

IFPB Expands US Education Network and Work for Change

Participate in our First Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day!

February 1 - 2, 2009 - Washington DC

It is a time of change in our country. But whether that change will be as deep and as meaningful as we all hope is up to us. One thing is sure: we cannot simply sit back and wait. **We must engage our elected officials like never before.**

With this in mind, IFPB is proud to be working with the *US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation* to organize our first **Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day.**

The event, which will take place **February 1 and 2 in Washington DC**, is a pillar of our expanded Education and Advocacy Program and demonstrates IFPB's longstanding commitment to changing US policy regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The United States has long been the most dominant international player in Israel/Palestine. As a result, U.S. citizens bear a deep responsibility to address our government's role and support Palestinian and Israeli peace efforts. This Grassroots Advocacy Training will provide both seasoned organizers and new activists with the skills and experience needed to make a real impact.

Participants will gain access to new resources on United States aid to Israel and attend workshops led by experts in the field. The lobby day corresponds with the first weeks of the new Congress and is a crucial time for citizens to have their voice heard in Washington.

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register online at
www.ifpbdel.org/grassroots



IFPB delegates lead national march in Washington on 40th anniversary of Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights (June 10, 2007). From left to right are Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee Board Member George Gorayeb; IFPB delegate Michael Batchelder; mother of Rachel Corrie, Cindy Corrie; IFPB delegate Diane Ford-Jones; Gaza resident Dr. Mona El-Farra; IFPB delegate Eric Bjorgen (in hat and glasses); father of Rachel Corrie, Craig Corrie; and IFPB delegate Tony Bing (photo: Diane Greene Lent)

IFPB Board Member Recognized for Peace Work and Commitment to Justice



Scott Kennedy pictured here with Nasser Abu Farha of the Palestine Fair Trade Association.

On October 4th IFPB Board member Scott Kennedy was granted the **2008 El-Hibri Peace Education Prize**. Ms. Nancy El-Hibri, co-creator of the Prize, honored Scott's service as a "peace educator and activist of extraordinary impact." The award presentation ceremony highlighted his central role in "helping establish and promote the now widespread practice of educational delegations for peace particularly to Central America and the Middle East."

The Honorable Sam Farr of California entered a congratulatory statement in the Congressional Record which paid tribute to Mr. Kennedy and compared his work to that of Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela as a "true man of peace."

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Register for IFPB's Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day!

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The **Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day** is designed to make an immediate impact on the new congress and the incoming administration. It will also include sessions on organizing and activism in a range of other subjects.

Workshops will provide essential skills on current topics for US-based activists. Experienced leaders and experts will lead sessions on the following topics:

- **United States Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**
- **Engaging Elected Officials for an End to Military Aid and a Just Foreign Policy**
- **Challenging Mainstream Discourse in Your Local Media**
- **Faith-Based Organizing: Raising Voices of Conscience in Faith Communities**
- **Coalition Building in Diverse Communities**
- **A Civil Society Response to Apartheid: Campaigning for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions**



IFPB Senior Fellow leads workshop on nonviolence for IFPB delegation in Washington DC (photo: David LaMotte)

For an updated list of presenters see www.ifpbdel.org/grassroots

REGISTER TODAY AND GET \$100 FOR AN IFPB DELEGATION!

Registration for the training and lobby day is a sliding scale donation of \$25 - \$100.

Register by January 1 to receive a \$100 credit for any upcoming IFPB delegation.

Student and low-income reductions may also be available.

Call IFPB at 202.244.0821 or register at
www.ifpbdel.org/grassroots

Join IFPB in Washington! Gain important skills for your activism and make an impact in the new congress!

2008 Highlights: Two Years After Independence, IFPB Continues to Build!

In 2008 more delegates than ever before experienced the transformative power of an IFPB delegation. **90 delegates** traveled on IFPB delegations in 2008; this is a 30% increase over 2007. We're getting closer to our goal of taking 100 delegates a year—and we've done it with the same small staff. Our board is also growing and we're happy to have **Reem Marto** and **Barbara Wien** join our board in July. One of our primary goals in 2006 (when we became an independent program) was to increase our coalition and partnership work. 2008 has been a great success here too. For the first time, **we co-sponsored delegations** with three new organizations: the *National Peace Foundation*, *AFSC's Third World Coalition*, and the *US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation*. Additionally, seven **Haverford College** students joined our May delegation. As part of our joint grant, we also supported the *US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation's Grassroots Training Institute* at their national conference in Washington DC. IFPB Board Member Michael Brown co-led a double workshop on Media Advocacy and our summer delegation was featured at the conference's cultural night. As the year closes we look forward to our first ever **Grassroots Advocacy Training** in February 2009. All of these initiatives bring IFPB's vision to new constituencies and help build a broader movement for justice in Israel/Palestine.

We continue to do more with less. Please help nurture our delegation-based education, advocacy support, and movement building with a generous contribution today!

Scott Kennedy Wins Al-Hibri Peace Prize

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The award ceremony in Washington DC was presided over by Barbara Wien and featured presentations by top names in peace and conflict studies, peace education, and activism. “His devotion to adult education has changed the lives of thousands of Americans,” said Dr. Mubarak Awad, Chairperson of the Prize Organizing Committee.

The first recipient of the prize in 2007, Professor Abdul Aziz Said of American University, shared his appreciation for peace educators who are doing so much to, “expand the moral imagination of our society.”

Scott Kennedy has led more than 30 delegations to the Middle East dating back to the 1970’s. In addition to his work on the IFPB Board, he is a co-founder of Witness for Peace and the Resource Center for Nonviolence. Like IFPB these organizations have sent educational delegations around the world to those countries suffering from conflict, lack of educational opportunities, and social injustice. Interfaith Peace-Builders congratulates Scott on his achievement. We look forward to many more achievements and many more years of work with him.

IFPB Board Member Prints Letter in New York Times

Interfaith Peace-Builders continues to improve and strengthen our ability to support delegate efforts at education and advocacy. To date, IFPB delegates have been featured in thousands of newspaper, radio and television outlets around the country including *National Public Radio*, *Democracy Now*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and many more.

Just a few months ago, IFPB board member and co-leader of the May 2008 delegation, Michael Brown published a letter to the editor in the *New York Times*. Here’s an excerpt from Michael’s letter:

You are right to highlight Benjamin Netanyahu’s rejection of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. To my Southern ears, Mr. Netanyahu’s line rejecting a Palestinian state — “not today, not tomorrow, not ever” — sounds strikingly like George Wallace, the former Alabama governor, booming out his own racist demagoguery of “segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.”

Mr. Netanyahu and President Bush fail to recognize that the window is rapidly closing on the two-state solution. Based on my June trip to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, I suspect that it will not be too many more years before Palestinians concede that Israeli settlement and barrier construction in the West Bank has made two states impossible.

Of course, being published in the *New York Times* is great, but much more of our work — and our success — is measured by building movements for justice in smaller towns and cities throughout North America.

In 2008, IFPB helped delegates publish hundreds of articles, conduct tens of radio and television interviews, and hold many presentations and community events around North America.

what would your 2nd birthday look like if you lived under occupation?

IFPB’s May 2008 delegation knows. Eyad Burnat, of the Bil’in village Popular Committee, and his daughter, celebrated her 2nd birthday with the delegation. This color photo and many more are featured in the **IFPB and AFSC 2009 Calendar** now on sale. It makes a great gift and all proceeds benefit our scholarship fund for low-income delegates.



Interfaith Peace-Builders and American Friends Service Committee 2009 Calendar

Donate \$100 or more today and get your calendar free!



David LaMotte, a renowned folk singer and activist, joined our July-August 2008 delegation.

Here's what he had to say about us:

"At the end of day two, this is already worth the investment. Thanks so much for the work you do. It's been life altering for me."

Read more reactions to the delegation experience at our new webpage: www.ifpbdel.org/quotes.html

Travel to Israel/Palestine with Interfaith Peace-Builders

2009 Delegation Schedule

March 8 – 21, 2009

Cultivating Peace with Justice: Spring Planting Delegation

May 23 – June 5, 2009

Voices of the Peace-Builders: From Roots to Reconciliation

July 25 – August 7, 2009

An Honest Broker? The US Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

October 24 - November 6, 2009

Trees of Peace: Olive Harvest Delegation

IFPB delegations are unique and transformative
Deepen your knowledge and commitment by joining us in 2009

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PEACE-BUILDERS**



Building **PEACE** through Personal Experience

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www.ifpbdel.org/donation