

ADC Times

News and Opinions of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

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Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan accepts an award from ADC's Orange County chapter as ADC President Albert Mokhiber looks on (see story, page 5)

ADC's Efforts Victorious for Evacuees from Kuwait

Thanksgiving came early for several hundred persons from Kuwait when President Bush signed a presidential directive which allows them to remain in the United States for an additional four years. The directive, which was sent to the Department of Justice late on November 14, will allow people airlifted from Kuwait to stay legally and work in the United States until January 1, 1996. The families were airlifted to the United States between September and December 1990 under the Persian Gulf Evacuation Program (see *ADC Times*, October-November 1991). The families either have children who are United States citizens or secretly harbored Americans during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The directive authorizes the Attorney General to take "any necessary steps" to provide the evacuees with legal status and work authorization until January 1, 1996. It does not apply to "any individual who has been convicted of a felony in the United States; any individual whom the Attorney General has reason to believe constitutes a threat to the community of the United States or presents a danger to public security; or any individual who voluntarily returns to his country of nationality or last habitual residence outside the United States."

The evacuees were initially "paroled" into the United States and given tem-

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The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) is a non-sectarian, non-partisan service organization committed to defending the rights and promoting the heritage of Arab-Americans. The largest grassroots Arab-American organization in the United States, ADC was founded in 1980 by U.S. Senator James G. Abourezk in response to stereotyping, defamation and discrimination directed against Americans of Arab origin.

ADC serves its nationwide membership through direct advocacy in cases of defamation, through legal action in cases of discrimination and through counseling in matters of immigration.

The ADC Research Institute publishes information on issues of concern to Arab-Americans and provides educational materials on Arab history and culture, and on the ethnic experience of Arabs in America. It also sponsors summer internships in Washington for Arab-American and other college students.

ADC's Middle East Women's and Children's Fund addresses the humanitarian needs of victims of violence in the Middle East.

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Editorial

Support Growth in 1992

The single most important ingredient in the success of ADC or any other grassroots organization is its membership. Time and again, the deciding factor in our many achievements has been the broad-based national activism we have been able to muster in support of various issues and campaigns.

The most recent example is the executive directive issued by President Bush granting an extension of status and work authorization to the Gulf War evacuees from Kuwait. While many of the three thousand individuals affected are Palestinian, this humanitarian relief applies to any person, Arab or otherwise, who was airlifted by the State Department and is unable to return home.

While we are most grateful to the Administration and to the congressional offices which assisted in this effort, a major impact case such as this would not have succeeded without the many phone calls, letters, and meetings undertaken collectively by our national membership.

Again, we have proven to ourselves and others the growing level of organization and sophistication of the Arab-American community. And it could not come at a better time. Major polls continue to reflect breakthroughs in American public opinion on key issues—ranging from citizen opposition to the Israeli request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees, to increased popular dislike for the hardline stance of Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud government concerning the "land for peace" formula.

The coming few weeks and months are crucial ones. We must continue to speak out, to educate our neighbors, and to organize our community. In order to make our work more manageable and to substantially increase our chances of scoring further victories, we need to grow.

Our membership, with *your* help, could multiply overnight with each new ADC application you send in. People across the globe are literally dying for the right to form such organizations and to petition their government. If you do nothing else, please resolve to recruit 12 new members to ADC over the next year to further our own just causes.

If every ADC member recruits just one new member a month, we can guarantee future successes, and ensure the strength we need to truly make our voices heard. Please use the enclosed ADC membership envelope to recruit your first new member today!

Voice Your Concerns

Make your concerns known to politicians and the media. Make your voices heard!

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500
(202) 456-1111

U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520
(202) 647-6575

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 224-3121

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3121

ABC
1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019
(212) 887-7777

CBS
51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019
(212) 975-4321

NBC
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112
(212) 664-4444

PBS
1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 739-5000

CNN
1050 Techwood Drive
Atlanta, GA 30318
(404) 827-1500

Israel Steps Up Settlements and Provocations as Peace Conference Convenes

As we go to press, the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations to the second round of Middle East peace talks are preparing to meet their Israeli counterparts in Washington, D.C. Whether or not this round of talks goes beyond procedural matters and begins to deal with substantive issues is unclear—as is the Moscow venue for the third round of talks scheduled for late January. Seemingly the only constant in the peace process is Israel's self-appointed role as the spoiler, evidenced most recently by its refusal to attend the talks on December 4.

Cautious Optimism

Since the official meetings for peace negotiations were first announced, ADC has expressed "cautious optimism" about the talks, particularly in light of Israel's hardline position. Shamir's refusal to consider giving up "even one inch" of territory for peace has cast grave doubts on Israel's seriousness, and actions since Madrid seem to indicate that Israel is merely buying time until the \$10 billion loan request resurfaces in January.

ADC has publicly protested the increase in Israeli provocations vis-a-vis its Arab neighbors since Madrid, asserting such actions are part of a strategy to scuttle the peace talks and to impose "facts on the ground" in its favor.

In statements to the press, ADC President Albert Mokhiber said, "With the eyes of the world focused on the Madrid peace talks, the Israeli government continued its gross pattern of human rights abuse throughout the Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian territory which it now occupies." ADC has received numerous reports of increased attacks against Palestinians under occupation, including the beating and tear-gassing of women and children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, military attacks against civilian populations in southern Lebanon, and the establishment of illegal settlements in the occupied Golan Heights. Israeli military attempts to evict thousands of Lebanese from their

homes in the south were restrained by U.S. pressure, but Israel continues to establish and expand illegal settlements in occupied Palestine. In addition, Israeli military intelligence officers recently seized historic documents from Jerusalem's Islamic courthouse. The documents date back 500 years and show proof of Arab property ownership in Jerusalem. Mokhiber charged, "These blatant violations of international law make it clear the current Israeli government is not serious about peace...While we are not surprised by the most recent Israeli aggression, we are shocked at the audacity of the acts during the peace conference which shows total disregard for world opinion."

According to the Palestinian delegation, since Madrid, Israel has confiscated an additional 2,240 *dunums* of Palestinian land, has established three new settlements (including one in the Golan Heights), and has undertaken the expansion of thirteen existing settlements. In addition, at least eight Palestinians have been killed since early November. All of these actions, Palestinian spokesperson Hanan Mikhail-Ashrawi asserted, serve as "confidence-destroying measures...And I think that such measures are deliberately aimed at sending a very clear message to the Palestinian people that the price for peace is very exorbitant, and that our stance in Madrid of reaching out to the Israelis in order to create a genuine peace has not been responded to in any like manner, but has created an opposite effect."

Despite these conditions, the Arab delegations came to Washington to negotiate in good faith.

ADC Joins Support Network

When Israel's refusal to attend the designated opening round of talks left the Arab delegations facing an empty chair, they took advantage of the time to forge links with U.S. and international allies, and to make their case known to the American public.

Since the Palestinians have no officially recognized presence in Washington, ADC and other Arab-American and Palestinian support groups are coordinating efforts to demonstrate support for the delegation and to focus public attention on their position. ADC staff are serving on six support committees for the Palestinian delegation, and ADC Media Monitor Meme Jacobs is rendering hands on assistance in the Delegation's press center. ADC has also offered its support to the Lebanese, Jordanian and Syrian delegations.

In addition to numerous interviews and press conferences, the Palestinian delegates have met with Congressional aides, representatives of the African-American community, activists for the homeless, and leaders of various religious communities in the United States. A meeting was held with African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela in Washington, and several delegates flew to Atlanta, Georgia to meet with former president Jimmy Carter. Meetings were also held with representatives of the European Community and with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belankov.

ADC, working in conjunction with other Arab-American organizations and Washington-area activists, organized a vigil at the Israeli Embassy on December 8 to mark the anniversary of the *intifada*. A public forum for several delegates was also held at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. A December 9 "Call to Prayer for a Just Peace in the Middle East" was convened with members of all Arab delegations.

Support Peace & Justice in the Middle East

To achieve a just and lasting peace, Israel must withdraw from occupied Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories—in compliance with U.N. resolutions 242, 338 and 425.

**Support peace and justice —
call President Bush today!
(202) 456-1111**

\$10 Billion Loan Becomes Campaign Issue

As Congress recessed for the mid-year holiday break, the status of Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees was left in the balance. Speculation on Capitol Hill is that some sort of "resettlement" assistance will be provided for Soviet Jewish emigres, but the amount of loan guarantees and the conditions attached are unclear.

The worsening economic situation may strengthen the president's hand in limiting the loan amounts, as well as in setting stricter conditions and terms on loan usage. However, Democratic opponents may try to capitalize on public discontent with the Bush Administration's domestic policies to push for the guarantees, raising the erroneous claim that "they won't cost the U.S. taxpayer a dime," and asserting that the loans will create jobs for U.S. citizens.

At least one presidential hopeful has come out whole-heartedly in support of the loans, charging that the Bush Administration "can't seem to tell our friends from our enemies in the Middle East."

A November fundraising letter from Democratic presidential hopeful Tom Harkin (D-IA) to "Fellow Friends of Israel" also criticized the Administration and its current peace efforts, claiming it is holding Soviet and Ethiopian refugees hostage "in a power play with the Syrians and the Palestinians."

While Harkin also attacked the Bush Administration on a number of domestic fronts, including rising unemployment, increased homelessness, and the lack of affordable health care, his overriding appeal centered on his support for Israel—economically, militarily, and politically. Evidently, Mr. Harkin believes that by providing loan guarantees to Israel, U.S. domestic problems will disappear.

ADC contacted the Harkin campaign to voice its concern about the way in which the letter which inferred that support for an even-handed approach to the peace process was a threat to the "survival of Israel." ADC President Albert Mokhiber stated, "...your ill-informed remarks reveal a distinct lack of statesmanship that we as Americans

have a right to expect from a potential President."

By challenging such statements, ADC continues its efforts to encourage public debate about the loans. During a November 6 press conference in Washington, ADC President Albert Mokhiber discussed the impact of the loans on the Middle East peace process, noting, "A clear international consensus, as well as a significant segment of Israeli public opinion, opposes further settlement activity as a violation of both the spirit and the letter of agreements reached prior to Madrid. Despite this, the government of Israel shows no indication of slowing down this activity...Legislators favoring the loan guarantee must face the responsibility of underwriting endeavors that will sabotage the peace process."

ADC has a number of resources and speakers available for teach-ins on the \$10 billion guarantee and its impact on domestic policies. If you would like to schedule a teach-in in your community, please contact Imad Abi-Saleh at the ADC National Office. ■

Peace continued

The service, which honored the nearly 1,000 martyrs of the *intifada*, was followed by a nationally televised press conference with U.S. Christian leaders who announced "A Month of Prayer and Action for Peace in the Middle East." The delegations also attended prayers at local mosques. Members of the Jewish Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Peace welcomed the Palestinian delegation on December 4 with a Hanukkah candlelighting ceremony.

Shamir Visits U.S.

A November trip to the U.S. by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir raised questions about American Jewish support for his government's hardline position on the peace talks. After receiving an honorary degree from Boston University, Shamir traveled to Baltimore to address the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations. Just prior to his arrival, the findings of a poll

conducted by the Wilstein Institute asserted that 78 percent of American Jewish leaders favor a settlement freeze in order to pave the way for Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees. According to the November 28 edition of *Washington Jewish Week*, "A vast majority (88 percent) said Israel should offer the Arabs a territorial compromise on the West Bank and Gaza 'in return for credible guarantees of peace.'" The results of the poll created an uproar among Jewish leaders, with many claiming the results to be misleading or "simplistic." Despite the claims of detractors, the poll does indicate that the American Jewish community is not monolithic in its opinion on the settlements and the requirements for peace.

Also greeting Prime Minister Shamir upon his arrival in Washington, D.C. was a quarter-page ad in the *Washington Post* sponsored by Amnesty International. In the form of a letter to President Bush, the ad opened by stating, "We ask you to raise the issue of the torture of Palestinians with Prime Minister

Shamir when you meet today." Signed by Amnesty International Executive Director John Healy and the chair of Amnesty's Board of Directors Carole Nagengast, the letter asked "How can peace be secured when Israeli forces are responsible for torture and when even non-violent Palestinian leaders are held in administrative detention?" It concluded, "No peace can be fulfilled without the full expression of human rights for all."

ADC contacted Amnesty headquarters in early November after the organization ran a similar ad during a state visit by Morocco's King Hassan. In a letter to John Healy, ADC President Albert Mokhiber expressed support for Amnesty's work on behalf of human rights and stated, "Amnesty has always prided itself on being objective in the realm of international human rights...By running a similar advertisement [during a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Shamir], Amnesty would reflect its even-handed attitude toward all governments in the Middle East." ■

ADC-Orange County Welcomes Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan

A capacity crowd of 750 people filled the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Alicante to hear Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan address ADC-Orange County's Annual Banquet. The crowd also gave a warm welcome to former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who was recognized by the chapter for his humanitarian efforts on behalf of Arabs and Arab-Americans. Coming on the eve of Middle East peace talks in Madrid, the banquet served to energize the community, and drew extensive media attention, with articles appearing in *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Orange County Register*.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening, which featured a pre-dinner reception and art exhibit, was the Honorable Edmonde Haddad, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomacy and former president of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. Haddad told the gathering the events that week mark, "a truly momentous occasion." While acknowledging the caution many people feel about the talks, he expressed "hope the chances of peace will grow."

Queen Noor, the former Lisa Najeeb Halaby, expressed her pleasure in addressing the crowd, and opened her remarks by saying, "I am very pleased to join you here today...to convey to you the respect and appreciation that the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee enjoys in Jordan and throughout the Arab world...Your achievements reflect the hard work and deep commitment of millions of Arab-Americans and others around the world who have fought diligently for the cause of justice, over many years, in repeated battles, to defeat the forces of ignorance intolerance and prejudice."

She reflected on her own experiences, growing up as an Arab-American and now as Queen of Jordan. She touched on recent democratic reforms taking place in Jordan, and told the gathering about the many challenges facing the Arab world, "The economic problems of the 1980s, combined with the waste and pain of the recent Gulf crisis, have inten-

sified the conviction that we finally must overcome the taboos and the constraints of the past in order to build a better future." However, she predicted that "The Arab people stand on the threshold of a new era—perhaps even an Arab re-awakening that may resume the national march for freedom, dignity and cooperation that was first launched at the turn of the century...The new Arab order we seek must penetrate beyond the surface of democracy to incorporate substantive changes for the better in areas such as the conditions of technology transfer from the industrialized world, regional economic integration and close cooperation with other developing countries. This new world order must also emphasize guarantees of human rights, equal opportunities for women, protection of our fragile environmental base, respect for our solid social traditions, and a revival of intellectual and creative output." Queen Noor called upon the Arab-American community to take up this challenge, stating, "You have such a vital role to play, for the challenges you face in the future are at least as important as the responsibilities you have shouldered in the past. You can help us build a truly new Arab order...You have a key role to play in challenging Israel's claims that it is both a true democracy and the region's only democracy. Your help also is vital for the success of current efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict."

As she concluded, the Queen said, "The old country you heard about from your parents and grandparents is a very

different place today. The future holds great promise for the Arab people, if we can continue our movement forward."

As a special token of appreciation, ADC member Ibrahim Nashashibi presented the Queen with an original painting.

Presenting the Orange County Chapter's Alex Odeh Humanitarian Award to Ramsey Clark was Odeh's widow Norma. Clark spoke about the dire conditions in Iraq, and commented on the the new world order, noting that the Madrid conference was an example of "the strong doing as they will and the weak doing as they must." He drew great applause however, when he told the audience, "Don't despair. Right is might, and the cause of the Palestinian people will prevail."

ADC Chairman James Abourezk and President Albert Mokhiber also made brief remarks. Mokhiber expressed "cautious optimism" about the Madrid conference, noting that Israel was still opposed to "giving up one inch of land," and suggested that the United States undertake a "carrot and stick" approach with Israel in the coming months. Lauded as an overwhelming success by all, special recognition goes to Los Angeles Regional Director Nazih Bayda, who did a tremendous job in organizing the banquet. Bayda would like to extend special thanks to the following individuals for their help in making this year's banquet such a huge success: May Abu-Ghazaleh, Mona Faris, Houssam Wannous, Rateb Najjar, Suhaila Omar and Laila Doudar. ■

Don't miss ADC's Ninth National Convention!

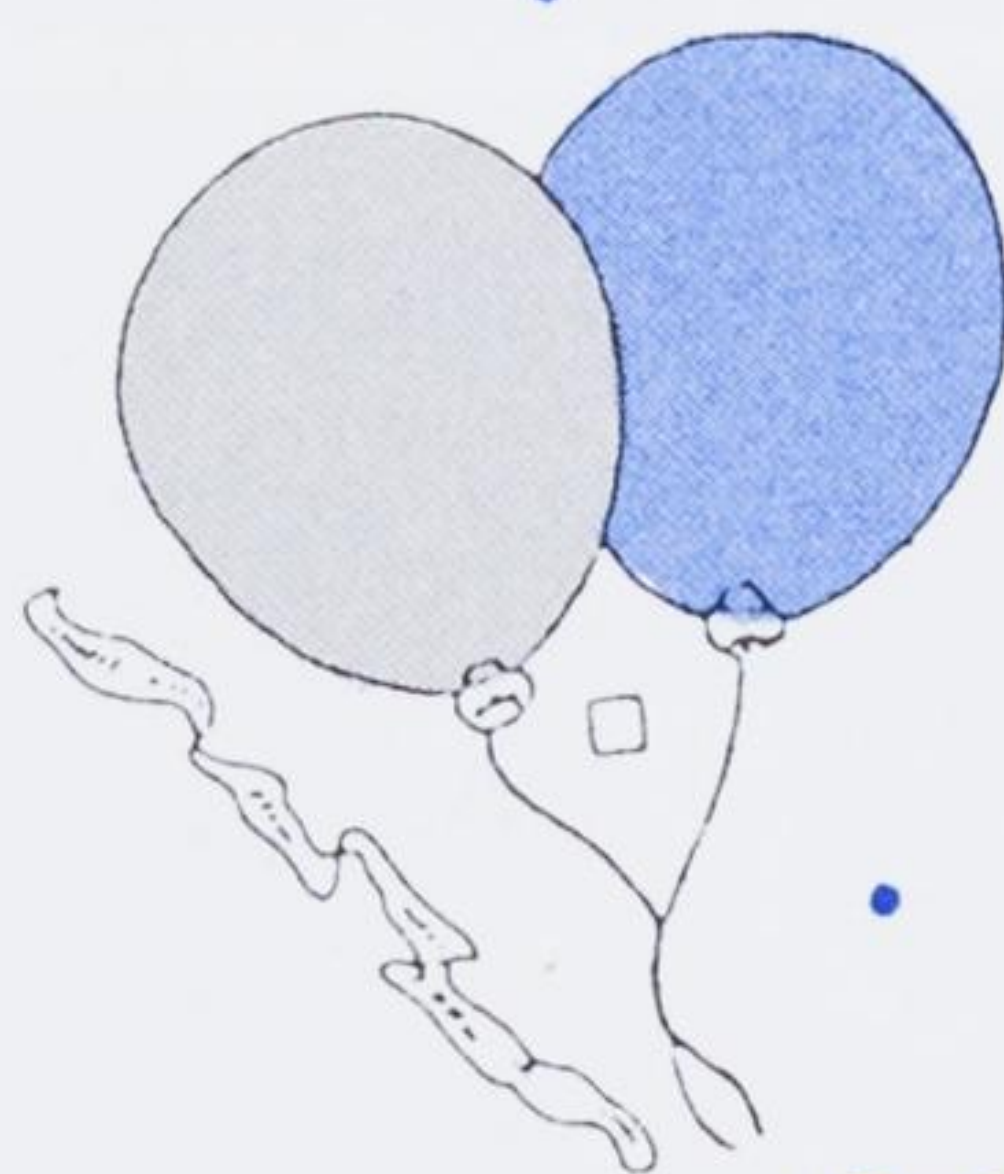
April 30-May 3, 1992

**Crystal Gateway Marriott
Washington, D.C.**

Confirmed speakers include:

**Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan
ABC News Anchor Peter Jennings
Journalist Robert I. Friedman**

Call (202) 244-2990 for more information!



Evacuees continued from page 1

porary work authorization. It was assumed that they would return to Kuwait after the war, but conditions have prevented such a move. Their temporary status was due to expire on December 31, 1991, after which time they could have faced deportation. While the families include Arab nationals of Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Sudan, and Syria, many of the evacuees are Palestinians who have no "home country" to which they can return.

Despite the fact that at least one member of each family is a U.S. citizen, U.S. law provides that American citizens under 21 years of age cannot petition for green cards on behalf of their foreign parents.

Upon their arrival, the families spread out across the U.S.; some went to areas where they had family or friends, some returned to the cities or towns where they had studied. The largest group currently resides in southern California, and a large group stayed in Raleigh, North Carolina, the final destination of their flight from Kuwait. In order to bring attention to their case, as well as to monitor the conditions facing the evacuees, many of the families banded together and formed the Committee for Repatriated Families from Kuwait (CRFK). Headed by Dr. Iyad Al-Shurafa, the CRFK has also compiled a database of evacuated families.

ADC members assisted some of the families upon their arrival in the Washington area last year. Over the last several months, ADC has assisted CRFK in its efforts to raise public attention and to work with Congress and the Administration to find some sort of relief for the evacuees. During a stay in Washington in October, Dr. Al-Shurafa and ADC met with numerous members of Congress and Administration officials. They met with Senator Terry Sanford (D-NC), who had worked with the

group in North Carolina, Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA), and numerous other elected officials. During those meetings, ADC and CRFK urged Members of Congress to ask the president to sign an Executive Order similar to the one he issued for Chinese nationals after the Tiananmen square massacre.

On October 17, Senators Sanford and Cranston began circulating a letter to President Bush urging him to issue an Executive Order granting the families four years temporary status and work authorization. The letter, which was signed by 21 senators, was delivered to the president on November 14. It stated, "Unless these families are accorded immigration relief, they face the real tragedy that they will be separated from each other and that they may not be allowed to return to Kuwait. As the country that took responsibility to bring these families to safety, the United States government has the ongoing responsibility to allow them to remain temporarily in the United States until the situation in Kuwait improves." In addition to Sanford and Cranston, signers include: Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Al Gore (D-TN), John Chafee (R-RI), Mark Hatfield (R-OR), James Jeffords (R-VT), Paul Simon (D-IL), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Daniel Inouye (D-HI), J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA), Claiborne Pell (D-RI), Charles Robb (D-VA), John Kerry (D-MA), Harris Wofford (D-PA), Herb Kohl (D-WI), Brock Adams (D-WA), John Warner (R-VA), Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), Paul Wellstone (DFL-MN), and John Breaux (D-LA).

Al-Shurafa returned to Washington in mid-November to continue his efforts. At that time, the press began to focus its attention on the plight of the evacuees, with articles appearing in *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post*. A special on WRC-TV, the Washington, D.C. affiliate of NBC, scheduled for November 15, gave background on a Palestinian evacuee family in the area. They were able to conclude

the segment on a happy note by announcing the issuance of the presidential directive. The *Times* and the *Post* also featured follow up stories about the decision.

Commenting on the directive, ADC President Albert Mokhiber said, "ADC is pleased by the President's decision. He clearly recognized the needs of the evacuees and acted swiftly to accommodate them. We are confident that the evacuated families, which consist in large part of skilled professionals, will make contributions to the United States at least as significant as the contributions they made to Kuwait."

Dr. Al-Shurafa commented, "The evacuated families express their profound gratitude to President Bush. His action...has relieved the anxiety the families have faced about their immigration status in the United States. We are particularly grateful to Senators Sanford and Cranston, and all of their supporters in the Senate and the House of Representatives, who have worked so hard to advocate our cause." He also thanked ADC for its assistance and support, "This victory would not have been possible without the ADC team."

On November 21, ADC Legal Services Director Gregory Nojeim and Shurafa met with Associate INS Commissioner James Puleo to follow up on details surrounding the implementation of the directive. Nojeim urged the INS to issue employment authorization for the evacuees in a prompt manner, noting that some evacuees had already lost jobs because their papers had expired. Puleo agreed to consider granting limited parole, on a case-by-case basis, to Palestinians from Kuwait who have U.S. citizen children and were not evacuees, but came to the United States on their own because of the war situation. Finally, ADC informed the INS that it would follow up with the evacuees to advise them on how to apply through employers for green cards under existing immigration laws. ADC will continue to work with the evacuees to help them adjust to their new status.

Note: Many families are still seeking employment opportunities. Interested employers should contact Dr. Iyad Al-Shurafa at: CRFK, 22555 Nadine Circle, #149, Torrance, California, 90505. ■

Contact Congress and the President Today!

Please contact President Bush and the above-mentioned senators to express your appreciation for the work they have done on behalf of the Persian Gulf evacuees.

Senator _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3121

President George Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
(202) 456-1111

Civil Rights Bill Becomes Law

On November 21, 1991, President Bush signed into law a civil rights bill that would overturn a number of recent Supreme Court decisions that had made it more difficult for plaintiff's to win employment discrimination cases. The President had vetoed a stronger civil rights bill last year.

The new law requires employers who use business practices that adversely affect racial minorities and women to justify those practices by showing that they are job-related and consistent with business necessity. It also restored the coverage of a key race discrimination statute to the hiring process. The statute had been limited, by a court case, to discrimination after hiring.

The new law also overturns the case *EEOC v. ARAMCO*, and makes it possible for U.S. citizens who work abroad to sue U.S. companies abroad for employment discrimination.

Commenting on the new law, ADC Legal Services Director Gregory T. Nojeim said, "We are hopeful that armed with the rights this law reaffirms, Arab-Americans will more often succeed with their employment discrimination cases."

Attorneys Teach INS About Political Asylum

As part of its Palestinian Political Asylum Project, ADC Legal Services Director Gregory T. Nojeim and a team of seven immigration attorneys who have been working with ADC on Palestinian political asylum cases conducted a teach-in at the INS Political Asylum Unit in Arlington, Virginia. The Arlington Political Asylum Unit is charged with adjudicating political asylum claims brought by persons in much of the Eastern United States.

The November 6 teach-in marked an important opportunity for immigration attorneys to help INS asylum officers better understand Palestinian political asylum claims. The immigration attorneys advanced a number of legal arguments which, if accepted by INS, could

result in a substantial increase in the proportion of Palestinians who are granted political asylum in the U.S.

Key among these arguments is the effect of the Jordanian passport on a political asylum claim. The immigration attorneys presented evidence that a Palestinian can hold a passport from Jordan, but still be deemed "stateless" for purposes of political asylum.

Attorneys addressing the INS included Malea Kiblan, Denyse Sabagh, Patricia Robinson, Rex Weingerter, William Van Wyke, Samer Burgan and Debbie Sanders of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

ADC's Nojeim said, "While it may seem odd that INS officials would invite us to train them about political asylum issues, Palestinian political asylum claims tend to be quite complicated, making special arrangements necessary. We are hopeful that INS will be able to deal more quickly and more favorably with the backlog of Palestinian political asylum claims it now faces."

The Arlington Political Asylum Office then invited the team of immigration attorneys to prepare a "Master Exhibit" which would contain many of the documents crucial to Palestinian political asylum cases. The Master Exhibit would be furnished by the INS Resource Information Center to all seven INS political asylum units in the United States for the use of both INS officers and immigration attorneys. It is expected that this Master Exhibit will be completed in late January, 1991.

Fraud Arrest In Canada

On October 8, police in Toronto, Canada arrested Palestinian Mohammad M. Agbareia and charged him with eight counts of fraud and attempted fraud. Agbareia is believed to be responsible for attempting on numerous occasions to bilk Arab-Americans and Canadian-Arabs out of thousands of dollars, and additional fraud charges against Agbareia are expected to be filed soon.

According to numerous reports received by ADC, Mr. Agbareia telephoned Arab-Americans and Canadian-Arabs, claimed that he had been robbed or had otherwise fallen upon hard times, that his family was about to be evicted from their apartment, and that he needed money to tide himself over until a wire transfer arrived from Saudi Arabia.

Detective Sergeant Allen Magda of the Toronto Metropolitan Police Fraud and Forgery Squad reported that over 50 persons from across North America responded to Agbareia's plea by sending money. "I have never dealt with a more decent bunch of complainants. These are really nice people he's been swindling...[they] were motivated by spiritualism or altruism."

ADC first warned Arab-Americans about Agbareia's alleged fraudulent activities in the *ADC Times* in fall of 1990. Since that time, ADC has strongly urged both the FBI and authorities in Canada to apprehend Agbareia. Just prior to his arrest, ADC Legal Director Gregory T. Nojeim furnished the Toronto Police with information about the suspect's alleged activities in the United States. Toronto Police offered into evidence at Agbareia's bail hearing an *ADC Times* article warning members of his allegedly fraudulent activities. Based in part on this evidence, the presiding judge determined that Agbareia should be held in jail until his trial to prevent him from committing further crimes and to ensure his appearance at trial.

The alleged swindler's luck ran out when he contacted a Canadian-Arab in Toronto who alerted the police. Police report that Agbareia made arrangements for the Canadian-Arab to send him \$1,200 by taxi cab. A Toronto Police officer commandeered the cab, posed as the cab driver, and confronted suspect when the "donation" was to be made. Agbareia allegedly fled on foot with police in hot pursuit. According to Magda, a passing citizen joined in the chase and tackled the suspect. That citizen has been recommended for a civilian citation from the Police Services Board of Metropolitan Toronto. ■

Outreach Update

Iraqi Relief Efforts Continue

It is painfully clear that conditions in Iraq continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate—food and medical supplies are dwindling, basic necessities such as electricity and clean water are becoming scarce, and thousands of people remain homeless as winter approaches. Clearly, the war is not yet over for the 18 million people of Iraq.

A recent report conducted by a team of 87 researchers concluded that the collapse of the economy and destruction of Iraq's health infrastructure had resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of children from disease and malnutrition since August 1991 (see *ADC Times*, September-October 1991). As is so frequently the case with war, children and civilians pay the biggest price.

ADC has worked closely with Congress, the Arab-American Medical Association (AAMA), and other concerned groups to raise public attention to the humanitarian and medical needs for the people of Iraq. ADC chapters nationwide have held fundraisers and events to educate the American public about the desperate conditions in Iraq and have urged members of Congress to support legislation that would provide humanitarian relief for the people of Iraq. In particular, ADC members have been instrumental in garnering support for House Concurrent Resolution 168, introduced by Representative Tim Penny (DFL-MN), which would urge the United Nations to authorize the U.S.

Iraq Update:

As this issue of *ADC Times* went to press, we learned that the House of Representatives passed an amended version of the Penny resolution. The vote came late on the evening of November 27, and was passed by unanimous consent.

ADC will provide members with further information when the text of the resolution becomes available.

to release a portion of Iraqi assets to provide urgent humanitarian relief.

Recently, the ADC Outreach Department initiated a coordinating meeting for people and organizations working on Iraqi humanitarian aid. Held on November 12 at the ADC National Office, the meeting was chaired by Dr. Arfan Al-Hani of the AAMA and included representatives from Catholic Relief Services, MADRE, the International Study Team, and the American Friends Service Committee.

The group will continue to meet to further coordinate strategy and develop specific action proposals. It was generally agreed that while abundant information on the situation exists, public awareness must be raised and a plan of action implemented.

On November 13, the International Task Force of the House Select Committee on Hunger held hearings about Iraqi humanitarian needs. Among those testifying were Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA); Julia Devon, coordinator of the Harvard Study Group and the International Study Team; Alex Rondos, Director of Public Affairs for Catholic Relief Services; and Jackie Wolcott, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs. While experts and officials on Capitol Hill agreed that the situation in Iraq is deteriorating, the Administration seems unyielding in its commitment to maintain sanctions and retain Iraqi assets held in the U.S.

As we go to press, Congress prepares to leave for the holidays, and legislation in the House of Representatives will remain pending until our elected officials return in late January 1992.

ADC members are urged to continue in their efforts to raise public attention and awareness to the conditions facing the people of Iraq. ADC will continue to coordinate with other organizations, and will keep members apprised of upcoming projects and actions.

Galilee Villagers Appeal to Israeli High Court

On November 18, dozens of residents of the Galilee village of Ramya made an

appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court contesting government plans to evict them from their ancestral lands in order to make way for Soviet Jewish immigrants. The villagers were accompanied by heads of the Arab local councils, a number of Knesset members, and a representative from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. The case attracted widespread international attention when the Israel Lands Authority announced its intention to bulldoze the village to make way for housing for new immigrants (see *ADC Times*, September-October 1991). This action contradicted Israel's claim that immigration will not take place at the expense of Israel's Arab population.

Since the decision became public, the Lands Authority and the City of Carmiel have been flooded with letters and telegrams. The issue has received widespread press attention and a number of foreign embassies have expressed interest.

At the Israeli Supreme Court, attorneys for the Ramya residents pointed out numerous procedural flaws made by the Israel Lands Authority. The residents also re-asserted their willingness to compromise and welcome the new immigrants, provided they were allowed to remain in their village and that Ramya be recognized as a neighborhood in Carmiel with full municipal services and space for the development of the next generation. The Supreme Court delayed action on the case and urged the parties to reach a compromise.

ADC is involved in international efforts to support the village of Ramya. ADC members are urged to support the Ramya residents by taking part in a telex campaign organized by the International Jewish Peace Union. Call Worldlink at 1-800-827-2831 and ask for the Ramya Telex addressed to Mr. Gideon Vidkon, head of the Israel Lands Administration. Charges are \$5.50 with credit card and \$6.50 without.

Editor's Note: We apologize for giving an incorrect phone number for the Ramya Telex in the previous issue of ADC Times. ■



**American-Arab
Anti-Discrimination Committee**
Suite 500
4201 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008
U.S.A.

Support Growth in 1992!

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Before Halloween '91, ADC requested the reappearance of the "Instant Arab," and a member in Kentucky removed the "Instant Sheik." The mask is identical, save the change in the name.

ADC contacted Fun World's Geller, who had gone to great expense to create the kit, and alleged that there was no agreement on the name. Geller told ADC that "The mask is equally offensive, and the denigration of racial and ethnic groups has no significance to the season. Arab-American children should not be intimidated and the cruel misrepresentation is reprehensible." When challenged as to why the company didn't market "Instant African-American" kits, Geller said, "such kits wouldn't sell." He reiterated that the kit was not offensive and refused to pull the item from the world's product line.

ADC proved more sensitive. Following discussions with ADC Media Executive Director James Jacobs, Edward King, Government and Corporate Relations Director Walgreen Company, said ADC, "This item has been removed from future inventories of seasonal merchandise. It is not in anyone's best interest to market this type of costume, and we appreciate your well thought out expression of a justifiable concern of the Arab community both in Washington and elsewhere in the United States." ADC's President

ADC will continue to press Fun World Division to halt production of such products, and will keep members apprised of their response.

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Outreach Update

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A recent report conducted by a team of 87 researchers concluded that the collapse of the economy and destruction of Iraq's health infrastructure had resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of children from disease and malnutrition since August 1991 (see *ADC Times*, September-October 1991). As is so frequently the case with war, children and civilians pay the biggest price.

ADC has worked closely with Congress, the Arab-American Medical Association (AAMA), and other concerned groups to raise public attention to the humanitarian and medical needs for the people of Iraq. ADC chapters nationwide have held fundraisers and events to educate the American public about the desperate conditions in Iraq and have urged members of Congress to support legislation that would provide humanitarian relief for the people of Iraq. In particular, ADC members have been instrumental in garnering support for House Concurrent Resolution 168, introduced by Representative Tim Penny (DFL-MN), which would urge the United Nations to authorize the U.S.

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Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Daytime Telephone	()	Evening Telephone
If this is a family membership, please list other family members:		
Spouse		
Children		

PAYMENT INFORMATION

- ☐ Check enclosed (please make check for dues payable to ADC)
☐ Charge to my:

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

For Office Use Only

ID#

Comm:

\$ ☐ Cash ☐ CH ☐ CK#

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Media Monitor

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

- ☐ Individual ☐ 1 year: \$35
- ☐ Family ☐ 1 year: \$50
- ☐ Student/Limited Income ☐ 1 year: \$30
- ☐ Canadian (in U.S. dollars) ☐ 1 year: \$40
- ☐ Overseas ☐ 1 year: \$60

- ☐ 2 years: \$65
- ☐ 2 years: \$90
- ☐ 2 years: \$75
- ☐ 2 years: \$100

Payable to: ☐ ADC ☐ ADC Research Institute (tax-deductible)

DONATION

I am very enthusiastic about the vital work ADC is doing and I want to enclose a special donation of:

- ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

SPECIAL OFFERS

- ☐ Permanent member: I authorize ADC to renew my membership each year by charging my credit card below. (Please check category above)
- ☐ For an additional \$12.50/year I would like a one year subscription to *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* (Not available for Overseas and Canada)

PAYMENT RECAP

Dues	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____
Subscription to <i>Washington Report</i>	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Yes!

I want to become a member of ADC.

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ADC has been quite busy over the last few months countering negative and biased characterizations of Arabs and Arab-Americans by public officials, in popular culture, and in the news media. With the 1992 presidential race gearing up, ADC is also committed to challenging racist and anti-Arab campaign propaganda (see story, page 4).

ADC Challenges D.C. Mayor

In a recent letter to ADC President Albert Mokhiber, Washington, D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon apologized for remarks she had made comparing the D.C. Council to a "Persian market." In a September article in the *Washington Post*, Mayor Dixon denounced members of the City Council for allegedly steering city contracts to vendors who have been politically supportive. In discussing the issue, Mayor Dixon said, "It just becomes a Persian market."

In a letter to Mayor Dixon, Mokhiber said, "we are concerned about your equating the less than ethical business practices of the D.C. government to a 'Persian market.' While ADC is a membership organization primarily of Arab-Americans, we do have many Iranian and other non-Arab Muslim members, all of whom would take offense to your remarks. I am sure that it was a careless slip of the tongue with no intended malice." Responding to ADC, Mayor Dixon said, "My remarks...were intended with no malice. It was my desire to make comparisons between the District Council and other forums that require a high degree of bargaining...I apologize if anyone was offended by my attempt to emphasize this point."

"Instant Stereotype"

Once again, Halloween became an occasion for the less-than-sensitive to engage in Arab-bashing. In 1991, Fun World Division again provided drugstores and discount chains with the "Instant Arab" and introduced its clone, the "Instant Sheik."

In 1990, ADC challenged Fun World Division for marketing the "Instant Arab" kit. The kit consisted of a piece of

cloth and a braided cord. While the "Instant Arab" may not seem as outwardly offensive as the Arab mask sold by Spencer Gifts in 1989, it was the only ethnic kit marketed by Fun World, and was displayed with such unsavory characters as the "Instant Pirate" and the "Instant Executioner." Last year, Fun World President Stanley Geller refused to halt distribution of the "Instant Arab," but a number of stores did agree to remove the kit from their shelves (see *ADC Times*, November 1990).

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ADC contacted Fun World's Geller, who said he had gone to great expense to change the kit, and alleged that there had been agreement on the name change. ADC told Geller that "The Sheik" was equally offensive, and charged, "The denigration of racial and ethnic groups has no significance to the Halloween season. Arab-American children should not be intimidated and shamed by the cruel misrepresentation of their culture." When challenged as to why the company didn't market "Instant Jew" or "Instant African-American" kits, Geller said, "such characters wouldn't sell." He reiterated his position that the kit was not offensive, and again refused to pull the item from Fun World's product line.

Retailers proved more sensitive. Following discussions with ADC Media Monitor Meme Jacobs, Edward King, Director of Government and Corporate Relations for Walgreen Company, said in a letter to ADC, "This item has been removed from future inventories of Halloween seasonal merchandise. It is obviously not in anyone's best interest to distribute this type of costume, and we do appreciate your well thought out comments expressing a justifiable concern from the Arab community both in the United States and elsewhere in the world." Rite Aid Corporation President Martin Grass told ADC he had instructed his purchasing department to discontinue stocking the "Instant Arab" kit.

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Campus Corner

ADC is pleased to report that campus chapters are flourishing across the country, thanks in great part to the efforts of the ADC Research Institute's 1991 summer interns. Campus chapters have been at the forefront of raising public debate over Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees. Thanks to the efforts of the Arab-American Law Students Association, ADC held a teach-in at Georgetown University Law School on November 6. Titled "The Middle East Peace Process and US Aid to Israel," panelists included the former Representative David Bowen and Dr. Halim Barakat.

ADC also has campus chapters at the following institutions:

American University
George Washington University
Indiana University
Penn State University
University of Florida

If you are interested in forming an ADC campus chapter, please call Campus Coordinator Imad Abi-Saleh at (202) 244-2990.

Brown University

A new ADC campus chapter was recently formed at Brown University by former ADC intern **Greg Shadid** and **Mona Murad**. The chapter has focused its efforts on increasing Middle East-related facilities at Brown, and has asked school administrators to explore the feasibility of starting a Middle Eastern studies department. Signatures are

Urgent Action Needed!

Once again, Israeli authorities have renewed the military order keeping Bir Zeit University closed for another three months. Bir Zeit has been closed since December 1987.

Support **H.Con.Res. 43** to open Palestinian universities. Contact your Members of Congress and President Bush today!

Organize a campaign on campus to demand the right to education for all Palestinians!

White House: (202) 456-1111
Congress: (202) 225-3121

being collected on a petition to demonstrate the interest in such a program. The chapter has also requested that the library acquire a number of Middle East and Arab world resources.

Harvard University

Student activists are in the process of forming an ADC chapter on the campus of Harvard University. Students interested in helping should contact Imad Abi-Saleh at the ADC National Office.

Michigan State University

The ADC chapter sponsored a lecture by professor Norton Mezvinski on November 13. Titled "Middle East Peace: the Role of Israel and Zionism," the lecture was a tremendous success, drawing close to 100 people. The event was covered in the campus newspaper as well as in the local media. Chapter member **Dennis Denno** said, "The talk energized the Arab students on campus and educated many non-Arabs as well." Mezvinski also invited to speak on KAR-87 radio's "News Talk" and also appeared on WDBM 89FM radio.

The chapter recently formed a *debke* dance troupe that has been well-received at cultural events on campus.

Stanford University

The newly formed campus chapter at Stanford University introduced itself by displaying a large poster on campus which states "Ten Billion Dollars to Israel = Continued Illegal Occupation of Palestine." Chapter members have also written letters to Senators Alan Cranston (D-CA) and Pete Wilson (R-CA) opposing Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

ADC contact **Nawar Kasrawi** said the chapter expects to receive funding from the university at the beginning of the Spring semester.

University of North Texas

Majd Al-Amad, president of the newly formed ADC chapter at the University of North Texas introduced

fellow students to the chapter by exhibiting ADC literature in the student union. The chapter also formed an intramural soccer team, and was successful in winning the school championship on November 20.

While a mere three months old, the chapter has generated considerable interest in Arab-American issues. The Unitarian-Universalist Church recently invited Al-Amad to speak to the congregation about the harassment of Arabs in America. Chapter members also took part in a day-long Cultural Diversity Workshop on November 14 which drew more than 60 students and faculty members. ADC campus members participated in a workshop on sensitivity training, alerting students and faculty members to actions and behavior that Arabs view as offensive. The chapter also joined with other student organizations in forming a Minority Caucus on the North Texas campus.

ADC-North Texas has joined ADC chapters nationwide in the campaign to oppose Israeli loan guarantees by writing letters to Senators Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX) and Phil Gramm (R-TX).

Texas University Law School

Former ADC intern **Kristin Stilt** has formed an ADC chapter on the campus of Texas University Law School. Students interested in joining should contact ADC's Campus Coordinator Imad Abi-Saleh.

Wichita State University

The chapter set up a huge display case at the Student Union which featured displayed general information about ADC and its early accomplishments as well as ADC's current efforts to oppose Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees. The case was displayed for two weeks and chapter president **Signe Knee** said that it attracted the attention of many students. The chapter was also successful in applying for university funding, and is currently planning a teach-in on Middle East peace and U.S. aid to Israel. ■

Chapter Reports

Amman

ADC's Amman, Jordan chapter continues to assist Jordanian students who have been denied visas to re-enter the United States to continue their studies. To date, the chapter has been contacted by more than 500 students who have had their I-20 visa renewal applications rejected. The chapter has contacted the U.S. embassy in Amman to seek further explanation for the visa rejections. The chapter has forwarded numerous applications to ADC's Legal Services Department in Washington, which will ask the State Department to re-evaluate the requests. The Jordanian media has given extensive coverage to ADC's efforts on behalf of Jordanian students, with articles appearing in the *Jordan Times*, *The Star*, *Al-Rai*, *Al-Shaab*, and *Ad-Dustour*.

The chapter was also busy preparing to host ADC's December 11-12 conference in Amman.

Alaska

ADC Vice Chairman and former president **Abdeen Jabara** traveled to Anchorage to attend the chapter's founding event on November 2. Held at the United Methodist Church, the festivities included a brunch and a showing of traditional Arabic dresses coordinated by **Majdolin Hanna**. Jabara gave a presentation on the history and goals of ADC which was followed by a question and answer period. In addition, chapter member and University of Alaska professor **Musa Essayad** spoke about the Arab community in Alaska. According to Essayad, Anchorage has approximately 200 residents of Arab descent. Close to 60 people attended the event, and member **Musa Obeidi** donated a painting for the fundraising raffle. While in Anchorage, Jabara spoke at a meeting of the local World Affairs Council and gave several radio and television interviews.

The chapter was quite active throughout the year, undertaking local fundraising projects, working closely with students at the University of Alaska at Anchorage, and educating the local public and media to issues of concern to Alaska's Arab-American community. Chapter president **Julie White** said she hopes the success of this event will attract more members to ADC.



Detroit chapter activist Nada Makled (l) accepts a "Rising Star" award from board member Dr. Amal David and chapter president Gary Beydoun

Boston

Boston board member **Mohamed Mansour** and National Executive Board member **Halim Awde** have been in contact with Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn regarding remarks he made about U.S. foreign aid. During a public rally, Flynn said he opposes foreign aid in favor of domestic programs. In a letter to Flynn, Mansour and Awde asked if his position also pertained to Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees. Howard Leibowitz, director of Federal Relations for the Mayor responded in a letter dated October 16. Noting that the Mayor has criticized the Bush administration for its neglect of domestic issues, Leibowitz said, "By this, he

[Mayor Flynn] does not mean that America has no role internationally, rather, we should pay a bit of attention to the homefront as well. As such, there is no contradiction between his support for housing Soviet and Ethiopian refugees in Israel...and his support for providing every American with safe, decent and affordable housing. Let us all hope that there is a time in the very near future when the world's conflicts can be settled and all of us can work together to provide shelter, sustenance, and a better life for all our peoples."

Columbus

Derar Musa, president of the Columbus, Ohio chapter has raised the issue of Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees during his weekly commentary on public radio.

Connecticut

The Connecticut chapter has done an outstanding job raising public attention to Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees and in discussing community reaction to Middle East peace talks.

On October 3, the *Hartford Courant* ran an op-ed piece by **Hassan Fouda**. **Ghalia Salahi** had a letter-to-the-editor published in the October 9 *The Day*. The October 18 edition of *The Bridgeport Post* ran a letter-to-the-editor from **Reverend Simon Harak**, and *The News-Times* ran a letter by Marcel LeRoi on October 21. The peace conference and the conditions faced by Palestinians under occupation was the subject of a letter by **Amin Kamel** published in *The Day* on October 11. **Dana Loyd** wrote a piece defending the right to criticize the Israeli government without being labeled "anti-Semitic" or "Judeopathic" in the October 19 *News-Times*, while **Emad Ismail** wrote about the Madrid peace conference in the October 30 *News-Times*.

Mohamed Asheh spoke to a meeting of the Asnuntuck Community College chapter of the University of the Third Age (UTA) on October 4. UTA is a continuing education program for individuals 55 years and older. Asheh spoke on the question of Palestine, and presented a showing of the video "Days of Rage" to the more than 150 people in attendance. University officials were quite pleased with the response and promised to sponsor an upcoming panel on the Middle East.

On October 20, Asheh was interviewed by WVIT television about the peace conference, and was quoted as saying, "Although the Arabs are optimistic, they are skeptical about Israel's intentions." He also appeared on an October 30 radio call-in show on WPOP AM along with a member of Jews for Peace in Hartford regarding the peace conference. Asheh expressed cautious optimism and called for unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory.

In September, a number of letters to local newspapers focused on Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees. Connecticut chapter members appearing in print include **Gamal AbdulRahman**, Edmund Tomey, **Judy Amarah**, **Frank Harsche**, and Dana Loyd in *Danbury New-Times* and **Eleanor Burdick** and A.P. Hersant in the *New London Day*. In addition, Mohamed Asheh had a letter rebutting a racist anti-Arab article published in the *Hartford Courant*.

The national office would also like to recognize outgoing chapter media director Judy Amarah for her outstanding contributions over the last year. Amarah and her husband are awaiting the birth of their third child.

Detroit

Fairlane Manor in Dearborn was the setting for the Detroit chapter's 11th annual banquet on October 26. More than 400 people attended the gala event which featured welcoming remarks by ADC Detroit Regional Director **Jessica Daher** and Detroit chapter president **Gary Beydoun**. A special award recognizing the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for its efforts in defending the legal and political rights of Arab-Americans was presented to Elsa Shartsis, treasurer of the Michigan

ACLU and president of the Oakland County ACLU.

Keynote speaker for the banquet Dr. Hala Maksoud discussed the Middle East peace conference which opened that weekend in Madrid. Following a fundraising raffle, guests enjoyed music by the Osama Baalbaki Band.

A reception prior to the banquet was attended by Michigan Representatives David Bonior (D-MI), John Conyers (D-MI), and John Dingell (D-MI), and special greetings were sent to the chapter by Detroit Mayor Coleman Young,



Philadelphia member Reema Azat models a dress from Palestine during the chapter's November 2 dinner and cultural event

Michigan Governor John Engler, Detroit City Council president Maryann Mahaffey, and numerous other county officials. The chapter also awarded "Super Star" and "Rising Star" status to a number of members and organizations for their efforts in the areas of membership recruitment, banquet promotion, community service, and general work in support of ADC in 1991.

The chapter has received extensive media coverage on a range of issues. Regional Director Jessica Daher was interviewed by Detroit's *Jewish News* about U.S. efforts to repeal the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism, and said that as long as Israel

treats non-Jewish citizens in a discriminatory manner, "the terms are equivalent." She also did a segment with Michigan Public Television for a special they are doing on hate crimes, and was interviewed by the *Detroit News* regarding Senator Tom Harkin's recent anti-Arab fundraising letter and in reaction to the defeat of Louisiana gubernatorial hopeful David Duke. The November 18 edition of the *News* quoted Daher as saying, "I'm pleased that he lost, but 39 percent of the vote is 39 percent too much. The fact that people were able to dismiss his Klan activities as a young man's indiscretion is scary to me." The chapter was one of a number of ethnic, civil rights and minority groups that signed on to a statement condemning the racism and bigotry which Duke represents.

Last year, ADC requested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigate allegations of brutality and defamation by the Dearborn, Michigan Police Department. The allegations were made by members of Dearborn's Arab-American community following an incident at Fordson High School in June 1990 (see Legal Briefs section of *ADC Times*, June-July 1990). Several of the students arrested charged that the police made racist anti-Arab slurs during the incident. The FBI interviewed hundreds of students at Fordson to determine whether Dearborn police had acted improperly. According to ADC's Daher, the FBI recently informed her that following an exhaustive year-long investigation, which mounted to 400 pages of testimony, the FBI and the Justice Department concluded that there wasn't any indictable evidence in the case. However, they said, this does not mean that certain police conduct was not in question.

Hawaii

A September 21 public forum on Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees was quite successful and garnered coverage on Honolulu's TV 4. The event was organized by Americans for Impartiality in the Middle East and featured presentations by Honolulu City Councilman Gary Gill and ADC member **Saleem Ahmed**, who both argued that such loan guarantees could be better used in the United States. Gill gave figures on the number

of public works projects that could be undertaken with \$10 billion, noting that, "Over 200,000 affordable housing units could be built. Dozens, if not scores, of sewage treatment plants could be upgraded if we had that kind of money invested in America, in our cities."

Houston

On November 17, Houston chapter coordinator **Yasmena Samahy** attended a service at the Friendswood Methodist Church where she spoke about Islam and the Middle East, and also taught a Sunday school class about Islam. She was very well-received and her remarks prompted a extensive question and answer period.

Los Angeles

The Los Angeles chapter held elections in late October. Mabruk to the following new board members: **Pierre Alwan**, **Sami Wassef**, **Lilian Bitar**, **Hala Yahya**, **Joe Dibsy**, **Nidal Kerdiya**, **Phil Doudar**, **Fouad Baraka**, **Ghassan Bisharat**, **Toufic Dandashi**, and **Sami Kandah**. Chapter officers are: president **Don Bustany**, vice president **Rima Nashashibi**, secretary **Mona Faris**, and treasurer **Omaima Naseridine**. The board will establish a number of new working committees and plans to host a fundraising event on December 29.

In early November, **Boualem Bouseloub** and Regional Coordinator **Nazih Bayda** attended a meeting with Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and representatives of other ethnic and minority groups to discuss the rise in hate crimes in the Los Angeles area.

New Hampshire

The chapter held a dinner on November 19 at the Lantern Restaurant in Manchester. Keynote speaker for the event was University of New Hampshire professor John Voll, who discussed prospects for peace in the Middle East. Voll, who currently serves as chapter adviser, recently received the Egyptian Badge of Honor from President Hosni Mubarak for excellence in Islamic Studies. **Fred Kfoury, Sr.**, chairman of Central Paper Products, was presented with an award recognizing him as "an outstanding Arab-American

who proudly promoted his ethnic heritage while faithfully serving the community." Kfoury's stature in the community was evident as he also received a proclamation from the City of Manchester presented on behalf of Mayor Raymond Wieczorek, recognition from the mayor of his hometown, Lawrence, Massachusetts, as well as a letter of congratulations from His Eminence Leo O'Neil, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in Manchester. In addition, New Hampshire Representative William Zeliff sent a personal letter to Mr. Kfoury applauding him on his many achievements and contributions to the community. Representative Dick Swett and Senator Warren Rudman sent their greetings to those gathered. The event, which was announced in *The Manchester Union Leader*, *The Concord Monitor*, *Little Newspapers*, and *The Eagle Tribune*, drew more than 120 people from across the state and Massachusetts. The chapter would like to also like to recognize Master of Ceremonies **Paul Kfoury**, and to thank **MaryAnn LeJeunesse** for her efforts in making the event such a success.

On November 18, chapter members participated in "Religious Liberty Day: A Celebration of Spirituality" at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. Chapter president **Nabil Migalli** gave a presentation on the Coptic Church, while Professor Voll led a discussion on Islam. Among the other faiths represented were Buddhism, Unitarianism, Taoism, Hinduism, Judaism, the Friends, Bahaism and Christianity. The day-long event was sponsored by the office of Multicultural Student Affairs and the United Campus Ministry of the University of New Hampshire, and featured an Ecumenical Celebration.

On November 9, Migalli gave a presentation on "Race and National Origin" at a conference in Manchester

titled "Uniting Against Hatred." The conference was sponsored by the New Hampshire Council of Churches, and brought together activists from across the state to listen to panels and participate in discussions on hate crimes, and to develop strategies on a local level to deal with such problems. The program was covered by the *New Hampshire Sunday News*, and drew close to 300 people. Migalli also represented ADC at a November 15 meeting of the Citizen Budget Campaign in Concord.

Thanks to the efforts of Professor of Education Leo Sandy, Migalli was invited to address a class at Rivier College on November 20. More than 40 students took part in a discussion of current issues in the Middle East.

The virtues of volunteerism were heralded in an October 25 article in *The Union Leader*, and among those recognized was Nabil Migalli. In addition to his job as supervisor at the Moore Center Independent Living Program, Migalli is a volunteer board member at Manchester Consolidated Services, as well as an ardent ADC supporter. Migalli, who said his volunteerism is an extension of his professional interests, told the paper that "what we contribute to America enriches all our lives."

On the media front, board member and *The Milford Cabinet* publisher **William Rotch** had a piece in the October 16 *Cabinet* about a recent *hafli* at the Cedars Church, while **Rev. David Van Strien** had a letter to the editor regarding Israel's request for additional loan guarantees published in the October 3 *Peterborough Transcript*. As well, Migalli appeared on New Hampshire Public Radio station WEVO on October 28 and was interviewed by WGOT-TV about the Madrid peace conference.

Finally, the chapter is capitalizing on New Hampshire's significance in presidential campaign politicking. While New Hampshire members of the

Attention Writers: Call for Submissions

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Democratic Party gathered in Manchester for their mid-term convention on November 2, David Van Strien and a number of volunteers distributed flyers with information on Middle East issues, including Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees. The gathering attracted more than 2,000 activists and five Democratic party presidential candidates.

North Carolina

Chapter members have been meeting with elected officials to rally support for Arab nationals evacuated from Kuwait last September, and worked closely with Senator Terry Sanford (D-NC) to encourage Congressional and Administrative action on their behalf. The chapter has also contacted officials regarding the plight of Iraqi civilians in the aftermath of the Gulf war, and to voice opposition to Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees. The chapter produced an innovative series of messages printed on matchbooks to rally public opposition to the \$10 billion loan guarantee.

Philadelphia

The chapter hosted an extremely successful cultural and social evening on November 2 at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church. More than 300 people turned out for the event which

featured a traditional Arabic meal and a fashion show of Arabic costumes modeled by local ADC members. Dennis Lynch, an aide to Representative Curt Weldon, gave a brief presentation and urged members to become more active in the political process. Following the dinner and fashion show, guests watched a spirited debke performance led by Amer Zahr and friends, and were entertained by the Najeeb Nasar Band. Mabruk to the following chapter members for making this event such an outstanding success: Susan Muaddi, George and Samira Khoury, George and Sophie Shahwan, George Zahr, Father Anthony Araj, Nancy Araj, Naim Ayoub, Sara Alfadl, Joan Hazbun and president Nawal Ayoub. The chapter wishes to thank the Church Ladies Committee of St. George for preparing the evening's meal.

Phoenix

Members of ADC's Metro Phoenix chapter have been busy rallying public opposition to Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees, lobbying elected officials and distributing resource materials to various local coalition groups. On October 5, ADC members joined representatives of various coalition groups for a gathering at the home of Steve and Hiam Arkawi to discuss the loan guarantees. A committee was established to plan educational

forums about the loan guarantees. Among those serving on the committee are chapter president Selim Hammoud, Fred Abood, Steve Arkawi, Jim Hadeed, Farouk Al-Hashimi, and Jamil Aboukoff. The forums will seek to educate the public about the effects of the guarantees on domestic programs and will be open to the media.

Selim Hammoud had a "Viewpoint" published in the October 23 edition of *The Arizona Republic/Phoenix Gazette* responding to an earlier piece by Peoria Unified School District Superintendent Raymond Kellis. Kellis traveled to Israel last summer with 19 other American educators at the behest of the Israeli government to attend a program on "technology-based learning environments." In his opinion piece, Kellis glorifies Israeli efforts to settle recent emigres in the "new territories" (West Bank and Gaza Strip), noting that while the emigres are "put to work and endowed with the dignity and pride of their new land...Arab adolescents miss school to harass police with taunts and by throwing rocks." He further asserts that the Palestinian uprising is intended to "disrupt and dismay the Israeli effort." He further states that the group was "moved by the industry of the dedicated Israelis and dismayed by the Arab populace held hostage by an intemperate philosophy of rebellion." Kellis concluded by saying, "The peace talks offer a thread of hope for Westerners imprisoned by politically driven captors. Perhaps an equal slice of freedom will result for those held hostage by a futile persistence to a cause long since lost." Hammoud criticized Kellis for his one-sided interpretation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and questioned the fact that the educators did not make an effort to meet with their Palestinian counterparts. He dispelled many of the misperceptions forwarded by Kellis and concluded, "Such tours and the subsequent misinformation campaigns that follow can only widen the cultural gap between America and the Arab world. Our educators have the big responsibility of educating our future generations about peace, justice and harmony among nations, which makes it doubly sad to read Mr. Kellis' article."

In other media efforts, members Fred Abood, Mumtaza Rahi, Mary Parkin, and Maen Areikat had letters publish-

ed in several local newspapers, including *The Arizona Republic*, *The Scottsdale Progress*, and *The Phoenix Gazette*.

Chapter member **Ron Parkin** attended an October town hall meeting organized by Channel 12 television, and was selected from the audience to pose a question to guest commentator Tom Brokaw of NBC Nightly News. Parkin asked Brokaw about media sensitivity to "special interest groups," relating incidents of censorship in coverage of the Gulf crisis. Chapter media coordinator **Melanie Sahli** has been working with former talk show host Joe Abodeely on a program for Phoenix Public Access Television. "Straight Talk with Joe Abodeely" will appear in Phoenix and Glendale, and will deal with a issues of current interest to the community. Abodeely was canceled by KFYI radio in March 1991 after airing several programs critical of U.S. policy in the Middle East. Sahli, who received certification from Dimension Cable, will help the chapter produce a number of program segments. Abodeely recently interviewed Fred Abood for a program dealing with Israel's \$10 billion loan guarantee request.

The chapter's educational efforts continue on a number of fronts. **Layali Azar-Schuster** recently spoke about the Middle East to a group of students at Shadow Mountain High School, and Maen Areikat spoke to nearly 60 sixth-grade students at Alhambra Traditional School on October 3. Areikat was well-received by the group, and was invited by the students to return for another session. Chapter members are in touch with local school districts to serve as a resource on issues of concern to the Arab-American community and to monitor curriculum dealing with the Middle East.

Manhattan

The Manhattan chapter held a Halloween Hafli—"A Bewitching Night of Music & Dance" November 2 at Club C. More than 100 people turned out for the

costume event, and the festivities went on until the early hours of the morning. A raffle was held, as well as a contest for best costume. Party organizers **Brenda Murad** and **Kate Seelye** declared the evening an overwhelming success, and hope to make it an annual event.

Richmond

The Honorable Clovis Maksoud gave the keynote address at the Richmond chapter's annual banquet, held October 26 at the Sheraton South Park. More than 120 people attended the event. ADC National Organizer **Ghada Mansur-Barakat** updated attendees on ADC's current projects and programs.



New Hampshire members Sada and Fred Kfoury, Sr. are joined (l to r) by children Richard, Peter, Fred, Jr., and Carol at a November 19 dinner honoring Fred, Sr.

Chapter president **Adeeb Hamzey** spoke about Richmond's latest activities and future goals, and introduced a delegation of students from Virginia Commonwealth University who plan to establish an ADC campus chapter.

Tennessee

The chapter is quite involved in activities as part of the Peace and Justice Center. On October 21, chapter president **Maurice Kuttub** spoke about the Middle East peace process at a symposium titled "The Middle East after the Gulf War," and the chapter recently took part in a demonstration organized by

the Center to protest attempts by Complex 21 to locate a nuclear processing plant in nearby Oakridge. Kuttub also joined a panel of speakers at the Bethlehem Center to discuss the Gulf crisis and current conditions in Iraq.

Washington, D.C.

In coordination with the ADC National Office, the Greater Washington, D.C. Area chapter was instrumental in gaining support for efforts on behalf of Arab nationals evacuated to the United States from Kuwait who faced deportation at the end of December. Chapter members held meetings with local senators to encourage them to sign on to a Dear Colleague letter circulated by Senators Terry Sanford (D-NC) and Alan Cranston (D-CA) that urged President Bush to issue an Executive Order allowing the families to remain in the United States with work authorization until 1996. The chapter was successful in gaining the endorsements of four senators, following meetings with aides to Senator Charles Robb (D-VA), Senator John Warner (R-VA), Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and calls to Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD). Among those who participated in the meetings, which took place October 15-18 were chapter president **Hazim Bitar**, members **Basil Kiwan**, **Peter Noursi**, and **Samira Hussein**, ADC intern

Thomas Lahage, National Association of Arab-Americans representative Mark Mansour, and evacuee Adnan Merish. Also joining the meeting with Senator Mikulski were ADC Baltimore chapter members **Hana Pharoan** and **Maan Kanfash**.

The chapter continues its campaign to oppose Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees, and established a letter-writing campaign to Congress and President Bush. Members were mobilized to take part in this campaign through the chapter's TeleAction phone tree. ■

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