



CADFA Trustees' Annual report

April 2023-March 24

CADFA Charity 1112717

Linking Together for Human Rights



CADFA | Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association
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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 14th 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



Events at Cafe Palestina

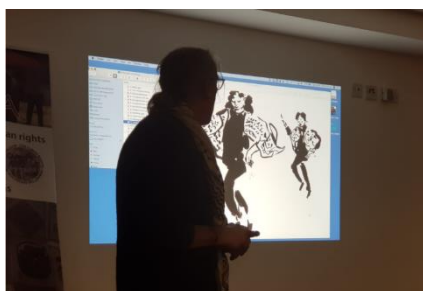
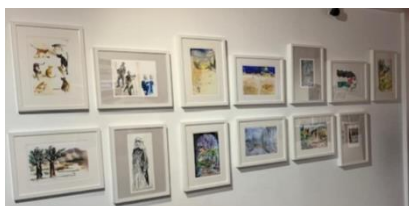
As the pandemic was officially over, we decided to hold fewer meetings on Zoom and more in-person meetings at Cafe Palestina. We took advantage of the café itself for a number of CADFA meals and used the event room for workshops including placard making (pictured) and meetings. We started to run 'Let's 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

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.





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 13th August and some during the youth visit to the UK later in the year.

Second six months – 7th 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 7th 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

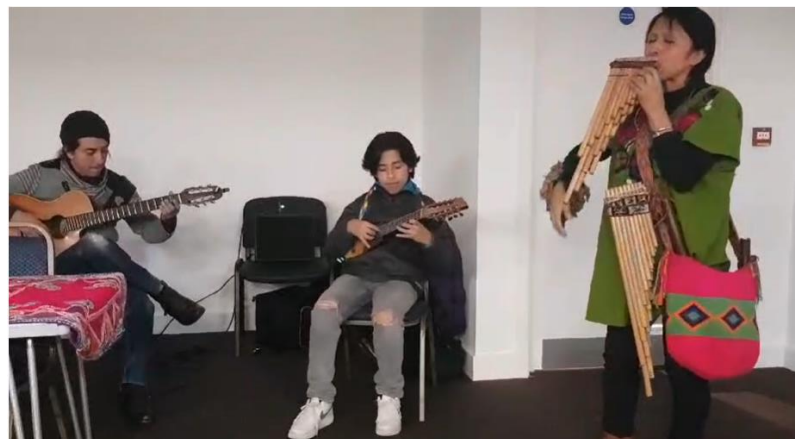


Palestine. However, our day to mark this was planned while Israel was bombarding Gaza with ferocity. Tens of thousands of people had been wounded and over ten thousand killed in a month, while Israeli settlers and the army were terrorising Jerusalem and the West Bank with around five people being killed 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 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 5th to 12th 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 14th 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 17th 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 20th 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 21st and 25th, 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 2nd 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 5th 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 9th 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 13th 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 22nd 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 2nd 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 5th 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 6th 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 13th 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 20th 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 21st June, settlers blocked the road completely (blocking the traffic between north and south of the West Bank) for the whole day.



July

On 1st 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 2nd 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 3rd 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 5th July there were army invasions to houses and two people were arrested.

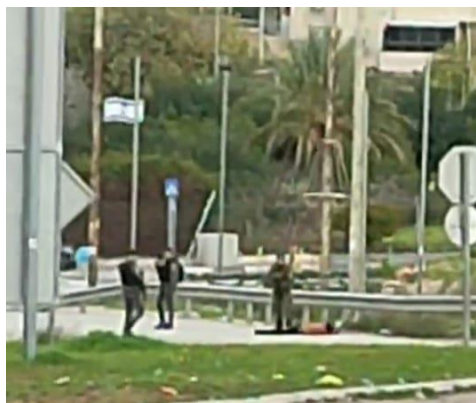
On 7th July there was a demo – the army shot into the crowd.

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

On 12th 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/Aizarieyh and the nearby Mount of Olives where the local hospitals are. You can see the hospitals from Abu Dis and Aizarieyh, 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 1st 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



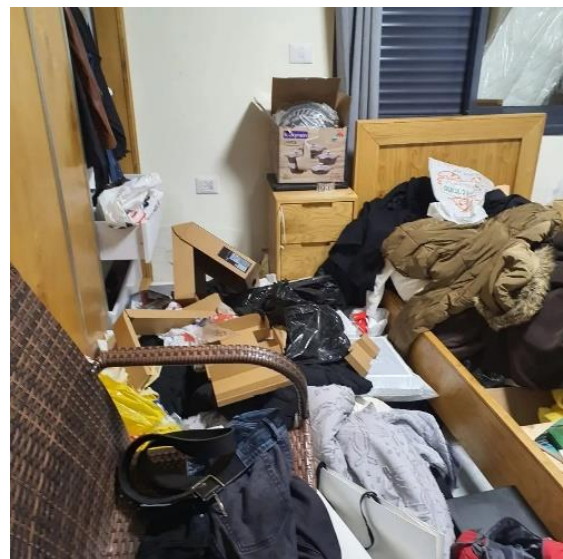
bleeding and did not allow an ambulance to reach him. The army invaded Jabl al Baba and arrested members of his family. Settlers gathered near the place and blocked Palestinian cars from travelling and attacked cars.

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 5th 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 8th 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.

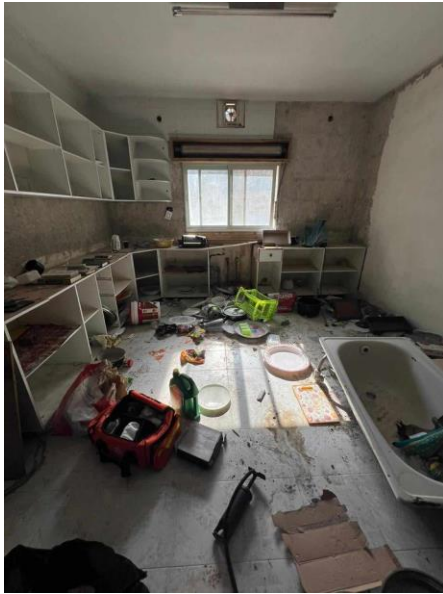
On 28th August, the army invaded a house and beat a father and two brothers as a way to make a third brother give himself up to the army. Again there was tear gas and shooting in the middle of the night.



September

On 2nd 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 5th September, the army invaded the house that had been invaded on 28th 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 20th 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 7th 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 8th 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 9th 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 11th December.

On 29th 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

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

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

On 27th 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 1st March, the Israeli authorities closed the alternative road going south through



Wad al-Libban. People had started to use it a lot after 7th 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 7th 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
CADFA Charity		
Opening Balance	192	-3,386
Income		
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
Expenditure		
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
CADFA Outturn	-3,386	17,216
Opening Balance	192	-3,386
Total Income	115,555	145,356
Total Expenditure	119,132	124,755
Surplus (Deficit) Carried Forward	-3,386	17,216
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	-3,578	20,601
Reconciliation		
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	-3,386	17,216

BALANCE SHEET

	As at 31st March 2023	As at 31st March 2024
	£	£
UK Bank Balances	5,174.88	30,376.31
Cash in hand or in transit	-1,360.51	39.53
Net Assets	<u>£3,814.37</u>	<u>£30,415.84</u>
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
Surplus at 31 March	<u>£3,814.37</u>	<u>£30,415.86</u>
Represented by:		
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
	<u>3,814.37</u>	<u>30,415.84</u>

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 recognize 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, NWS

Home wanted; male black cat abandoned in housing co-op. Vaccinated & being retrained at Roundwood Vets. 15-months old. (Other call above now rehomed.) Not chipped yet, but we call him 'Monty'. Very friendly! Will deliver. Free, but we suggest a donation to an animal charity once accepted after say, 7 days. Contact our part-time Managing Director at 020 7388 7862

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
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
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"

On murdering neighbours

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

His declaration confirms

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, NWS

Deadline for Letters is noon

ht to clear old not d for ally le I at n y 7

sleeping rates in rough sleeping have increased by over 74 per cent – with an increase of 21 per cent in London in the last year. This year London

to move people on who had been camped in tents outside the hospital, and it is clear that Camden staff were involved. Camden's outreach

team had been visiting to support those affected with housing advice and other specialist services.

Camden had also responded to a request to have our waste contractors on site.

I have to be absolutely clear that what happened was completely unacceptable.

people are. We have one of the largest hostel pathways in the country with 681 beds. We are determined to learn from what happened and to ensure

meet someone sleeping on streets so we can offer support, emailing streetsafe@cgf.org.uk or calling or calling 0808 800 0005.

CLLR GEORGIA GOULD
Leader of Camden Council

Now this appalling treatment of rough sleepers. Last Friday was a dark day for Camden Council.

CLLR TOM SIMON
Liberal Democrats
Leader of the Opposition.

A dark day for the council

WHAT was done to the rough sleepers at UCLH last Friday was a travesty.

Camden Council facilitating the cruel agenda of Suella Braverman is a failure of political leadership. The council should be supporting rough sleepers, who are some of the most

vulnerable members of society, not seeking to sweep them off the streets.

There must be an urgent investigation into exactly what happened, which must show what role the

council played, who made the decisions to involve Camden officers and Veolia, as well as who knew about the decisions or should have known. And the results of this investigation should be

made public at the earliest opportunity. Once again the Liberal Democrats find ourselves criticising the Labour-run council for its failure to keep its residents safe. Last year we highlighted

the shocking failings to support people in temporary accommodation. Earlier this year it was the Regulator for Social Housing notice on fire safety in council homes.

A call to Sir Keir Starmer

MEMBERS of CADFA, the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association, and many other local people are hugely upset both at the appalling suffering in Gaza and the ongoing devastation caused by Israel's relentless bombing and also at the refusal of Sir Keir Starmer to join the call for a ceasefire.

As a leader of the opposition who is providing no opposition to the government's support for Israel in these attacks, he is helping to enable

constant bombing of civilian areas, hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, a siege on food supplies, water, fuel for incubators and even for the hospital fridges overflowing with bodies.

It is so appalling, no wonder that there were a million people on the streets of London last weekend in protest against what seems a never-ending list of war crimes.

Our own organisation has for 20 years now been close to people in Abu Dis, in the West Bank, where the situation is also terrible though

more hidden from the news. Everyone is scared. Last week three young people were shot and killed in Abu Dis, one, the brother of a boy who visited Camden with CADFA in 2014, one the cousin of a boy who came on our youth visit in 2022, and one who joined the summer camps that we supported, when he was a child.

Sir Keir Starmer is our MP and we have had taken part in many demonstrations in Camden in the past few weeks calling on him to back the call for a ceasefire and also seeking to talk to people about the issue. We are really struck by the warmth of the

reception by local people. Lots of "well done," and "I agree with you," or beeping car horns, in turn, encouraging us all to keep going.

We call on Sir Keir Starmer urgently to put all efforts into promoting human rights and international humanitarian law for everybody.

NANDITA DOWSON
Director, CADFA

One of a number of protests in the borough

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Graceful Butterflies

The innocent are dying

that you are supporting this war, which follows from your rejection of a ceasefire. You state emphatically

children in their thousands? Basically rather than seeking a peaceful solution you are taking

Call for Gaza ceasefire

UNION is working with other organisations and concerned individuals in a network called Camden Friends of Palestine.

We believe a ceasefire in Gaza is urgent and are calling for an urgent Camden Council resolution to support a ceasefire in Gaza.

This is why. We are currently seeing tens of thousands of people in Gaza being killed in far view and though the representatives of most countries in the world have made it clear in the

United Nations that they want it to stop and though the people of the world have been demanding for a ceasefire, the campaign goes on and on. Israeli soldiers, journalists, thousands of children, are leaving the children. The stories are terrible and they keep getting worse.

The government of South Africa is taking Israel's government to court for genocide and has demonstrated the case very clearly.

Why does this concern Camden? After the vile racism and violence of the European Parliament in the 20th century, the world saved 'never again'.

The International Division of its own Rights, international humanitarian law, conventions on apartheid etc, were drawn up to prevent all human beings.

Camden proudly took a stand against apartheid in South Africa and in human rights in other places.

Camden's people, Camden's council, Camden's policies, stand for equality and inclusion.

Now in Gaza international law and the human rights provisions are being defied, and violence and genocide called public. This affects us all and the world we and our children will live in.

Some Camden citizens have family and friends in Gaza and particular anxiety. But every one of us is less safe when our own people die. It's not racism and inequality violence or when people are silent in the face of genocide.

It is a sign of the equal value of all human beings, we cannot stand by while such crimes are being carried out while we are sitting on our hands.

The situation is clear: we need to stand by what each person is being carried and while we are sitting on our hands.

These situations are clear: we need to stand by what each person is being carried and while we are sitting on our hands.

CLLR TOM SIMON
Liberal Democrats
Leader of the Opposition.

Unacceptable behaviour

AT the heart of Labour is the leader's integrity in the celebration of Palestine.

Sir Keir Starmer remains a friend of Israel.

At what point do you tell your friend that their behaviour is unacceptable? What kind of friend are you, if you say nothing? Don't you think it's slightly inappropriate for me to do nothing, especially when we're acting hypocritically?

Sir Keir's refusal to challenge what is taking place in Gaza, the ongoing destruction of a civil, racial, and economic society, the houses turned to rubble, the displacement of an entire population, the collective punishment of all Palestinians, and most recently the real and deliberate massacres of children... well, it makes you wonder.

What's Sir Keir's purpose? What kind of friend is he?

STEVEN SIMON
Former Chair
Bangladesh & Burma
Labour Party

Camden Council plan drastic changes for motorcycle parking

Camden Council is planning to introduce a new parking scheme for motorcycles, which will result in a significant increase in the number of motorcycles parked on the streets.

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Take action NOW!

Sign the petition & tell Camden Council what you think

Read & sign it here!

www.camden.gov.uk/council

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53 Farness Road, Kentish Town NW5 1AD
cafepalestina.co.uk

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 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](https://twitter.com/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.

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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>Urge Camden Councillors to Support a Ceasefire in Gaza</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> CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association) London, ENG, United Kingdom</p> <p> 2,884</p> <p> 18/01/2024</p>	
<p>Make the ceasefire permanent</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> CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association) London, ENG, United Kingdom</p> <p> 8,393</p> <p> 25/11/2023</p>	
<p>Ceasefire now and human rights</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> CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association) 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/

Useful links

Linktr.ee/CADFA





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

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Work in Camden and Islington

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The second six months

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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 14th 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."



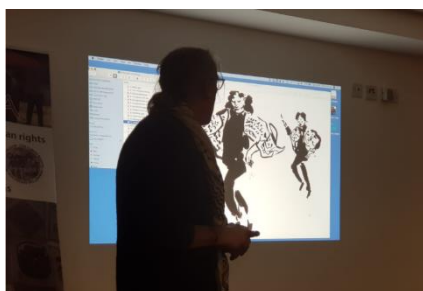
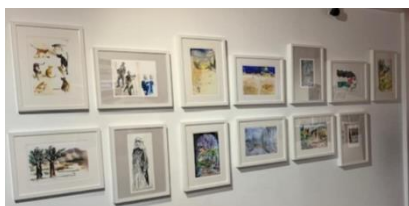


Work in Camden & Islington



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 13th August and some during the youth visit to the UK later in the year.

Second six months – 7th 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 7th 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

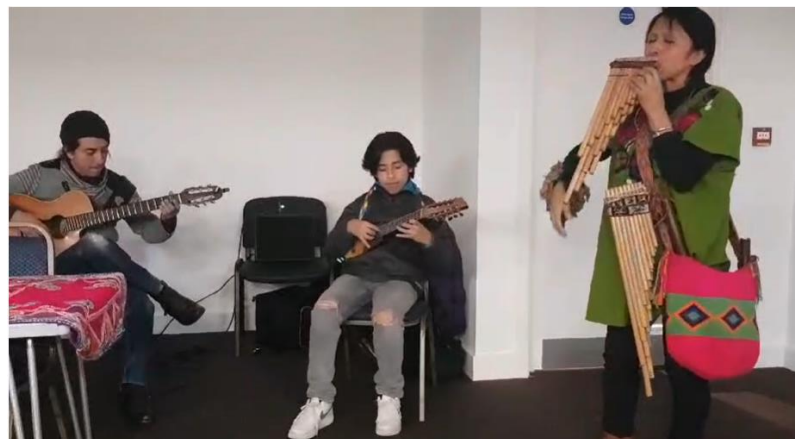


Palestine. However, our day to mark this was planned while Israel was bombarding Gaza with ferocity. Tens of thousands of people had been wounded and over ten thousand killed in a month, while Israeli settlers and the army were terrorising Jerusalem and the West Bank with around five people being killed 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 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 5th to 12th 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 14th 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 17th 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 20th 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 21st and 25th, 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 2nd 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 5th 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 9th 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 13th 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 22nd 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 2nd 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 5th 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 6th 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 13th 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 20th 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 21st June, settlers blocked the road completely (blocking the traffic between north and south of the West Bank) for the whole day.



July

On 1st 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 2nd 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 3rd 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 5th July there were army invasions to houses and two people were arrested.

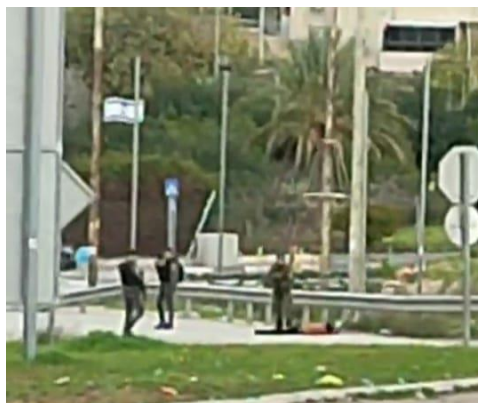
On 7th July there was a demo – the army shot into the crowd.

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

On 12th 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 1st 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



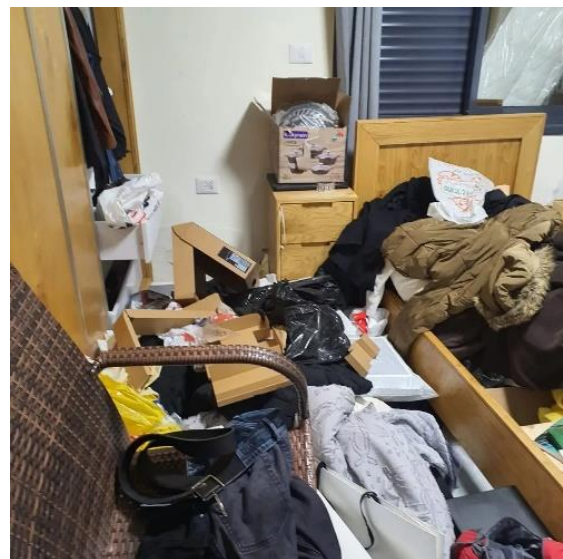
bleeding and did not allow an ambulance to reach him. The army invaded Jabl al Baba and arrested members of his family. Settlers gathered near the place and blocked Palestinian cars from travelling and attacked cars.

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 5th 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 8th 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.

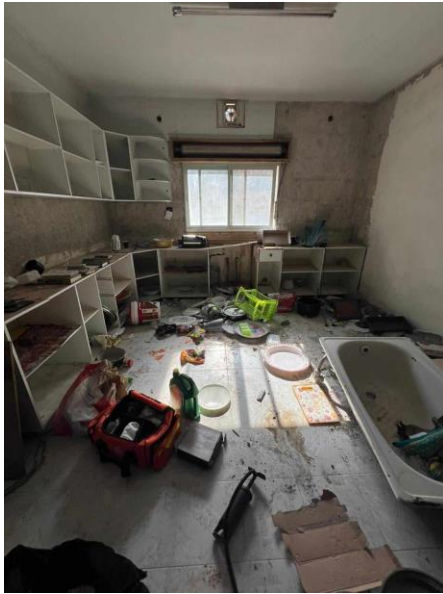
On 28th August, the army invaded a house and beat a father and two brothers as a way to make a third brother give himself up to the army. Again there was tear gas and shooting in the middle of the night.



September

On 2nd 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 5th September, the army invaded the house that had been invaded on 28th 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 20th 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 7th 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 8th 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 9th 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 11th December.

On 29th 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

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

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

On 27th 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 1st March, the Israeli authorities closed the alternative road going south through



Wad al-Libban. People had started to use it a lot after 7th 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 7th 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
CADFA Charity		
Opening Balance	192	-3,386
Income		
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
Expenditure		
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
CADFA Outturn	-3,386	17,216
Opening Balance	192	-3,386
Total Income	115,555	145,356
Total Expenditure	119,132	124,755
Surplus (Deficit) Carried Forward	-3,386	17,216
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	-3,578	20,601
Reconciliation		
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	-3,386	17,216

BALANCE SHEET

	As at 31st March 2023	As at 31st March 2024
	£	£
UK Bank Balances	5,174.88	30,376.31
Cash in hand or in transit	-1,360.51	39.53
Net Assets	<u>£3,814.37</u>	<u>£30,415.84</u>
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
Surplus at 31 March	<u>£3,814.37</u>	<u>£30,415.86</u>
Represented by:		
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
	<u>3,814.37</u>	<u>30,415.84</u>

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 recognize 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, NWS

On murdering neighbours

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

His declaration confirms

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, NWS

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
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
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

ht to clear old not d for ally le

sleeping rates in rough sleeping have increased by over 74 per cent – with an increase of 21 per cent in London in the last year. This year London

to move people on who had been camped in tents outside the hospital, and it is clear that Camden staff were involved. Camden's outreach

team had been visiting to support those affected with housing advice and other specialist services.

Camden had also responded to a request to have our waste contractors on site.

I have to be absolutely clear that what happened was completely unacceptable.

people are. We have one of the largest hostel pathways in the country with 681 beds. We are determined to learn from what happened and to ensure

meet someone sleeping on streets so we can offer support, emailing streetsafe@cgf.org.uk or calling or calling 0808 800 0005.

CLLR GEORGIA GOULD
Leader of Camden Council

Now this appalling treatment of rough sleepers. Last Friday was a dark day for Camden Council.

CLLR TOM SIMON
Liberal Democrats
Leader of the Opposition.

A dark day for the council

WHAT was done to the rough sleepers at UCLH last Friday was a travesty.

The council should be supporting rough sleepers, who are some of the most

vulnerable members of society, not seeking to sweep them off the streets.

There must be an urgent investigation into exactly what happened, which must show what role the

council played, who made the decisions to involve Camden officers and Veolia, as well as who knew about the decisions or should have known.

And the results of this investigation should be

made public at the earliest opportunity.

Once again the Liberal Democrats find ourselves criticising the Labour-run council for its failure to keep its residents safe.

Last year we highlighted

the shocking failings to support people in temporary accommodation.

Earlier this year it was the Regulator for Social Housing notice on fire safety in council homes.

A call to Sir Keir Starmer

MEMBERS of CADFA, the Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association, and many other local people are hugely upset both at the appalling suffering in Gaza and the ongoing devastation caused by Israel's relentless bombing and also at the refusal of Sir Keir Starmer to join the call for a ceasefire.

As a leader of the opposition who is providing no opposition to the government's support for Israel in these attacks, he is helping to enable

constant bombing of civilian areas, hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, a siege on food supplies, water, fuel for incubators and even for the hospital fridges overflowing with bodies.

It is so appalling, no wonder that there were a million people on the streets of London last weekend in protest against what seems a never-ending list of war crimes.

Our own organisation has for 20 years now been close to people in Abu Dis, in the West Bank, where the situation is also terrible though

email letters@camdennewjournal.com

The innocent are dying

that you are supporting this war, which follows from your rejection of a ceasefire.

You state emphatically

children in their thousands? Basically rather than seeking a peaceful solution you are taking

reception by local people.

Lots of "well done," and "I agree with you," or beeping car horns, in turn, encouraging us all to keep going.

We call on Sir Keir Starmer urgently to put all efforts into promoting human rights and international humanitarian law for everybody.

NANDITA DOWSON
Director, CADFA

Full range of services

- highlights
- balayage
- bleaching
- barbering skin fades
- shape-ups
- keratin treatments
- hair extensions.

Discounts on Treatwell

Creative Hair
Camden
SINCE 2023
Unit 2, 190 Camden High St, NW1 8QP - 07479 194 883

MOZART FOR THE HOMELESS
Sunday 26th November, 7-9pm
Live Concert in NW3
or watch on YouTube
Requiem & Clarinet Concerto
Classical masterpieces, world-class soloists, helping homeless people

Graceful Butterflies

Call for Gaza ceasefire

LADFA is working with other organisations and concerned individuals in a network called Camden Friends of Palestine.

We believe a ceasefire in Gaza is urgent and are calling for an urgent Camden Council resolution to support a ceasefire in Gaza.

This is why. We are currently seeing tens of thousands of people in Gaza being killed in far view and though the representatives of many countries in the world have made it clear in the

United Nations that they want it to stop and though the people of the world have been demanding for a ceasefire, the campaign goes on and on. Israeli soldiers, journalists, thousands of children, are among the victims. The deaths are terrible and they keep getting worse.

The government of South Africa is taking Israel's government to court for genocide and has de-escalated the case very clearly.

Why does this concern Camden? After the vile racism and violence of the European Parliament in the 20th century, the world saved 'never again'.

The International Division of its own Rights, international humanitarian law, conventions on apartheid etc, were drawn up to prevent all human beings.

Camden proudly took a stand against apartheid in South Africa and in human rights in other places.

Camden's people, Camden's council, Camden's policies, stand for equality and inclusion.

Now in Gaza international law and the human rights provisions are being defied, and violence and genocide called public. This affects us all and the world we and our children will live in.

Some Camden citizens have family and friends in Gaza and particular anxiety. But every one of us is less safe when our own people and children suffer racism and unprovoked violence or when people are silent in the face of genocide.

It is a sign of the equal value of all human beings, we cannot stand by while such crimes are being carried out while we are so close to the door.

The situation is clear: we cannot stand by while such crimes are being carried out while we are so close to the door.

MANITA DOWSON
Director, CADFA
Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association, NW1

Unacceptable behaviour

AT the heart of Labour is the leader's responsibility in the obliteration of Palestine.

Sir Keir Starmer remains a friend of Israel.

At what point do you tell your friend that their behaviour is unacceptable? What kind of friend are you, if you say nothing? Don't you think it's slightly inappropriate for me to do nothing, especially when they're acting badly?

Sir Keir's refusal to challenge what is taking place in Gaza, the ongoing destruction of a civil, racial, and economic society, the houses turned to rubble, the displacement of an entire population, the collective punishment of all Palestinians, and most recently the racist and deliberate massacres of children... well, it makes you wonder.

What's Sir Keir's purpose? What kind of friend is he?

STEVEN SIMON
Former Chair
Bangladesh & Burma Labour Party

Camden Council plan drastic changes for motorcycle parking

Camden Council has announced a plan to increase the number of motorcycle parking spaces from 1,000 to 2,000. The plan is to increase the number of motorcycle parking spaces from 1,000 to 2,000. The plan is to increase the number of motorcycle parking spaces from 1,000 to 2,000.

Take action NOW!

Sign the petition & tell Camden Council what you think

Read & sign it here!

www.camden.gov.uk/council

Café Palestine
Delicious meals, coffees & snacks
supper clubs, event space
Palestinian crafts & speciality food
Arabic classes, online shop

53 Farness Road, Kentish Town NW5 1AD
cafepalestina.co.uk

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 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](https://twitter.com/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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Get involved
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>Urge Camden Councillors to Support a Ceasefire in Gaza</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> CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association) London, ENG, United Kingdom</p> <p> 2,884</p> <p> 18/01/2024</p>	
<p>Make the ceasefire permanent</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> CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association) London, ENG, United Kingdom</p> <p> 8,393</p> <p> 25/11/2023</p>	
<p>Ceasefire now and human rights</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> CADFA (Camden Abu Dis Friendship Association) 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/

Useful links

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:

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.