

HAFSA is pleased to be upgrading its website and mailing system.  
Visit <http://hafsa.org.uk/> to learn more about recent projects, as well as the history of Sabastiya and its inhabitants.



**In this issue:** CV-19 in Sabastiya, Nabka Day today, upcoming HAFSA events, a new film on the history of Palestine - and a video tour of the Palestine Museum of Natural History

## HAFSA Bulletin May 2020

### A word from the chair

It is spring in Sabastiya and the variety of flowers growing there is amazing! It is also Ramadan and what should have been a time of fasting but also of celebrations with family and friends has become a lonely downsized affair. Families are still in lock down. Fortunately the toll in Palestine is not high, with only 4 deaths and Sabastiya has had no cases so far.



Palestinians are having to put up with a double whammy - the Israeli military occupation and Covid-19. Life is getting more and more difficult. Israel has continued to use its policies of home demolitions, child arrests and support for settler violence against Palestinians despite the virus crisis.

The Israeli government also intends to carry out the annexation of around 30% of the West Bank by the 1st of July.

127 British politicians from all parties have written to the British Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary urging them to make clear publicly to Israel that any annexation of occupied Palestinian territory "will have severe consequences including sanctions".

Sir Vincent Fean, UK Consul-General, Jerusalem 2010-14; Chair, Balfour Project: *"Annexation is a crime against the wellbeing of both peoples, Palestinian and Israeli. Britain has a duty to work with France, Germany and others to prevent it, with recourse to sanctions if Netanyahu ignores their warnings."*

### **Take action today !**

If your MP has not signed the letter to Boris Johnson, please write to them, asking them to join the **call for sanctions against Israel** should it proceed with annexation. EAPPI UK have created guidance for you to use.

[Click here for guidance](#)

More and more families are falling into poverty and as the tourist trade dies, visitors to Sabastiya, usually numerous in spring, are now non-existent. Many shops and guest houses rely on tourism to survive. Teachers and workers cannot count on furlough. There is no state help in Palestine, no pension, no sick pay, no benefit, no free health service. Our friends in Sabastiya need our support.

*Andree (Chair)*

## **FUND RAISING**

The HAFSA committee members hope that each and every one of you is well and keeping safe in these difficult times. We are all experiencing events in our lives that a year ago, we would not have considered possible, but here we are, adjusting as best we can.

As we are currently unable to fund raise with our social events, we need to consider how else we can generate money to send to our friends in Sabastiya, as they struggle during the pandemic. Recently we sent £3,060 to Abu Yasser, our main contact and community leader in Sabastiya, to buy food parcels and hens for families in need. This leaves us with little money in the bank.

We need your generosity to build up the HAFSA bank account, to enable us to send further funds to Sabastiya as and when needed. All donations from you will be much appreciated.

To donate, please choose what suits you best:

- **online** by clicking [here!](#)
- **bank transfer** Co-op Bank : Acc no:65449004 Sort code: 08 92 99
- **cheque** payable to HAFSA and sent to our HAFSA Treasurer: Deborah Conolly, 5 Rockford Avenue, Perivale, UB6 8AH

With our thanks. Stay safe. HAFSA Committee

[Nabka Day](#) - Friday 15 May - today !

Today is Nakba day and you can join the **online Nakba rally** in the evening, where we will be hearing from Palestinian speakers, performers and artists, as well as key figures in the solidarity movement. Featuring **DAM, Janna Jihad, Diana Buttu, Roger Waters, Ken Loach** and more! [Sign up here.](#)

## HAFSA EVENTS

HAFSA events are a great opportunity to raise funds for Sabastiya, see friends and to introduce new people to HAFSA's support work. The current situation does not allow us to hold events which involve meeting up in person. This makes your donations even more important.

**Here is an update of our schedule through to the autumn:**

**Hanwell Carnival** - Saturday 20 June

Sadly cancelled this year. HAFSA had planned to have a stall again this year.

**Summer Social** - Sunday 23 August

We are still hoping to hold this event - details TBC and subject to government guidance.

**Brentford Festival** - Sunday 6 September - at the moment this event is still scheduled to go ahead and we have booked a stall.

**Jaffa, the Orange's Clockwork** - Back in March we had to cancel the

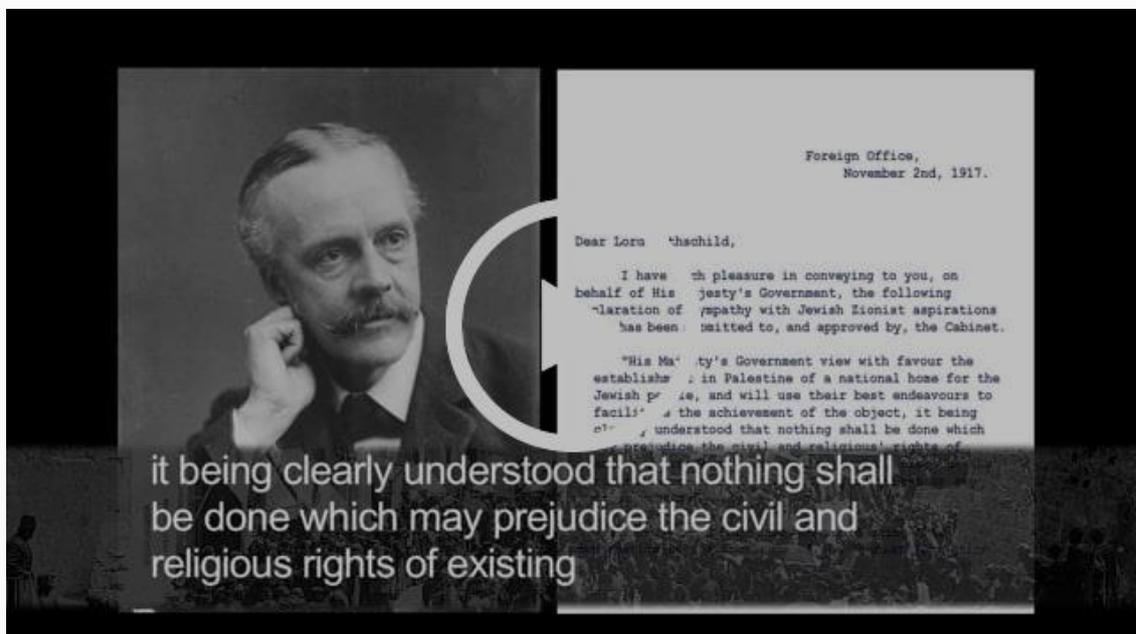
screening of this film. We hope to be able to show it later in the year.

[Please contact us with your suggestions](#) for events we could hold during this lock-down - any of your ideas as to how we can continue to fund raise during lockdown would be very much appreciated eg. Zoom quiz.

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## MORE TO SEE

A bit of history in this recent 20 minute film released by the Balfour project.



**'Britain in Palestine 1917-1948'**

[The Balfour Project](#)

### ***And finally...***

Here is a treat for you, a 12 minutes video tour of the Bethlehem Palestine Museum of Natural History. It features the gardens, animals, sustainable growing practices and much more. The film is narrated by Mazin Qumsiyeh the founder of the museum. Enjoy!



A tour of the Bethlehem Palestine Museum of Natural History



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