

BRICUP NEWSLETTER

Number 13

February, 2009

www.bricup.org.uk

bricup@bricup.org.uk

The PACBI column

In the Aftermath of the Gaza Massacre

The premeditated war crimes authorized by the Israeli political and military leadership in Gaza during the intensive three-week massacre in Gaza were met with swift and unprecedented worldwide condemnation and expressions of revulsion. The scope and intensity of the reaction of ordinary citizens and civil society institutions the world over were nothing short of a watershed in international public opinion.

What was - and continues to be - most noteworthy in the renewed surge of solidarity with Palestinians was the endorsement and adoption of effective political action scaling the entire range of BDS measures by many individuals and groups. Not content with calls for solidarity and denunciation of the Israeli massacre unleashed in Gaza, world civil society let its voice be heard loud and clear - Israel must not only be condemned, but should be isolated and held accountable until it respects international law and begins to undo the many-faceted effects of the project of ethnic cleansing and colonization begun more than six decades ago.

One of the most outstanding initiatives was the launching of the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel in direct response to the call of Palestinian civil society to join the BDS movement against Israel. [See *BRICUP's response in this Newsletter.*] As is well known, it requires a great deal of courage for academics and cultural workers in the United States to publicly endorse and call for an academic and cultural boycott against Israel. The USACBI campaign endorses and is based on the PACBI Call, focusing specifically on a boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions, and is

acquiring new individual and institutional endorsers by the day. [1]

Equally heartening was the announcement of the launching of an Australian campaign focused specifically on a boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions, again based on the PACBI call; the organizers urged "colleagues, nationally, regionally, and internationally, to stand up against Israel's ongoing attacks on the rights of Palestinians to education, land, and human dignity, and to support the nonviolent call for academic boycott, disinvestment, and sanctions."

Another spectacular development was the as-yet-unfolding student campus "occupation" movement spearheaded by students in solidarity with Palestine across the UK. The message to university administrations and academics was unequivocal; there is no room for business-as-usual with Israel or its academic institutions, and universities must take a stand, including divesting from companies implicated in Israel's occupation and atrocities.

Yet another important initiative by academics was the launching of the Scottish Committee for the Universities of Palestine, a group of academics and similar professionals established as a sister organization of BRICUP. We look forward to the same fruitful cooperation with SCUP that we have established with BRICUP since its formation. The UK academic and intellectual community was vocal in its denunciation of the Israeli war on Gaza and various calls for BDS: BRICUP issued a "Statement of Determination to Boycott Israel" in December, and several statements by UK academics and intellectuals were issued in December and January.

It is very important to stress the fact that the BDS movement has made great and rapid strides in

other areas of the world; we note the following: a call by 300 Canadian academics and educators urging their government “to implement sanctions against the Israeli government until it ceases its attack against the people of Gaza and fully complies with international law”; the call by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers asking the Canadian government “to adopt a program of boycott, divestment and sanctions until Israel recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and complies with international law, including the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes as stipulated in UN resolution 194”; a statement by a group of Quebec university staff declaring support for the appeal by the Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees (PFUUPE) to support a boycott of Israeli academic institutions; a statement by Irish public figures and other citizens calling upon the Irish government to demand publicly the suspension of the Euro-Med Agreement until Israel complies with International Law and to veto any proposed upgrade in EU relations with Israel, and urging the Irish people to boycott all Israeli goods and services until Israel abides by International Law; a call by Catalan academics for BDS-related action; a statement by 900 US academics urging US President Barack Obama to treat Israel as apartheid South Africa was treated; an ad in a major paper in Belgium by Belgian artists and academics endorsing BDS; and many other BDS-related initiatives (statements, letters in the media) by individuals and organizations in Israel, the USA, South Africa, and all over Europe.

In Palestine itself, the consensus around BDS was solidified and became the dominant and unified voice of Palestinian civil society during the war on Gaza; public statements urging world citizens and civil society to adopt BDS were issued by the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC); PFUUPE; the Association of University Teachers in Gaza; the Islamic University in Gaza; various associations in Gaza; the Palestinian Non-Governmental Network (PNGO); and PACBI. Perhaps the most unexpected but warmly welcomed of these statements was the one issued by Al-Quds

University, the only Palestinian institution of higher education that had established cooperation agreements with Israeli universities and had opposed the academic boycott. *[See the Al-Quds press release in this Newsletter.]* A statement issued by the board stated that the university will phase out programs and cooperation with Israeli universities, noting that “ending academic cooperation is aimed at, first of all, pressuring Israel to abide by a solution that ends the occupation, a solution that has been needed for far too long and that the international community has stopped demanding” [2]. PACBI welcomes this initiative from Al-Quds University, and notes that hundreds of Palestinian academics are relieved that the broad consensus among Palestinian universities to shun academic cooperation with Israeli institutions is now complete.

It is tragic that it was the death of hundreds of Palestinian martyrs and the large-scale destruction of communities and infrastructure in Gaza that hastened the inexorable movement towards BDS campaigns the world over. Yet this massive aggression has ushered in a new era, one where decent and conscientious people, realizing that a crime of great proportions was committed in Gaza, declare that they cannot remain silent any longer. They recognize that they must demand that their governments, civil society institutions, and fellow citizens take resolute action to call Israel to account and to force it to respect international law and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people by implementing a diverse range of BDS actions. We are hopeful that the various initiatives to prosecute Israeli officials for war crimes are another indication of the lack of tolerance for Israeli exceptionalism and impunity.

PACBI

Links

[1]

<http://usacbi.wordpress.com/>

[2]

<http://www.maannews.net/en/index.php?opr=ShowDetails&ID=35440>

Imagine that your University is bombarded with tons of explosives!

On Saturday December 27th, 2008, the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) was ready to start the final exams of the fall semester for more than 20,000 students. On that day, more than 60 Israeli American-made F16 warplanes began to bomb the Palestinian population of Gaza at a time when the maximum number of children were going to and coming from schools. On the next day, Sunday December 28th, Israeli F16 fighters bombed IUG with several missiles targeting two-six-storey buildings housing all the University's laboratories belonging to the colleges of IT, engineering and science. As in all other universities all over the world, these labs served the enhancement of teaching and learning skills.

The bombardment of both buildings also caused extensive damages to all university buildings, including the central library and lecture halls and led to major disarray in completing the fall semester, entailing the inability of hundreds of students to graduate. Although IUG has repeatedly emphasized that pure academic activities are conducted in its buildings and labs, this horrific attack is the 3rd of its kind in less than three years. The bombing came at a time when IUG faces major financial difficulties as many students' families cannot pay fees due to the high rate of unemployment caused by the siege imposed on Gaza by the Israeli army.

The Israeli propaganda machine which accompanied the brutal aggression in order to justify the extensive damage to many civilian educational and health facilities broadcasts massive misinformation, allegations and lies about the targets Israeli warplanes destroyed. To prevent any independent verification of the Israeli lies, the Israeli army prevented all foreign journalists and human rights monitors from entering Gaza during the aggression.

We firmly believe that the illegal Israeli occupation has endlessly violated legitimacy of the international community and international law and has deliberately targeted the Palestinian

academic institutions, including IUG, in a vain attempt to keep the Palestinians ignorant and insecure so that the oppressive Israeli occupation could last longer.

We therefore call upon all academics, faculty associations, student unions, professional and colleagues at large to show their support and solidarity to the right of the Palestinians to education. Several positive worldwide steps have already been taken, including boycotting Israeli academic cultural institutions and activities. Your solidarity and support for the right to education in Palestine is vital and highly appreciated. Please spread wide and far.

Press release by Dr Kamalain Sha'ath

Website: <http://www.iugaza.edu.ps/en/>
For pictures of IUG after the bombing see:
<http://www.iugaza.edu.ps/album/attack-dec-2008/Flash01/index.html>

Jerusalem's Al-Quds University cuts ties with Israeli academia.

On February 1st, Al-Quds University in Jerusalem announced that it will cease all forms of academic cooperation with Israeli academic institutions. The University's Board stated that, in cooperation with all sides and under an accepted timetable, the University will phase out programs and cooperation. It added that, if the two-state solution is as far away today as it was ten years ago, there is no justification for continued academic cooperation based on reaching that solution...and there is no justification for continued official and non-official cooperation in other fields, foremost security coordination between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Israel. Ending academic cooperation is aimed at, first of all, pressuring Israel to abide by a solution that ends the occupation, a solution that has been needed for far too long and that the international community has stopped demanding. The board also noted that the decision came in response to the prior Israeli onslaught [on Gaza]; the acts and policies of Israeli governments over the past ten years, including settlement construction in East

Jerusalem, the tightening of the siege on the occupied territories and thwarting any negotiated peace process that will lead to an independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside Israel. It also affirmed the necessity for all those involved, including government organizations, civil society groups, domestic and international, to focus on a just and prompt solution for the Palestinian cause. The statement insisted that all parties involved press for a solution according to international legitimacy and Arab and international efforts. The Board called for the international community to pressure the Israeli government to comply with international legitimacy and call for taking legal and political action for Israel's dangerous crimes and violations in Gaza, as well as Israel's illegal acts in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Finally, the University Board expressed disappointment over the absence of serious protest from Israeli academia in particular, and civil society organizations in general, as well as the failure of these organizations to understand the injustice that Palestinians are suffering from, calling on local, international and regional academics to support the university's stance by halting academic cooperation with Israeli institutions.

The Maan News Agency

[See also the PACBI Column]

The US Campaign for an Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel is launched.

In this open letter to David Lloyd, Sherna Berger Gluck, Marcy Newman and colleagues, BRICUP welcomed the US initiative. Jonathan Rosenhead wrote:

I know that other BRICUP members have been in touch with you. However it seems appropriate that we should offer you our formal congratulations on your initiative of launching the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel. It goes without saying, I hope, that not only do we hope for your

great success (and wince with you at the major pro-Israel onslaught that I am sure you will attract); we also will be happy to be of whatever help we can. Distance necessarily is a constraint, and of course your circumstances are different in detail from ours. Nevertheless we can hope to mutually exchange information, experiences and advice. Do let us know if there is anything useful we can do right now.

It should I hope be encouraging to you to know that we are hearing of other such initiatives from round the world – Australia, Spain, France and Norway at least. The more of us there are, the more effective and credible the boycott will become. Maybe one of the few good things to come out of the criminal actions in Gaza is the hornets nest that Israel has stirred up.

Jonathan Rosenhead,

Israel day of Science

With amazing and insensitive bad taste the Science Museum in London and the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester are allowing their premises to be used for an 'Israel Day of Science' sponsored by the Zionist Federation. The research of seven Israeli universities is to be showcased. The planned dates are March 3 in Manchester and March 5 in London). See [Details of the events](#). This cannot be allowed to happen! These Universities are without exception complicit in the mechanisms and policies of the Israeli occupation, and in developing the military technology used in the massacre in Gaza.

BRICUP has published [a statement to be sent to the Chair of the Board of Trustees](#) of the London Science Museum, Lord Waldegrave. It is printed below. An equivalent statement will be sent to the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. So, [if you agree let us know](#) by signing the letter. Please circulate this message urgently and widely. Time is short – the deadline for signatures is 21 February 21st. We believe that this outrageous piece of PR for Israel can be stopped.

Text of the letter is reproduced here:

To the Right Honourable Lord Waldegrave of North Hill.

We are writing to you in your capacity as chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum of Science and Industry.

You will be aware that the Science Museum in London has been made available on March 5th for an event called "Israel Day of Science". You will also I hope be aware of the shock and dismay that this news is causing. The Museum argues that it is not sponsoring the event but has merely hired out its premises. This subtle distinction is unlikely to be appreciated by the many thousands of all ages and faiths who have repeatedly taken to the streets of London to protest Israeli war crimes in Gaza. The public anger at the BBC's refusal to broadcast a charity appeal for Gaza is but one example.

The event is designed to showcase the scientific achievements of 7 Israeli universities. But all of these are complicit in the Israeli occupation, and in the policies and weaponry so recently deployed to such disastrous effect in Gaza. To take just one example, Tel Aviv University in its most recent Annual Review states that "the Israel Ministry of Defense, is currently funding 55 projects at TAU", which "is playing a major role in enhancing Israel's security capabilities and military edge". The head of TAU's Security Studies Program was a former director of the R&D Directorate of the Israel Ministry of Defense. He holds the rank of Major General in the Israel Defense Forces, and is a member of the Knesset.

According to the New York City Independent Media Center "The results of some of the secret war research projects on Tel Aviv University's campus have apparently been reflected in the weapons systems that are being brutally used against Palestinian civilians in Gaza by the Israeli War Machine, in violation of the Nuremberg Trial Accords, the United Nations Charter and international law."

You are no doubt aware that the "Day of Science" is aimed particularly at 6th form students, who can be expected to come in parties from schools across the country. What reaction do you expect from the many young people, especially Muslims, already disaffected from science, who will associate the Science Museum with this Israeli public relations exercise.

In the immediate aftermath of the indiscriminate slaughter and attempted annihilation of all the infrastructure of organised society in Gaza, how can this 'celebration' be allowed to borrow some respectability from the use of the distinguished premises of the Science Museum? We call on you to cancel this booking.

The Bilbao Initiative - Towards a Just Peace in Palestine.

Bilbao - home of the famous Guggenheim Museum, where the audio guide handsets have "made in Israel" displayed on their backs - was in October last year also home to a significant gathering whose focus was on boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against the apartheid state.

The meeting had been called by PNGO (the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network), Ittijah (the Union of Arab Community-Based Associations), AIC (the Alternative Information Center) and local hosts MEWANDO (Middle East without Wars and Oppressions), with the aims of creating "a space and a process where Palestinians, Europeans and anti-colonial Israeli representatives will share perspectives and debate about the challenges we face when developing an effective co-ordination tool for practical campaigning in solidarity for Palestine and for a just peace."

It was a successor to a similar event held in Bilbao five years previously; less happily, it was also a sequel to the abortive 2007 Madrid Social Forum for a Just Peace in the Middle East. This latter event had been sabotaged by the Spanish Foreign Ministry's introduction of a parallel Israeli delegation, larger than the invited one,

along with other individuals and organisations which had not endorsed the Declaration of Principles set by the organisers as a condition for participation: this led to a boycott by the Palestinian and Israeli organisations which had endorsed it, followed by other delegations. Fortunately the Bilbao 2008 event was sponsored by the Basque government, which proved to be much more solid in its principles of solidarity with Palestine and respect for the autonomy of civil society organisations. A Basque government minister, Javier Madrazo, not only participated in the opening session but also spoke at the rally before the concluding demonstration (of which more later).

Nakba

All our discussions were solidly grounded not only in the 41-year occupation but in the 60 years of ethnic cleansing since the Nakba of 1948. Thus, while the purpose of the conference was to build solidarity networks rather than constructing political positions, there was a clear premise that “a just peace in Palestine” must incorporate a solution for all three groups of the indigenous people of Palestine today: those living under occupation, those living in exile, and those with citizenship of the current state of Israel. This was reflected in the composition of the organisers: PNGO was established in Ramallah in September 1993 after the signing of the Oslo Accords, while Ittijah is based in Haifa: both are networks including organisations representing refugees in exile. The AIC works both in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with branches both in Beit Sahour (near Bethlehem) and in Jerusalem.

The opening session on 29th October was open to the public, and I was impressed at the high level of attendance and participation. Immediately we were hit by the reality of the occupation: Raji Sourani, Director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, had not been permitted to leave Gaza, and an attempt to set up a video conference with Gaza instead also proved impossible due to the tenuous state of the electricity supply there. Instead, we saw a video presentation on “Judaising Jerusalem” by Jamal

Juma’ of the Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign which brought home to us in depressing detail the acceleration of house demolitions and ethnic cleansing in East Jerusalem. The other speakers that evening were Omar Barghouti of PACBI (Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel) and Hussein Abu Hussein, Chair of Ittijah, and a Palestinian lawyer in the state of Israel.

Racism, Rights, Return

The following day consisted of four panels, also open to the public. These focused on the role of the international community; the rights of the Palestinian refugees; the institutionalised racism of Israel; and the Palestinian BDS campaign. Speakers included Norman Finkelstein, (denied tenure at DePaul University thanks to the efforts of Alan Dershowitz and now an “independent scholar”); Salman Abu Sitta of the Palestine Land Society, who described the ongoing process of ethnic cleansing; Eitan Bronstein, the director of Zochrot, who gave a moving presentation on the campaign to commemorate the destroyed Palestinian villages of the Nakba; and Salim Valley, a South African educator, who had plenty to say about resisting apartheid. The words of Dr. Abu Sitta are still ringing in my ears: “You are witnessing this today but you are not a silent witness: you are here to do something about it.”

None of the speakers minced their words: Israel’s war crimes, theft, obliteration of memory and violations of international law featured prominently in the addresses. This was a meeting of activists, not politicians, and the discourse was accordingly uncompromising.

Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS)

Friday’s sessions were open only to organisations and individuals who had signed up to the Reference Document. They comprised four workshops corresponding to the previous day’s themes. The emphasis was on organising and networking: anyone who tried to make long theoretical points was firmly told by the chair to sit down! I learnt the most from the presentation

by Issa El Shatleh of the Palestinian Farmers' Union, which documented in technical detail Israel's systematic and unremitting theft of water. Another high point was Mohammad Jaradat of BADIL, the Resources Center for the rights of Palestinian refugees, describing how the UN had produced "a cubic metre of documents" on Palestinian rights "in beautiful language" but was entirely lacking in any action. Adri Nieuwhoff, who works with numerous Palestinian NGOs as an independent consultant, and Jamal Juma' of the BNC (BDS national Committee), along with Yael Lerer who edits translations of Arabic literature into Hebrew, led an important discussion on "Mainstreaming BDS in Europe and the world".

The event was superbly organised, from the excellent simultaneous translation services to the publicity work which had clearly been done with the local and national press well in advance. For me, the social events were as important as the formal sessions in terms of forging new contacts: for instance, two French activists took away a copy of the BRICUP booklet "Why boycott Israeli universities?" and informed me that they intended to produce a French translation and distribute it.

What impressed me the most, though, was the centrality of Palestinian organisations and their campaigning priorities in the themes of the conference, and its consequent focus on BDS as the most effective form of solidarity action that can be taken by international civil society. We came away with a clear set of priorities, including a commitment to target the Jewish National Fund as one of the main vehicles for the continuing expropriation and colonisation of Palestinian land and a recommendation that universities all over Europe should join the Canadian-initiated Israel Apartheid Week, an annual week of events aimed at consciousness-raising and effective action. The Bilbao Initiative's Final Declaration did not merely condemn Israel's regime as a system that "uniquely combines apartheid, settler-colonialism and belligerent occupation" but ended with a 10-point Action Plan.

One of the conference participants from the UK, Angus Geddes of Portsmouth PSC, had sent the organisers some campaigning materials about Veolia in advance of the event. Veolia is jointly responsible for constructing the light railway which will link West Jerusalem to the illegal settlements in occupied East Jerusalem, and is consequently the focus of a boycott campaign. The organisers then realised to their horror that this was the company which runs the buses in Bilbao! However, Veolia's contract has yet to be ratified by the town council, and this provided us with an opportunity for a demonstration on the Saturday after the conference. A democratic discussion was held as to the most appropriate form of local protest, a banner was hastily created, and after a rally in the town centre we marched with a Palestinian flag to the Town Hall, where we stopped a bus, leafleted the surprised passengers, and covered the vehicle with stickers. This was merely the launch of an ongoing campaign against Veolia in Bilbao, following successes by activists in Denmark, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. We look forward to hearing of significant progress in persuading this company that investing in illegal settlements is bad for business.

This event made a serious contribution to building solidarity with Palestine. I urge all readers to view some of the video clips on the MEWANDO site, read the Action Plan and consider how they can participate in the networks emerging from the Bilbao Initiative, particularly in regard to furthering the BDS campaign in response to the call from Palestinian civil society.

Sue Blackwell

Links

The final programme, with videocasts of all speakers, can be seen at:

<http://www.mewando.org/iniciativa-bilbao-2008/site/?idioma=english>

The Final Declaration and 10-point Action Plan can be found on

http://www.pacbi.org/boycott_news_more.php?id=829

Gaza mariners

As readers of the BRICUP Newsletter will know (Issue #12, January 2009) in December, BRICUP members Mike Cushman and Jonathan Rosenhead made the voyage to Gaza in the Free Gaza ship 'Dignity'. They were able to bring back 11 students who had University places, mostly in the west, but were trapped in Gaza. Mike and Jonathan have many vivid memories and images to share. If you would like to ask either of them to speak at a meeting or you want to ask them any questions about their visit please send an email to GazaSailors@bricup.org.uk

The Jerusalem Book Fair

There is a petition to sign at

<http://www.petitiononline.com/harukim/petition.html>

To: Mr. Haruki Murakami

We ask you to withdraw from the Jerusalem Book Fair and receipt of the "Jerusalem Prize".

We have heard the news that you are going to participate in the 24th Jerusalem International Book Fair from 15th to 20th February, and will be awarded the "Jerusalem Prize". We are terribly shocked.

We ask you to seriously reconsider the social and political significance of a world-famous author such as yourself participating in the book fair, which is fully supported by the Foreign Ministry of Israel and the City of Jerusalem, and receiving the award from the mayor of Jerusalem, when Israel has just taken more than 1300 precious lives, injured more than 5300 people, including 500 who are seriously wounded, and destroyed a tremendous number of lives in Gaza and thus committed a series of war crimes.

What we are particularly concerned about is the purpose of the "Jerusalem Prize", being to praise one's contribution to "individuals' freedom in

society". This concept is in total contradiction of Israel's criminal acts such as massacre, collective punishment, blockade policy, construction of settlements and building of the 'separation wall' in East Jerusalem that are effectively eliminating Palestinians' freedom. If you receive the "Jerusalem Prize" it will contribute to a false image of Israel respecting "individuals' freedom in society" which will be portrayed and spread by the media. We fear that the unimaginable devastation of humanity which Israel has inflicted continuously and systematically upon Palestinians will be disregarded and Israel's actions will be accepted. Richard Falk, the UN special rapporteur for human rights in the Palestinian territories, has said there was "a prima facie case" that Israel gravely breached the Geneva Conventions during its 22-day campaign in Gaza. Citizens' groups in Europe are preparing to bring the persons responsible before an international tribunal. To avoid the recurrence of this massacre, which reminded us of the Warsaw Ghetto, the international community has to acquit the moral obligation, and send the message "Do Not Allow, Condone or Forget Massacre" to defiant Israel. We regard the receipt of the "Jerusalem Prize" as obviously contradicting this cause.

Furthermore, Mr. Nir Barakat, who was elected mayor of Jerusalem in November last year, is supporting the continued expansion of illegal settlements in East Jerusalem, just as his predecessors. Making Jerusalem the capital, the annexation of East Jerusalem and the construction of settlements in East Jerusalem are all in violation of international law, but Israel claims these to be accomplished facts. This results in keeping true peace far away, and not only in Jerusalem but all Palestinians in the occupied territory become victims of the apartheid policy. We would have to say that Palestinians' "individuals' freedom in society" is completely suppressed by Israel. Hence receiving the "Jerusalem Prize" from the mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Barakat who is in charge of this oppression, contributes towards hiding and vindicating Israel's apartheid policy all the more. We believe that this is not your intention.

Please turn your attention to the Palestinians, who are being denied their freedom and dignity as human beings and resisting by surviving everyday life. We would humbly ask you to consider the effects your receipt of the "Jerusalem Prize" would have, what sort of message the world would receive in this Middle East situation, what kind of propaganda value it could have to Israel and the possibility of aggravating the critical situation Palestinians are facing.

Sincerely,

[The Undersigned](#)

Clinicians' Study Tour to Palestine & Israel, May 2009

This tour is an opportunity to see the situation on the ground and receive analysis from Palestinians and Israelis who work to see the end of the Occupation with a just and sustainable solution for people on both sides of the divide. Visit Palestinian hospitals, clinics and teaching establishments. Have the opportunity to compare treatment offered in Israeli and Palestinian hospitals. Also meet key leaders and specialists from a variety of organisations working in the field of human rights and international law. Hear from the local people. During this nine-day clinicians' study tour you will stay in Bethlehem and East Jerusalem hotels and travel to the surrounding locality as well as to Hebron, Ramallah, Jaffa and Palestinian villages. The humanitarian element to the tour will enable clinicians to give donations to organisations visited. A briefing meeting will be held in London in the spring to prepare participants and follow-up to the tour will be provided.

"It is always possible to comment on political situations in distant places but to do so with conviction needs an opportunity to come face to face with the realities of everyday life, and to meet people on both sides of the conflict. This tour enabled me to do just that with regard to the health care situation in the Occupied Territories" Prof John Yudkin, November 2008.

The tour is being coordinated with Physicians for Human Rights – Israel, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, the International Medical Educational Trust 2000 and British Doctors for Palestine. It is administered by Experience Travel Tours. For more information call 01367 244 636 or email fay@experiencetraveltours.org.

Financial support for BRICUP

BRICUP needs your financial support. The recent, and well overdue, redesign of our website absorbed much of our reserves and we need funds to support visiting speakers, book rooms for public meetings, print leaflets and pay the whole range of expenses that a busy campaign demands.

You can make a one off donation

- by sending a cheque to the Treasurer, at BRICUP, BM BRICUP, London, WC1N 3XX, UK
- by making a bank transfer to BRICUP
Sort Code 08-92-99
Account Number 65156591
IBAN = GB20 CPBK 0892 9965 1565 91
BIC = CPBK GB22

Like all organisations, while we welcome one off donations, we can plan our work better if people pledge regular payments by standing order. You can download a standing order form from www.bricup.org.uk/documents/StandingOrder.pdf

More details from treasurer@bricup.org.uk

Comments and suggestions concerning the Newsletter are always welcome.

Email to newsletter@bricup.org.uk