



MAP

MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

25
YEARS



YEARS

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

"We knew we had to do something to offer a concrete and long-term response to the needs of these refugees."

**Founding Statement,
Medical Aid for Palestinians**

Established in the aftermath of the massacre at Sabra and Shatila, today MAP delivers health and medical care to those worst affected by conflict, occupation and displacement. Working in partnership with local health providers and hospitals, MAP addresses a wide range of health issues and challenges faced by the Palestinian people. With offices located in Beirut, Ramallah and Gaza City, MAP responds rapidly in times of crisis, and works directly with communities in the longer term on health development.

This publication was made possible by a few of MAP's special donors who have asked that their identities remain anonymous. We thank you for your kind and generous support.

A Personal Message

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC President, Medical Aid for Palestinians



Over the past five years I have been honoured to be the President of Medical Aid for Palestinians. As a human rights lawyer, I share with MAP a deep-seated belief in justice, and in my time as President, either when visiting Bedouin settlements in the West Bank or refugee camps in Lebanon, I have seen that after so

many years the Palestinian people are still searching for the most basic of human rights.

On this 25th year anniversary we must celebrate the extraordinary work of MAP, whilst remembering the dire situation that millions of Palestinians are currently enduring.

I applaud MAP's staff and partners and pass on my deepest thanks to those supporters whose commitment and loyalty have funded critically-needed help for those most vulnerable.

The story of MAP is one that reflects the ever changing and always challenging evolution of the Palestinians struggle for their fundamental human rights. From the birth of MAP following the terrible massacre at Sabra and Shatila, through war, siege, dashed hopes and a failed peace process, MAP has always been there and will continue to be there to carry out its work despite any obstacles placed in its path.

Today MAP works across the Middle East providing a wide range of health care as well as emergency assistance. From emergency work in Gaza helping new mothers in Lebanon and providing primary health care services in desert camps on the Syrian-Iraqi border; in our 25th year, MAP's ability to respond effectively is more important than ever.

Dr Swee Chai Ang Founder, Medical Aid for Palestinians



Dr Swee may only be less than 5ft tall but her impact in helping Palestinians has been monumental. Dr Swee was born in Malaysia, educated in Singapore and became the first woman to be appointed an orthopaedic consultant at Saint Bartholomew's / Royal London Hospitals.

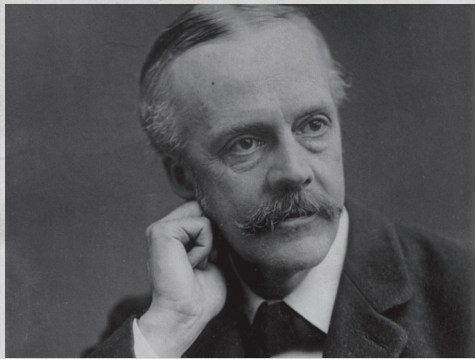
Dr Swee worked through the horrors of the Sabra and Shatila Massacre and then with Major Derek Cooper and Lady Pamela's stoic organisational support helped to form MAP. In her 1989 book, *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, she described her shock at **"the slaughter of unarmed children, women, the aged and the infirm"**, and her outrage that, **"I had to discover the truth about a brave and generous people only through their deaths."**

25 years after the massacre Dr Swee wrote, **"I remain optimistic and have reason to be so. Since I began my journey with the Palestinians in 1982, I have learnt that all repressive measures have failed to wipe the Palestinians out. I have seen strength and resilience in the face of untold hardships and persecution. I still have with me the picture of destitute Palestinian children of Shatila camp standing amid the ruin and rubble. They survived the massacre but lost their parents and homes. We thought all was lost. But they raised their hands making the victory sign and said to me, "We are not afraid - let Israel come". I have returned many times to the camp but I have never been able to find those children again. They must have perished since. But they live forever in my heart. Whenever the situation becomes unbearable, I revisit this picture for strength"**.

Palestine: The History

The story of the creation and development of MAP is interwoven with the history of the Palestinian people. Several key events set the context within which MAP was founded:

1917: Britain promises Palestine away



The Balfour Declaration was a secret memo written in 1917 by the British Foreign Minister that supported the idea of creating a Jewish homeland in Palestine. It stated:

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

"The bride is beautiful, but married to another man."

Telegram sent to Vienna in 1897 by two rabbis who visited Palestine to see how it could accommodate a Jewish state.

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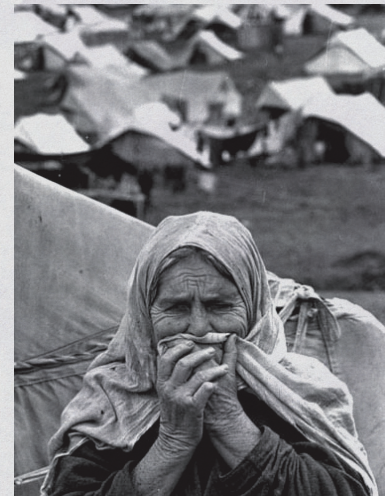
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1948: Nakbah

The Nakbah (Catastrophe) refers to events in 1947-1948 when approximately 750,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes and land. The majority arrived in neighbouring Arab countries – Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and also to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The outflow marked the beginning of what would become the world's largest and most enduring refugee crisis.

"I support compulsory [Palestinian Arab population] transfer. I do not see in it anything immoral."

**David Ben-Gurion,
first Prime Minister
of Israel, June 1938**



1967: War, Displacement, Occupation

Israel launched a pre-emptive war in 1967, seizing the Golan Heights from Syria, the Sinai from Egypt and occupying for the first time East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In the course of the war some 300,000 Palestinians were displaced, half of them for the second time.

"The 1967 War made Israel into an occupier, which more than anything is why it still matters. Overnight it gained control of the lives of more than one million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza....the occupation has created a culture of violence that cheapens life and brutalises the people who enforce and impose the occupation and those who fight it. Human rights and self-determination are denied to Palestinians. With nowhere else to go, more and more of them have turned to extremists."

Jeremy Bowen



1982: Israel Invades Lebanon



Thousands were killed in the invasion that took the Israeli army into Beirut, and set the stage for the massacre at Sabra and Shatila.

"The exhausted hospital director, Dr Alwan, said the hospital had 400 patients, 80% of whom were civilians. His staff had treated victims of booby-trapped toys, napalm, phosphorous and cluster bombs."

Pat McDonnell

"Refugees wandering amidst swarms of flies, dressed in rags, their faces expressing terror and their eyes, bewilderment... the women wailing and the children sobbing."

Israeli historian Tom Segev

"I had to take the babies and put them in buckets of water to put out the flames. When I took them out half an hour later, they were still burning. Even in the mortuary, they smouldered for hours."

Dr Amal Shamaa, Barbir Hospital

The Sabra and Shatila Massacre

“What we found inside the Shatila Palestinian camp at ten o’clock on the morning of 18 September 1982 did not beggar description, although it would have been easier to re-tell in the cold prose of a medical examination. There had been massacres in Lebanon, but rarely on this scale and never overlooked by a regular, supposedly disciplined (Israeli) army....These people, hundreds of them, had been shot down unarmed. This was a mass killing...an atrocity. It went beyond even what Israelis would have, in other circumstances, called a terrorist atrocity. It was a war crime.”

Robert Fisk, Pity the Nation

“Gunmen lined the sides of Rue Sabra while we were marched down it at gunpoint, and we could all see what was going on – the bodies, the smashed homes, the rubble, the terror in everyone’s faces, the desperate mother, who wanted to give me her infant – the baby boy which I held in my arms for a brief moment before it was cruelly snatched away by the gunmen. We knew what was about to happen.”

Dr Swee Chai Ang,
from Beirut to Jerusalem

For the 40 hours between the 16th and the 18th of September the Lebanese Phalangist militia raped, killed, and injured hundreds of unarmed Palestinian civilians, mostly children, women and elderly people inside the encircled and sealed camps of Sabra and Shatila.

Following the departure of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) from Lebanon the camps were left entirely defenceless. The Israeli army had full knowledge of what was taking place in the camps, yet they never intervened. Instead, they prevented civilians from escaping the camps and illuminated the camps throughout the night by flares launched into the sky from helicopters and mortars.

The exact figure of those killed can never be determined because in addition to approximately 1,000 people who were buried in communal graves by the International Committee of the Red Cross or in Beirut’s cemeteries by their families, a large number of dead were buried beneath buildings bulldozed by the militia members themselves. What is more, hundreds of people were carried away alive in trucks towards unknown destinations, disappeared, never to return.



The War of the Camps



“The simple term ‘misery’ is insufficient to describe the privations of living there during that period.”

Suzy Wighton, MAP Nurse

MAP was established in the wake of the Sabra and Shatila Massacre - the senseless slaughter of thousands of elderly men, women and children. From its earliest days MAP worked in partnership with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.

During the Lebanese civil war (1975-1990) the Palestinian camps were frequently targeted. Between 1985 and 1987, the camps were under siege for weeks and months at a time by the Lebanese Amal militia. MAP professional volunteers worked in hospitals during the darkest days of the civil war treating both Palestinians and Lebanese.

“Because MAP was small, and had none of the funds larger organisations had, we always thought of ourselves as friends of the Palestinian people, rather than as some ‘charity’. For those of us close to the camp folks, we knew they would find the idea of hand-outs offensive, but we were merely a channel whereby the goodwill in Britain could be directed to them. Our supporters did not give out of pity; like all supporters of a just cause, they gave out of solidarity, on the basis of mutual respect.”

Dr Swee Chai Ang

MAP was founded when Dr Swee returned to London following the massacre. Alongside Dr Swee, the founding convenors included



Major Derek and Pamela Cooper, lawyer journalist Francis Khoo, Dr Riyadh Khrieshi and Dr Hikmat Ajjuri. Major Cooper became the first Chairman, Francis Khoo the Vice-Chairman, and former MP David Watkins the Treasurer. Dr Rafiq Husseini served as the first Chief Executive.

MAP originally worked among the refugees in the Lebanon, and when the first Intifada started, expanded its programmes to include the occupied Palestinian territory. Initially concentrating on the treatment of the wounded, as the situation changed, MAP widened its programmes to include training and primary health care.



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Dr Rafiq
former

“Public opinion was initially not sympathetic. With time, admiration of the Palestinians for their courage, steadfastness and resistance spread and news of their suffering reached Britain. The goal posts, as they say, began to shift. MAP is today a respected institution but not many people realise the uphill task we had.”

Francis Khoo, former
MAP Vice-Chairman



am very proud that MAP is celebrating 25th anniversary. It has become a and synonymous with supporting the estinians in difficult times and is part he British national consciousness. MAP nds for principles of professionalism and ponsibility. MAP's work is as needed today t was in 1985, in fact it is more in need."

Rafiq Husseini,
mer MAP Chief Executive

MAP volunteer **Dr Pauline Cutting** wrote of her experience working during the siege of Bourj al-Barajneh camp in 1987 in her book *Children of the Siege*:

"We will stay with the people of the camp until the danger is over. We will remain with them – to live or die with them... My parents had instilled in me a strong sense of justice. What was happening here was unjust. I hoped they would understand that we couldn't leave now."

The strong commitment to justice remains at the core of MAP's values.

"We all have a moral duty to ensure that the suffering of the Palestinian population is brought to an end."

The Rt Hon Lord Steel of Aikwood,
former MAP President

"What MAP is able to do today to support the Palestinians in the field of healthcare owes so much to the vision, enthusiasm, devoted hard work, and in many instances, bravery of its founders, staff and volunteers over the years."

Sir John Moberly, former MAP Chair

Since its inception MAP has sent hundreds of medical support volunteers to the Middle East from over 15 countries including the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Malaysia, India, China, Ireland and the Netherlands.

"I volunteered to work with MAP as an anaesthetist in Lebanon in 1986. My initial placement was eight weeks long – I ended up staying in Lebanon for six years. I was in Ein el-Helweh camp which was under constant bombardment. The camp had no electricity or water and we had to ventilate by hand. Day in day out we had to deal with all sorts of injuries including many amputations and horrific shrapnel wounds. MAP made sure that a lot of our work involved training Palestinian staff to ensure the longer-term impact to our work."

Dr Kiran Gargesh, MAP Volunteer

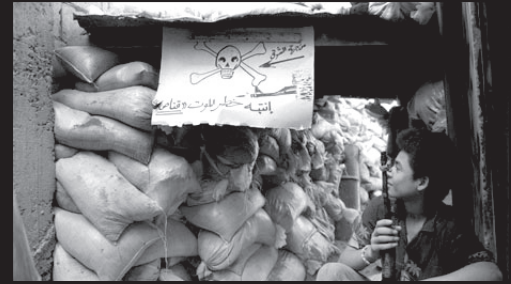
"I was involved in selecting which programmes MAP would be involved in and to ensure that our work was underpinned by good medicine. Everyone involved with MAP is dedicated to such crucially important work. Those who have seen or heard about the conditions that the Palestinians live in are motivated by the deep feeling of injustice and a sense of responsibility for improving their situation."

Dr Patience Moberly, former member of
MAP Programme Advisory Panel

"In 1987 I worked with MAP in a clinic in a Palestinian refugee camp in the south of Lebanon. It was during the civil war and I was the only doctor in the camp treating 60-70 patients everyday. The horrible injustice of the situation prompted me to stay actively involved with MAP on my return."

Dr Runa Mackay, MAP Volunteer and
author of *Exile in Israel*

25 years on: Survivor Stories



Fatima

Fatima was born in Sabra refugee camp. Fatima was ten years old when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982.



“My first memory of the invasion was the constant shooting. My cousin and I were injured when a shell hit our building in Shatila. The ambulance couldn’t reach us for five hours, and when we eventually reached a clinic there were many dead bodies. By September, there was a ceasefire and the PLO left Beirut. Then on the 15th of September the Israeli army surrounded the camp – people were not allowed to leave. I saw my first Israeli soldier that day, and I remember being surprised that he looked just like us.

Then the shooting started. People were terrified and stayed in their homes. Those who went out never came back. That night was like day due to the flares in the sky. The next morning I ran to Gaza Hospital where I saw Dr Swee helping the wounded. Everywhere there were injured people, my uncle arrived screaming there had been a massacre, but nobody knew what was happening. I ran home past the dead bodies, but I was stopped and the Phalange militia made us walk in a column. Abu Mohammed, a disabled old man, was forced to walk with us, but he fell - they shot him dead. It felt like judgement day.”

Fatmah

Fatmah is a 38-year old mother of five. Fatmah lives with her family in what used to be the Gaza Hospital. It is now a dilapidated, overcrowded, unsanitary building on the edge of Sabra refugee camp that is home to hundreds of Palestinian families.

Fatmah was twelve years old when the massacre happened:



“I remember my family barricading us in our house. There were constant flashes and explosions. It was terrifying and my aunt gave birth prematurely on the first night. We had no idea what was happening until we saw our neighbour covered in blood the next day. We fled in panic. There was a loudspeaker telling people to give up, we found the Lebanese lady who lived opposite had been murdered, it was night, and the dead were everywhere. My two-year old sister was so scared that her hair fell out.”



Olfat



Olfat's parents fled to Lebanon as refugees from Palestine in 1948. Olfat was born in Bourj al-Barajneh camp, and trained as a nurse with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS). Olfat is the mother of four children, and the founder and Director of the Women's Humanitarian Organization.

“When the War of the Camps started, there were no doctors in the hospital in Bourj al-Barajneh, and the wounded were flowing in fast. I had to set up the triage unit I had to choose between who would live and who would die, it was the hardest time of my life making those decisions. It was so traumatic that I gave up nursing straight afterwards.”

Khaled

Khaled was born and grew up in Bourj al-Barajneh refugee camp. Like so many of his generation, Khaled's education was disrupted by the civil war in Lebanon, and in particular the War of the Camps, when Bourj al-Barajneh camp was besieged and under attack for weeks and months at a time.



“I was 10 years old and with my brother in Bourj al-Barajneh where I live, the electricity went down and we had to climb up high to sort out the broken wires. It was after curfew time, and we had to be careful to avoid being shot. My brother had climbed up and I was looking out for danger. I saw some militia approaching, but my brother hadn't finished. I was calling him and wanted to run away but couldn't leave him on his own. Suddenly the militia were on us and telling me to go with them. I've seen what happens when people get taken away and so refused to go. I turned to run but don't remember what happened next. I woke up in hospital with shot wounds. It was the first time I met Dr Pauline Cutting. She worked for MAP and treated me very well. I am very proud today to work for MAP and want to go on helping Palestinians in my camp and throughout Lebanon. I hope to meet Dr Pauline Cutting again one day soon to thank her.”

The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Our Response

1987:

The First Intifada

"The Intifada, which in Arabic means to 'shake off', occurred in the twentieth year of Israeli rule. It was a response to the oppressive conditions of occupation, to the escalating dispossession and loss of control over the present, which threatened an already diminished future."

Sara Roy, political scientist and scholar

The outbreak of the Intifada widened the pressing need for emergency relief to include the occupied Palestinian territory. The PRCS was not permitted to operate in Gaza and the West Bank – and so Dr Swee established emergency projects. The need was great: over seven hundred Palestinians were killed in the first three years of the Intifada; 20% of these were children.

Under the leadership of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Israel tried to smash the Intifada with "force, power and blows". Israeli army commanders instructed their troops to "break the bones" of demonstrators.



1993:

The Oslo Accords

The creation of the Palestinian Authority and the initial optimism surrounding the Oslo Accords allowed MAP to focus on longer-term health development planning. MAP initiated programmes in association with the Ministry of Health in the West Bank and Gaza, whilst maintaining our commitment to working in Lebanon.

MAP also ensured it had the capacity to respond to unforeseen emergencies. In 1995 MAP helped to contain a typhoid outbreak, preventing the outbreak from reaching catastrophic proportions in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

In 1996 MAP sent over 450 medical personnel to the region in order to assist their Palestinian counterparts. In September of that year there were serious riots in response to the Israeli opening of Kotel Tunnel (adjacent to the Haram al-Sharif). MAP was the first international organisation to provide emergency medical supplies to the hospitals to cope with the flood of casualties.



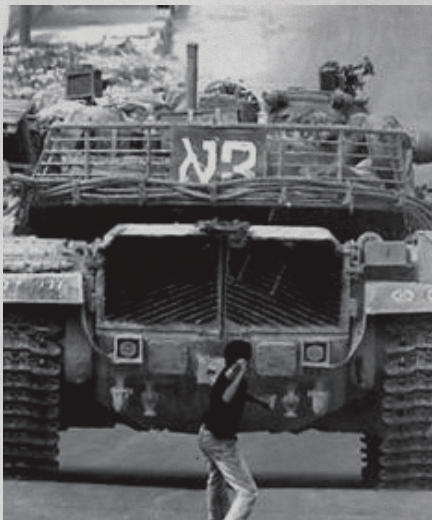
2000: The Second Intifada

Despite ongoing negotiations, the years following the Oslo Accords saw a marked increase in Israeli settlement construction on Palestinian land, and an increase in movement restrictions for Palestinians. The second Intifada broke out in the frustration that years of negotiations had not only failed to deliver an independent Palestinian state, but that an independent state might be an impossibility.

In late September Ariel Sharon (Israel's Minister of Defence during the Sabra and Shatila Massacre) visited the Haram al-Sharif with 1,500 armed Israeli guards. His visit provoked large demonstrations which were met with lethal force.

"At the start of the second Intifada the hospitals in East Jerusalem were desperately short of medicine and resources to deal with large numbers of emergencies. MAP provided life saving resupply utilising our excellent relations with suppliers, clinics and hospitals to provide a rapid response in a time of crisis."

Hanan Khalaf, MAP Ramallah Office



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2007: The Blockade of Gaza



Israel's blockade, in force since Hamas seized control of Gaza in mid-2007, can be described as an intensification of policies designed to isolate the population of Gaza, cripple its economy, and incentivise the population against Hamas by harsh measures of collective punishment.

"Israel's blockade means the denial of a broad range of items – food, industrial, educational, medical – deemed "non-essential" for a population largely unable to be self-sufficient at the end of decades of occupation. Industrial, cooking and diesel fuel is restricted."

The lack of fuel in turn means that sewage and treatment stations cannot function properly, resulting in decreased potable water and tens of millions of litres of untreated or partly treated sewage being dumped into the sea every day.

Electricity cuts affect all homes and hospitals. Those lucky enough to have generators struggle to find the fuel to make them work, or spare parts to repair them when they break from overuse."

Andrea Becker,
MAP Head of Advocacy

BACK

Scottish nurse tells of bloodbath in battle for Palestine

Neira (right) - a nurse who worked in a hospital during the battle for the town of Beirut in 1982. She says that the hospital was hit by Israeli fighters. Neira says that the hospital was hit by Israeli fighters. Neira says that the hospital was hit by Israeli fighters.

WOMAN WHO 'KNOWS NO FEAR' PLANS TO HELP REFUGEES

By DANIEL MURPHY and RAY CLANCY
A LAST desperate appeal not to enter the hell of the Beirut al Barajneh refugee camp in Beirut was made to a brave British woman doctor last night. British Ambassador Mr John Gwyn wanted Singapore-born Dr Swee Chai Ang that he could not be responsible for her safety if the fragile camp crumbled.



Dr Neira, a nurse who worked in a hospital during the battle for the town of Beirut in 1982.

LIFE IN THE DAY OF

By W. Wigham describes her day working in the besieged area of the camp, which she says is a hell of a place to live. She says that the camp is a hell of a place to live. She says that the camp is a hell of a place to live.



Suzie Wigham, 27, a Glasgow-born nurse, works for the London-based charity, Medical Aid for Palestinians, in a camp of Beirut al-Barajneh in Beirut. She worked throughout the bombardment and siege of the camp in 1982.

ORTHOPAEDICS

As the only orthopaedic surgeon in northern Gaza, Dr Swee Chai Ang has the monumental task of treating the scores of Palestinians beaten or shot in the continuing political unrest. On a recent visit to London, Dr Swee talked to Ian Belcher about the difficulties she faces daily.



Operating under siege in Gaza

GUARDIAN WOMEN



A surgeon who treated the survivors of Sabra and Chatila now finds it hard to speak out against their persecutors. Caroline Tisdall reports

Death camp doctor told you're on your own



Welcome home: Emotional reunion for Dr Cutting and mother, Kathleen, yesterday

The Beirut hell we left

By DANIEL MURPHY
FIVE more Arabs died on Monday in clashes with Israeli soldiers on the occupied West Bank. But there is more to the heartache than just the numbers. Australian volunteer nurse Dr Neira says that the medical camp in the West Bank is a hell of a place to live.



Reality - Israeli soldiers beat Arab women (above) while masked youths hurt others in protest (below). Both are daily events in the occupied territories.



By DANIEL MURPHY
A WEEK after leaving the Palestinian refugee camps where she was a doctor under fire, Pauline Cutting is still in Beirut al Barajneh camp. She has lost the drawn exhaustion it had in Beirut al Barajneh camp. She has lost the drawn exhaustion it had in Beirut al Barajneh camp.

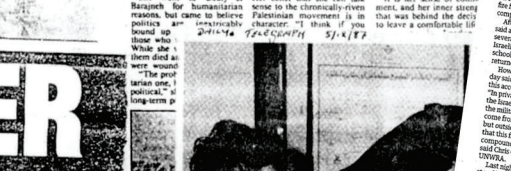


Doctor plans to return to help refugees

By Marie Colvin
For the Palestinians to be provided with a homeland that they want and for them to represent themselves. So her first move is to go to Algeria early this week to meet members of the Palestinian National Council. She worked previously for the National Health Service in a burns unit at Queen Mary's Hospital in Northampton, London.



By Marie Colvin
The UN will then go on to providing medical care, not necessarily for the Palestinians, but to similar deprived groups. She also plans a return to the West Bank camps; she has friends there and knows the medical life of her presence.



Dr Neira, a nurse who worked in a hospital during the battle for the town of Beirut in 1982.

A HEALER FROM HELL

By DANIEL MURPHY
A HEALER FROM HELL. A HEALER FROM HELL. A HEALER FROM HELL. A HEALER FROM HELL.

Advertisements for TAMA International and other services. Includes text: 'TAMA INTERNATIONAL Medics with a Mission', 'Civilian c', 'Israeli military in UN su', 'The UN will then go on to providing medical care, not necessarily for the Palestinians, but to similar deprived groups.'

Besieged families flee homes

Trapped residents seek the nearest thing to safety they can find as the territory's schools are turned into refugee camps



Chris McGreal Jerusalem
Mehmed Khalil looked across the street and decided the safest place for his children was under the desks in the UN school that had been turned into a school for the besieged. He had been told to get his children to the school as soon as possible. He had been told to get his children to the school as soon as possible. He had been told to get his children to the school as soon as possible.

Safe haven? Palestinian children in the UN school were sleeping in a shelter in Gaza City. Officials here say the UN will provide protection from bombs. Photograph: Reuters/Reuters

show that despite the fact that the UN school has been turned into a school for the besieged, it is still providing them with protection. It is still providing them with protection. It is still providing them with protection. It is still providing them with protection.

Voices from the frontlines
'Everyone is looking for their relatives to kiss them goodbye'



Hani Abu Kamil, 42, married with two children in Gaza City
I live in the centre of where they bombed at the beginning. Behind me is a police compound which they bombed and in front of me is the presidential palace - which they also bombed. I was a doctor of my building.

Voices from the frontlines
'Why are they doing this to us?'

Reem Al Ghussain, an English teacher at Al-Azhar University in Gaza
Today I waited for half an hour to find bread, and then I queued for five hours. All I could buy was enough for one day. My children didn't want me to go - they were worried I would die. They are surrounded by the Israeli forces. So I went to the cemetery in Gaza City. I even though it's closed. We had to go there to get a matter of minutes. Her father didn't want the invasion to stop.

Khalid Hassouma, 27, an English teacher on the west side of Gaza
Two days ago one of my relatives was killed by a missile from an Israeli ship. The missile landed along with him and he was killed along with him. Another relative was killed. Another relative was killed.

Why are they doing this to us?
The generator for two hours a day charge up our mobile phones and the TV. It's really scary, it's unbelievable. They aren't going after one faction, they're targeting all Palestinians. We have to reach a ceasefire and they have to open the crossings. We've been suffering for two years, isn't that enough? We can't survive for long like this.

Homeless and terrified

Desperate civilians find shelter wherever they can but even the humanitarian agency's buildings are not safe



everyone understands that time is running out. The Gaza Strip is a small strip of land, and it is a strip of land that is being bombed. It is a strip of land that is being bombed. It is a strip of land that is being bombed.

CELEBS IN BBC REVOLT OVER GAZA

Defiance! Mark Thompson this morning
The BBC's chief executive, Mark Thompson, has defied the demands of a group of celebrities who have written to him asking him to resign over the network's coverage of the Gaza crisis.

Need for medical aid

In the light of the escalating humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip, MAP is playing a critical role co-ordinating blood donations, surgical and burns kits and the most urgently needed medical supplies to hospitals. Readers wishing to donate to this crucial work can do so by calling 0207 226 7691 or visit www.map-uk.org

MICHAEL FRENCH
Finchfield Road
Wolverhampton



Stars vow to shun BBC over refusal to screen Gaza plea
The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has refused to screen a plea for aid from Gaza, leading to a revolt among celebrities. The celebrities have vowed to shun the BBC over its refusal to screen the plea.

Homeless and terrified

Desperate civilians find shelter wherever they can but even the humanitarian agency's buildings are not safe



US urges Tel Aviv to say yes to call for ceasefire
UN keeps talking but fails to agree resolution

Diplomatic effort intensifies as French leader flies to Middle East
Turkey offers to take any Hamas ceasefire deal to the United Nations

Stars vow to shun BBC over refusal to screen Gaza plea

Civilian casualties
Israelis admit militants not in UN school

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MAP Today in the Occupied Palestinian Territory



The ongoing Israeli occupation is the main determinant impacting on the availability, accessibility and quality of health care for Palestinians. Access, or rather lack of it, remains one of the most important issues facing Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip today. Daily life for Palestinians is hindered by the Separation Wall, road blocks, checkpoints and other movement restrictions. In addition there are curfews, closure, house demolitions, land confiscation, assassinations and Israeli military operations inside Palestinian areas.

MAP works strategically across the occupied Palestinian territory, focusing on Health Development and Emergency Preparedness and Response. In **Health Development**, MAP works with local health providers to promote community participation in health initiatives, particularly on child health and primary health care, disability and rehabilitation, and psychosocial health. In **Emergency Preparedness and Response**, MAP responds rapidly and effectively to humanitarian crises and conflict situations that frequently arise.

Our capacity to respond is based not only on the presence of our field staff, but strong links with partner organisations, local health providers and hospitals.

“I considered it a great privilege to be President of the charity for eight years. I learned a great deal, especially in the visits to the West Bank and Gaza. I saw for myself the truly rewarding work our people on the ground undertake in the most trying and difficult circumstances.”

The Rt Hon Lord Steel of Aikwood, former MAP President

“It will be a tragedy – for the Israelis, the Palestinians, and the world – if peace is rejected and a system of oppression, apartheid, and sustained violence is permitted to prevail.”

Jimmy Carter, former President of the United States





“The most vulnerable members of Palestinian communities will have access to quality health services, provided by MAP Community Health Workers, who are among them day and night.”

Dr Abdallah Abu Shararah, Director,
School of Community Health

“We can be very proud of what we’ve done over the years. No matter what challenges lie ahead, MAP will continue to do more.”

Robin Kealy, MAP Chairman and former
British Consul-General in Jerusalem

“I’m very glad to be involved with MAP. It operates a niche role helping towards building a health system in extraordinary circumstances. MAP is both well known and well regarded for being ever present and able to respond rapidly to changing events.”

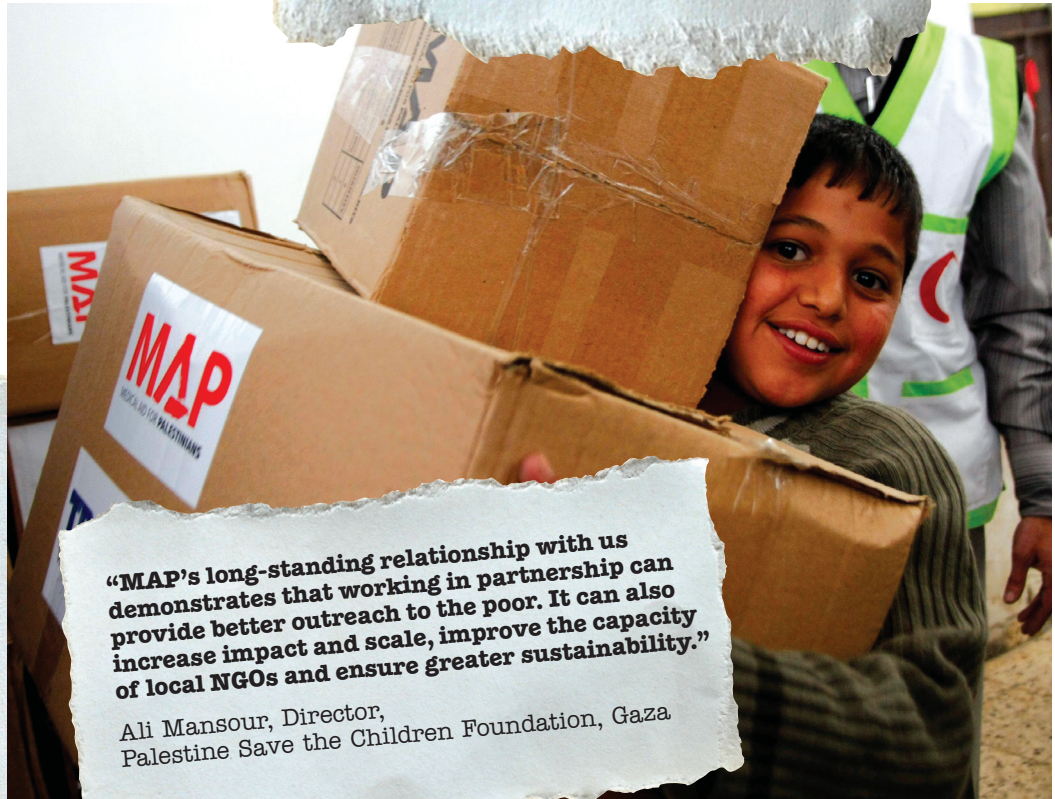
Professor Graham Watt,
MAP Trustee

“MAP is a vital organisation in promoting health care for Palestinians.”

Chris Doyle, Director, Council for
Arab-British Understanding

“MAP’s long-standing relationship with us demonstrates that working in partnership can provide better outreach to the poor. It can also increase impact and scale, improve the capacity of local NGOs and ensure greater sustainability.”

Ali Mansour, Director,
Palestine Save the Children Foundation, Gaza



MAP Today in Lebanon



"It is one of the tragedies of MAP that as the circumstances for the Palestinian people get worse, MAP's support and the focus of its projects are more important than ever."

Brian Constant,
former MAP Chairman

Today, over sixty years after the Nakbah, there are over 420,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Most of these fourth generation refugees live in 12 camps or unofficial gatherings spread across the country, where life is extremely harsh. Sanitary conditions are poor and often associated with high rates of parasitic and diarrhoeal disease. In addition, many Palestinian refugees suffer from non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer, heart disease and psychiatric disorders.

Heavy restrictions for Palestinians in Lebanon continue. They are still not allowed to own land, nor erect any 'permanent' structure in Lebanon, nor work in any profession outside the camps, with the exception of manual labour in construction and agriculture.

MAP has worked in Lebanon for over 25 years, and maintained this commitment even as the focus of most international aid agencies and media shifted to the occupied Palestinian territory.



"I visited Lebanon for the first time with MAP in 2008. What I witnessed was the terrible and worsening poverty of the refugee camps across the country. Less than a ten minute drive away from central Beirut, hidden behind a glitzy new sports stadium, is Shatila refugee camp. Entering past bullet-pocked buildings, guardians of the camp's tragic history of war and massacre, you arrive in what are essentially dangerously overcrowded slums. The narrow alleyways are filled with hundreds of low hanging electricity cables and humming generators located next to communal water supplies that have all seen better days. All too frequently people are electrocuted."

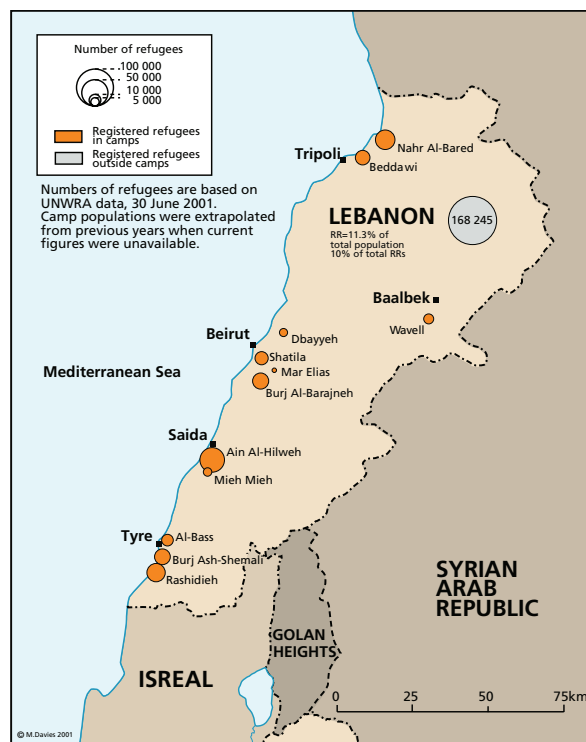
Baroness Helena Kennedy QC,
MAP President





MAP channels effective emergency aid and longer-term health support to vulnerable refugees living across the country. Our programmes achieve sustainable improvements by building local capacity, and focus in particular on maternal and child health, disability, emergency response and post-emergency rehabilitation.

In 2007, the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon was almost completely destroyed in fighting between the Lebanese army and the militant group Fatah al-Islam. More than 400 people were killed, and up to 30,000 Palestinian refugees were displaced. The rebuilding of the camp has met with substantial obstacles and delays: over two years since the camp's destruction, thousands remain displaced, living in inadequate temporary housing. MAP works directly with the displaced, and our work focuses on increasing access to an integrated maternal and child health care system, through a well-resourced clinic and community outreach nursing team.



Source of statistics: Public Information Office, UNWRA HQ, Gaza, Sept. 2001.



“MAP has undertaken extensive research into the attitudes, knowledge and behaviour of young Palestinians in Lebanon with regard to family, sex and marriage. Services are being developed to meet the needs identified in the research, taking into account religious and cultural norms.”

Maggie Preston Kent, MAP Nurse and Consultant

A Turn of History: from Sabra and Shatila to the War on Gaza



“In hospitals, the blockade is as seemingly benign as doctors not having paper upon which to write diagnostic results or prescriptions, and as sinister as those seconds – between power cut and generator start – when a child on life support doesn’t have the oxygen of a mechanical ventilator. A nurse on a neo-natal ward rushes between patients, battling the random schedule of power cuts. A hospital worker tries to keep a few kidney dialysis machines from breaking down, by farming spare parts from those that already have.

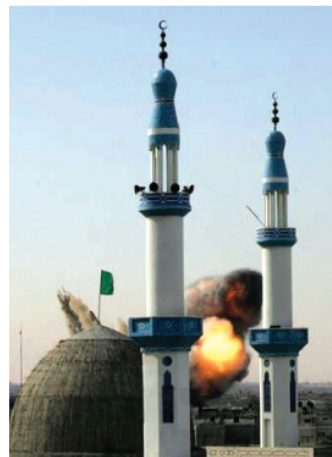
The surgeon operates without a bulb in the surgery lamp, across from the anaesthetist who can no longer prevent patient pain. The hospital administrator updates lists of essential drugs and medical supplies that have run out, which vaccines from medical fridges are now unusable because they can’t be kept cold, and which procedures must be cancelled. The ambulance driver decides whether to respond to an emergency call, based on dwindling petrol in the tank.”

Andrea Becker, MAP Head of Advocacy, writes in *The Guardian*, November 2008

Israel removed its settlements from Gaza in 2005, but any small hope for a better future was replaced with a stifling closure that began in 2006. This blockade intensified in 2007 creating a deepening humanitarian and health crisis with restrictions in access to medical supplies, training and development opportunities, and patient access to medical services.

“People call this place a prison; it is not a prison because a prison in Western Europe would be much better in terms of conditions than here.”

John Ging, UNRWA Director of Operations in Gaza, March 2009



On 27 December 2008 Israel launched ‘Operation: Cast Lead’ on the Gaza Strip. During the bombardment, the population had nowhere to flee, and within Gaza, there was nowhere safe to go. After more than three weeks of military attack from the land, air and sea against the people of Gaza – one of the most densely populated places on earth – approximately 1,400 Palestinians were killed. Of these, more than 400 were children. More than 5,300 people have been left with serious injuries, many of which have resulted in disability, which will require long-term rehabilitation and support. Medical staff did not escape the carnage; scores were injured and paramedics were killed when ambulances were hit. Over 100,000 people were displaced from their homes, and the United Nations puts the damage to infrastructure alone at USD 2 billion.





“There are people without their legs in very severe pain. The doctors and nurses were trying to give them painkillers and to keep them alive. Patients are lying there knowing they’ve lost their legs. Some were asking God if they could die. They were in a terrible psychological state.”

Fikr Shaloot, MAP Gaza Programme Coordinator, writes in The Guardian about the attacks.

Through our emergency preparedness plan and policy of pre-positioning of medical supplies, MAP was able to respond within hours of the crisis – with surgical kits and non food shelter items, followed up with hygiene and nutritional kits to those most vulnerable families that had been displaced. MAP was instrumental in the international coordination of medical equipment and drugs resupply into Gaza, helping to save countless lives.

“Brilliant. This is top priority and really useful. Thank you to MAP for your help.”

Tony Laurance, Head of Office in the oPt, World Health Organization

MAP, in coordination with the World Health Organisation, quickly mobilized and contracted a team of qualified pharmacists, data entry staff and workers as an emergency task force for the Central Drugs Store and Central Consumable Store. A team supported the rapid sorting, inventory and distribution of stock, along with a taskforce of logistics workers based in the Central Drugs Store, responsible for moving and repackaging goods. A team of health information officers based in the nine hospitals across the Gaza Strip ensured up to the minute information of hospital needs.



Following the end of the attacks Dr Swee headed the first team of British doctors to enter Gaza. Following visits to the main hospitals and clinics she spoke of what she had seen:

“The medical staff all bear the psychological trauma of the past month living through the situation and dealing with mass casualties who swamped their casualties and operating rooms. Many patients died in the Accident and Emergency Department while awaiting treatment.”

Dr Swee Chai Ang


25 years of Support

Over the last 25 years, MAP has worked in partnership with Palestinian communities across the Middle East. We respond to conflict and the needs arising from prolonged occupation, long-term displacement and isolation in refugee camps. MAP has a consistent message: **health is a fundamental human right, and this right is threatened by conflict, displacement and occupation.**

Our work is made possible by the loyalty of thousands who support our work both in emergencies and in the long-term. MAP continues to build links between the residents of the United Kingdom and Palestinians living across the Middle East.


Over the years, our supporters have responded to special appeals, attended gala benefit evenings, and taken initiative by fundraising in their communities. As well as raising critical funds for our work, our supporters raise awareness and advocate for the right to health for Palestinians.

Without your support, our work would not be possible. In this important year in MAP's history, your support is more important than ever.



"The thing I particularly like about MAP is that they are there for the long term and when a crisis like Gaza does happen they have equipment and people in place and can respond very quickly."

Caryl Churchill, Playwright



"Completing this 300km cycle ride for MAP bolstered my hope for a better future. My reading of history is a source of optimism in this respect. It suggests that nations, like individuals, are capable of acting rationally, after they've exhausted all the other alternatives."

Avi Shlaim, Historian



TANZANIA
HIGHEST POINT
HIGHEST FREE-BRAND



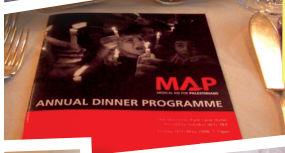
"I will help for as long as I am physically able to. If I feel that I can make a difference, even a little difference, I will continue, and contribute what I have - my time. Working for justice is not about giving what you have spare, but giving from yourself."

Randa Pettifor,
MAP Social Committee



"MAP's enormous work in trying to get some kind of order and relief in this chaos is incredibly important."

Rageh Omar, Broadcaster



"The expulsion of the Palestinians from their homes and their continued violent oppression is one of the great tragedies of these times. Anyone who reads the news from Gaza knows of their suffering: houses, schools, hospitals - and bodies - shattered. Organisations like Medical Aid for Palestinians need our absolute support, alongside political support, end to the illegal occupation of the Palestinian lands."

Ken Loach, Director, and
Ricky Tomlinson, Actor



MAP

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