

Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace



Dear Friends of FFIPP,

As the year gets into full swing, Faculty for Israeli Palestinian Peace would like to thank you for your support of FFIPP and to inform you about our robust activities in 2009 to promote human rights and a just peace in Palestine/Israel and the Middle East.

The goal of Faculty for Israeli Palestinian Peace is to promote just peace in Israel/Palestine by educating the academic community and policy makers through an extensive network of Palestinian, Israeli, and International faculty coupled by a growing network of our future educators, policy makers and leaders – i.e., today's students. To achieve this goal, FFIPP has led annual educational internships abroad in Israel/Palestine and has reached out to our local communities through lectures and conferences. In 2009, both initiatives are being continued and expanded enthusiastically by FFIPP members and friends, as is manifested in the plethora of events that were held in the month of **MARCH** alone:

~*FFIPP CAMPUS SPEAKING-TOURS: SPRING SERIES*~ *UNITED STATES*

5 March 2009

Yoav Elinesky (FFIPP-USA) and Ziad Abbas (please see below for details) spoke to about 100 students at Brattleboro Union High School in Vermont about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, the situation in Gaza, the plight of Palestinian refugees and explained why they should be deeply concerned about this issue.

6 March 2009

I. Smith College:

The following event was organized by the Smith Student Alliance for Middle East Peace and FFIPP:

Civil Society Under Occupation

This panel will discuss Palestinian NGOs and the obstacles they face trying to provide education support and other social services in Palestine.

Friday, March 6th, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Campus Center 103/104

- **Jeremy Wilderman** is the cofounder of Project Hope** and its Executive Director. He is currently based in Montreal, Canada.
- **Abdulkhkim Sabbah**, director of Project Hope, a grassroots organization in Nablus, Palestine, providing educational and recreational activities for children in the city and surrounding refugee camps, as well as medical and humanitarian relief and practical training that can empower children with hope and skill for the future. Nablus, the largest city in the occupied West Bank, has been under Israeli military siege for the past seven years, with long periods under military curfew.
- **Robert Massoud**, founder of Zatoun, an organization selling fair trade Palestinian olive oil and other Palestinian products. Mr. Massoud will discuss Zatoun, farming under military occupation and his experience with the development of cooperative structures and civil society in Palestine.



II. Mount Holyoke College:

Students from the West Sahara Project at Mount Holyoke College and FFIPP organized a discussion with the following speakers comparing the situations of occupation, refugees and related issues:

Special Talk about NGO work in the West Bank

Friday, March 6th, 2:30 am to 4:00 pm

Elliott Religious and Spiritual House

- **Jeremy Wilderman** (please see above event for details)
- **Abdulkhkim Sabbah** (please see above event for details)

III. 5-Colleges, Northampton

FFIPP organized a private gathering at the home of a UMASS Amherst faculty for a discussion on:

Divestment, Occupation of West Bank, Olive Oil

Friday, March 6th, 7-9pm

Northampton

- **Hampshire Students for Justice in Palestine** will talk about the divestment campaign along with guest speakers:
- **Abdulkhkim Sabbah** (please see above event for details)
- **Jeremy Wilderman** (please see above event for details)

The Board of Directors of FFIPP-USA commends Hampshire Students for Justice in Palestine, Amherst, MA for their successful campaign to persuade Hampshire College to divest from the Israeli occupation. In the past two years FFIPP has brought a number Palestinian and Israeli visitors to Hampshire College:

- **Juliano Mer Khamis**, director of the Freedom Theater in Jenin; showed *Arna's Children*.
- **Rateb Abu**, a lecturer at Al-Quds Open University and member of the popular committee against the wall in the village of Bilin
- **Kobi Snitz**, a lecturer at Bar Ilan University and member of Anarchists Against the Wall; with Abu, spoke about the non-violent struggle in Bilin against the Wall and Settlements
- **Hannah Safran**, a lecturer at Emek-Yisrael College, founder of Women in Black, past coordinator of Isha L'Isha, the Haifa feminist center, and a member of the Coalition of Women for Just Peace in Israel
- **Ola Shtewee**, legal department coordinator for the Palestinian-Israeli feminist group Kayan, spoke about common efforts of Israeli and Palestinian women to establish a just peace in Palestine/Israel.

We can only hope that FFIPP's events, along with others of a similar nature, have contributed to a heightened awareness of the destructive impact that investments in Israel's occupation have on the Palestinian people. Congratulations Hampshire students!

10 March 2009

The following event was coordinated by FFIPP member Morgan Brennan at NYU. Co-sponsored by the Culture Club, Students for Justice in Palestine and the SCPS History Club:

A Faculty For Israeli and Palestinian Peace speaking tour:

ZIAD ABBAS

Tuesday, March 10th, 6:30p.m.

Silver Center, NYU, Room 703, 31 Washington Sq Place

Ziad Abbas is a Palestinian refugee from Dheisheh Refugee camp in the West Bank. He is the co-founder of the Ibdaa Cultural Center** (www.ibdaa194.org) in Dheisheh where he has served as Executive Director since 1994.

Ziad is also a journalist who has worked with Palestinian and international media and has participated in the production of several documentary films. He recently completed his Master of Arts in Social Justice in Intercultural Relations from the School for International Training Graduate Institute. Currently on leave from the Ibdaa Cultural Center, Ziad is working with Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA, www.mecaforpeace.org), a non-profit organization based in Berkeley, California which sends food and medical aid to children in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq.



12 March 2009

The following event was coordinated by FFIPP member Suhad Baba and other activists:

ZIAD ABBAS

Thursday, March 12th, 7:00 p.m

Busboys and Poets, at the 5th and K St. location in downtown Washington, D.C.

13 March 2009

Rachel Jordan, a FFIPP member, held a workshop at her alma mater, *Swarthmore College* about the FFIPP Summer Internship for Human Rights and Just Peace in Palestine/Israel.

~*FFIPP CAMPUS SPEAKING-TOURS: SPRING SERIES*~ *EUROPE*

9-13 March 2009

Committed to FFIPP's mission to build peace and maintain dialogue between the parties with a stake in this conflict, FFIPP-France has planned two speaking tours on European campuses to consider the following question:

I. Economy of Palestinian Territories - Microfinance

What could be the value of microfinance in a future Palestinian State, and what role would microfinance play in the transition from the international financial assistance to a self-sustainable Palestinian economy?

Speakers:

- **Shir Hever**, a graduate from Tel Aviv University, is an Israeli economic researcher at the *Alternative Information Center* ** <http://www.alternativenews.org>, a Palestinian-Israeli organization active in Jerusalem and Beit-Sahour. Shir researches topics including the status of international aid to the Palestinians and to Israel, and the effects of the occupation on the Israeli economy, etc. His work also includes giving lectures and presentations in Israel and abroad.
- **Reem Abbushi** is the Executive Director of *Palestinian Businesswomen's Association (ASALA)* <http://www.asala-pal.com>, one of the major microfinance NGO's in the Palestinian Territories. Established in 1997, ASALA believes that microfinance serves as a leading model for reaching sustainable long term development. Palestinian women, often the only individual able to revive the economic life of the family due to the hard political reality, are given real opportunities to pull themselves and their families out of poverty.

Schedule

Monday, March 9th:	Paris, France
Tuesday, March 10th:	Menton and Marseille, France
Wednesday, March 11th:	Aix-en-Provence, France
Thursday, March 12th:	Grenoble, France
Friday, March 13th:	Turin, Italy

For more information, please contact:
Charlotte Henry de Villeneuve, contact@ffipp-france.org

II. Water, Environment and Sustainable Development

As Yitzhak Rabin once said: “Without an agreement on water, there will be no agreement at all”. Thus what is the current situation concerning water resources in the Middle East telling us? What about its management and distribution? Which are the future perspectives for this vital resource, so rare and precious in the complicated East, where water remains, more than ever a conflict source?

Speaker:

- **Dr. Abdul Rahman Tamimi** is one of the greatest current Palestinian experts on the water and environment issues and on the issues problems that the use, treatment and distribution of water generate in the Middle East. He's also the General Director of the *Palestinian Hydrologic Group* (PHG) which is a Palestinian NGO striving to promote the role of women and civil societies in managing local water and its related environmental resources to ensure transparency, good water governance and just and equal provision of water and sanitation services to the rural and marginal communities in the West Bank and Gaza. In 2007, Dr.Tamimi was nominated for the International Award "RAMAL" for his scientific contribution.



Monday, March 9th:	<i>Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris, Paris, France</i>
Tuesday, March 10th:	<i>Université Bordeaux III, Bordeaux, France</i>
Wednesday, March 11th:	<i>Sciences-Po, Toulouse, France</i>
Thursday, March 12th:	<i>Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium</i>
Friday, March 13th:	<i>University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands</i>

For more information, please contact:
Anne Lise-Barberon, contact@ffipp-france.org



~*FFIPP PROGRAMS IN PALESTINE/ISRAEL SUMMER 2009*~

**FFIPP Summer Delegation to Palestine/Israel for Faculty, Educators, and Students
June 28 - July 9, 2009**

See for yourself the reality in Israel and the occupied West Bank. A member of the summer 2008 delegation has written, "I think none of us could have fully imagined what we experienced by being there." An intensive twelve days of learning.

More Information: <http://www.ffipp.org/delegations>

**FFIPP Summer Internships for Human Rights and Just Peace in Palestine/Israel for College Students
June 27 - July 30, 2009**

Applications are now OPEN for the FFIPP Summer 2009 Internships! This is a life-changing experience found in an orientation program and one month of volunteer work in a grassroots organization, a research organization, or a human rights organization in the occupied Palestinian territories or Israel. (**Organizations including Project Hope, the AIC and IbdAA Cultural Centre all have strong ties with FFIPP as exemplified in their participation in our speaking tours). A summer 2008 intern wrote to us: "I learned more about the conflict in these 5 days of orientation as in the two years prior... Fantastic time...I worked for Rabbis for Human Rights, which in itself was a very educational experience."

More information: <http://www.ffipp.org/internships>

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The above newsletter was compiled and edited by FFIPP member *Alexandra Chen, Harvard 2010*. Please direct any questions, comments or material that you would like to see in future newsletters to: chen21@fas.harvard.edu

*In peace, solidarity and hope for a just future in Israel/Palestine,
FFIPP-USA • March 2009*

