

IFPB CELEBRATES OUR 10TH YEAR:

Towards a New Decade of Peace with Justice

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

A CHALLENGE TO ENGAGE AND MOBILIZE

Each year, Interfaith Peace-Builders is faced with new questions, and the end of our first decade is no different. Throughout the remainder of this year, our 10th, IFPB celebrates all that we have accomplished. We have much to be proud of, but large questions loom.

If Interfaith Peace-Builders is to grow and thrive, the aid of each of our friends and supporters will be necessary. **We face a unique challenge and your donations are needed now more than ever** (see next page for details).

The good news: IFPB will finish this fiscal year in June with a deficit on the year, but sufficient reserves for several months. We have survived 4 full years as an independent organization - and made strides in improving and deepening our work. Through responsible budgeting, creative use of volunteers, and most of all, from the generous support of over **600 individual donors** over the years, we have met our financial needs in a difficult and challenging time.

The challenge: The chart illustrates how we will finish this fiscal year with a 'deficit' wedge of 4%, or about \$4,500. We will cover this shortfall from our reserve. However, to remain viable, we need to eradicate that deficit. We also need to grow. We operate on a bare-bones budget, and with more demand than ever for our unique delegations and advocacy work, we need new resources to make possible greater work with more people.

We have a plan to keep IFPB strong. We have won a **challenge grant** to help us find new sources of funding. **Individual donors (that's you!) account for more than 1/3 of our funding and that category must expand if our budget is to balance in the coming year.** Only by working on all these fronts, and only with your continued support, will we ensure IFPB will mark its tenth year as a successful and viable organization.

See the next page to learn how you can help us meet the challenge!

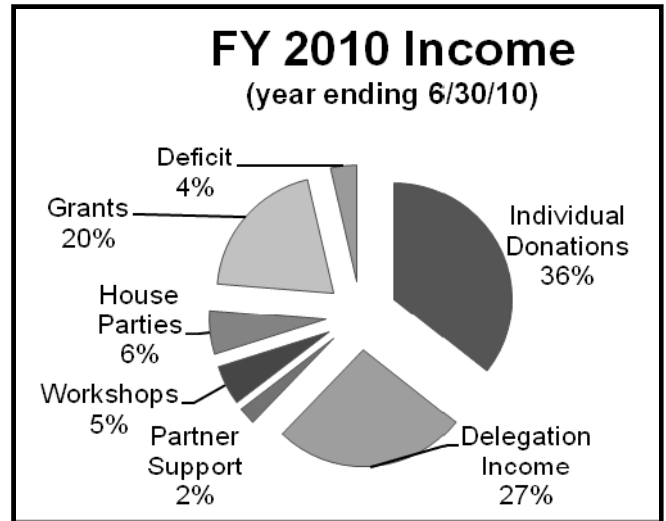


Photo: Jason Bechtel

DELEGATES EXPERIENCE AFTERMATH OF ATTACK ON FREEDOM FLOTILLA

Report by Heber Brown, IFPB Delegate (May 2010)

Memorial Day took on a totally new meaning for me today. For many years, it has been a day to gather with family at my Aunt Mary's House for a cookout. This year, it was a day of mourning and focused anger.

Humanitarians from around the world recently set sail in a group of ships to deliver 10,000 tons of aid to Palestinians in Gaza. My delegation had just been at Israel's *Erez Checkpoint* on the northern border of the Gaza Strip. We had been watching the news of the *Freedom Flotilla* and were praying for its safe arrival. We knew the 1.5 million people in Gaza, trapped behind the concrete walls of an Israeli blockade, needed the aid it carried.

As many in the world know by now, as the ships approached the coast of Gaza, the Israeli military attacked. Initial reports indicated that at least nine people were killed and many more were wounded in the assault. This brazen act of murder on the sea invited condemnation by many in the world and demonstrations were held across Palestine/Israel today. Our delegation joined hundreds in the streets of Ramallah today in nonviolent protest.

I have participated in street demonstrations for the past decade or more, but I have never felt a rush like I did today -

knowing that I had the opportunity not to just watch the news in Baltimore and shake my head in disgust, but I was granted the chance to actually be on the ground in Palestine to show my support for justice and peace. While marching, clapping, and chanting in the middle of the city center, I wondered what my family and friends would see in the media back home. I wondered if some “news” agency would get a clip of the march and send it around the world framing it as just a small group of Palestinian militants calling for “death to Israel”. It’s an implication that’s used regularly in the US media, but today I knew that storyline was wrong – not just from head knowledge, but from heart experience.

I will never forget those who gave their lives today for freedom and justice. People who were just trying to help were slaughtered at sea. Now the question is will the United States – Israel’s greatest international financier and defender in the UN Security Council move past words and hold Israel accountable. I guess we will see soon.

This is an edited excerpt of a trip report filed on May 31, 2010; read the full report at www.ifpb.org/del3/

HELP US MEET OUR CHALLENGE

Your MONTHLY DONATION Counts in More Ways than One!

Interfaith Peace-Builders has been challenged to raise \$5,000 in new or increased donations, or via new and unique methods, before October 30, 2010. That gives us only 5 months to deliver! Such a challenge provides each of *you* with an opportunity.

You now have the chance to make your donation count more than ever before. How can you do this? See the enclosed letter for some ideas. Or just check the box “*make my donation monthly*” in the enclosed envelope! For an idea of what your donation will go towards, see the following list of crucial program needs:

- | | | | |
|--|---------|----|-------------|
| ▪ Cover airfare for one expert leader to guide delegates on journey in Israel/Palestine: | \$1,300 | or | \$108/month |
| ▪ Provide scholarship assistance for two delegates who could not otherwise travel: | \$650 | or | \$54/month |
| ▪ Support Israel and Palestinian organizations with honoraria donations for our meetings: | \$420 | or | \$35/month |
| ▪ Send 7 low-income activists to the Grassroots Advocacy Training & Lobby Day in DC: | \$252 | or | \$21/month |
| ▪ Print educational materials for 5 delegates to prepare them for IFPB delegation: | \$132 | or | \$11/month |
| ▪ Provide one night of housing for IFPB staff or board at a national peace conference: | \$72 | or | \$6/month |
| ▪ Other: any amount you can give monthly helps us meet the challenge! | | | |

If these suggestions don’t fit, there are other options! Give a greater amount than you did last year, or **join IFPB’s Hour-A-Month Program** and donate the equivalent of an hour of your salary monthly:

www.ifpb.org/donation/monthly.html

Don’t let this opportunity pass you by! Your support means more now than ever before!

Thank you for your continued support and remember to log on to **ifpb.org** for updates on our programs and reports from delegations on the ground in Israel/Palestine!



Building **PEACE** through Personal Experience

DONATE MONTHLY TO SUPPORT OUR WORK!
www.ifpb.org/donation/monthly.html