

THIS  
WEEK  
IN

# Palestine

Issue No. 168, April 2012

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**Moving Around**



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# Message from the editor

"Moving Around" is not such a simple activity for Palestinians. Whether domestically or abroad, Palestinian movement is something to take into account, and not lightly! There are many reasons that we chose "Moving Around" as the theme for April. On one hand, we wanted to explore the changes in Palestinian movement within the Palestinian territories. We asked ourselves questions about the barriers and impediments to movement between the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Jerusalem, and the 1948 Territories. We also wanted to know about the larger picture. What does movement look like for Palestinian products, trade movement, and the economy?

The result is another diverse issue with a range of topics addressing different angles of "Moving Around" in Palestine. In this issue, you will find *This Week in Palestine* in conversation with Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh who sheds some light on the condition of roads and road safety in Palestine. Ms. Fida Jiryis talks about an avid desire amongst Palestinian youth to leave the country once they experience life outside. And we address physical movement through articles from Palestinian athlete Tamara Awartani who tells us about her journey in "Presenting Palestine to the World through Sports," and Ms. Ola Abu Algeib who concentrates on the issue of physical disabilities in Palestine.

As usual, we have highlighted a personality, book, artist, website, and exhibition of the month. Make sure to check our events calendar for activities taking place this month. Our May issue is dedicated entirely to "Rising from the Nakba." We look forward to bringing you a unique and reflective issue. Until then, we extend our regards to the Palestinian prisoners and their families. We wish you all freedom and justice.

**From the TWIP Collective**



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## Forthcoming Issues:

- **Rising from the Nakba - May 2012**
- **Security - June 2012**
- **Despite All - July 2012**

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## Palestinians at the Israeli Checkpoint

By Dr. Ali Qleibo

*The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.*

—The Myth of Sisyphus, Albert Camus

Palestinians are highly mobile, intense, dynamic, and have an indomitable will to survive. They are *sha'b al jabbarin*, the mighty people, as dubbed by the late Yasser Arafat. Ambitious and keen on not missing any opportunity, they are constantly on the move, collecting degrees, diplomas, and licenses. There is a plethora of training programmes throughout the West Bank and Jerusalem administered by diverse private, public, and non-governmental organisations.

Ibrahim, a physical education teacher in a local school, has acquired numerous licenses including training and administering public gyms, computer programming, Hebrew language, the history of Jerusalem, tourism in Palestine, lifeguarding, and licenses to drive buses, trucks, and even taxis.

"You did not ask me why I have my taxi driving license?" He looked quizzically at me.

"Why?" I asked.

"Some nights I would feel desperately lonely. Everyone I know is on the other side of the Wall. The easiest way to have company is by working as a taxi driver. As I pick up clients, I get to see and talk to people." In fact, the fear of the pandemonium at the Israeli military checkpoints discourages many Jerusalemites from travelling outside the city.

"The traffic jam at the Israeli checkpoint is a nightmare that I avoid being ensnarled in," Ibrahim summed up.

Each culture has its own traffic jam. Palestinian traffic jams are produced by the Israeli military Occupation. The chaos typical of the Palestinian traffic jam is triggered by the fear and collective



People waiting at a checkpoint. Photo by Mounes Qatami.

panic at the Israeli military checkpoint. Drivers caught in this mayhem panic and go berserk. Panic attacks are often linked with agoraphobia, which is the fear of not being able to get out of a place or a situation.

It is a beautiful idyllic sunny day for a country ride. The seat belt is fastened, the radio is tuned to your favourite song, and the sunglasses are on. You are driving smoothly on a scenic road in the mountains, neither too fast nor too slow, when suddenly the traffic falters,

stagger, and stops. You have stumbled upon yet another "flying checkpoint," which is a military barrier. Within minutes, you are entangled at the far end of the long line of cars surrounded by vehicles of all types that honk and hoot as they encroach on you from all directions. You are caught, stuck, and barraged with cars, trucks, and vans pushing and shoving their way, trying to squeeze you out of your lane.

The overall mayhem bears no resemblance to traffic jams in other

countries. The movement of cars has not stopped completely. Rather, it is a slowdown punctuated by an irregular rhythm. Neither broken-down cars, nor car accidents, nor traffic lights account for the bottleneck. It is an Israeli military checkpoint.

Israeli soldiers stop each vehicle, check the identity cards of every passenger, inspect the trunk, and ferret through the glove compartment, floor, and seats thoroughly before letting the car pass. The inspection rhythm varies according



to the degree of thoroughness deemed necessary by the soldier and can last from five to fifteen exasperating minutes.

After one car passes through the checkpoint, stampede ensues. The space created by the movement of just one car triggers a frenzied rush to fill the vacated gap, and an opportunity for the panic-stricken drivers to take over and bypass all other cars to reach the checkpoint. The engines sputter and the movement stutters. The traffic flow stammers, jolted by the frenzied pressure of the adjacent cars. You fight to keep your lane and keep the forward movement while watching for cars that push at you from left and right as more lanes forge their way to press you out of your place.

The chaos at the Israeli checkpoint turns into a nightmare, for the movement as a whole has not stopped completely, rather it becomes a disjunctive series of violent spurts and thrusts, which have a tempo that is totally chaotic and unpredictable in a rhythm that lacks fluidity and defies logic.

Israeli military checkpoints are a major source of grievance for Palestinians. The Qalandia checkpoint is our worst nightmare!

Under Israeli occupation, the movement of the Palestinian population is subject to the discretion and perceived needs of the Israeli army and is implemented through an intricate system of closures and barriers, of which the checkpoint is the most visible. The checkpoint is a barrier erected by the Israel army to control the freedom of the Palestinians to move within the occupied West Bank itself and in and out of Israel and the settlements. Most of the checkpoints are not located on the boundary between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, but throughout the West Bank as part of a more insidious system of closure.

The closure system comes in diverse forms that range from permanent and partially manned checkpoints, concrete roadblocks and barriers, metal gates, earth mounds, tunnels, trenches, and



Daily queue at Qalandia checkpoint. Photo by Ahed Izhiman.

an elaborate set of permit restrictions that controls and restricts Palestinian pedestrian and vehicular flow of traffic.

There are eight permanent checkpoints, i.e., an established formal military barrier that operates constantly, among which the Qalandia checkpoint is the most infamous.

There are also "flying checkpoints," which are random spot-checks improvised sporadically for a limited period of time. These are often on key transportation routes at peak travelling times, but they may pop up anywhere. Observation towers are elevated military towers used to monitor or control Palestinian pedestrian and vehicular movement.

The permit system for West Bank Palestinian nationals is complex and applied differently from region to region. A permit reduces the risk of being turned back at a checkpoint. Permits are necessary for crossing specific checkpoints; accessing the Jordan Valley, the "closed area" between the Green Line and the Israeli West Bank barriers; and for entering East Jerusalem and settlements.

Traffic jams at checkpoints are tedious, time consuming, and unnerving moments. You are caught in the traffic jam and the car continues its irregular,

stuttering, sporadic movement, pending the arbitrary military personnel inspection of each car, the passengers' identity cards, and the necessary permits. The flow of traffic as a whole has not totally stopped, but our Arabic sense of movement, of rhythm and tempo, which represents a Mediterranean sense of movement, does not register the constant interruption of the progress of traffic. One finds oneself transfixed in one's place, fighting for his lane. The distance otherwise travelled in seven minutes by car becomes seventy-seven minutes of cacophonous impatient frustration. Crossing the checkpoint presents an emotional trauma for it reproduces the Palestinian emasculated impotence vis-à-vis the Israeli occupation.

Every culture produces a set of riddles and the solutions with which to solve them, which spontaneously come to rescue the individual. In every civilisation, there is a set of events and occurrences that are predictable and which form an interdependent constellation similar to that of galaxies, stars, black holes, planets, and meteors. Each has its separate movement, but an overall unison. Similarly, Palestinians have a collectively intuited rhythm and sense of tempo with a harmony that the Israeli intervention has violently offset.

The interruption of the flow of traffic by the Israeli army takes the Palestinian driver and passengers off guard. One's sense of composure is undermined by the overwhelming challenges that assail one's integrity on an intellectual, emotional, and mechanical level, and which is not part of our cultural paradigm. Our defeats in *al-Nakba* in 1948 and the Six-Day War in 1967 are two major traumas, which are painfully revived at the checkpoint. The traffic jam jolts us into the brutal reality that there is no justice, no possibility of restitution, that we are defenceless war prisoners, and that we are alone in the universe. The traffic jam is a metaphor of our life stymied under Israeli occupation.

At the checkpoint, nothing moves. Along with the sense of entrapment, the feelings of aggravation and tension escalate. You are stuck going nowhere. Life feels like a traffic jam. The trends of thoughts that run inside one's head reflect emotionally in one's heart. Our thoughts and our feelings fuse into an existential questioning of our identity: Who am I? Where am I? The political defeat and impotent helplessness at being stopped by the Israeli army at the checkpoint rise to the foreground of one's consciousness as the defining element of one's identity.



Wadi al-Nar watchtower and checkpoint. Photo by Max Oberdorfer.

Frustrated by the military checkpoint, tremendous energy is invested resisting these oppressive thoughts, memories, and feelings that, in their cacophony, replicate the mayhem outside. The external barrage of cars becomes the mirror image of the individual social, economic, emotional, and personal pressures induced by political circumstances. This is when anxiety, stress, and tensions escalate amidst all the blaring horns. Everything jams up, even the good thoughts, feelings, and memories. Because nothing can move, nothing can change. Everything becomes futile, stale, and oppressive.

Stress and emotions overlap. Entangled in the traffic jam of the checkpoint, the Palestinian confronts head-on the fact he or she is under occupation. One is deprived of exercising the power of choice. The hassle of steering one's car parallels the pressure and hassle produced by the Israelis, as more settlements

are built and as the Wall continues to threaten to appropriate larger chunks of Palestinian territory. The West Bank was once totally Palestinian. Now our villages have become tiny islands in the ocean of Israeli settlements. Images of Israeli encroachment and forced appropriation of Palestinian land overcome one's consciousness: the constant rampages waged by the Israeli settlers against the villages, the burning of the mosques and olive trees, the desecration of cemeteries, and the physical brutalities launched under military protection against farmers and shepherds in the fields.

The Palestinian traffic jam is a mirror image of one's life at large. Sooner or later, our mountains, our land, and our homes will be taken away from us. Detrimental decisions are made and implemented by the Israelis, which affect our survival in our motherland. You cannot steer your car and you cannot steer your life. The traffic jam

at the military checkpoint represents our most obvious encounter with the Israeli Occupation.

In Jerusalem we live in melancholic isolation. The system of closure and the Wall of Separation have enforced a physical barrier impossible to cross. Once a geographically small country, now, through the intricately designed checkpoints and the Separation Wall extending throughout the country, vehicular and pedestrian movement has become a major ordeal.

I can sneak to Beit Ummar and visit my old friends there. I traverse the military barriers and continue my field work in the distant villages of Dura, Yatta, and Al Sammu', but I can no longer visit my favourite three ancient oak trees on my way to see my friends in neighbouring Bet Suriq.

Now that the Wall construction has finished, the rambling road from Jerusalem to Bet Suriq past Bet Iksha village is blocked. The erstwhile seven-minute drive to visit my friend Um Ahmad has become a seventy-seven minute-long ride. Bet Suriq has become an isolated island that can be reached only from Ramallah via the nightmarish checkpoint of Qalandia. But the image of the ancient trees remains alive in my mind and heart much as I had experienced it years ago.

*Three huge ancient oak trees huddle closely together, and two younger ones, not more than two hundred years old, stand to their right in the curb along the winding road from Jerusalem to Bet Suriq. The history of these trees dates back more than 500 years, remnants of a Palestine once famed for its oak woods.*

*Bet Suriq is almost 10 kilometres from my house in Sho'fat. As I turn off the road left of Nebi Samuel and drive to Bet Iksha, the narrow single-lane road twists and turns through lush peach, plum, and olive groves. At the end of a sharp curve, three huge ancient oak trees huddle closely together and, to*

*their left, another two smaller ones stand providing ample cool shade from the blazing sun. At their sight, I feel as though I am already home. I think of the generations of travellers to Bet Suriq. The road was not yet paved. They must have stopped to rest there. Their heart must have quickened its beats at the sight.*

The ancient oak trees stand as silent, lonely, forlorn witnesses to the tribulations of history.

Against all odds, Palestinians move on with life. The Israeli closure system, the Separation Wall and checkpoints, do not dampen our indomitable spirit nor slacken the endurance of *Sha'b el Jabbarin*.

At the checkpoint, people meet and separate, fall in love and break up, give birth and die. Students, teachers, peasants, labourers, doctors, nurses, workers, sisters, brothers, pregnant mothers (many deliver while detained at the checkpoint), and the sick (there are cases of individuals dying in ambulances because of the interminable delays) continue to travel notwithstanding the enormous difficulties at the various barriers. Their endurance does not erode. Palestinian perseverance is Sisyphean. In Greek mythology, the god Sisyphus was condemned to roll a large rock up a hill forever. Each time the rock reached the top of the hill, it would roll down again. Similarly the Palestinian stamina has no limit. The traffic jam, a metaphor for suffering, struggle, and endurance, reveals the pathos of the Palestinian tragedy.

*Dr. Ali Qleibo is an anthropologist, author, and artist. A specialist in the social history of Jerusalem and Palestinian peasant culture, he is the author of Before the Mountains Disappear, Jerusalem in the Heart, and Surviving the Wall, an ethnographic chronicle of contemporary Palestinians and their roots in ancient Semitic civilisations. Dr. Qleibo lectures at Al-Quds University. He can be reached at aqleibo@yahoo.com.*



## Advocating for Your Right to Enter. And to Return. And to Stay. Courtesy of the Right to Enter Campaign



*How much time do you have left on your visa?*

*Are you allowed to go to Jerusalem?*

*Have you tried applying for a hawiyya?*

Questions like these are as common as conversations about the weather, since the issue of getting into Palestine—and staying in Palestine—is a constant source of concern and anxiety for locals and foreigners alike. Because of these challenges, a diverse group of volunteers meets weekly to share the latest information about access and movement restrictions in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

The group is called Right to Enter (RTE), a grassroots campaign with the mission to defend the rights of access, movement, and residency in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territory.

### The Situation

The Israeli government's systematic denial of entry (or return) to the oPt affects entire families or individual members of families, such as the fathers or the mothers of minor children. As a result, families are torn apart, jobs or businesses lost, and personal property becomes inaccessible.

This practice applies to people with and without Palestinian or Arab origins, and to those with and without local family

relations. In addition to families, affected groups include professionals, academics, and volunteers who are in the oPt for teaching, research, the arts, business, civic engagement projects, or personal visits. Refused entry for unspecified "security" concerns, their only "offence" is that they are related to or have an association with Palestinians.

### Our Strategies

Due to the profound impact these arbitrary and opaque policies have on our lives, RTE focuses on the following strategies:

- Collecting information and documenting cases of entry and re-entry denial;
- Calling on the national and international community to protest and take action against this Israeli practice of family separation and denying entry to foreign experts and supporters;
- Urging consulates and embassies of affected citizens to formally protest, protect, and take action against these Israeli practices;
- Publicising the issue and disseminating information through national and international media channels.

RTE documents movement and access

stories that the State of Israel wants the world to ignore. We bring attention to the impact that Israeli-controlled movement restrictions have on real people, such as the American retiree who is put on the next flight back to America after disclosing plans to help with the Palestinian olive harvest; the family from Jordan that is refused entry to attend their grandmother's funeral in the West Bank; or the journalist who is denied entry after border guards search online and find articles he has written that criticise the Israeli occupation.

It is common that when newcomers discover RTE, they contact us with hope that we can solve their visa or residency issues. Unfortunately, this is beyond our power. What we are able to do, however, is pull together our collective data and keep foreign missions informed of the latest developments so that they cannot claim ignorance about the human cost of Israeli movement policies.

### How You Can Help

Right to Enter relies on individuals

contacting the campaign to report their cases. If you or someone you know has been denied entry—or has faced harassment and/or interrogation by Israeli officials because of your association with Palestinians—please contact us. Your story will not be shared publicly unless you explicitly give RTE permission to do so.

For more information, visit the RTE website: [www.righttoenter.ps](http://www.righttoenter.ps)

Or send an email message to: [info@righttoenter.ps](mailto:info@righttoenter.ps)

Everyone is welcome to come to our weekly meetings as well, which are on Mondays at 5 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House in Ramallah and are conducted in English. Share a cup of tea with us as we discuss the latest issues. You will meet people who have lived in Palestine for most of their lives, others for a few years, and still others for a short visit. All of us care deeply about being free to enter and live in Palestine.

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## A Taste of Freedom Palestinians who Have Returned from Abroad and Their Desire to Leave Again

By Fida Jiryis

"I would leave for sure, if family weren't tying me down." This is the recurring sentiment that I hear in my interviews with several Palestinians inside Israel. They are all in their twenties and thirties, and have experienced life abroad and subsequently returned to live here. Reverse culture shock (the shock of coming back to our own culture) and the lack of opportunities for Arabs in Israel come up as the main reasons for this desire to leave.

Fozi, 31, was born in Canada and returned at the age of six with his family to his native village of Kufr Yasif in the Galilee. After finishing high school, he returned to Canada to study for five years, and then took off to travel around the world for four more. A few years ago, he came back to Kufr Yasif, where he now works as the chef and manager of a local restaurant.

"I wasn't planning to come back," he says wistfully. "I came back for a visit and got stuck." He explains that, as the oldest child, he was under pressure to return and live near his family, especially his aging parents who needed support.

I sit across the table from him and instantly pick up the subtle vibes of a

temperament different from that of local people. Fozi's manner is gentle and unassuming, trusting and accommodating even to a total stranger who has showed up to probe him on a difficult subject. There is no display of ego, no macho attitude, and no trace of the inherent suspicion that I frequently encounter in conversations with local people. These are qualities that many try to conceal, but which are, sadly, too rampant in our society for me not to notice them. Fozi is the antidote. He welcomes my questions calmly, reflects deeply on the answers, and speaks in quiet, gentle tones. I'm briefly transported to my years in Canada, and I feel refreshed and grateful for this brief respite from the culture that surrounds us.

I question him on his experience abroad and, more importantly, his feelings now that he lives here. His eyes turn wistful and, with hardly any probing, he hits at the core of the issues that we struggle with on a daily basis, "We have an insecure culture. We don't seek and fulfil personal freedom. Personal freedom was something that I sensed and touched in Canada, but here it's lacking. There is less opportunity and less self-expression. You

just roll along, like the rest of the herd."

Fozi expresses the dilemma common to many Palestinian returnees. Their families' involvement in their personal decisions creates a tug-of-war, where young people either go their own way and travel in search of their dreams, thus feeling selfish and bearing the constant burden of their parents' disapproval, or give in to their families' wishes and stay here, living a limited existence in terms of self-fulfilment and opportunity, and constantly yearning for the other world that they knew. It's not an easy decision, and one that tortures every young man or woman who tries to do something alien to this society, act as an individual and make choices that do not conform to the mass norms. Travel and emigration are perhaps the starkest example of such decisions, yet interference and trouble are pervasive in every decision that we make, large or small. There's no getting around the cookie-cutter mentality that wants you to be exactly the same as everyone else.

I ask Fozi whether he feels that he has made compromises and sacrifices in his life. "Of course," he affirms. There is a telling hesitation for a few seconds before he continues. "I started to see my

dream... I was nominated the Best Young Chef of Toronto in 2004. I could have gone on and done something with that, but now I guess I've lost that chance."

Has he attempted to apply to bigger and better positions here? "No," he replies, and the response is left hanging with no explanation. I sense that it is part of the overall inertia and lack of motivation that one feels in this country. The reality around us is very difficult to break through. In the system of discrimination and exclusion of Arabs, so widely practiced in Israel, you hear so many stories of people who have tried and failed that you unwittingly start to ask yourself, what's the point of trying?

We also make decisions in our culture on an emotional basis rather than on a logical one. We feel too guilty and selfish to break our parents' wishes, so we often swallow our dreams and aspirations or trim them to fit this reality, and we stay. Fozi expresses this succinctly, "You live, trying to think about your dreams, visions, future ... but every day you're pounded by daily life that brings you down. I used to work longer hours abroad and party every night, but I never felt as tired or weighed down as I do here."



I know this feeling too well, it's one that stems from existential frustration, of not being on a true path of your choice. Every day, your real dreams and the person you once were seem to fade a little more, until there is an unexplained sadness and melancholy about your existence that people around you don't notice, but that is immediately picked up by those going through the same. Sadly, this feeling does not exist only among those who have travelled. I see it every day, all over the country. Family and social pressure kill us. People choose jobs they don't want. They live in places they don't like. They marry out of pressure. They socialise out of expectation. Before you know it, you've built an entire life around yourself and are standing in its midst, asking yourself how on earth you got here.

One of the greatest problems of our culture is the daily killing of thousands of dreams and aspirations under the pretext of family and society. It is truly lamentable how we are made to feel selfish and lacking because of simply wanting to carve our own way.

Wisam, 35, from Mi'ilya village in the Galilee, expresses the same feeling. "I was thrilled to be living abroad. Things went well for me. I felt respected, appreciated. There's better treatment of people abroad than here. There were entire days when I wouldn't think about Mi'ilya at all. But I came back for the first time after eight years and was shocked to see how much my father had aged. My parents' wishes forced me to stay, and everyone in the family is very attached to me, even my nephews and nieces. But is family everything?"

Our culture is riddled with yet more problems. "We have a lack of appreciation for what we have, what we've been given, and what we can do with it. We don't appreciate art, music, nature...human relations...even family," says Fozi. "We're stuck in negative thinking and insecurity. We don't seek freedom, but money, and we all act out this big play all the time, living in social pretence."

This is probably the chief cause of



Photo by Sultan Mansour.

people's agitation, and is something expressed by all those from our culture who possess some ability to view it from the outside. "What will people say?" is the chief sentence fired at us in every argument. We strive to be correct towards a culture that takes us to pieces regardless, a culture in which gossip is rampant about you regardless of what you do. Only a few enlightened people realise this fact and then set about to live their life the way they want.

Our society often seems lacking in real love and empathy, true feeling for the other. Others are always competitors, whether they are members of our family, co-workers, or even friends. We try to dress better, talk better, have a better job, and drive better cars than anyone else. It's exhausting. If you do well, very few people are truly happy for you; if you have rough times, many take pleasure in your discomfort. I have lived and sensed this reality for ten years, not only among

the Palestinian population but also among Israelis. In this respect, our societies are almost identical!

This feeling is amplified by the stress of living in Israel, which everyone who lives here agrees on. Not only do the Palestinians here have to deal with rampant discrimination against them, but the system is one of the most demanding in terms of taxes levied, constant paperwork, unexpected laws and payments that pop up, and the amount of scamming that you may fall prey to. In addition, the tension one feels in the air in this country, never mind in its daily dealings, is not like that of any other place that I've lived in. Wisam mentions a point that strikes another chord with me, "When I came back here, and I started to go to the government agencies to renew my ID, driving license, medical care, and taxes, I would stand there amidst this shoving, bustling mass of people, hear their loud, rude talk, and ask myself why on earth I had returned. It felt like I had left order and calm to come to noise and chaos. I had a hard time remembering how I'd grown up with all this."

Despite this shock, Wisam stuck it out and opened a catering business in Tel Aviv, determined to make something for himself. The result? "My restaurant was in a high-tech area and I catered to employees of companies. I became good friends with several of the managers there. Eventually, some of them started to tell me that they received phone calls telling them not to deal with me because I'm an Arab. There were several attempts to affect my work. It's hard being here; you deal with this tough climate every day. I closed up and came back to open this restaurant in Mi'ilya, my village. Here at least I don't feel any racism."

He stares into space thoughtfully when I ask him if he's happy, laughs quietly, and shakes his head. "You know, even though I have my own business, I'd up and leave in a second if I could."

On my visits to Fassouta, my village in the Galilee, I often meet with a couple of

my friends who have also returned from Canada. The conversation is always the same. They're trying to re-integrate and doing their best, placating their family by staying. But underneath is a sense of wistful sadness. Once they have experienced the difference of life abroad, they don't have the luxury of blessed ignorance, and they see their life in Israel for what it really is.

"I only felt alive, respected, cherished as a human being when I was out of here," my friend says. "Those few years abroad made me understand that the world is much bigger than the cocoon we're in, that it's very different from what we have to cope with here every day."

These are disturbing statements, for sure, and ones symptomatic of a very real problem of alienation. "I feel I have the right to belong in Canada, but I don't have it here." These words are a sober reminder of how alien we've been made to feel in our own country. Two factors work relentlessly so that any brief respite from one brings up the other: our culture, still traditional and tribal despite our exterior advancement; and the state of Israel with its stress, racism, and discrimination.

Sadly, we're stuck between a rock and a hard place.

It is no wonder, then, that people who have returned from abroad tend to gravitate to each other for that sense of understanding that someone who has been through the same experience can offer. Meanwhile, the others look on and shake their head. They're probably wondering how they can eradicate this bug from the brains of their sons and daughters, insecure that it might, at any minute, pop back up.

And yet, one can't blame them. Who wants their child to leave and live so far away from them?

*Fida Jiryis is a Palestinian writer, editor, and author of Hayatuna Elsasgeera (Our Small Life), 2011, a collection of Arabic short stories depicting village life in the Galilee. She can be reached at fida\_jiryis@hotmail.com.*



## Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival (RCDF) 2012 Not Just an Annual Cultural Event

With the launch of its seventh year, the Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival (RCDF), organised by Sareyyet Ramallah, will have hosted ninety-seven dance companies from thirty-one countries, including four Arab countries. That is a total of 771 artists who presented performances, among which some are still memorable in the spectators' minds. These artists have become friends of Palestine, showing solidarity with its just cause. Sareyyet Ramallah has established the Masahat Contemporary Dance Network in cooperation with the Maqamat Dance Theatre in Lebanon, the Tanween Dance Theatre in Syria, and the National Centre for Culture and Performing Arts in Jordan.

The festival has organised about 100 dance workshops, in addition to a dance-critique workshop, dance-photography and film-making workshops, and a conference about dance and society. It has also produced four short dance films, in addition to a documentary about the festival. Furthermore, hundreds of local dancers participated in the World Dance Day, and the festival had two collaborative productions with international dance companies. These were presented at the festival opening in 2010, and on the closing night of the Bolzano festival in Italy in July 2010.

Thus, the RCDF no longer merely hosts an annual cultural event, but it has partnered with international dance companies, organised dance workshops with international dancers throughout the year, and represented contemporary dance in the region in international conferences and festivals.

This year, the festival will host new dance companies from England, the

Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Germany, Tunisia, Japan, and France. Performances are going to be presented in Nablus and Hebron, in addition to Ramallah and Jerusalem. And, for the first time, the festival is going to offer financial support to local dance troupes through a *dabkeh* competition, which is going to be part of the World Dance Day activities. The festival is also going to provide space for young local dancers to present their artistic ideas and projects, and take part in producing dance performances with international dance companies. Danadeesh Children Dance troupe, which is part of the Sareyyet Ramallah Dance School, is going to participate in dance workshops and performances at the Multiplié Dance Festival in Trondheim-Norway. On the verge of the festival, Sareyyet Ramallah is organising the second annual Dance and Society Conference, in addition to dance-photography and dance-production workshops. The festival is going to host key people in the contemporary dance field, such as Farooq Chaudhry, Akram Khan's company production manager in the UK; Annie Bozzini, founder and director of the Choreographic Development Centre Toulouse in France; and Murille Perritaz, director of Reso-Dance Network in Switzerland.

The RCDF is held in the period between 19 April and 3 May, and is supported by the European Commission, the Ramallah Municipality, A.M. Qattan Foundation, and the Prohelvetia Swiss Arts Council, in cooperation with the French Consulate General in Jerusalem, the French Cultural Centre, the Goethe Institute, the Netherlands representative office, and the British Council.



**Palestine** Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival  
19<sup>th</sup> of April - 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2012

**Lebanon** Beirut International Platform of Dance  
14<sup>th</sup> of April - 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2012

**Jordan** Amman Contemporary Dance Festival  
22<sup>nd</sup> of April - 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2012

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## Trade Movement

By Majdi Haj Khalil

In the current context of social, economic, and political difficulties, major investment will be needed to continue the rehabilitation initiatives launched years ago to modernise and rebuild the country's infrastructure. Effective infrastructure will provide sustainable economic development, a fundamental cornerstone in the establishment of a viable Palestinian state in the near future.

Despite the Palestinian private sector's endeavours to totally distance itself from being dependent on Israel, and the encouragement that all sectors are receiving from their respective ministries, they always find themselves falling back into the Paris Protocol trap that, in one way or another, constrains the access and movement of individuals and companies.

One of the core constraints lies in the operational matter of clearing goods with Israeli customs. Palestinian traders always need an Israeli clearing agent (as Palestinian agents are not allowed to operate inside Israel), even though many also use Palestinian agents as middlemen, which increases costs further.<sup>1</sup> Israeli customs agents impose unfair charges on Palestinian importers. Language and

procedure barriers are amongst the burdens that are added to the Palestinian importer's daily life. The non-existence of Palestinian customs agents at ports and airports increases the gap between the two parties. Palestinian so-called custom agents or freight forwarders are only an agent of an agent. This sub-agency increases the cost for the importer and reduces the responsibility for the main agent.

It is unfortunate that the Palestinian private sector, which acts as a major benefactor for any political or economic changes, remains incapable of asserting any of its power, especially since Israel has been macro- and micromanaging the economic puzzle in the region. Israel remains in control of major commercial border crossings, the bottleneck for any developed economy, in addition to its control of major international crossings, such as Allenby Bridge, ports, and airspace. Israel has divided the West Bank into three categorized areas—A, B, and C—and maintains Gaza under siege. Israel has a list of prohibited products that limits industries from manufacturing and expanding. This, in addition to other political and economical constraints, has discouraged international investors from coming to Palestine.



On the one hand, there are the Israeli customs agents and freight forwarders, who have relatively easy access to information and (legal) recourse towards their counterparts (e.g. shipping lines, customs, port authorities, freight insurance agencies, etc.). On the other hand, there are the Palestinian traders who face a lack of information and knowledge about importing and exporting procedures, tariffs, and other duties; and a double, but incomplete, legal

framework on customs issues. This creates a substantial asymmetry of information between Israel and the PA.

Further constraints concern the type of air transport Palestinian traders can use. Palestinian cargo can only travel by cargo planes at limited times and dates, whereas Israeli cargo can travel on both cargo and passenger planes. This excludes Palestinian traders from the cheaper rates and better connections offered by passenger planes. If used, these planes can expedite the transportation of goods and reduce the cost for importers and end users. Shippers and traders face additional security checks for their containers, which delay clearance time and add to storage and demurrage costs. Sometimes it can reach an extortionate figure that exceeds the cost of the imported goods, forcing Palestinians to buy these goods directly from the Israeli importer and eliminate their independence.

Other forms of de facto discrimination are certain facilities that are only available to Israeli importers such as bonded warehouses, which allow for storage of imported goods without paying taxes and duties until they leave the warehouse. This constitutes a huge burden on, for example, the car industry in Palestine,







where Palestinian car importers have to pay all customs duties prior to releasing the cars from the port (bonded area). On the other hand, an Israeli car importer can use its warehouse or showrooms as a bonded area under the supervision of Israeli customs. This enables them to have better cash flow and not to pay customs until the car is sold. Bearing in mind that the return of customs from imported cars contributes immensely to the PA income, it remains unfortunately mismanaged by Israel. For example, some of the spare parts for new cars are considered dangerous goods and, in many cases, Palestinians are not allowed to import them. If they do, the cost of clearing them will be humongous.

Many of these individual problems are compounded by the difficulty for many Palestinian traders and shippers to reach ports due to permit constraints. Moreover, Palestinian importers do not have access to Israeli ports, customs, and duty areas, where they could negotiate better storage contracts, or have the option of a competitive market that would enable them to reduce costs.

The land-locked dilemma that Palestine is in, and the inexistence of international borders that are controlled by Palestine impose on us the macro- and micromanagement of Israel on even the air that we breathe. A small strike by port workers in Ashdod can cause the Palestinian private sector a loss of millions of shekels and pushes Palestinian goods to the bottom of the line, since the

preference is always given to their Israeli counterparts. Notwithstanding that, strikes by customs, ministries, and others can bring the whole Palestinian economy to a halt. The majority of the longstanding industrial parks that are supposed to be built or developed in and around Palestine have suffered the consequences of this Israeli mismanagement of our daily life. Their lack of access to the international market due to the restrictive measures that are imposed on import licensing of raw materials for the purpose of export has delayed the launch of such investments and has discouraged Palestinian expats from expanding their businesses overseas into Palestine.

The dilemma of the Palestinian private sector unfortunately has no end and it does not stop at a checkpoint or a commercial border crossing. It goes deep into the Israeli institutions, which I believe abuse the lack of knowledge and experience of those traders and impose high charges for certifying the quality or the safety of a certain product that most certainly has been already approved by an Israeli counterpart. Israeli customs has the right to request the approval of the Israeli Standard Institute (Takeen) for the majority of its importers, in order to ensure the safety and the quality of such products, and maintain a record of such certification. But, unfortunately, Palestinian importers are requested to perform such tests again and are requested to pay a huge amount of money for products that are already sold in Israel and have obtained the ISI approval. Palestinians are never given invoices and

VAT has never been reclaimed by either the customer or the PA. Rubbing salt into the wounds, sometimes goods are even confiscated and not allowed into Israel despite the approval of the ISI for the so-called security reasons. For example, for the past few years, electrical drills have not been allowed into Palestine, and if they allow them into the West Bank, they will not allow them into Gaza. Pesticides are also allowed into the West Bank, but not into Gaza.

All these constraints are imposed on the Palestinians in spite of Israel's much publicised information on facilitating the process and the continued cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli NGOs in business-to-business relations. Furthermore, these constraints do not reflect Palestinians' poor capacity and knowledge, but the difficulties of dealing with complicated procedures that are constantly changing. Palestinian shippers and traders are always in a reactive mode, whereby they are struggling to deal with these constraints instead of focusing on expanding their activities and businesses. Such measures, like the closure of borders, as well as customs procedures, rules and regulations, strikes, container management, shipping lines, freight forwarders, and the myth of security checks, cause an

extortionate amount of money to be charged for nothing. We have to ask ourselves, who decides what and when containers should be checked? Who imposes flying checkpoints that further delay delivery of goods? I believe it only leads to one answer, Israeli Occupation.

Therefore, all this, coupled with further tightening of the Israeli measures and procedures on importing, exporting, movement of goods and people, access to information, ports, airports, etc. will create another round of "de-development" much deeper than that of 2002, from which the economy has yet to recover. Poverty and a deteriorating humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories could reach unprecedented levels and would last much longer than the term of any single government, irrespective of its political programme. Added to this is the risk of the Palestinian government losing its managerial and technical capacity, the development of which the donor community has supported intensively since 1994. This same capacity is one of the essential elements required for the sovereign functioning of the envisioned Palestinian state.

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<sup>1</sup> The main reasons why many Palestinian traders refer to Palestinian custom brokers as middlemen (despite higher costs) are easier communication (same language, short distance) and trust issues. If a problem arises, a Palestinian shipper can meet his Palestinian broker much more easily than the Israeli counterpart. However, legally speaking, the role of Palestinian brokers is much less secure. In the absence of a clear Palestinian legislative framework for customs brokers and freight forwarders, there are many opportunities for artificially increasing clearance fees and for collusion between Palestinian and Israeli brokers vis-à-vis importers and exporters.

## Making It Safe on the Road

*Interview with Dr. Mohammed Shtayyeh*

In Palestine, where land ownership rights are jeopardised and state borders are unclear, you can imagine that the road network is also complex with many obstructions and barriers! On February 16 of this year, a horrendous road accident happened that left seven children and one teacher dead and many others injured. One could consider the bad weather an element that hindered safety on the road, but what else was an obstacle for getting help on location and treating the kids? To answer these questions and more, *This Week in Palestine* was in conversation with Dr. Mohammed Shtayyeh, the Minister of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) and Former Minister of the Public Works and Housing Ministry. Here is what was discussed:

### **Q) How safe, in your opinion, are our roads?**

In general, I don't think our roads are very safe. Roads are divided into three categories in Palestine: inter-village roads, internal roads, and intercity roads. The problem is that we don't have control over all these roads. Most of the roads that link cities are located in Area C and therefore we don't have control over them, either in terms of rehabilitation or what they call roads' furniture, which includes putting up the signs, all these sorts of things. In general also, the Palestinian people don't have respect for the infrastructure of roads; there is the sort of culture that the house is theirs but the road in front of them is not!

Further, in certain areas where the Palestinian Authority has no sovereignty, I make a direct reference to the Qalandia Road (the road from Jerusalem to Ramallah); it took us nine years to get the permit from the Israeli government to rehabilitate the road. And all this construction along the road, left and

right, did not receive any construction permit from the Palestinian Authority. In addition, some of the buildings have been constructed within the right of way, blocking the sewage system as well as the water drainage network in the area, which caused flooding during the rainy days two weeks ago. The other important issue concerning where the accident of the Anata school bus happened, is that we have no sovereignty whatsoever on that road. The Palestinian Authority cannot control speed or any traffic violations, so the issue has to do with negligence by the people, carelessness, culture, and absence of the Palestinian Authority in many areas of the West Bank.

### **Q) Is there coordination between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Police to improve safety on the roads?**

There is a coordination office between the Palestinian and Israeli authorities. This coordination office coordinates civilian affairs, including roads issues. However, the Israeli police only implement regulations when it is in their interest. Israeli police on Palestinian roads, for example, use their authority in a very selective way. An Israeli-plated car driving fast is usually not stopped and fined the same way a Palestinian car is treated on the road. There is a discrimination policy on the road when it comes to treatment of police. The "duties" are practiced in a very discriminatory way. The Israeli Occupation affects every single layer of Palestinian life. Going back to the bus accident incident, the place where the accident happened is only 20 meters from the Israeli military checkpoint, but the Israeli police did not take the necessary steps to send help to the

location, even though they know that Israel has control over that area!

### **Q) Do we Palestinians have plans to build and develop new and existing roads?**

The total length of the road network in Palestine is 3,500 km. Since the establishment of the PA in 1994, 1,856 km of roads have been constructed, paved, and rehabilitated. Now, the most serious impediment and obstacle in the design of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of roads is the fact that there are roads specially designated for settlers and most of the plans for the roads to be reconstructed and developed are roads that are located in Area C. Any development in Area C needs the permission of the Israeli government, which is sometimes granted, sometimes not. Bear in mind that they're there in the interest of the settlers in the first place. There are many Palestinian villages and cities that cut off by main roads and have been bypassed for the benefit of settlement roads.

Today in the Palestinian territories, you have an apartheid system of roads, where the roads leading to settlements are highly developed to international standards, while roads leading to Palestinian areas are limited in space and difficult to get a permit to rehabilitate. In addition, there is often a lack of sufficient funding. Some donors avoid funding roads because this sector falls under the domain of the military Occupation rather than the PA. But still, under these difficult conditions, we managed to pave around 1,856 km of roads.

### **Q) How much do politics and financial resources affect building safer roads?**

Politics and money are the major players in this specific sector, which is roads construction, simply because, as we said, this sector is mainly under Israeli control. Israel dictates certain policies when it comes to roads in Area



*Photo by Halem Nasser Edein.*





Faulty traffic lights at Samiramees junction between Ramallah and Jerusalem. Photo courtesy of PECDAR.

C, and unfortunately the Israeli policy has created a certain geographical discontinuity between different Palestinian communities. The Israeli colonisation programme is the priority for Israel, and therefore, Israel has created this sort of double-layer infrastructure for roads (one for settlers and the other for Palestinians). In certain areas, transportation links—roads, or tunnels, or bridges—are the only means of geographical continuity between certain Palestinian regions. So the politics of occupation is the major player in this particular sector.

Secondly, every single kilometre of roads (width: 7 metres) costs around \$250 to \$300,000. In certain areas, 1 km of two-lane roads with complete infrastructure (including sewage, drainage, telecom, etc.), can cost from \$700 to \$1,000,000. In Gaza, for example, when we constructed Salah Eddin Road, which is a six-lane road, it cost us \$1.6 million. What I mean to say here is that this is a very expensive public investment. The PA doesn't have the means to cover the cost of the rehabilitation of roads and the construction of new ones.

### Q) What role does the public play in ensuring road safety?

The public plays a very important role in improving road safety. You see, it hurts us when we find that a newly paved road is dug up for a neighbour who wants to install a water pipe in his new building! All of a sudden someone takes responsibility for this new road and starts digging without any consultation with the authorities. They, of course, do not ensure that the pavement is done correctly and therefore, the road is ruined.

Roads need periodic maintenance. The problem is that the PA needs to have a system, like in other modern countries, where there is a tax-road; cars should pay taxes. This money should go to a special fund and that fund should be used for the infrastructure and maintenance of roads. We recommended this ten years ago to the PA and it has not been implemented. Roads need maintenance every year. Many of the roads that we completed have been left without maintenance until a disaster takes place. We need a programme for public awareness, the PA needs to create the roads fund, and we need to end the Occupation as soon as possible!



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The western entrance to Nablus, which is in dire need of repair and renovation. Photo courtesy of PECDAR.

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2950121

## A Trip through the Palestinian Road Network

By Ahmad El Atrash

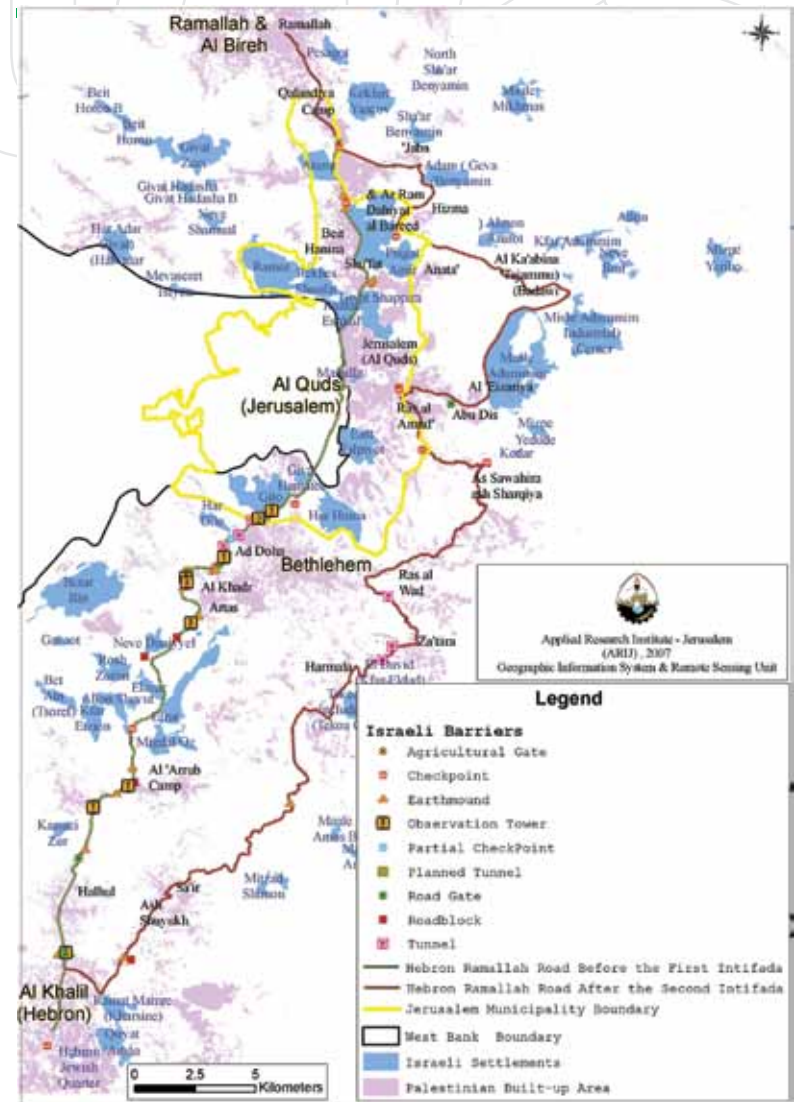
A trip through the road network between the two cities of Hebron and Ramallah during the last four decades of Israeli occupation reveals drastic transformations in commuting patterns. These transformations are extremely eerie and profound, yet painfully commonplace. This article is an attempt to describe current events, which have taken place against the background of the rapidly changing geo-political landscape, and have bred a variety of *de facto* transportation alternatives for Palestinians.

Hebron and Ramallah, the two major cities of the West Bank, are located in the southern and middle parts of the territory respectively. They are 42 km away from each other with Jerusalem in between. Both cities have an approximate population of 190,000 inhabitants, not including refugee camps and neighbouring communities. Hebron has the densest population in the West Bank territory and is considered an important commercial and industrial site, whereas Ramallah is currently the administrative centre of the Palestinian National Authority and holds almost all its governmental headquarters. Jerusalem is considered the capital for Palestinians, but they are mostly not allowed to visit or even commute to the city since it was illegally occupied by Israel in 1967.

Three milestones are acknowledged to be the most important during this epoch, namely, the first Intifada in 1987, the signing of the Declaration of Principles of the Oslo Accords (DoP) in 1993, and the second Intifada in 2000. During the first twenty plus years (1967-1987) of the Israeli Occupation of the West Bank, travelling between Hebron and Ramallah was a traditional trip for Palestinians, especially for merchants, students, and employees, who travelled the road on a daily basis when Palestinians were allowed to go through Jerusalem,

the centre of Palestinian life. The trip used to take only one and one-quarter hours. However, with the eruption of the first Palestinian Intifada in 1987, all the rules have changed, including the Palestinians' access to Jerusalem and the transportation system as a whole. What used to be an hour-and-a-quarter trip between Hebron and Ramallah now takes double the time (two and a-half hours) with new roads to drive on.

From 1987 on, the existing road network system became an inadequate means to travel between the northern and southern parts of the West Bank, since access through Jerusalem city was denied for Palestinians. Jerusalem, the centre of religious, social, commercial, and political life for all Palestinians, and the only connection between the cities and towns of the West Bank, was the first target of the Israelis' imposed restrictions. In 1993, just prior to the signing of the DoP, the Israeli government started an organised campaign to isolate Jerusalem and restrict the movement of Palestinians to the city by establishing checkpoints around the city entrances, hindering access to places of worship, employment, and education, and separating families. Ever since, Palestinians without a permit have had to use the Wadi al-Nar route, a narrow, circuitous route through the eastern slopes of the West Bank mountains. Travelling Wadi al-Nar means using a longer, more time-consuming route. But, more importantly, this route is very risky, as it has narrow, low-quality roads with a steep drop on at least one side. Nevertheless, the Israeli attempt to seize and isolate Jerusalem was unequivocally perceived by the Palestinians as a calculated step to extricate Jerusalem from the heart of the Palestinians as the future capital of the emerging state and to tip the city's demographic and geographic balance in favour of its Jewish residents.



Another dramatic transformation on the road between Hebron and Ramallah happened with the eruption of the second Intifada in September of 2000, when the Israeli Army started to establish military checkpoints and other physical obstructions on the roads. These obstructions numbered 524 in July 2001, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Ever since, West Bankers travelling from the south, i.e. from Hebron and Bethlehem, are forced to take lengthy detours to Ramallah using designated

roads that mostly differ from Israeli roads. These new roads now promise travellers that they will see many Israeli geo-political artefacts. One can see the Segregation Wall that cuts through West Bank communities and divides them, as in the case of Abu Dis. Also, travellers bypass Ma'ale Adumim, the largest Israeli settlement in the West Bank, via a road that is exclusively controlled by the Israelis. These transformations in the roads mean that Palestinians have to spend more time commuting between the two cities of Hebron and



Ramallah. More specifically, what used to be a two-and-a-half hour trip between Hebron and Ramallah now requires three to four hours. The time required to complete this trip reached its peak in the year 2003, when it took Palestinians travelling in their private cars four and a-half hours and those taking public transportation five and a-half hours to reach their destinations, according to local residents (Map 1). The UNOCHA-OPT estimates that fifteen to twenty per cent of Palestinians' daily work-time is lost on account of internal closures. Also, it was reported in August 2011 that some seventy communities in the West Bank, which have a total population of approximately 200,000, have been forced to take detours between two and five times longer than the direct route, according to UNOCHA.

From another perspective, an important aspect of these wanton transformations in the road network is the associated economic burdens on Palestinians, which act as a further deterrent to Palestinian economic activity. To elaborate more, the *ad hoc* Israeli measures create a system of movement restrictions, which are non-transparent and highly unpredictable. According to B'Tselem (an Israeli peace centre), the road system in the West Bank bears clear similarities to the apartheid regime that existed in South Africa until 1994. However, the two systems differ at least in one important aspect, the West Bank road system has never been put on paper, neither through military

legislation nor in any official decision, making it more difficult for Palestinians to predict or to document these actions, thus adding to the many uncertainties that face the Palestinian economy. Also, germane to the point, restrictions against the Palestinians' freedom of movement have created non-stop pressure on the accessible roads and thus on vehicles as well, making the rate of depreciation and operating costs of vehicles escalate progressively during the last few years.

To conclude, the current policy of Israeli control by using a serpentine and ever-changing road network has repercussions not only on the Palestinian right to freedom of movement, but also on the socio-economic and environmental conditions, which ultimately undermine the Palestinian quest towards sustainable development and building an independent state. From another perspective, affecting the Palestinian right of freedom to movement consequently undermines other associated rights, such as the right to worship, and the right to education, amongst others.

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Wadi al-Nar, linking the northern West Bank to the south.

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## Keffiyeh/Made in China

By Hildegard De Vuyst

The *keffiyeh* is an iconic image familiar to everyone in Palestine. Sometimes called the “Arafat scarf,” as the PLO leader Yasser Arafat was almost never seen without his, the black-and-white checked headscarf has become the defining symbol of Palestine’s national struggle. It was the starting point for *Keffiyeh/Made in China*, a collaborative theatre production that plays with clichés and prejudices about Palestine and the Palestinians: clichés held by Europeans about Palestinians, but also about Europeans and other “Westerners” by Palestinians. The production tries to look beyond the clichés, to reclaim a basic humanity from this complex exchange and to approach it with wit and humour.

Through the ten young performers on the stage, from both Palestine and Belgium, the production brings to life the dialogues of Palestinian writer Dalia Taha and Belgian actor and author Joris Van Den Brande. They transform a kaleidoscope of individual stories into extraordinary dialogues about ordinary things: concerns with clean underwear when expecting to be undressed at a checkpoint, disputes between a couple about money for mangoes while waiting at the morgue to identify the body of a child, the competition to be seen and heard in the media, or the patronising sympathy of solidarity workers who can’t cope with their own solitude, just to mention a few. The production deals with the situations and wounds inflicted by the Occupation that can reach into the deepest intimacies of people’s lives and often border on the brink of absurdity, without ever mentioning the word, “Occupation.”

The performance is a co-production between the Royal Flemish Theatre (KVS) in Brussels and the A.M. Qattan Foundation in Ramallah, and developed from their collaboration on the Performing Arts Summer School (PASS). Originally conceived as an exchange programme and workshop for young performers from Palestine and Belgium, the summer school has taken place every year since 2007, alternating between the two countries. *Keffiyeh/Made in China* is the first theatre performance that has arisen from this exchange.

Directed by Bart Danckaert, the performance features five actors/performers from Palestine and five from Belgium. Danckaert has previously worked with Theatre Days Production (TDP) in Gaza in 2005. Involved in PASS since its inception, he has also worked with the late Francois Abu Salem in 2007 and with the Algerian-French writer Mohamed Kacimi in 2010.

*Keffiyeh/Made in China* is a co-production of the Royal Flemish Theatre and the A. M. Qattan Foundation.

Length: 90 min

Performers: Joris Van Den Brande, Mohamed Allouchi, Saïd Jaafari, Thomas De Vos, KaatArnaert, Farah Saleh, Remah Jabr, HYPERLINK “<https://www.facebook.com/yazz.rewind>” Yazan Eweidat, Zina Zarour, and

Alaa Abu Saa

Directed by Bart Danckaert

Written by Dalia Taha and Joris Van Den Brande

Dramaturge by Hildegard De Vuyst

Lighting by Ralf Nonn

Music by Thomas De Vos

Set design and costumes by Ann Weckx

Production Management Nisreen Naffa’ and An Van Der Donckt



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## Time to Break the Additional Barriers People with Disabilities Fighting Every Day for their Right to Freedom of Movement, Respect, and Dignity

By *Ola Abu Alghaib*

Freedom of movement in Palestine is automatically linked in our minds to Israeli restrictions on Palestinian movement that are enforced by a system of fixed checkpoints, surprise flying checkpoints, physical obstruction, roads on which Palestinians are forbidden to access, and gates along the Separation Wall. Such restrictions enable Israel to control the Palestinians' movement, and violate basic rights. However, there is another layer of complexity when it comes to freedom of movement, people with disabilities. In addition to the restrictions motioned above, hundreds of people with disabilities are literally locked into their homes simply because they do not have the proper access to go from their homes out to the community. Actions that are taken for granted by many people, such as going to school, shopping, using public transport, etc. require a lot of planning, assistance, and extra cost for people with disabilities.

As a wheelchair user myself, I find it almost impossible to move around Ramallah, having to deal with the high curbs. Even though the streets were only renovated a few months ago, they still are impossible to climb for a person who is using a wheelchair or even a simple walking aid. I also find it very surprising that even when signs are allocated to indicate that a parking place is reserved for the disabled, busy non-disabled people, who probably assume that nobody will pay attention, always use these parking places and the person with disability can never find a space available. Medical centres and clinics are in no better shape. Main entrances, bathrooms, and even sometimes a place to sit in the waiting area are not accessible, which leaves people with disabilities and their families with very

limited options to choose from.

Many Palestinians with disabilities experience barriers to requesting reasonable accommodation, which has been stated by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as "necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms." Other people's disbelief or questioning of their needs can foster a feeling of shame and deprive people with disabilities of their basic rights for independence and freedom of movement.

A disability is no longer defined by the impairments a person has. It is the interaction between this impairment and the attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder his or her full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Reducing and removing the physical obstacles and obstacles to understanding, which people in disabling situations find in their way every single day, is key to ensuring their autonomy.

Removing physical obstacles is one of the necessary conditions that must be met in order to create a more inclusive environment, but it cannot in itself ensure genuine inclusion. For example, it is extremely important that schools are made accessible. However, making the school accessible does not make it fully inclusive, as this requires teacher training and raising awareness amongst parents, etc.

Ensuring the accessibility of the physical environment is not just a question of building access ramps, it is about facilitating movement with a



Photo by Mohammad Harb.

vision of the whole "chain of movement." This means that people with disabilities, whatever their impairment, should be able to move freely inside their houses, inside public buildings, in the streets, and that they are able to use the same means of public transport with the same cost as others. One missing link cancels out the benefits of all the others, makes access impossible, and excludes people. Ensuring the continuity of the chain of movement requires the full involvement of the majority of, if not all, stakeholders. For example, following parking regulations, respecting the priorities on the road or

pavement, giving up your seat on public transport, etc.

Accessibility is a right and a principle, recognised by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and by our Palestinian Disability law. This means that accessibility is an essential issue and must be addressed in a crosscutting manner. People with disabilities will only be able to fully enjoy each and every right mentioned by the convention only if accessibility conditions are realised.

By mainstreaming the disability perspective into all policies, together

we will be able to create a society where discrimination no longer has a place, a society based on respect for the human and civil rights of all persons. Free movement of persons means that all have the right to move, work, study, and live where they want without being restricted by any barrier. I believe in an inclusive society in which all persons are entitled to participate in and contribute towards eliminating the possibility of discrimination. Unless we work together through a coordinated, ambitious, and inclusive process, we will not be able to dismantle the barriers and find sustainable solutions.

Therefore, it is time to put our fundamental rights and principles into practice. For too long, persons with disabilities have been waiting for equality. Current trends, policies, and innovations often widen and increase the existing gap between persons with and without disabilities.

However, my experiences internationally have shown that the market, and society as a whole, have a lot to gain from accessibility. We cannot afford to miss the competencies of qualified persons with disabilities, simply because their needs are not adequately respected within the workplace or in education. Furthermore, the number



Photo by Omar Shala.

Full accessibility is an essential step towards enabling freedom of movement. There is a need for ensuring that transport, information, communication, the built environment, and services are accessible, as otherwise people with disabilities will continue to face obstacles that make it difficult or impossible to take up a job, study, or to simply be able to leave their home.

The future cannot wait, and many people are struggling for no reason.

of potential clients will increase substantially if the mainstream market offers accessible products and services. Finally, and most importantly, design for all means quality and comfort for everyone, disability or no disability.

*Ola Abu Alghaib is the chairwoman of Stars of Hope Society and the Palestine and Regional Disability Rights and Advocacy Coordinator for Handicap International, Middle East Regional Office.*



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## Gaza Calling: Infiltrators in their own country

By Nahed Awwad

I am a Palestinian who was born in Bethlehem. I'm holding a Palestinian identity card. It's a so-called West Bank ID to be specific: colour, green. In 2005, I married a non-Palestinian who does not have a Palestinian ID. In 2007, our daughter was born. Four weeks after the birth, we travelled to Germany via Amman, Jordan. Before that, I managed to register my daughter on my Palestinian ID card, which allowed me to travel with her. Although we use the same border crossing, my husband and I need to take different lanes for crossing into Jordan. There's a procedure for Palestinians and another for the rest of the world. So I was on my own with my daughter. After waiting for three hours, I reached the passport control counters and was asked to wait again, without explanation. After more than two hours of this, I was told that my documents were not in order. The name of my daughter on the ID card was different from what they had in their computer system, and therefore, I was told to go back to Ramallah (where I'm registered) to fix the problem.

I was tired and worn out and I started screaming at the Israeli soldier that I had a 4-week-old baby and there is no way that I could go back. I also had a flight to catch. I wouldn't have been able to cross into Jordan the same day this way (the crossing closes early for Palestinians). After one hour of argument and after the soldier saw the tickets, he came back with another offer. Instead of returning to Ramallah, I could go back to Jericho, the neighbouring city, to fix the problem at the local PNA offices.

I managed to fix the problem temporarily at a Jericho PNA office by registering the name the Israeli wanted on the document so that I could cross the border that day. After our return from Germany, I went several times to the relevant department in Ramallah to fix the problem. One month later, I



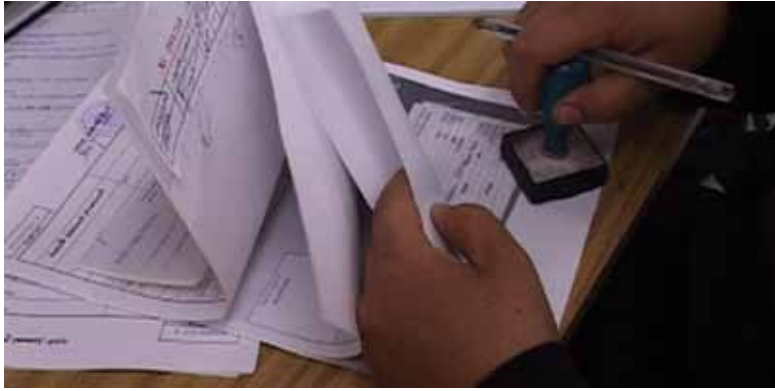
Hekmat at Modirra.

was told that I should go to the Ministry of the Interior and see someone called Abd Al Raheem. He would fix the problem for good by changing the names in both the document and the Palestinian computer, matching them with the data in the Israeli computer. And there I met lots of people with different and much worse problems.

What I went through that day is nothing compared to what thousands of Palestinians live every day. The idea of making a film about this issue haunted me for a while. I researched it for months to learn more about Israeli control over the Palestinian civil registry and its effects on us. I met lots of people who are affected daily by this control, all kinds of people: a West Bank ID married to a Jerusalem ID, a Palestinian holding a West Bank ID married to a Palestinian holding a foreign passport and no Palestinian ID, West Bank ID married to Gaza ID. Many of these people are engaged in a daily struggle that forces families to be divided. Sometimes the kids have to be divided in two places, and the reason is not that their parents chose to divorce. But what struck me the most are the families divided between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This is not because the other "cases" are in a better position, but because this separation is happening within the area the Oslo Accords have described as Palestinian, as one entity (but please don't get me wrong, I'm not a fan of Oslo). Now someone could argue that this separation comes as a result of the 2007 Hamas "coup," name it as you like. But please remember, the separation had already started in the early 1990s. This is why in Oslo they agreed to build the "safe passage," a bus ride for Gazans leaving to the West Bank and vice versa.

I went to Gaza only once, in 1986, before the first Intifada. I went there with my family to attend a relative's wedding. I recall that their house was not far from the sea and it was a pleasure for me to be there. I did not have a chance to visit again. Not more than five years later, the Israeli politics of separation started with its checkpoints, permits, and closures.

Photo by Omar Shala.



In the journey of the film research, I once went to *Manara* roundabout and asked people from different generations about Gaza: What do you know about Gaza? Have you been to Gaza? Do you know people from Gaza? What they told me that day gave me new information and a reality that I didn't think about before. Most of the younger people I interviewed thought that Gaza is at least 200 kilometres away. There were four young women, three of whom had no clue about the distance between Ramallah and Gaza. Most of the younger people I asked, if not all, had never been to Gaza. They hear of it in the news! One of the young men spoke about Gaza in the way he read about it in his schoolbooks, "Gaza is a Mediterranean city that lies on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea." The older people spoke about it differently because many have been to Gaza and tasted the delicious spicy fish dishes there.

Talking to Gazans living in the West Bank, it became obvious that some of them felt they are seen as aliens by parts of the society here. They talked about how some West Bankers see them. One woman said, "When I went to rent an apartment in Ramallah, they refused me as tenant when they learned that I'm from Gaza. They told me this to my face." They said that they had had tenants from Gaza before who left without paying the last rent.

It is true that this is not the general atmosphere, but we should not close our eyes to this reality. Part of the healing process is to face one's flaws. If we want

to have real national reconciliation, we have to openly deal with such issues.

After all these months of research and talking to all kinds of people, I needed to make a choice about the angle of the film. Eventually, the Gaza ID issue was the "winner" by far! As an effect of Israeli control of our ID papers, the Gaza Strip is totally separated from the West Bank. Many families have been forced to live apart from each other. One of them is Hakmet and her family, who are a good example of this daily struggle. Hakmet's son lives a one-hour drive away and she cannot even visit him, and vice versa. And not only that, she is considered "illegal" living in the West Bank because she holds a Gaza ID with the address of registration, Gaza. Adding to this is the Israeli military order 1650 from April 2010 that considers people like Hakmet as "infiltrators."

Forced to be an "infiltrator" in her own country, Hekmat from Gaza, who lives and works in Ramallah (West Bank), is a good example of how life can turn into a daily struggle. Not being able to freely choose their place of living by themselves, people like her have to deal with the constant danger of being deported and the struggle of reconnecting with their loved ones.

*Nahed Awwad is an independent documentary filmmaker. Her last film, Five Minutes from Home, about the Jerusalem Airport was shown in several international film festivals. Her current film with the working title Gaza Calling is expected to be released this year.*

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## International Women's Day: Without Women, Humanity Is Undermined

By **Mohammad Yaacoub**

When the earth takes a breath, women create spring and light the world while the sun burns. When a massive historical movement erupts, Arabs are enabled to overcome their historical stagnation and start a new era of freedom, democracy, and dignity. It is no coincidence that in Arabic, all of the following words are feminine: freedom, movement, democracy, and dignity.

The Chinese civilisation was built in the Far East on the principle of "Tad," which combines the feminine "Yang" and the masculine "Ying." The philosopher Lao Tse said 2,500 years ago that the feminine "Yang" has precedence and is the origin. In Latin America, according to Aztec traditions, a woman's sacrificial blood was used to fertilise the land to ensure abundant harvests.

This respect for women has not always been common belief. The previous beliefs and traditions that were common after Judaism condemned Eve for her seduction of Adam according to the book of Genesis. According to the book of Leviticus, Leviticus presented his mistress to the people of Jabala who raped her all night until she died. In addition, the *Sifra* marriage was devised because a woman was considered barren until she gave birth to a son; therefore she was obliged to choose a female slave as a mistress for her husband in order to bear boys.

The apostasy wars took place 3,500 years ago and men have been solely responsible for all the good and bad connected to them. A well-known Arab philosopher, Ibn Rushd, advocated the use of "reason rather than imitation" eight centuries ago. He also raised a critical question, "Can the deterioration

of Arab civilisation and miserable conditions imposed on women be considered as partial, if not complete, apostasy?" Ibn Rushd advocated this long before Qasem Ameen, who, at the beginning of the twentieth century, called for equality between men and women in the fields of law, education, work, and the right of choice.

Today, women and men are equal in Tahrir Square, and all similar revolutionary squares. The labours of liberation movements override all sexual, ideological, and religious forms of discrimination or division. All nations raise the slogan of "a civil and democratic state on the basis of equal citizenship without discrimination between men and women." Thus, women and men together are making landmark history and we can only hope that this can reclaim the lost rights of women in the midst of the mayhem we call history.

Arab women are active in all professional fields, and have many success stories that no one can deny. It is impossible to turn back the clock on their achievements. They move forward towards a bright future and many women's movements predict that women will achieve equality and their rightful status one day.

However, inequality still prevails despite all the achievements of Arab women. Recent statistics from the BCPS emphasise the fact that the gap in the participation rate between males and females in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is still very big, reaching to 69.5 per cent for males and 18.7 per cent for females.

Celebrating women's day is not just an occasion to remember the

American women who died in a factory fire towards the end of the nineteenth century. Neither is it meant only to recall with nostalgia the elevated status of women that has been denied by history over the past 3,000 years, but rather it inspires a positive outlook towards the beautiful characteristics of women that have been denied by the shackles of the present. Humanity is not human without women.

Let us all recall that a human being is first and foremost a human being, before becoming man or woman, and is ascribed equal rights in international covenants. Whoever tries to undermine or belittle women in attitude, pay, or outlook is a prisoner of the past and should quickly rid himself of those decayed beliefs.

We salute all women and the democratic march of all humanity

*Mohammad Yaacoub is one of the founders of the Firqat Al-Fonoun Al-Shabiyah, the leading Palestinian traditional dabkeh group in Palestine. He is a renowned Palestinian folk singer. He played a key role in the development and advancement of the Edward Said Conservatory of Music. Mr. Yaacoub works for UNRWA as Deputy Area Officer/J'lem-WB.*



*All for Palestine. Photo by Basil Maqoussi.*



## Presenting Palestine to the World through Sports

Ever since I was a kid, sports were “running” in my blood! I took part in every one that came my way, both in school and clubs. Soon I was representing my school on all its teams. I made the Palestinian national swimming team at the age of thirteen and the national basketball team at the age of seventeen. Representing Palestine in Arab and international tournaments soon became my aim. However, in my early years of being an athlete, the political situation didn’t support my ambition and imposed many hurdles and obstacles. Every year, I had several international tournaments and camps lined up, but they were cancelled one after the other either because of poor planning and negligence from our responsible officials, or due to the political circumstances. But I refused to let these circumstances stop me. I kept going!

Indeed, my determination led me to represent Palestine in the West Asia Basketball Tournament in Jordan in 1999 and the Arab Basketball Tournament for Schools in Lebanon in 2000. That last one was quite an experience. On the one hand, I was representing Palestine, my country, which holds a very deep place in my heart. And, on the other hand, it was very touching for the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon to have us amongst them. It was as if they held a piece of Palestine! I learned soon enough that taking part in tournaments in Arab countries representing Palestine is very different from representing Palestine to the rest of the world.

During my studies in Jordan, I continued my career in sports and represented the University of Jordan on its swimming and basketball teams. I was called “the Palestinian,” and I was proud! As I played in several tournaments in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, I found that most Arabs I met didn’t have a clear picture about Palestine. They only saw Palestine as

*By Tamara Awartani*

a place of conflict and didn’t expect to meet an athlete who comes from Palestine. So I was a live example of the determined Palestinian who, despite the harsh circumstances and limited options and resources available, still pursues her passions and follows her dreams. We do not let circumstances stop us from being what we want to be.

In Palestine, there is great potential for athletes. However, we need the opportunity and technical support to reach professional levels. After going back to Palestine, my mission was to share my experience from the international and Arab coaches and bring it to the Palestinians at home. The first thing I did was to create a Palestine page on the World Basketball Website (Asia-basket.com). I wrote articles about Palestinian basketball and filled the database with our teams. I posted pictures of most of the players and kept the schedule and scores up to date. It was a way to present Palestine to the world and show that we also have basketball and not just a conflict. I got a lot of feedback from professional basketball players wanting to come and play in our league. At first, I thought it was really funny because we don’t have a high level league or the funds needed. But still, professional players wanted to come and play. Most of them didn’t even know where they were applying until I enlightened them and gave them more information! I managed to get ten professional international players in the first year and fifteen in the second to play in our Palestinian league. Those were the only two years the Palestinian Basketball Federation allowed imports. Those twenty-five players got a unique experience in Palestine. Through basketball,

they were exposed to a new culture. They learned the history of Palestine and experienced the Palestinian life under occupation. When they got back to their home countries, they took those experiences with them and shared them with others, remembering Palestine through sports.

I always knew that I could achieve a lot through sports, and I wanted to provide Palestinian kids with my own long-term goal: presenting Palestine to the world through sports. I established a non-profit organisation called Palestine: Sports for Life with the mission to develop Palestinian sports. I represented Palestine as a basketball coach for children under fourteen with a Palestinian boy and girl in the Children of the World Camp in Turkey, which ran parallel to the World Basketball Championship 2010, in which 120 countries took part. My mission was to leave a good impression about Palestine and Palestinian basketball. We won two prizes for best coach and best



*Turkey; Children of the World Camp, Palestinian coach and kids at the World Basketball Championship.*



## Articles

player! I succeeded by being selected with six others to coach the year after in the International Basketball Camp in Turkey. Through Palestine: Sports for Life, I worked hard to get eleven kids ages twelve to sixteen to join me at the camp, which was a lifetime experience for them! I was also able to get four coaches from the camp to Palestine, who managed four camps in four districts for youth ages twelve to sixteen and sixteen to twenty. We also hosted a German coach who ran a winter camp and league for our soccer school kids. We will have more internationals coming in the summer.

I believe that representing Palestine through sports is important to the presentation of Palestine in the world. It sheds a new light on the struggle and shows the determination and spirit of Palestinians. Now, the London Olympics is coming up and Palestine is represented by two swimmers and two athletes, which is a significant achievement. We as Palestine: Sports for Life have established two sports schools for kids ages four to thirteen to learn soccer and basketball (where I personally coach). Our aim is to build a strong base of athletes and train a new generation of youth ready to join clubs and national teams. We also developed a website dedicated to basketball for the Palestinian Basketball Federation ([www.palbasket.com](http://www.palbasket.com)), which is managed by us. Last year we had visitors from

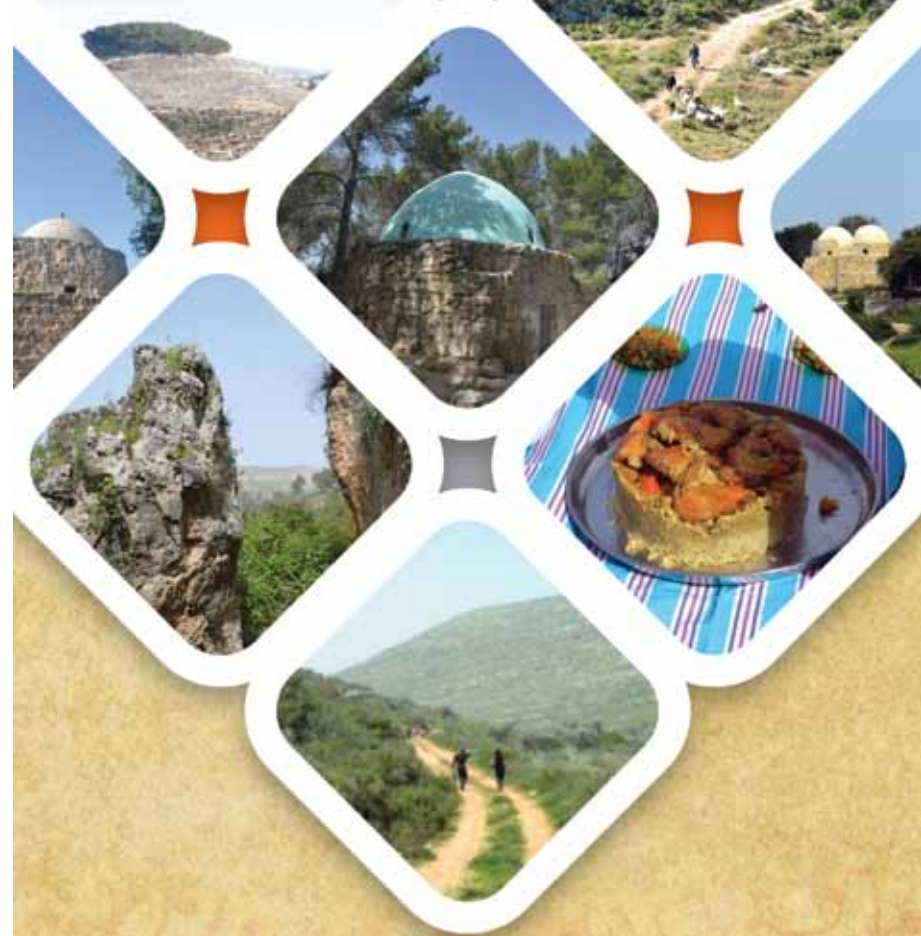
eighty-three countries. Another important achievement was that we established cooperation with the Friends Schools where we run sports programmes for their students and build their teams. We will also conduct specialised sports summer camps. Finally, we are cooperating with Rise Global Australia and partnering in Palestine Mixed Martial Arts Academy, which will be launched in September. I got married recently and my husband is also an athlete and my greatest support in my work.

With sports you can change the world!

*Tamara Awartani Masri is the founder and director of Palestine: Sports for Life, and a coach for youth and women's basketball. She holds an MBA, certified by the International Centre for Sports Studies Academy in sports management, and is currently preparing for an International Basketball Federation sports management degree.*

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## Third Annual Palestine 5k Run/Walk

In Palestine, it's easy to feel disempowered and frustrated. Everything seems to be more difficult, sometimes impossible, here. In 2010, a group of community members decided to organise the community around a great cause while also providing families with a fun activity. Together, we organised a 5 km race to support the newly opened children's hospital at the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah. During the course of almost three months, these volunteers spent their free time to organise what was eventually called the Annual Palestine 5k Run/Walk.

"It was such a beautiful day. It seems like the whole community came out to support this very important cause. The post race Special Olympic events were inspiring," said one race participant in May of 2011.



Children's workshop.

The Annual Palestine 5k Run/Walk founders are a group of community members who feel it is our responsibility and privilege to support local needs and initiatives by bringing the community together each year. The Annual Palestine 5k Run/Walk is not an NGO and does not collect donations from governments. Rather, all race fundraising is collected through individual race registration and private donations to support local institutions and efforts.

In 2011, we organised the second annual event to support children with special needs and the Abu Rayya Rehabilitation Centre in Ramallah. A Special Olympics was held simultaneously on race day with special needs

children from all over the West Bank participating.

In 2012, The Third Annual Palestine 5k Run/Walk is partnering with the Palestine Writing Workshop to support two new activities they'll host: "Read Palestine!" and a children's literature festival. The Palestine Writing Workshop is a volunteer-run organisation dedicated to promoting reading, writing, and creativity. "Read Palestine!" and the children's literature festival are new initiatives that will be launched in 2012 to encourage Palestine's young people to discover the creativity inside them and explore it through reading and writing.

Join us in Birzeit on April 27, 2012 for The Third Annual Palestine 5k Run/Walk. The race will start and end at the Palestine Writing Workshop. Race details are available on our website [www.pal5krun.org](http://www.pal5krun.org) and our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/pal5krun](http://www.facebook.com/pal5krun). Registration will open on March 1, and run through April 13. Register online or in select locations. Bring a book on race day to help build the library at the Palestine Writing Workshop. Donate five or more books, and get a special coupon. If you would like to volunteer on race day, email us at [run@pal5krun.org](mailto:run@pal5krun.org).

Hope to see you at The Third Annual Palestine 5k Run/Walk!

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead.*



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## The Second Annual Gaza Marathon

By Sarah Lisenbe

When I imagined myself running in Gaza, I pictured me blissfully jogging along a bright, sunny beach, losing myself in the sound of the waves and the smell of the sea. But, on the morning of the Second Annual Gaza Marathon on 1 March, I awoke to the sound of howling wind so loud I could hear it in my hotel room. Gaza was suffering some abnormally cold, blustery conditions. Later, when I stepped outside to gauge the weather, my first thought was, "Oh God, I can't do this."

The Gaza Marathon was organised by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to raise money for the Gaza Summer Games, an educational and recreational program for the children of Gaza. While UNRWA's mission is to provide humanitarian aid and human development to Palestine refugees, the Gaza Summer Games are not just for refugee children, they're for all the children in Gaza. After spending five days travelling around Gaza, meeting some of the children who participate in the Gaza Summer Games, there's no doubt in my mind that these amazing and resilient kids deserve a summer of carefree fun like what the games provide.

The Gaza Strip is almost exactly 42 km, the distance of a full marathon. Gaza is known for its beautiful coastline. Add the element of danger that comes with going to a place that most people can't travel into or out of, and it's an attractive course for an adventurous runner. In fact, nearly 70 people, myself included, came from around the world to participate. Some of us ran the 10K, some the half marathon, and others, including some Olympians, the full marathon. We were joined by nearly 2,000 kids from Gaza who participated in relay races along different parts of the course.

It just so happens that when I was

standing outside my hotel room thinking, "Oh God, I can't do this," a troupe of relay racers passed me. These kids were smiling, laughing, and greeting me with cheerful hellos as they ran by. Okay, if they can do it, I can do it! I'm not a runner by nature, which is why I signed up for the 10k and not the full marathon, but I had come all this way, and I was determined to at least try.

The run started out rough. The wind was pushing me around, and the sand was blowing in my face—not pleasant. But other runners, including kids from Gaza, cheered me on, and before I knew it, I was pushing through the finish line. This was my second official run, and I ran it in Gaza! I still can't believe I was a part of this historical event.

I want to thank UNRWA for organising the Gaza Marathon, and I want congratulate everyone who braved the elements to participate, especially all the children who left me eating their dust. Next year, I'm coming back for the full marathon!

*Sarah Lisenbe works for American Friends of UNRWA, a U.S. nonprofit that raises funds and awareness for UNRWA. She lives in Washington, DC. This was her first visit to Gaza.*



Gaza Marathon. Photo by Abby Smardon.



### Turquoise Lebanese Restaurant

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## Where Does Our Food Come From?

By Aisha Mansour

It is safe to say that most Palestinians have no idea where our food comes from. When my friend visited me from the United States, she was in complete awe of the huge and diverse “farmer’s market,” otherwise known as the *hisbeh*, located near the *Manara* in Ramallah. I tried to explain that these were not farmers, and a majority of the products sold were not even grown by Palestinian farmers. More confusingly, most of the *falahat* (rural female farmers) sitting on the sidewalk just outside the *hisbeh* are neither farmers nor producers. While some of them may purchase items from local producers, most of them purchase their products directly from the *hisbeh*.

Although I never got to meet my grandparents, my mom’s stories lead me to believe that they were part of the Palestinian *fellaheen* (rural farmers). Each year, my grandfather and his sister harvested the grapes that they grew in the hills of Al Asbahiya, today known as Sateh Marhaba. After the grapes were loaded onto the donkey, my grandfather walked from Al Bireh to the Old City in Jerusalem to sell his harvest. Market systems were simpler in those days: locally produced for the local market, and, in many cases, sold directly by the producer.

The nearly 64-year Occupation of Palestine and the post-Oslo neoliberal economic interventions have created a much more complex market system, integrating the Palestinian market into the Israeli and global market forces. Palestinian produce that meets international standards tends to be exported through the various mechanisms of private agribusiness and fair-trade companies that provide the farmer with a slight increase in income, while Palestinian and Israeli produce that flunks international standards is dumped in the local Palestinian market.



Seasonal fruit-veggies basket. Courtesy of Sharaka. “Basket of seasonal fruit sold at Sharaka’s summer farmers market.”

### *Israeli Occupation*

Agriculture was a major sector of the Palestinian economy prior to the establishment of Israel and the 1967 occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In 1967, the Palestinian agriculture sector was approximately equal to that of the Israeli sector. During that period, the West Bank exported 80 per cent of its vegetable production, and 45 per cent of its fruit production, according to a 2000 report from the

Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ). But the 1967 Occupation turned Israel into the main market for Palestinians, because they could no longer access other markets without involving Israel as the intermediary. The Occupation further limited Palestinian agricultural production by controlling access to Palestine’s natural resources, land, and water; limiting movement between the West Bank and Gaza; and constructing checkpoints and barriers within the West Bank.

Israeli labour policies transformed Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza into an unskilled workforce serving the Israeli market. As the Palestinian unskilled workforce increased, Palestinian agriculture declined. Farmers were able to earn double their income working as labourers in Israel. The agricultural workforce shrunk from 46 per cent in 1969 to 27.4 per cent in 1985, according to ARIJ. Local agricultural knowledge and skills slowly diminished as more



Palestinians sought work in Israel.

### *Oslo Accords*

After Oslo, Israel continued to control and distort the Palestinian economy. Under the Paris Protocol, Israel was involved in every aspect of Palestinian imports and customs policy. Israel determined what products, and in which quantities, the Palestinian Authority (PA) was allowed to import and export. According to Article VIII on agriculture, the movement of agricultural produce between Israel and the PA should be free of customs and import taxes. However, in reality, Palestinian produce has not been provided the same market access to Israel as Israel has been provided to the PA areas, and Israel has not fulfilled its obligation under this agreement.

### *Globalisation*

With the push of the post-Oslo donor interventions, the PA adopted neoliberal economic and free trade policies that inhibited the development of the local private sector. In this policy environment, the wealthy capitalist countries benefit from the neoliberal trade policies that grant them access to markets around the world. The impact on less developed countries, such as Palestine, has been disastrous. The Palestinian producer cannot compete with the mass of imported products that are cheaper in price and greater in quantity. In 2011, for example, the Palestinian market was flooded with cheap imported olive oil from Syria and Turkey, causing a hardship to those Palestinian farmers who were dependent on the local market to sell their oil.

While developed countries are promoting free trade policies in the developing world, these same developed countries are protecting their own local industries and farmers. The US, for example, subsidises its own local agriculture and exports it to developing countries, where it is sold at lower prices than local agriculture. This policy has been detrimental to the poor in

developing countries. Subsidised Israeli agriculture has affected Palestinian farmers negatively as well. Israeli farmers are subsidised by their government and are able to sell their produce at much lower costs. Palestinian farmers, who are not subsidised, cannot compete against the lower Israeli prices. In this environment, Palestinian farmers are not able to make ends meet. They often work side jobs, depend on remittances, or leave farming altogether.

Further, Israeli produce enters the Palestinian market early in the season, prior to its Palestinian counterpart. Equipped with Palestine's natural resources, technology, and oftentimes, genetically modified seeds, the Israeli farmer is able to produce beautiful looking, perfectly shaped fruit well before the Palestinian farmer. The Israeli farmer enjoys the peak price for his produce, while the Palestinian farmer enters the market after the price has decreased. One farmer in Al Khader, south of Bethlehem, explained that he no longer harvests his grapes because it is not cost effective. The Israeli grapes enter the Palestinian market several months before the Palestinian grapes. By the time the Palestinian grapes enter the local market, market prices have already plummeted.

### *Post-Oslo Interventions, Towards Export*

Many of the donor-driven interventions in the Palestinian agricultural sector have focused on building capacity in order to export. Projects focus on the production and export of manufactured food items, such as pickles and jams, or the production of cash crops that are in demand in the Western market, such as cherry tomatoes and sweet peppers. Local producers are trained to meet international standards, such as GlobalGap, in order to qualify to export. GlobalGap was created in Europe during the 1990s, and consists of a set of standards to ensure systematic farm management and good agricultural practices. Palestinian produce that meets these specifications is rewarded with

the opportunity to export abroad and potentially earn a higher price. Those that do not meet the requirements must sell to Palestinians in the local market.

USAID interventions, specifically, have focused on enterprise development in the agricultural sector. In Far'iah, for example, several large landowners were awarded USAID funds to establish an herbal agribusiness for export to the US, UK, and Russia. This agribusiness produces dill, chives, and tarragon, among others, and packages them for export abroad. Prior to this initiative, the farmers were growing seasonal produce for sale in the local market. Today, they are producing foreign products for sale to a foreign market. The labourers in this agribusiness consist of small-scale farmers who have opted for a wage-paying job to increase their income potential.

Similarly, the company Sinokrot entered the agribusiness arena through initial support by USAID. Today, Sinokrot operates Palestine Gardens in Al Ouja in the Jordan Valley, where cash crops, including cherry tomatoes, sweet peppers, and Madjool dates, are produced and packaged for export. Local farmers who meet the requirements opt to sell their products to the agribusiness.

International fair-trade companies have also decreased Palestinian self-sufficiency. These companies offer local farmers a slightly higher price for their products than the price in the local market, but the real price of this practice is that high-quality local (*baladi*) produce is removed from the local market and sold to the global market at much higher prices. This has increased inequalities in Palestinian society, creating a minority of wealthy businesspeople, and leaving an entire population with low quality, imported food.



Dates from Gaza. Photo by Sharif Sarhan.





Separating the olives from the leaves. Photo by Sharif Sarhan.

Advocates for the export-driven initiatives claim that the local market is already satiated with local products. However, as a consumer who always asks for the source of my food, it is clear that Palestine has become a net importer of food for the Palestinian market. Vegetables and fruit from Israel, raisins and prunes from California, grains and legumes from Turkey, chestnuts from China, and many other products whose sources are nameless and unknown. In many cases, there are so many intermediaries prior to the point of contact between the seller and the buyer that it is impossible for anyone to know where the particular produce originated. Add to that the prolific black market of smuggled food items, and we have an enormous problem knowing what we are actually eating.

#### Conclusion

Although today's Palestinian market is a web of interconnecting forces that leave consumers ignorant of the source and quality of the food that we are feeding our loved ones, it's not all gloomy. There are still many examples in Palestine of small-scale farmers working on their land using the traditional and environmentally friendly techniques of our ancestors. These *fellaheen* are feeding their own families and local communities healthy, seasonal produce and dairy. And, in some cases, these *fellaheen* are able to sell their excess produce in the local market. But finding these treasures is challenging in today's market.

How can we access the rewards of our land? As local consumers, we should recognise our small-scale farmers for maintaining our agricultural heritage. Venture out of the city to the Palestinian villages and get to know these heroes. Build relationships and purchase your family's nourishment directly from them.

*Aisha Mansour is a co-founder and volunteer with Sharaka – Community Supported Agriculture, a local Palestinian movement focused on preserving our agricultural heritage and reconnecting the consumer with small-scale traditional Palestinian farmers.*

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Easter  egg-stra surprises.

## Bidna Capoeira

### Bringing smiles to communities across Palestine

By the Bidna Capoeira Staff

Joyful sounds of singing, music, and laughter aren't often associated with refugee camps. However, for the past year, an organisation called Bidna Capoeira has been inspiring these sounds by sharing the joy of capoeira with children and women in camps and other vulnerable communities throughout Palestine. Beyond the smiles and laughter, participants benefit from enhanced resilience, empowerment, social inclusion, and freedom to express themselves through capoeira-based fun and play.

Capoeira blends together dance, acrobatics, and music, into a game that is played in groups. At first glance, it can appear to be merely a game, but the work of Bidna Capoeira demonstrates that it provides individuals and communities with so much more.

Developed in Brazil in the seventeenth century by East African slaves, capoeira has been used as a means of emancipation and resistance. To this day, it remains a powerful tool for community integration, education, and empowerment. While it can be a simple recreational activity, it can also be integrated as a philosophy, an outlook on life that is based on respect for others, peacefulness, and self-empowerment through discipline and awareness.

For Tarek Alsaleh, the founder of Bidna Capoeira, the philosophy of capoeira has become a way of life. While living in Damascus in 2007, he often played capoeira in parks, where he eventually taught free lessons to kids who were captivated by his handstands and cartwheels. The kids brought their friends, parents, and extended families. The lure of capoeira was communal, intergenerational, and contagious.

Soon Tarek was leading classes across Syria, in schools, reformatories, hospitals,



Girls pose during rehearsal.

and refugee camps. In fact, it was the Al-Tanf Refugee Camp that inspired both the idea and the name of the organisation. The capoeira classes there were a high-impact, fun way to provide psychosocial support and teach life skills. Recognising this, Tarek began developing a model to bring social capoeira programmes to additional refugee camps and other vulnerable communities. And because the kids at Al-Tanf would exuberantly yell, "Bidna Capoeira! Bidna Capoeira!" (We want capoeira!), the organisation was given its name.

The organisation has a big, bold vision for the future: to connect the worldwide "family" of capoeira fans and trainers to vulnerable communities around the world that are affected by crisis, violence,

displacement, and conflict. The pilot programme is in Palestine, currently supported by the Representative Office of Brazil to the Palestinian Authority. It began with classes and workshops in Shu'fat camp, Jalazoun camp, and Hebron, taught by trainers from around the world to 1,050 participants in the past year.

A social worker in Shu'fat Refugee Camp, Nely Abu Sbeih, told us, "The camp is without places to play, without healthcare, without somebody to protect them. I see women and children are beaten, there are drugs. They want to live their lives, see some birds without seeing all the garbage of the neighbourhood in their home. We sometimes call it the forbidden area. Even ambulances can't

enter here. They wait at the checkpoint. I think when I see the faces and happiness of the children there is hope. Anything they like and enjoy gives them hope."

The impact of capoeira on children is immediate. Teachers and families notice improvements in communication, respectful behaviour, and emotional management from their first class. Kids learn to work together as a community, thinking beyond their individual wants, becoming more tolerant and patient, and understanding alternatives to violence as a solution. Through capoeira, children, youth, and adults are given a new space and method for expressing themselves, which has far-reaching and long-lasting implications in their social and personal lives.





Full roda.

One of the participants, Muhammad, from the Jalazoun Refugee Camp said, "My dialogue and respect is better since starting capoeira. My behaviour at home is better. Now when I'm at home I go in a capoeira way. Everyone wants to learn from me, so I'm teaching my cousins and brothers."

Capoeira has been passed along across generations and cultures for centuries, sustained by the passion and commitment of those whose lives it changes. With the spark ignited by Bidna Capoeira, it could integrate itself into

Palestinian communities suffering from challenges of the Occupation, bringing with it a sense of freedom and joy.

*More information about Bidna Capoeira and its work in Palestine can be found online at [www.bidnacapoeira.org](http://www.bidnacapoeira.org). Videos are posted at [youtube.com/BidnaCapoeiraNGO](https://www.youtube.com/BidnaCapoeiraNGO), and you can follow regular updates at [twitter.com/bidnacapoeira](https://twitter.com/bidnacapoeira) and connect at [facebook.com/bidnacapoeira](https://facebook.com/bidnacapoeira). To contact the organisation, please email [info@bidnacapoeira.org](mailto:info@bidnacapoeira.org). To make a donation please go to <http://bit.ly/A59Xty>.*



Girls play.



# Happy Easter



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## Culture as a Tool for Mobility

By Rania Filfil



A child vendor at Qalandia checkpoint. Photo by Niveen Manarios.

In a political scene rife with uncertainty and heavy restrictions on mobility of persons, the Israeli Occupation has added a Separation Wall that has locked out communities who used to see each other from the windows of their homes and share the same landscape and daily routine. They have become busy with securing access to each other, access to their land, and, for most, access to a source of living, health services, educational services, and every other aspect of their basic needs.

In the other part of torn Palestine, Gaza, a whole population lives in a sickly environment that lacks the minimum infrastructural services, but, most importantly, the right to life beyond the siege. For over twelve years now, Gaza has been placed under a prolonged, suffocating siege that has forced its population to live in a big prison. Their only ways out are an Israeli permit to cross the Eretz Checkpoint and come to the West Bank, which is next-to-impossible to get;

an Egyptian authorisation to cross to Egypt; or simply a trip through a tunnel that may, at any moment, collapse on their heads.

Children in the enclaves of the West Bank are trying to adapt to such a heavy closure. But a third group of children believe that the stories from Gaza or from the walled communities are irrelevant. I recall a drama club I led in my children's school where I tried to have the children act in a play titled *Ghazza Ghad* (Gaza is there) by the Gaza-born Ahmed Masoud, which talks about the trip from the Cairo Airport to Gaza made by a group of Palestinians and foreigners and the long waiting hours and so-called "administrative procedures" that last for days to cross a distance that could be covered in less than ten hours, if the roads were clear of restrictions. The children in the elitist school did not understand that they shared the same land and history with these people.

Subsequently, I discussed with some of my friends that we need to teach our children about those other children who live a life where adults are overstressed and sometimes helpless, and a whole heritage of citrus trees, olive trees, and family history is forcefully shredded right before their eyes. In this hopeless scene, children have to struggle to walk back and forth from school, or to try to secure a playground to "practice" their childhood. They are children who have forcibly lost their childhood.

The idea for the Pocket Theatre was born here. We asked, how can the children in the occupied Palestinian territories rescue part of their lost childhoods and, at the same time, make free expression of their hopes? The Pocket Theatre will be travelling to them to try to understand their dreams and turn them into plays to be performed wherever they can be hosted: at the wall gates, in a deserted home, on the ruins of a building, or in a mobile theatre. Every part of the process is theirs. They make the story, they shape the characters,

and, most importantly, they find in this gloomy, heavy political impasse a place to breathe out their fears and frustration and to enjoy being a child. It is a forum to help them look inside and find their talents. The forgotten ones will be the "heroes of the scene." Their untold stories will see light and their hidden talents will find a path to walk and grow.

The other objective is to help the somewhat protected children learn about the "other" children (besieged in Gaza or besieged by the Wall) by watching their plays and artistic expressions, in order to build a community of interaction, rather than continuing their passive lack of interest. Cultural and artistic expression will be used to help these children meet and talk to each other, and then speak in one voice to outside cultures. Here in Palestine, the Holy Land, the very natural right to life is violated and we must all react.

*Rania Filfil is a board member of Pocket Theatre. For further details on the project, send an email to [rania.filfil@gmail.com](mailto:rania.filfil@gmail.com).*





### Hussein Abdelkhalik

Hussein Abdelkhalik has been the Palestinian Ambassador to Algeria since December 2010. He started his diplomatic career at an early age. He first served at the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Spain between 1978 and 1983. He became the PLO Representative in Portugal between 1983 and 1985, and then in Peru between 1985 and 1991. In 1992, he became the Palestinian Ambassador to Chile, and returned to Palestine in 1999 to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the end of 2005, he was assigned to be the Ambassador of Palestine to the League of Arab States in Egypt, and then served as General Consul in Dubai in September 2008 before moving to Algeria.

Abdelkhalik was born in 1951 and raised mostly in Jordan; he only spent a few years in Palestine as a child. His family, originally from Nazareth, Palestine, were deported during the 1948 catastrophe. They moved between Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, and in 1951, just a few weeks after his birth, the family attempted to return to Nazareth. They stayed until 1953 when the Israeli authorities forced them to move to Jenin with a number of other families who did not have IDs.

As a young man, Abdelkhalik had a strong attachment to Palestine. He

became very active on the political front, and in 1968 joined the student section of Fateh. Even though other political parties were formed, Abdelkhalik chose to stay with the Fateh because he agreed with its political goals and it was the party that fuelled military resistance against the Israeli Occupation of Palestine at the time, and received substantial support from the Palestinians and other Arab nations.

He moved to Spain to pursue a bachelor's degree in education. He continued in his political engagement abroad as a member of the General Union of Palestinian Students. Later on, he began his diplomatic work at the PLO Office in Madrid. Until 1974, Palestinian diplomatic work took place either through diplomatic missions or media outlets, depending on the country. However, with time, and thanks to the work of Palestinian resistance movements inside and outside Palestine, countries started recognising Palestine and calling for the Palestinians' rights.

"Efforts on the ground and all forms of resistance movements succeeded in transmitting the Palestinian cause to the entire world," Abdelkhalik explains.

It is important to see the results of one's own and colleagues' efforts; collective efforts motivate more work, and lead to victories on the ground. One of the victories Abdelkhalik mentions is the recognition of Palestine by many countries around the world. He finds this an important achievement of the Palestinian resistance movement that now enables Palestinians to have a voice and assert themselves wherever they are. "These accomplishments pushed us to move forward, and we need to continue to pursue the goals of the Palestinians and end the Israeli Occupation," he affirms.

He describes his experience as a diplomat for Palestine as rich. "You live in many countries, learn about different cultures, and make countless friendships. But at the same time, there is a price



to pay! Moving away from the people you meet and interact with is difficult, especially for the children." Nonetheless, despite these challenges and changes, Abdelkhalik has found his experience extremely rewarding.

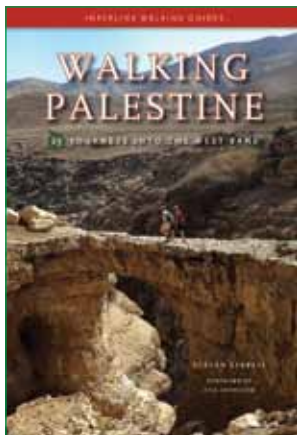
The nature of his work is not purely diplomatic as traditionally conceived; it comes in different forms. Palestinians are still at the liberation stage, and there is a constant effort to develop relationships with governments, political parties, and civil society organisations abroad. "We have to stay connected to transfer the Palestinian experience and reality to the

world and work hard to bring support and solidarity with the Palestinians," he says. He emphasises the importance of working collectively because the work being done abroad is not separate from what takes place on the ground. "The first and second Intifadas (uprisings) have a tremendous effect on the solidarity of the international communities with Palestine. The persistence of Palestinians on the ground is fundamental for our work, and these two forces combined together help us achieve our national goals," he explains. There are now 130 countries around the world that recognise Palestine.

When Abdelkhalik talks about his time in various diplomatic missions, he speaks of the second and third generation Palestinians he has met. They identify with Palestine and demand their rights to freedom, justice, and independence. "I would say that the Palestinian cause is in good hands and that the determination of the people will help us achieve our goals and end Israeli Occupation," he asserts.

Abdelkhalik is keen to extend his regards to the Palestinian people everywhere: in the diaspora, refugee camps, the West Bank, Gaza, and those living within the 1948 borders. Their role is integral to the Palestinian resistance and future of Palestine, and he is proud to be part of this resistance that can only be completed with everyone's dedication.

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Sunday, April 15: an Easter Celebration, 6pm  
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mosaicalliance.blogspot.com  
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## Walking Palestine: 25 Journeys into the West Bank

By Stefan Szepesi

Travel/Walking Guide • 5 7/8" x 8 1/4" •  
272 pages • full-colour photos • maps •  
ISBN 978-1-56656-860-9 • paperback  
• \$22.95

With the images of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict so dominant in our minds, walking for leisure is the one activity probably least associated with the West Bank region. But Stefan Szepesi's book wanders well off the beaten track of Palestine as only a synonym for occupation and strife, exploring its inspiring natural and cultural landscape, its intriguing past and present, and the hospitality of its people.

The book takes first-time walkers and experienced hikers, as well as armchair explorers, through Palestine's steep desert gorges, along its tiny herders' trails, and over its quiet dirt roads running past silver green olive groves. With side stories and anecdotes on heritage, history, culture, and daily life

in the West Bank, the book ventures into the traits and character of Palestine today. Beyond the 250 km of walking trails described and mapped in detail throughout the book, *Walking Palestine* offers a wealth of practical walking tips, including references to local guides, the West Bank's best leisure spots and countryside restaurants, and the most charming places to spend the night. The author, Stefan Szepesi, has lived in Jerusalem on-and-off since 2006, working first for the European Union and then as economic adviser to Quartet Representative Tony Blair.

"It is no exaggeration to say that Palestine is a walker's paradise...The twenty-five walks described here provide an excellent guide to the small but varied area of the West Bank: the desert, the plains, the hills, the *wadis*. These walks take you to the Roman stadium in historical Sebastia, to the springs of Wadi Bidan near Nablus, to the plains of Jenin, to the desert monasteries in Wadi Kelt and the Jerusalem wilderness, to one of the first instances of terrace agriculture in Battir, to the throne village in Ras Karkar where an Ottoman-period citadel has recently been renovated, to the town of Taybeh where Palestinian beer is produced, to the lush spring of Wadi Auja near Jericho, and to the beautiful hills around Ramallah. Each walk serves not only as an occasion to encounter a different terrain, but to comment on the various facets of Palestinian life and history...*Walking Palestine: 25 Walks into the West Bank* is indispensable... It is a guide to enjoy and to trust. So read along, put on your boots, and start walking. And be prepared for experiences that will surely be memorable."

—From the foreword by Raja Shehadeh, author of *Palestinian Walks*, Winner of the Orwell Prize in 2008





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## Hisham Zreiq

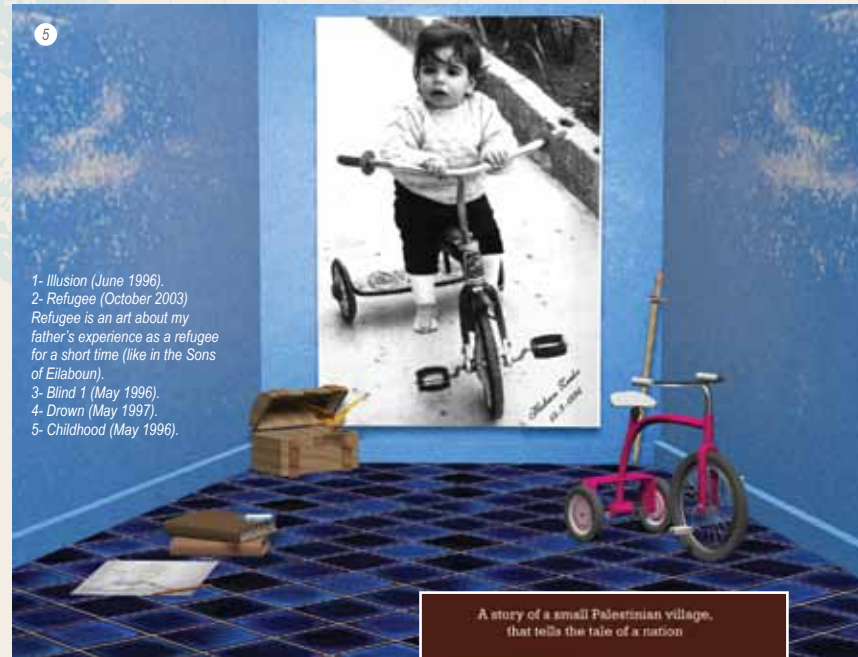
Hisham Zreiq (Zrake) was born in 1968 in Nazareth to a Palestinian family. After finishing school, he studied computer science, and now works as a software developer, but his heart is where his art is. In 1991, he started doing computer animation. He used those same tools when he started doing graphic art using the computer in 1994. In 1996, he started exhibiting his work in galleries and museums. In March 2001, he went

to Germany, where he now lives with his wife and son and works as a software architect, artist, and filmmaker.

In 2006, he started his film career with the documentary, *The sons of Eilaboun*, and in 2009 he made his first short fiction film *Just another day*, followed by *Before You is the Sea* in 2011.

Zreiq's art is his perspective on life, pains, disappointments, happiness, and his philosophical look at life. He uses extensive symbolism and metaphors in both his visual art and films. One example is the cross that symbolises punishment and sacrifice, as Jesus was punished and sacrificed his life. His art is somehow surrealist, and looks like it was extracted from a dream-like world. The intensity of emotions cannot be ignored, and captures the eyes of viewers, encouraging their minds to wander. His pieces are powered by strong composition and powerful representation of colour.

Zreiq used his art to decorate the scenes in his short film, *Just Another Day*, and the scenes have the same look as his art. The film, *Before You is the Sea* tells the story of a young Jewish woman



and a young Arab man in love, but it is also an allegory for the Middle East peace process when the Camp David Summit abruptly broke off, effectively sealing the fate of the Oslo negotiations.

In both his art and films, Zreiq reflects what he sees and what he experiences in a very powerful and emotional way. One of the best examples is the documentary, *The Sons of Eilaboun*, about the massacre, expulsion, and return of the residents of a small Palestinian village in the Galilee. But it is a kind of a personal film as well; a film that tells a story that influenced Zreiq's life, even though it happened twenty years before he was born. When he explained his motivations for the film, he choked and his eyes were full of tears. With a trembling voice he said, "I remember it as if it had just happened." This is the way he ended the story, the story of a nine-year-old boy from a small village called Eilaboun (Eilabun), in Palestine in 1948. It is the story of his father when he was a refugee.

Zreiq has just finished writing a script for a new short film. He is planning to start

writing his first long film, and the most important thing he is planning to do is to finish a longer version of *The Sons of Eilaboun*. In the coming years, he is also planning to film a fiction film that tells the story of his father during the 1948 war, a fiction version of *The Sons of Eilaboun*, focusing on his father's childhood.

Links:  
[HishamZreiq.com](http://HishamZreiq.com)  
[SonsOfEilaboun.com](http://SonsOfEilaboun.com)



## Website Review

<http://www.ochaopt.org/>

By *Abed A. Khooli*

Review date: March 13, 2012

OCHAoPt is the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the occupied Palestinian territory, as they spell out their official name. The site is available in English only, but many of its publications are available in Arabic and Hebrew as well.

The OCHA website uses a two-column layout with a header and footer over a fading blue background that also features symbols of movement restrictions (bulldozers) and hope (a blue sky with clouds).

The header starts with the official UN logo and the site name to the left, with a Google-powered search box to the right. The logo is also linked to the home page. Next is the main menu bar. Most menus have drop-down menus that expand as you mouse over the parent menu. *Report Centre* has seven drop-down menus covering access and movement restrictions in the form of press releases, reports, fact sheets, statements, and analysis. Some publications are periodic (weekly or monthly).

The next menu, *Map Centre*, has a similar number of sub-categories covering several types of maps. There are closure, barrier, situation, reference, interactive, hand-held devices, and other maps. OCHA's maps, similar to its reports, date back to 2005, and you can select historical ones using a slider in the right column.

*Coordination* covers the humanitarian aid from a holistic approach and is divided into clusters (like agriculture and education), fields (regions), resource mobilization, and an entity called the Access Coordination Unit.

Next is *Online Databases* covering the protection of civilians (searchable with

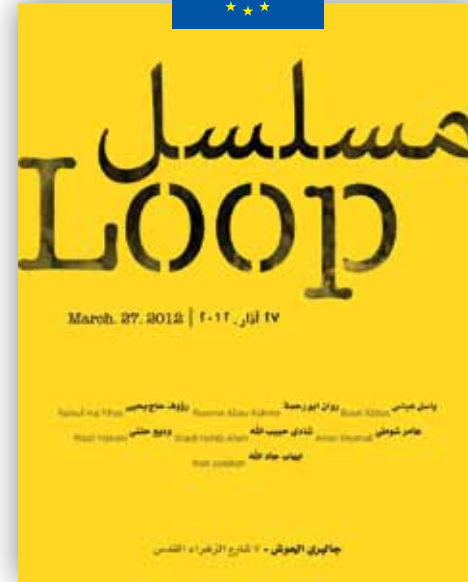
various criteria), data on Gaza crossing activities (truckloads and commodities), access incidents, an information pool (publications in Excel format), and a who-does-what-where interactive map.

There are four galleries under *Photos* covering topics like the olive harvest, Bedouin life, and barrier gates. You can also find three PowerPoint slide decks under *Presentations* covering East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. Finally, *Videos* presents six titles, one of which is about the Separation Barrier.

The content area of the home page features the latest publications with a rotating brief and link to download, or e-mail to a friend, to the right. The next section is a set of featured items (reports and publications) and a form to fill out to be notified when a new publication is out. To the right, the space is split in two columns. The first is dedicated to Gaza and the second features coordination items and a graphical link to online Google mapping with OCHA annotations.

The footer has a set of quick access links: *Home, Contact Us, About, Vacancies, Links, Site Map, and Terms of Use*. There are three small right-aligned icons for events, RSS, and a contact list. The OCHA website is a great resource on movement, access, and humanitarian aid restrictions in Palestine – at least at the monitoring level. The site could enhance its user friendliness by increasing contrast (especially for menus and sub-menus), adding some missing page titles, and fixing some PDF files.

*Abed A. Khooli is a SharePoint and Web development specialist. He can be reached at [akhooli@arabic2000.com](mailto:akhooli@arabic2000.com) ([www.arabic2000.com](http://www.arabic2000.com)).*

Exhibition of the Month  
Loop

27 March- 30 April, 2012

To be a Palestinian here and now. This is an issue to be explored in the context of a space that is continuously shrinking, being altered, and vanishing, as a result of attempts to divorce it from its substance and reshaping it according to the terms and needs of the coloniser.

“Loop” is an exhibition that looks into the Palestinian identity within this colonial context, and tries to interpret this continuously inhabited colonial space.

Even though this question has haunted Palestinians throughout recent history, the Arab protests that began a year ago revived the question of what is colonial, especially as the colonised have adapted to re-function and be receptive to what would fill their cultural void.

“Loop” presents five art works exploring colonial societies by seven artists who utilised different mediums to address various aspects of this topic. This exhibition is part of al-Hoash's mission to foster research in visual production as a tool for raising and discussing topics that relate to our history and identity and encompass our formation as individuals and groups.

The exhibition coincides with the release of issue number one of *Musalsal* a journal investigating the relationship between art, society, and identity. *Musalsal* is a dialogue-based publication that looks into visual practice in Palestine and explores its relationship with society, identity, and liberation. The first edition is edited by poet and critic Najwan Darwish, and features a dialogue with the participant artists on colonial societies.



## Events

Note: Please make sure to contact the venue to check for the latest updates.

### East Jerusalem (02)

Al- Hoash, tel: 627 3501; Center for Jerusalem Studies, tel: 628 7517; Palestinian National Theatre, tel: 628 0957; Yabous Cultural Center, tel: 626 1045; American Colony Bookshop, tel: 627 9731

#### ART

##### Sunday 1

10:00 Loop Exhibition, a presentation of five art works exploring colonial societies, Al Hoash Gallery

#### PLAYS

##### Saturday 28

19:30 Keffiyeh/Made in China, coproduction of the Royal Flemish Theatre and the A. M. Qattan Foundation in collaboration with Sareyyet Ramallah and Yabous Cultural Center, Palestinian National Theatre

#### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

##### Friday 20

10:00 Children's Program, Yabous Cultural Centre

#### CONCERT

##### Thursday 26-29

19:00 Piano Weekend, Yabous Cultural Centre with Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, Yabous Cultural Centre

#### DANCE

Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival (RCDF) 2012

##### Sunday 22

19:30 The Palestinian National Theatre

##### Saturday 28

19:30 Royal Flemish Theatre and A.M. Qattan Foundation (Keffiyeh - Made in China), The Palestinian National Theatre

##### Monday 30

19:30 The Palestinian National Theatre

#### LITERATURE

##### Thursday 5

18:30 Miko Peled will discuss his book *The General's Son: Journey of an Israeli in Palestine*, American Colony Bookshop

##### Wednesday 11

18:30 Rafique Gangat will discuss his book *Ye Shall Bowl on Grass*, American Colony Bookshop

##### Friday 27

18:30 Ilan Pappé & Ruba Salih will discuss *The Wind in my Hair* a memoir of Ruba's mom Salwa Salem, American Colony Bookshop

#### TOURS

##### Thursday 19

17:00 Western Wall Tunnels Tour, Centre for Jerusalem Studies

##### Saturday 21

9:00 Yaffo, Meeting Point: The Turkish Consulate, Centre for Jerusalem Studies

##### Sunday 29

10:00 Manuscript Institute - Al Aqsa, Centre for Jerusalem Studies

### Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, and Beit Jala (02)

Alternative Information Center (AIC), tel: 277 5444; Dar Annadwa, tel: 277 0047

#### ART

##### Tuesday 17

20:00 Art Exhibition "From Inside the Prison" by Ahmad Abu Haniya, AIC

#### FILMS

##### Monday 2

15:30 Pünktchen und Anton, In German with English subtitles, Dar Annadwa

##### Monday 2

18:00 "Staus Yo" movie about the hip-hop scene in Berlin, In German with English subtitles, Dar Annadwa

##### Thursday 5

20:00 Non-mainstream, AIC

##### Tuesday 10

20:00 Short films screening by Palestinian film makers and students - produced by Goethe Institute Ramallah, AIC

##### Thursday 12

20:00 Non-mainstream, AIC



Legacy Hotel

Happy Easter

29 Nablus Road, East Jerusalem. Tel: 02-6270800 Fax: 02-6277739  
E-mail: info@jerusalemlegacy.com www.jerusalemlegacy.com

## Thursday 19

20:00 Non-mainstream, AIC

## Thursday 26

20:00 Non-mainstream, AIC

## PLAYS

### Friday 20

19:00 Keffiyeh/ Made in China, coproduction of the Royal Flemish Theatre and the A. M. Qattan Foundation in collaboration with Al Harah Theatre, Dar Annadwa

## LECTURES

### Saturday 7

20:00 Armenian community in Palestine "Past and Present," AIC

### Saturday 21

20:00 A political and cultural café addressing the main topics regarding the history and nature of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, AIC

### Tuesday 24

20:00 A political and cultural café addressing the main topics regarding the history and nature of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, AIC

## Ramallah and Al-Bireh (02)

*French-German Cultural Center, tel: 298 1922; The Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange( PACE), tel: 240 7611; Palestine Writing Workshop, tel: 0597 651 408; Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque, tel: 296 5292/3; Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center, tel: 298 7374; Ramallah Cultural Palace, tel: 298 4704; A.M. Qattan Foundation, tel: 296 0544; Cafe La Vie, tel: 296 4115; Sareyyet Ramallah, tel: 295 2690*

## ART

### Sunday 1

10:00 *I Have Something to Say*, organized by Al Hoash in collaboration with Khalil Al Sakakini Cultural Center and Al Mamal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Khalil Al Sakakini Cultural Center

Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival (RCDF) 2012:

### Friday 20

14:00 Dance Photography Workshop- Eric Boudet, Sareyyet Ramallah

### Saturday 21

18:00 Dance Photography Exhibition- Eric Boudet, The French Cultural Center

## Saturday 21

14:00 Dance Photography Workshop- Eric Boudet, Sareyyet Ramallah

## Sunday 22

14:00 Dance Photography Workshop-Eric Boudet, Sareyyet Ramallah

## CONCERT

### Wednesday 11

18:00 The closing ceremony of the Palestine National Competition of Music. Organised by The Edward Said National conservatory of Music, Ramallah Cultural Palace

## CONFERENCE

### Wednesday 4

18:00 Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency: a solution for Palestine, French German Cultural Center

Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival (RCDF) 2012

### Friday 20

10:00 Dance and Society Conference, Sareyyet Ramallah

### Saturday 21

10:00 Dance and Society Conference, Sareyyet Ramallah

### Sunday 22

10:00 Dance and Society Conference, Sareyyet Ramallah

## DANCE

Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival (RCDF) 2012

### Monday 16

16:00 Franck Waille, Sareyyet Ramallah

### Tuesday 17

16:00 Fransesco Scavetta, Sareyyet Ramallah

### Wednesday 18

16:00 Fransesco Scavetta, Sareyyet Ramallah

### Wednesday 18

11:00 Ballet Boyz , Sareyyet Ramallah

### Thursday 19

19:30 Opening Night, Ramallah Cultural Palace

### Friday 20

19:30 De Stilte, Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## Friday 20

16:00 7273 Company, Sareyyet Ramallah

## Saturday 21

19:30 7273 Company, Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## Sunday 22

19:30 Fransesco Scavetta, Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## Monday 23

16:00 Siljeholm/ Christophersen, "Snik and Snook on the moon" children's performance, Ramallah Cultural Palace

## Tuesday 24

19:00 "Nature Morte" is the German contribution at the Dance Festival Palestine, Al-Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## Tuesday 24

19:30 Nature Morte, Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## Tuesday 24

16:00 Hilde and Bibbi, Sareyyet Ramallah

## Wednesday 25

19:30 Siljeholm/ Christophersen, Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## Thursday 26

19:30 Royal Flemish Theatre and A.M. Qattan Foundation (Keffiyeh - Made in China), Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## Saturday 28

19:30 Sareyyet Ramallah Troupe for Music and Dance, Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## Saturday 28

19:30 Rochdi Belgasmi, Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## Monday 30

19:30 Nawel Skandarani Dance Company, Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## FILMS

In the framework of the Dance Festival Palestine:

### Tuesday 3

18:00 "Kurt Jooss" In German with English subtitles, French-German Cultural Center

### Wednesday 11

18:00 In Search of Dance - Pina Bauschs Other Theatre, In German with English subtitles, French-German Cultural Center

## Monday 9

19:00 After a professional ten-day film workshop in Bethlehem in 2011, the Goethe-Institut Ramallah proudly presents six short films produced by young Palestinians telling the stories of their land. In Arabic with English subtitles, Al Kasabah Theare and Cinematheque

## Sunday 22

18:00 Folkwang meets Africa, In German with English subtitles, The French-German Cultural Center

## Sunday 29

18:00 Folkwang meets Africa, In German with English subtitles, French-German Cultural Center

## LECTURES

### Tuesday 17

18:00 "The Keeper" Lecture Performance and Book Launch by Shuruq Harb, Al-Mahatta Gallery

## LITERATURE

### Thursday 5

18:00 Reading from the novel "Your name" In Arabic and German language, organised by the Heinrich-Böll Foundation and the Goethe-Institut, in cooperation with the Al Qattan Foundation, A.M. Qattan Foundation

## Saturday 28

15:30 Book Club Discussion of Lyrics Alley, organized by Palestine Writing Workshop, Cafe La Vie

## PLAYS

### Thursday 26

19:30 Keffiyeh/ Made in China, coproduction of the Royal Flemish Theatre and the A.M. Qattan Foundation in collaboration with Sareyyet Ramallah and AL Kasaba Theatre, Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Monday 2

20:00 Quiz Night Golden League - Spring Games 2012, Orthodoxy Club Ramallah

### Tuesday 3

20:00 Quiz Night Silver League - Spring Games 2012, Orthodoxy Club Ramallah

### Monday 9

20:00 Quiz Night Golden League - Spring Games 2012, Orthodoxy Club Ramallah



Tuesday 10

20:00 Quiz Night Silver League - Spring Games  
2012, Orthodox Club Ramallah

Saturday 14

13:00 Scout march "Easter Scout March,"  
Sareyyet Ramallah

Monday 16

20:00 Quiz Night Golden League - Spring Games  
2012, Orthodox Club Ramallah

Tuesday 17

20:00 Quiz Night Silver League - Spring Games  
2012, Orthodox Club Ramallah

Monday 23

20:00 Quiz Night Golden League - Spring Games  
2012, Orthodox Club Ramallah

Tuesday 24

20:00 Quiz Night Silver League - Spring Games  
2012, Orthodox Club Ramallah

Friday 27

10:00 International Dance Day, Sareyyet  
Ramallah

Monday 30

20:00 Quiz Night Golden League - Spring Games  
2012, Orthodox Club Ramallah

Monday 9

18:00 Open meeting for everybody who likes to  
speak German, La Vié Café

## TOURS

Sunday 8

9:00 A tour at Wadi Sarida, PACE

Sunday 29

9:00 A tour to the city of Ramallah and Al-Bireh,  
PACE

## Nablus (09)

## TOURS

Sunday 1

9:00 A tour to the city of Nablus and Vicinity,  
PACE

Sunday 22

9:00 A tour to the City of Nablus and Sebestia,  
PACE

## Hebron (02)

## PLAYS

Wednesday 18

17:00 Keffiyeh/Made in China, coproduction of  
the Royal Flemish Theatre and the A. M. Qattan  
Foundation in collaboration with Yes Theatre,  
Yes Theatre

## TOURS

Sunday 15

9:00 A tour to the city of Hebron and Vicinity,  
PACE

## Jericho (02)

## PLAY

Thursday 5, Saturday 7, Friday 20

18:00 Richard II, Ashtar Theatre, Hisham's  
Palace

## Jenin, Qalqilia and Tulkarem (09)

Cinema Jenin, tel: 250 2642, 250 2455

## FILMS

Sunday 15

17:00 After a professional ten-day film workshop  
in Bethlehem in 2011, the Goethe-Institut  
Ramallah proudly presents six short films  
produced by young Palestinians telling the stories  
of their land, In Arabic with English subtitles,  
Cinema Jenin

## PLAYS

Friday 27

18:00 Keffiyeh/ Made in China, coproduction of  
the Royal Flemish Theatre and the A. M. Qattan  
Foundation in collaboration with Dar Qandeel  
Khadoury, Dar Qandeel Khadoury

## Galilee (03)

Monday 23

20:00 Keffiyeh/ Made in China, coproduction of  
the Royal Flemish Theatre and the A. M. Qattan  
Foundation in collaboration with Oyoun Theatre,  
Oyoun Theatre

## Haifa (03)

Tuesday 24

20:30 Keffiyeh/ Made in China, coproduction of  
the Royal Flemish Theatre and the  
A.M. Qattan Foundation in collaboration with Al  
Midan Theatre, Al Midan Theatre



## ASHTAR THEATRE Palestine



Presents  
Shakespeare's  
"RICHARD II"

Richard II, Shakespeare classic play of power and politics,  
set in a world of intrigue and treachery. Through a captivating  
story it explores what it means to be a king and how ultimate  
power ultimately corrupt the powerful.

*This play will be participating at the "Globe to Globe"  
Shakespeare Festival at London Cultural Olympics on May 2012*

**At Hisham's Palace – Jericho  
4, 5 & 20 April 2012**

### Cast:

Sami Mitwasi  
George Ibrahim  
Edward Muallim  
Nicola Zraineh  
Hussein Nakhleh  
Amer Khalil  
Mohammad Eid  
Bayan Shbib  
Ihab Zahdeh  
Raed El Ayassa  
Firas Farah  
Eyad Hurani  
Iman Aoun

**Director:**  
Conall Morrison

**Designer:**  
Rajha Shakiry

**Editor:**  
Ghassan Zaqtan



Tickets at:

**Ramallah:** ASHTAR Theatre - Al Kasaba Theatre - Ramallah Cultural Palace  
**Jericho:** Hisham's Palace - Laymauna Restaurant



# Cultural Centers

## East Jerusalem (02)

### Al-Jawal Theatre Group

Telefax: 628 0655

### Alruwah Theatre

Tel: 626 2626, alruwahtheatre2000@yahoo.com

### Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art

Tel: 628 3457, Fax: 627 2312  
info@almamalfoundation.org  
www.almamalfoundation.org

### Al-Urmawi Centre for Mashreq Music

Tel: 234 2005, Fax: 234 2004  
info@urmawi.org, www.urmawi.org

### Ashtar for Theatre Productions & Training

Telefax: 582 7218  
info@ashtar-theatre.org, www.ashtar-theatre.org

### The Bookshop at the American Colony Hotel

Tel: 627 9731, Fax: 627 9779  
bookshop.americancolony@gmail.com  
www.americancolony.com

### British Council

Tel: 626 7111, Fax: 628 3021  
information@ps.britishcouncil.org  
www.britishcouncil.org/ps

### Center for Jerusalem Studies/Al-Quds University

Tel: 628 7517  
cjs@planet.edu, www.jerusalem-studies.alquds.edu

### Community Action Centre (CAC)

Tel: 627 3352, Fax: 627 4547  
www.cac.alquds.edu

### Educational Bookshop

Tel: 627 5858, Fax: 628 0814  
info@educationalbookshop.com, www.educationalbookshop.com

### El-Hakawati Theatre Company

Tel: 583 8836, Mobile: 0545 835 268  
f.abousalem@gmail.com, www.el-hakawati.org

### French Cultural Centre

Tel: 628 2451 / 626 2236, Fax: 628 4324  
ccfjeru@consulfrance-jerusalem.org

### Issaf Nashashibi Center for Culture & Literature

Telefax: 581 8232, isaaf@alqudsnet.com

### Jerusalem Centre for Arabic Music

Tel: 627 4774, Fax: 656 2469, mkurd@yahoo.com

### Melia Art Center

TeleFax: 628 1377  
Melia@bezeqint.net  
www.meliaartandtrainingcenter.com

### Palestinian Art Court - Al Hoash

Telefax: 627 3501  
info@alhoashgallery.org, www.alhoashgallery.org

### Palestinian National Theatre

Tel: 628 0957, Fax: 627 6293, info@pnt-pal.org

### Public Affairs Office

Tel: 628 2456, Fax: 628 2454  
www.uscongen-jerusalem.org

### Sabreen Association for Artistic Development

Tel: 532 1393, Fax: 532 1394  
sabreen@sabreen.org, www.sabreen.org

### Sanabel Culture & Arts Theatre

Tel: 671 4338, Fax: 673 0993  
sanabeltheatre@yahoo.com

### The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music

Tel: 627 1711, Fax: 627 1710  
info@ncm.birzeit.edu, ncm.birzeit.edu

### The Magnificat Institute

Tel: 626 6609, Fax: 626 6701  
magnificat@custodia.org  
www.magnificatinstitute.org

### Theatre Day Productions

Tel: 585 4513, Fax: 583 4233  
tdp@theatreday.org, www.theatreday.org

### Turkish Cultural Centre

Tel: 591 0530/1, Fax: 532 3310  
kudustur@netvision.net.il, www.kudusbk.com

### Wujoud Museum

Tel: 626 0916  
www.wujoud.org, info@wujoud.org

### Yabous Cultural Center

Tel: 626 1045, Fax: 626 1372  
yabous@yabous.org, www.yabous.org

## Bethlehem (02)

### Al-Harah Theatre

Telefax: 276 7758, alharahtheater@yahoo.com  
info@alharah.org, www.alharah.org

### Alliance Française de Bethléem

Telefax: 275 0777, afbeth@p-ol.com

### Anat Palestinian Folk & Craft Center

Telefax: 277 2024, marie\_muslam@yahoo.com

### Arab Educational Institute (AEI)-Open Windows

Tel: 274 4030, www.aeicenter.org

### Artas Folklore Center

Tel: 276 0533, Mobile: 0599 938 0887  
artasfc@yahoo.com

### Badil Centre

Tel: 277 7086

### Beit Jala Community Based-Learning & Action Center

Tel: 277 7863

### Bethlehem Academy of Music/ Bethlehem Music Society

Tel: 277 7141, Fax: 277 7142

### Bethlehem Peace Center

Tel: 276 6677, Fax: 276 4670  
info@peacenter.org, www.peacenter.org

### Cardinal House

Telefax: 276 4778  
info@cardinalhouse.org, www.cardinalhouse.org

### Catholic Action Cultural Center

Tel: 274 3277, Fax: 274 2939  
info@ca-b.org, www.ca-b.org

### Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation

Tel: 276 6244, Fax: 276 6241  
info@cchp.ps  
www.cchp.ps

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E-mail: reservation@jerichoresorts.com  
Website: www.jerichoresorts.com



**Inad Centre for Theatre and Arts**

Telefax: 276 6263, [www.inadtheater.com](http://www.inadtheater.com)

**International Centre of Bethlehem-Dar Annadwa**

Tel: 277 0047, Fax: 277 0048  
[info@diyar.ps](mailto:info@diyar.ps), [www.diyar.ps](http://www.diyar.ps)

**ITIP Center "Italian Tourist Information Point"**

Telefax: 276 0411, [itipcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:itipcenter@yahoo.com)

**Nativity Stationary Library**

Mob: 0598 950 447

**Palestinian Heritage Center**

Telefax: 274 2381, 274 2642  
[mahasaca@palestinianheritagecenter.com](mailto:mahasaca@palestinianheritagecenter.com)  
[www.phc.ps](http://www.phc.ps)

**Palestinian Group for the Revival of Popular Heritage**

Telefax: 274 7945

**Relief International - Schools Online Bethlehem Community Based-Learning & Action Center**

Tel: 277 7863

**Sabreen Association for Artistic Development**

Tel: 275 0091, Fax: 275 0092  
[sabreen@sabreen.org](mailto:sabreen@sabreen.org), [www.sabreen.org](http://www.sabreen.org)

**Tent of Nations**

Tel: 274 3071, Fax: 276 7446  
[tnations@p-ol.com](mailto:tnations@p-ol.com), [www.tentofnations.org](http://www.tentofnations.org)

**The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music**

Telefax: 274 8726  
[info@ncm.birzeit.edu](mailto:info@ncm.birzeit.edu), [www.birzeit.edu/music](http://www.birzeit.edu/music)

**The Higher Institute of Music**

Telefax: 275 2492  
[highiom@hotmail.com](mailto:highiom@hotmail.com)  
[www.thehigherinstituteofmusic.ps](http://www.thehigherinstituteofmusic.ps)

**Turathuna - Centre for Palestinian Heritage (B.Uni.)**

Tel: 274 1241, Fax: 274 4440  
[pdaoud@bethlehem.edu](mailto:pdaoud@bethlehem.edu), [www.bethlehem.edu](http://www.bethlehem.edu)

**Hebron (02)****Al Sanabl Centre for Studies and Heritage**

Tel: 256 0280, [sanabelssc@yahoo.com](mailto:sanabelssc@yahoo.com)  
[www.sanabl.org](http://www.sanabl.org), [www.sanabl.ps](http://www.sanabl.ps)

**Beit Et Tifi Compound**

Telefax: 222 4545, [tdphebron@alqudsnet.com](mailto:tdphebron@alqudsnet.com)

**British Council- Palestine Polytechnic University**

Telefax: 229 3717, [information@ps.britishcouncil.org](mailto:information@ps.britishcouncil.org)  
[www.britisishcouncil.org.ps](http://www.britisishcouncil.org.ps)

**Children Happiness Center**

Telefax: 229 9545, [children\\_hc@yahoo.com](mailto:children_hc@yahoo.com)

**Dura Cultural Martyrs Center**

Tel: 228 3663, [nader@duramun.org](mailto:nader@duramun.org), [www.duramun.org](http://www.duramun.org)

**France-Hebron Association for Cultural Exchanges**

Tel: 222 4811  
[info@hebron-france.org](mailto:info@hebron-france.org), [www.hebron-france.org](http://www.hebron-france.org)

**Hebron Rehabilitation Committee**

Telefax: 225 5640, 222 6993/4

**Palestinian Child Arts Center (PCAC)**

Tel: 222 4813, Fax: 222 0855  
[pcac@hotmail.com](mailto:pcac@hotmail.com), [www.pcac.net](http://www.pcac.net)

**Yes Theater**

Telefax: 229 1559,  
[www.yestheatre.org](http://www.yestheatre.org), [info@yestheatre.org](mailto:info@yestheatre.org)

**The International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL)**

Tel: 222 9131, Fax: 229 0652  
[itv@ipyl.org](mailto:itv@ipyl.org), [www.ipyl.org](http://www.ipyl.org)

**Jericho (02)****Jericho Community Centre**

Telefax: 232 5007

**Jericho Culture & Art Center**

Telefax: 232 1047

**Municipality Theatre**

Tel: 232 2417, Fax: 232 2604

**Jenin (04)****Cinema Jenin**

Tel: 250 2642, 250 2455  
[info@cinemajenin.org](mailto:info@cinemajenin.org), [www.cinemajenin.org](http://www.cinemajenin.org)

**Hakoura Center**

Telfax: 250 4773  
[center@hakoura-jenin.ps](mailto:center@hakoura-jenin.ps), [www.hakoura-jenin.ps](http://www.hakoura-jenin.ps)

**The Freedom Theatre/Jenin Refugee Camp**

Tel: 250 3345, [info@thefreedomtheatre.org](mailto:info@thefreedomtheatre.org)

**Nablus (09)****British Council- Al Najah University**

Telefax: 237 5950  
[information@ps.britishcouncil.org](mailto:information@ps.britishcouncil.org)  
[www.britishcouncil.org/ps](http://www.britishcouncil.org/ps)

**Cultural Centre for Child Development**

Tel: 238 6290, Fax: 239 7518  
[nutaleb@hotmail.com](mailto:nutaleb@hotmail.com), [www.nutaleb.cjb.net](http://www.nutaleb.cjb.net)

**Cultural Heritage Enrichment Center**

Tel: 237 2863, Fax: 237 8275, [arafatn24@yahoo.com](mailto:arafatn24@yahoo.com)

**French Cultural Centre**

Tel: 238 5914, Fax: 238 7593  
[ccfnaplouse@consulfrance-jerusalem.org](mailto:ccfnaplouse@consulfrance-jerusalem.org)

**Nablus The Culture**

Tel: 233 2084, Fax: 234 5325  
[info@nablusculture.ps](mailto:info@nablusculture.ps), [www.nablusculture.ps](http://www.nablusculture.ps)

**Ramallah and Al-Bireh (02)****A. M. Qattan Foundation**

Tel: 296 0544, Fax: 298 4886  
[info@qattanfoundation.org](mailto:info@qattanfoundation.org), [www.qattanfoundation.org](http://www.qattanfoundation.org)

**Al-Kamandjati Association**

Tel: 297 3101  
[info@alkamandjati.com](mailto:info@alkamandjati.com), [www.alkamandjati.com](http://www.alkamandjati.com)

**Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque**

Tel: 296 5292/3, Fax: 296 5294  
[info@alkasaba.org](mailto:info@alkasaba.org), [www.alkasaba.org](http://www.alkasaba.org)

**Al-Mada Music Therapy Center**

Tel: 241 3196, Fax: 241 3197  
[info@al-mada.ps](mailto:info@al-mada.ps), [www.al-mada.ps](http://www.al-mada.ps)

**Al-Rahhalah Theatre**

Telefax: 298 8091, [alrahhalah@hotmail.com](mailto:alrahhalah@hotmail.com)

**Amideast**

Tel: 240 8023, Fax: 240 8017  
[westbank-gaza@amideast.org](mailto:westbank-gaza@amideast.org), [www.amideast.org](http://www.amideast.org)

**ArtSchool Palestine**

Tel: 295 9837  
[info@artschoolpalestine.com](mailto:info@artschoolpalestine.com), [www.artschoolpalestine.com](http://www.artschoolpalestine.com)

**Ashtar for Theatre Production**

Tel: 298 0037, Fax: 296 0326  
[info@ashtar-theatre.org](mailto:info@ashtar-theatre.org), [www.ashtar-theatre.org](http://www.ashtar-theatre.org)

**Baladna Cultural Center**

Telfax: 295 8435

**BirZeit Ethnographic and Art Museum**

Tel: 298 2976, [www.virtualgallery.birzeit.edu](http://www.virtualgallery.birzeit.edu)

**British Council**

Tel: 296 3293-6, Fax: 296 3297  
[information@ps.britishcouncil.org](mailto:information@ps.britishcouncil.org)  
[www.britishcouncil.org/ps](http://www.britishcouncil.org/ps)

**Carmel Cultural Foundation**

Tel: 298 7375, Fax: 298 7374

**El-Funoun Dance Troupe**

Tel: 240 2853, Fax: 240 2851  
[info@el-funoun.org](mailto:info@el-funoun.org), [www.el-funoun.org](http://www.el-funoun.org)

**Sareyyet Ramallah - First Ramallah Group (FRG)**

Tel: 295 2690 - 295 2706, Fax: 298 0583  
[sareyyet@sareyyet.ps](mailto:sareyyet@sareyyet.ps), [www.sareyyet.ps](http://www.sareyyet.ps)

**Franco-German Cultural Centre Ramallah**

Tel: 298 1922 / 7727, Fax: 298 1923  
[info@ccf-goethe.org](mailto:info@ccf-goethe.org), [www.ccf-goethe-ramallah.org](http://www.ccf-goethe-ramallah.org)

**Greek Cultural Centre - "Macedonia"**

Telefax: 298 1736/ 298 0546, [makdonia@palnet.com](mailto:makdonia@palnet.com)

**In'ash Al-Uusra Society- Center for Heritage & Folklore Studies**

Tel: 240 1123 / 240 2876, Telefax: 240 1544  
[usra@palnet.com](mailto:usra@palnet.com), [www.inash.org](http://www.inash.org)

**Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center**

Tel: 298 7374, Fax: 296 6820  
[sakakini@sakakini.org](mailto:sakakini@sakakini.org), [www.sakakini.org](http://www.sakakini.org)

**Manar Cultural Center**

Tel: 295 7937, Fax: 298 7598

**Mazra'a Qibliyeh Heritage and Tourism Centre**

Telefax: 281 5825, [mazraaheritage@yahoo.com](mailto:mazraaheritage@yahoo.com)  
[www.geocities.com/mazraaheritage/](http://www.geocities.com/mazraaheritage/)

**Nawa institute**

Tel: 297 0190, [info@nawainstitute.org](mailto:info@nawainstitute.org)

**Palestinian Association for Contemporary Art PACA**

Tel: 296 7601, fax: 295 1849  
[paca@pal-paca.org](mailto:paca@pal-paca.org), [www.pal-paca.org](http://www.pal-paca.org)

**Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE)**

Tel: 240 7611, Telfax: 240 7610  
[pacc@p-ol.com](mailto:pacc@p-ol.com), [www.pacc.ps](http://www.pacc.ps)

**Palestine Workshop**

Mob: 0597 651 408, <http://palestineworkshop.org>

**Palestine Writing Workshop**

Mob: 0597 651 408  
[www.palestineworkshop.com](http://www.palestineworkshop.com)  
[www.palestineworkshop.org](http://www.palestineworkshop.org)

**Popular Art Center**

Tel: 240 3891, Fax: 240 2851  
[info@popularartcentre.org](mailto:info@popularartcentre.org), [www.popularartcentre.org](http://www.popularartcentre.org)

**Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies (RCHRS)**

Tel: 241 3002

**Ramallah Cultural Palace**

Tel: 298 4704 / 295 2105, Fax: 295 2107  
[rcpevents@ramallah-city.org](mailto:rcpevents@ramallah-city.org)  
[www.ramallahculturalpalace.org](http://www.ramallahculturalpalace.org)

**RIWAQ: Centre for Architectural Conservation**

Tel: 240 6887, Fax: 240 6986  
[riwaq@palnet.com](mailto:riwaq@palnet.com), [www.riwaq.org](http://www.riwaq.org)

**Sandouq Elajab Theatre**

Tel: 296 5638, 295 3206, [sandouqelajab@yahoo.com](mailto:sandouqelajab@yahoo.com)

**Shashat**

Tel: 297 3336, Fax: 297 3338  
[info@shashat.org](mailto:info@shashat.org), [www.shashat.org](http://www.shashat.org)

**Sharek Youth Forum**

Tel: 296 7741, Fax: 296 7742  
[info@sharek.ps](mailto:info@sharek.ps), [www.sharek.ps](http://www.sharek.ps)

**Tamer Institute for Community Education**

Tel: 298 6121/ 2, Fax: 298 8160  
[tamer@palnet.com](mailto:tamer@palnet.com), [www.tamerinst.org](http://www.tamerinst.org)

**The Danish House in Palestine (DHIP)**

TeleFax: 298 8457, [info@dhip.ps](mailto:info@dhip.ps), [www.dhip.ps](http://www.dhip.ps)

**The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music**

Tel: 295 9070, Fax: 295 9071  
[info@ncm.birzeit.edu](mailto:info@ncm.birzeit.edu), [www.birzeit.edu/music](http://www.birzeit.edu/music)

**The Palestinian Circus School**

Tel: 0545 - 671 911, 0599 - 926 107  
[www.palcircus.ps](http://www.palcircus.ps), [info@palcircus.ps](mailto:info@palcircus.ps)

**The Palestinian Network of Art Centres**

Tel: 298 0036, 296 4348/9, Fax: 296 0326  
[iman\\_aoun@yahoo.com](mailto:iman_aoun@yahoo.com)

**The Spanish Cultural Center**

Tel: 295 0893, [chp@panoramacentre.org](mailto:chp@panoramacentre.org)

**Young Artist Forum**

Telefax: 296 7654, [yaf@palnet.com](mailto:yaf@palnet.com)

**Gaza Strip (08)****Al-Qattan Centre for the Child**

Tel: 283 9929, Fax: 283 9949  
[reem@gcc.qattanfoundation.org](mailto:reem@gcc.qattanfoundation.org)  
[www.qattanfoundation.org/qcc](http://www.qattanfoundation.org/qcc)

**Arts & Crafts Village**

Telefax: 284 6405  
[artvlg@palnet.com](mailto:artvlg@palnet.com), [www.gazavillage.org](http://www.gazavillage.org)

**Ashtar for Culture & Arts**

Telefax: 283 3565, [atlas9@palnet.com](mailto:atlas9@palnet.com)

**Fawanees Theatre Group**

Telefax: 288 4403

**Culture & Light Centre**

Telefax: 286 5896, [ifarah@palnet.com](mailto:ifarah@palnet.com)

**French Cultural Centre**

Tel: 286 7883, Fax: 282 8811  
[ccfgaza@consulfrance-jerusalem.org](mailto:ccfgaza@consulfrance-jerusalem.org)

**Gaza Theatre**

Tel: 282 4860, Fax: 282 4870

**Global Production and Distribution**

Telefax: 288 4399, [art.global@yahoo.com](mailto:art.global@yahoo.com)

**Dialogpunkt Deutsch Gaza (Goethe-Institut)**

Tel: 282 0203, Fax: 282 1602

**Holst Cultural Centre**

Tel: 281 0476, Fax: 280 8896, [mrcrg@palnet.com](mailto:mrcrg@palnet.com)

**Theatre Day Productions**

Telefax: 283 6766, [tdpgaza@palnet.com](mailto:tdpgaza@palnet.com)

**Windows from Gaza For Contemporary Art**

Mob. 0599 781 227 - 0599 415 045, [info@artwfg.ps](mailto:info@artwfg.ps)

# Accommodation

## East Jerusalem (02)

- Addar Hotel** (30 suites; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 626 3111, Fax: 626 0791, [www.addar-hotel.com](http://www.addar-hotel.com)
- Alcazar Hotel** (38 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 628 1111; Fax: 628 7360  
[admin@jrscazar.com](mailto:admin@jrscazar.com), [www.jrscazar.com](http://www.jrscazar.com)
- Ambassador Hotel** (122 rooms; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 541 2222, Fax: 582 8202  
[reservation@jerusalemambassador.com](mailto:reservation@jerusalemambassador.com)  
[www.jerusalemambassador.com](http://www.jerusalemambassador.com)
- American Colony Hotel** (84 rooms; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 627 9777, Fax: 627 9779  
[reserv@amcol.co.il](mailto:reserv@amcol.co.il), [www.americancolony.com](http://www.americancolony.com)
- Austrian Hospice**  
Tel: 626 5800, Fax: 627 1472  
[office@austrianhospice.com](mailto:office@austrianhospice.com)  
[www.austrianhospice.com](http://www.austrianhospice.com)
- Azzahra Hotel** (15 rooms, res)  
Tel: 628 2447, Fax: 628 3960  
[azzahrahotel@shabaka.net](mailto:azzahrahotel@shabaka.net), [www.azzahrahotel.com](http://www.azzahrahotel.com)
- Capitol Hotel** (54 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 628 2561/2, Fax: 626 4352
- Christmas Hotel**  
Tel: 628 2588, Fax: 626 4417  
[christmashotel@bezeqint.net](mailto:christmashotel@bezeqint.net), [www.christmas-hotel.com](http://www.christmas-hotel.com)
- Commodore Hotel** (45 rooms; cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 627 1414, Fax: 628 4701
- Gloria Hotel** (94 rooms; mr; res)  
Tel: 628 2431, Fax: 628 2401, [gloriahl@netvision.net.il](mailto:gloriahl@netvision.net.il)
- Golden Walls Hotel** (112 rooms)  
Tel: 627 2416, Fax: 626 4658  
[info@goldenwalls.com](mailto:info@goldenwalls.com), [www.goldenwalls.com](http://www.goldenwalls.com)
- Holy Land Hotel** (105 rooms; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 627 2888, Fax: 628 0265  
[info@holylandhotel.com](mailto:info@holylandhotel.com), [www.holylandhotel.com](http://www.holylandhotel.com)
- Jerusalem Hotel** (14 rooms; bf, mr; res; live music)  
Tel: 628 3282, Fax: 628 3282  
[raed@jrshotel.com](mailto:raed@jrshotel.com), [www.jrshotel.com](http://www.jrshotel.com)
- Jerusalem Meridian Hotel**  
(74 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 628 5212, Fax: 628 5214  
[www.jerusalem-meridian.com](http://www.jerusalem-meridian.com)
- Jerusalem Panorama Hotel**  
(74 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 628 4887, Fax: 627 3699  
[panorama@alqudsnet.com](mailto:panorama@alqudsnet.com)  
[www.jerusalempanoramahotel.com](http://www.jerusalempanoramahotel.com)
- Hashimi Hotel**  
Tel: 628 4410, Fax: 628 4667, [info@hashimihotel.com](mailto:info@hashimihotel.com)
- Knights Palace Guesthouse** (50 rooms)  
Tel: 628 2537, Fax: 628 2401, [kp@actcom.co.il](mailto:kp@actcom.co.il)
- Legacy Hotel**  
Tel: 627 0800, Fax: 627 7739  
[rani@jerusalemlegacy.com](mailto:rani@jerusalemlegacy.com), [www.jerusalemlegacy.com](http://www.jerusalemlegacy.com)
- Metropol Hotel**  
Tel: 628 2507, Fax: 628 5134

- Mount of Olives Hotel** (61 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 628 4877, Fax: 626 4427  
[info@mtolives.com](mailto:info@mtolives.com), [www.mtolives.com](http://www.mtolives.com)
- Mount Scopus Hotel** (65 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 582 8891, Fax: 582 8825, [mtscopus@netvision.net.il](mailto:mtscopus@netvision.net.il)
- National Hotel** (99 rooms; bf, cr; res; cf)  
Tel: 627 8880, Fax: 627 7007  
[www.nationalhotel-jerusalem.com](http://www.nationalhotel-jerusalem.com)
- New Imperial Hotel** (45 rooms)  
Tel: 627 2000, Fax: 627 1530
- New Metropole Hotel** (25 rooms; mr; res)  
Tel: 628 3846, Fax: 627 7485
- New Regent Hotel** (24 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 628 4540, Fax: 626 4023, [atictour@palnet.com](mailto:atictour@palnet.com)
- New Swedish Hostel**  
Tel: 627 7855, Fax: 626 4124, [swedishhost@yahoo.com](mailto:swedishhost@yahoo.com)  
[www.geocities.com/swedishhostel](http://www.geocities.com/swedishhostel)
- Notre Dame Guesthouse** (142 rooms, Su, bf, mr, cr, res, ter, cf, pf)  
Tel: 627 9111, Fax: 627 1995  
[info@notredamecenter.org](mailto:info@notredamecenter.org), [www.notredamecenter.org](http://www.notredamecenter.org)
- Petra Hostel and Hotel**  
Tel: 628 6618
- Pilgrims Inn Hotel** (16 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 627 2416, [info@goldenwalls.com](mailto:info@goldenwalls.com)
- Ritz Hotel Jerusalem** (104 rooms, bf, mr)  
Tel: 626 9900, Fax: 626 9910  
[reservations@jerusalemritz.com](mailto:reservations@jerusalemritz.com)  
[www.jerusalemritz.com](http://www.jerusalemritz.com)
- Rivoli Hotel**  
Tel: 628 4871, Fax: 627 4879
- Savoy Hotel** (17 rooms)  
Tel: 628 3366, Fax: 628 8040
- Seven Arches Hotel** (197 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 626 7777, Fax: 627 1319, [svnarch@trendline.co.il](mailto:svnarch@trendline.co.il)
- St. Andrew's Scottish Guesthouse**  
"The Scottie" (19 rooms +Self Catering Apartment)  
Tel: 673 2401, Fax: 673 1711  
[standjer@netvision.net.il](mailto:standjer@netvision.net.il), [www.scotsguesthouse.com](http://www.scotsguesthouse.com)
- St. George Landmark Hotel**  
Tel: 627 7232 Fax: 627 7233  
[uraib.zalatimo@stgeorgelandmark.com](mailto:uraib.zalatimo@stgeorgelandmark.com)  
[www.stgeorgelandmark.com](http://www.stgeorgelandmark.com)
- St. George's Pilgrim Guest House**  
(25 rooms; bf; res)  
Tel: 628 3302, Fax: 628 2253, [sghostel@bezeqint.net](mailto:sghostel@bezeqint.net)
- St. Thomas Home**  
Tel: 628 2657, 627 4318, Fax: 626 4684  
[aset@aset-future.com](mailto:aset@aset-future.com), [www.aset-future.net](http://www.aset-future.net)
- Strand Hotel** (88 rooms; mr; res)  
Tel: 628 0279, Fax: 628 4826
- Victoria Hotel** (50 rooms; bf; res)  
Tel: 627 4466, Fax: 627 4171



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[raed@jrshotel.com](mailto:raed@jrshotel.com), [www.jrshotel.com](http://www.jrshotel.com)



## Bethlehem (02)

**Alexander Hotel** (42 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 277 0780, Fax: 277 0782

**Al-Salam Hotel** (26 rooms; 6f; mr; cf; res)  
Tel: 276 4083/4, Fax: 277 0551, samhotel@p-ol.com

**Angel Hotel** Beit Jala  
Tel: 276 6880, Fax: 276 6884  
info@angelhotel.ps, www.angelhotel.ps

**Beit Al-Baraka Youth Hostel** (19 rooms)  
Tel: 222 9288, Fax: 222 9288

**Beit Ibrahim Guesthouse**  
Tel: 274 2613, Fax: 274 4250  
reception@luthchurch.com  
www.abrahams-herberge.com

**Bethlehem Hotel** (209 rooms; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 277 0702, Fax: 277 0706, bhotel@p-ol.com

**Bethlehem Inn** (36 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 274 2424, Fax: 274 2423

**Bethlehem Star Hotel** (72 rooms; cf, bf, res)  
Tel: 274 3249 - 277 0285, Fax: 274 1494  
htstar@palnet.com

**Bethlehem youth hostel**  
Telefax: 274 84 66, http://www.ejepal.org

**Casanova Hospice** (60 rooms; mr; res)  
Tel: 274 3981, Fax: 274 3540

**Casanova Palace Hotel** (25 rooms; bf; res)  
Tel: 274 2798, Fax: 274 1562

**El-Beit Guest House** (beit sahour) (15 rooms)  
TeleFax: 277 5857, info@elbeit.org, www.elbeit.org

**Everest Hotel** (19 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 274 2604, Fax: 274 1278

**Grand Hotel** (107 rooms; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 274 1602 - 274 1440, Fax: 274 1604  
info@grandhotelbethlehem.com

**Golden Park Resort & Hotel** (Beit Sahour)  
(66 rooms; res, bar, pool)  
Tel: 277 4414

**House of Hope Guesthouse**  
Tel: 274 2325, Fax: 274 0928  
Guesthouse@houseofhopemd.org

**House of Peace Hostel**  
Tel: 276 4739, http://www.houseofpeace.hostel.com/

**Inter-Continental Hotel** (Jacir Palace)  
(250 rooms; su; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6770

**Lutheran Guesthouse "Abu Gubran"**  
Tel: 277 0047, Guesthouse@diyar.ps, www.diyar.ps

**Murad Tourist Resort**  
Tel: 2759880, Fax: 2759881, www.murad.ps

**Nativity Bells Hotel** (72 rooms; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 274 8880, Fax: 274 8870  
nativitybells@palnet.com, www.nativitybellshtel.ps

**Nativity Hotel** (89 rooms; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 277 0650, Fax: 274 4083  
nativity@nativity-hotel.com, www.nativity-hotel.com

**Olive Tree Hotel** (20 rooms; 6 su; res; sp; bar; wifi-lobby)  
Tel: 276 4660 Fax: 275 3807  
olivetreehotel@yahoo.com  
Facebook: olive tree tourist village

**Paradise Hotel** (166 rooms; cf, bf, mr; res; su; pf)  
Tel: 274 4542/3 - 274 4544, paradise@p-ol.com

**St. Antonio Hotel** (36 rooms; mr, cf, res; pf)  
Tel: 276 6221, Fax: 276 6220

**Santa Maria Hotel** (83 rooms; mr; res)  
Tel: 276 7374/5/6, Fax: 276 7377, smaria@p-ol.com

**Shepherd Hotel**  
Tel: 274 0656, Fax: 274 4888  
info@shepherdhotel.com, www.shepherdhotel.com

**Shepherds' House Hotel**  
(Facilities: Restaurant and Bar, WiFi)  
Tel: 275 9690, Fax: 275 9693

**St. Nicholas Hotel** (25 rooms; res; mr)  
Tel: 274 3040/1/2, Fax: 274 3043

**Saint Vincent Guest House** (36 rooms)  
Tel: 276 0967/8, Fax: 276 0970  
svincent@p-ol.com, www.saintvincentguesthouse.net

**Talita Kumi Guest House** (22 rooms; res; mr; cf)  
Tel: 274 1247, Fax: 274 1847

**Zaituna Tourist Village**  
Tel: 275 0655

## Jericho (02)

**Al-Zaytouna Guest House** (7 rooms; bf; res; mr)  
Telefax: 274 2016 Deir Hijleh Monastery  
Tel: 994 3038, 0505 348 892

**Hisham Palace Hotel**  
Tel: 232 2414, Fax: 232 3109

**Inter-Continental Jericho**  
(181 rooms; su; bf, cf, mr; res; ter; tb)  
Tel: 231 1200, Fax: 231 1222

**Jericho Resort Village**  
(60 rooms; 46 studios; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 232 1255, Fax: 232 2189  
reservation@jerichoresorts.com, www.jerichoresorts.com

**Jerusalem Hotel** (22 rooms)  
Tel: 232 2444, Fax: 992 3109

**Telepherique & Sultan Tourist Center**  
(55 rooms)  
Tel: 232 1590, Fax: 232 1598  
info@jericho-cablecar.com

## Hebron (02)

**Hebron Hotel**  
Tel: 225 4240 / 222 9385, Fax: 222 6760  
hebron\_hotel@hotmail.com

## Nablus (09)

**Al-Qaser Hotel** (48 rooms; 7 regular suites, 1 royal suite; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 2341 444, Fax: 2341 944  
alqaser@alqaserhotel.com, www.alqaserhotel.com

**Al-Yasmeen Hotel & Souq**  
(30 rooms; cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 233 3555 Fax: 233 3666  
yasmeen@palnet.com, www.alyasmeen.com

**Asia Hotel** (28 rooms, res)  
Telefax: 238 6220

**Chrystal Motel** (12 rooms)  
Telefax: 233 3281

**International Friends Guesthouse (Hostel)**  
(mr; res; ter; cf, pf)  
Telfax: 238 1064  
ifriends.house@gmail.com, www.guesthouse.ps

## Ramallah and Al-Bireh (02)

**Al-A'in Hotel** (24 rooms and suites; mr; cf)  
Tel: 240 5925 - 240 4353 Fax: 240 4332  
alainhotel@hotmail.com

**Aladdin Hotel**  
Tel: 240 7689, 240 7921, Fax: 240 7687  
aladdinhotel1@gmail.com

**Al-Bireh Tourist Hotel** (50 rooms; cf; res)  
Telefax: 240 0803

**Al-Hajal Hotel** (22 rooms; bf)  
Telefax: 298 7858

**Al Hambra Palace** (Hotel Suites and Resort)  
Tel: 295 6226 - 295 0031, Fax: 295 0032  
www.alhambra-palace-hotel.com  
alhambrapalace1@gmail.com

**AlZahra Suites**  
Tel: 242 3019  
alzahrasuites@yahoo.com, www.alzahrasuites.ps

**Reef Pension** (Jifna village) (8 rooms; res)  
Telefax: 2810881, www.reefhousepension.ps

**Al-Windhah Hotel**  
Telefax: 298 0412

**Ankars Suites and Hotel** (30 suites)  
Tel: 295 2602, Fax: 295 2603  
info@ankarssuiteshotel.ps

**Beauty Inn**  
Tel: 296 6477, Fax: 296 6479  
beauty.inn@hotmail.com, www.beautyinn.ps

**Best Eastern Hotel** (91 rooms; cf; res)  
Tel: 296 0450, Fax: 295 8452, besteastern@jrol.com

**Caesar Hotel** (46 rooms & su, 2 mr, cr, res, cf)  
Tel: 297 9400, Fax: 297 9401  
reservation@caesar-hotel.ps, www.caesar-hotel.ps

**City Inn Palace Hotel** (47 rooms; bf; cf; res)  
Tel: 240 8080, Fax: 240 8091  
cityinnpalace@gmail.com, www.cityinnpalace.com

**Grand Park Hotel & Resorts**  
(84 rooms; 12 grand suites; bf, cf, mr; res; sp; pf)  
Tel: 298 6194, Fax: 295 6950, info@grandpark.com

**Gemzo Suites**  
(90 executive suites; cs; mr; pf; gm; res)  
Tel: 240 9729, Fax: 240 9532  
gemzo@palnet.com, www.gemzosuites.net

**Manarah Hotel**  
Tel: 295 2122, Telefax: 295 3274  
manarah@hotmail.com, www.manarahhotel.com.ps

**Merryland Hotel** (25 rooms)  
Tel: 298 7176, Telefax: 298 7074

**Mövenpick Hotel Ramallah** (171 rooms and Su;  
bf, mr; cr; res; ter; cf, gm; pf; sp)  
Tel: 298 5888, Fax: 298 533  
hotel.ramallah@moevenpick.com  
hotel.ramallah.reservation@moevenpick.com  
www.moevenpick-ramallah.com

**Rocky Hotel** (22 rooms; cf; res; ter)  
Tel: 296 4470, Telefax: 296 1871

**Pension Imani** (12 rooms)  
Telefax: 295 6808

**Ramallah Hotel** (22 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 295 3544, Fax: 295 5029

**Retno Hotel** (33 rooms & su; res; mr; gm; sp)  
Telefax: 295 0022, Retno@retnohotel.com  
www.retnohotel.com

**Royal Court Suite Hotel** (34 suites; res; mr; ter;  
cf; pf; i)  
Tel: 296 4040, Fax: 296 4047

**Star Mountain Guesthouse** (10 rooms; wifi; pf)  
Tel: 296 2705, Telefax: 296 2715  
starmountaincenter@gmail.com

## Gaza Strip (08)

**Adam Hotel** (76 rooms; bf; cf, mr; res)  
Telefax: 282 3521/19, Fax: 282 5580

**Al-Deira** (11 Suits; cf, mr; res; ter)  
Tel: 283 8100/200/300, Fax: 283 8400  
info@aldeira.ps, www.aldeira.ps

**Al Mashtal Hotel**  
Tel: 283 2500, Fax: 283 2510  
mashtal@arcmedhotels.com  
www.almashtalarcmehotels.com

**Almat'haf Hotel**  
Tel: 285 8444, Fax: 285 8440  
info@almathaf.ps, www.almathaf.ps

**Al-Quds International Hotel**  
(44 rooms; 2 suites; bf, mr; res)  
Telefax: 282 5181, 282 6223, 286 3481, 282 2269

**Beach Hotel** (25 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Telefax: 282 5492, 284 8433

**Commodore Gaza Hotel** (60 rooms; su; bf)  
Tel: 283 4400, Fax: 282 2623

**Gaza International Hotel**  
(30 rooms; bf, cf; res)  
Tel: 283 0001/2/3/4, Fax: 283 0005

**Grand Palace Hotel**  
(20 rooms; cr; mr; cf; res)  
Tel: 284 9498/6468, Fax: 284 9497

**Marna House** (17 rooms; bf, mr; res)  
Tel: 282 2624, Fax: 282 3322

**Palestine Hotel** (54 rooms; bf, cf, mr; res)  
Tel: 282 3355, Fax: 286 0056

## Jenin (04)

**Cinema Jenin Guesthouse** (7 rooms; 2 su)  
Tel: 250 2455, Mob: 0599 317 968  
guesthouse@cinemajenin.org, www.cinemajenin.org

**Haddad Hotel & Resort**  
Tel: 241 7010/1/2, Fax: 241 7013  
haddadbooking@gmail.com  
www.haddadtourismvillage.com

**North Gate Hotel**  
Tel: 243 5700, Fax: 243 5701  
info@northgate-hotel.com, www.northgate-hotel.com

Key: su = suites, bf = business facilities; mr = meeting rooms, cr = conference facilities; res = restaurant, ter = terrace bar; tb = turkish bath, cf = coffee shop; gm = gym; pf = parking facilities, sp = swimming pool

# Restaurants

## East Jerusalem (02)

**Al-Diwan** (Ambassador Hotel)  
Middle Eastern, French, and Italian  
Cuisine  
Tel: 541 2213, Fax: 582 8202

**Alhambra Palace Jerusalem  
Restaurant & coffee shop**  
Conferences workshops and social  
activities, Theatre and Cinema  
Tel: 626 3535, Fax: 6263737  
info@alhambrapalacej.com

**Al-Shuleh Grill**  
Shawerma and Barbecues  
Tel: 627 3768

**Amigo Emil**  
Middle Eastern, American, Indian,  
and Italian Cuisine  
Tel: 628 8090, Fax: 626 1457

**Antonio's** (Ambassador Hotel)  
Middle Eastern, French, and Italian  
Cuisine  
Tel: 541 2213

**Arabesque, Poolside, and  
Patio Restaurants** (American  
Colony Hotel)  
Western and Middle Eastern Menu  
Tel: 627 9777, Fax: 627 9779

**Armenian Tavern**  
Armenian and Middle Eastern Food  
Tel: 627 3854

**Askidinaya**  
Italian and French Cuisine  
Tel: 532 4590

**Az-Zahra**  
Oriental food and Pizza  
Tel: 628 2447

**Borderline Restaurant Café**  
Italian and Oriental Menu  
Tel: 532 8342

**Burghoulji**  
Armenian and Middle Eastern  
Tel: 628 2072, Fax: 628 2080

**Cardo Restaurant**  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 627 0827

**Chinese Restaurant**  
Chinese Cuisine  
Tel: 626 3465, Fax: 626 3471

**Coffee Bean Café**  
Sandwiches and Sushi  
Tel: 627 0820

**Educational Bookshop  
Books and Coffee**  
Books and Coffee  
Tel: 627 5858

**El Dorada Coffee Shop and  
Internet Café**  
Chocolates, Coffee, and Internet  
Tel: 626 0993

**Flavours Grill**  
International Cuisine with  
Mediterranean Flavour  
Tel: 627 4626

## Four Seasons Restaurants and Coffee Shop

Barbecues and Shawerma  
Tel: 628 6061, Fax: 628 6097

**Garden's Restaurant**  
Tel: 581 6463

**Goodies**  
Fast Food  
Tel: 585 3223

**Kan Zaman** (Jerusalem Hotel)  
Mediterranean Cuisine  
Tel: 627 1356

**Lotus and Olive Garden**  
(Jerusalem Meridian Hotel)  
Middle Eastern and Continental  
Cuisine  
Tel: 628 5212

**Nafoura**  
Middle Eastern Menu  
Tel: 626 0034

**Nakashian Gallery Café**  
Tel: 627 8077

**La Rotisserie** (Notre Dame  
Hotel)  
Gourmet Restaurant, European  
and Mediterranean Menu  
Tel: 627 9114, Fax: 627 1995

**Dina Café**  
Coffee and Pastry  
Tel: 626 3344

**Panoramic Golden City**  
Barbecues  
Tel: 628 4433, Fax: 627 5224

**Pasha's**  
Oriental Food  
Tel: 582 5162, 532 8342

**Patisserie Suisse**  
Fast Food and Breakfast  
Tel: 628 4377

**Petra Restaurant**  
Oriental Cuisine  
Tel: 627 7799

**Pizza House**  
Pizza and Oriental Pastry  
Tel: 627 3970, 628 8135

**RIO Grill and Subs**  
Italian and French Cuisine  
Tel: 583 5460

**Rossini's Restaurant Bar**  
French and Italian Cuisine  
Tel: 628 2964

**Philadelphia Restaurant**  
Mediterranean Menu  
Tel: 532 2626, Fax: 532 2636

**Shalizar Restaurant**  
Middle Eastern, Mexican, and  
Italian Cuisine  
Tel: 582 9061

**The Gate Café**  
Fresh Juices, Coffee, and Tea  
Tel: 627 4282

## The Scots Bistro

Coffee and Pastry  
Tel: 673 2401, Fax: 673 1711

**The Patio** (Christmas Hotel)  
Oriental and European Menu  
Tel: 628 2588, 626 4418

**Turquoise Lebanese  
Restaurant**  
Tel: 627 7232, Fax: 627 7233

**Versavee Bistro** (Bar and Café)  
Oriental and Western Food  
Tel: 627 6160

**Zad Rest. & Café**  
Tel: 627 7454, 627 2525

## Bethlehem (02)

**1890 Restaurant** (Beit-Jala)  
Tel: 277 8779  
restaurant.1890@gmail.com

**Abu Eli Restaurant**  
Middle Eastern and Barbecues  
Tel: 274 1897

**Abu Shanab Restaurant**  
Barbecues  
Tel: 274 2985

**Afteem Restaurant**  
Oriental Cuisine  
Tel: 274 7940

**Al-Areeshah Palace** (Jacir  
Palace – InterContinental  
Bethlehem)  
Middle Eastern and Barbecues  
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6154

**Al-Hakura Restaurant**  
Middle Eastern and Fast Food  
Tel: 277 3335

**Al- Khaymeh** (Jacir Palace –  
InterContinental Bethlehem)  
Middle Eastern and Barbecues  
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6154

**Al Makan Bar** (Jacir Palace –  
InterContinental Bethlehem)  
Snack Bar  
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6770

**Balloons**  
Coffee Shop and Pizza  
Tel: 275 0221, Fax: 277 7115

**Beit Sahour Citadel**  
Mediterranean Cuisine  
Tel: 277 7771

**Bonjour Restaurant and Café**  
Coffee Shop and Continental  
Cuisine  
Tel: 274 0406

**Dar al-Balad**  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 274 9073

**Grotto Restaurant**  
Barbecues and Taboon  
Tel: 274 8844, Fax: 274 8889

**Golden Roof**  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 274 3224



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**King Gaspar Restaurant & Bar** (Italian, Asian and Mediterranean Cuisine)  
Tel: 276 5301, Fax: 276 5302

**Il'iliyeh Restaurant**  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 277 0047

**La Terrasse**  
Middle Eastern and Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 275 3678

**Limoncello** (Beit Jala)  
Tel: 275 8844, Fax: 275 8833

**Loyal Lounge**  
Snack Bar  
Tel: 275 0655

**Mariachi** (Grand Hotel)  
Seafood and Mexican Cuisine  
Tel: 274 1440, 274 1602/3  
Fax: 274 1604

**Palmeras Gastropub**  
Continental Cuisine  
Telefax: 275 6622

**Peace Restaurant & Bar**  
Pasta, Seafood, Steaks & Middle Eastern  
Tel: 0595 187 622

**Riwaq Courtyard** (Jacir Palace – InterContinental Bethlehem)  
Coffee Shop and Sandwiches  
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6754

**Roots Lounge** (Beit Sahour)  
Tel: 0598 333 665

**The Tent Restaurant** (Shepherds' Valley Village)  
Barbecues  
Tel: 277 3875, Fax: 277 3876

**Sima café**  
Tel: 275 2058

**St. George Restaurant**  
Oriental Cuisine and Barbecues  
Tel: 274 3780, Fax: 274 1833  
st.george\_restaurant@yahoo.com

**Tachi Chinese**  
Chinese Cuisine  
Tel: 274 4382

**Taboo – Restaurant and Bar**  
Oriental and Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 274 0711, Mob: 0599 205 158

**The Square Restaurant and Coffee Shop**  
Mediterranean Cuisine  
Tel: 274 9844

**Zaitouneh** (Jacir Palace – InterContinental Bethlehem)  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6154

## Jericho (02)

**Al-Nafoura Restaurant** (Jericho Resort Village)  
Arabic Cuisine and Barbecues  
Tel: 232 1255, Fax: 232 2189

**Al-Rawda**  
Barbecues  
Telefax: 232 2555

**Green Valley Park**  
Oriental Cuisine and Barbecues  
Tel: 232 2349

**Jabal Quruntul**  
Continental Cuisine (Open Buffet)  
Tel: 232 2614, Fax: 232 2659

**Seven Trees**  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 232 2781

## Nablus (09)

**Salim Afandi**  
Barbecues and Oriental Cuisine  
Tel: 237 1332

**Qasr al-Jabi restaurant**  
Tel: 238 4180

**Zeit Ou Zaater** (Al-Yasmeen Hotel)  
Continental Cuisine and Pastries  
Tel: 238 3164, Fax: 233 3666

## Ramallah and Al-Bireh (02)

**911 Café**  
Mexican, Italian, Oriental  
Tel: 296 5911

**Andareen Pub**  
Mob: 0599 258 435

**Al Falaha**  
Msakhan and Taboun  
Tel: 290 5124

**Akasha**  
Oriental  
Tel: 295 9333

**Allegro Italian Restaurant**  
Mövenpick Hotel Ramallah  
Italian fine cuisine  
Tel: 298 5888

**Al-Riwaq All-day-dining restaurant**  
Mövenpick Hotel Ramallah  
International, Swiss and Oriental cuisine  
Tel: 298 5888

**Atlantic Sea Food**  
Sea Food and Oriental  
Tel: 296 9696

**Awjan**  
Seafood, Breakfast, and Pizza, Coffee Shop, Lebanese and Italian Cuisine  
Tel: 297 1776

**Andre's Restaurant**  
French and Italian Cuisine  
Tel: 296 6477/8

**Angelo's**  
Western Menu and Pizza  
Tel: 295 6408, 298 1455

**Azure Restaurant and Coffee Shop**  
Continental Cuisine  
Telefax: 295 7850

**Baladna Ice Cream**  
Ice Cream and Soft Drinks  
Telefax: 295 6721

**Bamboo Chinese Restaurant**  
Tel: 297 6667

**Birth Café**  
Barbecues and Fast Food  
Tel: 297 6614

**Caesar's** (Grand Park Hotel)  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 298 6194

**Café De La Paix**  
French Cuisine  
Tel: 298 0880

**Castello Restaurant & Café**  
Oriental  
Tel: 297 3844/55

**Chinese House Restaurant**  
Chinese Cuisine  
Tel: 296 4081

**Crispy**  
Fried Chicken and Hamburgers  
Tel: 295 6661

**Dauod Basha**  
Tel: 297 4655

**Darna**  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 295 0590/1

**Diwan Art Coffee Shop**  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 296 6483

**Do Re Mi Café** (Royal Court)  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 296 4040

**Elite Coffee House**  
Italian and Arabic Cuisine  
Tel: 296 5169

**European Coffee Shop**  
Coffee and Sweets  
Tel: 2951 7031, 296 6505

**Express Pizza**  
American Pizza  
Tel: 296 6566

**Fawanees**  
Pastries and Fast Food  
Tel: 298 7046

**Hoash Il'iliyeh Restaurant and Gallery**  
Traditional Palestinian Cuisine (Birzeit)  
Mob: 0599 868 914

**Jasmine Café**  
Tel: 295 0121

**K5M - Caterers**  
Cake and Sweets  
Tel: 295 6813

**Khuzama Restaurant**  
Oriental Cuisine  
Tel: 298 8289

**Karaz Restaurant**  
French and Italian dishes  
Tel: 297 3451

**La Vie Café**  
Cafe, Bistro & Bar  
Tel: 296 4115

**La Vista Café and Restaurant**  
Oriental and Western Cuisine  
Tel: 296 3271

**Cann Espresso**  
Arabic and Italian Cuisine  
Tel: 297 2125

**Mac Simon**  
Pizza and Fast Food  
Tel: 297 2088

**Mr. Donuts Café**  
Donuts and Coffee Shop  
Tel: 240 7196

**Mr. Fish**  
Seafood  
Tel: 295 9555

**Mr. Pizza**  
Pizza and Fast Food  
Tel: 240 3016, 240 8182

**Muntaza Restaurant and Garden**  
Barbecues and Sandwiches  
Tel: 295 6835

**Na3Na3 Café**  
Italian and Oriental Cuisine  
Tel: 296 4606

**Newz Bar**  
Lounge and "Le Gourmet" pastries' corner  
Mövenpick Hotel Ramallah  
Tel: 298 5888

**Osama's Pizza**  
Pizza and Fast Food  
Tel: 295 3270

**Orjuwan Lounge**  
Palestinian-Italian Fusion  
Tel: 297 6870

**Palms Lounge**  
Resto/Bar  
Tel: 298 5376

**Pesto Café and Restaurant**  
Italian Cuisine  
Tel: 297 0705, 297 0706

**Pizza Inn**  
Pizza and Fast Food  
Tel: 298 1181/2/3

**Philadelphia Restaurant**  
Middle Eastern Menu  
Tel: 295 1999

**Plaza Jdoudna Restaurant and Park**  
Middle Eastern Menu  
Tel: 295 6020, Fax: 296 4693

**Pronto Resto-Café**  
Italian Cuisine  
Tel: 298 7312

**QMH**  
Tel: 297 34511

**Roma Café**  
Italian Light Food  
Tel: 296 4228

**Rukab's Ice Cream**  
Ice Cream and Soft Drinks  
Tel: 295 3467

**Saba Sandwiches**  
Falafel and Sandwiches  
Tel: 296 0116

**Samer**  
Middle Eastern Food  
Tel: 240 5338 - 240 3088

**Sangria's**  
French, Italian, and Mexican Cuisine  
Tel: 295 6808

**Shukeireh Restaurant**  
Middle Eastern and Western Cuisine

**Sinatra Cafe and Cheese Cake**  
Italian and American Cuisine  
Tel: 297 1028

**Sky Bar** (Ankars Suites and Hotel)  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 295 2602

**Sparkles Bar**  
Cigar bar  
Mövenpick Hotel Ramallah  
Tel: 298 5888

**Stones**  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 296 6038

**Tabash** (Jifna Village)  
Barbecues  
Tel: 281 0932

**Tal El-Qamar Roof**  
Middle Eastern and Western Menu  
Tel: 298 7905/ 6

**TCHE TCHE**  
Tel: 296 4201

**The Vine Restaurant**  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 295 7727

**THE Q GARDEN**  
Roof-top garden - International Cuisine  
Tel: 295 7727

**Tomasso's**  
Pizza and Fast Food  
Tel: 240 9991/ 2

**Tropicana**  
Mexican Cuisine, Oriental Menu, and Zarb  
Tel: 297 5661

**UpTown** (Ankars Suites and Hotel)  
Continental Cuisine  
Tel: 295 2602

**Values Restaurant**  
International and Sea Food  
Tel: 296 6997

**Vatche's Garden Restaurant**  
European Style  
Tel: 296 5966, 296 5988

**Zam'n Premium Coffee**  
Coffee Shop Style  
Tel: 295 0600

**Zaki Taki**  
Sandwiches  
Tel: 296 3643

**Zam'n Premium Coffee**  
Masyoum  
Coffee Shop Style  
Tel: 298 1033

**Zarour Bar BQ**  
Barbecues and Oriental Cuisine  
Tel: 295 6767, 296 4480  
Fax: 296 4357

**Zeit ou Zaater**  
Pastries and Snacks  
Tel: 295 4455

**Ziryab**  
Barbecues, Italian, and Oriental Cuisine  
Tel: 295 9093

## Gaza Strip (08)

**Al Daar**  
Barbecues  
Tel: 288 5827

**Al-Deira**  
Mediterranean Cuisine  
Tel: 283 8100/200/300  
Fax: 2838400

**Almat'haf**  
Mediterranean Cuisine  
Tel: 285 8444, Fax: 285 8440

**Al-Molouke**  
Shawerma  
Tel: 286 8397

**Al-Salam**  
Seafood  
Tel: 282 2705, Telefax: 283 3188

**Avenue**  
Tel: 288 2100, 288 3100

**Big Bite**  
Fastfood  
Tel: 283 3666

**Carino's**  
Tel: 286 6343, Fax: 286 6353

**LATERNA**  
Tel: 288 9881, Fax: 288 9882

**Light House**  
Tel: 288 4884

**Marna House**  
Telefax: 282 3322, 282 2624

**Mazaj Coffee House**  
Tel: 286 8035

**Mazaj Restaurant**  
Tel: 282 5003, Fax: 286 9078

**Orient House**  
Telefax: 282 8008, 282 8604

**Roots - The Club**  
Oriental Cuisine  
Tel: 288 8666, 282 3999, 282 3777

## Hebron (02)

**Abu Mazen Restaurant**  
Tel: 221 3833, Fax: 229 3111

**Al Quds Restaurant**  
Tel: 229 7773, Fax: 229 7774

**Golden Rooster**  
Telefax: 221 6115

**Hebron Restaurant**  
Telefax: 222 7773

**Orient House Restaurant**  
Telefax: 221 1525

**Royal Restaurant**  
Tel: 222 7210

## Museums

**East Jerusalem (02)** **Armenian Museum**, Old City, Tel: 628 2331, Fax: 626 4861, *Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. from 9:00 - 16:30* • **Dar At Tifi Museum (Dar At Tifi Association)**, Near the Orient House, Tel: 628 3251, Fax: 627 3477 • **Islamic Museum (The Islamic Waqf Association)**, Old City, Tel: 628 3313, Fax: 628 5561, *opening hours for tourists: daily from 7:30 - 13:30* • **Math Museum, Science Museum, Abu Jihad Museum for the Palestinian Prisoners Studies - Al-Quds University**, Tel: 279 9753 - 279 0606, foryou@alquds.edu, *opening hours Saturday - Wednesday 8:30 - 15:00* • **Qalandia Camp Women's Handicraft Coop.**, Telefax: 656 9385, Fax: 585 6966, qalandia@palnet.com • **WUJOURD Museum**, Tel: 626 0916, Fax: 0272625, info@wujoud.org, www.wujoud.org

**Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02)** **Museum of Palestinian Popular Heritage - In'ash el Usra**, In'ash el Usra society, Al-Bireh, Tel: 240 2876, Fax: 240 1544, *Opening hours: daily from 8:00 - 15:00 except Fridays* • **Ramallah Museum**, Al-Harajeh St., Across from Arab Bank, Old Town, Ramallah, Telefax: 295 9561, *open daily from 8:00 - 15:00 except Friday and Saturday* • **The Birzeit University Ethnographic and Art Museum**, Tel: 298 2976, vtaman@birzeit.edu, *Opening hours: daily from 10:00 - 15:00 except for Fridays and Sundays*

**Bethlehem (02)** **Al-Balad Museum for Olive Oil Production**, Tel: 274 1581, *Opening hours: 8:00-14:30 Monday through Saturday* • **Baituna al Talhami Museum, (Folklore Museum) Arab Women's Union**, Tel: 274 2589, Fax: 274 2431, *Opening hours: daily from 8:00 - 13:00/ 14:00 - 17:00 except for Sundays and Thursdays afternoon* • **Bethlehem Peace Center Museum**, Tel: 276 6677, Fax: 274 1057, info@peacecenter.org, www.peacecenter.org, *Opening hours: daily from 10:00-18:00 except Sundays from 10:00 - 16:00* • **International Nativity Museum**, Telefax: 276 0076, nativitymuseum@salesianbethlehem.com, www.internationalnativitymuseum.com • **Natural History Museum**, Telefax: 02-276 5574, eec@p-ol.com, www.eecp.org • **Palestinian Ethnographic Museum**, Tel: 276 7467, Fax: 276 0533, artas\_fc@yahoo.com, *Opening hours: daily from 9:00 - 17:00* • **Palestinian Heritage Center**, Telefax: 274 2381, mahasaca@palestinianheritagecenter.com, www.palestinianheritagecenter.com

**Gaza (08)** **Al Mathaf**, Tel: 285 8444, info@almathaf.ps, www.almathaf.ps

## Transportation

**East Jerusalem (02)** **Car Rental** • **Car & Drive**, Tel: 656 5562/3 • **Dallah Al-Barakah**, Tel: 656 4150 • **Good Luck**, Tel: 627 7033, Fax: 627 7688 • **Green Peace Rent A Car Ltd.**, Telefax: 585 9756 • **Jerusalem Car Rental & Leasing Ltd.**, Tel: 582 2179, Fax: 582 2173 • **Orabi**, Tel: 585 3101 • **Middle East Car Rental**, Tel: 626 2777, Fax: 626 2203, mearrental@gmail.com • **Taxis** **Abdo**, Tel: 585 8202 (Beit Hanina), Tel: 628 3281 (Damascus Gate) • **Al-Eman Taxi & Lemo Service**, Tel: 583 4599 - 583 5877 • **Al-Rashid**, Tel: 628 2220 • **Al-Aqsa**, Tel: 627 3003 • **Beit Hanina**, Tel: 585 5777 • **Holy Land**, Tel: 585 5555 • **Imperial**, Tel: 628 2504 • **Jaber - Petra**, Tel: 583 7275 - 583 7276 • **Khaled Al-Tahan**, Tel: 585 5777 • **Mount of Olives**, Tel: 627 2777 • **Panorama**, Tel: 628 1116 • **Tourist Transportation Abdo Tourist**, Tel: 628 1866 • **Jerusalem of Gold**, Tel: 673 7025/6 • **Kawasmi Tourist Travel Ltd.**, Tel: 628 4769, Fax: 628 4710 • **Mount of Olives**, Tel: 627 1122 • **Mahfouz Tourist Travel**, Tel: 628 2212, Fax: 628 4015 •

**Bethlehem (02)** **Car Rental** **Murad**, Tel: 274 7092 • **Nativity Rent a Car**, Tel: 274 3532, Fax: 274 7053 **Taxis** **Asha'b**, Tel: 274 2309 • **Beit Jala**, Tel: 274 2629 • **Al Fararjeh Taxi - 24 Hours**, Tel: 275 2416

**Hebron (02)** **Car Rental** **Holy Land**, Tel: 222 0811 • **Taxis** **Al-Asdiqa'**, Tel: 222 9436 • **Al-Itihad**, Tel: 222 8750

**Jericho (02)** **Taxis** **Petra**, Tel: 232 2525

**Nablus (09)** **Car Rental** **Orabi**, Tel: 238 3383 • **Taxis** **Al-Ittimad**, Tel: 237 1439 • **Al-Madina**, Tel: 237 3501

**Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02)** **Car Rental** **Good Luck**, Tel: 234 2160 • **Orabi**, Tel: 240 3521 • **Petra**, Tel: 295 2602 • **TWINS**, Tel: 296 4688 • **Taxis** **Al-Bireh**, Tel: 240 2956 • **Al-Masyoun Taxi**, Tel: 295 2230 • **Al-Salam**, Tel: 295 5805 • **Al-Wafa**, Tel: 295 5444 • **Al-Itihad**, Tel: 295 5887 • **Hinnawi Taxi**, Tel: 295 6302 • **Omayya**, Tel: 295 6120 • **SAHARA Rent a Car Co.**, Tel: 297 5317/8 • **Shamma' Taxi Co.**, Tel: 296 0957

**Gaza Strip (08)** **Car Rental** **Al-Ahli**, Tel: 282 8534 • **Al-Farouq**, Tel: 284 2755 • **Imad**, Tel: 286 4000 • **Luzun**, Tel: 282 2628 • **Taxis** **Al-Nasser**, Tel: 286 1844, 286 7845 • **Al-Wafa**, Tel: 284 9144 - 282 4465 • **Azhar**, Tel: 286 8858 • **Midan Filastin**, Tel: 286 5242

## Travel Agencies

**East Jerusalem (02)** **4M Travel Agency**, Tel: 627 1414, Fax: 628 4701, info@4m-travel.com, www.4m-travel.com • **Abdo Tourist & Travel**, Tel: 628 1865, Fax: 627 2973, abdotours@hotmail.com • **Aeolus Tours**, Tel: 0505 635 5496, Fax: 656 5823, aeolus@aeolus-ld.com • **Albina Tours Ltd.**, Tel: 628 3397, Fax: 628 1215, albina@netvision.net.il; info@albinatours.com, www.albinatours.com • **Alliance Travel Solutions**, Tel: 581 7102, Fax: 581 7103, info@alliancetravel-jrs.com, www.alliancetravel-jrs.com • **Arab Tourist Agency (ATA)**, Tel: 627 7442, Fax: 628 4366, george@atajrs.com • **Atic Tours & Travel Ltd.**, Tel: 628 6159, Fax: 626 4023, info@atictours.com, www.atictours.com • **Awad & Co. Tourist Agency**, Tel: 628 4021, Fax: 628 7990, admin@awad-tours.com, www.awad-tours.com • **Aweidah Bros. Co.**, Tel: 6282365, towertours@alqudsnet.com • **B. Peace Tours & Travel**, Tel: 626 1876, Fax: 626 2065, b.peacetours@bezeqint.net • **Bible Land Tours**, Tel: 627 1169, Fax: 627 2218, links@palnet.com • **Blessed Land Tours**, Tel: 628 6592, Fax: 628 5812, blt@blessedlandtours.com, www.blessedlandtours.com • **Carawan Tours and Travel**, Tel: 628 1244, Fax: 628 1406, carawan@jrol.com, www.carawan-tours.com • **Daher Travel**, Tel: 628 3235, Fax: 627 1574, dahert@netvision.net.il, www.dahertravel.com • **Dajani Palestine Tours**, Tel: 626 4768, Fax: 627 6927, dajani@netvision.net.il • **Dakkak Tours Agency**, Tel: 628 2525, Fax: 628 2526, dakkak@netmedia.net.il • **Destination Middle East**, info@destination-middle-east.com • **Dynamic Links Travel and Tourism Bureau**, Tel: 628 4724, Fax: 628 4714, dynamic.links@dynamic-links.net • **George Garabedian Co.**, Tel: 628 3398, Fax: 628 7896, ggc@ggc-jer.com • **GEMM Travel**, Tel: 628 2535/6, sales@gemtravel.com • **Guiding Star Ltd.**, Tel: 627 3150, Fax: 627 3147, mark@guidingstar2.com, www.guidingstar2.com • **Holy Jerusalem Tours & Travel**, Tel: 540 1668, Fax: 540 0963, info@holyjerusalem-tours.com, www.holyjerusalem-tours.com • **Holy Land Tours**, Tel: 532 3232, Fax: 532 3292, info@holylandtours.biz • **Jata Travel Ltd.**, Tel: 627 5001, Fax: 627 5003, jatatraveltd@hotmail.com • **Jiro Tours**, Tel: 627 3766, Fax: 628 1020, jiro@netvision.net.il, www.jirotours.com • **Jordan Travel Agency**, Tel: 628 4052, Fax: 628 7621 • **Jerusalem Orient Tourist Travel**, Tel: 628 8722, Fax: 627 4589, hamdi@jottweb.com • **JT & T**, Tel: 628 9418, 628 9422, Fax: 628 9298, jtt@bezeqint.net.il, www.jttours.com • **KIM's Tourist & Travel Agency**, Tel: 627 9725, Fax: 627 4626, kim@shabaka.net, www.kimstours.com • **Lawrence Tours & Travel**, Tel: 628 4867, Fax: 627 1285, info@lawrence-tours.com • **Lions Gate Travel & Tours**, Tel: 627 7829, Fax: 627 7830, Mobile: 0523 855 312, info@lionsgate-travel.com • **Lourdes Tourist & Travel Agency**, Tel: 627 5332, Telefax: 627 5336, lourdestravel@bezeqint.net • **Mt. of Olives Tours Ltd.**, Tel: 627 1122, Fax: 628 5551 moot@netvision.net.il, www.olivetours.com • **Nawas Tourist Agency Ltd.**, Tel: 628 2491, Fax: 628 5755 • **Nazarene Tours and Travel**, Tel: 627 4636, Fax: 627 7526 • **Near East Tourist Agency (NET)**, Tel: 532 8706, Fax: 532 8701, Jerusalem@netours.com, www.netours.com • **O.S. Hotel Services**, Tel: 628 9260, Fax: 626 4979, os@os-tours.com • **Overseas Travel Bureau**, Tel: 628 7090, Fax: 628 4442, otb@netvision.net.il • **Priority Travel and Tours LTD.**, Tel: 627 4207, Fax: 627 4107 • **Safieh Tours & Travel Agency**, Tel: 626 4447, Fax: 628 4430, safiehtours@bezeqint.net • **Samara Tourist & Travel Agency**, Tel: 627 6133, Fax: 627 1956, info@samaratours.com • **Shepherd's Tours & Travel**, Tel: 6284121- 6287859, Fax: 6280251, info@shepherdstours.com, www.shepherdstours.com • **Shweiki Tours Ltd.**, Tel: 673 6711, Fax: 673 6966 • **Sindbad Travel Tourist Agency**, Tel: 627 2165, Fax: 627 2169, sindbad1@bezeqint.net, www.Sindbad-Travel.com • **Swift Travel**, Tel: 628 0704, Fax: 627 2783, swifttours@hotmail.com • **Terra Sancta Tourist Co**, Tel: 628 4733, Fax: 626 4472 • **Tower Tours & Travel Ltd.**, Tel: 628 2365, Fax: 628 2366, towertours@alqudsnet.com, www.tower-tours.com • **Tony Tours Ltd.**, Tel: 244 2050, Fax: 244 2052, ihab64@012.net.il • **United Travel Ltd.**, Tel: 583 3614, Fax: 583 6190, unidas@bezeqint.net, www.unitedtravelltd.com • **Universal Tourist Agency**, Tel: 628 4383, Fax: 626 4448, uta-j@zahav.net.il, www.universal-jer.com • **William Tours & Travel Agency**, Tel: 623 1617, Fax: 624 1126, wiltours\_n@hotmail.com • **Yanis Tours & Travel**, Telefax: 627 5862, hai\_mou@yahoo.com • **Zatarah Tourist & Travel Agency**, Tel: 627 2725, Fax: 628 9873, info@zaatarahtravel.com

**Bethlehem (02)** **Angels Tours and Travel**, Tel: 277 5813, Fax: 277 5814, angels@p-ol.com, www.angelstours.com.ps • **Arab Agency Travel & Tourism**, Tel: 274 1872, Fax: 274 2431, tourism@aca-palestine.com, www.aca-palestine.com • **Bethlehem Star Travel**, Telefax: 277 0441, info@bst.ps, www.bst.ps • **Crown Tours & Travel Co. Ltd.**, Tel: 274 0911, Fax: 274 0910, info@crown-tours.com, www.crown-tours.com • **Four Seasons Co. Tourism & Travel**, Tel: 277 4401, Fax: 277 4402, fseasons@p-ol.com • **Gloria Tours & Travel**, Tel: 274 0835, Fax: 274 3021, gloria@p-ol.com • **Golden Gate Tours & Travel**, Tel: 276 6044, Fax: 276 6045, ggtours@palnet.com • **Kukali Travel & Tours**, Tel: 277 3047, Fax: 277 2034, kukali@p-ol.com • **Laila Tours & Travel**, Tel: 277 7997, Fax: 277 7996, laila@lailatours.com, www.Lailatours.com • **Lama Tours International**, Tel: 274 3717, Fax: 274 3747, litco@p-ol.com • **Millennium Transportation**, TeleFax: 676 7727, 050-242 270 • **Moussallam Int'l Tours**, Tel: 277 0054, Fax: 277 0054, Mitours@palnet.com • **Nativity Travel**, Tel: 274 2966, Fax: 274 4546 • **Sansur Travel Agency**, Tel: 274 4473, Telefax: 274 4459 • **Sky Lark Tours and Travel**, Tel: 274 2886, Fax: 276 4962, skylark@palnet.com • **Terra Santa Tourist Co.**, Tel: 277 0249 Fax: 277 0250 • **Voice of Faith Tours**, Tel: 275 70 50 Fax: 275 70 51, nabil@gmtravel.co.il, www.gmtravel.co.il

**Beit Jala (02)** **Guiding Star Ltd.**, Tel: 276 5970, Fax: 276 5971, info@guidingstar2.com

**Beit Sahour (02)** **Alternative Tourism Group**, Tel: 277 2151, Fax: 277 2211, info@atg.ps, www.atg.ps • **Brothers Travel & Tours**, Tel: 277 5188, Fax: 277 5189, holyland@brostours.com, www.brostours.com • **Grace Tours**, Tel: 275 7363, Fax: 277 2420, elias@grace-tours.com • **Magi Tours**, Telefax: 277 5798, magitours@spidernet.ps

**Hebron (02)** **AL-Afaq for Travel & Umrah**, Telefax: 221 1332, alafaqtravel@yahoo.com • **AlArrab Tours**, Tel: 221 1917, info@alarrabtours.com • **Al-Buhaira Tours and Travel co.**, Telefax: 225 2095, www.AL-BUHAIIRA.com, INFO@ALBUHAIIRA.com • **Alkiram Tourism**, Tel: 225 6501/2, Fax: 225 6504, alkiram@hebronet.com •



**Al-Salam Travel and Tours Co.,** Tel: 221 5574, Fax: 223 3747 • **Sabeen Travel Tourism,** Telefax: 229 4775, [sabeenco@yahoo.com](mailto:sabeenco@yahoo.com)

**Ramallah (02) Al-Asmar Travel Agency,** Telefax: 295 4140, 296 5775, [asmar@p-ol.com](mailto:asmar@p-ol.com) • **All Middle East Pilgrimage and Tourism Coordination Office,** Tel: 289 8123, Fax: 289 9174, [ameptco@gmail.com](mailto:ameptco@gmail.com), [www.ameptco.com](http://www.ameptco.com) • **Amani Tours,** Telefax: 298 7013, [amanitr@p-ol.com](mailto:amanitr@p-ol.com) • **Anwar Travel Agency,** Tel: 295 6388, 295 1706, [alaa@anwartravel.ps](mailto:alaa@anwartravel.ps) • **Apollo Travel & Tourism Agency,** Mob: 0568 038 536, 0568 038 534, Tel: 241 2510, Fax: 251 2567, [apolotravel1@gmail.com](mailto:apolotravel1@gmail.com) • **Arab Office for Travel & Tourism,** Tel: 295 6640, Fax: 295 1331 • **Arseema for Travel & Tourism,** Tel: 297 5571, Fax: 297 5572, [info@arseema.ps](mailto:info@arseema.ps) • **Atlas Tours & Travel,** Tel: 295 2180, Fax: 298 6395, [www.atlasavia.com](http://www.atlasavia.com) • **Darwish Travel Agency,** Tel: 295 6221, Fax: 295 7940 • **Golden Globe Tours,** Tel: 296 5111, Fax: 296 5110, [gg-tours@palnet.com](http://gg-tours@palnet.com) • **Issis & Co.,** Tel: 295 6250, Fax: 295 4305 • **Jordan River Tourist & Travel Agency,** Tel: 298 0523, Fax: 298 0524 • **Kashou' Travel Agency,** Tel: 295 5229, Fax: 295 3107, [kashoutravel@hotmail.com](mailto:kashoutravel@hotmail.com) • **Mrebe Tours & Travel,** Tel: 295 4671, Fax: 295 4672, [info@mrebetours.ps](mailto:info@mrebetours.ps) • **The Pioneer Links Travel & Tourism Bureau,** Tel: 240 7859, Fax: 240 7860, [pioneer@pioneer-links.com](mailto:pioneer@pioneer-links.com) • **Travel House For Travel & Tourism,** Tel: 295 7225, Fax: 296 2634, [www.travelhouse.ps](http://www.travelhouse.ps) • **Rahhal Tours & Travel,** Tel: 242 3256, Fax: 242 9962, [info@rahhal.tours.ps](mailto:info@rahhal.tours.ps), [www.rahhal.tours.ps](http://www.rahhal.tours.ps), [www.rahhal.tours.com](http://www.rahhal.tours.com) • **Raha Tours and Travel,** Tel: 296 1780, Fax: 296 1782, [www.rahatt.com](http://www.rahatt.com), [www.rahatravel.com](http://www.rahatravel.com) • **Reem Travel Agency,** Tel: 295 3871, Fax: 295 3871 • **Royal Tours,** Tel: 296 6350/1, Fax: 296 6635 • **Sabeen Travel Tourism,** Telefax: 240 5931, [sabeenco@yahoo.com](mailto:sabeenco@yahoo.com) • **Salah Tours,** Tel: 295 9931, Fax: 298 7206 • **Shbat & Abdul Nur,** Tel: 295 6267, Fax: 295 7246

**Jenin (04) Asia Travel Tourism,** Telefax: 243 5157, [www.asia-tourism.net](http://www.asia-tourism.net) • **Al Sadeq Travel & Tourism,** Tel: 243 8055, Fax: 243 8057, email: [amr\\_jarrar@yahoo.com](mailto:amr_jarrar@yahoo.com)

**Nablus (09) Almadena Tours,** Tel: 239 3333, Telefax: 239 3366, [travel@almadena.ps](mailto:travel@almadena.ps), [www.almadena.ps](http://www.almadena.ps) • **Dream Travel & Tourism,** Tel: 233 5056, Fax: 237 2069 • **Firas Tours,** Tel: 234 4565, Fax: 234 7781 • **Top Tour,** Tel: 238 9159, Fax: 238 1425, [toptourandtravel@yahoo.com](mailto:toptourandtravel@yahoo.com) • **Yaish International Tours,** Telefax: 238 1410, 238 1437, [yaishtr@palnet.com](mailto:yaishtr@palnet.com) • **Zorba's Travel Show,** Tel: 234 4959, Mob: 0569 282 726

**Tulkarem (09) Faj Tours,** Tel: 2672 486, Fax: 2686 070, [fajtours@hotmail.com](mailto:fajtours@hotmail.com)

**Gaza Strip (08) Al-Muntazah Travel Agency,** Tel: 282 7919 Fax: 282 4923 • **Halabi Tours and Travel Co.,** Tel: 282 3704, Fax: 286 6075, [halabitours@email.com](mailto:halabitours@email.com), [www.halabitours.ps](http://www.halabitours.ps) • **Maxim Tours,** Tel: 282 4415, Fax: 286 7596 • **National Tourist Office,** Tel: 286 0616, Fax: 286 0682, [shurafa@mtgaza.com](mailto:shurafa@mtgaza.com) • **Time Travel Ltd.,** Tel: 283 6775, Fax: 283 6855, [timetravel@marna.com](mailto:timetravel@marna.com)



**Air France and KLM,** Tel: 02-628 2535/6 (Jerusalem), Tel: 08-286 0616 (Gaza) • **Air Sinai – Varig,** Tel: 02-627 2725 (Jerusalem), Tel: 08-282 1530 (Gaza) • **Austrian Airlines** Tel: 09-238 2065, Fax: 09-237 5598 (Nablus) • **BMI,** Tel: 09-238 2065, Fax: 09-237 5598 (Nablus) • **British Airways,** Tel: 02-628 8654, Telefax: 02-628 3602, (Jerusalem) • **Cyprus Airways,** Tel: 02-240 4894 (Al-Bireh) • **Delta Airlines,** Tel: 02-296 7250, Telefax: 02-298 6395 (Ramallah) • **Egypt Air,** Tel: 02-298 6950/49 (Ramallah), Tel: 08-282 1530 (Gaza) • **Emirates Airlines,** Tel: 02-296 1780 (Ramallah) • **Ethiad Air Ways,** Tel: 02-295 3907 / 02-295 3912 / 02-295 3913, Fax: 02-295 3914, [info@ethiad.ps](mailto:info@ethiad.ps) (Ramallah), Tel: 02-295 3912/3 (Ramallah) • **Iberia,** Tel: 02-628 3235/7238 (Jerusalem) • **Lufthansa,** Tel: 09-238 2065, Fax: 09-237 5598 (Nablus) • **Malev-Hungarian Airlines,** Tel: 02-295 2180 (Ramallah) • **Middle East Car Rental,** Tel: 02-295 2602, Fax: 295 2603 • **PAL AVIATION,** Tel: 02-296 7250 Telefax: 02-298 6395 (Ramallah) • **Palestine Airlines,** Tel: 08-282 2800 (Gaza), Tel: 08-282 9526/7 (Gaza) • **Qatar Airways,** Tel: 02-240 4895 (Al-Bireh), Tel: 08-284 2303 (Gaza), **Royal Jordanian Airways,** Tel: 02-240 5060 (Ramallah), Tel: 08-282 5403/13 (Gaza) • **SN Brussels Airlines,** Tel: 02-295 2180 (Ramallah), **SAS Scandinavian Airlines,** Tel: 02-628 3235/7238 (Jerusalem) • **South African Airways,** Tel: 02-628 6257 (Jerusalem) • **Swiss International Airlines,** Tel: 02-295 2180 (Ramallah) • **Tunis Air,** Tel: 02-298 7013 (Ramallah), Tel: 08-286 0616 (Gaza) • **Turkish Airlines,** Tel: 02-277 0130 (Bethlehem)

**Airport Information** *Gaza International Airport,* Tel: 08-213 4289 • *Ben Gurion Airport,* Tel: 03-972 3344

## Diplomatic Missions

### Consulates

**East Jerusalem (02) Apostolic Delegation,** Tel: 628 2298, Fax: 628 1880 • **Belgium,** Tel: 582 8263, Fax: 581 4063, [jerusalem@diplobel.org](mailto:jerusalem@diplobel.org) • **European Community - Delegation to the OPT,** Tel: 541 5888, Fax: 541 5848 • **France,** Tel: 591 4000, Fax: 582 0032 • **Great Britain,** Tel: 541 4100, Fax: 532 2368, [britain.jerusalem@fco.gov.uk](mailto:britain.jerusalem@fco.gov.uk), [www.britishconsulate.org](http://www.britishconsulate.org) • **Greece,** Tel: 582 8316, Fax: 532 5392 • **Italy,** Tel: 561 8966, Fax: 561 9190 • **Spain,** Tel: 582 8006, Fax: 582 8065 • **Swedish Consulate General,** Tel: 646 5860, Fax: 646 5861 • **Turkey,** Tel: 591 0555-7, Fax: 582 0214, [turkcons.jerusalem@mfa.gov.tr](mailto:turkcons.jerusalem@mfa.gov.tr), [www.kudus.bk.mfa.gov.tr](http://www.kudus.bk.mfa.gov.tr) • **United States of America,** Tel: 622 7230, Fax: 625 9270

### Representative Offices to the PNA

**Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02) Argentina Representative Office to the PA,** Tel: 241 2848/9, Fax: 241 2850, [repal-pal@hotmail.com](mailto:repal-pal@hotmail.com) • **Australia,** Tel: 242 5301, Fax: 240 8290, [austrep@palnet.com](mailto:austrep@palnet.com), [ausaid@palnet.com](mailto:ausaid@palnet.com) • **Austria,** Tel: 240 1477, Fax: 240 0479 • **Brazil,** Tel: 241 3753, Fax: 241 3756, [admin-office@rep-brazil.org](mailto:admin-office@rep-brazil.org) • **Bolivian Republic of Venezuela,** Tel: 240 58 60/1, Fax: 2405862, [representacionpalestina@yahoo.com](mailto:representacionpalestina@yahoo.com), [representacionpalestina@hotmail.com](mailto:representacionpalestina@hotmail.com) • **Canada,** Tel: 297 8430, Fax: 297 8446, [rlmah@international.gc.ca](mailto:rlmah@international.gc.ca) • **Chile,** Tel: 296 0850, Fax: 298 4768, [chileram@palnet.com](mailto:chileram@palnet.com) • **Cyprus,** Tel: 240 6959, Fax: 240 4897 • **Czech Republic,** Tel: 296 5595, Fax: 296 5596 • **Denmark,** Tel: 242 2330, Fax: 240 0331 • **Egypt,** Tel: 297 7774, Fax: 297 7772 • **Finland,** Tel: 240 0340, Fax: 240 0343 • **Germany,** Tel: 297 8430, Fax: 297 8446, [ofimex-ramala@palnet.com](mailto:ofimex-ramala@palnet.com) • **Hungary,** Tel: 240 7676, Fax: 240 7678, [humisram@palnet.com](mailto:humisram@palnet.com) • **India,** Tel: 290 3033, Fax: 290 3035, [roi\\_ramallah@palnet.com](mailto:roi_ramallah@palnet.com) • **Ireland,** Tel: 240 6811/2/3, Fax: 240 6816, [irishrep@palnet.com](mailto:irishrep@palnet.com) • **Japan,** Tel: 241 3120, Fax: 241 3123 • **Jordan,** Tel: 297 4625, Fax: 297 4624 • **Mexico,** Tel: 297 5592, Fax: 297 5594, [ofimex-ramala@palnet.com](mailto:ofimex-ramala@palnet.com) • **Norway,** Tel: 235 8600, Fax: 235 8699, [repram@mfa.no](mailto:repram@mfa.no) • **Poland,** Tel: 297 1318, Fax: 297 1319 • **Portugal,** Tel: 240 7291/3, Fax: 240 7294 • **Republic of Korea,** Tel: 240 2846/7, Fax: 240 2848 • **Russian Federation,** Tel: 240 0970, Fax: 240 0971 • **South Africa,** Tel: 298 7355, Fax: 298 7356, [sarep@sarep.org](mailto:sarep@sarep.org), [www.sarep.org](http://www.sarep.org) • **Sri Lanka,** Telefax: 290 4271 • **Switzerland,** Tel: 240 8360, [vertretung@rah.rep.admin.ch](mailto:vertretung@rah.rep.admin.ch) • **The Netherlands,** Tel: 240 6639, Fax: 240 9638 • **The People's Republic of China,** Tel: 295 1222, Fax: 295 1221, [chinaoffice@palnet.com](mailto:chinaoffice@palnet.com)

**Gaza Strip (08) Egypt,** Tel: 282 4290, Fax: 282 0718 • **Germany,** Tel: 282 5584, Fax: 284 4855 • **Jordan,** Tel: 282 5134, Fax: 282 5124 • **Morocco,** Tel: 282 4264, Fax: 282 4104 • **Norway,** Tel: 282 4615, Fax: 282 1902 • **Qatar,** Tel: 282 5922, Fax: 282 5932 • **South Africa,** Tel: 284 1313, Fax: 284 1333 • **Tunisia,** Tel: 282 5018, Fax: 282 5028

### United Nations and International Organisations

**FAO** - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Jerusalem (02), TeleFax: 532 2757, 532 1950, [registry.fao@undp.org](mailto:registry.fao@undp.org), [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) • **IBRD** - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), West Bank (02), Tel: 236 6500 Fax: 236 6543, Gaza (08) Tel: 282 4746 Fax: 282 4296, [firstname.lastname@worldbank.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@worldbank.org) • **IMF** - International Monetary Fund, [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org), Gaza (08), Tel: 282 5913; Fax: 282 5923, West Bank (02), Tel: 236 6530; Fax: 236 6543 • **ILO** - International Labor Organization, Jerusalem (02), Tel: 626 0212, 628 0933, Fax: 627 6746, [Khaled.doudine@undp.org](mailto:Khaled.doudine@undp.org), Ramallah (02), Tel: 290 0022, Fax: 290 0023, Nablus (09), Tel: 237 5692 - 233 8371, Fax: 233 8370 • **OHCHR** - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Gaza (08), Tel: 282 7021, Fax: 282 7321, [ohchr@undp.org](mailto:ohchr@undp.org), West Bank Office, Telefax: 02-296 5534 • **UNESCO** - United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, Ramallah (02), Tel: 295 9740, Fax: 295 9741, [unesco@palnet.com](mailto:unesco@palnet.com) • **UNFPA** - United Nations Population Fund, Jerusalem (02), Tel: 581 7292, Fax: 581 7382, [unfpa.ps@undp.org](mailto:unfpa.ps@undp.org), [www.unfpa.ps](http://www.unfpa.ps) • **UNICEF** - United Nations Children's Fund, Jerusalem (02), Tel: 583 0013, Fax: 583 0806, Gaza (08), Tel: 286 2400, Fax: 286 2800, [Jerusalem@unicef.org](mailto:Jerusalem@unicef.org) • **UNIFEM** - United Nations Development Fund for Women, Telefax: 628 0450, Tel: 628 0661 • **UN OCHA** - United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Tel: 582 9962/02 - 582 5853, Fax: 582 5841, [ochaopt@un.org](mailto:ochaopt@un.org), [www.ochaopt.org](http://www.ochaopt.org) • **UNRWA** - United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Gaza (08), Tel: 677 7333, Fax: 677 7555, [unrwapi@unrwa.org](mailto:unrwapi@unrwa.org), West Bank (02), Tel: 589 0401, Fax: 532 2714, [firstname.lastname@unrwa.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@unrwa.org) • **UNSCO** - Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tel: 08-284 3555/02-568 7276, Fax: 08-282 0966/02-568 7288, [UNSCO-Media@un.org](mailto:UNSCO-Media@un.org), [www.unsco.org](http://www.unsco.org) • **UNTSO** - United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, Jerusalem (02), Tel: 568 7222 - 568 7444, Fax: 568 7400, [DPKO-UNTSO-admin@un.org](mailto:DPKO-UNTSO-admin@un.org) • **WFP** - World Food Programme, Gaza (08), Tel: 282 7463, Fax: 282 7921, Jerusalem (02), Tel: 540 1340, Fax: 540 1227, [Arnold.Vercken@wfp.org](mailto:Arnold.Vercken@wfp.org) • **WHO** - World Health Organization, Jerusalem (02), Tel: 540 0595, Fax: 581 0193, [who@papp.undp.org](mailto:who@papp.undp.org), Gaza (08), Tel: 282 2033, Fax: 284 5409, [who@palnet.com](mailto:who@palnet.com) • **World Bank,** Tel: 236 6500, Fax: 236 6543

### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP)

4 Al-Ya'qubi Street, Jerusalem, Tel: 02 6268200, Fax: 02 6268222  
E-mail: [registry.papp@undp.org](mailto:registry.papp@undp.org) / URL: <http://www.papp.undp.org>

# Health

**East Jerusalem (02) Hospitals** Augusta Victoria, Tel: 627 9911 • Dajani Maternity, Tel: 583 3906 • Hadassah (Ein Kerem), Tel: 677 7111 • Hadassah (Mt. Scopus), Tel: 584 4111 • Maqassed, Tel: 627 0222 • Red Crescent Maternity, Tel: 628 6694 • St. John's Ophthalmic, Tel: 582 8325 • St. Joseph, Tel: 591 1911 • **Clinics and Centers** Arab Health Center, Tel: 628 8726 • CHS Clinics, Tel: 628 0602/0499 • Ibn Sina Medical Center, Tel: 540 0083/9, 532 2536 • Jerusalem First Aid Clinic, Tel: 626 4055 • Medical Relief Womens, Health Clinic, Tel: 583 3510 • Palestinian Counseling Center, Tel: 656 2272, 656 2627 • Peace Medical Center, Tel: 532 7111, 532 4259 • Red Crescent Society, Tel: 582 8845 • Spafford Children's Clinic, Tel: 628 4875 • The Austrian Arab Community Clinic (AACC), Tel: 627 3246 • The Jerusalem Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children, Tel: 628 3058

**Bethlehem (02) Hospitals** Al-Dibis Maternity, Tel: 274 4242 • Al-Hussein Government, Tel: 274 1161 • Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation, Tel: 274 4049-51, Fax: 274 4053 • Caritas Baby, Tel: 275 8500, Fax: 275 8501 • Mental Health, Tel: 274 1155 • Shepherd's Field Hospital, Tel: 277 5092 • St. Mary's Maternity, Tel: 274 2443 • The Holy Family, Tel: 274 1151, Fax: 274 1154 • **Clinics and Centers** Beit Sahour Medical Center, Tel: 277 4443 • Bethlehem Dental Center, Tel: 274 3303

**Hebron (02) Hospitals** Amira Alia, Tel: 222 8126 • Al-Ahli, Tel: 222 0212 • Al-Meezan, Tel: 225 7400/1 • Mohammed Ali, Tel: 225 3883/4 • Shaheera, Tel: 222 6982 • St. John's Ophthalmic, Tel: 223 6047 • The Red Crescent, Tel: 222 8333 • Yattah Governmental Hospital, Tel: 227 1017, 227 1019 • **Clinics and Centers** Red Crescent Society, Tel: 222 7450 • UPMRC, Tel: 222 6663

**Jericho (02) Hospitals** Jericho Government, Tel: 232 1967/8/9 • **Clinics and Centers** UPMRC, Tel: 232 2148

**Nablus (09) Hospitals** Al-Aqsa Hospital and Medical Center, Tel: 294 7666 • Al-Ittihad, Tel: 237 1491 • Al-Watani, Tel: 238 0039 • Al-Zakat Hospital (Tolkarem), Tel: 268 0680 • Aqraba Maternity Home, Tel: 259 8550 • Rafidia, Tel: 239 0390 • Salfit Emergency Governmental Hospital, Tel: 251 5111 • Specialized Arab Hospital, Tel: 239 0390 • St. Luke's, Tel: 238 3818 • UNRWA Qalqilia Hospital (Qalqiliya), Tel: 294 0008 • **Clinics and Centers** Al-Amal Center, Tel: 238 3778 • Arab Medical Center, Tel: 237 1515 • Hagar (Handicapped Equipment Center), Tel: 239 8687 • Red Crescent Society, Tel: 238 2153 • UPMRC, Tel: 283 7178

**Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02) Hospitals** Arabcare Hospital, Tel: 298 6420 • AL-Karmel Maternity Home, Tel: 247 1026 • Al-Mustaqbal Hospital, Tel: 240 4562 • AL-Nather Maternity Hospital, Tel: 295 5295 • Ash-Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Tel: 298 8088 • Birziet Maternity Home, Tel: 281 0616 • Care Specialized Dental Center, Tel: 297 5090 • Khaled Surgical Hospital, Tel: 295 5640 • Ramallah Government Hospitals, Tel: 298 2216/7 • Red Crescent Hospital, Tel: 240 6260 • **Clinics and Centers** Arab Medical Center, Tel: 295 4334 • Arabcare Medical Center, Tel: 298 6420 • Emergency & Trauma Center, Tel: 298 8088 • Harb Heart Center, Tel: 296 0336 • Modern Dental Center, Tel: 298 0630 • National Center for Blood Diseases "Hippocrates" Thalessemia and Hemophilia Center, Tel: 296 5082, Fax: 296 5081 • Patients' Friends Society K. Abu Raya Rehabilitation Centre, Tel: 295 7060/1 • Palestinian Hemophilia Association-PHA, Telefax: 297 5588 • Peace Medical Center, Tel: 295 9276 • Red Crescent Society, Tel: 240 6260 • UPMRC, Tel: 298 4423, 296 0686

**Gaza Strip (08) Hospitals** Al-Ahli Al-Arabi, Tel: 286 3014 • Dar Al-Salam, Tel: 285 4240 • Nasser, Tel: 205 1244 • Shifa, Tel: 286 2765 • **Clinics and Centers** Arab Medical Center, Tel: 286 2163 • Beit Hanoun Clinic, Tel: 285 8065 • Dar Al-Shifa, Tel: 286 5520 • Hagar (Handicapped Equipment Center), Tel: 284 2636 • St. John's Ophthalmic, Tel: 284 8445 • UPMRC, Tel: 282 7837

# Banks

**East Jerusalem (02) Quds Bank** (Al-Ezzarieh), Tel: 279 8803 • **Arab Bank** (Al-Ezzarieh), Tel: 279 6671, Fax: 279 6677 • **Arab Bank** (Al-Ram), Tel: 234 8710, Fax: 234 8717 • **Center for Development Consultancy (CDC)**, Tel: 583 3183, Fax: 583 3185 • **Commercial Bank of Palestine**, Tel: 279 9886, Fax: 279 9258

**Bethlehem (02) Arab Bank**, Tel: 277 0080, Fax: 277 0088 • **Arab Land Bank**, Tel: 274 0861 • **Cairo-Amman Bank**, Tel: 274 4971, Fax: 274 4974 • **Jordan National Bank**, Tel: 277 0351, Fax: 277 0354 • **Bank of Palestine Ltd.**, Tel: 276 5515/6, Fax: 276 5517 • **Palestine Investment Bank**, Tel: 277 0888, Fax: 277 0889

**Hebron (02) Quds Bank**, Tel: 221 1357 • **Al-Ahli Bank**, Tel: 222 4801/2/3/4 • **Arab Bank**, Tel: 222 6410, Fax: 222 6418 • **Bank of Palestine Ltd.**, Tel: 225 0001/2/3 • **Cairo-Amman Bank**, (Wadi Al-Tuffah) Tel: 222 5353/4/5 • **Cairo-Amman Bank**, (Al-Balad) Tel: 222 9803/4 • **Cairo-Amman Bank**, (The Islamic Branch) Tel: 222 7877 • **Islamic Arab Bank**, Tel: 2254156/7 • **Islamic Bank**, Tel: 222 6768 • **Jordan Bank**, Tel: 222 4351/2/3/4 • **Palestine Investment Bank**, Tel: 225 2701/2/3/4 • **The Housing Bank**, Tel: 225 0055

**Ramallah (02) Quds Bank** (Al-Masyoon), Tel: 297 9562, (El-Bireh), Tel: 298 3391 • **Al Rafah Microfinance Bank**, Tel: 297 8710, Fax: 297 8880 • **Arab Bank**, (Al-Balad) Tel: 298 6480, Fax: 298 6488 • **Arab Bank**, (Al-Bireh), Tel: 295 9581, Fax: 295 9588 • **Arab Bank**, (Al-Manara) Tel: 295 4821, Fax: 295 4824 • **Arab Bank** (Masyoun Branch), Tel: 297 8100 • **Arab Land Bank**, Tel: 295 8421 • **Bank of Palestine**, Tel: 296 5010, Fax: 298 5920 • **Bank of Palestine**, (Al-Irsal) Tel: 296 6860, Fax: 296 6864 • **Arab Palestinian Investment Bank**, Tel: 298 7126, Fax: 298 7125 • **Beit Al-Mal Holdings**, Tel: 298 6916, Fax: 298 6916 • **HSBC Bank Middle East**, Tel: 298 7802, Fax: 298 7804 • **Cairo-Amman Bank**, Tel: 298 3500, Fax: 295 5437 • **The Center for Private Enterprise Development**, Tel: 298 6786, Fax: 298 6787 • **Commercial Bank of Palestine**, Tel: 295 4141, Fax: 295 4145 • **Cooperative Development Unit**, Tel: 290 0029, Fax: 290 0029 • **Deutsche Ausgleichsbank (DTA)**, Tel: 298 4462, Fax: 295 2610 • **The Housing Bank**, Tel: 298 6270, Fax: 298 6276 • **International Islamic Arab Bank**, Tel: 240 7060, Fax: 240 7065 • **Jordan Bank**, Tel: 295 8686, Fax: 2958684 • **Jordan-Gulf Bank**, Tel: 298 7680, Fax: 298 7682 • **Jordan-Kuwait Bank**, Tel: 240 6725, Fax: 240 6728 • **Jordan National Bank**, Tel: 295 9343, Fax: 295 9341 • **Palestine International Bank (PIB)**, Tel: 298 3300, Fax: 298 3333 • **Palestine Investment Bank**, Tel: 298 7880, Fax: 298 7881 • **Palestine Islamic Bank**, Tel: 295 0247, Fax: 295 7146 • **Union Bank**, Tel: 298 6412, Fax: 295 6416

**Gaza Strip (08) Quds Bank** (Al-Remal), Tel: 284 4333 • **Arab Bank**, Tel: 08-286 6288, Fax: 282 0704 • **Arab Bank** (Al-Rimal), Tel: 282 4729, Fax: 282 4719 • **Arab Bank**, (Khan Younis) Tel: 205 4775, Fax: 205 4745 • **Arab Bank** (Karny), Tel: 280 0020, Fax: 280 0028 • **Arab Land Bank**, Tel: 282 2046, Fax: 282 1099 • **Bank of Palestine Ltd.**, Tel: 282 3272, Fax: 286 5667 • **Beit Al-Mal Holdings**, Tel: 282 0722, Fax: 282 5786 • **Cairo-Amman Bank**, Tel: 282 4950, Fax: 282 4830 • **Commercial Bank of Palestine**, Tel: 282 5806, Fax: 282 5816 • **The Housing Bank**, Tel: 282 6322, Fax: 286 1143 • **Jordan Bank**, Tel: 282 0707, Fax: 282 4341 • **Palestine Development Fund**, Tel: 282 4286, Fax: 282 4286 • **Palestine International Bank (PIB)**, Tel: 284 4333, Fax: 284 4303 • **Palestine Investment Bank**, Tel: 282 2105, Fax: 282 2107

**Nablus (09) Quds Bank**, Tel: 235 9741, (Nablus Aljidd) , Tel: 239 7782 • **Arab Bank**, Tel: 238 2340, Fax: 238 2351 • **Arab Bank** (Askar), Tel: 231 1694, Fax: 234 2076 • **Arab Land Bank**, Tel: 238 3651, Fax: 238 3650 • **Bank of Palestine Ltd.**, Tel: 238 2030, Fax: 238 2923 • **Bank of Palestine** (Al-Misbah), Tel: 231 1460, Fax: 231 1922 • **Cairo-Amman Bank**, Tel: 238 1301, Fax: 238 1590 • **Commercial Bank of Palestine**, Tel: 238 5160, Fax: 238 5169 • **The Housing Bank**, Tel: 238 6060, Fax: 238 6066 • **Jordan Bank**, Tel: 238 1120, Fax: 238 1126 • **Jordan-Gulf Bank**, Tel: 238 2191, Fax: 238 1953 • **Jordan-Kuwait Bank**, Tel: 237 7223, Fax: 237 7181 • **Jordan-National Bank**, Tel: 238 2280, Fax: 238 2283 • **Palestine Investment Bank**, Tel: 238 5051, Fax: 238 5057 • **Palestine International Bank**, Tel: 239 7780, Fax: 239 7788

# Emergency

City	Fire	Ambulance	Police
Jerusalem*	02-6282222	101	100
CHS (Old City Jerusalem)	101 / 050-319120		
Bethlehem	02-274 1123	101 / 02-274 4222	100
Gaza	08-2863633	101 / 08-2863633	100
Hebron	102/22 28121-2-3	101	100
Jericho	02-232 2658	101 / 02-232 1170	100
Jenin	04-250 1225	101 / 04-250 2601	100
Nablus	09-238 3444	101 / 09-238 0399	100
Ramallah	02-295 6102	101 / 02-240 0666	100
Child Helpline Palestine	(121) free line		
Tulkarem	09-267 2106	101 / 09-267 2140	100
Qalqilia	09-294 0440	101 / 09-294 0440	100

## Telephone Services

<b>Bezeq</b>	
Wake up calls	1475
Talking Clock	
Time around the world	1455
Vocal Information	1975
Pager Service	1705
Repeat call	*41
Last call	*42
Call waiting	*70
Call forwarding	*71
General information	199
Services	164
Corporate services	166

## Paltel

Wake up calls	175
Free fax service	167
Follow me	
(forwarding calls)	72*
Phone book	144
Maintenance	166
Information	199
Internet maintenance	167

## Calls from Overseas

Dial access code, international country code (972) or (970), area code (without the zero), desired number

## Tourism and Antiquities

### Police

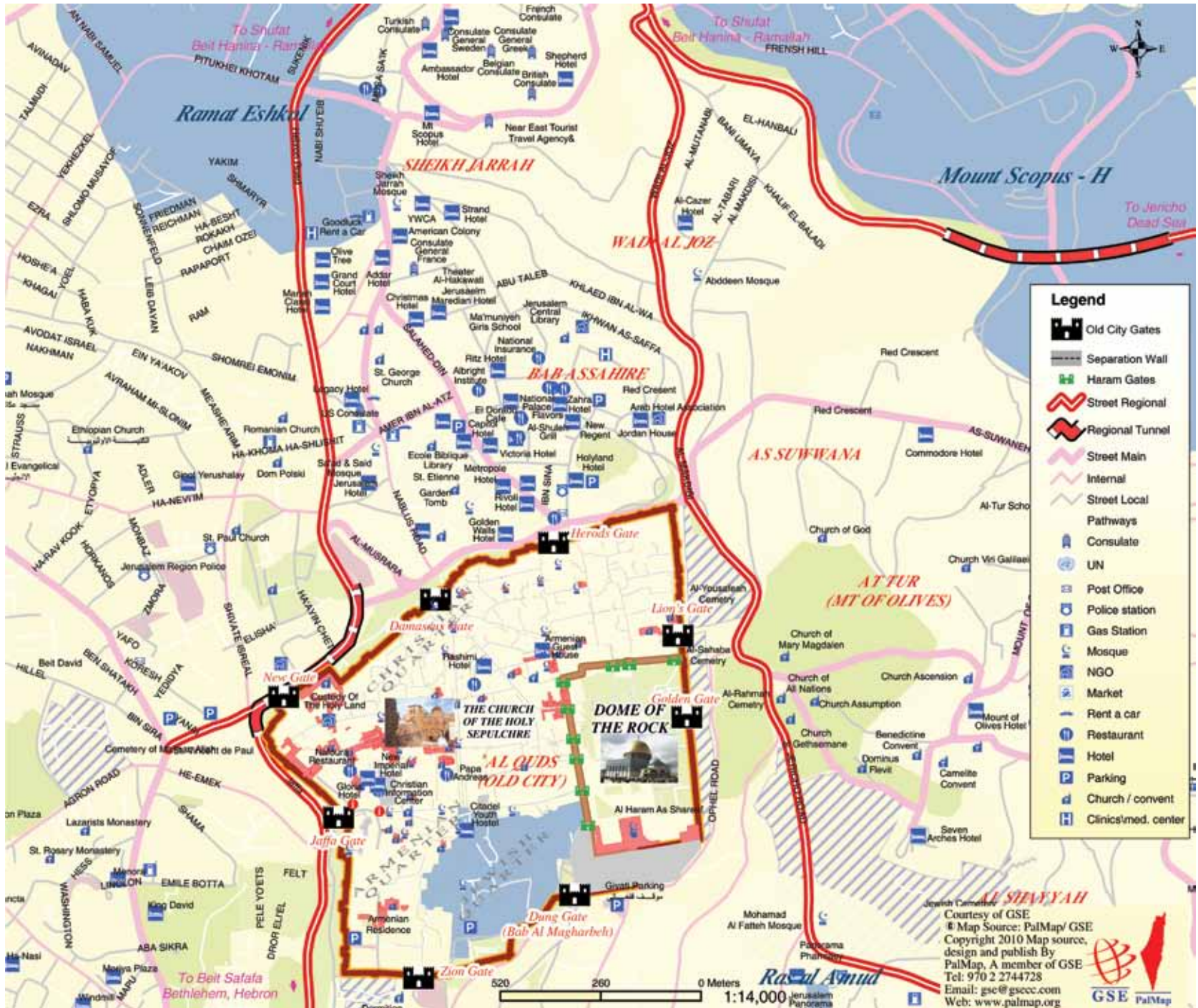
Bethlehem	02-277 0750/1
Gaza	08-282 9017
Jericho	02-232 4011
Nablus	09-385 244

### Border Crossings

Allenby Bridge	02-994 2302
Arava Border	08-630 0555
Eretz Crossing	08-674 1672
Rafah Border	08-673 4205
Sheikh Hussien	04-609 3410



# Jerusalem





March 21, 2012

I am told that it's like this every year. Frankly, I can't remember. But it sure seemed different this time. There seemed to be more of everything this year. You'd think it was the day before a major feast when just about everyone is out on the streets...literally! (Since it is now an established fact that Palestinians prefer to walk in the streets alongside cars rather than on the sidewalks.)

All radio stations, all day long, were broadcasting programmes to celebrate the occasion. Newspapers were filled with adverts and congratulatory columns commemorating the day. Facebook was filled with postings to mark the day. Some were straightforward and heartfelt vows of love and appreciation, while others were heart-breaking and expressed deep sadness and hollowness on the part of those who have lost possibly the most important person in their lives. Shops, particularly gift and flower shops, had their heyday. It was no doubt their best day of the year. I passed one flower shop at around six in the evening and it was still fully packed with people. The owner had an extremely fatigued look, as if to say, "God, not another customer wanting a single flower or a bouquet!" It was March 21, the first day of spring. The weather was splendid, adding even more flair and festive spirit to the day that Palestinians celebrate as Mother's Day.

Mother's Day has always been a big deal in Palestine. Judging from the regional satellite channels, I suppose it is in all of the Middle East as well. Culturally and religiously, parents, particularly mothers, are revered. It's actually a wonderful thing that we have maintained in our society, which, in turn, adds a much-needed human dimension to everyone's life, no matter how harsh the reality on the ground is. To be in awe of one's mother not only cements family ties but also serves as a deterrent to wrongdoing. *Rida al um*. I don't believe there's a literal translation in English, but it can be loosely translated as a mother's blessing coupled with her seal of approval. It is almost sacred to all children, irrespective of their age, and is considered to be a shield of protection in the face of daily challenges and hardships. Without *rida al um*, it is easy for anyone to lose his or her path and go astray.

It is possible that what seemed to be the accentuated hype in celebrating Mother's Day this year in Palestine stems from the magnitude of what Palestinian mothers are effectively enduring – as though it's a subconscious acknowledgement of and gratitude for their daily sacrifices in having to endure political as well as cultural injustices. Political imprisonment is a huge issue in Palestine, one that weighs heavily on society, particularly on the mothers of political prisoners, our freedom fighters. Yet one never hears a word of despair or hopelessness coming from them. As a matter of fact, one learns the meaning of steadfastness and acquires strength from these mothers. No wonder they are so revered in our society.

The birthday of Yumna, the daughter of a colleague, was on March 21, Mother's Day. The world just wasn't big enough for her that day, not only because it was her birthday, but also because she was convinced that all the commotion out there was because of her fifth birthday! What a great feeling to know that the whole town is celebrating your birthday!

For those lucky enough to still have their mothers around, it is our duty to make our mothers feel the same way Yumna did. It is so easy for us to take our mothers for granted. I wish all mothers a belated happy Mother's Day.



Photo by Mohammad Harb.





Transfer Your Salary

And Win a Salary Daily

- The campaign covers all public and private sector employees.
- The withdrawal is held daily on the value of the salary transferred to Bank of Palestine.
- Every transferred salary will have the chance to win.
- Chances of winning are equal for all salary categories.
- The winner will have the value of his salary for one month only.
- The campaign is valid till 15/10/2012.

