

## What are we doing?

We have now had three visits to Palestine, and in September 2007 our first delegation from Palestine visited Brighton for a week of meetings, workshops and events.

We keep in regular contact with our friends in Palestine and are now starting to work on some longer term projects. We are selling soap, zat'ar, and handicrafts made in Tubas, sharing information and experiences and supporting many solidarity activities.

Our friends in Tubas are keen to have visitors from Brighton staying there on a regular basis, either on delegations, or for longer periods of time to volunteer. In April 07 a member spent two weeks supporting villagers in the Jordan Valley who had been threatened with the demolition of their homes by the Israeli Army. In September 07 two members went to the Jordan Valley to provide international support for the building of a new school in Fasayil village. The village committee had decided to build the school in April 07 to assert the right of their children to education despite Israeli military law preventing them from building any permanent structures. The school will therefore be illegal and could be demolished at any time by the Israeli military. In Brighton we raised £1500 for the building of the school. The villagers began making bricks from mud and clay in August and our volunteers travelled out there to support the project.

## I would like to get involved

Name.....

Contact phone number

.....

Email or postal address

.....

.....

I can help by:

- Inviting a speaker to my group
- Distributing information to people I know
- Helping at fundraising events (preparing food, selling tickets, serving in the bar, etc)
- Taking flyers and posters to cafes and other venues in the City
- Designing/printing leaflets and posters
- Updating the website
- Selling produce from Palestine
- Visiting Palestine to volunteer or on a delegation
- Editing video footage
- Other .....

Return to:

Brighton Tubas FSG  
c/o PSC,  
Brighton Peace and Environment Centre,  
39-41 Surrey Street,  
Brighton, BN1 3PB

Tel: 07984 438655

Email: [tubas@brightonpalestine.org](mailto:tubas@brightonpalestine.org)

Website: <http://tubas.brightonpalestine.org>

# Brighton Tubas Friendship and Solidarity Group



**building grassroots links  
between Brighton and the  
Tubas region in Palestine**

## Who are we?

The Brighton Tubas Friendship and Solidarity Group was set up in May 2006 following a visit to Palestine by two people from Brighton.

We work with people at a grassroots level in Brighton and Tubas region of Palestine. We aim to develop solidarity and friendship by:

- \* Exchanging experiences, photos and information.
- \* Phone and video links.
- \* Supporting projects in Tubas by providing contacts or fundraising .
- \* Delegations from Brighton to Tubas so we can see the realities of the occupation and local Palestinian initiatives to survive economically and challenge the brutal apartheid system.
- \* Delegations from Tubas to Brighton so far more people can hear the so often silenced stories of ordinary Palestinian people.
- \* Volunteers travelling to Tubas for extended periods of time.
- \* Actively supporting the Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment campaign as a form of non-violent action we can take to pressurise the Israeli government to end its theft and occupation of Palestinian land.

## Why Tubas?

Tubas region is approximately 24km across and 28km north to south. It spreads from Tubas town, in the northern hills of the Israeli occupied West Bank, over to the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley.

Traditionally most of the people are farmers, travelling from the town to their land in the Jordan Valley. However, 95% of the land and 98% of the water in the Jordan Valley has been taken from the Palestinians since 1967 and is now controlled by the Israeli Army and Israeli settlers. Palestinians struggling to survive often have no choice but to work in the Israeli settlements.

In Palestinian villages the people have lost nearly all their land and many have had their houses demolished. There is very little health care, education is limited, there are no phone lines or public transport, often there is no electricity.

The Jordan Valley can only be accessed from Tubas via Israeli Army check-points, which Palestinians cannot go through unless they have a Jordan Valley ID (which are only issued to existing residents of the Valley) – a situation reminiscent of the apartheid South African pass laws.

Israel's clear intention is total annexation of the entire Jordan Valley. It is urgent that people know about this and act to prevent it.

## Who is involved?

Our focus is on grassroots activity, and we welcome any groups or individuals who support our aims. So far we have successfully built links with the following groups:

### Groups in Tubas and the Jordan Valley

- \* Tubas Women's Group
- \* Tubas Prisoners' Society
- \* Students and lecturers from Al Quds Open University in Tubas
- \* Palestinian Red Crescent Society
- \* Tubas Co-operative of Livestock Farmers
- \* A cooperative of farmers in the northern Jordan Valley
- \* Stop the Wall
- \* Al Jiftlik tent school
- \* Bardala School
- \* Teachers from Tubas schools
- \* Villagers in Fasayal village

### Groups in Brighton

- \* Amnesty International
- \* Brighton Quakers
- \* UNISON (B&H City Council Branch)
- \* Supplementary Arabic School
- \* Muslim Women's Group
- \* University of Sussex Students Union
- \* Palestine Solidarity Campaign
- \* Sussex Action For Peace