



Sacrificing Peace for the Process

The latest round of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations began in early September with the customary photo-ops. Despite smiles for the international press on hand to witness the handshakes, little progress was made during the short meetings held in Washington DC. Other than a joint commitment to meet again in two weeks, it was unclear what, if anything, was accomplished.

Interfaith Peace-Builders' July/August delegation was in the region when plans for the negotiations were first announced, and thus well positioned to hear first-hand reactions from a broad range of Palestinians and Israelis. The majority of those we met were pessimistic that more talks in the same old design would bring significant progress.

Among many IFPB partners in the region – those Palestinians and Israelis whose work focuses on nonviolent action and popular struggle – there was an understanding that work on the ground, and not photo-ops for the international stage, was what would really pay peace dividends.

We too feel that true hopes for peace lie in the hands of those who risk their lives every week to work for peace based on justice and equality. Some march and demonstrate; others reach out and attempt to work across nationalities; others work for change in their own communities. And many, many more plan, organize, and strategize behind the scenes (and often out of the headlines) to make the *hope* for peace possible.

By strong-arming a political process that fails to incorporate the majority of these active peace-builders, the US government at best yet again ignores their voices, and at worst, may make the work of local activists more difficult. Raised expectations – and then dashed hopes – of past processes have encouraged more disillusionment on both sides. Optimism lost, has in turn led to more extreme measures by Israeli military forces and settlers as well as by Palestinian militants. The cycle of violence may thus be perpetuated while Israel continues to use its economic and political power to forge ahead with illegal Israeli settlement construction and other facts on the ground.

Given this reality, and with all of us uncertain just how the process will unfurl, our Palestinian and Israeli partners need additional support. We need to redouble our education efforts. We need to ensure that local, regional, and national leaders hear the voices of our friends in Israel/Palestine doing amazing, crucial, and inspiring work for change, and often doing it outside of the limelight. We need to send new delegates to learn first-hand in Israel/Palestine. We need to better connect movements here to leverage limited resources.

We need to continue to provide a consistent and clear message: **regardless of what the politicians pledge today or tomorrow, there remains a vibrant, creative, and growing movement among Palestinians and Israelis to end occupation, redress past grievances, and take real action that can lead to peace.** These voices threaten to be drowned out by the fanfare. It is up to all of us to make sure this does not happen – and that the true voices of peace are heard. If we do not, we may be sacrificing real peace in order to push ahead with a dead-end process.

**Less Than \$2,000 Needed
to Reach Our Goal. . .**

Only 6 weeks left to help!

See back page for details



IFPB Delegates stand with the Israeli feminist group, Women in Black, at their weekly vigil in Jerusalem. (photo: Dan Onorato)

Exciting New Moves for Interfaith Peace-Builders

Interfaith Peace-Builders exists to help educate, invigorate, and embolden a movement to change US policy in Israel/Palestine so that a real and lasting peace may flourish in the Middle East. Since 2000 – and always with the generous help of supporters like you – we have stretched our modest resources to do the most we can. Given the many things we hope to do in the future to deepen our work, *we are especially excited to announce four big news items in the following pages.*

You can help us make these moves successful by lending money or support to these actions.

Emily Siegel to begin as IFPB's new Delegation Coordinator!

Interfaith Peace-Builders is thrilled to welcome Emily Siegel to our staff! Emily is a long-time friend of IFPB and helped lead an IFPB Delegation in July of last year. She now joins the full-time IFPB staff!

Emily brings great skill and experience to the organization. She holds a Master's Degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from the School of International Service at American University and a BA in International Relations, with minors in Sociology and Jewish Studies, from the University of Delaware. Her undergraduate studies included time abroad at Israel's Ben-Gurion University, exploring Israeli society, politics, and Bedouin rights. The focus of Emily's Masters' Degree was on the intersection of justice and peacebuilding through education, including extensive research on identity formation in the Israeli school system and how peace education methods create social change. Emily has previously worked for Seeds of Peace, Partners for Peace, AMIDEAST, the US Institute of Peace, and as Assistant Director of Unity Programs at Abraham's Vision. She is a trained facilitator and has co-facilitated dialogues focusing on US-Islam relations and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



Emily was born and raised in Washington DC and will help staff IFPB's DC office. She joins Mike Daly and Jacob Pace as the third full-time staff person, bringing IFPB's staff to four, including Senior Fellow Joe Groves. As Delegation Coordinator, Emily will take primary responsibility for delegate orientation and outreach, as well as support our continuing efforts to increase capacity for delegation-based education and advocacy. We now look to the future and hope to raise the funds needed to make the position sustainable through the end of 2011. *You can help by marking this achievement with a donation of your own and putting us on the path to continued success!*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: IFPB and US Campaign announce 3rd Grassroots Advocacy Training & Lobby Day: March 6-7, 2011!



IFPB and the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation will hold our 3rd Annual Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day in Washington, DC on March 6-7, 2011. A core feature of our expanded Education and Advocacy Program, the Grassroots Advocacy Training program brings together activists, experts and individuals from communities around the United States for hands-on workshops and activist skills trainings. A constituent-led lobby day adds an immediate action component and an opportunity for participants to develop congressional engagement skills and experience by addressing their concerns to their elected officials.

The Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day is a key part of our ongoing efforts to promote civic engagement and build a stronger US-based movement for Israeli-Palestinian peace. The 2011 event will include panels and workshops featuring leading experts and activists and provide essential skills for activism on US Policy in Israel/Palestine and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

The event has been unanimously endorsed by over 300 member groups of the US Campaign and will be a focal point of efforts to change US policy in Israel/Palestine. Your participation will enrich your understanding of the conflict and help build a strong US movement for a just peace in Palestine/Israel. *Join Interfaith Peace-Builders, the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, and other national groups for a unique opportunity to make real change!*

New IFPB regional group hosts founder of the Palestinian Fair Trade Association in Ohio: September 15 – 21!



One of IFPB's most exciting new moves is the foundation of a network of regional groups based around clusters of active IFPB delegates. The first group to begin its work is based in Ohio and includes a handful of committed individuals and activists. **As their first major programming effort, IFPB's Ohio Regional Group will host Nasser Abufarha at several public and private events in northern Ohio.**

Nasser Abufarha is Founder of the Palestine Fair Trade Association (PFTA) and Canaan Fair Trade. He is an anthropologist whose research on suicide bombers led to the founding of PFTA, which has grown into 49 producer cooperatives with over 1700 small farmers. Its corporate partner, Canaan Fair Trade, has a state-of-the-art olive oil refinery and world-wide distribution of organic, certified fair trade products. Profits fund college scholarships, micro-loans for women, replanting of thousands of uprooted olive trees, and jobs that provide hope for the embattled West Bank city of Jenin. Dr. Abufarha received

his PhD in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin. His PhD dissertation, "The Making of a Human Bomb: An Ethnography of Palestinian Resistance" was published by Duke University Press in 2009.

Mr. Abufarha will be speaking at Oberlin College on September 16 and John Carroll University on September 17, among other private events, and will be joined during part of his trip by IFPB Program Coordinator Mike Daly. His visit is part of a concerted effort by IFPB to support delegate activism. An IFPB delegation is a transformative experience for most participants, who later become forces for change in their own communities. IFPB supports returning delegates through ongoing communication and training in organizing and advocacy. *If you are in the area, please consider attending one of Mr. Abufarha's events. If you cannot attend, you can still support the work with your contribution to IFPB.*

IFPB to send African Heritage Delegation to Israel/Palestine in July 2011; 3 other delegations planned for the year!

Interfaith Peace-Builders has begun planning for an African Heritage Delegation to Israel/Palestine in July 2011. The delegation will build upon burgeoning efforts within the African-American community to strengthen work focusing on Apartheid in Israel and the growth of campaigns employing the boycott, divestment and sanctions framework. IFPB will work with organizational partners to recruit community leaders, activists, artists and others from African Heritage communities.

Members of the delegation will benefit from IFPB's unique approach to advocacy following the delegation. We feel that the time is ripe for: (1) sharing lessons learned from desegregation, anti-apartheid, and anti-racist struggles with those waging similar campaigns in Palestine/Israel; (2) strengthening a cadre of African-American leaders who have on-the-ground experience in Israel/Palestine; and (3) linking African American delegation participants with and work being done in anti-war, peace and justice communities in the US.



We invite you to join us. And we believe that this project holds the potential to catalyze organizing in the African-American community. We hope it will serve as only the first of many such programs, initiated by Interfaith Peace-Builders, our partners, and others in our movement. *Support our effort today by making a donation to IFPB and noting "African-American Delegation" in the notes section. This project will only succeed with your financial support!*

Other Upcoming IFPB Delegations to Israel/Palestine:

- **October 31 - November 13, 2010:** *Olive Harvest Delegation (DEADLINE APPROACHING!)*
- **May 21 - June 3, 2011:** *Voices of the Peace-Builders Delegation*
- **July 16 - July 29, 2011:** *Delegation theme to be determined*
- **October/November 2011:** *Olive Harvest Delegation*

A Challenge to Engage and Mobilize

Only 6 Weeks Left to Meet our \$2,500 Challenge!

Interfaith Peace-Builders is less than \$2,000 away from raising \$5,000 in new or increased donations, or via new and unique methods. If we meet that goal, we'll win an additional \$2,500! But we have to raise the rest of that money before October 30, 2010! *That is where you can help now!*

To make your donation count, take one of these three actions:

- 1) Give a greater sum than you did in 2009 and the *difference* will count towards our total (call the IFPB office at 202.244.0821 if you need a reminder of what you gave last year);
- 2) Go to www.ifpb.org/donation/monthly.html to join IFPB's *Hour-A-Month Program* and donate the equivalent of an hour of your salary monthly;
- 3) Check the box "***I would like to make a monthly donation***" in the enclosed envelope and IFPB staff will give you a call! If you need an idea of how much to give, see the following list of crucial program needs:



The clock is ticking and we are almost there!

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| ▪ 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! | | | |

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. . .**

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

TRAVEL TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE WITH INTERFAITH PEACE-BUILDERS

UPCOMING DELEGATIONS

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Now is the time to go! Find out why so many credit an IFPB delegation with changing their life for the better!

Get the latest on upcoming delegations at www.ifpb.org/delegations/upcoming.html