



Building PEACE through Personal Experience

A COMMITMENT TO GROWTH

# The Grassroots Advocacy Training and You: Claiming Your Seat at the Table!

MARCH 6-7, 2011 • WASHINGTON, DC

Leaked documents turn years of US diplomacy and war-making on its head; a Democratic administration offers Israel weapons and security guarantees for a limited and partial settlement freeze; the rise of the Tea Party in Congress. **The face of the nation is changing and it is time for you to make your voice heard in Washington!**

When we designed the first *Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day* two years ago, we did so to empower everyday Americans. Since its inception, the event has taught crucial organizing skills and given hundreds of people a voice in US foreign policy. **On March 6-7 we will again gather to learn, network, and act for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine.**



This year we are excited to announce that we will be joined by special guest speakers and presenters. We are also partnering with the *American Friends Service Committee* to offer an additional day of training for youth and students. **The Student Organizing Conference on March 5** will provide young people with the skills to initiate campaigns in their communities and on their campuses.

**Whether you are an experienced organizer or a newcomer, this event is your opportunity to grow as an activist.** *Learn the skills our movement needs and make the change you want to see on March 6-7, 2011!*

**Find more info and register today at:**  
**[www.ifpb.org/grassroots](http://www.ifpb.org/grassroots)**

Gael Murphy (CODEPINK) and Ra'ed Jarrar (Peace Action) lead workshop at 2010 Grassroots Advocacy Training.

## IFPB Welcomes New Board Members!

We are proud to welcome three colleagues to our Board of Directors. Our board is a committed and active group with close connections to the organization and our work. **Each of these new board members has worked with IFPB in the past and has committed to do so in new and meaningful ways:**

- **Reverend Sandra R. Mackie** is a master level counselor, an ordained pastor in the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, and is trained to name and resolve congregational conflicts. Sandra chairs the *Middle East Justice and Peace Group of South Central Pennsylvania* and is a member of various NGO's including the *Lutheran Peace Fellowship*. Her passion is peacemaking in the tradition of Jesus and other great religious leaders.
- **Rami Natsheh** is a financial analyst originally from the city of Hebron in Palestine. Rami holds a BA from Hebron University and a Masters in Business Administration from Alaska Pacific University. He has volunteered with the *Resource Center for Nonviolence* and the *Fellowship of Reconciliation*, and has worked for the *United Nations* in the West Bank. He currently works for an investment company in Anchorage, Alaska.
- **Shakeel Syed** is the Executive Director of the *Islamic Shura Council*, a federation of Mosques and Muslim organizations in Southern California. Shakeel speaks frequently and has also written on issues related to Muslims and Islam. He joined an IFPB delegation in 2007 and co-led a delegation in 2009. He also serves the board of *US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation*, the *ACLU of Southern California*, and currently chairs *Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice* in LA.

# Expanding our Circle and Linking Struggles

## IFPB to Organize and Send African Heritage Delegation in 2011

In July 2011, Interfaith Peace-Builders will send our first **African Heritage Delegation** to Israel/Palestine. The delegation will include activists, artists, community leaders and others of African descent who share a commitment to peace and justice in Israel/Palestine. It will raise awareness, heighten activism, and further link struggles between African Heritage communities in the US and Palestinians and Israelis. The delegation will be led by IFPB Board member **Gerald Lenoir** and University of Florida professor **Zoharah Simmons**.

Interfaith Peace-Builders has long focused on engaging a diversity of voices in our movements. In addition to our efforts to recruit widely on each delegation, this delegation builds on earlier focused delegations with Muslim activists in 2002 and *American Friends Service Committee's Third World Coalition* in 2007. Like the *Third World Coalition* delegation, this summer's African Heritage delegation will overlap with another delegation – so that activists on both trips can learn from each other as well as from the Israelis and Palestinians they meet.

**Here are 5 reasons why we are excited about sending this delegation now:**

### 1. The South Africa Analogy

Many prominent South Africans, among them Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Ronnie Kasrils, have compared Israel's system of segregation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Apartheid once practiced in South Africa.

In 2005, Palestinian Civil Society launched a movement of nonviolent direct action explicitly modeled on the struggle against Apartheid and called for international solidarity to take the form of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS). **The Palestinian Unified Call for BDS**, signed by over 200 Palestinian organizations, is *"inspired by the struggle of South Africans against Apartheid and in the spirit of international solidarity, moral consistency and resistance to injustice and oppression."*

This Palestinian call also has been endorsed by rising numbers of Israelis and thousands of others around the world. African Heritage communities bring important experience gained in the movements against segregation in the United States and Apartheid in South Africa which those working on Israel/Palestine can further learn from and adopt.



### 2. Existing Efforts In African Heritage Communities



**The African Heritage Delegation will build upon and strengthen existing efforts in African Heritage communities.** African Heritage organizations and individuals are among the leaders of the growing movement for a just peace in Israel/Palestine. The delegation will build upon their work and help create the conditions to further strengthen and diversify efforts to improve US policy and achieve an Israeli-Palestinian peace based on justice.

The delegation will also build additional connections between African Americans and community leaders in Palestine/Israel. In this way, the delegation is a continuation of the efforts of the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation whose **Letter to Black America** was signed by prominent members of African Heritage communities.

### 3. The Opposition Is Engaging African Heritage Communities

**In recent years, organizations supporting the status quo of Israeli occupation and continued conflict have stepped up their efforts to engage African Americans in the United States.** The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has been at the forefront of these efforts.

AIPAC boasts that *"as part of its outreach program, AIPAC is seeking to build relationships with key leaders in the*

*African American community.*” To this end, it has organized its own delegations to Israel, introducing African Heritage leaders to Israeli politicians and hoping to build strong political support for Israeli political interests. As with most AIPAC trips, the delegates are not encouraged to travel to Palestinian communities, meet Palestinians, or even to build connections with Israeli activists working for a just peace.

Given this reality, IFPB’s African Heritage Delegation will fill a needed void. The delegation will help tell other sides of the story by privileging the voices of Palestinians and Israelis working for peace and justice, touring areas impacted by occupation and colonization, and meeting with under-represented communities in Palestine/Israel (including African-Palestinians and Jews of Color).

## 4. The Stakes Are High

**Every day that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues more lives are lost and more insecurity is sown across the globe.** The land of Israel/Palestine holds importance on numerous levels. It plays a crucial role in the game of geo-politics in the region which has become the focus for United States foreign policy; it is a land that holds deep religious meaning for the world’s three largest monotheistic religions; and it is a place where colonialism has continued even through the age of decolonization.

Since 2000, more than 6,400 Palestinians and 800 Israelis have died in this conflict. That includes more than 1,300 Palestinian children and 120 Israeli children. Israel’s occupation has sown great hardship throughout Palestinian communities who face soaring levels of malnutrition, poverty and psychological trauma. Israelis also live in great insecurity, which has contributed to the further militarization of the region. Clearly, we must all do more to rectify this situation. The African Heritage delegation aims to start here, at home in the United States, by contributing substantively to the domestic movement for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine.



## 5. Our Partners Asked



**Interfaith Peace-Builders partners and allies in African Heritage communities and the Palestinian and Israeli peace and justice movements asked us to organize this delegation.** This initiative is a result of long-running and in-depth conversations and strategic considerations. IFPB brings 10 years of experience organizing 35 delegations to Israel/Palestine, bringing more than 550 people to see the region first-hand. Our delegates have benefited from IFPB’s unique Education and Advocacy Program and have become integral parts of the US-based movement for Israeli-Palestinian peace and justice.

Participants in the African Heritage Delegation will benefit from IFPB’s experience and expertise. Our partners have called for it, and now we aim to deliver. The time is ripe and the need is more urgent than ever. **Learn more about this delegation at: [www.ifpb.org/africanheritage](http://www.ifpb.org/africanheritage)**

## TRAVEL TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE WITH INTERFAITH PEACE-BUILDERS

### UPCOMING DELEGATIONS

- **May 21 - June 3, 2011**  
*Voices of the Peace-Builders Delegation*
- **July 16 - July 29, 2011** (two delegations on same dates)
  - *Today’s Realities and Tomorrow’s Leaders Delegation*
  - *African Heritage Delegation*
- **October 29 – November 11, 2011**  
*Trees of Peace: Olive Harvest Delegation*



**Now is the time to go!** Find out why so many credit an IFPB delegation with changing their life!  
**Get the latest on upcoming delegations at [www.ifpb.org/delegations/upcoming.html](http://www.ifpb.org/delegations/upcoming.html)**

## INTERFAITH PEACE-BUILDERS



### **We Met One Challenge, but Many Others Lie Ahead Your Donation Helps IFPB Grow and Thrive!**

Thanks to the support of our friends and colleagues, Interfaith Peace-Builders has met our challenge and won a \$2,500 grant! To win the grant, we raised more than \$5,000 in “new support” between the end of April and the end of October. *Thank you for answering our call and supporting IFPB’s work for peace with justice!*

**Now it is time to widen our circles and build our movement!** The final weeks of the year are the time we use to evaluate the past and look to the future. For IFPB, our future is filled with promise, but our hopes are pinned on the efforts of each of you. We are building a broader movement and you are an essential piece of that. That is why your continued support for IFPB is so important.

**Please donate and help IFPB and the movement for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine grow today!**

**[www.ifpb.org/donation](http://www.ifpb.org/donation)**

## **2010 / Year in Review**

In 2010, Interfaith Peace-Builders put in motion plans that were hatched nearly two years ago. It was then that our board and staff set the strategic goal of hiring a third staff member to supplement the work of full-time staff Mike Daly and Jacob Pace and half-time Senior Fellow Joe Groves. Along with our staff, our programs also expanded in our tenth year of delegation-based education and advocacy:

**>>> Interfaith Peace-Builders’ 2<sup>nd</sup> Grassroots Advocacy Training & Lobby Day brings nearly 200 people to Washington DC; the event is endorsed by 18 other organizations in the peace and justice movement • IFPB’s Board of Directors agrees to ambitious Strategic Plan and lays out quarterly benchmarks to success in the 2011 fiscal year • IFPB launches “Support Interfaith Peace-Builders,” our presence on Facebook Causes • 29 people join IFPB’s 33<sup>rd</sup> delegation in May; the third co-sponsored by the National Peace Foundation • IFPB’s Board of Directors grows when Sandra Mackie, Rami Natsheh, and Shakeel Syed join • 21 people join IFPB’s 34<sup>th</sup> delegation in July; with more than half under 30 years old • IFPB hires Emily Siegel as new Delegations Coordinator • Nasser Abu Farha of the Palestinian Fair Trade Association is hosted by IFPB at events throughout northern Ohio • IFPB wins a \$2,500 challenge grant by raising \$5,000 in six months through new and unique methods • 26 people join IFPB’s 35<sup>th</sup> delegation, bringing our total since 2001 to more than 550 delegates • IFPB delegates in 2010 reach tens of thousands through media events, public speaking and organizing >>>**

## **\$1000 Scholarships Available for Students and Young Delegates!**



IFPB is very pleased to announce that **two substantial scholarships** are now available for youth who wish to join one of our delegations in summer 2011.

The scholarships, to be awarded on a combination of merit and need, will provide two students or young people with **\$1000 each** toward the costs of joining a delegation, and have been specifically created in recognition of the immense value IFPB delegations have already proven to bring to the experience and understanding of youth who have participated in the program. In addition to the major scholarships, all applicants will also be considered for smaller financial aid packages ranging from \$250 – \$500.

**Deadline for scholarship applications is January 28, 2011. Apply at:**

**[www.ifpb.org/1000scholarship](http://www.ifpb.org/1000scholarship)**