

News Release

4 April 2008 (Immediate Release)

Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) delegation led by Pauline McNeil MSP to visit the occupied territories in Palestine, Israel 8-15 April 08.

Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) is a UK charity providing support to the health and medical needs of Palestinians living under occupation in Gaza and the West Bank, to refugees in Lebanon and to other vulnerable communities in the region.

Pauline McNeil MSP for Glasgow Kelvin will lead the delegation to Israel and the occupied territories in Palestine - including travelling to Gaza - in order to develop a greater understanding of the full extent of the humanitarian crisis.

"As convenor of the cross party group in Palestine I am helping to raise the profile of, and funds for, MAP in Scotland. The Scottish people have a long history of solidarity with Palestinians and I know they will want to do more about the desperate humanitarian situation in Gaza." **Pauline McNeil MSP.**

Pauline McNeil MSP will be accompanied by; Anas Sarwar, the selected Labour candidate for Glasgow Central at the next general election; Habib Malik who heads up Islamic Relief* in Scotland - an international relief and development charity, which aims to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people; and Irfan Younis the Director of Scotland's Oceanic Consulting - Scotland's leading Black and Ethnic Consulting and Promotions Company.

"This Scottish delegation is visiting Palestine and the occupied territories to see the great work that MAP does, providing medical support to the people of Palestine. I hope this trip will help to highlight the extent of the humanitarian crisis facing the people of Gaza and encourage greater fundraising for MAP in Scotland." **Anas Sarwar.**

On their return planning will begin in earnest to raise vital funds for MAP and the sterling work they undertake. In the months following the visit to Israel and Palestine the delegation will be pulling together and pooling resources to create a high profile event to raise awareness of the humanitarian crisis and raise funds for MAP.

ENDS

(Note to Editors)

1. For further information on Medical Aid for Palestinians visit their website: www.map-uk.org/
2. For further information on Islamic Relief visit their website: www.islamic-relief.com
3. Pauline McNeil MSP website: www.paulinemcneill.org.uk . Anas Sarwar website: www.sarwar4glasgow.com
4. Oceanic Consulting is Scotland's leading organisation in promoting Ethnic interests, businesses, events and issues: www.oceanicconsulting.co.uk
5. Oceanic Consulting is part of the Oceanic group.

Media enquiries: [personal information removed]

* Islamic Relief is an independent Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO).

For Further Comment Contact:

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