



## CIRCLES OF SUPPORT

*Building a Better Future Together*

*"Opening eyes, hearts,  
and possibilities. . ."*

**We are moved and inspired by the enclosed letter of support and solidarity from Palestinians and Israelis.** 30 of our role models working for peace in Israel/Palestine added their voices to a call for sustaining Interfaith Peace-Builders and our work. The signers include Israelis and Palestinians; activists, educators, lawyers, mothers, and village leaders. All have a vision of a better future and all work to overcome enduring cycles of violence, conflict, and occupation.

The acknowledgement offered here by our friends and colleagues shows that IFPB is not only an important program, but a crucial organization filling a pressing need. As the letter recognizes, there has rarely been a better time to pursue peace. And yet, it is now that organizations such as Interfaith Peace-Builders find themselves struggling mightily to meet financial needs.

We are proud that many of you already support our allies in Israel/Palestine. We sincerely encourage you to continue that support for the on-the-ground efforts of these 30 activists — and many more! **We also hope you'll see the important link between supporting IFPB and working for change in Israel/Palestine.**

Our colleagues in Israel/Palestine speak up now because there is no alternative. In the same spirit, we ask you to join us. Please dig as deep as you can to make a generous donation to IFPB to ensure that our work continues.

### *A Conflict with Three Sides*

**Trip Report by Kris Loken**

*Filed from Jerusalem on July 30, 2009*

Tonight during our group session, many talked about coming here to understand the perspectives of both parties and desire not to become biased against either and the feeling that we can be more effective in discussing the conflict if we understand the motivation of both sides. For me, this is a conflict with at least 3 sides – the Palestinians, the Israelis, and the Americans.

It is my belief that the conflict would have ended years ago without US involvement. The role played by my country and my fellow Americans horrifies me.

We need to take responsibility for our own role in this conflict – our government, our tax dollars, and supportive Americans and American organizations.

A big part of the reason I am here is to better understand what I can do, as an American, to change how the US government and Americans support the continuation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

*-- Kris Loken participated in IFPB's 31<sup>st</sup> delegation in July-August 2009. She is a retired United States foreign services officer with years of experience in Middle East program work.*



*Interfaith Peace-Builders' 31<sup>st</sup> Delegation meets with internally displaced Palestinians in an unrecognized village in Israel.*

# 2010 DELEGATIONS AND TRAININGS



**May 22 – June 4, 2010:** This delegation explores Palestinian and Israeli efforts to achieve peace and a resolution to their conflict based on justice. The delegation features meetings with Palestinian and Israeli peacemakers - leaders of civil society groups, grassroots organizers, religious leaders and more.

**July 24 – August 6, 2010:** This delegation examines the role of the US in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and engages US policy towards Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the wider region. The delegation meets with Palestinian and Israeli civil society leaders, activists and experts who will discuss the role of US military, humanitarian and diplomatic aid.



**October 30 - November 12, 2010: *Trees of Peace - Olive Harvest Delegation.*** This delegation is an opportunity to participate in the Palestinian olive harvest – a time of great community activism, where people of all ages from Palestine, Israeli peace activists, and international groups, join farmers as they reap their harvest.

**GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY TRAINING AND LOBBY DAY:** IFPB's second Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day will occur on March 7 - 8, 2010 in Washington DC

In February 2009, nearly 200 people came from across the country to join Interfaith Peace-Builders and the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. The popular program is back for the second year! Workshops will provide essential skills on current topics for US-based activists. Experienced leaders and experts will lead sessions on subjects essential to seasoned activists and beginners alike.

Not able to give today? Consider one of these

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT IFPB:

We know that some of our friends and supporters may not be able to give on a regular basis, or may wish to do more to help the organization. But there are other ways to support IFPB and make a difference:

- **Hold a House Party Fundraiser:** A house party can be a great way to raise funds and spread the word. Get together your friends and colleagues and you can multiply your effectiveness. Contact IFPB for ideas and resources and download our house party packet from [www.ifpb.org/education/resources](http://www.ifpb.org/education/resources).
- **Recommend Friends for IFPB Delegations:** Each delegation participant can help us cover delegation costs and allow us to allocate more funds for scholarships and other needed programming. Use the cut-out on the other side of this newsletter to recommend people for an IFPB experience.

*I WANT TO SHARE AN INTERFAITH PEACE-BUILDERS EXPERIENCE!*

Please inform my friends and family about upcoming IFPB delegations

*They will receive only one informational mailing and their name will not be added to a permanent mailing list*

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

cut out and return tab to IFPB at 1326 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington DC 20001