



Deir Yassin Remembered & St. John's Wood Church

invite you to commemorate

DEIR YASSIN DAY, 2005



Saturday, 9th April at 8pm
St John's Wood Church, London NW8



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كالنجوم في السماء

"...as the stars of the heaven..."

*entrance free; donations welcome
limited seating, please arrive in good time*

DEIR YASSIN DAY 2005

كالنجوم في السماء
“...as the stars of the heaven...”

The Children of Abraham

A commemoration in music, story, poetry and art

St. John's Wood Church, London NW8

St. John's Wood Church – situated between the London Central Mosque and the Liberal Jewish Synagogue – invites the Palestinian and solidarity communities to join them for the Deir Yassin Day 2005 commemoration.

The title is taken from the Book of Genesis:

“... and the Angel of the Lord called unto Abraham ... and said, ‘... that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven ... and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed’...”

So how did we get from this place of blessing to the atrocity of Deir Yassin?

It is tempting to think that Christians persecuted Jews in Europe, and subsequently Jews persecute Muslims and Christians in Palestine: is this how we came to Deir Yassin?

What of Jewish disdain for Christians; and what about the crimes of Christians against Muslims in the past, and now in Iraq – Abraham's own birthplace? And what of those Muslims today, who, in their anguish and despair, care so little for innocent life?

Is this how we came to Deir Yassin?

But there have been many times over the centuries when Muslims, Christians and Jews lived together in peace, tolerance and mutual respect producing some of the greatest philosophy, science and art known to humanity. Knowing this, and having come to a Deir Yassin of massacre and atrocity, can we move to a Deir Yassin of hope and reconciliation?

The road to Deir Yassin is a hard one. In this church, between a great synagogue and a great mosque, perhaps we may begin our journey.

May God bless the Palestinian people.

بارك الله في الشعب الفلسطيني

Whatever the intentions of the powerful may be and whatever the political outcomes, it becomes ever more important that the truth of Palestinian life and history be established forever. Through commemoration of the pivotal and symbolic massacre at Deir Yassin, this truth is placed firmly in the public view.

Deir Yassin, is remembered yearly with commemorations throughout the world and at two flagship events in Jerusalem and London. We write, speak, and publish constantly; and three permanent memorials have been dedicated to Deir Yassin: in the Dar al Tifl Children's School in Jerusalem; in Kelvingrove Park in Glasgow and by Lake Seneca in upstate New York. With your help, we shall one day soon build such a memorial here in London.

Everybody knows there must eventually be peace and reconciliation in Israel/Palestine, but what kind of peace, what kind of reconciliation and at what cost? We believe that such reconciliation can only be based on truth, justice and the law.

We have heard calls for a “revolutionary forgiveness” - a forgiveness with truth and justice at its centre, and thus removed from injustice and piety - to take place in “the broken middle of Jerusalem”. Those of us committed to the memory and meaning of Deir Yassin agree, but ask that the reconciliation take place slightly off centre at the village of Deir Yassin.

A truthful and visible memorial at Deir Yassin, clearly viewed from the Holocaust memorial at Yad Vashem, may not only be one way out of the present horror, it may be *the only way out*. With this in mind, we will one day consecrate a truth and reconciliation memorial and centre at Deir Yassin, the site of the great atrocity against Palestinians and close to the site commemorating the great atrocity against Jews.