

# A message from Ahdaf Soueif:

ahdafsoueif.com, 18 July 2006

---

I've had a great many letters from people expressing solidarity with the Palestinians and asking how they can help.

Despite what is happening in Iraq and Lebanon today - and who knows where else tomorrow - I believe that Palestine is the heart of the problem. There will be no lasting peace in the region - perhaps in the world - while the situation in Palestine remains so very unjust. If people can work on only one issue, it should be Palestine.

There are millions of us across the world who believe that it must be possible to have justice, a decent life and peace. We need to be aware of our size and to join hands and work together.

So here are some things we all can do:

SAY SOMETHING when you hear or see something you think is unfair or misleading - particularly in the media. It really does only take a minute. It is a very powerful tool. And it goes to the heart of what democracy and free speech are all about. It is easier, of course, if you don't have to search for the numbers or addresses to contact. So compile a list - and give it to others who are interested. For people living in the UK there is a list which can be downloaded

at: [www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=press&article=media\\_contacts](http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=press&article=media_contacts)

Check out the Palestine Solidarity Campaign website

[www.palestinecampaign.org/](http://www.palestinecampaign.org/)

PSC have various campaigns, petitions, vigils, etc going on. What you do could be anything from simply signing a petition online to sending letters, to giving money or other options. They have many branches. You could join one near you. Or you can start one yourself.

A really good resource is to be found on [www.electronicintifada.net](http://www.electronicintifada.net) They have statistics, etc. They have now started a site for Lebanon. Support them.

If you live in the UK, here are some extra things you can do:

1. Buy your olive oil from Zaytoun. Please check out their website [www.zaytoun.org](http://www.zaytoun.org) This is ethical trading, helping Palestinians sell their oil. And the oil is truly excellent. They have a new harvest just in.

2. Check out the Council for Advancement of Arab British Understanding website [www.caabu.org](http://www.caabu.org) CAABU are very active, very sensible, and they are the only body approaching a Lobby for an Arab point of view. Again at the moment they have various posted options.

3. A CAABU initiative that to my mind would be very useful to support is the request from John Austen, MP, to the Prime Minister that Lord Levy be relieved of his duties as an envoy. The full text is to be found on the CAABU website. This can be done simply by writing to 10 Downing Street expressing your support for the initiative.

Good luck, and solidarity!

Ahdaf Soueif