

INTERFAITH PEACE-BUILDERS



Building **PEACE** through Personal Experience

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM OUR PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI COLLEAGUES

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Dear Friends,

We are writing you today with a special request. As Israelis and Palestinians engaged in the struggle for a just peace and nonviolent end to the Israeli occupation, we believe strongly in the importance of Interfaith Peace-Builders' ongoing work. IFPB's delegations, and unique education and advocacy work, make important contributions to our goals in Israel/Palestine and beyond. **As colleagues and supporters of Interfaith Peace-Builders, we invite you to join us in sustaining this important work.**

The Obama administration appears more willing than previous US governments to actively engage the Israeli leadership to take steps towards peace. We see more hopeful signs today than any time in the recent past. But additional education and pressure is needed in order to ensure that Obama's actions match his words. **Your participation is needed now more than ever.**

We know personally that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is more than a local issue. The United States plays a critical role in sustaining the occupation of Palestinian lands and fomenting militarism and violence in our communities. Those of us who live here pay the consequences of US policies that have been misguided for decades. We also understand the vital importance of work in the United States by organizations such as Interfaith Peace-Builders. IFPB is one of the exceptional organizations that bridges the gap between North America and Israel/Palestine, building longstanding relationships of solidarity and support.

IFPB has been one of the rare partners who has joined us in our goals and advocated tirelessly on our behalf. Since 2001, Interfaith Peace-Builders delegations have visited us and our colleagues here in Israel/Palestine 31 times. The nearly 500 people who have travelled with IFPB bring us hope and demonstrate that there are many around the world who support us and take our struggles seriously.

In Israel/Palestine, our voices are often drowned out by those who trumpet war and violent alternatives. The many people who join us here, however, demonstrate that we can make an impact and reinforce our belief that we must speak out, resist the occupation and work to end the conflict.

As Israeli and Palestinian activists, we are joining our voice with many around North America who also support Interfaith Peace-Builders.

שלום

PEACE

سلام

We are asking you to make a contribution today to ensure that we will share many more experiences with IFPB delegations and that our voices and our struggles will continue to find an audience in the US and everywhere delegates live and work.

Your support for Interfaith Peace-Builders is needed now more than ever. **Please join us by making a generous contribution today.**

Sincerely,

Nasser Abufarha

Chair of the Palestine Fair Trade Association

Wesam Ahmed

Program Officer of Al Haq

Ghassan Andoni

Birzeit University Professor and Nobel Peace Prize nominee

Bassam Aramin

Co-Founder of Combatants for Peace

The Reverend Dr. Naim Ateek

Director of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center

Sami Awad

Executive Director of Holy Land Trust

Sam Bahour

Managing Partner, Applied Information Management in El-Bireh/Ramallah

Iyad Burnat

Coordinator of Friends of Freedom and Justice and the Bil'in Village Popular Committee Against the Wall and Settlements

Diana Buttu

Lawyer

Tal Dor

Former Executive Director of Mahapach-Thagrir and member of Zochrot.

Cedar Duaybis

Secretary of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center

Rami Elhanan

Parents Circle – Bereaved Families Forum

Jeff Halper

Director of the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions and Nobel Peace Prize nominee

Ruth Hiller

Member of New Profile

Samia Khoury

Treasurer of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center

Jonathan Kuttab

Attorney and human rights advocate

Abir Kopty

Media consultant and political analyst

Rela Mazali

Writer and New Profile activist

Rotem Mor

Israeli conscientious objector and peace activist

Zleikha Muhtaseb

Teacher, activist, and principal of Al-Ibrahimiya Kindergarten in Hebron

Dorothy Naor

Member of New Profile

Daoud Nassar

Director of Tent of Nations - People Building Bridges

Naji and Suheir Owdah

Phoenix Cultural Center, Deheisheh Refugee Camp

Rafi Shubeli

Mizrahi Activist

Raji Sourani

Founder and Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights in Gaza

Gila Svirsky

Writer and activists with Women in Black (Jerusalem)

Michael Warschawski

Journalist and activist at the Alternative Information Center of Jerusalem/Bethlehem

Miri Weingarten

Director of International Advocacy for Physicians for Human Rights-Israel

Eric Yellin

Founder of Other Voice and Israeli Coordinator of the Center for Emerging Futures

Nomika Zion

Member of Other Voice and Kibbutz Migvan, Sderot

Zoughbi Zoughbi

Founder and Director of WI'AM: The Palestinian Conflict Resolution Centre

Organizations are listed for identification purposes only

For information and website connection about the work of our colleagues, go to www.ifpb.org/news/eupdates/endorsers.html