

monitor

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

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

March 2011

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NEWS



MAP Workshop in West Bank

Underlying MAP's programme of projects in Lebanon and the OPT is a commitment to evidence-based best policy and practice, not only producing evidence by evaluating our projects but also making best use of the available research evidence on the health and health care of Palestinians. To that end, MAP's has developed a partnership with the Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH) at Birzeit University in the West Bank, which enabled both MAP and the ICPH to contribute to the 2009 series of articles in the Lancet on Health in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The latest activity in this partnership was a scientific writer's workshop, held at Birzeit on 2-3 March 2010, at which 14 Palestinian researchers presented draft research papers, for constructive criticism and suggestions by a panel of international experts, including Dr Richard Horton, editor of the Lancet, and Professor Graham Watt, chair of MAP's Programme Advisory Panel, along with colleagues from University College London and the Universities of Oslo and McMaster in Canada.

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Cancer Crisis in Gaza

Gaza is suffering chronic shortages of painkillers, surgical equipment and critical drugs, including for chemotherapy due to delays in the approval of drugs bound for Gaza by the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah and restrictions imposed by Israel's blockade. Radiotherapy is not available at all, according to medical sources. As a result, most cancer patients in Gaza have to be referred abroad for treatment, but this process can be costly, time-consuming and bureaucratic.

MAP has been following the case of Mahmoud, a Palestinian from Gaza looking to leave the Strip for a medical referral to treat his cancer. This week MAP spoke with Mahmoud's brother who told us that his condition continues to deteriorate. Mahmoud has his next radio-chemotherapy session on Monday.

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Gaza Referrals Update

87% of all applications to cross Erez checkpoint were approved in February. The remaining 13% of patients had their applications denied or delayed and, subsequently, missed their hospital appointment.

Mahdy Atef Abu Nasser, a 19-year-old Palestinian suffering from kidney problems had a valid permit to cross Erez checkpoint but was detained by the Israeli authorities there. Rafah crossing into Egypt was closed until 20 February. As such, the number of patients travelling to Egyptian hospitals was substantially lower than in previous months.

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GET INVOLVED



Concert: "In the Shadow of Words"

The Association of the Palestinian Community in the UK (APCUK) Invites you to a concert entitled "In the Shadow of Words" Featuring the Palestinian oud players Le Trio Joubran as a tribute to the poet Mahmoud Darwish On Saturday 26th March at Logan Hall, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL.

Tickets are £35, £15 and £10 and can be purchased in advance by contacting APCUK at info@apcuk.org and on phone numbers 07553457457 and 07831225825. It is advisable to buy tickets in advance, since it is unlikely that any tickets will be left by the 26th. Doors are open at: 6.30pm

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Clinicians' Study Tour

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about health care in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Receive analysis from courageous Palestinians and Israelis who recognize the dignity of every human being and seek the end of the Occupation with a just and sustainable peace for people on both sides of the divide.

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Upgrading Gaza's Hospitals

MAP's Communication Officer, James Denselow, is running the Edinburgh Marathon this year to raise money for the upgrade of burns facilities in Palestinian hospitals in Gaza and the West Bank. Please give whatever you can to help him reach his target!

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For more information on MAP's continuing response please sign up to our F-Newsletter -

The Monitor / email us at Info@map-uk.org / or telephone us on 0207 226 4114