Palestine and the UK together. This year we reached thousands of people in this way (this is not an exaggeration!).

### Linking together for human rights

For many years, we have organised group visits between the UK and Palestine, but this was not possible during Covid. We began this year, after two years of the world stopping and starting owing to lockdowns, wondering if our hoped-for youth workers' and youth visits from Palestine would be able to go ahead or not, and unsure about sending visitors to Palestine.



*CADFA visitors and hosts at Cafe Palestina*



*Campaigning to name the Kentish Town pedestrian area after Shireen Abu Akleh, the famous Palestinian reporter who was killed by the IDF in Jenin in May*

We continued with virtual meetings that brought people from across both countries together on Zoom ('Let's Talk About Palestine'). The work we did with schools was virtual. But we were indeed able to restart visits in both directions this year and by mid-year we had the confidence to go further and plan the **Building Hope | Voices from Palestine** project which is discussed below.

## CADFA's visits and main events 2022-23

- May-June 2022 - **Palestinian youth workers' visit to the UK**
- June-July 2022 - **Palestinian youth visit to the UK**
- August 2022 - **Beyond the Checkpoints** project in Palestine
- **Being Young in Palestine** youth conference on Zoom
- September 2022 - **First group visit to Palestine after Covid**
- **Building Hope** launch conference in Palestine
- October 2022 - **Building Hope** launches in the UK: **visit from Palestine**
- November 2022 - **Women's visit from UK to Palestine**
- December 2022 - **Human Rights Day** activities on Zoom
- Jan- Feb 2023- **Let's Talk About Palestine** sessions on Zoom
- March 2023 - **Palestinian women's visit to the UK**

## Meeting the objectives that we set last year

### (2022-23 Objective 1) Regular human rights reports to members and new people



*A school visit from outside London to Cafe Palestina*

Our co-ordinator in Abu Dis is in touch with the local community and aware of what is happening in Palestine more widely. He logs human rights violations on a regular basis and communicates about the situation in Palestine to us in the UK as well as showing it in more depth to our visitors to Palestine. This information reached people through our updates (roughly two a month), Facebook, our website and leaflets given out at Cafe Palestina at street activities and other events.

During the year, our co-ordinator gave reports to us in the UK regularly through 'Let's Talk About Palestine' and other

Zoom meetings. He also came to the UK three times this year, with the youth workers' group, with the youth visit, and on a visit to meet different groups to launch the Building Hope project. In this way the human rights reports reached many towns

### (Objective 2) Develop work in schools: continue to link young people in the two countries; make school materials both for use with students and with teachers

We had two parts of our schools projects this year: one, the continuation of our Sonunu project (school links on Zoom) and two, the 'A Place Called Home' project working with Walsall schools on behalf of Walsall Council. We continued with our work in schools across the country, produced materials to explain the situation in Palestine and learned more about the problems that can weigh on school teachers or students who want to speak out freely on Palestine.

**Sonunu project** Our Sonunu project continued to be exciting. Zoom meetings bringing together very



*Sonunu project zoom meeting between girls in Camden and in Abu Dis*

different groups of young people - in the UK, some of the schools were rural and the children largely (not only) white and others much more mixed in big cities or largely ethnic-minority in smaller towns – and Palestinian young people in towns and villages. As usual there were numerous technical problems but very rewarding sessions with many surprises, new things learned. The groups all prepared presentations and we facilitated discussions on aspects that were new to them, keeping the focus on human rights.

The Palestinian young people involved in the Sonunu project were invited to apply to join the youth visit to the UK (see below) though in the end we decided to bring a group of boys this year hoping to give the girls a chance next time.

During that youth visit, young Palestinians continued the school work, visiting ten schools

and youth clubs across the country, joining in sports, discussions and leading assemblies in several schools.

## A Place Called Home

The Walsall project 'A Place Called Home' was a main focus for the early part of the year and its success and its disappointment were major learning points. Having spoken to many people around the two schools we were working in, it became clear that it was important to look together with teachers at ways of approaching the issue of Palestine. The question (as outlined here in the introduction) is not just the facts of what has happened and is happening in Palestine but the pressures on teachers and schools and the different ways Palestinian issues are represented. The government has written to schools to demand 'balance' – though their view of what that means is problematic in a context of a serious power imbalance! Ultimately, the project fell for the same reason.

The project made useful material for young people that looked at the context, at the question of balance itself, at the different ways that people look at what is happening in Palestine, and at human rights issues. We ran two successful training sessions for teachers from the schools.

Staff seemed very interested in the questions that were raised.

It was really disappointing, therefore, when the schools pulled out of the project, saying that they had expected an Israeli point of view as well as a 'Palestinian one.' We explained again that our approach (the pivot of our 'balance') is human rights and that none of our material took an ethnic approach, but we know that this is the political context in which we are working. The steering committee – who were very supportive - talked both to the schools and the Council, but the project had to come to an end.

### (Objective 3) Organise a youth worker visit from Palestine



*Boys from the Beyond the Checkpoints project talking to a CADFA meeting on Zoom*

We were very happy to run a youth worker visit from Palestine for ten days in May/June supported by the Palestinian Higher Council for Youth and Sports. This was the first visit from Palestine after Covid and a very positive experience for everyone who took part - the visitors, people from CADFA, young people and youth workers in youth organisations across London and the Midlands and audiences in public meetings called Being Young in Palestine.

During this visit, there were public meetings in Camden, Hackney, Islington, Stratford, Newham, Ilford, Brent, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and Cambridge.

The visit was a training visit to look at how to run youth visits to the UK in a safe and productive way. We had a number of useful workshops and good discussions throughout on next steps. The visit allowed us to reach new places for us, to raise the issue of human rights in Palestine to new audiences and to build new partnerships. One of the participants on the visit had a disability and spoke strongly about the issues of disability in Palestine - important everywhere, and with a special strength in Palestine where military action is creating further disabilities and military closures are making treatment more difficult. The idea was born too of a return youth workers' visit to Palestine and we will do this when we can.

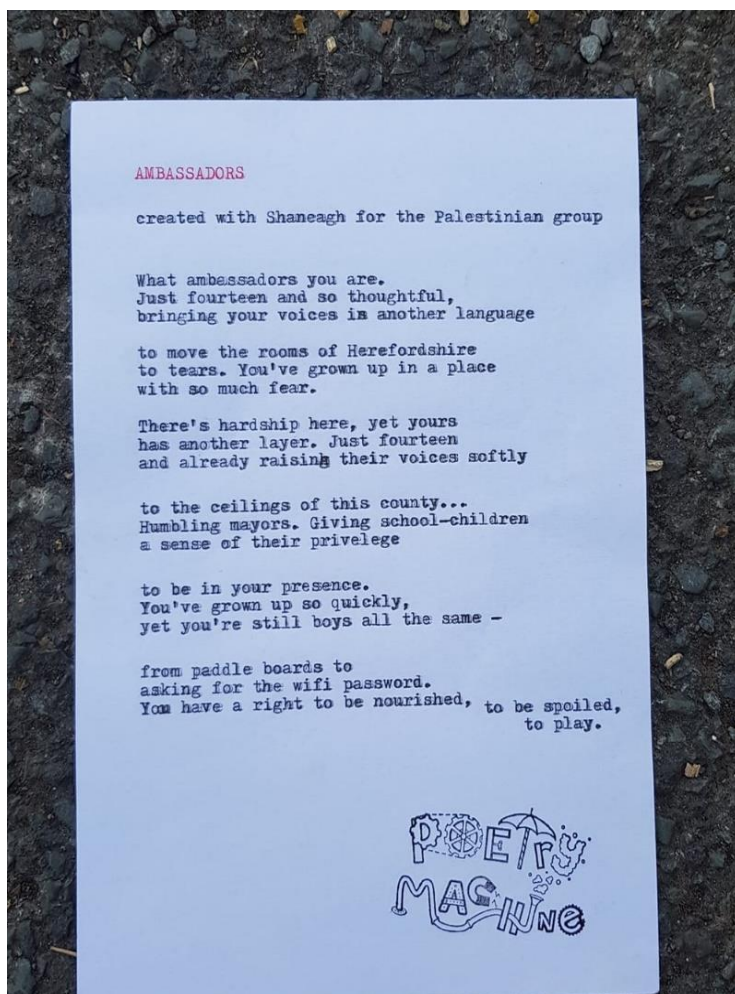
### (Objective 4) Organise a youth visit from Palestine

This was a great experience. There was tremendous co-operation by a number of people who between them

In June- July, we brought a group of six Palestinian school students aged 14 and 15 and two leaders to the UK for two weeks.



*Youth visitors from Palestine at Cafe Palestina*



The students came from four different towns in Palestine where their schools/ youth clubs were linked to UK schools through our Sonunu project. They spent time in London, Lancashire, Mid-Wales and the Midlands. They visited linked schools and others, saw many different places, played sports and took part in public activities designed to give them a voice to the wider world and spread the impact of the visit.

They were encouraged to write about, photograph and video the events of the visit as they went along and we hoped to use the last day to put these together into a youth film. However there was another exciting local event - a fair in Ledbury where it was possible to meet the Mayor and a youth worker – and the poem on the left was written for them! - and at the time of writing the video still needs to be made!

Despite this, it was a wonderful visit, involved very many people from school children to town Mayors, reached more people through social media and events and was spoken about in newspapers across the country. There was real interest and excitement in meeting and hearing from young Palestinians, from the fundraising activities before the visit (through Arabic in Wales, a raffle, a sponsored walk in the UK and one in Palestine, an appeal and the efforts of the different groups involved in looking for sponsors) to the variety of activities on the visit (visits to youth clubs and schools, visits to local places, public events that were appropriate for young people and private



*Youth visitors doing an evaluation of their time in the UK*

events including Eid activities). During this visit, there were public meetings in Ilford, Brent, Camden, Northampton, Nelson, Shrewsbury, Worcester, Hereford, Llanidloes, Knighton and Ledbury. The visit was safe, enjoyable and clearly positive for all the young people - they had a real sense of achievement - and had a strong impact on others.

We had a grant for this project from the MSN Fund who asked us to write in the final report about the reach of the project. We think those figures that we found for

our report to them are interesting: “The interaction with the young Palestinians was arranged in different ways and 950 young people met them in classes or workshops or listened to them in assemblies. Over seventy people were closely involved in the project (volunteers in the many small groups involved), around 350 people joined in public events ....In addition, though impossible to count, we suggest that possibly 3000 in the families and friendship circles of participants will have discussed and been affected by the visit and/or seen the posts, newspaper reports or the materials from the project.”

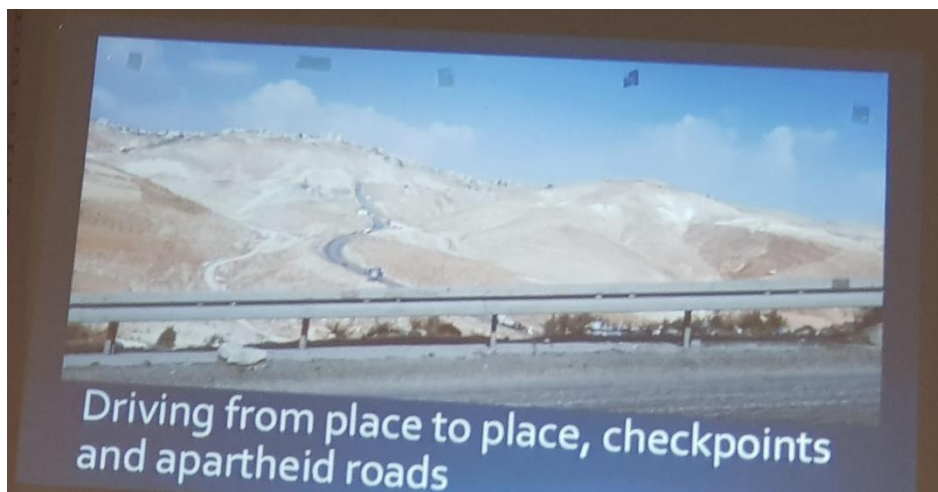
### (Objective 5) Start our visits to Palestine again

We were very happy that we could run these visits again. These visits drew on our years of visits and our good relationships with a number of good partner organisations whose help we very much appreciated. Each visit was different but well-planned and very successful.

As with all of our visits over the years, visitors had twin impressions. The visitors saw many places, had meaningful interactions with a range of people, strongly appreciated the welcome they got and liked Palestine. On the other hand, and the reason we believe it is important to take people there, is it is impossible to go to Palestine without seeing the terrible conditions of



*CADFA visitors to Palestine here learning about the effects of the Separation Wall on people's lives – here the Wall blocks the historic main road between Jerusalem and Amman*



*From a presentation by a visitor to Palestine after her return to the UK*

apartheid in which Palestinians are living, and we hope that our visitors will return to Britain armed with the tools and plans to be more active on Palestinian rights.

This year the things that people are seeing and hearing are even

more shocking. As the settlers' movement is given even more space and power, it is impossible to go for a week without coming across some real tragedy or appalling violation.



*Women from the UK cooking together with women from Abu Dis*

### **September 2022 - our first visit after Corona - a small, general visit to the West Bank**

which included the Building Hope launch conference in Palestine.

### **November 2022 - a women's visit to Palestine**

in partnership with an Abu Dis women's centre, visiting women's organisations across Jerusalem and the West Bank. Women from this visit helped prepare for a women's visit from Palestine to the UK in March.

### **Building for a health professionals' visit to Palestine**

At the end of the year, we were looking forward to a visit that had been planned for three years previously, before Covid. We look forward to writing about it in the next annual report.

## **(Objective 6) Rejuvenate Dar Assadaqa's youth work in Palestine**

Beyond the Checkpoints Before Covid, Dar Assadaqa used to run summer projects for young people that included outings from Abu Dis as well as a variety of activities in Abu Dis itself. These outings were a great relief for the young people, but they often concentrated on swimming pools and leisure.

This year we developed a new type of summer project with young people from Abu Dis and others who had taken part in the Sonunu project (Palestine - UK Zoom links between schools and youth clubs) to visit each other's villages and towns where they were shown round by their young hosts. This was a way for young people to learn more about their own



*The Beyond the Checkpoints group visiting an old olive press*

country and develop their skills of presenting it to others. They also spent some time making short video and photographic presentations.

The project finished with a youth conference on Zoom that allowed the young people to talk about their villages to people in the UK. They were also later given the opportunity to help show UK visitors round during the September visit to Palestine.



*The Beyond the Checkpoints group met and listened to an old man who could remember the Nakba of 1948*

It was very expensive in transport and very hot as run in August, but it was an extremely exciting project and we have decided to run another in 2023 and make this part of the preparation for a youth visit to the UK which we will move back later in the year.

## THE BUILDING HOPE | VOICES FROM PALESTINE PROJECT

Having got going again during this year, we carried out a mid-year evaluation of CADFA's next steps now the world was recovering from Covid. What is it that we do that is most effective?

Following the Covid virtual visits (very good but the people involved were already motivated to find out about Palestine), the youth workers' and the youth visits from Palestine in summer 2022 reminded us how much stronger an in-person visit from Palestine could be and how many people it could reach. Visits to Palestine are also important, but visits of Palestinians to the UK engage and educate many new people -they are an effective contribution to the growing movement calling for human rights for Palestinians.

We decided that we would try to work with old and new partners across the country to widen the work and increase the number of visits that bring Palestinian voices regularly right across England

and Wales and from this the **Building Hope | Voices from Palestine** project was born. We produced a new leaflet, a presentation for meetings and began to work on a plan for a number of visits a year - these depended on having sponsors and supportive partners so the first thing was to establish that others wanted to join in.

### Launch in Palestine in September 2022



The project was launched at a conference at Al Quds University in September. It was attended by our September group of visitors from the UK, but the main participants were Palestinian people from across the West Bank and Jerusalem who had been involved in CADFA's work for the past few years, some of them as children or students and others as adults or leaders of visits. It was good to

host old friends from Palestinian organisations that CADFA had worked with for years - the Higher Council of Youth and Sports, Al Quds University, schools, local council and others and to discuss new plans. Knowing that our work is respected is an encouragement to keep going. There was great enthusiasm for the project and many useful contributions.

### Launch in the UK in October 2022 (visit from Palestine)



*Talk by our Palestinian co-ordinator in Hereford*

Our co-ordinator from Palestine came to the UK for a series of project launch meetings in October. We were able to take him to visit existing partner groups and go to new places to meet small groups of interested people.

During this visit, there were Building Hope public meetings

on Palestine in Camden, Brent, Stratford (East London), Brixton, Exeter, Falmouth, Chichester, Milton Keynes, Leeds, Manchester, Pendle, Hereford and Cardiff

### Women's visit to the UK in March 2023

The first visit to Palestine organised by the Building Hope project was a group of ten women from the women's centres visited by the UK women's group in November. Their very first steps were difficult because of the way that the UK visa system echoes the apartheid distinctions imposed by Israel. In contrast to any Israeli settler living on their land, they had to go through a long, expensive and very inconvenient process full of unpleasant assumptions and the likelihood of being turned down. And all the visa applications were indeed turned down.

We had to launch a big campaign to get this situation overturned. With a lot of extra work and expense, they all received visas but one passport was mislaid by the visa office - so we will be bringing the person who could not come last time and another two on a separate leg of the same **Palestinian Women's Voices Tour** in July 2023.



*Palestinian women visitors at a women's meeting in Brent*



*Silwan in Jerusalem, where most people's homes are under threat as Israel is threatening to move people out and demolish houses. The eyes have been painted to say to the Israelis "we are watching you."*



*Speaker from a Silwan women's organisation talking about her life to a group in London*

The work was well worth it - these were an amazing group of women, strong, articulate, with a lot to say and real enthusiasm for taking their stories to people in towns small and big across Britain. The visit took the theme of International Women's Day. The women were in London for a few days and then divided into four small groups that went to places north-west, West Midlands, west and south-west of London (see map). In most cases, these were places that we had visited in the Launch visit (above). The visitors went to women's centres and other community venues and gave talks in schools, libraries, community centres, and at least one university.

During this visit there were public meetings in an incredible number of places Camden, Harlesden, Lewisham, Newcastle-under-Lyme, St Alban's, Luton, Presteigne, Knighton, Craven Arms, Barnstaple, Bristol, Manchester, Totnes, Chester, Bodmin, Truro, Cardiff, Northampton, Falmouth, Aberdare, Birmingham, Derby, Walsall, Nelson, Forest Gate, Wimbledon and Islington

## Half a year of Building Hope

The women's visit was a great start to **Building Hope** -We broadened the number of people involved in the leadership of the visit, stimulated new groups, reached young and old in many different organisations and really felt the enthusiasm for the project. We have plans to work on a second leg of the visit in July and further visits next year.

Although we managed to raise the money for the women's visit, the financial side of the project remains a challenge. We have new partners and have increased our membership (up about 15% over the year) but not yet enough to make us secure so this is an important job for 2023-24.

## KEEPING CADFA GOING

### Café Palestina



*The event room at Cafe Palestina is often used by CADFA*

CADFA's base in London is Cafe Palestina, a social enterprise cafe, shop and event space in Kentish Town, London. This year, the Cafe was recovering from the interruptions during the Covid years, and CADFA's work there began again. Downstairs as well as workspace there is a CADFA exhibition, space for meetings, workshops, speakers and events. Upstairs (on the ground floor) is the Cafe which also hosts CADFA events such as meals, iftars and

provides a base for CADFA visitors. CADFA's Palestinian library is hosted in the Cafe and our books and leaflets are available for people to read and discuss if they like to.



*At Cafe Palestina- A memorial to Andy Mingay, a long-standing member of CADFA who sadly died during this year.*

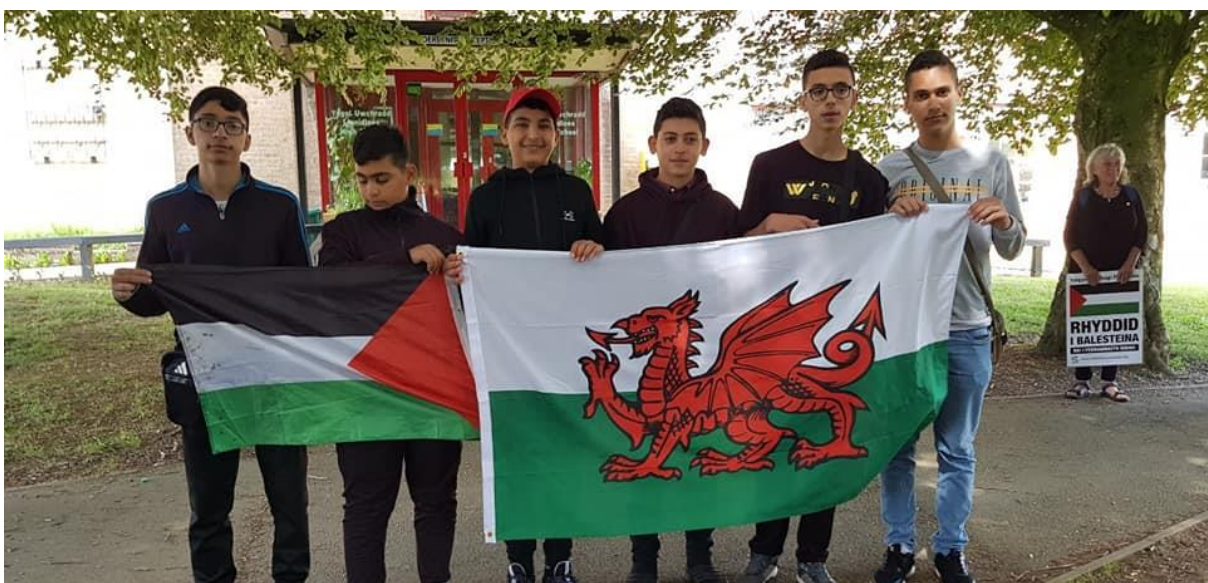
This year we were very grateful to the family of Adah Kay for donating her books about Palestine to join the others available there for people to read. Speakers at the cafe this year - as well as our visiting groups - included our old friend and CADFA Chair for several years Dr Munir Nusseibeh. We were really pleased when (among other

workshops), one of the schools we have been working with in Lancashire brought a group of young people down to visit the Cafe and have a workshop on Palestine, looking at the Palestinian items housed there and sampling Palestinian food.

## Dar Assadaqa

Our co-ordinator and our Palestinian activities are based at Dar Assadaqa in Abu Dis. Unfortunately owing to the pressure on people and therefore on housing in the Jerusalem suburb, the base of the organisation has had to move several times since it was started as CADFA's main partner in Palestine in 2006. Dar Assadaqa's previous accommodation in the centre of Abu Dis finished in April 2021 as the landlord wanted to redevelop the building. This was very sad for us - another old Abu Dis house being knocked down to be replaced by a tower block - and for us, this building was full of memories of good projects with both local people and visitors.

The CADFA co-ordinator spent some months working from our old rented 'guesthouse' but the same thing happened there: the landlord wanted to sell... so Dar Assadaqa moved to very small premises



*Boys from Palestine in Wales*

where our things could be stored and our co-ordinator could work. Covid meant that there were few activities in person so the accommodation problems were delayed for some time.

This year we were rescued by our friends: in January 2023, Abu Dis Council offered Dar Assadaqa some accommodation where our co-ordinator could work. However it is unfortunately very close to the Israeli military camp in Abu Dis and not safe for young people to come and go or for the youth activities that we used to have. The local Damaa Cultural Centre allowed Dar Assadaqa groups to meet there. Local friends hosted our visitors and the University made it possible for groups connected to them to use their accommodation. By the end of the year a new suggestion for an old house to become a 'proper' Dar Assadaqa centre has been made and we hope that by this time next year, the organisation may have moved again.

### Charity Commission Compliance visit

We noted in last year's annual report that, because CADFA works in Palestine, we became subject to a wide-ranging compliance investigation by the Charity Commission. They assured us that they were doing the same for every charity operating in Palestine. Providing papers and answering questions took a lot of time but the investigation did give us the opportunity for some useful conversations with the Charity Commission and helped us look sharply at all of our policies and procedures. The investigation was signed off in Sept 2022.

### The CADFA team

This year the Trustee team continued with the same members as the previous year. Our Director Nandita Dowson led the CADFA team in the UK and the Abu Dis Co-ordinator Abdul Wahab Sabbah led the team in Palestine. We added part-time administrators to our team, Anita and Gabi for three months from March- June followed by Meg in August who was still with us at the end of the year.

We had a huge number of volunteers including people who worked regularly throughout the year, (such as Annika's stalwart team on the Brunswick stall), people who worked on special events and many all over the country who joined in at the time of a visit to help host, drive, cook and accompany visitors. Others joined in to help CADFA in a sponsored walk, promoting a raffle and other fundraising events.



*3Dr Abdullah from the Health Centre presenting CADFA with a token of thanks during the women's visit to Palestine in November 2022*

## Building partnerships



*A talk by a returned CADFA visitor who is making a book of her photographs during the Arabic language residential - organised to raise money for the youth visit from Palestine.*

We began the year with links to many organisations across Britain and Palestine and through our renewed activities and the Building Hope project, ended the year with even more. Many of these in the UK are small organisations working on the issues of Palestinian rights - twinning groups (and the BPTFN network), PSC and Friends of Palestine groups - and others are all types of community and educational organisation.

In Palestine we have been happy to work with local people both individuals and organisations in many towns and villages for a number of years. The number, too, are expanding and new groups want to be involved in CADFA's work. We very much appreciate the support and recognition given to us by old friends and renewed this year including the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, Al Quds University, Abu Dis Council.



*A meeting with Dr Husam Zumlot, the Palestinian Ambassador, during the women's visit in March.*

We would like to thank the trustees of some small funds who believed in our work and gave us small grants towards the youth visit: MSN Fund, Euroquality Foundation. We are looking for more such funds to help us keep our projects going.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Our finances have reflected continued recovery from Covid. Our income has increased from £80.8k the previous year to £116.1k (+44%). Our costs have increased similarly; £82.1k to £119.3k. Our income and expenditure are almost back to the level before Covid (actually higher than some recent pre-Covid years).

This expansion of activities (in particular the Building Hope initiative) have required significant expenditure (in particular continued employment of a part-time assistant and bringing over many visitors from Palestine). Whilst these activities have generated income, it has been a continual challenge to ensure this covered our costs.

Our increase in income was almost exclusively from income raised around visits to Britain and other projects (this was over £50k, although at the expense of a drop of over £10k in general donations). The costs of these visits include about £25k of “direct” costs (flights, other transport, food & accommodation on the visits, etc), as well as needing to cover some of our “core” costs (staffing, CADFA accommodation, etc), as these require a lot of time organising. Our visits to Palestine generated over £15k in income, but as the direct costs of these were over £10k, they only made a small contribution to our core costs. Whilst membership increased by around 15% over the year, membership income was up less than half that (mainly because the membership growth was towards the end of the year).

Staff costs were up by around 10% reflecting employment of an assistant in Camden (1 day per week). Note there have been no increases in salaries (as there haven’t been for many years). Because of our challenging finances, we reduced the amount we were putting into the “pension pot” (set up the previous year) from £500 to £100 each month. The £100 approximately covers the increase in the gratuity in lieu of pension for our Abu Dis worker on his retirement from the extra year worked.

The loan made to our Abu Dis worker the previous year, has now been fully repaid.

Our accounts (see below) show us ending the financial year in deficit by £3,386 (after starting the year with £192). Including late items makes the position slightly worse; -£3,746 (compared with -£245 at the beginning of the year). We have been able to avoid interest charges by juggling our money (in particular borrowing from the Pension Pot). We are addressing this deficit in the budget for 2023/4.

| <b>CADFA ACCOUNTS - 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023</b> |        |               |        |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------|
|                                                           | 2021/2 |               | 2022/3 |                |
| Project grants                                            | 6,000  |               | 0      |                |
| Other project Income                                      | 977    |               | 50,905 |                |
| Membership                                                | 31,768 |               | 33,073 |                |
| Donations                                                 | 14,322 |               | 2,479  |                |
| Visits to Palestine                                       | 0      |               | 15,855 |                |
| Furlough                                                  | 10,392 |               | 0      |                |
| Income generation (events, stalls etc)                    | 19,039 |               | 13,015 |                |
| Gift Aid                                                  | 2,492  |               | 228    |                |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                       |        | <b>84,989</b> |        | <b>115,555</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                        |        |               |        |                |
| Abu Dis running costs                                     | 4,626  |               | 2,168  |                |
| Camden running costs                                      | 25,201 |               | 19,987 |                |
| Staff costs                                               | 50,036 |               | 53,771 |                |
| Project expenditure                                       | 80     |               | 24,442 |                |
| Small project costs                                       | 219    |               | 2,613  |                |
| Visits to Palestine cost                                  | 0      |               | 10,236 |                |
| Income generation costs                                   | 7,465  |               | 5,916  |                |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                                  |        | <b>87,628</b> |        | <b>119,132</b> |
| <b>CADFA Outturn</b>                                      |        | <b>192</b>    |        | <b>-3,386</b>  |
| Opening Balance                                           |        | 2,831         |        | 192            |
| Total Income                                              |        | 84,989        |        | 115,555        |
| Total Expenditure                                         |        | 87,628        |        | 119,132        |
| Surplus (Deficit) Carried Forward                         |        | <b>192</b>    |        | <b>-3,386</b>  |
| Surplus (Deficit) for the Year                            |        | <b>-2,639</b> |        | <b>-3,578</b>  |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>                                     |        |               |        |                |
| Account Balance at 31st March 2022                        |        | 6,047         |        | 3,814          |
| Pension Pot                                               |        | <b>-6,000</b> |        | <b>-7,200</b>  |
| Loans Outstanding                                         |        | 1,055         |        | 0              |
| Late Transfers In                                         |        | 0             |        | 0              |
| Late Transfers Out                                        |        | <b>-910</b>   |        | 0              |
| <b>Total</b>                                              |        | <b>192</b>    |        | <b>-3,386</b>  |

| <b>BALANCE SHEET</b>             |                                      |                                      |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
|                                  | <b>As at<br/>31st March<br/>2022</b> | <b>As at<br/>31st March<br/>2023</b> |  |
|                                  | <b>£</b>                             | <b>£</b>                             |  |
| UK Bank Balances                 | 3,330.94                             | 5,174.88                             |  |
| Cash in hand or in transit       | 1,805.74                             | -1,360.51                            |  |
| Loans                            | 1,055.44                             | 0.00                                 |  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                | <b>£6,192.11</b>                     | <b>£3,814.37</b>                     |  |
| Surplus at 1 April               | 2,831.03                             | 6,192.11                             |  |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year | -2,638.92                            | -3,577.75                            |  |
| Added to Pension Pot             | 6,000.00                             | 7,200.00                             |  |
| <b>Surplus at 31 March</b>       | <b>£6,192.11</b>                     | <b>£9,814.37</b>                     |  |
| <b>Represented by:</b>           |                                      |                                      |  |
| UK Bank Accounts                 | 3,330.94                             | 5,174.88                             |  |
| NIS held in Abu Dis              | -251.99                              | -311.57                              |  |
| Jordanian Dinars held in Abu Dis | 2.11                                 | 2.10                                 |  |
| US Dollars held in Abu Dis       | 166.59                               | 1,881.44                             |  |
| Balance on Camden Cash account   | 789.95                               | -2,526.63                            |  |
| Balance on Stall Cash Account    | 28.00                                | 65.65                                |  |
| Balance on Cafe Account          | 100.52                               | -1,110.98                            |  |
| Balance on Just Giving Checkout  | 0.00                                 | 224.26                               |  |
| Balance on PayPal account        | 970.55                               | 415.22                               |  |
| Loans to / from CADFA            | 1,055.44                             | 0.00                                 |  |
|                                  | 6,192.11                             | 3,814.37                             |  |



*Pause during a sponsored walk to raise money for the youth visit*



*The Saturday stall which raises money for CADFA and in particular for women's visits - and has gone on weekly for years, rain or shine!*



*Our Palestinian Arabic teacher learning how to make Welsh cakes during the residential Arabic course (fundraising for the youth visit)*



*CADFA trustee draws a raffle ticket (fundraising for the youth visit)*

## THANK YOUS

We considered listing the many helpers and friends that made this year's work possible, but here were so many, and some not even known to us, so we decided that this was impossible. We would like to extend strong thanks to the staff of CADFA, the regular volunteers, the people who joined to help with particular campaigns, the fundraisers with their many ideas, the hosts, drivers, cooks, accompaniers during visits, the partner organisations that welcomed our visitors and all those who arranged speaking opportunities, asked advice, gave advice.... There was help from many Palestinian friends as well. There have been so many of you in both countries, and we and our friends in Palestine are really grateful for and encouraged by your efforts.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023-24

This report and the appendix below show that the situation in Palestine is getting even worse. So we want to keep going, raising awareness and helping people find positive and useful ways to work for human rights.

### The main areas we want to work on to strengthen and sustain this work

are

1. Extending our membership, involving new people across the country, encouraging our members to be active
2. Working with existing partner organisations and with new organisations both in Camden and across the country
3. Developing and extending the **Building Hope | Voices from Palestine** project
4. Finding new sponsors and/or ways to make this work sustainable.

### We will specifically work on

- Regular human rights reports on Zoom and in person
- Public events focusing on human rights in Palestine
- Publications on social media and in print on human rights in Palestine
- Visits to Palestine (aim to have three or four this year)
- Visits to the UK (aim to have three or four this year subject to funding)
- School links and school materials on Palestine and human rights
- Advocacy work (including Beyond the Checkpoints)
- In December 2023, celebration of 20 years of Camden Abu Dis links.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 -Objectives of CADFA

#### From the CADFA constitution as amended November 2013

The Charity's object is to promote human rights (as set out in the International Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) and respect for international humanitarian law in 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 in particular and Palestine more widely;  
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 in particular and Palestine more widely;
- working to obtain and promote redress for the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely;
- providing support to and relieving need among the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law and their families, in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely.

### Appendix 2 - Trustees of CADFA

- Tara Seaborn (Chair)
- Hugh Wallis (Treasurer)
- Cristina Piccoli (Secretary)
- Fiona Millar (Minutes secretary)
- Peter Ashan

All re-elected at the AGM on 6th November at Cafe Palestina.

### Appendix 3 - Some press articles/ letters

*Our youth visitors from Palestine appeared in a small paper in Ledbury (we don't have a better picture)*



**A letter from Abu Dis**

ON Saturday evening I arrived in Abu Dis, Palestine, as part of CADFA's first women's visit here since Covid.

I last came here 15 years ago as part of CADFA's first Camden teachers' visit to Abu Dis.

This morning, Tuesday, the sun is rising across a very much more crowded town than I saw 15 years ago and I am wondering about the future of this town Abu Dis and this country Palestine, whose people are suffering even more than when I was here in 2007.

In 2007 I was shaken at the effect on the people of the new Separation Wall which dominated everything and everyone with its looming presence. The huge wall, built on their land, takes away much of it – including farmers' olive groves – and prevents them from freely going into their city to go to hospital, see relatives, shop, or worship (Abu Dis is a suburb of Jerusalem).

I was also shocked to find serious violations of human rights affecting the Palestinian people I met, at every turn. In the years since, reputable human rights organisations (B'tselem, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International) have come to agree with what the Palestinians have been saying for years – this horrible situation is apartheid, deepest racism.

When we arrived, I looked for the colourful walls of the Abu Dis youth club that I remembered from 2007 and found that the colours are no more. The building is now white with large images all round it of young people from the town recently killed by Israeli soldiers.

Speaking to Palestinian women, I hear of their fear of the checkpoints and what can happen to their children – there are increasing numbers of children killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers, with impunity for the soldiers, more than 100 this year and rising.

No wonder Palestinians have strong empathy with the Black Lives Matter movement and vice versa.

It is shameful that there is hardly any coverage in the UK media about this.

Camden has something very special in a local charity CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association), which has built links between people in the two countries for nearly 20 years now with the purpose of raising awareness of the situation here and campaigning for human rights.

I am a retired Camden teacher and my school benefited from visits from young Palestinians taking part in positive projects with young Londoners.

Despite the worsening situation making their lives almost intolerable the Palestinians I have met continue hoping for a better future for everyone.

I hope people will support CADFA's current project *Building Hope*. Readers can find out more about that from [cadfa.org](http://cadfa.org)

CADFA offers the opportunity to local people to go and see Palestine for themselves in a safe and organised way.

I do recommend these visits and suggest that interested people get in touch with [contact@cadfa.org](mailto:contact@cadfa.org)

FIONA MILLAR, NWS

favour of it being halved to just 12 weeks. With

**CHILDREN** from Palestine spent four days visiting schools as part of a two-week youth exchange.

The boys, pictured, came from four towns and villages as part of a project organised by the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association.

They swapped stories with pupils at La Sainte Union before leaving London to visit schools around the country.

They have joined teenagers in this country trying their hand at rowing, football, trampolining, paddleboarding – and also seeing the dinosaurs exhibits at the Natural History Museum

"This is their first time outside Palestine," Abed, the Palestinian group leader, told me. "It was very hard for them to imagine being in a country where you can travel miles without a checkpoint."

CADFA was set up in 2003 initially to make links between Camden and a small town, Abu Dis.

*John Ginn*



Outside Kentish Town's own Palestinian cafe

category for its work in Ceredigion, Powys and Carmarthenshire.

the work they the last five years in the Cambrian

# Palestinian teens in Powys

By Anwen Parry

01938 557340

anwen.parry@countytimes.co.uk

LLANIDLOES' warm welcome has made a lasting impact on a group of teenagers from the West Bank in Palestine, who shared stories about their lives and experiences with people in the town.

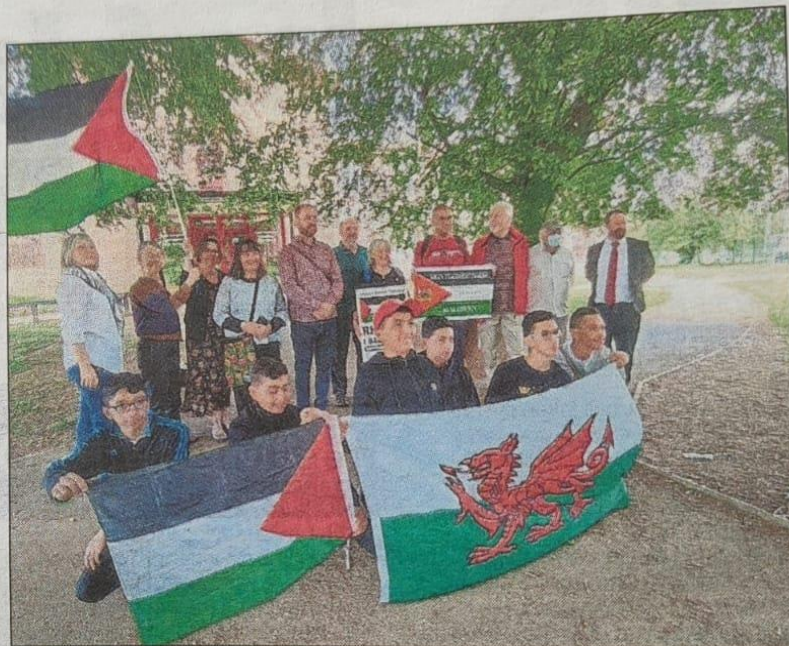
The group of six 15-year-old boys along with their two youth leaders were in Llanidloes last week, spending the morning at Llanidloes High School talking pupils and meeting people from the town at the Hanging Gardens.

Mary Browning, from Llanidloes As Sawiya Friendship Association, said: "These youngsters live under constant threat from hostility towards their community. They could be attacked at any time and even put in prison without trial for spurious reasons.

"Llanidloes High School and its calm and warm atmosphere must have been a wonderful contrast for them. It was really good that they were able to talk about their lives to so many of the pupils.

"The school could not have been more accommodating and hospitable. One of their leaders remarked that the welcome they received far exceeded any they had had on their tour so far. They had already been to several schools in different parts of England."

The boys received a warm welcome and met people from the town as well as members of Llanidloes-As Sawiya Friendship Association (LLASFA) and Montgomeryshire Palestine Solidarity Campaign. They were



■ The group of six 15-year-old boys along with their two youth leaders from the West Bank in Palestine visiting Llanidloes

treated to ice creams and given little gift bags as mementos of their visit to mid Wales.

Finally, on a day of warm sunshine, blue skies and calm waters, they spent time paddleboarding, courtesy of Andy Jobling, of Mavericks Paddleboarding on Llyn Clywedog. This was followed by a barbecue, provided by Clywedog Sailing Club.

Mary added: "The shouts of delight and laughter that echoed across the lake said everything about this experience, which should provide these youngsters with wonderful memories for many years to come.

"A huge amount of gratitude is owed to all those who generously gave their time and helped to make this happen.

"In particular CADFA, the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association which organised the whole UK visit, Llanidloes High School staff including headteacher Dan Owen and teachers Rhiannon Brewer and Gwenan Crawford for putting together a special timetable to give them opportunities to talk to most year groups; LLASFA and Montgomeryshire PSC, Clywedog Sailing Club and Andy Jobling of Mavericks Paddleboarding."



## Llanidloes Carnival makes

PARADES filled the streets of Llanidloes for the first time

Last weekend

## Appendix 4 - The human rights year in Abu Dis



*The Separation Wall in Abu Dis at this point runs down the middle of a road - it is Abu Dis on both sides, but has become a significant barrier to many aspects of life – social, educational, medical, economic...*

The pressure on Palestinians increased this year. The on-going apartheid, deep and structural discrimination, human rights violations against Palestinians, continued. In addition, the Israeli government crisis and the increased power of the extreme right wing and settlers' movement has been the background for increased pressure on the Palestinians. Much of this was physical violence - the settlers' movement created a militia (which has subsequently been agreed to by the government) which has invaded Palestinians' homes, acted very aggressively, killed people. Palestinians are aware of increased danger in the areas outside their towns – for people from Abu Dis, going near Maale Adumim can be dangerous. Sometimes people are stopped, sometimes settlers throw stones.



*Israeli army in Abu Dis*

At the end of March 2023, there were 37 prisoners from Abu Dis in Israeli jails and 15 on admin detention. There were not as many child prisoners as there had been but children have been arrested and their families fined.

The takeover by Israeli settlers of Palestinian land and property is continuing; seizure of land and building of settlements is the big issue. During this year, there were 960 house demolitions across Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Abu Dis is filling and growing. Traffic is everywhere, parking and traffic is a real chaos. Old buildings being are taken down and there is new building of tower blocks everywhere. "There are more people every day – in Abu Dis there are people coming into the city because of the university, people wanting to be around Jerusalem as well as population expansion. This is terrible," says a voice from Abu Dis, "What can it be like in 10 years time? Where can people live? How will they find space?"

Town planning doesn't work. We were told that the Palestinian Authority don't give the council any proper authority – it can't stop people building or make provision for parking. People can build without a licence or can pay the PA local authority ministry and buy permission – The Council can't do anything about it.

Together with this, the lack of a proper sewage infrastructure is like a time bomb.

## The Abu Dis year 2022-23

### April

Ramadan started at the beginning of April. People from Abu Dis were very keen to go into Jerusalem to the Al Aqsa Mosque to pray. Huge crowds at the checkpoints round the city, but Israelis didn't allow everyone to go into the city - just men over 55 and women over 40. This led to younger people taking the dangerous route and climbing and jumping the huge Separation Wall.

The Israeli army was in force in Jerusalem. Many young people were beaten and arrested on the way into the old city at Bab al Amoud. Settlers were pushing people from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah. "Unity" demonstrations brought together Palestinians from the West Bank, Jerusalem and inside 1948" (Israel"). There was a violent response from Israel - they bombed Gaza.



*Every child in Abu Dis knows the sight, smell and taste of tear gas*

This was a very bloody month in the West Bank too. On the 1st April there was a massacre in Jenin. There were then invasions of Nablus. This led to big demonstrations across Palestine including in Abu Dis. During April 2022, 23 people were killed in the West Bank.

[CADFA post]: "Terrible news from Palestine. Our friends there send us picture after picture of people shot by the Israeli army - young people, two women, a lawyer... "Say their names," people say (to show that like ourselves these are people with lives, histories, hopes, happiness, problems, mums, children), but we don't know all the names, and to tell the truth we have even lost count of the number over the last few days: countless families, countless communities grieving and fearing even worse - and

so are we."

In Abu Dis, on the night of 5th April there were army house invasions in Abu Dis and 3 people were arrested.

On 12th April, 4 people were arrested. The Israelis renewed the administrative detention order (detention without trial) for Huthaifa Badr and Mohammed Ebidat.



*Abdullah Jalal had his skull fractured by Israeli soldiers*

On 16th April there was a demonstration at the Al Quds University in support of Palestinian prisoners including Ahmed Munasra (age 19) who was arrested at the age of 12 and has spent the last 2 years in complete isolation inside Israeli prison and is now suffering serious mental health problems.

The demonstrators were also supporting the family campaign to get the Israelis to give back the body of Dr Mai Afana who was killed at an Israeli checkpoint on 16th June 2021 - Israel took away her body and did not return it.

18th April [CADFA report] "So many pictures of shameful brutality by Israeli soldiers in the past few days. This poor lad of 17, Abdullah Jalal, was taken to the Israeli army military

camp in Abu Dis today, kept there for two hours and beaten so hard with guns and sticks that when they let him go, his skull was fractured. We need the world to hear and protest and we need the cruel apartheid to stop fast."

## May

On 11th May, Shireen Abu Aqleh was murdered in Jenin, where military pressures had continued. The famous journalist was preparing to give a news report when she was repeatedly shot by an Israeli sniper.

On 15th May, Shireen Abu Aqleh's funeral was interrupted by the Israeli army who at one stage attacked the pallbearers causing the coffin to be dropped and nearly hit the ground.

There were demonstrations all over Palestine. On 15th May there was a demonstration in Abu Dis, near the university. The Israeli army shot tear gas and rubber bullets.

15th May - This was Nakba day [CADFA report] "Things in Palestine are unspeakable at the moment with a violent military in every place, pushing people from their homes, invading refugee camps, killing people including journalists, punishing mourners and here invading the campus of Al Quds University today."

On 17th May there were house invasions and arrests of 3 people in Abu Dis. This led to demonstrations and attacks by the army on demonstrators. Two people were seriously wounded with live ammunition, others wounded with rubber bullets.

## June

The tension continued this month, thirteen more people were killed in Jenin and Nablus. In Abu Dis, this was the anniversary of the killing of Dr Mai Afaneh whose body had not been returned.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Israeli army invaded dozens of houses in Abu Dis, ordering young people to report to the intelligence officer at military camp.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June there was a big demonstration in Abu Dis on the commemoration of the Nakseh (invasion and occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem in 1967).

On 7<sup>th</sup> June there were house invasions in the old part of Abu Dis. Three young people were arrested.



*Dr Mai Afaneh and her daughter. Mai was killed by Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint north of Abu Dis in 2021*

16th June A year after the killing of Mai Afaneh there was a demonstration in Abu Dis.

16th June [CADFA report]; “Today is the 1st anniversary of the killing of Dr Mai Afana, a young mother and lecturer from Abu Dis who was shot at an Israeli army checkpoint. This is a compilation of photos from the family who will be

marking today with a memorial but have not yet had the opportunity to bury her or say goodbye as the Israelis are still holding her body. This is a policy they have applied to dozens of people who were killed their families - refusing to return the bodies and further punishing the families and communities.”

These days there is always a water crisis in Abu Dis in the summer. Much of the water from the West Bank aquifer is taken to the Israeli settlements and the Israelis have made different rules for Israelis and Palestinians to take water. Palestinians have water pumped into tanks on their roofs only once or twice a week and in summer there is often not enough.

June saw the beginning of a deeper water crisis which left many homes without water at all because a water pump in Wadi Jheer was broken and stayed this way for 3 months.

## July

On 9th July, the Israeli army invaded blocks of student accommodation and four students were arrested.

On 22nd July, there were demonstrations in Abu Dis and the army took over University Street.

The water crisis continued. This was partly because a long process of agreements with the Israelis had to be made before new parts for the pump could be obtained.

## August

On 25th August, Mai's body was returned to her family. Israel had been keeping it as they are keeping dozens of others.

25 Aug [CADFA report]: "This poor child from Abu Dis not only suddenly lost her beloved mother Dr Mai Afana (she was shot by Israeli soldiers in June 2021) but then had to wait for 14 months - apparently not believing that her mother wouldn't come home - to say goodbye to her. The Israelis wouldn't give Mai's body back till yesterday."

## September

This was the beginning of the school year and - as had become familiar - Israeli army checkpoints were put up in the morning around the schools

Abu Dis Boys' School and Al Quds University lost 5 days because of army invasions.



*Fayiz Damdoun, killed by the Israeli army in October 2022*

On 20<sup>th</sup> September, three Abu Dis Boys' School students were arrested, held in police station in Maale Adumim and only released after paying money. Each family had to pay 5000 shekels each (a huge amount for many families – the Palestinian minimum wage is 1800 a month).

## October

1 Oct [CADFA post]; "Oh lord, another killing at the hands of the Israeli army in Aizaria next to Abu Dis... another young life ended, another family and community devastated - and total impunity for the soldiers."

2 October [CADFA post]: "Living under military occupation - pictures from Al Quds University Abu Dis (Israeli soldiers near the Separation Wall they built and some of the tear gas they

use - every adult and every child in the area knows its smell too well). This photo was the day after a 17 year old was killed in a drive-by shooting from an Israeli army jeep.

9 Oct [CADFA post]: “Terrible reports from Palestine at the moment, an escalation of suffering. People are trying to live a normal life but there are disturbances out of nothing - like the tear gas shot all round the middle of Abu Dis yesterday, affecting local families where there had been peace and quiet on a bank holiday. Bad news every day - yesterday women were among people beaten by soldiers near Damascus Gate in Jerusalem - terrible videos of women being forced to the ground and arrested. Last night Shufat Camp was under siege by the army with helicopters constantly overhead. More and more killings by the Israeli army - \*4\*(four people) were killed yesterday.



*Israeli army vehicles driving into Abu Dis at night*

“The racism is so deep that there is no concern at all for civilians young or old and total impunity for the soldiers. No one knows what is next. Palestinians have to worry and to watch out for their family members: it is so scary to have unpredictable armed killers on the streets. And why is this now? As Israel has yet another election coming, is this some sort of showing off? Or are they determined to create a response and greet it with worse??”

On 18th October, there was an Israeli army invasion of Al Quds University. More than fifty (50) people were hurt, some injured by rubber bullets and some overcome by tear gas.

## November

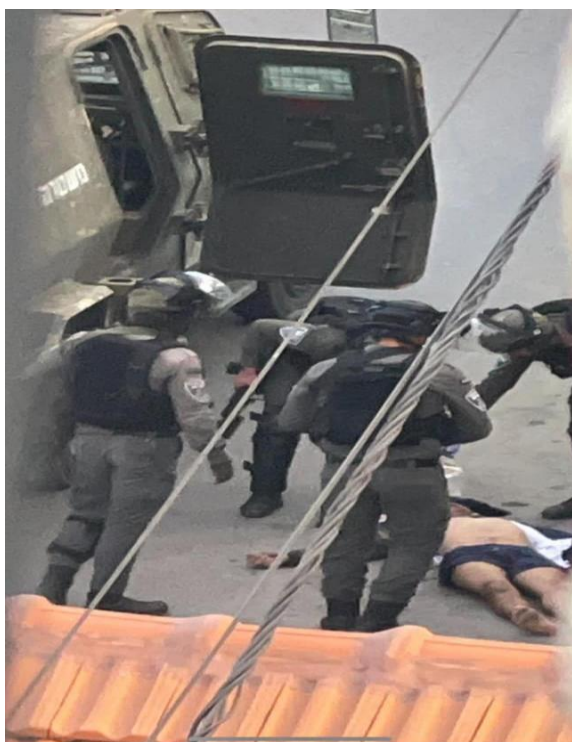
On 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Amer Badr, a twenty-year old from Abu Dis - son of a famous surgeon - was killed in the Old City of Jerusalem. He was on his way to the mosque. His parents were arrested at home and at work immediately. They wanted to see the CCTV pictures of his death - the whole of the Old City is covered in cameras. The Israelis (as they often do) said that the cameras were not working.

On 5<sup>th</sup> November, the Israeli army went into Abu Dis. There were clashes at the University. Several young men were wounded by live ammunition.

On 6th November, the Israeli army invaded Al Quds University. They shot tear gas and a hot cannister ignited dry grass and caused a fire.

On 11th November, there were clashes again at the University and a young man was wounded in his foot.

## December



*Yousef Rabiye was shot in his head by Israeli soldiers and is seriously disabled as a result*

On 9th December, nine houses in Abu Dis were invaded by Israeli soldiers in the night, and nine young people were arrested. All of them were given administrative detention (imprisonment without trial).

On 18th December, there were clashes between Israeli army and young people in Abu Dis, and the Israelis shot tear gas inside the Al Quds University

On 20th December, there was a demonstration in Abu Dis caused by the death in prison of Nasser Abu Hmeid who had been in prison for 22 years.

22nd December [CADFA report]: “Terrible news yesterday in Abu Dis as a youth of 17, Yousef Rabiye was shot in the head by Israeli soldiers. Dangerously wounded, he was put by the soldiers in their military jeep and the paramedics from the Palestinian ambulance that came to his rescue were not allowed to approach – but his mother came running when she heard what had happened, and she held him and the door of the military jeep, screaming, to prevent him from being taken away.

All Palestinians know of the number of young people shot and allowed by the Israeli soldiers to bleed to death. She and Yousef’s aunt held on to him and to the military jeep and in the end the soldiers relented and allowed the ambulance people to take him to hospital. He had an operation lasting some hours to take a bullet from his brain and tend to his fractured skull. Now the community is supporting the family and staying with Yousef and hoping and praying that he will get well.”

## January 2024

Jan 23 [CADFA report]: “Two days ago - A whole army of military vehicles filmed going through Abu Dis in the middle of the night. This one is heartbreaking. This family managed to film their son being taken away by the Israeli army in the middle of the night. You can hear the sadness and worry in his mum's (?) voice and someone (his father?) telling the boy to stay strong. Hoping he is released really quickly and that nothing more horrible happens to him while he is away. The experience of so many young people (specially boys) and their families in Palestine.”

## February

During the night, on the early morning of 20th December, Israel soldiers invaded some offices and several houses in Abu Dis and gave people orders to report to the Israeli military camp the next day.

## March

On 12th March, the Israeli army invaded Al Quds University. Seventy-one (71) students were hurt. Most suffered the effects of tear gas but some were injured by rubber bullets.

On 21st March, the Israeli army invaded Abu Dis, shooting tear gas and using live ammunition. They entered three houses, and arrested three young people.

In March, there were reports in the Al Quds University that the Israelis plan to take over 800 donums of land from Aizariyeh and the Jerusalem suburb area near Abu Dis, to use as a settlement rubbish dump.

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**CADFA**

**c/o Café Palestina**

**53 Fortess Road**

**London NW5 1AD**

**Charity number 1112717**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2023

Charity no (if any)

111217

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 03/ 2023**.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

22.08.2023

Name:

Jo Tomalin

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

**Address:**

311 Springvale Rd

Sheffield

S10 1LL

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

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# Accounts

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# Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

## **CADFA**

### **Charity 1112717**



## **Trustees' Annual Report 2020-21**

Picture: Palestinian workers wearing Covid masks as they go through a checkpoint to Jerusalem.

## INTRODUCTION

This was the year that the Coronavirus pandemic spread. The beginning of April 2020 found us in lockdown in both countries, with our homes in Café Palestina in Camden and Dar Assadaqa in Abu Dis both closed, our health professionals' visit to Palestine planned for the end of March cancelled, fundraising for another children's visit to the UK suspended, and the many events and activities of 2019-20 seeming a distant memory.

The progress of Covid-19 was different in the UK and Palestine and so were timings of lockdowns in both places. In the UK we had two major waves of the virus, with three periods of lockdown in London and an incomplete opening in between. CADFA's home in Café Palestina was closed for most of the year, and CADFA's London staff were on furlough for the most of this period. Our book keeper Sheila returned for a short time but then retired in November 2020 and at the end of the year we are still waiting for it to be possible to have a meal to celebrate her time with us!

In Palestine, the virus did not seem so terrible at the beginning of the year as it did in the UK, but by the end there was some optimism in the UK where many people had been vaccinated and a slow opening was starting but the virus was raging in Palestine and vaccinations hardly started (\*). It is not yet clear when CADFA will go back to the activities that had seemed normal for us – visits between the two countries, events in person and in particular at Café Palestina.

### In April we wrote

Our objectives for 2020-21 must be to keep focus, keep going, keep the human rights reports from Palestine coming, keep UK people in contact with Palestine and continue with our usual activities at the point that we are able to. We hope to improve our communications systems and use of social media. We aim to extend our work with partners and continue to build our membership."

However, with the help of Zoom and of small CADFA groups and friends of CADFA across the country, our work managed to keep going in a different form. We did make progress on some of the things we thought we would only do when Covid was finished...

- Follow up our last exchanges with ... a women's magazine, etc
- Strengthen our work with new partners in both countries
- Training sessions on Palestine for Beginners, Speaking Out (for Palestinians), running exchanges with Palestine (for groups in the UK)
- More media work (products including video)



We learned new skills this year and think there are lessons from this year's work that will be useful in the future.

## THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE

This was a year of aggressive expansion by Israel across the West Bank, with the Israeli government encouraged by the Trump administration in the US to take over Jerusalem, take more land for settlements and even attempt to announce the annexation of the areas C in the West Bank as part of Israel proper. This last attempt was abandoned as it was too blatant for governments across the world, but the work continued. As the Trump administration fell, Israel was given a cover to hide the continuing expansion by the world's preoccupation with Covid.

The roll-out of vaccines against Covid provided a stunning contrast between Israeli citizens and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza with Israel vaccinating its own population at speed but refusing to help the occupied population despite this being a clear duty under international humanitarian law. This was discussed widely, and the term 'apartheid' used increasingly often about the situation in Palestine (as we have long argued is the case). In January, the Israeli human rights organisation B'tselem published a report that showed clearly the systematic apartheid in the whole area of historic Palestine 'from the river to the sea.'

The widening control of Israel across the West Bank was felt by our friends in Abu Dis, on their streets, in their homes and in the shrinking space that they were allowed to be in. Some of the texture of the year for them is shown in Appendix 1 (excerpts from our monthly human rights reports).

## ZOOM MEETINGS -SOLIDARITY IN ISOLATION – PALESTINE FOR BEGINNERS

We began the year thinking that we faced an unusual situation of perhaps a few months, with ourselves in the UK and our friends in Palestine in lockdown all at the same time. As this time grew longer however so did our skills and ideas in connection with Zoom.

We held a series of meetings "Solidarity in Action", always with speakers from the UK and from Palestine – and we had some notable online events on specific days: Palestinian Prisoners' Day, Workers' Day, Nakbeh, Balfour Day, a meeting about annexation and Human Rights Day. We held special events on Zoom for Eid and also a virtual exhibition of photos by Sarah Sanders at which she talked about the photos and her visit to Palestine with CADFA. We held some meetings called "Let's Talk About Palestine" at which other visitors spoke. We had our first Palestine for Beginners online and it went well, so we worked on the materials for it and held further meetings roughly monthly for people who knew little about Palestine and



wanted to learn. We held two virtual concerts to raise money for the Muqassed Clinic in Abu Dis with musicians from Palestine and the UK, and some open meetings for CADFA members to keep the work going.

#### WOMEN'S LINKS –MEDIA WORK –PODCAST WORK WITH SOAPBOX

The Palestinian women visitors who had gone back to Palestine just at the beginning of the pandemic (see last annual report) and the women in the UK who had hosted them met on Zoom. This rejuvenated our women's links group and it remained in touch at least once a week all year. Together, the women produced a bilingual magazine which they launched in a meeting on Zoom, and learned some video skills making a video about the autumn in both countries. They then became the core of a group working with our partners Soapbox on a podcast. At the end of March, a six-week course planned for January was still continuing with the plan to produce two or three podcasts. The women in Palestine contributed short bits of video for a brief film for International Women's Day. There are other plans including a film on prisoners.

#### STUDENTS LINKS – SPEAKING OUT - VIRTUAL VISITS

The students from Palestine who had visited in January 2020 were involved in our student links work together with new students who responded to advertisements by Al Quds University. We ran a SPEAKING OUT course which allowed them to consider the best ways of talking over Zoom in English to people in the UK and to use this in three ways: they ran a public Zoom event, joined a university class on Palestine run with Chester University, and then took part in a VIRTUAL VISIT TO THE UK, talking to people in Chester, Wales, Cornwall, Cambridge, Bedford and Derbyshire as well as London.

#### VIRTUAL VISITS BETWEEN UK AND PALESTINE

We were surprised by the effectiveness of the virtual visit format that we developed this year to stand in for our actual visits in both directions. The feedback was very good. These visits were

- June – virtual visit to Palestine
- July – virtual visit to the UK
- August– virtual visit to Palestine

We really enjoyed working with partners in both countries on our virtual visits. By the end of the year, we found that other organisations were also running virtual visits and an unexpected outcome from lockdown was that the opportunity for people in the UK to speak to people in Palestine increased! We were hit at the end



of the year by the Facebook advertising ban (\*) which cut the number of applicants to all of our events and remains to be solved.

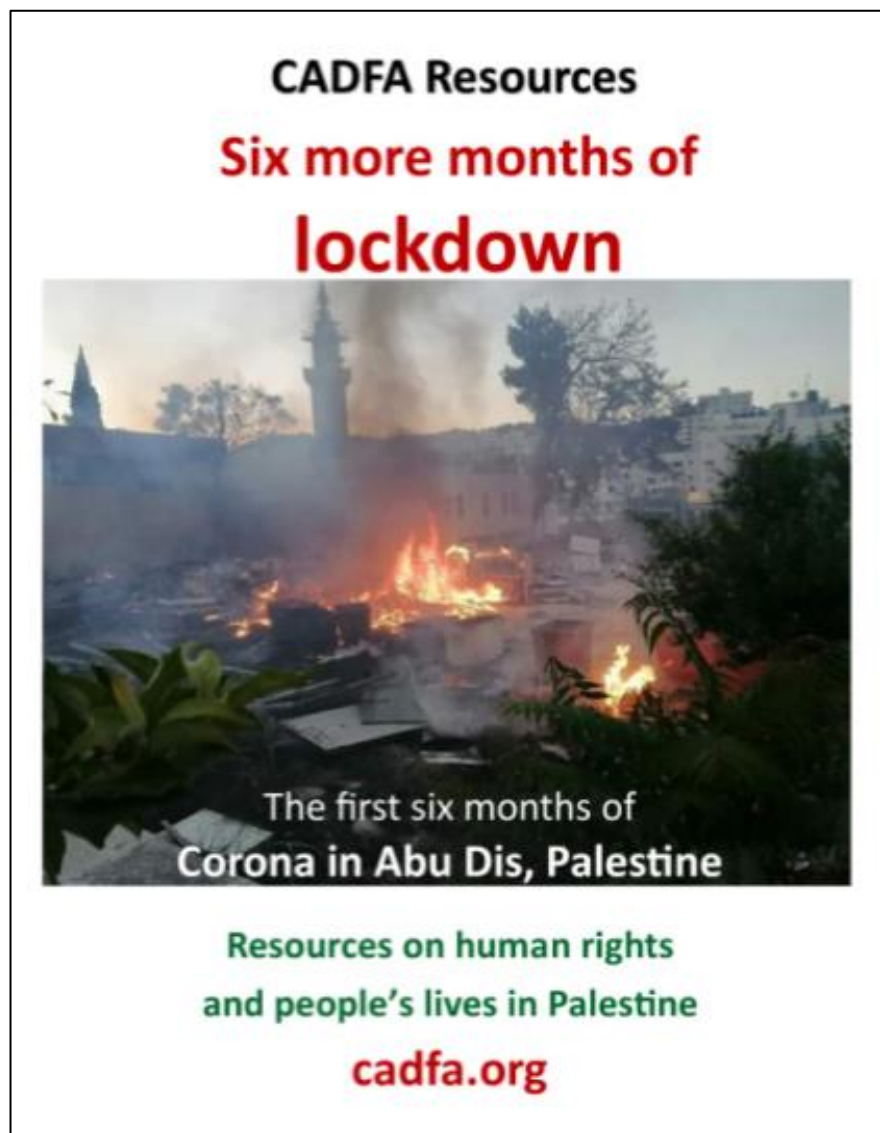
## HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS - CAMPAIGNS TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS

Our co-ordinator in Abu Dis sent reports on the human rights situation which were used in updates to our members and in campaigning. We held information events, wrote to policy makers, wrote model letters to help others write, started petitions and (when Covid allowed) held small, socially-distanced campaigns on several issues this year: Corona and the lack of vaccine available to Palestinians; the Israeli threat to annexe most of the West Bank (in word as well as deed); about Abu Dis prisoners on administrative detention; for the release of Ahmed Eriqat's body; for the protection of Palestinian farmers who were being attacked, and trees burned, in the olive harvest.

Because of the lack of vaccine in Abu Dis and the lack of ventilators, the Muqassed Clinic there put out an appeal for help and we responded with a fundraiser concert and appeal which raised about £3000.

Because our communication was all virtual this year, it was easy also to stay

in good touch with partner groups across the country. We held several meetings for our partner groups and worked together both on our virtual visit to the UK and on small demonstrations in the street done across the country on the same day.



## RESOURCES

In August 2020, we put together resources from six months of lockdown – six human rights reports, the women's magazine, a link to our website resources page. At the end of the year, we published a calendar with great photographs by Sarah Sanders who had visited Palestine with CADFA in 2019.

## COMMUNICATION

This year we reviewed our mailing lists and begin to use Mailchimp for our main mailings. We sent regular updates to friends and members. We used our website and Facebook but and began slowly to use Instagram and Twitter a bit more – we would like to develop these.

(\*) It was a real problem to us that Facebook banned our advertisements for no reason that we could pin down and did not respond to a letter from trustees asking for this to be overturned.

## THIS YEAR WE LEARNED

- That we miss real visits but can do useful work without them
- The power of Zoom communication with Palestine
- The usefulness of communication further across Palestine and in the UK
- The importance of our educational work.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

At the beginning of the financial year, we reviewed our financial situation because of Covid. As we were not able to run a major part of our work (visits between Palestine and the UK), we agreed to put our Camden staff on Furlough and reduce salaries of all staff by 20% (the 20% cut was stopped in the autumn).

We negotiated half price rents on our two properties in Abu Dis. The guest house (a flat we rented for our visitors) in Abu Dis was not being used because of Covid. With uncertainty around when the situation would change, in the summer we agreed to relinquish one property. This coincided with pressure from the landlord of Dar Assadaqa for us to leave as he wanted to redevelop the building, so the decision was taken to move our operations to the guest house flat.



Because of Covid our income and expenditure both about halved compared with the previous year. We managed to increase membership income by around 5% due both to the Arabic classes run by Café Palestina and to the hard work of the Fundraising Team contacting people who were close to us and encouraging them to join. The CADFA street stall and income from events at the café helped when we could run them. Café Palestina's Arabic classes continued online and the income from these came to CADFA. We could not have continued to employ our staff without Furlough payments.

On expenditure, we agreed to advance our worker in Abu Dis part of his pension. This largely offset reduced salaries and savings at the end of the year following the retirement of our part-time administrator.

We are pleased we have maintained our financial position despite Covid. At the start of the year (having taken into account payments and income that related to 2019-20) we had -£1297. With the income and expenditure from the whole year taken into account (including late items), we finished the year with a base for the coming year of £1538, an improvement of over £2800. We took out a loan of £25,000 under the Government-backed scheme, but this is not included in those figures (we have subsequently paid this back to avoid interest charges). Note the figures in the formal accounts below are slightly different as they only include transactions in the financial year.

## CADFA ACCOUNTS 2020-21

### CADFA ACCOUNTS - 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

|                                | 2019/0  | 2020/1 |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|
| <b>CADFA Charity</b>           |         |        |
| Opening Balance                | -10,309 | 1,090  |
| <b>Income</b>                  |         |        |
| Project grants - via CADFA Edu | 19,261  | 0      |
| Project grants - Other         | 0       | 0      |
| Other project Income           | 36,219  | 2,193  |
| Membership                     | 22,139  | 23,333 |
| Donations                      | 8,583   | 5,673  |
| Visits to Palestine            | 29,245  | 772    |



|                                        |        |              |        |              |
|----------------------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Furlough                               |        |              | 25,442 |              |
| Income generation (events, stalls etc) | 6,375  |              | 8,662  |              |
| Gift Aid                               | 9,445  |              | 7,396  |              |
| Total Income                           |        | 131,267      |        | 73,471       |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                     |        |              |        |              |
| Abu Dis running costs                  | 7,909  |              | 3,234  |              |
| Camden running costs                   | 24,483 |              | 20,247 |              |
| Staff costs                            | 47,042 |              | 44,522 |              |
| Project expenditure                    | 22,453 |              | 1,783  |              |
| Visits to Palestine cost               | 13,555 |              | 0      |              |
| Income generation costs                | 4,425  |              | 1,945  |              |
| Total Expenditure                      |        | 119,868      |        | 71,730       |
| <b>CADFA Charity Outturn</b>           |        | 1,090        |        | 2,831        |
| Opening Balance                        |        | -10,309      |        | 1,090        |
| Total Income                           |        | 131,267      |        | 73,471       |
| Total Expenditure                      |        | 119,868      |        | 71,730       |
| Surplus (Deficit) Carried Forward      |        | <b>1,090</b> |        | <b>2,831</b> |
| Surplus (Deficit) for the Year         |        | 11,399       |        | 1,741        |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>                  |        |              |        |              |
| Account Balance at 31st March 2020     |        | 1,802        |        | 28,764       |
| Loans Outstanding                      |        | 0            |        | -25,000      |
| Late Transfers In                      |        | 0            |        | 0            |
| Late Transfers Out                     |        | -712         |        | -932         |
| Total                                  |        | 1,090        |        | 2,831        |
| <b>CADFA Edu</b>                       |        |              |        |              |
| Opening Balance                        |        | 0            |        | 0            |
| <b>Income</b>                          |        |              |        |              |
| Project grants                         | 19,261 |              | 0      |              |
| Total Income                           |        | 19,261       |        | 0            |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                     |        |              |        |              |
| Transfer to CADFA Charity              | 19,261 |              | 0      |              |
| Total Expenditure                      |        | 19,261       |        | 0            |
| <b>CADFA Edu Outturn</b>               |        | 0            |        | 0            |

## BALANCE SHEET



|                                  | As at<br>31st<br>March<br>2020<br>£ | As at<br>31st March<br>2021<br>£ |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| UK Bank Balances                 | -3,087.93                           | 26,733.20                        |
| Cash in hand or in transit       | 4,178.01                            | 1,097.83                         |
| Less: Loans                      | 0.00                                | -25,000.00                       |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                | <b><u>£1,090.08</u></b>             | <b><u>£2,831.03</u></b>          |
| Surplus at 1 April               | -10,309.15                          | 1,090.08                         |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year | 11,399.23                           | 1,740.95                         |
| <b>Surplus at 31 March</b>       | <b><u>£1,090.08</u></b>             | <b><u>£2,831.03</u></b>          |
| <b>Represented by:</b>           |                                     |                                  |
| UK Bank Accounts                 | -3,087.93                           | 26,733.20                        |
| NIS held in Abu Dis              | 2,466.90                            | 19.35                            |
| Jordanian Dinars held in Abu Dis | 1.97                                | 1.94                             |
| US Dollars held in Abu Dis       | 1,655.28                            | 324.00                           |
| Balance on Camden Cash account   | -443.34                             | 0.00                             |
| Balance on PayPal account        | 497.20                              | 752.55                           |
| Loans to CADFA                   |                                     | -25,000.00                       |
|                                  | <u>1,090.08</u>                     | <u>2,831.03</u>                  |

## CADFA OBJECTIVES FOR 2021-22

While Covid continues our objectives are to keep focus on our charitable objects and to keep going:

- to keep the human rights reports from Palestine coming,
- to keep UK people in contact with Palestine
- to make clear material and campaign on human rights in Palestine
- to improve our communications systems and use of social media
- to extend our work with partners and continue to build our membership.
- to do more work on Zoom with schools and colleges
- to enable more media work by people from the UK in co-operation with people from Palestine

As the Covid situation improves, we hope to keep an eye on the possibility of running real visits, remembering the plans last year for a health visit to Palestine, a programme of exchanges run with the Al Quds University, a youth workers' exchange to the UK run with the Higher Council for Youth and Sports, a children's visit, a women's visit – though it may be that we cannot yet run any visit in person this year.



## THANKS

The Trustees of CADFA would like to thank the members of CADFA and those active in both the UK and Palestine who kept CADFA going through this difficult year. We look forward to working with you again next year.

### **CADFA's trustees 2020-21**

**AGM was on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020**

**Daniel Guedalla** (Chair until 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 20)

**Maha Rahwangi** until 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 21 (Chair from 4<sup>th</sup> Oct until 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 21)

**Tara Seaborn** from 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 20 (Chair from 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 21)

**Mike Fletcher** until 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 21 (Vice-Chair)

**Cristina Piccoli** (Secretary)

**Hugh Wallis** (Treasurer)

**Sumiya Hems** until 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 20

**Fiona Millar** from 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 20

## CADFA's objects

As amended at AGM 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013

CADFA's charitable 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 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 in particular and Palestine more widely;
- 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 in particular and Palestine more widely;
- Working to obtain and promote redress for the victims of human rights abuses and infringements of humanitarian law in Abu Dis in particular and Palestine more widely 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 in particular and Palestine more widely.

## CADFA

CADFA came into being during 2004, was constituted as a charity in June 2005 and gained recognition as a charity in January 2006. CADFA links people from the UK to people in Palestine - in particular to Abu Dis in the Jerusalem suburb – in order to raise awareness of the serious human rights situation in Palestine and encourage people to work for human rights and respect for international humanitarian law. There is more information about CADFA and our activities on our website **[cadfa.org](http://cadfa.org)** and our Facebook

## CADFA Education

While we were working on projects for Erasmus+, (EU-funded youth exchange and volunteering projects), Erasmus + asked us to make ourselves into a limited company in order to give us the grant. We therefore created the company '**Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association Education**' in order to manage our big grants. Its objects are the same as CADFA's, its directors are CADFA trustees, and its money is managed by CADFA and shown in our annual accounts.



## Dar Assadaqa

Dar Assadaqa is the centre that we support in Abu Dis, Palestine – Set up in 2006 as Dar Assadaqa ('Friendship House'), it was re-licensed by the Palestinian Higher Council for Youth and Sport under the name 'Dar Assadaqa for Youth Exchange' as in Palestine its distinctive contribution is seen as the way it brings young people from Palestine and other countries together (especially the UK), through exchange visits to and from Palestine and other activities with a focus on twinning and communication to people outside Palestine such as our own CADFA links groups.

## Café Palestina

Café Palestina was set up as a social enterprise (CIC) outside CADFA and is a separate organisation. But its aim is to support CADFA. The Café is a wonderful venue for CADFA and a much better home than we ever have had. Before Covid, it provided us with work space, a public face and a lovely events room where we ran a programme of regular and occasional events, workshops and fundraisers which helped us to keep going. The use of the event room will need to be reviewed post-Covid.

## Abu Dis numbers 2020-21

|            |                                                                                                                     |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>56</b>  | people from Abu Dis were arrested by Israel                                                                         |
| <b>11</b>  | young people under 18 arrested                                                                                      |
| <b>5</b>   | Prisoners held on administrative detention (with no trial)                                                          |
| <b>35</b>  | People on average from Abu Dis were in Israeli prisons at any one time                                              |
| <b>67</b>  | Houses were invaded by the Israeli army during last year.                                                           |
| <b>2</b>   | Houses demolished                                                                                                   |
| <b>182</b> | People wounded by the Israeli army during demonstrations                                                            |
| <b>10</b>  | People seriously wounded with live ammunition                                                                       |
| <b>3</b>   | Killed by the Israeli army (Ahmed Eriqat from Abu Dis and two people from Sawahreh killed at Container checkpoint). |

## Appendix 1 - 2020-21 in Abu Dis – Extracts from CADFA human rights reports

### April 2020

“Israel has taken advantage of the world’s preoccupation with Corona to push on with the controversial E1 settlement development west of Abu Dis, opening a new road for Palestinians north towards Ramallah as a way to cut them off from the east (the lands Israel wants for the E1 developments).

“At the beginning of March, they destroyed two houses in Khalit Abed (an area of Abu Dis on the west of the Wall). They have started to build a new wall in Sheikh Sa’ad (south-west of Abu Dis) which will cut them off on both east and west – a small part of land separated from Jabal al Mukabbar and Jerusalem on the West as well as Sawahreh on the east of the wall. This appears to relate to the creation of an Israeli-only road between Har Homa settlement near Bethlehem and MaaleAdumim near Abu Dis and in the E1 area.”

### May 2020

“Palestinians are becoming accustomed to violence from the Israeli army that every month leaves a number of boys (usually) injured, families, including those with babies, suffering from tear gas, and sees a number of people violently arrested or returned home suffering from their time in jail and their families suffering from fines of thousands of shekels. Between 30 and 40 people are in prison which has a big effect on all of their families. This month again saw a series of army invasions and imprisonments by the army”.

### June 2020

“This month was worse: a young man (Ahmed Eriqat) was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers on 23rd “June. At the time of writing (August), the Israelis still have not returned his body to his family.”

“[This Israeli] plan was to build a road to connect Har Homa settlement (south of Jerusalem) with Qidar settlement (east of Jerusalem and on Abu Dis land). In order to do this, they would need to go through/ past/ over the Wall from west to east. The Israelis were exploring a route from Har Homa to Surbaher to Sheikh Sa’edgoing on the west of the Wall and going through the Wall at Suwanet Salah (the area in question) and then on to Qidar. As part of this plan, there would be a special terminal through the Wall at Suwanet Salah specially for the Al Quds University students and faculty – though it would leave local people in the area with miles to go round to other terminals if they wanted to go to Jerusalem. Under this plan, the Israelis would build a military camp on the area we are now calling the sports field, to be in charge of this new ‘terminal’ in the Wall.

“During this period the Israeli army came several times and destroyed several houses in Khalit Abed and Suwanet Salah. Some of these houses were old and built before Israel came to the area. But after Israel came, the land officially became “without owners” and destroyed anything that was built there, saying that there were no licences. Obviously the local people don’t agree that there are no owners here – but they don’t have the power to do anything about this.”

“Many other human rights issues – in the summer, the distribution of water taken from the Palestinian hills, at any time the issues of movement, passes, and residency...”

## July 2020

“The Israelis went back on the promise they had given to Ismail Khalaf, one of the administrative detainees who did a long hunger strike a year ago and was due to be released with no additional terms give in early July. This month they renewed his detention by another 6 months (still with no trial). Meanwhile the other Abu Dis hunger striker from 2018, HuthaifaBadr, is also once again imprisoned with no trial.”

“This month marks three years since the killing of two young people in Abu Dis (Mohammed Lafee and Yousef Kashour) and one month since the killing of Ahmed Eriqat at the Container Checkpoint. The Israelis still have not returned the body of Ahmed Eriqat who was killed on 23rd June and his family have been leading a campaign for the return of his body so they can bury it. This is not entirely an individual issue; currently the Israelis are holding 63 young people in their refrigerators. This seems to be both to put pressure on the families and potentially (as has happened before) for bargaining purposes in the future?”

“The Maqassed Health Centre that has been under huge threat relating to the stoppage of funds to the Maqassed Hospital had a potential stop date at the beginning of July. It managed to struggle on but with minimum services”

“The summer saw more of the problems with water that have become more and more frequent in the past few years. People in Abu Dis have water to their area on certain days of the week only and store this in tanks on their rooves, but there is not enough. Meanwhile they are living in sight of the Israeli settlements of MaaleAdumim, Qidaretc where there are water sprinklers for lawns and flowers and people have swimming pools and no lack of water at all.”

## August 2020

“By now the economic difficulties were biting that resulted from the Palestinian Authority’s refusal to go along with the Israeli annexation plans for the West Bank. In June, the PA refused to co-ordinate with Israelis they had been going on since set up by the Oslo Accords 27 years ago. In retaliation and to put pressure on the PA, Israel withheld taxes that should be paid to the Authority, who have now been unable to pay salaries to hundreds of thousands of employees, causing economic hardship across the community. The Abu Dis Health Centre is under threat as its parent, the Maqassed Hospital in Jerusalem is also uncertain that it can go on as funds have been stopped. Currently both

are managing to struggle on but with minimum services and doctors have not been given their salary for the past four months.”

“People in Abu Dis are trying to get on with their lives in a normal way but their lives are systematically interrupted by movement restrictions, separation from family members, economic and environmental problems. People are becoming accustomed to violence from the Israeli army that every month leaves a number of boys (usually) injured, families, including those with babies, suffering from tear gas, and sees a number of people violently arrested or returned home suffering from their time in jail and their families suffering from fines of thousands of shekels.”

“This month, changes in the ‘permission’ system compounded health and social problems for many people in Abu Dis and the issue of fines was a pressure on the families of prisoners as well as the imprisonment itself. The Israelis still have not freed the four Abu Dis prisoners on administrative detention who are held with no trial, still defying the agreement they themselves made to release Ismail Khalaf at the beginning of July.

“They have not returned the body of Ahmed Eriqat who was killed on 23rd June and his family have been leading a campaign for the return of his body so they can bury it.”

“In the recent past – before Corona – before the stopping of the Israeli co-operation with Israel, women over 50 and men over 55 often used to be able to go to Jerusalem without ‘permissions.’ It was a long process; people had to get to the checkpoint, and then had to wait in a long queue and go through the electronic gates. This severe restriction of movement is in itself a violation against the human right to free movement inside your country.”

## September 2020

“The people of Palestine were still under pressure from the local rise of Covid, which was on the rise in the area, as well as from the military occupation. Sometimes these came together: when Israeli soldiers came close to people in house invasions and arrests, the soldiers were not wearing masks. The restrictions on movement from Covid built on to the restrictions imposed by the Occupation and became worse this month when Israelis had a religious holiday.”

“It was a new step (since Oslo) for the Israeli Civil Department to intervene directly to close down local businesses in the name of social distancing – This would previously have reached local people from the Palestinian Authority but the PA ended co-ordination with Israel as a protest against plans to annexe and to withhold tax money.”

## October 2020

“[This] was the last month before the American election and its result was uncertain. While both of the parties standing for re-election in the US had promised to be good friends of Israel and the Palestinians had no special hope from either, Trump was a very active supporter of settlement expansion. Encouraged by his support and the ‘Deal of the Century,’ and not clear what the result of the election would be, the Israeli government

was working hard to clear the areas that they wanted for new settlements and put in the infrastructure for more building.”

“There were now five Abu Dis prisoners on administrative detention - held with no trial - still defying the agreement they themselves made to release Ismail Khalaf at the beginning of July. There were around thirty prisoners from Abu Dis in Israeli jails including at least four children.

“The Israeli authorities have not returned the body of Ahmed Eriqat who was killed on 23rd June and his family continued to campaign for the return of his body so they could bury it. “

## November 2020

“The US election was important in Palestine because – while both candidates for president and their parties have supported Israel – Trump had taken a very pro-active stand in support of Israeli control of Jerusalem, settlement expansion and annexation and the Israeli authorities had been very encouraged to push towards annexation and further expansion. The month finished with Biden having won but no concession from Trump; Israel appeared to be using the time by activities in the Jordan Valley and agreeing more settlements. “

“One problem with a report based on one month in an on-going occupation is that we talk of things that change, particular things that happen, and often don’t talk about the things that continue and have become (under occupation) “normal” even though they are clear violations and unbearable. In a discussion with women from Abu Dis, one said sadly how difficult this year had been. She has not been able to see her family (her parents and brothers and sisters) in Jerusalem since last December. This is because – years ago - the Israelis gave her a different coloured ID from her family (green instead of blue) and they use these colours to decide where they will allow people to go. “

“A second woman talked about the Wall, and how her children don’t know life without the Wall (which went up from 2002 and progressively cut Abu Dis from Jerusalem). She said, “They don’t know Jerusalem, they don’t know how we were free before.” “Free?” said another woman. “We weren’t free. Even then the Israelis didn’t allow me to go to my village which I was born in.”

“Not really free,” said the second woman, “We were under occupation. But before the Wall we could go to Jerusalem or Jaffa or Haifa if we wanted to. Now we are really in a prison.””

## December 2020

“The report this month shows the Israeli army repeatedly blocking the ways in and out of Abu Dis along the main north-south road that affects the whole of the West Bank south of Ramallah”

“Most parts of Palestinians’ lives are affected by the military occupation and apartheid imposed by Israel. Water is one example, with the allocation of water in the West Bank itself controlled by Israel and unequally divided, so there is already a general shortage of water in Abu Dis. Israeli settlers moving into the West Bank have at least six times as much water available per head as the Palestinian population. The Israeli settlements have watered lawns, flowers and swimming pools – just as dramatic, they have continuous water coming to their homes through a mains supply. Palestinian homes have water tanks on the roofs as they have occasional distribution of water – in Abu Dis often for two days a week only - so it has to be saved; and they are used to running out of water especially in the hot weather.

“A real crisis ensued in mid-December because the main pump in the Wadi Jheer pumping station broke. This usually gives 70% of the water in the area, and the people in lower areas depended on 30% of water from Israeli companies – They refused to give more than this quantity or to raise the pressure so the majority of people in hilly Abu Dis and surrounds were not able to get mains water and were forced to pay for private tankers to bring water, and then pump it to the tanks on their roofs.”

## January 2021

“News came that the Israeli government had approved the building of a new road for Palestinians to keep Palestinian traffic separate from Israelis and also away from Maale Adumim settlement. According to this plan, traffic from Abu Dis will go north through Al Azariyeh and under a tunnel towards Anata and then Ramallah. Most of the roads now used by Palestinians will now be used by settlers with no Palestinians on them.

This is part of the E1 plan and will cut people from the area away from the east. The area of the Bedouin villages Jabal al-Baba, Wadi Abu Hindi and others will be inside the area with the settlements and we can expect that their people whom Israel have made insecure for years will be pushed out of their homes.

“This is the state that the world is calling for Palestinians – a state of restrictions, underground tunnels and control by Israel,” says a friend from Abu Dis, “with half of the area of the West Bank cut off from us as securely as the rest of Palestine.”

“Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza urgently need access to Covid vaccination in order to begin to reverse the worsening Covid situation. The fact that Israeli settlers living in the same land are already enjoying a huge roll-out of vaccine throws a clear light on the apartheid situation in Palestine. Israel, as an occupying power, has a responsibility under the Geneva Conventions to ensure health care of the occupied people. They could supply the Palestinians with vaccine but are not doing so. Israel is vaccinating its own prisoners but Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are not being vaccinated.”

## February 2021

“The Israeli military together with the Civil Department are beginning work on the west side of Qidar settlement – there are diggers working which indicate that they have taken over another big area of Abu Dis land. When Israel occupied the West Bank, they put a



military order on this area which stopped Palestinians from using the land. There were protests near the land and an unsuccessful attempt to get it back through the Israeli High Court – but Qidar settlement was started in 1985 on Abu Dis land and has been extended over the years. Now it is expanding further towards Abu Dis.”

[As is so common], “After the Friday prayer, the Israeli army put a checkpoint in the middle of Abu Dis at the crossroads to the military camp and began to check people’s IDs. There was a demonstration and the Israeli army shot tear gas all over the town.”

## March 2021

“On 1st March a Palestinian car drove into the area of Kubsa in the middle of the day, and Israeli soldiers jumped out, dressed in plain clothes, and arrested two men... They took them into the civil car and drove out of the area, shooting, and now protected by Israeli army vehicles which had followed them there. The two men were taken to Maale Adumim police station but released after a few hours, saying that they had taken the wrong people, but leaving local people wondering whether all the drama was perhaps a form of army training?”

**CADFA | 53 Fortress Road London NW5 1AD | [cadfa.org](http://cadfa.org)**



CADFA Accounts 20-21 are in the attached annual report.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 March 2021

Charity no  
(if any)

1112717

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2021**.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 13/10/2021

Name:

Peter John Richard Day

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Retired Chartered Accountant

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Address:</b> | 53 Uffington Road |
|                 | London SE27 0NE   |
|                 |                   |

**Section B****Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**