

'LLASFA' NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN/WINTER 2015



20 people went from Llani to Cardiff on a bright sunny day on 6th September to join over 1500 other people on the national demonstration "Fair Play 4 Palestine". The march wound its way through Cardiff before the kick-off between Israel and Wales, calling for Israel to be kicked out of UEFA. Israel uses sport as a way to present itself as a "normal" country. It uses sport to whitewash its racism against the Palestinians, just as South Africa did under that apartheid regime. It's only a matter of time provided we keep the pressure on.

News from as-Sawiya – we had an email from Arafat abu Ras (human rights activist) in September with some very sad news... "I hope you are well ...we have very bad situation in our village as many Palestinian villages in the West Bank, the Israeli army invaded the secondary school before one week ago which is located at the main street road on Route 60 which is between Ramallah and Nablus in the west bank. The soldiers entered to the school and pumped tear gaz and scared the children there. We don't know the reason (the head master Adnan Ahmad said) the army claim that students throwing stones. "We dont believe there stories" the head master because every day the Israeli army with there jeep and cars found near the school and nobody can do any mistake. We need human rights activists and peace makers to stop the Israeli practices against the school and let the studints get there rights to study and feel freedom. Another thing which is very important we need a camira to make documents for every one of these events. Wishing you safe and happy life with your families Å salam – peace."

Veolia out of Israel: the French multinational management company has recently announced that it is pulling out of all its contracts with Israeli apartheid! This is a huge victory for Palestine and the "Boycott Divest Sanction" world wide movement and sends a clear message to other companies doing business with Israel putting at risk their reputation and profit. They have also recently announced they're selling the Light Rail shares too! That means Veolia has completely withdrawn from Israeli apartheid, exactly what the PSC campaign wanted them to do. The Veolia stake was sold to local Israeli investors despite the fact that the government wanted an experienced international operator to be involved.

News from Gaza one year on – justice eludes Palestinian children

On the 26th of August 2014, the 50 day onslaught on Gaza finally ceased. More than 2,000 Palestinians were killed by Israel during that time, including more than 500 children. Of the 18,000 houses destroyed or severely damaged, *not one* has been rebuilt. Gaza remains under a crippling blockade and according to the United Nations aid agency for Palestinian refugees, the infant mortality rate in Gaza has risen for the first time in over half a century. Justice eludes Palestinian children. Of the 547 Palestinian children who died, 535 of them was as a direct result of Israeli attacks. 3,374 children were left badly injured. In a context where systemic impunity is the status quo, the need for justice and accountability is urgent. For further information go Defence For Children International www.dci-palestine.org

The following short videos might be of interest:

- (1) 'Black Friday': Carnage in Rafah <https://blackfriday.amnesty.org/>
- (2) Child Survivors of Israel's Hannibal Directive
http://www.dci-palestine.org/child_survivors_of_israel_s_hannibal_directive/
- (3) Arming Apartheid: UK complicity in Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people
<https://www.stoparmingisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/arming-apartheid.pdf>
- (4) U.S. defends supplying Israel ammunition during Gaza conflict <http://reut.rs/1oejCcb>

#

What is the LASFA group doing

Thank you so much for your continued support in all the ways you do. The villagers in as-Sawiya are very grateful. Seats have now been installed at the bus stop and we are considering contributing to the buying a video camera so that when the Israeli army enters the village or the schools, evidence can be taken. We continue to buy Palestinian goods for sale on our Saturday stall: nuts, olive oil etc and traditionally painted ceramics which seem very popular which we buy in for Christmas. We pay for room hire for various events and expenses when we have Palestinian visitors. We have also made a contribution to "Defence For Children International – Palestine" and MAP – Medical Aid for Palestine - especially after the bombing of Gaza and resultant casualties.



LLASAF continues to respond to **requests for talks** about how our links were made with as-Sawiya and are still doing talks about various members' trips to the West Bank. Please contact Marg on 01686 413513 if you would like to have someone from the group do an illustrated talk for you or your group.

We have plans for another visit to Llanidloes from as-Sawiya probably in the New Year and we are going to screen "Five Broken Cameras" and "The Promise" over the autumn/ winter.

LLASFA is a voluntary group of local people involved in the national Twinning Network.

We welcome **new members** to the group which meets roughly once a month. If you'd like to join us in any way to support the situation in Palestine contact Marg on the above number and she can let you know when we meet and where and what you could do.