

# INSPIRED BY EXPERIENCE



Interfaith Peace-Builders  
Annual Report | 2014-2015

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## Inspired by Experience

IFPB is thriving today because of you. For 15 years, you have stood with us. You have inspired our work and helped us inspire others as they discover the truth about Palestine/Israel. But you have done much more. You have become an integral part of a movement for justice.

When Palestinian and Israeli nonviolent resistance groups first asked us to send regular delegations in 2000, you signed up for a delegation yourself. You recruited friends and helped spread the word.

When we spun off from the Fellowship of Reconciliation ten years ago, you supported us as we began anew as an independent organization.

When we started sending people of color delegations in 2008 and African Heritage delegations in 2011, you helped us fundraise so we could more effectively link our joint struggles.

Because you have stood with IFPB, a thousand people have followed your lead and taken this consciousness-raising journey of a lifetime. Their actions after the delegation — everything from telling a co-worker a different narrative to planning and leading national speaking tours of Palestinian freedom fighters — have inspired countless Americans to understand Palestine/Israel differently, to transcend narrow misconceptions and the media bias, and work for justice.

This past year has been no different. With the help of hundreds of supporters like you, IFPB sent close to 100 people on four unique delegations. A distinctive hallmark of IFPB's approach remains our commitment to mentoring delegates and supporting their education and advocacy efforts. Delegates this year reported engaging in 900 activities, more than any previous year. Our African Heritage delegation published a powerful statement that tens of thousands viewed and shared. This same delegation was tear-gassed in the village of Bil'in and the video of this outrage resonated powerfully across the social media spectrum.

Your support empowers IFPB to play a crucial role in building and broadening our movement for justice in Palestine/Israel. We are heartened by the growing strength of this movement here, even as we mourn the continued repression, occupation, and violence. Our partners on the ground tell us that our delegations are more important than ever at this critical time.

Peace with justice is possible. Our efforts are changing attitudes here in America where it most counts. With you, we look forward to a day when all can live in peace with justice in Palestine/Israel.



**Cathy Sultan, Chair of the Board of Directors**

## Inspired by Delegates: Those Who Make IFPB Unique

IFPB delegates are multi-generational and interfaith. They are committed to advocacy and are catalysts for change. They remain active years after their delegation. **IFPB delegates are our heart and soul and they inspire us each day with their actions to lift up the voices of Palestinians and Israelis they have met.** IFPB's story is the story of our delegates; here are profiles of two recent delegates.

### 2009 IFPB Delegate Kate Gould Works to Influence US Policy in the Middle East



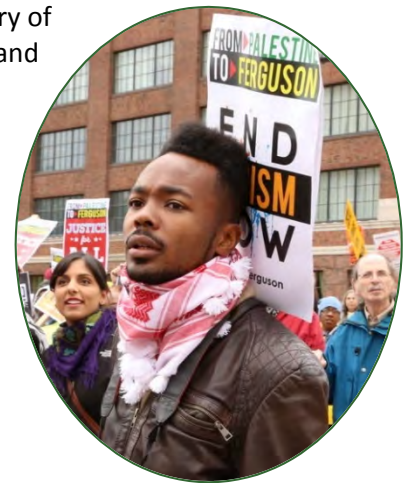
Kate Gould, legislative associate for Middle East Policy at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), brings a steadfast, inclusive, and focused voice to discourse around Middle East policy. Her interest in Middle East issues began as a university student and a visit to Palestine/Israel with IFPB in 2009 expanded her understanding of the region.

“The IFPB delegation introduced me to a whole Israel/Palestine that I didn’t know existed even though I’d been working on Israel/Palestine advocacy up to that point,” Kate said. “IFPB introduced me to an Israel/Palestine that wasn’t defined by despair. So many incredible and inspiring grassroots activists and people – both Palestinians and Israelis – are involved in the movement to end the Occupation and find a just solution. It was uplifting.”

Now with FCNL, Kate works to influence US policy in the Middle East. In her work, she continues to share the stories of people she met on her IFPB delegation. “I talk about those stories to emphasize that there’s a lot of variety of viewpoints that they don’t always hear about,” she said. “It’s particularly impactful for Members of Congress and their staff to hear about Israelis who have a different vision going forward about the Occupation.”

### 2013 IFPB Delegate Kristian Davis Bailey Co-Authors Black Solidarity Statement with Palestine

Organizer and freelance writer Kristian Davis Bailey was outraged by Israel’s invasion of Gaza in July 2014. Six thousand miles away that same summer, riots raged in Ferguson over the killing of Michael Brown. Kristian saw a strong connection between the two struggles against armed oppressors and one year later, in concert with another co-writer, drafted what has become an international cry of solidarity between Blacks and Palestinians. “Black for Palestine” has been signed by more than 1,100 Black scholars, activists, students, artists, and organizations, including Angela Davis, Cornel West, political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal and Sundiata Acoli.



“The widespread response is gratifying,” Kristian said. “The statement apparently reached wide across Palestinian media and society, including into some of the local newsletters of southern Lebanon refugee camps. This is exactly who we wanted the statement to reach and I hope we can continue to build with Palestinians who are traditionally left out of US conversations and delegations.”

Kristian first traveled to Palestine/Israel in 2013 with Interfaith Peace-Builders. “Almost none of the organizing or writing I’ve done over the past two years would have been possible without making connections and building relationships with Palestinians directly on the ground,” Kristian observed.

Read full profiles of these and several other IFPB delegates at [www.ifpb.org/stories](http://www.ifpb.org/stories).

## Inspired by the Delegation Experience

IFPB invests time and resources into making unique itineraries for each delegation experience, based on delegation theme, the current situation, leader and participant preference, and our sense of dynamic and emerging groups. In the past year, we have guided 91 people on four delegations to Palestine/Israel.

Here are highlights of the delegation programming this year.

### Olive Harvest Delegation, 2014

Led by **Anna Baltzer**, **Colleen Kelly** and our own **Emily Siegel**, IFPB's 51<sup>st</sup> delegation had 27 participants. As always in the fall, we led the group to **Canaan Fair Trade**, stayed as guests overnight and helped to pick olives with their olive farmers. Other meeting highlights included: a tour of Lydd with **Tamer Nafar of the Palestinian Hip Hop group DAM**, visiting long-time friends at the **Tent of Nations**, touring East Jerusalem for the first time with **Fayrouz Sharqai of Grassroots Al-Quds**, and gathering with women community leaders from around the West Bank through the **Women's Development Society**, where a former IFPB delegate was then working.

### African Heritage Delegation, 2014

IFPB's third African Heritage delegation had 16 participants and traveled at the same time as the Olive Harvest delegation. **Lucas Johnson** and **Zaynah Al-Hindi** were trip co-leaders; Zaynah's denial of entry by Israeli authorities brought home the discrimination faced by Palestinian Americans at Israel's borders.



Delegates renamed the delegation the *Zaynah Hindi African Heritage Delegation* in solidarity with her and wrote, "this was our first glimpse of the oppressive system that Palestinians live through daily." A number of meetings had a huge impact not only on delegates but also the individuals they met with. This included a trip to the **Holot Detention Center with the African Refugee Development Center**, where the refugees they met were surprised and excited to see African Americans who cared about what was happening. Delegates also heard and shared intimate stories of resistance with a former political prisoner in a meeting with **Addameer**. Delegates gave powerful witness to their trip in a statement of findings and demands (from which the above quote comes). Read the full statement: [ifpb.org/africanheritage/statement](http://ifpb.org/africanheritage/statement).



### May 2015 Delegation

Twenty-eight delegates joined IFPB for this delegation, co-sponsored by **Central Presbyterian Church** in Atlanta and the **University of Georgia Catholic Center**. First-time leader **Julie Norman** joined IFPB Board member **Ilise Cohen** in leading delegates on a trip that included a meeting and

dinner reception with **Nathan Stock of the Carter Center**, discussions around BDS with both **Omar Barghouti with the Boycott National Committee** and **Kobi Snitz with Boycott from Within**, and an overnight in **Deheisheh Refugee Camp**, organized by long-time IFPB partner **Naji Odeh**. Another key meeting was a discussion with **Gerard Horton with Military Court Watch**. This delegation had an especially big contingent from Georgia, expanding IFPB's regional network in Atlanta and furthering advocacy on this issue in several area Presbyterian churches.

### July 2015 Delegation

IFPB's own **Jacob Pace** and new leader **Andrew Dalack** led 20 people on this summer delegation. This delegation focused on Youth in Palestine/Israel. Our two main scholarship recipients for 2015, **Priya Handa** and **Rebecca Katherine Hirsch**, also joined IFPB for this delegation. An exciting new part of the delegation was an overnight in the **New Askar**

**Palestinian Refugee Camp with the Keffiyeh Center**, run entirely by young people in the community. Other highlights were a meeting at the **Jenin Freedom Theater**, discussions with young people in Jerusalem at the **Silwan Youth Center**,

and learning about the militarization of the Israeli education system from **Nurit Peled-El Hanan**.



### Looking Ahead: Future Delegations

As this goes to press, IFPB is working on several exciting future delegations.

The **November 2015 Olive Harvest** delegation will be IFPB's biggest ever. And although the situation in Jerusalem seems more tense than in recent memory, we have heard from many of our partners in Palestine/Israel that our coming at times like this is both an essential act of solidarity and chance for delegates to provide eyewitness accounts which will broaden the greater coverage of events.

### MARA DODGE, May 2015 Delegate

*It was incredible. I've been on quite a few other delegations and they were great. But this IFPB delegation was exponentially above them. I was awed by the leaders and the people we met.*



We are also planning a **Lawyers' Delegation** that will send well-known academic legal professors, human rights attorneys, and other lawyers and judges to Palestine/Israel. Our focus will be on sending people who have not yet been to Palestine/Israel, but who are active in other important justice work. Initial outreach has identified over 30 potential legal professionals very interested in such a trip; now we are working to find travel dates that fit calendars.

Recruiting has started and we are already getting interest in our three open delegations next year: **May, July and October 2016**.

And we remain committed to advancing the joint struggle work that several past IFPB African Heritage delegations and people of color delegations have fostered. We will be sending our next **People of Color Delegation** in July 2016.

## Inspired by IFPB's Support and Training

Because we believe it is not enough to guide delegations, we also prepare delegates to do great things for justice in Palestine and beyond.

IFPB's unique Education and Advocacy Program is tailored to help delegates access resources, continue their educational development, and sustain ongoing activism for justice in Palestine. As a result, IFPB delegates now work at the forefront of the ever-growing movement in the United States. If you attended a major movement conference, listened to *Democracy Now!*, or read the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *The Nation*, or *Mondoweiss* this year, you may have heard from an IFPB delegate or two. That is one of the ways we know our work is paying off. IFPB delegates apply the delegation experience to their work, and our movement is stronger for it.

Since 2013, a staple of our work has been our post-delegation online training curriculum. This year, 12 webinars introduced 240 people to active and engaged movement trailblazers. Webinar topics covered organizing skills such as **Media Advocacy, Messaging and Framing, BDS, and Grassroots Lobbying**. Our most recent webinar was entirely new, featuring presentations on **Black Lives Matter and the Palestine Solidarity Movement**.

The amazing commitment of delegates, combined with IFPB's tailored support, means that each delegation leads to numerous **education and advocacy activities**. With IFPB's help, delegates educate Americans about the situation in Palestine/Israel, advocate for a better US foreign policy, and build the movement for justice.

In the past 12 months IFPB delegates logged more education and advocacy activities than any preceding year. We tracked 900 actions and events – and that is still not a complete picture because we do not know everything delegates do since they are sometimes too busy doing the work to tell us about it. Here is a sense of how

the 900 actions and events we have confirmed break out:

**Media Exposure** – IFPB delegates continue to challenge mainstream discourse and bring their understanding of Palestine/Israel to greater audiences. IFPB delegates authored or were featured in at least 237 online media articles, 86 print articles, 33 radio interviews, and 25 TV interviews, resulting in a grand total of no less than 381 media pieces, with a potential audience of tens of thousands.

### JOANNE HARDY, 2012 Delegate

*I will always be grateful to IFPB for providing such a profound experience in my life and reminding me there are things this almost 80 year-old woman can and should do. IFPB showed me how important it is to get the word out and not just settle back into my "normal" life after the delegation.*



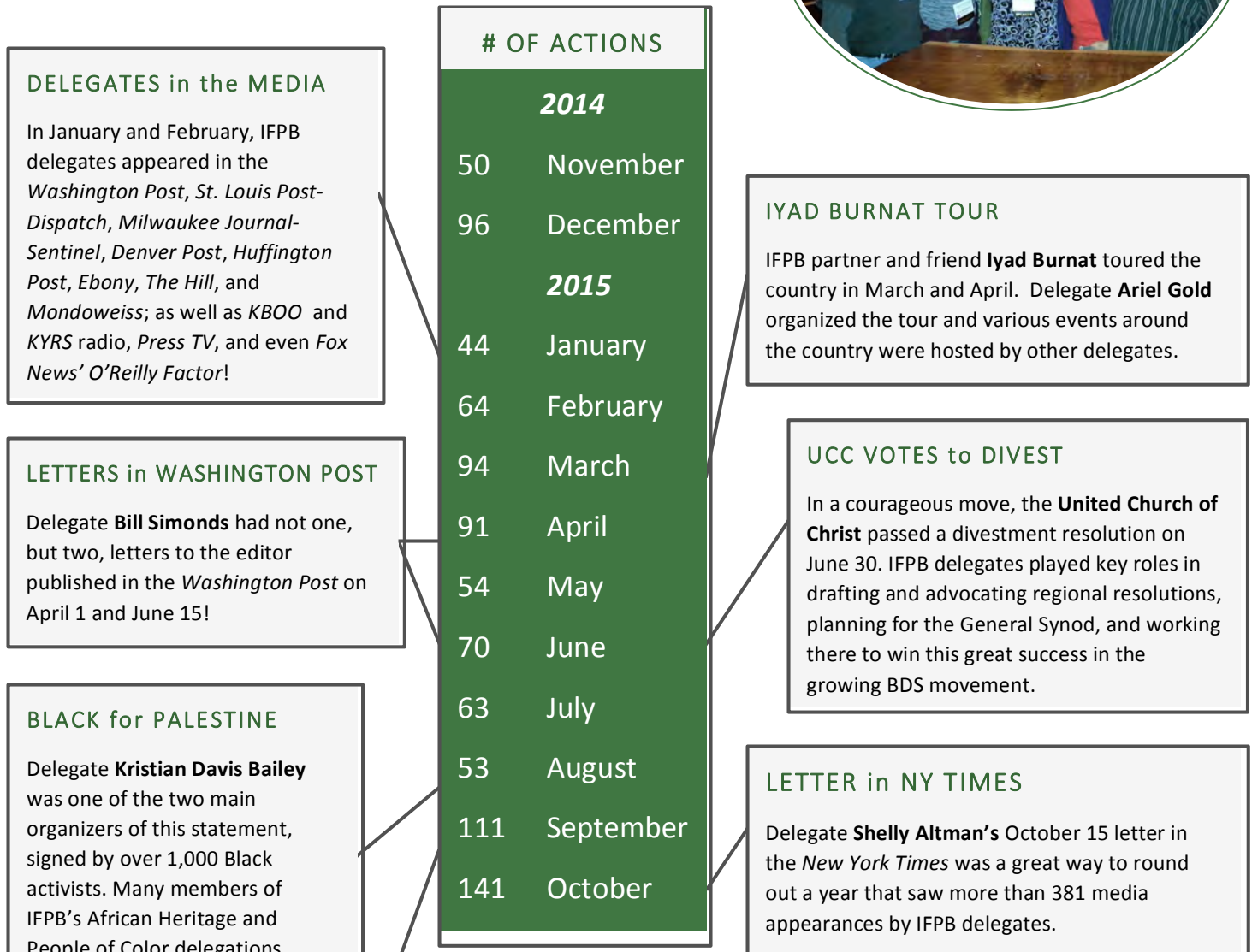
**Organizing Events** – Delegates organized a range of diverse activities that strengthen and connect our movement for justice, from organizing local film series on Palestine, leading peace vigils, planning speaking tours for Palestinians and Israelis, organizing local BDS actions, and much more. Delegates led and launched more than 297 activities this year.

**Public Speaking** – Delegates also spread the word by through their own presentations – to churches, synagogues, mosques; at local peace events; at major conferences; in academic settings; and more. No fewer than 235 speaking events featured IFPB delegates.

**Engaging Elected Officials** – We are aware of dozens of meetings, hundreds of calls, and thousands of letters and emails sent by IFPB delegates to elected officials and policy makers on all levels of government. Major initiatives included the “No Way to Treat a Child” campaign, support for Iran diplomacy, and protesting a New York state anti-BDS resolution.

## Education and Advocacy Highlights

This chart shows the number of recorded delegate education and advocacy activities over the last year. All in all, IFPB delegates led and took part in at least 900 actions and events. This work makes essential contributions to our growing movement.



### MARY POOR, May 2015 Delegate

*The online training webinars are very useful. Sometimes it feels overwhelming just thinking about where to start. The webinars help bring perspective, offer guidance and tools, and inspire.*



## Inspired by Experience: IFPB Almost 15!

Reflection by Ilise Cohen and Joe Groves

In late 2000, at a time with some striking similarities to now, Israelis and Palestinians reached out to the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), urging the Fellowship to guide regular delegations of American activists to Palestine/Israel to see and witness the situation, to more deeply understand the occupation and the second intifada, to provide solidarity to Palestinians and Israelis working for peace and justice, and most importantly, to inform others upon returning home to the US. Responding to that call, FOR formed the Interfaith Peace-Builders program, embodying a commitment to regular, sustained, and strategic consciousness-raising delegations that built on FOR's earlier experience of sending occasional delegations to the Middle East since 1975.

In January 2001, IFPB's first-ever delegation went to Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. The rest is history. This history informs our work today as we continue to build and sustain a movement of advocates for justice and peace in Palestine/Israel.

**In 15 years, IFPB has led 55 delegations and guided 1,079 people to Palestine/Israel.**

Many of the Israelis and Palestinians that these 1,079 delegates met implored delegates to *bring home the stories they heard and saw*. IFPB has done just that. A few years back, we did a case study of just one delegation and found that over 21 delegates reached a potential audience of over 3 million people in their advocacy and outreach



*IFPB's 3<sup>rd</sup> Delegation in 2002. Ilise: Far Left; Joe: Front Center*

in the two years following their delegation. We now know of more than 5,000 actions that delegates have planned since their delegation experiences. A presentation at a place of worship or civic organization, interviews or op-eds in local and national papers. Report-backs to local peace and justice communities. Key organizing roles in local BDS initiatives.

Countless radio interviews.

National leadership roles.

Forming new

organizations, such as Friends of the Tent of Nations and Kairos USA. All of those actions add to building and sustaining this movement.

**In 15 years, IFPB's post-delegation education and advocacy support has meant that millions of people have heard a different story from Palestine/Israel than is portrayed in mainstream media – a story of justice denied and of the actions we can take to support genuine peace with justice.**





Fifteen years into the work of Interfaith Peace-Builders, we are proud of what we have done. And we know we would not be here without the support of so many donors, delegates, volunteers, and partners in both Palestine/Israel and the US. Thank you to all who have helped us to sustain our work and this movement.

However, there is much that remains to be done. We were at the recent US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation conference in Atlanta. Several things struck us about where we are headed.

**1. IFPB delegates are at the forefront of justice work on Palestine/Israel.**

It was great to see 60+ former IFPB delegates and trip leaders in attendance at the conference. IFPB delegates show up and make contributions every day in many ways to our growing movement for justice. Even as the situation on the ground worsens, our organizing is making an impact in the US. Our delegations in 2016 and beyond will continue to bring new people into our movement and deepen the experience of allies we already have.

**2. IFPB continues to make significant contributions to organizing joint struggle.**

A major theme of this conference was “joint struggle.” The



intersectionality of movements always has been important and in the wake of Ferguson and Baltimore is more critical than ever. Since 2007, IFPB has led three African heritage delegations and two people of color delegations. In Atlanta we could see the impact of those delegations and the ways they have fostered connections and commitments to joint struggle. IFPB’s July 2016 People of Color delegation will facilitate yet another important step in this work.

**3. Our movement is growing and we cannot be stopped!**

The energy and excitement in Atlanta was contagious. There is a sense that things are changing, that space continues to open in the US for more honest and critical discussion about Israeli abuses and US support for Israel. We have strong allies in the movement. People see IFPB as an experienced, go-to organization for delegations with an impact, both here and in Palestine/Israel. And in over 15 years we have forged relationships not only between our delegates and allies in

Palestine/Israel, but also with various regional and national groups taking action for change. We are working together to hasten justice for all in Palestine/Israel.

Stay tuned in 2016 for more information about IFPB’s 15 year anniversary, and plans for advancing our work toward justice and peace in the future.

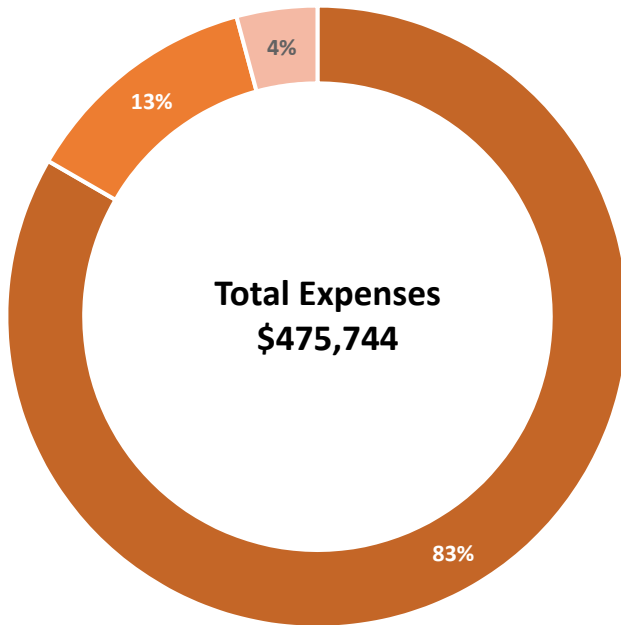
*Ilise Cohen was the first chair of IFPB’s Board of Directors, remains a board member, and has co-led several delegations. Joe Groves was IFPB staff from 2002 until 2010 and remains a Senior Fellow at IFPB.*

## Financial Information

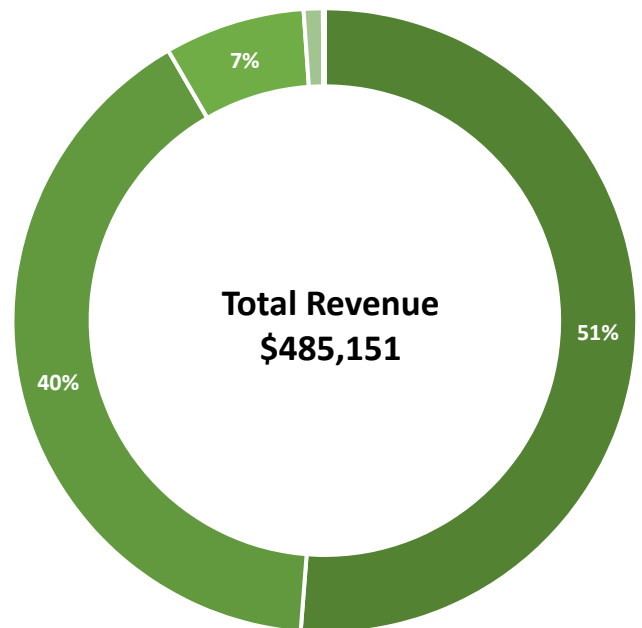
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

This year IFPB reached its highest level of contributed revenue ever and also secured our greatest amount of foundation support. We continued to keep delegation fees as low as possible, and provided financial aid in the form of scholarships for 20 delegates who could not otherwise travel. Our financial position remains sound, but the continued support of individual donors and private foundations is essential for both our delegations and advocacy work.

## Overall Budget



- Programs (Delegations & Education and Advocacy)
- Administration & General
- Fundraising

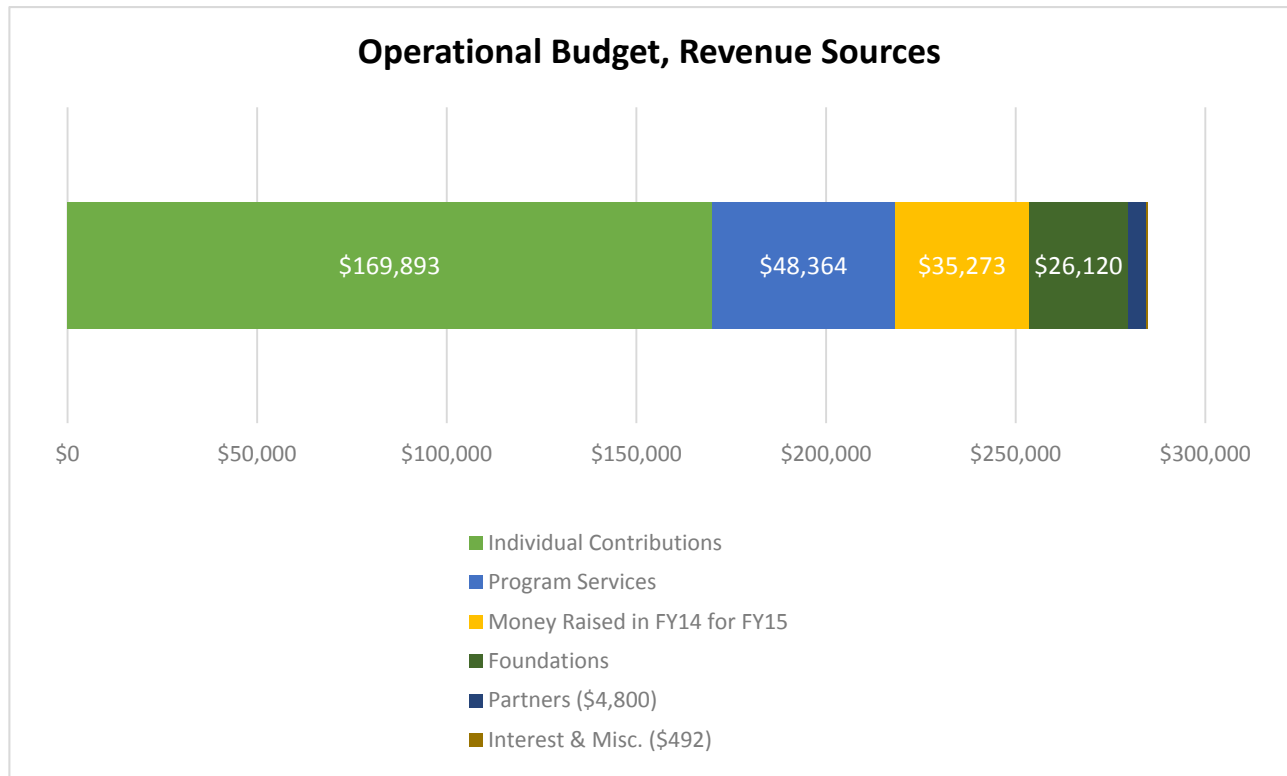


- Direct Delegation Services
- Contributions & Grants
- Money Raised in FY14 for FY15
- Partnerships
- Interest & Misc. (1%)

*Interfaith Peace-Builders is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Copies of financial statements are available upon request.*

## Operational Budget

As you can see from the preceding revenue chart, over 50% of IFPB's total revenue comes from payments for direct delegation services. A corresponding amount is paid by IFPB for all the airline flights, hotel rooms, and other essentials for delegations on the ground. To get a truer sense of IFPB's operations, we can subtract out those expenses and fees for services to get an operational budget. This \$285,000 is what runs IFPB, making our delegations, education, and advocacy programs possible.



### FOCUS on SCHOLARSHIPS

In the past year, IFPB granted a total of \$31,000 to 20 individuals to help defray delegation costs. Here is a quote from one scholarship application we received:

*I've never left the United States, and while this may seem like a reason for me not to visit this area of the world, I feel that my background would make the experience of participating in an IFPB delegation that much more valuable to my development as a person and (hopefully) as a future community leader. While the United States is a melting pot of cultures, nothing can compare to the wisdom gained by living with indigenous people of a society so far from my own.*

Scholarships allow IFPB to increase participation on our delegations and send committed leaders and future leaders who would not otherwise be able to travel.



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