

Medical Aid for Palestinians works for the health and dignity of Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees.

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

WITNESS

50 YEARS OF OCCUPATION

TIME FOR
ACTION



SUMMER 2017



DEAR READER

This is my first edition of *Witness* as the new CEO of Medical Aid for Palestinians. I have returned to MAP after almost three years, having formerly been MAP's Director of Advocacy and Communications.

I have re-joined the charity at a critical time for Palestinians. This year marks 50 years of Israel's military occupation and 10 years of tightened blockade and closure in Gaza. Last year ended with a sliver of hope in the form of UN Security Council Resolution 2334, which condemned Israel's settlement enterprise and highlighted its obligations as the occupying power. Yet 2017 has so far provided few reasons for optimism. The Israeli authorities continue to demolish Palestinian homes at an alarming rate, while simultaneously expanding illegal settlements in the West Bank, including the announcement of the intention to build the first new settlement for 20 years. In Gaza, the closure has tightened further, not least for patients attempting to access urgent care outside.

Meanwhile, Palestinians in Lebanon continue to be forgotten by the rest of the world amid ongoing crises in the Middle East. In neighbouring Syria war rages on, with Palestinian refugees amongst those hit hardest. Thousands have been killed, and more than 70,000 have risked their lives on perilous routes to Europe seeking shelter and a better life.

At a time when MAP's work is so crucial, it is revitalising to return to an organisation that can reach out to more Palestinians than ever before.

MAP's training projects are ensuring that patients in Gaza can access high-quality modern care inside the beleaguered enclave, so that fewer are forced to endure the lottery of Israel's permit regime to access care outside. We are set to launch a second Burns Unit in the West Bank, bringing specialised care closer to people who would otherwise have to travel many hours to receive it. In Lebanon, our team of midwives are bringing comfort to pregnant women, mothers and babies living in the marginalised Palestinian camps.

We also continue to raise our voices against ongoing violations of Palestinian rights to health and dignity. With no political solution on the immediate horizon, it is ever more vital that governments like the UK take meaningful action to help end the protracted occupation of Palestinian territory and the obstacles it poses to Palestinian health and well being. In March, however, the UK Government showed a lack of will to do so when it failed to support UN Human Rights Council resolutions on the issues of illegal settlements and accountability for violations of international law in the occupied Palestinian territory.

We are encouraging all MAP supporters to join with Palestinians as they demand health and dignity, and to show your support by joining our campaign, and taking part in our 50 Days of Action starting this May. You can read about how you can get involved – and about the work our teams are doing in Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank – inside this edition of *Witness*.

MAP is providing hope and care to those who need it most. This is only possible thanks to you and our many other generous supporters. Thank you.

AIMEE SHALAN
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Aid for Palestinians

**50 DAYS
OF ACTION**

15 MAY – 3 JULY

To mark 50 years of occupation, we are encouraging supporters to show their support, make their voices heard and raise funds during 50 days of action.

Whatever you choose to do, please show your support for our campaign and enable us to continue working for the health and dignity of Palestinians.

map.org.uk/50days
#50DAYSOFACTION

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 EDITORIAL**
Aimee Shalan
- 2 SITUATION OVERVIEW**
A round-up of what is happening across MAP's areas of operation
- 3-4 WEST BANK**
Bringing burns treatment closer
- 5-6 GAZA**
The blockade tightens for Gaza's patients
- 7-8 TIME FOR ACTION**
A call from Palestinians in the 50th year of the occupation
- 9-10 LEBANON**
MAP's midwives in Lebanon: caring for future generations
- 11-12 PHOTO STORY**
Give it up for Palestine: Photos from event and filming trip
- 13-14 SUPPORTING MAP**
- 15 MAP NEWS**



Front cover photograph: Young people raise the Palestinian flag over the wall between the Israeli settlement of Har Gilo and the West Bank town of Al-Walaja
Ryan Rodrick Beiler / Shutterstock.com

GAZA

Medical permit approvals reach alarming low

The latest figures from the World Health Organization (WHO) show that medical referral permits to exit Gaza through the Erez crossing are becoming harder for patients to obtain. In 2016, the Israeli authorities' rate of approvals dropped from a high of 78% in January to just 42% in December.

In January this year a Palestinian child with a congenital heart defect, Ahmed Hasan Shubeir, died after being denied a medical referral permit to exit Gaza for urgent treatment.



LEBANON

Renewed violence in Palestinian refugee camp

The Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el Helweh was rocked by violence in February and again in April. A number of Palestinians were killed and dozens injured, and families were displaced from their homes. UNRWA was forced to suspend its services, including health services, during the fighting.

Tensions and inter-factional clashes continue in the camp, despite the agreement between Lebanese security forces and Palestinian factions to maintain stability.



WEST BANK

Continued settlement expansion despite international condemnation

At the end of 2016, the UN Security Council passed resolution 2334, reaffirming the illegality of settlements. The Israeli Government has since announced plans to build 6,000 new settlement housing units and the first entirely new settlement for 20 years.

In February the Israeli Knesset passed the Regularisation Bill, aiming to retroactively 'legalise' settlement outposts in the West Bank built on privately-owned Palestinian land. This is the first time that Israeli legislation has been created solely to apply to the occupied Palestinian territory, representing a significant step towards the annexation of Palestinian land.



WEST BANK

Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes highest since records began

In 2016, Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes and property reached its highest rate since records began, with the authorities demolishing or seizing 1,089 Palestinian-owned structures throughout the West Bank and East Jerusalem, displacing 1,593 Palestinians.

This alarming trend has continued into 2017, with the number of Palestinian buildings demolished in the first week of January almost four times as high as the weekly average for 2016.

BRINGING BURNS TREATMENT CLOSER



The Burns Unit Team at Alia Hospital, Hebron

Israel's protracted occupation of Palestinian territory is back in the news after years of being eclipsed by other crises in the region.

Since the start of the year, President Donald Trump has expressed his support for moving the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem; the Israeli Knesset voted to approve a law which would allow the expropriation of private Palestinian land in the West Bank for settlements; and the demolition of Palestinian homes has continued to accelerate.

Despite the increased attention to the occupied Palestinian territory in 2017, these developments are just the latest facets of an occupation which, in June, marks its 50 year anniversary.



Checkpoints delay and prevent Palestinian patients from accessing vital medical services

IN 2016

MAP AND INTERBURNS PROVIDED BURNS TREATMENT TRAINING TO 29 SURGEONS, NURSES & PHYSIOS

Everyday life in the West Bank is a story of barriers: to movement, to rights, and to dignity. Since the occupation began in 1967, the West Bank has been cut up by over 500 movement obstacles, including some 70 manned checkpoints and 77 roadblocks, as well as earth mounds, trenches and other barriers. Israel has also erected 406km of separation wall, cutting East Jerusalem off from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory and bisecting entire communities.

These barriers can turn even the simplest journey into an ordeal; from children going to school to patients reaching hospitals.

BARRIERS TO HEALTH

The accessibility of healthcare is a fundamental element of the right to health. Quality of treatment is rendered meaningless if a patient is unable to physically get to the place where it is available.

Israel formally – and illegally – annexed East Jerusalem in 1980. The city's encirclement by the wall and checkpoints now means that Palestinians without an Israeli-issued Jerusalem I.D. must apply for a permit to enter.

Some specialist services, such as radiotherapy and open heart surgery,

are unavailable outside the six major hospitals in East Jerusalem. This means that any patient needing these treatments must apply to the Israeli authorities for a permit to reach them, as must any family member wishing to accompany them to provide comfort and support.

This is compounded by the delays caused to ambulances at checkpoints. When patients travelling to East Jerusalem reach one of the checkpoints entering the city, they must endure the 'back-to-back' transfer process, moving from a Palestinian-registered ambulance to an Israeli-registered one, even in emergencies.

In an emergency, every second counts when getting to hospital. But checkpoints add more than seconds to these journeys. Between October and December 2015, the Palestine Red Crescent Society recorded that the average delay to emergency patients undergoing this 'back-to-back' process was 27 minutes.

A RACE AGAINST TIME

Burns are a prevalent health risk in the West Bank. Whether caused by industrial accidents, house fires or even arson attacks by settlers, they can cause



RICHARD GRAY

FROM PALESTINE TO BANGLADESH

Heba and Yana are both nurses working at the Alia Hospital in Hebron. Last year MAP supported them to travel to Bangladesh with Interburns to receive on-the-job training in burns care in resource-poor environments with Interburns. In the final assessment, the two nurses scored the highest of all the participants.

We spoke to Heba on her return to Palestine, to hear what she had learned from the experience:

"In the hospital in Bangladesh we got hands-on experience dealing with the patients. Seeing a whole hospital just for burns patients in Bangladesh makes me believe we will be able to offer great care to the patients coming to the burns unit in Alia hospital [in Hebron]. They have very limited resources in Bangladesh, but they are so creative in finding solutions and optimising care with what they have. We need to do the same in Palestine."



I learned more about dressings for burns patients, the psychological support they need, and about nutrition. After completing the training, I feel confident that I'll be able to give the best care, and am hoping to share my knowledge with my colleagues in Palestine and to become a trainer myself.

Before I took this training I felt a bit scared to work in burns because it is one of the most difficult fields, but now I feel that I can do it. It was a unique opportunity and essential to guarantee the success of the newly established burns unit."

"I feel confident that I'll be able to give the best care, and am hoping to share my knowledge with my colleagues in Palestine and to become a trainer myself."

Heba

extreme pain and have serious lifelong effects.

MAP has long recognised these risks and helped to establish the West Bank's first dedicated Burns Unit at the Rafidia Hospital in Nablus. We continue to provide the unit and its staff with the equipment and training needed to deliver modern and effective care to Palestinians with complex and life-threatening injuries.

But with the imposition of a network of checkpoints and roadblocks, it can take burns victims from elsewhere in the West Bank many hours to reach this unit.

This is particularly true for residents of the southern city of Hebron. The presence of several hundred Israeli settlers in the centre of the city ensures a heavy military presence there. The movement of Palestinians is therefore constrained by the presence of over 100 barriers and checkpoints both inside the city and on the roads leading outside.

This means that a journey of just 50 miles from Hebron to Nablus can sometimes take many hours. A person from Hebron suffering severe burns may therefore be forced to endure an excruciating wait for treatment.

Every delay also increases the chance of infection, sepsis and other fatal complications. Improving access to care for those living in the south is therefore critical to saving lives.

BRINGING CARE CLOSER

Recognising this serious gap in care, MAP has partnered with the Welfare Association and the Palestinian Ministry of Health to develop a second Burns Unit at Alia Hospital in Hebron. When it opens, it will be able to provide first-class burns care for around one million people living in the southern West Bank.

The unit is now equipped to help burns victims recover safely. Isolation units in the centre have a closed air conditioning system to minimise the risk of airborne bacterial infection, while a specially designed children's room allows younger patients to play safely as they recover.

Burns treatment is a complex medical specialty, so MAP worked with Interburns to provide training to 29 surgeons, nurses and physiotherapists. The trainees learned the essentials of scar management, burn prevention, reconstructive surgery and assessment.

We have also trained two instructors to teach Essential Burns Care to staff at primary health clinics across the West Bank. This will ensure Palestinians can access basic treatment for burns wherever they are.

Barriers to movement mean barriers to healthcare. Ultimately, the only way to ensure that all Palestinians can access timely treatment is to remove the restrictions they have faced for 50 years, and the occupation of which they are a part.

Until that point, with your support, MAP will continue to work with partners to bring care closer to the people who need it.



RICHARD GRAY

The Burns Unit at Alia Hospital, Hebron, is equipped to help burns victims recover safely in the south of the West Bank

BURNS UNIT APPEAL

Thank you to all those who supported our Burns Unit Appeal earlier this year.

Your support has helped to ensure that the new unit in Hebron has the items it needs to treat patients.



Follow MAP on Twitter @MedicalAidPal

THE BLOCKADE TIGHTENS FOR GAZA'S PATIENTS

For several years, the UN has warned that Gaza could be 'unliveable' by 2020. As people residing there mark ten years under Israel's blockade and closure of Gaza in June, many would argue that this is already the case.

After a decade of closure, Israel continues to impose restrictions on the movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza. The economy has been severely weakened, to the point that 42% of people are unemployed, and 80% of people are reliant on some form of humanitarian aid to meet their basic needs.

Even the most basic of resources are hard to come by. Many residents contend with 12-16 hours of electricity cuts every single day. A staggering 95% of water in Gaza is unsafe to drink.

Within a decade of suffocating closure, Gaza has also witnessed three large-scale military assaults and numerous incursions, resulting in the deaths of more than 3,700 people and tens of thousands of injuries. More than 47,000 people remain homeless nearly three years on from the last major offensive, when their houses were destroyed.

The health sector in Gaza has not been spared the impact of conflict and blockade. 139 hospitals and clinics and 84 ambulances have been damaged or destroyed in conflict, putting medics themselves on the front lines. In total, 39 medical personnel have lost their lives while seeking to provide care to the wounded during attacks.

Gaza's medical professionals show remarkable commitment to their work in the most difficult of circumstances. But despite their dedication, the blockade and Gaza's economic woes mean that they lack the resources or equipment they need to provide adequate care to a population of almost two million people.

HOSPITALS OUT OF REACH

With the health sector struggling to cope, it is vital that patients are able to travel to hospitals outside of Gaza. Access to Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem is particularly important, as they can provide certain treatments and specialisms – such as heart operations and radiotherapy – unavailable anywhere else in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Last year, over a third of all patients applying to the Israeli authorities for a permit to exit Gaza were either denied or did not receive a response in time for their appointments. Family members seeking to accompany patients to their appointments are also often denied, or face security interrogations at the Erez crossing. The Rafah crossing with Egypt – the only other exit for people in Gaza – remains closed almost year-round.

MAP's Director of Programmes in Gaza, Fikr Shalltoot, explains the impact of these restrictions: "The blockade on



A young Palestinian girl being treated after a traffic accident in a MAP-funded burns unit

Gaza is life-threatening for critically ill patients who have to wait days or weeks to get permits to reach their hospitals in the West Bank," she says. "Unfortunately, sometimes permits come too late."

Behind each denial or missed appointment is a personal story of a patient for whom care is available somewhere, but that they cannot reach.

"Apart from the pain and anxiety of being ill, patients in Gaza are always stressed and uncertain about the availability of their treatment in the Gaza hospitals," says Fikr.

"No matter what, patients must be able to access treatment. It's a basic right for any human being in the world."

DECEMBER 2016

ONLY 42% OF PATIENTS APPLYING TO LEAVE VIA EREZ WERE

APPROVED

LOWEST RATE IN 7 YEARS



RICHARD GRAY

Through training programmes MAP supports patients to access high-quality specialist care inside Gaza, reducing reliance on an unfair and uncertain permit regime



RICHARD GRAY

Unit at Nasser hospital, Gaza City

DOCTORS DENIED

Medical personnel – doctors, nurses, radiologists and others – suffer the same restrictions on movement as their patients. They are often denied opportunities to leave Gaza to train alongside their peers in other areas of Palestine or abroad, and therefore to improve their skills or learn the latest care techniques.

A decade of blockade has therefore left Gaza largely cut off, not just from the West Bank and East Jerusalem, but from the world. With no political situation in sight, reducing the need for patients to be referred out of Gaza is vital for saving money for the beleaguered health sector and, more importantly, possibly saving lives of patients themselves.

The medicines and equipment MAP provides to Gaza's hospitals are essential to meeting the immediate needs of sick and injured people. But it is through our training programmes that MAP is able to ensure patients can access high-quality specialist care inside Gaza for years to come, and reduce reliance on an unfair and uncertain permit regime.

IN 2016

MAP-SUPPORTED
LIMB
RECONSTRUCTION
UNIT AT AL SHIFA
HOSPITAL
IN GAZA SAW

144
PATIENTS
AND PERFORMED

55
SURGERIES
FOR PEOPLE
WITH COMPLEX
ORTHOPAEDIC
INJURIES

MAP partners with a number of institutions in the UK to take expert trainers into Gaza, to provide experience and skills teaching which would otherwise be unavailable. In the past year, this programme has gone from strength to strength.

In 2016, we provided neonatal life support training to 94 medics – doctors, nurses and other staff – to help reduce mortality among Gaza's youngest residents. Thirty-two medics from Gaza received sterilisation and hospital hygiene training, helping to reduce the rate of infections and improve patient safety. Seventy medics learned Primary Trauma Care techniques, so that they are able to respond to emergencies and crises which are all-too-frequent in Gaza. More than 50 physiotherapists also received training in the latest specialist techniques to help those recovering from injuries and illness.

Thanks to the help of supporters like you, MAP is working to ensure that Gaza's inspirational medical workforce is able to access the knowledge they need to provide the quality of care Palestinians deserve.

THE LONG JOURNEY HOME TO GAZA

Exiting Gaza is only part of the ordeal medical professionals face when training abroad. Getting back home can be equally challenging.

As the occupying power, Israel has an obligation to ensure free movement of humanitarian personnel. Israel's frequent denial of exit permits for doctors and medics seeking to travel for training and professional development forces many to exit and return to Gaza through the Rafah crossing with Egypt, which is closed most of the year.

This is the ordeal which faced Marwan*, a Theatre Nurse who was supported by MAP and IDEALS to undertake a fellowship in London in 2016, when returning to Gaza through Egypt:

When Marwan landed at Cairo airport, he was immediately detained. He was interrogated at the airport, his passport and phone were taken from him, and he was kept in a filthy room crowded with 35 other Palestinians and 20 people of other nationalities. He was forced to pay 300 Egyptian Pounds (GB£15) for a 30 second phone call to his wife to let her know what had happened.

Marwan was kept there for 25 hours before being released and allowed to board a crowded bus to the Rafah crossing with 50 other Palestinians. They were questioned and had their luggage searched at three checkpoints along the 15 hour journey. Others on the bus had items stolen from their luggage, and one woman had her phone smashed by a guard when she tried to film this happening.

Finally at the Palestinian border, Marwan was held for a further seven hours before he was eventually allowed to cross, at 2am.

The journey home took 60 hours, an ordeal of constant anxiety, no sleep, and increasing despair.

*Name anonymised to protect identity.

A CALL FROM PALESTINIANS ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCCUPATION

WE DEMAND HEALTH & DIGNITY FOR PALESTINIANS

Life under Israel's military occupation means dealing with constant restrictions to the basic freedoms which should guarantee our health and dignity.

Our day-to-day movement is restricted by checkpoints and permits, we are denied access to adequate healthcare, and we are frequently at risk of being killed or injured in conflict or violent attacks from settlers.

This year marks 50 years of this occupation and 10 years of Israel's suffocating closure of Gaza.

Health and dignity are not gifts to be earned; they are basic rights. They are not denied to us by natural disaster, but instead by a prolonged, man-made crisis – the longest military occupation in the world today.

International support can help us attain these rights.

The UK Government continues to wield influence on the world stage, and has a historical responsibility towards the rights of Palestinians. It can, and must, support a brighter future for Palestinians based on humanitarian principles and international law.

Please help us call on the UK government to support Palestinian health and dignity by taking action to end Israel's occupation.

MAP will deliver a joint call between Palestinian and British people to the UK Government later this year, demanding an end to the occupation of Palestine and the blockade of Gaza.





To join the call for health and dignity, sign up at map.org.uk/actnow

TIME FOR ACTION

MAP'S MIDWIVES IN LEBANON: CARING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



Children outside their homes in Nahr el Bared camp, one of 12 refugee camps served by MAP's home-visiting midwifery service

While Palestinians across the West Bank and Gaza will be marking half a century living under Israel's military occupation this June, Palestinian refugees living in the region and around the world will be looking ahead to another troubling anniversary on the horizon.

Next year will mark 70 years of the 'Nakba' or 'catastrophe'; when more than 700,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes in 1948. As hundreds



One of MAP's community midwives with a baby during a home visit.

of Palestinian towns and villages were depopulated and destroyed amid bloodshed and reported massacres, refugees fled into the West Bank, Gaza, and across borders to neighbouring countries.

In 2017, a quarter of the world's refugees are Palestinian. UNRWA – the UN agency responsible for providing them with humanitarian assistance – estimates that there are 5.15 million Palestinian refugees living in the occupied Palestinian territory, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Many of these refugee families are now three or even four generations into their exile. Countless Palestinians have lived their lives without ever seeing their homes.

For the 452,000 Palestinians registered in Lebanon, the effects of displacement are particularly keenly felt. Refugees are denied many of the basic civil rights granted to Palestinians in other countries. They cannot own property, are barred from working in certain professions, and contend with high rates of unemployment and poverty. The education and health services UNRWA provides are severely stretched by the arrival of tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees fleeing Syria's destructive civil war.

IN 2016

MAP'S
TEAM OF
MIDWIVES
MADE

4,015
ANTE-NATAL VISITS

4,375
POST-NATAL VISITS

4,521
INFANT VISITS

TO A TOTAL OF
3,210

WOMEN &
INFANTS

1,516
BABIES
WERE BORN



BABIES AT RISK

Lebanon's youngest Palestinian refugees are often those who are worst affected by these conditions. Though the rate of infant mortality has declined significantly in the last 20 years, it remains troublingly high. In 2006, 26 out of every 1,000 babies under the age of one died. In comparison, the infant mortality rate in the UK that year was one fifth of that figure, at 4.9 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The 12 refugee camps in which the majority of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon live offer scant resources or services for mothers and their young children. MAP provides the only home-visiting midwifery service in the camps, providing advice and care for mothers through pregnancy and to their children after birth.

Our dedicated team of community midwives are able to provide evidence-based baby-care advice, encourage breastfeeding, and respond to the many questions new mothers have. They also monitor the development of new babies, and can identify potential problems and refer children on for specialist care.



MAP runs maternal and child health awareness sessions

The team is helping to keep Palestinian babies healthy in Lebanon. They have helped to increase breast-feeding rates, reduce anaemia and decrease the rate of high-risk pregnancies. In recognition of their exceptional work, last year the team received the Shield of the Order of Lebanese Midwives.

CARE DESPITE THE CLASHES

In addition to overcrowded conditions and limited opportunities, in recent years residents of Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, Ein el Helweh, have had to endure regular violent clashes between rival militant factions operating inside the camp.

In December 2016 and February 2017 several residents were killed or injured. UNRWA was forced to suspend many of its services during the fighting, closing schools and clinics.

Many families fled their homes, seeking refuge in the surroundings of the camps until the fighting stopped. Meanwhile the work of MAP's community midwives continued, as they visited some of the mothers and children among these displaced families, providing much-needed comfort and care even during times of severe insecurity.

NOT FORGOTTEN

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are rarely on the global agenda, especially amid the many crises affecting the Middle East. Nevertheless, their humanitarian needs remain acute.

After nearly 70 years, an entirely new generation of Palestinians is being born into exile. It is only thanks to our supporters MAP is able to continue providing these services. MAP's midwives are helping pregnant women, mothers and babies access the basic healthcare they need, and ensuring that they are not forgotten.

"When I was visiting a mother, I noticed that her newborn baby had a serious respiratory problem. I referred the mother to the doctor and the baby was admitted to the intensive care unit for ten days. I feel like I helped save that baby's life."

MAP community midwife

ROLA'S STORY

Rola, a Palestinian refugee who received visits from the community midwives, recently spoke to MAP's team in Lebanon about the impact this service has had on her and her family.

Rola used to live with her husband's family in a spacious apartment in Nahr el Bared Camp in North Lebanon until the camp was almost entirely destroyed in the 2007 conflict there. Afterwards, she and her husband were allocated a container home, meant to provide temporary shelter for no more than a couple of years. They have been living there ever since, and are unable to afford to live elsewhere.

When Rola first became pregnant, she was enrolled in MAP's Maternal and Child Health programme. She was shy and quiet when she first met the midwives, but was eager to learn more about pregnancy and infant care. Now, the midwife says, she is confident and understands how to take care of

herself and her children, despite the family's difficult circumstances.

Rola says that the midwife's support and their evidence-based advice have been important to her and her children's well being. *"During my first pregnancy, I was scared and didn't know anything about what to expect. I was scared to even hold my baby,"* she told MAP. *"The midwife taught me everything."*

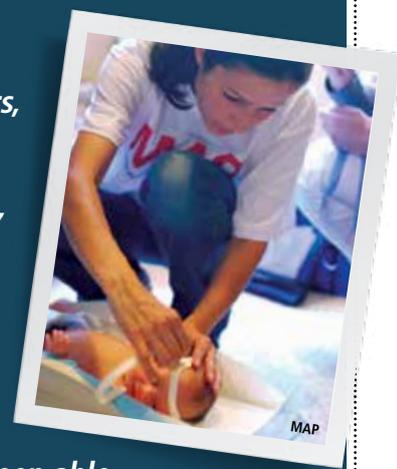
The care she received ensured that Rola continued to apply the midwife's advice in her second pregnancy.

The midwives often report that the women they see feel able to share their worries and concerns about things they cannot tell other people, such as cases of family violence. When such issues come up, they endeavour to help.

Rola also expressed the importance of the midwives' care and discretion: *"The midwife is the only one that I can talk freely to."*

"I feel particularly happy when working with first time mothers, who are often confused by all the traditional and sometimes unsound baby-care advice they hear. They look forward to our visits to learn sound and scientific information."

MAP community midwife



"I don't know how I would've been able to go through this complicated pregnancy in these difficult circumstances without the midwife's follow up and support."

Beneficiary of MAP's midwifery project



"I feel happier now I have the midwife. Hearing my baby's heartbeat is the best bit!"

Beneficiary of MAP's midwifery project

EVENT

"GIVE IT UP FOR PALESTINE"

In February, comedians and supporters came together for a special night of comedy at London's Leicester Square theatre to launch MAP's Health and Dignity campaign, marking the 50 year anniversary of the occupation, and 10 years of blockade and closure of Gaza.

Jeremy Hardy was our Master of Ceremonies for the night, and hosted an all-star line-up of comedians, including Bill Bailey, Alexei Sayle, Sara Pascoe, Imran Yusuf and Shazia Mirza. As Jeremy Hardy reflected before going on stage, *"hopefully this is an entertaining evening for people where they can learn a bit about [the situation in Palestine] and get fired up as well."*

Proceeds from the night went to MAP's projects providing health and medical care for Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees. We would like to thank everyone who took part in the event and who contributed to making it a huge success.

WATCH OUR HIGHLIGHTS FILM HERE:
map.org.uk/GIU4P



Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/MedicalAidforPalestinians



Alexei Sayle making the crowd laugh at Give it Up for Palestine

RICHARD GRAY



Imran Yusuf (left) and Jeremy Hardy (right) back stage after performing at MAP's comedy event

RICHARD GRAY



Bill Bailey performing at Give it Up for Palestine

RICHARD GRAY



Sara Pascoe performing at Give it Up for Palestine

RICHARD GRAY



Shazia Mirza performing at MAP's comedy event

RICHARD GRAY

INTERVIEW

JEREMY AND IMRAN IN PALESTINE



Earlier this year comedians Jeremy Hardy and Imran Yusuf went with members of the MAP team to visit our projects and witness what half a century of occupation means for the Palestinians who have endured it.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW ARAB, JEREMY REFLECTED ON THEIR TRIP

"First of all we went to Hebron which was formerly the largest city in Palestine and a very vibrant economic centre. Now it is completely devastated because of the settlements.

It was the first place that settlements were built – after the 1967 war. Now the life of the Palestinians has basically been shut down more or less completely by settlers. The situation is like a microcosm of the West Bank.

We also went to the Jordan valley and met Bedouin there who are helped by a MAP-funded visiting clinic – which is basically a white van with a clinic in it – and went to Silwad where we met a lady whose land had been confiscated by settlers.

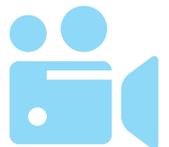
The point of this trip was not just to look at what MAP is doing but how the occupation impacts on people.

For example we met with paramedics who explained that in order to go from Ramallah to the main Palestinian hospital in Jerusalem, the Makassed, Palestinians have to go through a checkpoint. If they are in an ambulance they have to be transferred from one ambulance in a holding area on the Ramallah side into another that has come from the Jerusalem side.

People die because they don't reach the hospital in time. People also miss appointments all the time because of getting held up at the checkpoints, for example for not having the right paperwork...

It just highlights the brutality of the occupation in the way it just makes ordinary, everyday life things that we take for granted impossible.

The wall is just this feature that you can't avoid seeing. It is just this hideous thing that just divides people from their businesses, their land, from their families."



You can watch Jeremy and Imran on their travels around the West Bank in a short documentary at: map.org.uk/HUOfilm

50 DAYS OF ACTION

15 MAY – 3 JULY 2017



Find our more: www.map.org.uk/50days



To mark 50 years of the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza, MAP will be holding our 50 Days of Action between 15 May – 3 July 2017. Symbolically starting on Nakba Day, these 50 Days will include the 50th anniversary of the occupation which began in 1967 and the 10th anniversary of the blockade and closure of Gaza.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please check out our website, Facebook and Twitter for further information and updates.

DATE	EVENT
15 MAY	Nakba Day (1948), start of the 50 Days of Action
18 MAY	MAP Gala Dinner
27 MAY – 25 JUNE	Remember MAP during Ramadan
5 JUNE	50 year anniversary of the Occupation (1967)
14 JUNE	10 years of the blockade and closure of Gaza (2007)
17 SEPTEMBER	Anniversary of Sabra and Shatila Massacre (1982) in response to which MAP was formed
1 NOVEMBER	MAP Parliamentary reception in London
2 NOVEMBER	100 years since the signing of the Balfour Declaration
29 NOVEMBER	70 years since the UN Partition Plan (1947), and International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
11 DECEMBER	UN Resolution 194 is signed (1948), guaranteeing Palestinian refugees the right to return



Over this period, we would like as many people as possible to take part in events for MAP, in order to raise awareness and funds for our work supporting Palestinians still living under occupation or as refugees.

If you would like to get involved, there are many ways you can act: hold a cake sale at work, organise a bucket collection with your community group or take part in a sponsored event with friends. We have more suggestions for how you can get involved or come up with ideas of your own. Whatever you choose to do, our fundraising team are on hand to make sure you have all the materials and advice you need to make your fundraising action a huge success.



For more fundraising top tips, sponsor forms, or any questions please don't hesitate to call us on 020 7226 4114

We will share photos from these events in the next edition of Witness magazine. If you would like your event featured, please let us know as soon as possible, and don't forget to send us your photos.

Send photos to: fundraising@map.org.uk



OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you!

The work of MAP is only possible thanks to the generosity and dedication of our supporters. We are very grateful to everyone who supports our work, whether through donations, fundraising or campaigning. Your contribution is invaluable in helping to improve the health and medical care provided to Palestinians living under occupation or as refugees. A huge THANK YOU to all our supporters.

Just a few examples of the inspirational action being taken by MAP supporters:

- **Tom Gibson** from Galashiels, took part in the Edinburgh Mens 10K and is planning to join our London to Glasgow: Cycle for Palestine event and the Edinburgh Spartan Race this year.

"Raising the money for MAP and knowing the money will help provide care to those who need it most is one of the proudest things I have done. I can safely say I have now got the bug to continue my fundraising for MAP"

Tom Gibson

- **Scottish MAP** held a fundraising day in Edinburgh with coffee and cake stalls and opportunities to buy Palestinian embroidery and food, raising over £7,000.
- Singers from **Raised Voices Choir** in London performed at a bucket collection outside Earl's Court station and raised £250.



Dance For Palestine

- **Supporters in Bristol** organised a Dance For Palestine event in Bristol and raised £430.
- On 31 March, **Ruth Griffith** ran the Palestine Half-Marathon in Bethlehem, raising £1,325 for MAP projects.



Tom Gibson



Ruth Griffith

- Attendees at the **St George's Global Health Conference 2017** joined our campaign in calling for #HealthAndDignity for Palestinians.

- **Susanna Wadeson Odell**, along with her daughter and 16 others, took part in a sponsored walk along Abraham's Path in West Bank, Palestine and raised £1,048.

- **Medical Students from University of East Anglia** organised a JailBreak challenge, where MedSoc Students took on the challenge of venturing as far away from campus as possible within 24 hours. The winning team made it all the way to Toulouse and all together the teams raised over £4,000.



UEA Medical students

WE DEMAND
HEALTH
&
DIGNITY
FOR PALESTINIANS

GET ONLINE
AND SUPPORT

#HEALTHANDDIGNITY
FOR PALESTINIANS



We join Palestinians in their demand for Health and Dignity and would like to encourage supporters to get online and show their support for the campaign as well.

You can print out the Health and Dignity campaign board from our website at: map.org.uk/HDphoto and post a photo of yourself and your friends with the board on Twitter and Facebook, with the hashtag #HealthAndDignity. Anyone who posts their image with the board on social media will be in with a chance of being selected to join us at an event at the Houses of Parliament later in the year to be personally thanked by the MAP President and our new Chief Executive.



If you, your place of worship, community group or company would like to learn more about how you can get involved and help support the work of MAP, please contact us on 020 7226 4114. Email us at fundraising@map.org.uk or visit www.map.org.uk/get-involved to learn more.



Follow MAP
on Twitter @
MedicalAidPal

MAP NEWS

■ MAP INFOGRAPHICS HIGHLIGHT IMPACT OF OCCUPATION ON HEALTH

MAP is issuing a series of briefings and infographics which highlight the different ways in which Israel's 50-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza impact on the health and wellbeing of Palestinians. Here, you can see how the 'back-to-back' transfer process, which patients must undergo when travelling to East Jerusalem in an ambulance, can delay travel for emergency hospital care.

To read the briefings and see our infographics go to map.org.uk/HUO



UK surgeon Shafi Ahmed tweets from Gaza during a visit with MAP and the Royal College of Surgeons in March



Shafi Ahmed
@ShafiAhmed5

First basic surgical skills workshop in #Gaza delivered by @RCSnews @MedicalAidPal #GlobalSurgery

■ NEW MAP VIDEO MARYAM'S STORY

In February, MAP helped expose how Israel's blockade and closure of Gaza is separating children receiving care in East Jerusalem hospitals from parents who struggle to access permits to accompany them. Our film focuses on the story of Maryam, reunited with her mother after being separated for the first six months of her life.

Watch and take action:
map.org.uk/separatedbyblockade



RICHARD GRAY

■ NEW MAP REPORT HEALTH UNDER OCCUPATION

The first three chapters of MAP's new *Health Under Occupation* report are now available online. Chapter 1 focuses on the way Israel's checkpoints and permit regime undermine Palestinians' right to health; Chapter 2 exposes how the cycle of attacks and impunity has damaged the health sector in Gaza and the West Bank; and our third chapter assesses the impact of prolonged occupation on mental health and psychological well being.

Read more: map.org.uk/HUO

■ MAP CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE UN

In March, MAP was at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, meeting with governments and civil society and calling for accountability for attacks on healthcare that have become increasingly frequent in the occupied Palestinian territory and around the world. Though four resolutions were passed in support of Palestinians' human rights, the UK Government abstained from two, including the resolution that focused on accountability.



■ PARLIAMENTARIANS WITNESS 50TH YEAR OF OCCUPATION

In February, MAP and Caabu took our latest delegation of British parliamentarians to the West Bank. The delegates comprised Tommy Sheppard MP (SNP), Baroness Sheehan (LD) and Margaret Ferrier MP (SNP).



Donate online at
www.map.org.uk

Or call today on
020 7226 4114



Follow MAP on Twitter @MedicalAidPal and Facebook www.facebook.com/MedicalAidforPalestinians

33a Islington Park Street
London N1 1QB
info@map.org.uk

Registered Charity no: 1045315

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS