



UK Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum (FBFF)

NEWSLETTER NO. 16, OCTOBER 2010

Dear Friend,

Thank you to those who sent us updated contact information, and especially those of you who offered to help. If you know of others who would be interested in receiving our newsletters, please forward this newsletter to them and encourage them to contact us.

Patrons

FBFF is very honoured to have the support of two new and distinguished patrons:

Karen Armstrong is a scholar and writer, who has published more than 20 books on world religions. She was the recipient of the **TED Prize** in 2008 and used the occasion to promote her idea that compassion should play a central role in all religions. She initiated the **Charter for Compassion** to foster better understanding between religions and nations.

Imam Dr Usama Hasan is an imam at Tawhid Mosque, Leyton, and a lecturer in science, engineering and astronomy at Middlesex University and at the Cambridge Muslim College. He is a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. He has *ijaza* (authority to transmit orally) both the Qur'an and the Hadith, and has served as a part-time imam at Tawhid Mosque for more than 20 years. He is a regular commentator in national media representing Islam. Usama served as Director of the City Circle, 2008-09 and is active in interfaith work.



Artwork on show at Southbank

Twenty Palestinian and Israeli members of the women's group within the Bereaved Families Forum spent two days making paper out of materials connected with the conflict. As well as creating artworks they also shared their personal stories as they worked. Read more details on next page...

Events

There are a number of events taking place in November, when four members of the Forum will be in the UK. We hope to see many of you at these events.

Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award

Wednesday 3rd November:

The Parents Circle-Families Forum will receive The [Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award 2010](#). This prestigious award ceremony will take place at the House of Lords, followed by a panel discussion, chaired by Lord Bhikhu Parekh, on how and indeed whether peace is possible through non-violent means. Other panel guests will include Denis Halliday, former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq, Huw Irranca-Davies, MP and patron of FBFF, and representatives of the Parents Circle-Families Forum, Robi Damelin and Ali Abu Awwad, who will receive the award on behalf of the organisation.

Regretfully, this event is by invitation only due to limited space. Other events are open to the public, though booking is needed for some of them:

Fabric of War

Tuesday 5th October to Wednesday 1st December

This is an exhibition of special paper created by 20 Palestinian and Israeli members of the women's group within the Bereaved Families Forum. They spent two days making paper out of materials connected with the conflict to create artworks while sharing their personal stories of the loss of loved ones.

The exhibition can be viewed at the Saison Poetry Library, Level 5 at Royal Festival Hall, Tuesday-Sunday



11am-8pm and also at the library of the Courtauld Institute (Somerset House), Monday-Friday 9.30am-5.30pm. For a special event, see below.

Thursday 4th November, 8.00pm:

Fabric of War talk at the Saison Poetry Library, Level 5, Royal Festival Hall. Four members of the Forum, Seham Abu Awwad and Neta Shemesh who participated in the project, as well as Robi Damelin and Ali Abu Awwad, will talk about the art project and the work and vision of reconciliation of the Bereaved Families Forum.

Admission is free, but prior booking is essential (with a small booking fee).

To book go to: www.southbankcentre.co.uk/find/hayward-gallery-and-visual-arts/talks/tickets/fabric-of-war-artists-talk-55371

Synagogue and mosque meetings

Saturday 6th November:

- ✘ New London Synagogue, 33 Abbey Road, London NW8 0AT.

Everyone is welcome to both the service (commencing at 9.15am) and lunch (probably around 12.45pm). Robi and Ali will be speaking after the service (around 12.00pm) and will have a Q&A session during lunch (all times approximate). Cost of lunch £20 per head. Prior booking essential through New London Synagogue office 020 7328 1026. If you wish, at time of booking the lunch, you may make an extra donation to FBFF for which we would be most grateful.

- ✘ 6.30-10 pm at MCEC – Palmers Green Mosque, Muslim Community and Education Centre, 30 Oakthorpe Road, Palmers Green, London N13 5JL.

People of all faiths are warmly welcome to 'Israel/Palestine, what we need to hear' – an evening with Ali Abu Awwad and Robi Damelin from the Bereaved Families Forum. The film *Encounter Point* ([see the trailer](#)) will be screened at 6.45 sharp so please arrive on time, followed by Q&A and refreshment. Ladies, please dress modestly and have a small headscarf handy if you would like to have a tour around the mosque.

www.mcec.org.uk/

RSVP: info@FamiliesForum.co.uk

Campus tour (8th-9th November)

Monday 8th November:

- ✘ Lunchtime: Robi Damelin and Ali Abu Awwad at Nottingham University
- ✘ Evening: meeting at Manchester University hosted by the Israel-Palestine Forum

Tuesday 9th November:

- ✘ Morning: private meeting with Christian clergy, organised by FODIP (Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine) www.fodip.org
- ✘ Evening: meeting at Birmingham University

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Patrons: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams • The Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks • Juliet Stevenson
Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg • Dr Amineh Hoti • Karen Armstrong • Huw Irranca-Davies MP
Imam Dr Usama Hasan • Lord Janner of Braunstone QC • Rabbi Lionel Blue

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