

THIS
WEEK
IN

Palestine

Issue No. 119, March 2008

www.thisweekinpalestine.com



Contents

Palestinians Living in the Diaspora.....	4
Palestinians in Britain	10
The Antidote to Exile Is Personal Self-Improvement	16
Palestinians in the Gulf.....	18
From Jersey to Dheisheh: A Love Story	22
Diaspora Down Under: the Story of Palestinians in Australia.....	24
Where Are You From?	32
One Hundred Years of Palestinians in Chile: New Paradigms	36
Palestinians in the United States: the Untold Success Story	42
Jerusalem in the Heart	48
Identity and Expression: The Palestinian Struggle in San Francisco	52
In the Limelight	54
Reviews.....	60
Events.....	64
Listings	72-90
Maps & Where to Go?	91-97
The Last Word	98
Picturesque Palestine	99



turbo-design

Telefax: + 970/2-2-2951262

e-mail: info@turbo-design.com

www.thisweekinpalestine.com

Printed by Studio Alpha, Al-Ram, Jerusalem

Binding by Al-Asdika', Al-Ram, Jerusalem

Distributed by  LIASSEL



Theme: Palestinians in the Diaspora

Cover photo: *Palestino* which, at some point, was Chile's top football team (more on page 36)

This publication is



The views of all the articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

Maps herein have been prepared solely for the convenience of the reader; the designations and presentation of material do not imply any expression of opinion of *This Week in Palestine*, its publisher, editor, and its advisory board as to the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area, or of the authorities thereof, or as to the delimitation of boundaries or national affiliation.

Message from the editor

The political situation was overshadowed during the past month or so by the two snowstorms that crossed our region. There was a lot of anticipation in the air. People crowded into stores to stock up on staples and favourite snacks such as chestnuts, roasted nuts, and *sahlab* – the famous milk-based hot drink flavoured with extracts from the orchid flower and often garnished with cinnamon, coconut flakes, and chopped nuts. While the first storm was quite heavy and brought life to a standstill for almost two days, the second was a mere sprinkling of white slush that looked nice, but the city functioned “business as usual.”

The political situation, on the other hand, remains as stormy as ever – a nasty storm that just does not seem to go away. I am sure that both Palestinian factions realise that they have to solve their differences before any real development can take place, yet both seem to be entrenched in their respective positions, with neither side willing to take the initiative to bridge the gap before it is too late.

Palestinians in the diaspora are the focus of this month's issue of *This Week in Palestine*. There are almost as many Palestinians living outside Palestine as there are in the country. Most fled during the *Nakbeh* of 1948 and still live in refugee camps in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, whereas others left of their own accord, emigrating to foreign lands in search of fortune and better living conditions in general – material and otherwise. Many of those who live abroad provide financial support to their families in Palestine. Others felt the need to come back to their country to invest the expertise acquired abroad for the good of their homeland. This was most evident after the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1993. Others came here on short-term contracts through the TOKTEN programme instituted by the UNDP to attract Palestinian expatriates from diverse fields of speciality to help in institution-building in their nascent country. We thank all those who contributed articles to this issue and are honoured to have one by the internationally acclaimed Palestinian author Ghada Karmi.

March heralds the advent of spring and Easter. Hopefully it will also herald better tidings.

Tony A. Khoury
Editor-in-chief

Forthcoming Issues:

- Hebron, Palestine - April 08
- Nakba 60 - May 08
- Sports in Palestine - June 08



Advisory Board

Omar Al-Qattan
Filmmaker & Cultural Animator

Ahmad Aweidah
PALTEL Group

Khaled Elayyan
Artist and Choreographer

Lily Elias Habash
Palestine Forum

Dr. Norma Masriyyeh Hazboun
Chairperson, Department of Social Sciences, Bethlehem University

Dr. Ali Qleibo
Anthropologist, Author, and Artist

Palestinians Living in the Diaspora

By Ingrid Jaradat Gassner

Sixty years ago, prior to the establishment of Israel and the Palestinian *Nakba* (catastrophe) in 1948, the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people were living in their homeland Palestine. Today the Palestinian population worldwide is estimated to be 10.1 million,ⁱ with more than half (approximately 5.2 million) living in the diaspora.

Checking the dictionaries, one finds that the term diaspora commonly carries a sense of displacement and describes a population that finds itself separated from its national territory. Diaspora communities usually have a hope or desire to return to their homelands at some point. Along similar lines, the term “exile” is used to describe a form of punishment and an explicit denial of the right to return. When a large portion of a nation is exiled, it can be said that the nation is in exile or diaspora. Palestinians are such a nation.

Who are Diaspora Palestinians?

Only 29 percent of the Palestinian population today have never been forcibly displaced, and most of those reside in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip (OPT) and in Israel. Approximately 71 percent of the Palestinian people are refugees and internally displaced persons. It can be assumed therefore, that the overwhelming majority of the Palestinians in the diaspora are refugees.

The Palestinian diaspora is composed mainly of those displaced or expelled from their homes in the shadow of the 1948 War (the *Nakba*) and their descendants, including 2.7 million currently registered with UNRWA in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. It also includes Palestinians (approximately 950,000) who became refugees in the context of the 1967 War, and those who were staying abroad during the two wars in Palestine. The number of those abroad during the 1967

War is estimated to be 60,000,ⁱⁱ whereas numbers for 1948 are unknown. Most of them were unable to return to their places of origin in Israel and the OPT following the cessation of hostilities, and they became refugees *sur place*.

More Palestinians have joined the diaspora during the four decades of Israel's military occupation. Estimates of forced displacement between 1967 and 1986 indicate that some 20,000 Palestinians were displaced per year.ⁱⁱⁱ More recent studies estimate that the rate of out-migration/displacement to neighbouring Arab states and further abroad as being as much as 2 percent of the total population per annum.^{iv}

Waves of Displacement: Where Are the Diaspora Palestinians?

Today Palestinians live in many parts of the world. Despite changes in the geographic distribution of the Palestinian diaspora over the past 60 years, however, the majority have remained in the Middle East, and most still live within 100 kilometres of the borders of Israel and the 1967 OPT, where their homes of origin are located.

During the major waves of displacement in the 20th century, Palestinians have tended to remain as close as possible to their homes and villages of origin, based on the assumption that they would return once armed conflict ceased. In 1948, an estimated 65 percent of the Palestinian refugees remained in areas of Palestine not under Israeli control – i.e., the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The remaining 35 percent found refuge in neighbouring states, including Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. Also in 1967 the majority of displaced Palestinians found refuge in neighbouring states. Most (95 percent) were displaced to Jordan, with smaller numbers displaced to Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon.^v

Changes in the geographic distribution

of the Palestinian diaspora are primarily the result of additional armed conflicts, during which Palestinian refugees were again expelled or forced to flee host countries in search of safety. Changes in political regimes and discriminatory policies in host countries, the relationship between the PLO and host-country authorities, and economic push-and-pull factors, moreover, have induced further displacement/migration and have shaped the Palestinian diaspora.

Thus, for example, the number of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon has decreased over time. Internal conflict, wars, and legal and political obstacles have militated against Palestinians' asylum in Lebanon, and during the 1980s, many Palestinian refugees fled Lebanon to Germany, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia. Although economic migration had led to a large Palestinian diaspora in the Arab Gulf from the 1950s onwards, a dramatic decrease occurred, in particular in Kuwait, as a result of the 1991 Gulf War. Many Palestinians migrated or were expelled from Arab Gulf states, eventually finding shelter in Canada, Scandinavia, the United States, or other countries in the Arab world. Currently, many of the Palestinian refugees experiencing persecution in Iraq are fleeing to Syria, Jordan, or elsewhere, and some have been reported as far away as India and Thailand.

Today, approximately 5.2 million Palestinians are living in exile in many

parts of the world. Little statistical data is available, however, about this large diaspora, because no comprehensive census has ever been conducted among them. Few host countries carry out a regular census of their resident refugee population. Some countries, such as Jordan, include Palestinians as a census category, but this data is not publicly available. Registration data of UNRWA and other international agencies that provide assistance and protection to Palestinian refugees are not statistically valid, because reporting is voluntary. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) maintains records of Palestinian refugees outside UNRWA's area of operations but has registered only a very minor portion. At the end of 2006, approximately 341,000 Palestinian refugees were registered with the UNHCR, most of them resided in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, and Libya.^{vi}

Most diaspora Palestinians, moreover, do not carry personal documents that identify them as Palestinians. An initiative by the United Nations in 1982 to issue identification cards to all 1948 and 1967 Palestinian refugees and their descendants^{vii} failed due to lack of co-operation by host states. In North America and Europe, Palestinian asylum-seekers often “disappear,” because they tend to be subsumed under general categories of “stateless” persons or are registered according to their place of birth or the host country that issued their travel documents.

Al-Tanaf Palestinian Refugee camp on the Iraqi-Syrian borders, 2007.
(Source: www.group194.net)



Major Palestinian Diaspora Communities Worldwide: illustrative examples, estimates (2006)

Country	Estimated Number of Refugees	Country	Estimated Number of Refugees	Country	Estimated Number of Refugees	Country	Estimated Number of Refugees
Australia ^a	20,300–30,500	Greece ^a	3,050	Kuwait ^c	41,607	Saudi Arabia ^c	325,302
Canada ^a	42,630–50,750	Germany ^a	142,100	Lebanon ^c	438,301	Sweden ^a	40,600
Chile ^a	355,250	Italy ^a	4,060	The Netherlands ^a	10,150	Syria ^a	465,110
Denmark ^a	23,345	Libya ^a	9,123	Norway ^a	3,045	United Kingdom ^a	15,225
Egypt ^e	72,058	Iraq ^f	15,000	Other Gulf countries ^c	131,146	United States ^a	219,240–253,750
France ^a	1,523–3,050	Jordan ^b	2,800,000	Other Arab countries ^c	6,887		

In the absence of statistical data, figures about Palestinian diaspora communities are indicative rather than conclusive, and derived from a variety of sources.

^a In countries outside the Middle East, Palestinian diaspora communities themselves have remained the major source of information. Estimates listed here for Australia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Greece, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States were provided by the respective Palestinian communities to the Oxford University Civitas Foundations of Participation Project database. (See <http://civitas-online.org>.)

Additional Palestinian diaspora communities estimated to be smaller than 3,000 persons exist in Austria, Belgium, Finland, Poland, and elsewhere.

^b Data for Jordan is based on FAFO (1996). Refugees constitute 85 percent (2,359,000 persons) of the total number of Palestinians in Jordan.

^c Data for Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, other Gulf countries, Lebanon, Syria, and other Arab countries is derived from *Abstract of Palestine 2005*, issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

^{e,f} Data for Egypt, Libya is based on UNHCR sources. The number of Palestinians currently remaining in Iraq is unclear. In 2003, 22,700 Palestinian refugees were registered with the UNHCR in Iraq, but registration stopped as a result of the ongoing armed conflict. At that time, the UNHCR estimated that approximately 34,000 Palestinian refugees resided in Iraq.

However, by the end of 2006, it was estimated that no more than 15,000 Palestinians had remained in Iraq. The whereabouts of the more than 15,000 persons who have left is unknown.

Source: Figure 2.3: *Estimates of the Number of Palestinian Refugees and IDPs Worldwide, 2006*. In *Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons*, Vol. V, 2006-2007. BADIL Resource Center.

Palestinian Refugees Crossing the Allenby Bridge to Jordan, June 1967. (Source: UNRWA Archives)



Children of Shatila refugee camp, Lebanon, 2005. (Source: Nathalie Bardou/BADIL)

The case of the Palestinian diaspora in Central and South America is special due to the early onset of its formation and its particular demographic composition. Palestinian immigrants to this region were predominantly members of Christian communities who left Palestine during Ottoman rule, mostly from towns and villages in the central West Bank, such as Ramallah, Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, and Beit Jala. Today, large Palestinian communities exist in Chile, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, and Peru. In Peru, both candidates for the March 2004 presidential elections were descendants of Palestinians who had emigrated from Bethlehem in 1912 and 1914 respectively.

Palestinian diaspora communities in Australia, Europe, and North America are much younger. Most Palestinians in Europe and the United States, for example, arrived from Arab Gulf states and Lebanon, and some from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Many Palestinians entered these countries as students and visitors but stayed on and joined the diaspora there.

Characteristics of the Palestinian Diaspora

In many places of the world, in particular in and around refugee camps, Palestinian communities continue to organize themselves based on their villages of origin even 60 years after displacement. In Syria, for example, Al-Yarmouk Camp is divided into quarters based on the refugees' villages of origin of al-Tira, Luby, Balad

ash-Sheik, and 'Ayn Ghazal.

Although the Palestinian diaspora is a diaspora of refugees, the large majority does not live in refugee camps. Only one-third of the total UNRWA registered refugee population (1948 refugees) and approximately 20 percent of the total Palestinian refugee population live in camps.

Several factors explain why Palestinian refugees have remained in camps after more than six decades of exile: family and village support structure in the camp; lack of resources to rent or buy alternative accommodation outside the camp; lack of living space outside the camp due to overcrowding; legal, political, and social obstacles that force refugees to remain in the camp; issues concerning physical safety; the refugee camp as a symbol of the temporary nature of exile and the demand to exercise the right of return.

Most Palestinian refugees in the Middle East rely on income from wages and self-employment. Annual per capita income among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan ranges from US \$450 to US \$600. Households that depend on financial transfers remain a vulnerable low-income group. In Jordan, 2.6 percent of the refugee households suffer from deep poverty compared with 7.4 percent in Syria and 10.8 percent in Lebanon.^{viii} Across the region, the civil war in Lebanon (1976–1991), the 1990–91 Gulf War, the US-led war and occupation of Iraq, and Israel's war on Lebanon in 2006 have had particularly negative impacts on access to



Palestinian residing in make-shift shelters with zinc roofing, Burj el-Shamali refugee camp, Lebanon, 2007. (Source: Stefan Christoff)

employment, labour force participation, and household income of Palestinian refugees. The level of education has a mixed association with unemployment rates. In Jordan, unemployment decreases with higher education; in Lebanon, however, the level of education has no impact on unemployment rates.

Still, education is highly valued in the face of the protracted nature of the Palestinian exile. It is seen both as offering an opportunity for a better life and as a means of reaffirming identity. A study commissioned by UNRWA showed that 76 percent of the adolescents questioned aspired to higher education.^{ix} Access to secondary and higher education, however, is restricted in some host countries, and financial constraints prevent many from continuing education.

Irrespective of fragmentation and location in many parts of the world, Palestinian

diaspora communities have maintained a Palestinian identity and a sense of belonging to Palestine, even after decades of exile. In Europe and the Americas, in fact, it is often the young generation who – no longer inhibited by the hardships and estrangement suffered by the first generation – have come to re-affirm their Palestinian identity and seek to be part of the nation.

Ingrid Jaradat Gassner is director of BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, www.badil.org.

All data, unless specified otherwise, is taken from the Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, Volume V, 2006–2007 (BADIL 2007) and Closing Protection Gaps: Handbook on Protection of Palestinian Refugees in States Signatories of the 1951 Refugee Convention (BADIL 2005).

Palestinian refugees commemorating the Nakba in Madrid and San-Diego/US. (Source: www.al-awda.org)



Children of Shatila Refugee Camp, Lebanon. 2005. (Source: Nathalie Bardou/BADIL)

Endnotes

- i. *Palestine in Figures 2006*, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Ramallah, 2007, p. 13.
- ii. Amro, Tayseer. "Displaced Persons: Categories and Numbers Used by the Palestinian Delegation [to the Quadripartite Committee] (not including spouses and descendants)." *Article 74, 14*, Jerusalem: BADIL/Alternative Information Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, 1995, Table 5: Palestinian Estimates of Displaced Persons and Refugees During the 1967 War.
- iii. This figure does not take into consideration the number of persons who may have returned to the occupied territories. George F. Kossaiifi, *The Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return*. Washington, DC: The Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine, 1996, p. 8. According to the Jordanian government, some 7,000 Palestinians from the West Bank were displaced to Jordan every year between 1968 and 1988. UN Doc. CERD/C/318/Add.1, 14 April 1998. See *Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 9 of the Convention*, Twelfth Periodic Report of States Parties due in 1997, Jordan, para. 25.
- iv. *Growing Fast: the Palestinian Population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*. Pederson, Jon, Sara Randall, and Marwan Khawaja (eds.). Norway: FAFO Institute for Applied Social Science, 2001, p. 153.
- v. *Report of the Secretary General under General Assembly Resolution 2252 (ES-V) and Security Council Resolution 237 (1967)*, UN Doc. A/6797, 15 September 1967.
- vi. *UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2005*, Occupied Palestinian Territories: <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/STATISTICS/464478a72.html>.
- vii. UNGA Resolution 37/120 (I), 16 December 1982. *Report of the Secretary-General*, 12 September 1983, UN Doc. A/38/382.
- viii. *Statistical Abstract of Palestine 7*, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Ramallah, 2006.
- ix. *Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*, 1 July 2004–30 June 2005. UN GAOR, Sixtieth Session, Supp. 13 (A/60/13), 2005 para. 82, p. 20.



We value your opinion

If you would like to comment about us, you can do this now through our website

www.britishcouncil.org/ps

Palestinians in Britain

By Ghada Karmi

The British Palestinian community constitutes one of the most important of the Palestinian diaspora. This is not because of its size, which is not accurately known as we will see below, but because of its prominence in the professional, journalistic, and political fields; and also for the fact that several major Arabic-language newspapers, for which Palestinians write, are published in Britain.

It was probably inevitable that Palestinians, dispersed from their homeland, would find their way to Britain rather than other European countries. Firstly, their main foreign language was English, and hence they were drawn to the English-speaking world. That is why, for example, the other major Palestinian diaspora community is in the United States. But secondly, it was Britain that was the ruling authority in Palestine during the crucially formative period of Palestinian history between 1920 and 1948. It followed from that, and as has been noted in other colonial situations, colonised people frequently gravitate towards the country of their coloniser. Despite all his abuses of them, they are familiar with his language, system, and customs. By an irony of fate, they end up embracing the very agent of their misfortune. Such was the case for Algerians migrating to France, and this was replicated for Palestinians after 1948.

As a child growing up in London, I remember asking my father why, given what the British had done to us Palestinians, we were living amongst them. My father never gave me a straight answer to this question but was clearly embarrassed by it. He could have said that it was precisely because of the catastrophe that British action in Palestine had visited on us that he was forced to find work wherever he could. Like many other Palestinians, he took

his opportunity where he could, even in the land of those who had betrayed us. He spoke their language and had worked for the Mandate before 1948, the only employer for educated and professional Palestinians at the time. It was therefore natural for him to slot into a job in England, working for the same kind of people he was already familiar with. The few other Palestinian families and individuals we met in the 1950s were in the same predicament: caught between the need to survive and their misgivings about the source of their livelihood. My mother, however, was never in any doubt that our presence in England was an anomaly. She never once forgot what the British had done and resented living in their land and accepting their bounty. However, even she recognised our helplessness as a people in the face of dispersal and exile, forced to survive as best we could.

The fact that we and thousands of other Palestinian exiles overcame that initial shock and went on to establish successful lives, institutions, businesses, and organisations is a remarkable story of achievement in the face of adversity.

Size of the British Palestinian community

One of the most frustrating aspects of trying to study this community is the lack of accurate data on its demography. That is because the British national census has no specific category for Arabs, let alone Palestinians. The census of 2001, the most recent one, created exciting opportunities for those wishing to investigate the size of Britain's ethnic and religious composition because it included specific questions on ethnic origin and religious affiliation. But it had no specific category for Arabs or Palestinians. Other sources for foreign nationals usually cited are embassy registration figures, but

in the Palestinian case, these are not of much help either, since Palestinians who hold Arab citizenship will appear on the lists of those Arab embassies and thus be invisible. The only exception is that of Jordan, where we can infer that the majority of "Jordanians" will be of Palestinian origin. Furthermore, Palestinian asylum seekers will not be included in the census figures, nor those born in Britain of mixed parentage, since they may not designate themselves as Palestinians.

As a result, the exact size of the community is unknown. Unofficial estimates dating from 1997 put the number of Palestinian at 15,000, but that was almost certainly exaggerated. This is not unusual for many minority groups which inflate their numbers because it makes them feel more important. In fact the migration of Palestinians into Britain was a relatively minor phenomenon throughout the period from 1948 to 1980. But it started to increase towards the end of that decade and even more so in the 1990s due to political upheaval in the Arab world, most particularly in Iraq and Lebanon. It is now likely that the total number of Palestinians is in the region

of 15–20,000. Like all Arabs, the great majority live in the London area, but there are smaller communities in many of Britain's other major cities, driven there by London's high cost of living.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Palestinian men outnumber women. Their age group is younger than that of the white British population, and they have younger families. This is the same pattern as that of Muslim migrant groups in Britain. It is usual for males to travel abroad first and then for families to follow, and those who migrate are usually young and fit. Since refugees and asylum seekers are a feature of Palestinian migration, the gender imbalance in favour of males is more pronounced.

Occupation and lifestyle

For a long time Palestinians came to Britain as either students, professionals training for higher qualifications, or as temporary visitors of various types. Today this is no longer the case. With increasing numbers of Palestinians from all walks of life entering Britain, they have come to resemble other settled communities here with a more "normal" distribution of jobs

Association of the Palestinian Community (APC) barbeque - 2005



and activities. Hence, it is now possible to find Palestinian shopkeepers, restaurant owners, cab drivers, and builders, as well as the more traditional professionals, businessmen, and journalists. We can divide the community into four types: the rich, the professionals, the workers, and the asylum seekers. It is difficult to give accurate figures for the numbers of people in each of these categories – and a trial census of Palestinians begun by the Palestinian Delegation in the early 1990s was never followed up – but Palestinians in whatever category tend to be better educated than other foreigners in similar occupations. This is no accident but the direct result of the well-known fact that the Palestinians, as a group, are the best educated in the Arab world, forced to be so by their dispersal and need to survive in hostile environments.

A number of interesting Palestinian classes have sprung up in today's Britain. Because of the many wealthy businessmen who have found Britain congenial to their activities and family life, there is a flourishing Palestinian cosmopolitan "upper" class whose members relate to their peers across nationalities. When I meet such people, I am impressed by their facility in European culture and customs. At the other end of the scale, Palestinians in humbler occupations have found companionship with each other on a family basis, socialising together rather as if they had been back in some corner of the Arab world. In between these extremes are the many professional, managerial, and journalistic groupings that engage with and across the other classes.

In all this, one senses the need for Palestinians to congregate and try to re-create their previous unity – a kind of shadow homeland in exile. This has led to the appearance of several organisations attempting to bring the community together. The most prominent of these is the Association of the Palestinian Community (APC), of which I was president in 1999. Although it has never functioned as well as its supporters

had hoped, the APC remains the basic structure for gathering the Palestinians together. In addition, the Palestine Return Centre in London is run by Palestinians and is one of the most successful Arab organisations in Britain. Its main remit is, as its name implies, the right of return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland. It functions as a research and publishing centre, arranges high-level meetings and, most recently, has established a Palestinian cultural centre in London, the first of its kind. Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) is a medical charity also based in London. Originally set up by Palestinians, its board includes non-Palestinian members, a prestigious British president, and a highly qualified British chief executive. MAP is the only British charity that operates solely on behalf of the Palestinians and has gained an enormous reputation. Its annual dinners are a high spot in the Palestinian annual calendar of events, addressed by a variety of prominent British figures and well-attended by Palestinians and their friends.

Other Arab and pro-Arab organisations in Britain include Palestinians and promote the Palestinians cause.

The Arab Club is an all-Arab organisation, mostly engaged in social events, and the Council for Arab-British Understanding (CABU) is a British association that lobbies on behalf of the Palestinians and the wider Arab cause. In addition, Palestinian student organisations exist in all major British universities, and there is a General Union of Palestinian Students which campaigns actively for Palestinian causes. This is not to mention the myriad informal and unofficial groups and organisations run by Palestinians or their friends, selling Palestinian produce, working in churches to promote understanding, holding meetings, and generally being involved in the effort to promote the Palestinian cause. Several Arab schools exist, working usually on Saturdays to teach Arabic and sometimes Islam as well.

A prominent community

The foregoing account has attempted to draw up a demographic and social profile of the British Palestinian community. This is not easy, given the lack of accurate figures. Despite these handicaps, however, it is clear that this is a community that is distinguished by the achievements of its parts,

rather than its whole. The leading Arab newspapers, *Al-Hayat*, *al-Sharq al-Awsat*, and *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, which originate in London, have attracted a number of talented Palestinian journalists. Likewise, the BBC Arabic service, radio and TV, has traditionally drawn on Palestinian talent for its broadcasters. Many of these went on to enrich the Al-Jazeera TV channel when the BBC TV shut down ten years ago. In political activism, British Palestinians have also led the way. They have a long history of political organisation and a close working relationship with the political movements in Palestine and the Arab world. The earliest political magazine in English, *Free Palestine*, was published in London in 1968, and the earliest political organisation, *Palestine Action*, was established in 1972. True, there is no Palestinian member of the British parliament as yet, but it is only a matter of time. The younger Palestinian generations, born in Britain, are even more passionate about Palestine than their parents. This cause will not disappear with them.

Today there are prominent Palestinians in several walks of life in Britain. One has but to think of Abdul Bari Atwan, the outspoken editor of *Al-Quds*; Michel Abdul Massih, the first Palestinian QC; Professor Yasir Suleiman, professor of Islamic Studies at Cambridge University; Reem Kelani, the fine singer of Palestinian folk songs; and many others. But it is not famous individuals only who make up the fabric of Palestinian success in Britain. Rather it is the less-publicised but remarkable everyday stories of initiative and resourcefulness that the community produces that make up this achievement – the men and women who come without wealth or support but who succeed by their wits. For me it is summed up in this true example. A Palestinian refugee from





learned every trick of the trade, following his boss closely in his work and making notes. "No one knows this business like the Jews," he told me, "I was glad to learn from such a good teacher." When he had learned enough, he resigned and set up his own estate agency, taking a list of the old firm's clients with him. In a few years he had become a wealthy man with a secure business, a beautiful home full of antiques, and a benefactor of Palestinian charities. No one, seeing him today, could have guessed at his humble origins or hard life.

The moral is this: Palestinians with such an indomitable spirit will be irrepresible, whether in Britain or anywhere else. Their success is that, far from succumbing, they have turned adversity into achievement.

Safad arrived in London in 1960 with little money and no friends. He was eventually able to find a job working for a Jewish estate agent as a lowly assistant. But from the first moment he made sure he

Ghada Karmi is a Research Fellow at the University of Exeter, England, and the author of Married to Another Man: Israel's Dilemma in Palestine as well as In Search of Fatima.



The Antidote to Exile Is Personal Self-Improvement

By Rami G. Khouri



Rami Khouri with a poster of the late Semir Kassir who was assassinated

Having been born in New York in October 1948, I have experienced exile from Palestine as a normal life condition, but over the years I have found it to be more of a physical and political than a psychological condition. Ironically, exile enhances one's national identity as a Palestinian, and prods us to develop new ways to manifest that identity.

The hardest thing about a life in exile is having to come to grips with long-term estrangement from your homeland while also fighting to regain the right to live a normal life one day in that same land. The great yet elusive lifelong battle is for repatriation and normal life in one's own country. The struggle is immense and often depressing when crushing Israeli occupation, Western indifference and irresponsibility, and our own mediocre Palestinian leaders and other political actors make Palestine a place of constant conflict and suffering.

The reality of this dual dilemma of personal displacement and exile alongside an often unsettled situation in Palestine itself leaves us only one choice as Palestinian men and women: to work hard to achieve success and fulfillment in our personal and professional lives,

so that we can collectively assist both the national cause as well as individual Palestinians whose basic needs are often unmet. The antidote to communal national denial is personal self-improvement, collective solidarity and assistance, and faith that hard work and honest endeavours will one day replace our exile with national reconstitution and sovereignty in our own land.

Exile was a sudden shock and collective trauma for our parents' generation in 1948, but for those of us born in 1948 and beyond, exile was an inheritance. Adjusting to it was another rite of passage into adulthood. It was something that was learned slowly and gradually, as one eventually realized that he or she somehow was not part of the many collective identities encountered while growing up.

The process of discovering in adolescence that you are a Palestinian comes episodically, usually by a process of elimination. You realize that your accent is unlike that of Syrians, Jordanians, Lebanese, or Egyptians, even though your culture is similar to them all. You realize that even though you are legally a citizen of other countries – in my case

Jordan and the United States – and you are grateful for that important privilege, the nationalistic heartstrings and yearning for citizenship both emanate from your Palestinian identity. You understand the wider and more terrible human cost of exile when you see repeated images of Palestinians in the most miserable conditions, year after year, in refugee camps throughout the Arab world, under siege in occupied lands, or constantly on the run because their homes are bombed or they are convenient scapegoats for other people's anger and fears.

You figure out after a while that border police and immigration officers in the Arab world who ask you about your "country of origin" when they see your American, Jordanian, or other passport are not doing this purely for statistical purposes, but rather because they want to know if you are a Palestinian. I now no longer play this game, and answer that my country of origin is Yemen, Syria, Palestine, the United States, and Jordan – the five lands of my ancestors and of my own life since the 18th century. One of the bittersweet aspects of exile and life without organic links to your ancestral homeland is that you develop a capacity to adapt and live in different countries and cultures.

Being a citizen of the world is a pleasant feeling in many ways – I am as comfortable cheering for the New York Yankees at a baseball game in the Bronx or playing foosball with migrant workers in a Geneva café as I am listening to Ilham Madfaai on my iPod as I eat a *shawarma* sandwich while strolling down Hamra Street in Beirut. Yet I would rather have chosen this globalist life, rather than have it imposed on me by the condition of our collective Palestinian exile, statelessness, and disenfranchisement.

One of the consequences of permanent exile is the adoption of a universal set of principles and values that many communities have experienced over time, most spectacularly the ancient Hebrews in Babylon in the 6th century BC. It is to maintain your communal and national

identity, keep faith in your eventual return to wholesome, indigenous nationhood, and in the meantime codify the laws and values that can define a stable, satisfying, and humane society. In the absence of nationhood, exile teaches us, we should aspire to decency and law-abiding values in both our personal lives and the wider organization of our communities.

This provides a useful alternative context for getting on with life, despite the burdens and constraints of exile and statelessness.

The most effective form of nationalist struggle, it turns out, is personal and professional achievement. Politicians, national leaders, resistance fighters, and civil society groups all do their part to win the battle of Palestinian national reconstitution and self-determination, with mixed results to date. We do not know if exile will stretch into centuries or end sometime soon. In the meantime, ordinary Palestinians everywhere in the world live with nationalism and normal statehood as an aspiration that they expect to achieve and instead embrace education, professionalism, and stoic human decency as the defining contours and drivers of their daily lives.

Rami G. Khouri's family lives in Nazareth. He is director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut, and an internationally syndicated columnist. He also serves on the international advisory board of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and is a non-resident senior fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



Palestinians in the Gulf

By Rana Sadik

At this point in time, I have spent half my life as a Palestinian in the Gulf and the other half as a "Palestinian" in the Gulf. What's the difference between Palestinian and "Palestinian?"

Prior to the invasion of Kuwait, the Gulf was open to the Palestinians. Our migration began before 1948 in a trickle and then intensified after each of the markers in our history – 1948 and 1967. My father came as a working professional who was employed by a development fund, and my father-in-law came as an engineer in the government sector. They were representative of the Palestinian community that was growing not only in size but also in roots. My Palestinian community began to lay the foundations of building a Palestinian state, while in the diaspora, and the simultaneous building of our lives in the Gulf.

The Gulf was awash with support, both financially and morally, for the Palestinians. We integrated into all sectors of employment as professionals and blue-collar workers, in governmental agencies, the private sector, and the NGO sector. The Gulf allowed us

to freely express our feelings of nationalism and displacement. Naji Al-Ali, an outspoken and openly critical caricaturist of the political landscape, emerged from the Gulf, later to be exiled to London out of fear, not of Arab states, but of his own people. We were allowed to organise ourselves politically and openly fundraise. In a post-9/11 world, this seems almost absurd, but we were never short of fundraising events over weekends, be it for a particular town, humanitarian need, or a political faction. How can I forget that the PLO was conceived in Kuwait?!

Palestinian assimilation into the Gulf societies never really happened. We always carried our story with us. We were always reminded that we would return. My father waited; I am still waiting; and I have taught my children to wait.

Gulf customs have not been fused with my Palestinian identity, neither physically nor mentally. Gulf societies are closed by nature; there is no melting pot here. We held on to our customs and traditions. We adopted a Western way of dress rather than the traditional *dishdash* and *abaya*. We

never mixed our Arabic dialect with that of the local Gulf inhabitants. We ate our traditional foods, and we socialized as we might have in Palestine, as families and mixed societies. The only crossroads between the Gulf societies and us were that many of us shared the same religious beliefs.

Palestinian artists in the Gulf painted Palestinian landscapes, never alluding to their actual physical surroundings. The themes of Ismail Shamout, an instantly recognizable name in Palestinian art, never reflected his own environment. He always transported his audience to Palestine. Will art historians look back on Palestinian artists of that era as the Romantics? Today we have great artists who understand that our lives are here. Tarek Al-Ghoussein's iconic image captured, through his lens, a Palestinian in a *keffiyeh* in the desert of the Gulf.

Our story was always included in the Gulf education systems, with often a chapter or two dedicated to our history. Our chapters have now been replaced with their more recent history.

My children are third-generation Palestinian refugees in the Gulf. You couldn't tell them apart from any other kid growing up outside this region. The dichotomy of their lives is beyond their comprehension. Later they will

grasp who they are because they are different from others. They will be on the outside here and they will be on the outside there.

Remembrance is a central theme of being Palestinian in the Gulf. But how I remember being a Palestinian prior to the first Gulf War and being a "Palestinian" after the first Gulf War have taken two separate identities. Prior to the first Gulf War, I was always reminded that I have a cause and that I must continue to struggle for my right of return. After the first Gulf War, I am reminded that I cannot be forgiven for the lack of judgment on the part of a few Palestinians. Palestinians collectively were banned or exiled from some Gulf States. Many were not allowed to return. My community has dwindled in number and become further disenfranchised from society. It often goes unnoticed that our financial situation in the Gulf is at two extremes. At one end we have the super-rich – in most cases these are the minority Palestinians who were granted a Gulf citizenship and who enjoy benefits almost equal to the native inhabitants. At the other extreme, we have the families that struggle because all the social service benefits we once enjoyed, education included, are no longer open us. My good friend Tayseer Barakat, a prominent businessman in the aviation industry, often tries to match our



Gulf community's needs with benefactors. In addition, the Gulf States have taken on programmes of hiring their nationals rather than foreign labour. We are a migrant labour population. Our roles in these societies are quickly being replaced. Many Palestinian communities in Palestine and Jordan depend on our remittances. Where do we go?

Gulf States deducted 5 percent of our salaries, with our blessing, on behalf of the PLO up until the Iraq invasion. They gave generously to my community here and in Palestine, with conviction; they believed that Palestine was not only a just cause but also the struggle of all Arabs. Were they the product of an education system that was infiltrated with Palestinians as educators? Perhaps. But that generation has gone now. The new generation remembers us as we appeared on CNN at the invasion of Kuwait. But they did not see me. CNN never showed my anguish as a Gulf Palestinian, cringing at the injustice of the occupation. I remain and constitute one of the 40,000, out of the 500,000 Palestinians, left in Kuwait. We refer to the year 1990 as our second exodus.

I have no stories about Palestine to tell my children, like my father did. Maybe I will read them Ghassan Kanafani's stories about Gulf Palestinians like themselves. Most certainly they will have access to some of the most important documentation of Palestine, which was initiated in the Gulf. The Palestine Land Society is an ongoing project of documenting Palestine's history, geography, and society. The Palestinian Women's Union undertook the massive project of collecting and curating a comprehensive collection of traditional

Palestinian dress from every village in Palestine.

We remain prominent in the Gulf but not populous like we once were. Prior to the first Gulf War, every Palestinian left a mark in the Gulf. Today I can name for you all the Palestinians who are leaving their marks in the Gulf. The second generation of Palestinians of the Gulf have not forgotten who they are or what their obligations are. The successful programme "Min Osra-ila-Osra" for giving directly to Palestinian families was established by a group of Palestinians in Dubai, which later was adopted as a permanent programme in a major foundation.

You will never come across a Palestinian who will deny his identity, despite being aware that we may not be as popular as before in the Gulf States. Recent politics in Palestine have presented us with an awkward existence in the Gulf.

I do not see myself as an expatriate. I am not an American. When I visit Palestine, they tell me I am "min bara." And here they tell me I am from there: "Wait to go back." I am a refugee with no humanitarian needs, but starving for my identity and culture. My struggle is never for gender equality or religion, it is for acceptance.

Palestinians will never forget the contributions that the Gulf States have made to us. The question is: How will the Gulf remember our contributions?

Rana Sadik, a Palestinian social activist and board member of the Welfare Association, resides in Kuwait.

The Central Monitoring Station (CMS)

The CMS provides all types of back up support which include but not limited to the following:

- Online 24/7 monitoring of electronics systems.
- Follow up to the all events.
- Updates field situations in all areas where we have activities.
- Deploying intervention teams when deemed necessary in cooperation with the local authorities.

PalSafe provides the following main Services:

Guarding servicing - VIP escort services - Events security management services - Money transfer services - Central monitoring station service (CMS) - Consultation services



PALSAFE
Integrated Security Solutions

www.WASSEL.ps

PalSafe Integrated Security Solutions, is powered by WASSEL GROUP

Head Quarters: Al-Bireh, Jerusalem St. , Al-Foad Building , P.O.Box 642
Tel. +970 2 297 4444 or +970 2 297 3333 , Fax: +970 2- 297 2020

Gaza: Al-Shuga`iyya , Industrial Zone, Building A/2
Tel. +970 8 280 0300 or +970 8 280 0600 , Fax: +970 8 280 0900

Adios

Sports night

Reality shows & Exclusive Movies

Beat the Clock
(Happy hour 8-9 pm)

Ladies night
(every Wednesday)

DJ night (every Thursday)

Enjoy playing the Dart Game

Located at Grand Park Hotel, Al Masyoun , Ramallah tel: 02 - 2986194

From Jersey to Dheisheh: A Love Story

By *Maysoon Zayid*



Maysoon Zayid

Author Mourid Barghouti once wrote that Palestine “is not the golden map hanging on a golden chain adorning the throats of women in exile.” I mean, think about it; do Canadian chicks wear the shape of Canada on their necks? What about Norwegians? What shape is Norway?

Before I ever went to Palestine, I knew Palestine. It was all that my dad ever talked about. He was terrified that if we didn’t go to live there every summer, we would forget our roots and grow up to be “Little American Whores.”

I was five the first summer I ever went. I packed all my favourite things: my Wonder Woman underoos, my Cabbage Patch Kid Mohammadia, and my most favourite thing in the world – my Michael Jackson sparkly white Thriller glove. I shouldn’t have taken anything because my grandmother was like the Muslim Robin Hood – but instead of stealing from the rich – she’d steal from me and give every single thing I own to the poor refugees. I spent days trying to explain to her that although I felt sorry for the pathetic refugees, I could not comprehend what use they would have for my sparkly glove. For god’s sake – it’s not even a pair!

My parents shipped us to live with our grandparents in Deir Debwan every single summer – regardless of the political climate. I spent my school days in sunny Cliffs Park, New Jersey, and my summers in a freakin’ war zone, but I was never scared because I had my grandmas to keep me safe and my pet goat Bob to keep me happy.

When I was 14, both of my grandmothers passed away and I refused to go back to Palestine. But when I was 22, I did. My mission: to find a husband. My cover: working with disabled orphans in refugee camps.

For those of you who’ve never been to a refugee camp: they don’t have horseback riding, gunnysack races, or roasted marshmallows. They have trash piled sky-high, sewage streaming through the streets, and narrow, winding alleys that make it impossible to tell where the shooting’s coming from. And there are kids.

Millions and millions of bored, hungry, refugee kids.

And I was gonna be their Oprah. I’d bring them medicine, shoes, and glasses, AND catch myself



the most stunning refugee man ever. We’d fall madly in love, get married, adopt disabled babies, and live happily ever after.

By the way, I hate kids. They’re disgusting and rife with disease. The first time I walked into an orphanage this thing runs up and hugs me with a freaking octopus growing out of its eye. I mean, you could pet it and it would wiggle.

Sure enough, the next morning, I wake up with an octopus growing out of my eye. I drag myself out of bed, half-blind. I need to go find a pair of glasses for little Muhanned that will make him look a little less cross-eyed. Within two seconds of stepping outside, I am kidnapped and strapped to the back of a donkey. My abductors – the women of the camp. They have decided that I need an extreme makeover, refugee edition. “You are dirty,” they inform me. “You need to wash your hair and put on some libstick.” And why are your clothes so baggy and black? No one will ever marry you!” They strip me down and scrub me clean with a torture device known as a *leefa*. They straighten

my hair with an actual iron, then dip me in a vat of wax and rip. The coup de grâce? The women parade me through the sewage in six-inch stilettos.

These people took care of me, and so I had no choice but to keep on taking care of them. I have been back every year since. I never got a husband, I still hate kids, but I have 732 filthy little animals to call my own, and I freaking love them. Octopus and all.

The same writer once said that “when Palestine is no longer a chain worn with an evening dress ... when we walk on Palestinian dust ... hurrying to conduct ... our passing, normal, boring affairs ... then we will really have come close to it ...”a

Maysoon Zayid is an actress and standup comedian from Deir Debwan, Palestine, who was raised in New Jersey. She is co-founder of the New York Arab American Comedy Festival and runs the charity Maysoon’s Kids. She can be seen in the upcoming Adam Sandler film You Don’t Mess with the Zohan. For more information, visit www.Maysoon.com.

ATIC
Tours & Travel

Travel Specialists in
The Holy Land, Jordan & Egypt
Tailor made trips for Groups & Individuals

<p>Jerusalem office - P.O. Box 18113 Jerusalem 91180 Tel: (972-2) 628-6159 / 628-2013 Fax: (972-2) 626-4023</p>	<p>Amman office - P.O. Box 811712, Amman Jordan 11181 Tel: (962-6) 568-2435 Fax: (962-6) 568-2338</p>
<p>info@aticfour.com www.aticfour.com</p>	<p>Arab Tourist Investment Company</p>

Diaspora Down Under: the Story of Palestinians in Australia

By Rawan Abdul-Nabi and Randa Abdel-Fattah

Often enough when we visit our families and friends in Palestine, in the Arab world, and across the *shatat*, having made a journey that has crossed more than one ocean and more than one continent, we are often lauded for our travelling stamina. And then almost suddenly impressed upon us is the striking and almost angry realisation that our tragedy has the ability to disperse us as far as possible from our homeland – even “to the end of the world.” The Palestinians in Australia are “at the end of the world,” but Palestine has remained close to their hearts, consciousness, and actions.

According to Hani Elturk, a Palestinian journalist and editor of *El Telegraph*, an Arabic-language newspaper in Sydney, one of the first recorded Palestinian immigrants to Australia was a Palestinian from Nazareth who migrated in 1947 with his Jewish wife. He subsequently worked in trade between Australia and the USA. There are reports of a few other early Palestinian migrants, such as a small number of youth who were enlisted with Australian soldiers in Palestine and returned with the soldiers on navy ships to Australia.

However, the main wave of Palestinian immigration to Australia was in the 1960s. This was probably due to a combination of factors. Palestinians who fled to Arab countries following the Zionist strategy of mass expulsion poured into neighbouring Arab states on the assumption that their exodus was temporary and they would soon return home. Western countries were not generally an option at that point. It is also likely that the White Australia Policy, which legislated for the intentional restriction of non-white immigration to Australia from 1901 to 1973, accounted in some measure for the low numbers of Palestinians who migrated to Australia prior to the 1960s. That policy was dismantled in

stages by successive governments, and Palestinians who arrived in the 1960s came mainly from the Arab states, propelled by their experiences of discrimination and economic hardship as “stateless” non-citizens.

The largest waves of immigration occurred in the aftermath of the Six-Day War of 1967, at the beginning of the Lebanese civil war in 1975, and after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The last major wave came in the aftermath of the Gulf War in 1991 from Palestinians fleeing Kuwait.

There is a dearth of statistics on Palestinian migration to Australia given that Palestinians entered on so many different passports. It is thought that by 1975 the total number of Palestinians who migrated to Australia reached around 6,000. In addition to the problem of different passports, prior to 2001, the Australian census did not contain a question on a person’s ancestry. In the only census that has been held since 2001, active community members desperately tried to spread the word and importance of responding to the question of ancestry with “Palestinian” and not any other Arab nationality. Local researcher and geographer Jeremy Cox, of the University of Sydney, has argued that in some respects Palestinians in Australia are “an ‘invisible’ national group ... distinctive neither by birthplace nor language.” He notes that as a birthplace in official Australian census data, Palestine existed for the first and only time in 1947, when there were 1,658 Palestine-born residents in Sydney alone.ⁱⁱ Since then, Palestine was erased and was incorporated into Israel as a birthplace, thereby including Jews and others and excluding Palestinians born outside of Palestine. This also assumes and designates Israeli nationality and/or ancestry for those

Palestinians in Israel who hold Israeli citizenship. Contemporary estimates of the Palestinian population in Australia have ranged from 6,000 to 15,000, most of whom reside in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia’s largest cities.ⁱⁱⁱ

The first wave of Palestinians who arrived in Australia in the 1960s belonged largely to the working class and had a relatively low level of education. The expulsion of large numbers of Palestinians from the Gulf countries as a result of the Gulf War of 1991 meant that Palestinians forced to migrate to Australia were often highly educated

“Palestinians are always moving, and therefore you not only need to be highly qualified so that you can survive where you go, but also since we don’t have the privileges of a state and citizenship, we have to have something different in order to be accepted into a country and one such thing is education.”^v

Australia can boast of many high-profile successful Palestinians who have made an outstanding contribution to Australia whilst vigilantly maintaining their identity. For reasons of space, it is impossible to provide more than a snapshot of some such individuals.



Palestinians in Melbourne support touring swim team

professionals and this has certainly since been a defining characteristic of the Palestinian population in Australia. Together with Egyptians, Palestinians were the best-educated Arabic-speaking migrants in Australia.^{iv} Displacement has meant that education is highly revered among Palestinians world-wide and the need for attaining qualifications has strongly assisted in their migration to various countries. As one Palestinian in Sydney says:

Fathi (Fred) Shahin and Sam Shahin arrived in Australia in 1984 setting up a privately owned business in Adelaide that today employs 2,000 people. Peregrine Corporation is ranked 10th in South Australia’s top-100 businesses. Fathi Fathi, the managing director, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal, Australia’s highest honour, for his charity work.

Hanna Karkar of Queens Counsel is one of Australia’s leading and eminent

barristers. He has made an enormous contribution to legal practice in Australia and has appeared in ground-breaking matters in all jurisdictions up to the High Court.

Dr. Adnan Abdel-Fattah worked as an award-winning senior research scientist with the Commonwealth of Australia in the field of aeronautical engineering for 25 years. With an international patent for anti-stalling compressor devices, he has been included in the American Marquis Who's Who in the World and Who's Who in Science and Engineering.

The Palestinian Australian community is, like any minority community, affected by factional politics. One Palestinian academic attributes this to the failure of "current and previous Palestinian representatives in Canberra to find the magical potion to unify the community." He contends that that magic potion "starts with common interest ... the community needs a local (as well as home-related) subject matter that weaves a united interest."

One of the tensions has been between the "older" and "younger" generations, although this is by no means a unique feature of the Palestinian community alone. One Palestinian reflects that this is due to competing ideas as to how to define "Palestinian identity": "Identities change all the time," he says. "The Palestinian identity during the 1920s, for instance, was different than it was during the 1940s. Again, during the early 1950s, it was dramatically different than during the early-1970s or the mid-1990s or even now. Perpetual change in community identity reflects and lends itself to smaller communities, political factions, and eventually to individuals. People in the diaspora are particularly affected because this change is a synthesis between two cultures often driven in different time zones and shaped by different experiences and perceptions from so far away."

At times, though, Palestinian Australians have transcended political divisiveness or generational tension and rallied together

in response to the deafening silence of Australia to the occupation and Israel's ongoing atrocities and human rights violations.

Palestinians in Australia have strong reasons to feel that their struggle is often represented by the media and some politicians in the language of "isms": terrorism, extremism, fanaticism, radicalism; a four-letter suffix capable of systematic dehumanization and de-legitimation of their struggle for liberation. Palestinians who regularly attempt to engage with the news media also complain about the censorship of Palestinian voices and the disproportionate and virtually unlimited access given to Zionist views. Indeed, according to Antony Lowenstein, author of *My Israel Question*,^{vi} the "Australian Zionist lobby's influence over the political and media elite is considerable."

There is a strong activist movement in Australia, particularly amongst the younger generation, including Australian-born Palestinians. Organisations such as Australian Friends of Palestine Association, the Palestine Human Rights Campaign (PHRC), Australians for Palestine (AFP), and Women for Palestine were set up to dispel the myths and disinformation about Palestine by actively engaging with the media, academic institutions, federal and state parliaments, governmental bodies, NGOs, and the community at large. Importantly, many of these activists collaborate with other Arab Australian artists and organise events aimed at cultural and artistic expression, creating a plethora of exhibitions, theatre, and other art forms that keep Palestine alive in the cultural realm.

Moammar Mashni, the public face of AFP, reflects that AFP was formed because "there was a desperate need to articulate the voice of the Palestinian in the diaspora here in Australia. For too long, the quintessential Palestinian voice was that of a 45-year-old male, who spoke only broken English at best, was unshaven, and almost always shouted at whomever he was speaking to."

There have been occasions when Australian institutions have had an opportunity to take a powerful stance against the occupation and abuses of the Israeli government but succumbed to bullying from the Zionist lobby in Australia or simply paid lip service to the Israeli agenda. Palestinians were active in support of the Sydney Peace Foundation (SPF) awarding Hanan Ashrawi the Sydney Peace Prize in 2003, when opponents of her selection attempted to intimidate and threaten SPF and Bob Carr, the Premier of New South Wales, from presenting Dr. Ashrawi with her award. Palestinians have rallied together in support of municipal councils' efforts to establish sister-city relationships with Hebron and Bethlehem in the face of virulent opposition and threatening tactics against Council members. Community organisations have also arranged Film Festivals, peace vigils, cultural workshops, and fund-raising and welfare projects.

An important question faced by all diaspora and immigrant communities concerns the question of identity and belonging. For the vast majority of Palestinians in Australia, there is no lived experience of Palestine. The link to Palestine as a homeland has therefore passed through one generation to the next by acts of memory.

Palestinians here are also taking part in the wider discussion being held among communities in the diaspora. The continued diminishing role that the broader Palestinian diaspora community has had due to the role played by Oslo, the subsequent peace process, and the fact that the Palestinian Authority removed them from the agenda and forced them to sit idle on the sidelines has been a cause of serious concern among the Palestinians in Australia. One Palestinian respondent had this to say about what confronts Palestinian diaspora communities:

"This is what needs to change. We need to acknowledge that our national liberation struggle movement had been catastrophically diluted and metamorphosed into a quasi struggle

against what otherwise is now termed a peace partner. Once this affirmation is consolidated, the notion would filter through to all Palestinian communities living in the diaspora, and that might just unite those communities towards a common goal."

Palestinians in Australia and across the diaspora feel that they have a significant role to play in the national movement. Being on the outside and disconnected from the daily realities of Palestine has meant that many have feelings of impotence. Mazen Dahdal, a native of Taybeh (Ramallah) from the West Bank and an associate lecturer of law at Macquarie University in Sydney says: "You oscillate between an Australian and Palestinian identity. When you see people in Palestine suffering you feel Palestinian; but when it's not at the forefront in your life you get caught up with the daily realities of your life and then you feel Australian. But then an Australian identity has always been an anomaly. I, like many, often ask myself what it is to me. I find myself constantly feeling out of place. Identifying as an Australian is more simplistic, it allows you to shed the burden of carrying a Palestinian identity. Yet even when identifying with one identity I tend to see myself despising the other because it seeks to displace me and dilutes and confuses my settled identity at the time."

When asked about how he would like to contribute to Palestine if he should return, he says, "Ideally I would like to contribute in the way that I can in my limited capacity. For me it would not be about expressing the Palestinian narrative and telling our story, it would be more about inward-looking reform, about Westernizing the legal system per se." This he says is more about transforming the legal culture, which in essence requires augmenting the social culture somewhat and how fellow Palestinians see each other. That, he continued, is extremely difficult because of embedded institutions and mindsets of traditional Arab culture – which are not all bad. Fear of being misquoted, Dahdal added that he acknowledges that there are norms of behaviour in Arab culture

and traditions which are just as effective if not more effective in solving problems as opposed to Western-style litigation many of which revolve around the strong family bonds that dominate Palestinian life. As an example, Dahdal said, “the family-orientated reconciliation of a dispute, called the *sulha*, for example, I believe to be one of the most effective and beautiful

and academics such as Dally to realize their potentials. Dally came to Australia to finish his doctoral studies and has lived in Adelaide teaching as a lecturer since. He says, “I and my family, back home, are attached to our land and will insist in living in our village and protecting our homes and land in Kufr Yassif.” Unlike Dahdal, he does not feel that his two identities, Australian and Palestinian,



Palestinian Australian journalist Saleh Saqqaf in a poetry reading celebrating sister-city relationships between Bethlehem and Marrickville. Photo by (c) Trinn ('Pong) Suwannapha 2007.

Palestinian social institutions.”

On the subject of return, Palestinian respondents varied. Many hoped to return in some capacity but cited immediate concerns about relocating present lives. Ibrahim Qardan, born to refugee parents from Yaffa in Jordan, says that he never left Palestine, because Palestine lives in him. The varied responses to this question testify to the diversity of Palestinians in Australia. Two respondents were Palestinians from “the inside” who hold Israeli citizenship. The subject of return is relatively easy for them to contemplate. Dr. Bassam Dally of Kufr Yassif migrated to Australia in search of better opportunities. Inadequate growth opportunities for Palestinians in Israel have limited the ability of young professionals

conflict. Rather, they are in harmony with one another.

Another young professional Dr. Awdah Arraf, a native of the north, spent more than six months in Palestine last year. Having spent her formative years in the West she identifies as an Arab Palestinian and believes that being surrounded by a multitude of identities has helped shape her own identity and her appreciation of others. Having completed a PhD in theoretical physics, Arraf is now a practicing patent attorney heading the Intellectual Property Division for a high-tech company in Sydney. She has recently started to think about relocating there, even considering a possible move to East Jerusalem. When asked about the main difficulty facing Palestinians in Australia, she

notes with disappointment the youth’s lack of spoken Arabic. She does say, however, that the Palestinian-Australian community’s “strengths lie in the strong sense of belonging and solidarity with our cause. Most of the Palestinians I’ve interacted with in the diaspora also happened to have preserved our cultural values despite having been born and raised in the West.”

Dahdal has retained much of his Palestinian humour, however, and he believes that there are points where he can reconcile his two identities. “I’m proud that I come from the only beer-brewing village in the Arab world (home of Taybeh Beer). If Aussie culture is about having a beer – that provides a reconciliation of sorts for me.” Despite perceived tensions about generational gaps between young and old, conflicts of identities, and attachment to homeland, Palestinians in Australia are a growing community that have much more to contribute.

In Mahmoud Darwish’s beautiful prose recollections in *Memory for Forgetfulness*, he

recounts scenes with his Jewish lover, Rita. After they make love, she tells him, “Take me to Australia, where there’s no one belonging to you or me; not even you and me.” ... “Take me to Australia,” she said. And I realised the time had come for us to get away from discord and war. “Take me to Australia” – because I couldn’t reach Jerusalem.

That is where we Palestinians in Australia find ourselves today.

Rawan Abdul-Nabi is a Palestinian graduate student of law at the University of Sydney who recently visited London for a One State Conference and was in Paris with Palestinian youth from around the world in the founding of the Palestinian Youth Network (PYN).

Randa Abdel-Fattah is an Australian-born Palestinian. She is a lawyer and writer. She has been published in Australia, America, and the United Kingdom and translated into several languages. She lives in Sydney with her husband and two-year-old daughter.

i. Eitürk, Hani. *The Palestinians in Australia*. The NSW Australian Palestinian Association Inc, 1995.
 ii. Cox, Jeremy and Connell, John. “Place, Exile and Identity: The Contemporary Experience of Palestinians in Sydney,” *Australian Geographer*, 34:3, 329–343, 2003.
 iii. *ibid.*
 iv. Abu Duhou, I. and Teese, R. *Education, Workforce and Community Participation of Arab Australians*, Canberra, Australian Government Printing Service, 1992.
 v. Quoted in Cox and Connell, “Place, Exile and Identity.”
 vi. Lowenstein, Antony, *My Israel Question*, Melbourne University Press, 2006.

BESAFE
CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV)

Al Nijmeh 3 Bldg, Al Balou', Al Bireh
 Tel: +970 (2) 2405200
 Fax: +970 (2) 2409007
 E-mail: info@intertrade.ps
 Website: www.intertrade.ps

It's your Safety!

"I Come from There .. and Remember"

(Mahmoud Darwish)

أنا من هناك ولي ذكريات

محمود درويش



Jerico before 1948

Photo Exhibition

Remembering Palestine before 1948

May 2008

Premiering at:

- Khalil Sakakini Centre, Ramallah
- French Cultural Centre, East Jerusalem



UNRWA & Partners Commemorate 1948

Supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC),
British Consulate General, Arab Fund for Arts & Culture
and Qatar Foundation

Contact: Gays Elwanadi 0125891221



British Consulate General



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



المركز العربي للفنون والآداب
The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture

Where Are You From?

By Rima Merriman

I live in an apartment building adjoining the Arab American University – Jenin (AAUJ) on a hill surrounded by farmland and quiet villages. As I write, the wind outside my leaky windows has been howling for hours, adding to the desolation of the campus. The protracted semester, beset by student and faculty unrest, has finally ended. It is time to take stock and to plan ahead for the following semester.

When the weather is good, the view from the roof of my apartment building is breathtaking. There isn't a single Israeli settlement in sight to mar the gently rolling hills and the Palestinian villages nestled among them. (As with any part of the West Bank, though, you don't have to go far to come up against illegal Israeli settlements and the illegal Wall). Here and there, you can see the start of development – the first ragged impression of a road slicing through a field, hills being divided into "lots," a stone building coming up much too close to the dilapidated main road blocking the poverty behind it.

The scene is far different from the densely wooded college town in the Midwestern United States, where the ragged road of displacement took this particular Palestinian and where I raised my family. When my husband and I bought a piece of land there in the eighties, I stood on top of a tree stump at the highest point of the land and

tried hard to see the horizon through the surrounding pines. "I must see the horizon," I told my husband. Around me now, there is nothing but horizon.

For Palestinian expatriate nationals like me who have managed to find their way back to Palestine in order to contribute in some fashion, what's on the horizon is far from clear. Our foothold is tenuous; we are here on sufferance by the Israelis who control the borders and the areas between towns and villages and who let us in carefully or not at all. Sometimes, even Palestinians fortunate enough (or unfortunate enough as the case may be) to possess Palestinian IDs wonder why we are here when we don't have to be, suspecting ulterior motives of some sort.

Through Israeli noblesse oblige, we are here on B2 visitor visas stamped with "not permitted to work." Locally, we are sometimes made to feel like visitors from outer space. Even among people where any conversation initiated by "Where are you from?" if conducted long enough, will uncover very few degrees of separation, bonds have slackened. Individual energies are, by necessity, focused on survival in the difficult present, and Palestinian collective "memory" is becoming increasingly fragmented.

The farther away geographically your origins are from a certain community or clan, the more frayed the bond. And there is nothing in the world farther away



Photo by Rima Najjar Merriman taken from her room at the campus

from the West Bank and Gaza than the Palestinian villages and towns taken over or destroyed by Israel since 1948. "Where are you from?" Students and faculty ask me continually. "Lifta," I answer, only to be confronted by blank stares here in the northern West Bank. (Lifta, a Palestinian village only a few kilometres west of Jerusalem, is about to be turned into a luxury residential community for Jews, even as many of its original Palestinian inhabitants, especially the ones who now live in annexed East Jerusalem, are trying in vain to regain access to their homes and lands.)

"Where are you from?" asks the Israeli soldier at the checkpoint as he quizzically examines my American passport. I answer that, as he can clearly see from my passport, I am American. "No, but where are you from?" he asks again. "What do you mean?" I counter, to the discomfort of the driver of the van and my fellow passengers, who are holding their

breaths now, wondering what illegality I am likely to fall under. "Do you mean where in America?" He gives up and satisfies himself by studying my tourist visa again. Should I have explained to this young person hailing from Russia or Ethiopia about Lifta?

In the small Midwestern U.S. college town in which I studied, worked, and lived for decades, there weren't many other Palestinians. Although I have American and Jordanian citizenships and, more importantly, I have American children, I never could think of myself as anything but Palestinian. I know only too well what it means to be a Palestinian. I am still sorting out what it means to be Jordanian or American. "Where are you from?" other Americans ask me. The answer is much too complicated.

Teaching at AAUJ, I feel a pressing need, especially when I am discouraged, to ask myself what I am doing here. A recent World Bank report describes the

The remain of the village of Lifta



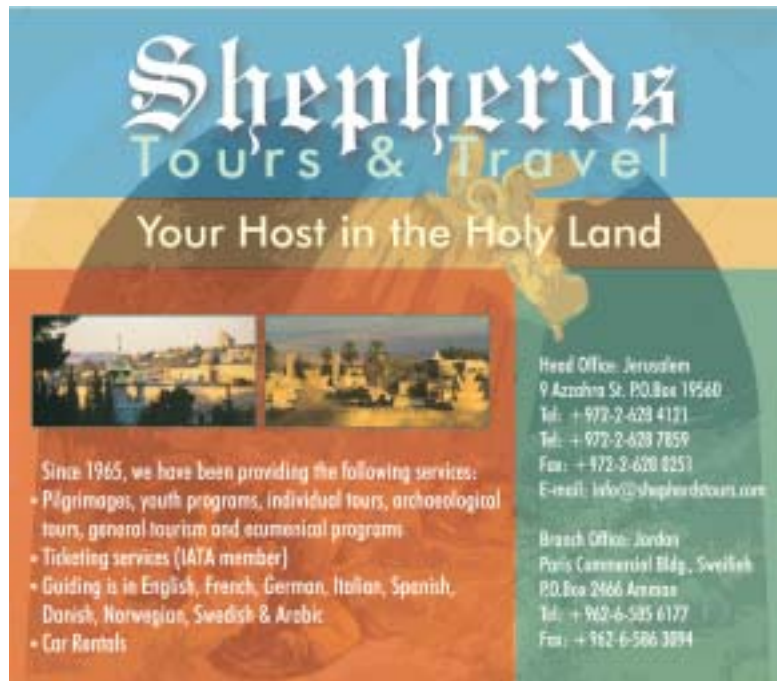
quality of education in the Middle East and North Africa as not having kept up with economic challenges. It calls for reforms in order "to redirect educational approaches across all stages and all forms, to educate students on how to think and not what to think," as a World Bank senior vice president puts it. In my experience, though, resistance to change, to new ideas, is everywhere I turn, especially if the impetus for change is being pushed by someone who must be asked, "Where are you from?" Nevertheless, the need in Palestine for qualified and dedicated individuals trained outside the Middle East is high.

There is an audio joke circulating on the Internet, a tongue-in-cheek telephone call between a Palestinian father somewhere in the West Bank speaking in the *fellahi* dialect and his son, who is apparently settled in England, married to "Barbara," and announcing the birth of a grandchild, whom he has called "Mike" rather than

"Shafiq," after the grandfather. The conversation is entirely one-sided. Shafiq gives his son news about various mishaps that have befallen the family from divorce of a sister and abandonment of children to maiming by Israeli gunfire, to illness, to severe economic need, all the time assuring his son that the family in Palestine is perfectly fine and that he need not worry about them. The conversation ends with the father thanking the son for having contributed \$100 to an NGO.

For Palestinians in the diaspora, the joke is far too close to home to be funny. We can and must do better. To rephrase part of a speech by J. F. Kennedy, we need to stop asking what Palestine can do for us, and ask, instead, what we can do for Palestine.

Rima Najjar Merriman is a Palestinian expatriate national currently chairing the Modern Languages Department at AAUJ.



Shepherds
Tours & Travel

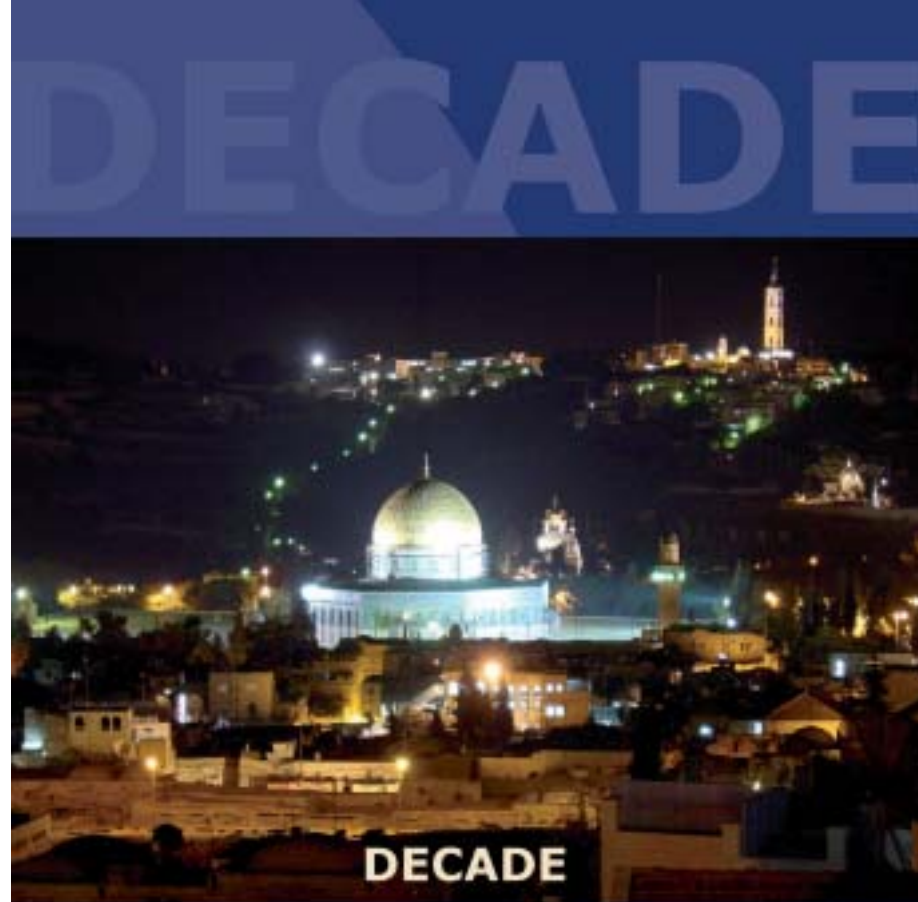
Your Host in the Holy Land

Since 1965, we have been providing the following services:

- Pilgrimages, youth programs, individual tours, archaeological tours, general tourism and ecumenical programs
- Ticketing services (IATA member)
- Guiding is in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish & Arabic
- Car Rentals

Head Office: Jerusalem
9 Azzaia St. P.O.Box 19560
Tel: + 972-2-628 4121
Tel: + 972-2-628 7859
Fax: + 972-2-628 8253
E-mail: info@shepherdstours.com

Branch Office: Jordan
Paris Commercial Bldg., Sweilish
P.O.Box 2466 Amman
Tel: + 962-6-585 6177
Fax: + 962-6-586 3894



DECADE

Your Safety & Security Partner in Palestine

SECURITY & TRAINING SEMINAR
SPRING 2008

Ramallah • Jerusalem • Jericho

No Admission Cost

For further information and application form contact us
by email or visit our website



Palestine
United Kingdom
Hong Kong
USA



www.decadepic.com
info@decadepic.com

One Hundred Years of Palestinians in Chile: New Paradigms

By Xavier Abu Eid

Chile is located in the southern part of the world and inhabited by 16 million people. Ethnically speaking it is composed mainly of a mixture of Spanish colonisers and indigenous people. For more than 150 years, however, several foreign communities have been settling in Chile. These include large groups of Germans, British, Italians, Yugoslavians, and Spanish. Many of these people were actively encouraged to immigrate by the Chilean government. After their arrival they received subsidies, land, and numerous social amenities within Chilean society.

On the other hand, and at almost the same time, a small group of Palestinian Christians, most of whom came from the Bethlehem area, began to settle around Santiago. Unlike the European immigrants, Palestinians in the beginning were not welcome in the country and suffered much discrimination. They were often called "Turks" – a derogatory reference to the Ottoman occupying power in Palestine.

After a while – at the beginning of World War I – this small group of individuals was joined by several other young Palestinians. The forced recruitment into the Turkish army frightened Palestinian Christians, and this is how the first wave of Palestinian immigration moved from Bethlehem to Chile.

Although they faced several social and economic problems, the first immigrants managed to survive without even knowing Spanish. The community was mainly composed of poor merchants, whose meeting point was also their first institution – Saint George Greek Orthodox Church – which was built in 1917. Its first priest came from the northern Palestinian port of Akka (Acre).

Later on, immigrants began to settle around the same church – a place which is nowadays known as *Patronato*, a traditional commercial area where numerous popular restaurants offer *falafel*, *shawerma*, *katayef*, or *baclawa*.

Palestinian group of friends in the late 50s in the south of Chile



A Palestinian family in the early 1900s



Jorge Chahuan, died in the mid 40s the wealthiest palestinian at the time



A Palestinian family in Chile in the early 60s

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church was an incentive to consolidate the community in Chile. Later the church was followed by a Palestinian social club and a Palestinian sports club.

By the mid-1920s, Palestinians seemed to find their own enclave within the economic arena. They developed the incipient Chilean textile industry and shifted from being simple merchants to innovative business leaders by the mid-1940s. This fact illustrates well the role of Palestinians as the main example of collective social mobility in the history of Chile. The income obtained by these businessmen was enough to ensure that their children would be educated. By the late-1940s, Palestinians in Chile were not only known for their lucrative textile industries but also for having distinguished doctors, business administrators, engineers, and lawyers within their community.

In addition to this social and economic development, the political skills of the community were also developed. In 1947, at the time of the partition plan for Palestine, a group of first-generation Palestinian students in Chile led by Alejandro Hales created a strong lobby that convinced the Chilean government to change its vote on the eve of November 29, 1947. Nevertheless, Alejandro Hales was later appointed as a minister and one of the main leaders against the Pinochet dictatorship. By that time, Chile was a strong supporter of the partition of Palestine. But even being a member of the "Chilean Committee for a Jewish

Palestine," President Gonzalez Videla cast his lot with those who abstained in the General Assembly vote.

Despite the efforts by Palestinians throughout the world, the partition of Palestine was approved, and we began to hear news reports by the Red Cross and the United Nations about 31 massacres and 550 destroyed villages in addition to several other war crimes committed by Zionist gangs against Palestinian civilians.

After this tragic period, another wave of Palestinian immigration arrived in Chile. Yet the new arrivals were able to start working with their relatives who had earlier made their way to Chile. A difference between the first and second waves of immigration was that while the first left Palestine with the aim to make a new life in Chile, the second left the country believing that in a matter of months, Palestine would be freed by Arab armies and people would be able to return. Unfortunately, that never happened. And many people received letters from their own relatives asking them to stay in Chile and to send them money since the political situation hadn't changed.

Another wave of immigration came after the June 1967 War, which was followed by political persecution against Palestinians who were involved in the national movement. At that time several young men from Beit Jala, Bethlehem, and Beit Sahour were members of the Palestinian Communist Party and the Popular Front for the Liberation

of Palestine (PFLP). They were also persecuted, imprisoned, tortured, and forced to leave.

During that time, Palestinian political movements were already present in Chile. For example, a cell of the PFLP – which was working under the guidance of Jael Al Arja, who was killed by Israeli intelligence members in the well-known Entebbe Operation – was responsible for occupying the Jordanian Embassy in Chile after Black September in 1970.

In addition to the pioneer PFLP, other Palestinian political groups emerged within the community such as the General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS) and the Palestinian Federation.

On the other hand, the community continued to develop its social institutions. That's why today, the Palestinian Club is considered the biggest private club in Santiago. It is composed of numerous tennis courts and two football fields, large gardens, an Olympic swimming pool, a gym, and a clubhouse with large salons, a theatre, and restaurants. In addition, Chile has three Arab schools; the main one is based in Santiago. It is the only place where Palestinian-Chilean children and teenagers are able to learn Arabic language and history, as well as Greek Orthodox and Islamic religion. University students who are interested in learning Arabic language and history have the chance to join the Center for Arab Studies at Universidad de Chile.

Being a wealthy community, today

we are able to find Palestinians in almost every area of Chilean interest: social, cultural, economic, and political. As a matter of fact, the Palestinian Federation is being advised by a group of prominent young Palestinian-Chilean politicians who represent all points on the spectrum from the far-right to the Communist Party. There are seven Palestinian-Chilean members of the Chilean Parliament, including the most prominent social democratic MP, Eugenio Tuma, president of the Palestinian-Chilean Inter-parliamentarian Group; the group also includes Chilean lawmakers who represent the entire Chilean political spectrum, such as socialist MP Isabel Allende (daughter of late president Salvador Allende) and Ivan Moreira (spokesperson for the Chilean far-right). The vice president of the group was considered to be the most efficient Chilean parliamentarian during 2007, not to mention the youngest Chilean MP: Palestinian-Chilean Francisco Chahuan.

The biggest youth organization, the General Union of Palestinian Students, is led by a 20-year-old law student, Anwar Makhlof, who is the youngest president that the GUPS has ever had. He has been instrumental in encouraging an increasing number of Palestinian-Chilean students to become involved in the national political and cultural cause.

In addition, a new board of the

Palestinian Federation was recently elected, and it is composed mainly of young professionals and businesspeople. The president, Mauricio Abu Ghosh, is a 40-year-old business administrator. He is the youngest president in the history of the Palestinian-Chilean community.

The paradigm has changed, though, as today Palestinians in Chile are working toward forming a national congress to be the representative body for the tens of thousands of Palestinians living in Chile. The aim is not only to repeat the historic calls for "Palestinian Statehood and the Right of Return," but also to focus on developing the organisational skills that are necessary to effectively achieve those objectives.

Moreover, an incipient communications network is being developed. There is a Palestinian-Chilean News Agency (www.oicpalestina.org) as well as two other websites that provide daily updates and op-ed regarding the situation in Palestine (www.palestinalibre.org and www.ugep.cl). These are the main sources of information for Palestinian Chileans as well as other people who are interested in the situation in the Middle East.

On the other hand, a social magazine called *Al Damir* is being printed by the Bethlehem 2000 Foundation (www.palestinos.com), which is the only monthly Palestinian magazine in Spanish. It aims to publish success stories of Palestinian Chileans as well as briefings about the activities of the community and the humanitarian

situation in Palestine.

An emergency committee has recently been created to coordinate with the Chilean government concerning the arrival of 100 Palestinian refugees from Iraq. The community has appointed Jaime Abedrapo to be president of the committee. Thirty-four-year-old Jaime has a PhD in international law and teaches at several universities. The committee has also developed a communications strategy and is being advised by several experts in various areas.

The professionalism that is evident within the community reveals that Palestinians in Chile are different than they were 30 years ago. Independent research that was conducted by Bethlehem 2000 Palestinian Foundation shows that less than 30 percent of the community are from families where both parents are of Palestinian origin, which provides evidence of significant integration into Chilean society.

At present, the exact number of Palestinians in Chile is not known. However, all the estimates indicate that there are between 100,000 and 300,000. As a way to successfully face this new scenario, a group of young professionals led by Jorge Daccaratt, executive director of Bethlehem 2000 Foundation, are implementing several projects, including the creation of a Chilean branch of the Young Arab Leaders organization, the renovation of the



Habib and Claudia Shehadeh



Carlos Abu Mohor





Palestinian Club, and the management of the Palestino Sports Club.

The most important Palestinian institution, Palestino (www.palestino.cl) is now working toward becoming a corporation. It plans to sell one-third of the club – worth almost two million dollars. The club is well-known for selling good young players to Europe and the rest of Latin America. This will not only foster investment but also encourage Palestinian businessmen from all over the world to get involved in a diaspora

project with the only Palestinian football team that plays in a premier league.

In conclusion, it is important to note that the current challenges to the Palestinian community in Chile are mainly related to the younger generations and how they can go to Palestine to experience not only Israeli occupation and colonization but also Palestinian culture, hospitality, and language. For young professionals, the links with their counterparts in Palestine and the rest of the Arab world will be the key that enables Palestinian Chileans to contribute to Palestinian freedom and statehood. After 100 years of immigration, a clear vision and long-term strategy are needed in Palestine.

Xavier Abu Eid is a Palestinian-Chilean political scientist and the former vice president of the General Union of Palestinian Students in Chile. He can be reached at xabueid@nsu-pal.org.

Photos courtesy of Claudia Misleh Shehadeh



**GEMZO SUITES
CLEARLY THE BEST**

**FULLY
FURNISHED
EXECUTIVE
SERVICED
APARTMENTS**



Al-Balou'a Area - Al-Bireh/Ramallah, P.O.Box: 4101,
Telephone: +972-2-240 9729 Fax: +972-2-240 9532

e-mail: gemzo@palnet.com, Website: <http://www.gemzosuites.net>

International Women's Day 2008

Let's Celebrate it...



8 March 2008

www.peacenter.org

Bethlehem Peace Center
Manger Square
P.O.Box 1166
Bethlehem - Palestine
Telefax: +972-2-276-6677
Email: info@peacenter.org

Sponsored by
 Sida

Palestinians in the United States:

The Untold Success Story

By Hussein Ibish

The Palestinian-American community is a large, vibrant, and increasingly important component of American life; it constitutes a significant bridge between the Middle East and the United States. Palestinian Americans are among the most active Arab Americans and are deeply conscious of their heritage and their engagement with Palestine, the Palestinian people, and their national aspirations.

The precise size of the community is the subject of some speculation and debate since, like Arab Americans in general, Palestinians are simply classified as “white” in most U.S. Census Bureau statistics. In 2000, the Bureau attempted for the first time to measure the Arab-American and Palestinian presence through the “long form” used by a small minority of respondents, and concluded from this very limited data that there were 72,112 Palestinian Americans living in the United States. Other estimates differ, with the Arab American Institute Foundation counting 252,000 and the Palestinian American Council estimating 179,000.

As with many other Arab Americans, Palestinian immigration to the United States began in earnest at the end of the 19th century. Arab immigrants were a significant part of The Great Migration, the period in U.S. history between 1880 and 1924, when more than 20 million

immigrants entered the country. Most of these immigrants originated in southern and eastern Europe, but more than 95,000 Arabs came from present-day Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine.

By 1924, there were approximately 200,000 Arab Americans living in the United States, many of them with origins in Palestine. They settled all over the country, often first peddling wares door-to-door before opening shops and businesses. They established companies, founded newspapers, created social clubs, and assimilated into American life while preserving aspects of Arab and Palestinian culture. Many proudly served the United States in the armed forces during the first and second world wars and in subsequent conflicts.

A second wave of Palestinian immigration came after 1967, when many Palestinians sought opportunity in the United States as well as refuge from war, oppression, exile, and dispossession in the Middle East.

Mohammed Issa Abu Al-Hawa was one of the first Palestinian, Arab, Muslim immigrants to the United States. In 1902, 15-year-old Mohammed left his hometown, Tur, on the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem. His long, detoured journey to America took him from Tur to Jaffa to Port Said in Egypt, then to Singapore, Bombay, and Southampton,



Early immigrants to America, circa 1920

England. Finally, on November 7, 1904, Mohammed reached New York City and, at Ellis Island, entered the United States, renaming himself A. Joseph Howar.

Like many other Arab immigrants, Howar began to work as a salesman and then opened a successful clothing store. He soon found his way into what would become his life's work – the building trade in and around Washington, D.C.

Over many decades, Howar constructed some of the most recognizable structures in our nation's capital, especially many well-known apartment buildings, including the first high-rise apartment house in Virginia. But the project that left perhaps the most lasting impact on the city was the construction of the Islamic Center mosque on Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, D.C. In 1943, along with the ambassador of Egypt, Howar helped found and provide early funding to a committee to build a major mosque in the U.S. capital. In 1948, Howar, placing a silver dollar on the ground for luck, began work at the site. The mosque was completed in 1954 and dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 28, 1957.

In spite of his many achievements in the new world and his extremely effective assimilation into the business and social life of Washington, Howar never forgot his homeland, Palestine, and provided

a mosque, a school, and a cemetery for his native town, Tur.

In 1911, another early Palestinian immigrant to the United States, Wadie Ibrahim, made his way from Haifa to Port Said, to Liverpool in northern England, and from there to New York City. After working as a salesman and taking classes at Western Reserve University, Wadie signed up for the American Expeditionary Forces that entered World War I and, along with hundreds of thousands of other American so-called “doughboys,” served in France under General Pershing.

After the war, Wadie returned to Cleveland, Ohio, and went into business with his older brother, Assad – also known as “Al.” Though fiercely proud of his World War I service and his U.S. citizenship, Wadie, now renamed William A. Said, returned to Palestine and married. There, along with his older cousin, Boulos Said, he established the Palestine Educational Company and, later, the Standard Stationary Company. Wadie managed the several branches in Egypt.

The Saims, though Palestinians in every respect, saw themselves and lived as the family of an American businessman in Egypt. However, Wadie and his wife made sure that all their children were born in Jerusalem. One of these children, young Edward, would grow into one of the



Arab American immigrants, circa 1920

most prominent and influential figures in the Palestinian-American community. After schooling in Cairo and Jerusalem, the Saids sent Edward on a journey of American education, beginning at Northfield Mount Hermon prep school in Massachusetts and then on to Princeton and Harvard.

Following his appointment as professor at Columbia University, Edward Said took his place among the most influential literary theorists and critics in the world and became a major figure in the humanities. He was a passionate supporter of Palestinian human and national rights and a long-serving member of the Palestinian National Council. When he passed away in September 2003, he was celebrated as one of the leading intellectuals of his time, a founding figure in postcolonial theory, and one of the most important figures in introducing and explicating the Palestinian national narrative and experience to Western audiences.

As these examples suggest, the Palestinian-American story contains a much-neglected story of success and contribution that stands in contrast to the more familiar narrative of dispossession, exile, and occupation that dominates both the generalized and particular self-perception of the Palestinian story. Like Prof. Edward Said, there have been countless Palestinian Americans who have made major contributions to American life in fields as diverse as the arts and sciences, academia, business, politics, and sports.

One of the most prominent Palestinian-American families hails from New Hampshire and has made a lasting mark in American political life through leadership in the Republican Party. John H. Sununu was born in Havana, Cuba, to Palestinian parents who immigrated to the United States. After a successful career as an engineer in business and academia, he served three consecutive terms as governor of New Hampshire. He then served as the first White House Chief of Staff for President George H. W. Bush, serving from 1989 to 1991, which is probably the most prominent political position yet achieved by a Palestinian American. He went on to co-host CNN's nightly Crossfire debate programme from March 1992 until February 1998.

His son, John E. Sununu, is currently a Republican senator from New Hampshire who previously spent three terms in the House of Representatives. He represents the second generation of Sununus prominent in American political life. Both are actively engaged with the Palestinian-American community and proud of their heritage.

In addition to Prof. Said, a number of Palestinian-American academics have made significant contributions to scholarship in the United States. Among the most prominent of these in the sciences is Mujid Kazimi, who is TEPCO Professor of Nuclear Engineering and Director of the Center for Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems (CANES) at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Others have taken a lead in developing the understanding of the Palestinian experience and relations between Palestinians and other Arabs and the West. The celebrated sociologist Ibrahim Abu Lughod devoted most of his professional life to this cause and was described by Prof. Said as "Palestine's foremost academic and intellectual," though he lived and taught in the United States. He was among the leading figures during the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s and 1980s who were engaged in developing and defining an Arab-American identity that would lead to the formation of a distinct political interest group within American society.

Two prominent Palestinian-American historians, Walid Khalidi and Rashid Khalidi, have pioneered the work of documenting contemporary Palestinian history and national identity. Among his many powerful works, Walid Khalidi's two books, *Before Their Diaspora: A Photographic History of the Palestinians, 1876–1948* (Institute for Palestine Studies, 1984) and *All That Remains: The Palestinian Villages Occupied and*

Depopulated by Israel in 1948 (Institute for Palestine Studies, 1992) are two of the most invaluable studies ever published to reinforce the details of the society destroyed in the process of the creation of Israel. Rashid Khalidi's *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (Columbia University Press, 1997) is perhaps the most detailed study of the development of Palestinian political consciousness; and his more recent work *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood* (Beacon Press, 2006) un sentimentally chronicles the failures of Palestinian leadership in the thus-far frustrated effort to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Other noted Palestinian Americans include the late political scientist Hisham Sharabi, the celebrated poet Naomi Shihab Nye, basketball star Rony Seikaly, and the 'oud and violin virtuoso and composer Simon Shaheen.

Palestinian Americans such as Abu Lughod, Said, and others were instrumental in the establishment and development of the first Arab-American

Ibrahim Abu Lughod and Edward Said





Walid Khalidi



Rashid Khalidi



Governor John H. Sununu

political organisations such as the Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). Over time, however, along with active participation in the broader Arab-American community, Palestinian Americans have been increasingly developing their own distinct organisations, both social and political.

Numerous social organisations have emerged in the Palestinian-American community based on town and village of origin that bring people of common ancestry throughout the country together, mainly for social, cultural, and philanthropic purposes. The largest of these, the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine, is also one of the biggest Arab-American organisations of any kind. Among the most noteworthy Palestinian-American philanthropic organisations is the United Palestinian Appeal, founded in 1978, which has raised and distributed millions of dollars in charitable aid in Palestine, and which works closely with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in humanitarian projects to benefit the Palestinian people.

Several distinctly Palestinian-American political organisations have emerged in recent decades, including the Palestinian American Congress among others. In 2003 the American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP) was formed to give a voice to those Palestinian Americans who wished to speak for themselves and express their support for an end to the conflict in the Middle East based on

two states – Israel and Palestine – living side by side in peace.

The organisation's approach represents a paradigm shift in advocacy for Palestine in the United States: it fully embraces its American identity, and its mission is to advocate for the establishment of a Palestinian state by using the argument that it would be in the United States' national interest rather than using the traditional appeal to justice, human rights, and international law.

ATFP seeks to engage the policy conversation in Washington as it actually exists and to develop close ties to both U.S. and Palestinian national leadership. The Task Force's headway in achieving this aim was perhaps most dramatically demonstrated at its first annual gala in 2006, when the keynote speaker, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, told the audience, "there could be no greater legacy for America than to help to bring into being a Palestinian state."

The Task Force has also sought to redefine the perception of Palestinians and Palestinian Americans in Washington and the rest of the country by celebrating the contributions of Palestinians in the United States and their successes and achievements. It is currently working on developing a national coalition to support the two-state solution to the conflict, which seeks to bring together Arab, Jewish, and other American organisations which, for whatever reason, support an end to the occupation and a life of peace and security for those who live side by side in Palestine and Israel.

Another recent development in the United States has been the emergence, mainly on university campuses, of a perspective that opposes Palestinian statehood and supports instead a single state to replace both Israel and Palestine. Leading voices in this camp include Prof. Joseph Massad, of Columbia University, Ali Abunimah, and other contributors to his Electronic Intifada website. Recent years have witnessed increasingly acrimonious disputes between one-state and two-state advocates within the Palestinian-American community.

Whereas some see these and other divisions as disturbing, others argue that they reflect a healthy and dynamic community that has long-since moved beyond simplistic forms of solidarity and unity for unity's sake, and is capable of reflecting a wide diversity of views, perspectives and experiences.

With the rise of Arab-American comedians in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, hip, wry, and incisive performers such as Maysoon Zayid, Dean Obeidallah, and Aaron Kader have pioneered yet another positive and engaging role for young Palestinian Americans and helped their fellow citizens deal with the anxieties and concerns of the era of the "war on terror." Through this new form of engagement with American popular culture in comedy, music, and other arts, Palestinian Americans are more engaged than ever and are proactively building a



Simon Shaheen

distinctive, non-derivative identity that moves beyond traditions, slogans, and stereotypes.

The Palestinian-American future would appear to be bright and on a definite upswing, with the increasing number of prominent Palestinians in various aspects of American life who are transforming Palestinian identity, once associated simply with images of downtrodden refugees and political radicalism, into one that is respectable and respected by most other Americans.

Hussein Ibish is senior fellow at the American Task Force on Palestine and executive director of the Hala Salaam Maksoud Foundation for Arab-American Leadership. From 1998 to 2004, he was communications director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the largest Arab-American membership organisation. He has written numerous books, chapters, and articles and made over 5,000 radio and TV appearances.

Are you ready for summer?

call to order
tel: 02-274.04.12

Quality indoor and outdoor furniture made in Palestine
www.crescent-furniture.com

CRESCENT

Jerusalem in the Heart

By Jamal A. Kleibo

My memory goes back in time to almost 25 years ago, when I was a student at the Collège des Frères in Jerusalem and had the best time of my life. I was at home among my parents, relatives, friends, and beloved ones and I was healthy, young and irresponsible. Then, the day came to say goodbye to all this and start looking for a better future, sadly away from Jerusalem, my beloved hometown.

I headed to Switzerland to study Hotel

different field altogether. I accepted unwillingly in order to earn my living and support myself. During the first few years of working abroad I used to return home twice a year and whenever it was time to leave Jerusalem I always felt I was leaving behind a big piece of my heart. Later I got married to a lady who is half Palestinian and half Lebanese and thought – and dreamt – that we will go one day to live together in my beloved Jerusalem. Twenty years on,



Jamal A. Kleibo



Old City of Jerusalem, photo by Palestine Image Bank

Management as I had always loved this domain and felt I could give the best of myself in this profession lovingly and cheerfully. The minute I landed there I felt the difference right away. How warm and spontaneous we are and how cold and conservative the people over there were, in spite of all the beauty and breathtaking nature that engulfed me. Ever since that time my nostalgia for Jerusalem increased the farther away from Jerusalem I went.

After graduation, I headed home to settle there and find a job. To my disappointment I could not find suitable employment opportunities. This was true of many others of my age at the time. I was offered the possibility of working in the Emirates but in a

this dream has yet to come true.

My pain and agony started when we had our first baby girl. When she became seven months old, I had to take her all alone to Jerusalem to have her registered on my ID card. The same thing had to be done with my second daughter some 15 months later. This time I had to carry two infants, one of whom was still not weaned from her mother's breastfeeding. I could see her needing her mother but I had to endure this endless pain to have her registered and bring her back safely to her mother. I was not able to enjoy my time in Jerusalem when my wife was left back in Abu Dhabi, anxiously awaiting the return of her two girls. (My wife, having left Palestine before 1967,

could not come back to her homeland at will following the Israeli occupation of the rest of Palestine that year. I have to go through a lengthy and time-consuming process to get her a permit that allows her to come to Jerusalem for a visit.)

Now I wonder how I had the guts and courage to do all this. I remember that I resolved not to put my third child through the same agony, even if this meant losing its Jerusalem ID card. Anyhow, this was not to be as we did not have another child.

The days go by and my girls have blossomed into little ladies. I try my best

the strong wind blowing against my face, and the lovely autumn when the leaves fall down and the trees become naked and everything becomes almost grey. Not to forget spring with its wonderful smells and the flowering trees everywhere. When snow fell we were off from school and that is really something to remember. I sometimes count the many Eid Adha, Ramadan, Christmas and New Year's eve; the many times my parents or brothers fell sick; the dear ones I lost; and I was not there to be with them, this hurts a lot.

For the past seven years now I have been working in the field where I belong, tourism. As the Regional Marketing Manager for the Gulf and Middle East of the DCT Swiss Hotel Management School and the region of Lucerne, I get to travel a lot and I am exposed to many different cultures. For the past two years I have been hosting a show on Arabian Travel TV. This affords me the chance to meet celebrities, artists, decision-makers, politicians, etc. All this exposure, however, has not diminished my love for Jerusalem, which I keep in my heart. It only saddens me that all this is happening to me while I am away from home, this beautiful place where the sun shines differently, the moon light is different, and the taste of the food differs from anything I have tasted elsewhere in the world. On every occasion I have I announce proudly and loudly that I am a Jerusalemite.

The constant dream I have is to return to Jerusalem to settle there for good. There is no other place I would want to spend the rest of my life. I think this is the dream that keeps all diaspora Palestinians going. One day ...

Jamal A. Kleibo is presently the Regional Marketing Manager for the Gulf and Middle East of the DCT Swiss Hotel Management School and the region of Lucerne. He has been living in the Gulf countries since 1984. Mr. Kleibo can be reached at jkleibo@hotmail.com.

to inculcate in them the feeling that they belong to this holy place emotionally, spiritually, and physically. I recall when I used to put them to sleep all my stories were about Jerusalem, my childhood, my friends, my parents, my school, my teachers, and my endless love for Jerusalem, its streets, trees, flowers, and even its stones. I used to let them imagine smelling the summer breeze and feel the chilly wind in winter and to imagine the snow falling and making snow balls and see the Christmas tree decorated with lights and colourful balls. I think I managed to instil in them the same love I have for Jerusalem.

As for myself, until this instant I cherish the memory of walking in the rain in Jerusalem's streets, with

أعز بعید 2
Aaz Baeed 2



**Call two
International Numbers**
fixed or mobile ... day or night
for 89 Agorots/minute



Agorots

89

TO SUBSCRIBE PLEASE CALL 199

WWW.PALTEL.PS



- Subscription fee 5 NIS/month.
- Price per minute is 89 agorots, excluding VAT.

PALTEL

A Paltel Group company

Identity and Expression: The Palestinian Struggle in San Francisco

By Jennifer Mogannam

The San Francisco Bay Area has a legacy of being one of the most progressive metropolitan regions in the United States. Even with this advantage, the Palestinian community and advocates for the Palestinian cause still face strong opposition, censorship, and marginalisation especially among university academics and activists as well as in the general social arena.

For decades there has been a strong Palestinian activist presence on the campus of San Francisco State University (SFSU). The Palestinian voice on campus was amplified with the formation of the General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS) in 1979 as part of a trans-national grassroots movement to enlighten the international community about the history of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and freedom.

Though historically the core values of GUPS were always threatened by the discriminatory environmental and administrative practices on campus, the relationship between Palestinian students and the university's administration was heavily strained through a series of controversial and impassioned events during the second Intifada. During the last few years, the new generation of Palestinian-American students has begun to formulate new, creative ways to mobilize and educate about the Palestinian struggle. The idea to represent Palestinian culture, history, belonging, and identity emerged with the thought of portraying a significant community leader in an artistic mural displayed on the exterior of the university's Student Center. The idea was suggested by a member of the Student Council for Inter-Tribal Nations (SKINS), a Native American student group on campus whose members have largely allied themselves with the Palestinian struggle for freedom as they too are a displaced, occupied, indigenous people. Both GUPS and SKINS began mural projects at the same time – April

2005 – modelled after the other murals featured on the exterior of the Student Center, including the Malcolm X mural and the Cesar Chavez mural.

The mural process began with a concept layout of what the mural was intended to embody and which images would best signify the meaning. GUPS chose their lead artists to be Fayege Oweis, PhD, a Palestinian artist and professor of Arabic language at Santa Clara University, and Susan Greene, PhD, a Jewish-American artist who frequents Palestine to paint inspirational murals on the apartheid Wall.

After various renditions of the mural, several town hall meetings reviewing the proposed images with no opposition or concerns from the general public, and weekly meetings with the formulated committee, the mural was approved by the student government, the ruling body of the Student Center, on July 12, 2006. Two hours after the approval, the president of the university put a moratorium on all mural processes and expressed his deep discontent with the student government without explaining his decision. Later statements issued by the president's office indicated that the administration believed that the images of Handala – the refugee cartoon character of revolutionary artist, Naji Al-Ali – along with the right-of-return key featuring Arabic calligraphy of the word *Al-Awda*, constituted a representation of a "culture of violence" and not the representation of "pride in one's own heritage."



General Union of Palestinian Students' active members



The Palestinian Cultural Mural honoring Dr. Edward Said

The Palestinian students on campus launched a full-fledged campaign aimed to mobilise the Palestinian and academic community to support freedom of expression and identity. The campaign included several community meetings, an online petition, and the sending of letters to the president by members of the community. As the students began to research legal options to file a lawsuit against the administration for violating constitutional freedom-of-speech rights, they realized that the direction in which they were headed was a replica of previous cycles between Palestinians and Zionists. The university administration knew that the Palestinian students would not give up the images of Handala and the key. Ultimately they took the chance that we would file a lawsuit against the administration that could potentially last up to eight or nine years; by that time, the current student group that began the mural initiative would be graduates – so exhausted and deeply disheartened that the fight for this mural of self-expression and identity would be nothing more than a vague and defeated memory in the typical dynamics of Zionist-Palestinian relations.

The Palestinian students, in one of the most difficult and agonizing moments of their student activist careers, decided to remove the images of Handala and the key, so as not to lose their chance to unveil a Palestinian mural. The featured books of Dr. Edward Said as well as every element that remained in the mural embodied the spirit of Handala and the key; the spirit of social

justice, equity, liberation, and the Palestinian desire and human and legal right to return to their homeland.

On November 2, 2007, the Palestinian cultural mural honouring Dr. Edward Said was inaugurated by GUPS, the Student Center, and many supporting community organizations. The day-long celebration featured keynote addresses by Hatem Bazian, PhD, professor of Arabic language and Islamic studies at UC Berkeley, and Sonia Nimr, PhD, professor of history at Birzeit University. The day also consisted of many performances by local Palestinian and Arab poets, hip-hop artists, *debka* troupes, classical Arab musicians, and lots of Arabic food and sweets. About 600 community members attended the day's festivities to witness this historical landmark in Palestinian-American activism. The mural remains the only Palestinian mural on any public academic institution in the United States.

Jennifer Mogannam is a 21-year-old Palestinian born and raised in Berkeley, California, where she is currently a senior in the Middle Eastern Studies programme at University of California, Berkeley. She started her college career at San Francisco State University where she immediately became an active member of the General Union of Palestine Students. She works actively at various university campuses as an advocate for human rights and justice for Palestine. She has also recently received grants from the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Associated Students of UC Berkeley to conduct research in Ramallah.



Marwan – A Danish-Palestinian Shooting Star

He used to call himself the Stateless Palestinian; now he is hitting the Danish charts with his album *P.E.R.K.E.R.* – the Danish equivalent to the American term “nigga.”

Twenty-six-year-old Mohammad Marwan has created an album that many critics describe as an artistically expressed political manifesto. Marwan’s texts tell the story about life on the street and express indignation toward high-level political affairs. Palestine is “the reason I do music,” he says.

Perker reality rap

Marwan interprets “*perker*” as “the black sheep in the fold” – the one who doesn’t give a shit and is often perceived as a problem. Danes can be *perkere* too; it’s not related to nationality. Marwan has been living in Denmark since 1990, when he and his family arrived as refugees. His family are descendents of the Palestinian refugees of the *Nakba*, and with the outbreak of the Lebanon War, they were again forced into exile. “Palestinians aren’t treated very well in many countries; but Denmark is one of the better ones,” he says.

There are still issues that need attention, however, and Marwan sheds light on these with his lyrics. His debut album delivers invaluable insight into life in the “ghettos” in Denmark, like the one where Marwan grew up. Filled with stories about the darker aspects

of life involving crime and drugs, it paints a picture that many people in the Danish welfare state never really become acquainted with. Marwan draws his musical inspiration from the American Hip-Hop scene, especially the gangsta-rap style known from the likes of 2pac, Ice Cube, and NWA.

“It is rap with a scent of realism. I rap about stuff that is happening in Denmark, but I address the negative sides. That’s how it is where I am from, and this is the style of our music.”

Marwan comes from the rap community/Hip-Hop label Pimp-A-LOT, a highly explosive cocktail of Danish rap’s toughest guys – the unadjusted and unstable. With this album, however, he is working with some of Denmark’s most famous funky hip-hop producers. The critics call the album “one of the most intense and honest Danish rap albums of its time.” His flow is brilliant, his voice is dark, and the unique immigrant-Danish local dialect gives the music an indefinable trustworthiness.

“Palestine in my heart”

Marwan’s music is greatly influenced by his Palestinian identity, which “means everything to me. It’s the reason I do music – the thing that gives me fuel to speak my case ... our case. Rap is also an outlet for the anger and feelings of despair and powerlessness that rest in my heart and soul.”

With the song “Stone in His Hand,” Marwan makes a statement on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict: “An M-16 against a stone in his hand/Choppers and missiles against a stone in his hand/A whole army against a stone in his hand/A whole government against a stone in his hand/The world power against a stone in his hand.”

For Marwan, the internal political situation in Palestine is “a big nightmare that never ends, and I feel helpless. It is like a knife that cuts through my heart. And I wonder: if my pain is that intense by only reading, hearing, or watching it, then how intense is the pain if you live in it? I am proud to see a people – my people – who have fought and suffered for so many years, without ever losing their power and strength to live in dignity.”

Marwan’s fan site is www.marwan.dk/.

over 100 types of paper with a variety of textures, colors and weights, in addition to envelopes



high quality color printing on demand



high quality black and white printing on demand



info@gasman.ps
02 298 5619

gasman[production]
powered by digital printing delivering the difference



Abdel Mohsin Al-Qattan

Abdel Mohsin Al-Qattan was born in Jaffa on November 5, 1929. His father Hassan worked as a merchant in Jaffa's thriving orange trade. His mother, Asma' Khader, originally from Lyd, was descended from Egyptian parents who had fled the colonial labour camps – set up to build the Suez Canal – and settled in Palestine.

Abdel Mohsin's father was illiterate, yet both he and his wife Asma' (who was minimally literate) realised the importance of formal education for their children during the challenging interwar years, when Palestine's traditional and relatively isolated society was confronted by the ruthless demands of the twentieth century, by the arrival of British colonial rule, and by the increase in Zionist immigration to the country.

Abdel Mohsin was first sent to the Ayyubieh School in Jaffa, and later, at the age of 15, to the Arab Higher College in Jerusalem, headed by Palestine's leading educator of the time, Khalil Sakakini. In this secular but nationalist environment, the young man flourished, showing a keen interest in Arabic poetry and history. Any early signs of homesickness were dispelled by the immense charisma of his headmaster, whom Abdel Mohsin would continue to admire well beyond Sakakini's death in 1955.

At the end of the Second World War, and while still a boarder in Jerusalem, Abdel Mohsin was called home to bid farewell to his dying father, who had suffered a stroke. Then in 1947, he enrolled at the American University of Beirut where he began to study political science and economics. As he said goodbye to his bereaved family, little did he know that this would be his last visit to Jaffa for fifty-one years.

In March 1948, as the Jewish assault on Jaffa intensified, Asma' left the city with her young family and took refuge in neighbouring Lyd, where her brothers lived. Soon after, uncertain of his family's fate, Abdel Mohsin returned to Palestine but got no further than Lyd, by which time his family had already fled again, this time to Jordan.

It was there that they were finally reunited in early 1949. But the family was now destitute. The young student was faced with the need to feed his mother and siblings and thus returned to Beirut where he dropped his political studies in favour of the more financially promising business school, a decision that he would always regret in later life.

Upon graduating in 1951, Abdel Mohsin returned to Jordan where he taught at the Islamic Academy in Amman. But his involvement in Baathist politics made him a target for police surveillance. Moreover, his meagre salary hardly provided for his large family. His mother now suggested that he seek work in newly enriched Kuwait, where demand for Palestinian teachers was high. Reluctantly, the young activist accepted and left for the desert principality in late 1953.

Blessed with a strong personality and a sharp sense of humour, he soon attracted the attentions of the then head of the Department of Education, another distinguished Palestinian educator and exile, Darwish Miqdadi, whose daughter, Layla, would eventually marry Abdel Mohsin in 1954.

The young couple struggled in their respective teaching jobs to support Abdel Mohsin's family in Amman as well as their own. Their first child, Najwa, was

born in 1956, followed by Hani (1958), Leenah (1960), and Omar (1964). For the independent and ambitious Abdel Mohsin, the life of a teacher soon lost its attraction and he was quickly recruited by the young Sheikh Jaber Ali Al-Sabah as Controller General of the Ministry of Water and Electricity, where his considerable managerial talents and phenomenal memory were first put to the test. Yet even this well-paid position soon frustrated him and, in 1963, he founded Al-Hani Construction and Trading Company with 10,000 dinars of savings and a bank guarantee from a Kuwaiti friend, Hajj Khaled Al-Mutawwa', who became his principal partner. Helped by enormous demand in Kuwait's booming petro-economy, business grew at a phenomenal rate. The company would eventually become one of Kuwait's largest contracting firms.

In spite of his successful business career, Abdel Mohsin continued to be deeply involved in Palestinian and Arab politics. He represented his people on several international visits, accompanying Ahmed Al-Shuqairi to China in 1964 and supporting the nascent PLO in its infancy days in Kuwait.

In 1964, he was granted Kuwaiti citizenship. But schools in Kuwait were not yet providing the kind of education to which both he and Layla aspired for their children, so the family decided to settle in Beirut, where they remained until the outbreak of the civil war in 1975. Abdel Mohsin continued to work out of both countries, as well as deepen his involvement in Palestinian politics. In 1969, during the Palestine National Council held in Cairo, he was elected Speaker, a post he would resign a few days later after the PLO factions refused to agree on a unified command of the organisation's military and financial assets. This marked the end of his direct involvement in politics, although he remained a member of the PNC until his resignation in 1990, along with his friends Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughod, in protest against the PLO's pro-Saddam stance during the Gulf Crisis.

In the early 1990s, after undergoing heart surgery, and in light of a recession in the contracting industry in Kuwait, Abdel Mohsin

turned his attention almost exclusively to charitable work. From the early 1980s, he had already been involved in social and charitable work on a variety of levels, as one of the founders of the Welfare Association in Geneva and Palestine's representative in the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Moreover, throughout their married life, particularly after the increasing success of his business, he and his wife Layla had been keenly – but informally – involved in charitable work, particularly educational and cultural projects. Now that the Arab World seemed to be politically, militarily, and financially bankrupt, the need to invest and reinvest in educational and cultural reform seemed particularly urgent. Thus in 1994, the A.M. Qattan Foundation was launched in London and by 1999, had become fully active in Palestine through a range of educational and cultural projects.

In May 1999, Abdel Mohsin returned to Palestine for the first time since 1948, visiting his hometown and accepting an honorary doctorate from Birzeit University. "They sowed and we harvested," he said in his acceptance speech, quoting Khalil Sakakini, "so let us now do the same for future generations."

The A.M. Qattan Foundation is today one of the leading cultural and educational institutions in the Arab World. With an annual budget of over \$2.2 million, almost entirely underwritten by the Al-Qattan Charitable Trust, and more than 70 staff working in Ramallah, Gaza City, and London, it has set a precedent for independence, transparency, and innovation in several of the fields in which it has intervened. It has also built a considerable network of partners, both individuals and institutions, in a large number of countries, both among the grassroots and on a more official level.

Abdel Mohsin Al-Qattan has also actively supported a number of other institutions over the last forty years. These include the Institute for Palestine Studies, the American University of Beirut, the Centre for Arab Unity Studies, Birzeit University, and the Ahmad Bahaa Edin Foundation (Egypt).



Telling Our Story: The Arab American National Museum

By Dr. Anan Ameri

USA, 2007, 192 pages, \$35

The Arab American National Museum (AANM) has released a new book that recounts the five-year odyssey that led to the 2005 opening of the first-ever Arab American museum, an institution that remains unique among the 17,500 museums in the United States.

Written by the Museum's founding director, Dr. Anan Ameri, *Telling Our Story: The Arab American National Museum* is also a colourful visual reference of the Museum's permanent exhibits – Coming To America, Living In America, and Making An Impact – with hundreds of photos and accompanying text that translate the Museum experience to the printed page.

"This book chronicles the journey that millions of Arab immigrants have made in building a new life in the United States, as well as the

journey that my colleagues and I took in travelling the country to build the collection of real-life stories and related artifacts that became our permanent exhibits," says Ameri. "The book is an excellent souvenir for Museum visitors, but more importantly, it allows those who cannot visit the Museum in person to experience some of its core content."

Dr. Anan Ameri, a Palestinian American who emigrated to the U.S. from Amman, Jordan, is a widely respected sociologist, scholar and author on Arabs and Arab Americans. Ameri holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Wayne State University, and was a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies in 1996. She earned her M.A. from Cairo University in Egypt, and her B.A. from the University of Jordan in Amman. Ameri joined ACCESS (the Museum's parent organization) in 1997 as director of cultural arts programmes, which led her to conceive, plan and raise \$16 million for the creation of the Arab American National Museum, which opened in May 2005.

The Arab American National Museum documents, preserves, celebrates, and educates the public on the history, life, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans. It serves as a resource to enhance knowledge and understanding about Arab Americans and their presence in the USA. The Arab American National Museum is a project of ACCESS, a Dearborn, Michigan-based non-profit human services and cultural organization. The Museum is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Telling Our Story: The Arab American National Museum is available in the online store at www.arabamericanmuseum.org.

Jericho Resort

Ideal location for conferences - seminars - meetings & special events

Jericho - Palestine P.O. Box 162

Tel: 02 2321255, Fax: 02 2322189

Email: reservation@jerichoresorts.com

Website: www.jerichoresorts.com

CD Review

Oyoun Al Kalaam Dal'Ouna

"In the summer of 2003, Al-Fawwar Camp was our destination," noted Saed Karzoun – Al Kamandjâti PR and media officer. He continues, "We were holding a music workshop for the kids who live in the camp. A little boy stood up while we were playing music; it seemed as though he wanted to say something. He was 13-year-old Oday Khatib. After a minute of silence, while his face was getting redder, he said: "I want to sing."

On December 20, 2007, Oday Khatib and Noura Madi (a 15-year-old from Salfit) recorded their first album at Osiris Studio in France. The album, *Oyoun Al Kalaam*, contains traditional Palestinian songs, oriental music, and classical Arabic music pieces.

Celine Dagher, Al Kamandjâti executive director, says that the message of the album is to spread the Palestinian music and the oriental culture throughout the whole world. Music is able to pass through borders and gets the world's attention. In her opinion, the music on this CD metaphorically united the Arab countries of the Mediterranean basin (*Al Cham*).

The title of the CD, "Oyoun Al Kalaam," is a very famous song of Sheikh Imam, the Egyptian revolutionary singer who criticized the politics in the Arab World during the sixties and seventies. The name of the band – "Dal'Ouna" – is a Palestinian word that was widely used throughout the olive-picking season. Palestinian peasants used to call the group of people who volunteered to help them in this hard work "ouna" or help.

The second song of the collection is a sweet Rahbani song that we are all familiar with, sung by Fairuz, the



great Lebanese singer. Noura's gentle voice has interpreted "Baadek 'ala Bali" differently than what we are used to.

The third song comes from the *Muwashahat* – old Arabic sonnets – that used to be sung long ago in Andalusia, Spain. The fourth is Oday's favourite, the same song he asked to perform in front of the band members the first time he met them back in 2003. "Tayara" is a political song by Marcel Khalifeh, the "Chanson-engagée" Lebanese composer and singer.

The album also contains two instrumental pieces: one was composed by Al Qasabji, and the other is a traditional Arabic tune. The album includes a traditional Syrian song, another Marcel Khalifeh song, and ends with the Palestinian traditional songs "Jafra," "Where to Ramallah," and "Dal'Ouna" mixed all into one nice track.

You can find this album in Ramallah at *The Edward Sa'ïd National Conservatory of Music*, *Al Ru'at Bookshop*, *True Blue*, and *Scientific Supply Centre*; and in Jerusalem at *Music Centre*, *Educational Bookshop*, *Jerusalem Bookshop* and *Al Maktaba Bookshop*.

By Ruba Hassan

Website Review

<http://www.al-awda.org>



Review date: February 17, 2008

"The old will die and the young will forget." That was David Ben-Gurion's cleansing dream. In fact, both the old and the young will die, but no one will forget. Al-Awda (the Palestine Right to Return Coalition) utilises the Internet to advance a just cause and counter the memory offensive. Let's have a quick look at www.al-awda.org.

The main page gets the message across easily and clearly. The top banner has the flag, the map, the return symbol (the key), a campaign picture, and the site title (English and Arabic). Al-Awda is monolingual (English only).

The site is divided into a top menu bar and three columns. The menu bar provides basic information: *About Al-Awda*, a well-researched *Fact Sheet*, *Supporting Al-Awda*, and *Contact* information.

As is normal in English sites, the left column has the main contents. It starts with *Actions* (alerts and activity announcements), then *Photos* from past events, *Chapters* and committees, *Points of Unity* (a charter-like statement), *Divestment* (calls for boycotts and economic sanctions), *Media/Press Room* (spokespersons' contact information, *links* to media and media resources), *Congress* (literature to educate policy and decision makers), *Educational Materials* (books, t-shirts, cards, maps, and pins), *Articles/Resources* (background information on

Palestinian exodus and right to return), *Audio/Video* (a collection of related clips available online), *Historical* (links to PASSIA website on Palestinian facts and figures), *FAQs on Refugees*, *Life in a Palestinian Refugee Camp*, a collection of related *Links* grouped in categories, *FAQs on Al-Awda*, *Weekly Statistics* (this links to the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights), and *Donate Now*.

The column in the centre is for action updates and is, indeed, updated regularly (the last item was dated February 4). The column ends with links to news about Palestine and information about subscribing to Al-Awda newsgroup and discussion forums, both of which are active and far reaching.

The right column is dedicated to featured items (upcoming activities and other announcements). One can't miss the featured Sixth Annual International Al-Awda Convention to mark 60 years of exile (May 16–18, 2008).

Al-Awda website scores fairly well in terms of content and update, but design and organization of content could be improved. Although the site mainly serves English-speaking Palestinians, the Web is not bound by geography, and adding Arabic will give it more visibility and momentum. Until we return, Al-Awda website is worth a bookmark.

Abed A. Khooli, IT/KM specialist
Mr. Khooli can be reached at
akhooli@arabic2000.com.

Restaurant Review

Azure Restaurant & Coffeeshop

Al-Ma'ahed Street

Ramallah

Tel. 02-295 7850

Open daily from 12 noon till midnight

Azure is one of the latest additions to the constantly expanding restaurant scene in the city of Ramallah. It is housed in an elegant villa in a quiet residential neighbourhood that is a stone's throw away from the city centre. The whole house was completely remodelled to accommodate a coffeeshop/bar and a more formal dining room. The garden has been nicely landscaped and has a shaded area for outdoor seating in warm weather. The restaurant has its own parking lot – very spacious and also well landscaped.

Some walls of the original building were knocked down and in their place now stands an airy combination of glass, steel and stone.

The coffeeshop/bar area has several tables with multicoloured chairs that evoke a Scandinavian designer's touch. A not-too-large bar divides the room and creates a more intimate area on the other side. This section has red leather benches against the wall and a few black tables. Both sections have LCD screens on the wall playing a carefully selected mix of music, often complete concerts of

legendary bands or singers, such as Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin.

The restaurant has its own menu and the coffeeshop/bar area has a different menu featuring lighter fare. Patrons with a bigger appetite seated in the bar area can order dishes from the restaurant menu. The coffeeshop menu offers snacks such as breaded shrimp, Thai beef skewers and fried calamari, hamburgers, and Gaza cheese-stuffed peppers. There is also the cheese platter with a good selection of imported cheeses – a perfect accompaniment to the many wines on offer.

The restaurant menu features more elaborate dishes that are very nicely presented. In addition to home-made soups and a good selection of salads, main courses include lamb chops, beef fillet with blue cheese, and chicken breast with mango and a coating of coconut. There is a selection of pasta dishes and several offerings of fish, including the classic fish and chips. Azure also has a kids' corner with such favourites as pasta, hamburger and fish and chicken fingers with fries. For dessert there are several cakes on offer as well as crème brûlée.

Prices are reasonable and the service aims to please. Reservations are recommended, especially on Thursday nights when the place gets very busy.



Ambassador Hotel

Addiwan Restaurant
 Patisserie Sheikh Jarrah



Fitness Center
 Free wireless connection

Nablus Rd., Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem
 Tel. 02-5412222, Fax 02-5828202

RESERVATION@JERUSALEMAMBASSADOR.COM

www.jerusalemambassador.com

Events

Note: Please make sure to contact the venue to check whether the programme is still running.

EAST JERUSALEM (02)

Centre for Jerusalem Studies at Al-Quds University, tel. 628 7517; Palestinian Art Court- Al Hosh, 627 3501; Turkish Cultural Center, tel. 540 0592; St. George's Cathedral, tel. 628 3261

ART

Saturday 8

19:00 Inauguration of an art exhibition entitled "Memory Triptych" by the Palestinian artists Rana Bishara, Sandi Hilal and Mervat Issa, on the occasion of International Women's Day, organized by Al Hoash (through April 19), Al Hoash Gallery

CONCERT

Thursday 13

19:00 Brahms and Mozart Trios, presented by the Barenboim-Said Foundation, supported by A.M. Qattan Foundation/ Culture and Arts Programme, St. George's Cathedral

FILMS

Friday 7

14:30 Gülüm (Turkish with English subtitles), Turkish Cultural Center

Thursday 13

18:00 Short Film Festival: "Bende Sira" by Ismet Irgun, "A Horse for Today" by Hala Mansour, "Make a Wish" by Cheriene Dabis, and "One Hundredth of a Second" by Susan Jacobson, Al Hoash Gallery

Friday 14

14:30 Gönül Yarası (Turkish with English subtitles), Turkish Cultural Center

18:00 Short Film Festival: "Stories from Behind the Wall" and "The Clothesline" by Alia Arasoughly, Al Hoash Gallery

Saturday 15

18:00 Short Film Festival: "Sbara" and "Land Confiscation Order" by Larissa Sansour, Al Hoash Gallery

Friday 21

14:30 Gülüm (Turkish with English subtitles), Turkish Cultural Center

Friday 28

14:30 Gönül Yarası (Turkish with English subtitles), Turkish Cultural Center

TOURS

The tours "Jerusalem, a Palestinian Perspective" are organized by the Center for Jerusalem Studies of Al-Quds University (CJS). The dates of the tours are to be confirmed. For further information please call the Center for Jerusalem Studies, tel.02-628 7517

Sunday 2

10:00-1:00 The Holy Sepulchre Art & Architecture (meeting point Center for Jerusalem Studies), Center for Jerusalem Studies

Sunday 9

10:00-1:00 Old City Libraries (meeting point Center for Jerusalem Studies), Center for Jerusalem Studies

Sunday 16

10:00-1:00 Jerusalem's Pools & Wells (meeting point Center for Jerusalem Studies) Center for Jerusalem Studies

Sunday 23

10:00-1:00 Easter Rituals in the Old City (meeting point Center for Jerusalem Studies), Center for Jerusalem Studies

Sunday 30

The Tunnel Tour (meeting point Center for Jerusalem Studies), Center for Jerusalem Studies

BETHLEHEM and BEIT JALA (02)

Bethlehem Peace Centre, tel. 276 6677; International Centre of Bethlehem (Dar Annadwa), tel. 277 0047; Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE), tel. 240 7611

ART

Thursday 6

17:00 Inauguration of a digital art exhibition entitled "Belongings of the Soul" by Samar Ghattas, funded by Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center (through March 30), Dar Annadwa

Saturday 15

17:00 Inauguration of an art exhibition entitled "Compliments to My Soul Mate" by the Armenian Artist Ashken Demirijian, organized by Bethlehem Peace Center (through March 31 daily from 10:00 till 18:00), Bethlehem Peace Center

8, 9, 13, 20/3/2008

A Doll's House

A Play for Henrik Ibsen
Adapted and Directed by George Ibrahim

Al Khabza Theatre and Cinematheque
Presents

Supported by THE AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL OF JERUSALEM
TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

18:00 Inauguration of a photographic exhibition, on the occasion of Francophone Week, organized by Alliance Française de Bethléem, in cooperation with Bethlehem Peace Center (through March 21 daily from 10:00 till 18:00), Bethlehem Peace Center

Wednesday 19

17:00 Inauguration of an art exhibition entitled "Peace. Shalom. Paco. Salaam. Friede. Rauha" (through April 14), Dar Annadwa

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Friday 7

09:30-12:30 Friday Club, Bethlehem Peace Center

Thursday 13

16:00 Special Easter Event for Kids entitled "Kamal, Sana' & Foxy", Dar Annadwa

Friday 14

09:30-12:30 Friday Club, Bethlehem Peace Center

Friday 21

09:30-12:30 Friday Club, Bethlehem Peace Center

Friday 28

09:30-12:30 Friday Club, Bethlehem Peace Center

CONCERTS

Friday 7

17:00 Musical Concert by the string students of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music with their teachers Alastair Mitchell & Shinya Abe, organized by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, in cooperation with Bethlehem Peace Center, Bethlehem Peace Center

Friday 14

19:00 Brahms and Mozart Trios, presented by the Barenboim-Said Foundation, Supported by A. M. Qattan Foundation/ Culture & Arts Programme, Bethlehem Peace Center

Saturday 15

19:00 Musical Concert with Moody Symphonic Band from Chicago and Bethlehem Bible College Choir, Dar Annadwa

Tuesday 18

19:00 Easter Musical Concert with Al Raja' Musical Group, Dar Annadwa

FILMS

Thursday 6

18:00 Alvin & The Chipmunks, Bethlehem Peace Center

Thursday 13

18:00 The Golden Compass, Bethlehem Peace Center

Thursday 20

18:00 Aliens vs. Predator, Bethlehem Peace Center

Thursday 27

18:00 Andaleeb Al Dukki, Bethlehem Peace Center

Friday 28

17:00 Heya Fawda, Dar Annadwa

20:00 Heya Fawda, Dar Annadwa

Saturday 29

17:00 Heya Fawda, Dar Annadwa

20:00 Heya Fawda, Dar Annadwa

LITERATURE

Wednesday 19

17:00 Poetry recital entitled "Akheeran Takalam Al Samt" by the young Palestinian Poet Enass Bannoura, from her first book entitled "Akheeran Takalam Al Samt" organized by Bethlehem Peace Center, Bethlehem Peace Center

PLAY

Thursday 6

19:00 Painful days of Abu Halima's Life, by Al-Ruwah Theatre Group, Dar Annadwa

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 8

The Coalition of Development Institutions, organize a special program on the occasion of the International Women's Day, Bethlehem Peace Center

Thursday 20

20:00 Easter special dinner, Dar Annadwa

TOUR

Sunday 16

9:00 Bethlehem and Vicinity, PACE

1 INTERCONTINENTAL
JERICHO

Join Intercontinental Jericho for an entirely different experience, which guarantees to satisfy every traveler's needs.

Do You Live an InterContinental Life?

**WELCOME TO
JERICHO**

Intercontinental Jericho
P.O. Box 150, Jericho, Palestine
Tel. +970-2-231-1200
Fax. +970-2-231-1222
jrcha.reservations@hg.com



RAMALLAH (02)

Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque, tel. 296 5292; Ashtar Theater, tel. 298 0037; Birzeit Ethnographic and Art Museum, tel. 298 2976; Birzeit University, tel. 298 2000; Franco- German Cultural Centre, tel. 298 1922; Ramallah Friends Meeting House, tel. 298 4420; Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE), tel. 240 7611; Ramallah Cultural Palace, tel. 298 4704

ART

Saturday 1

Electronic Exhibition: Reflection by Jawad Ibrahim (through March 30 daily 24 hours), <http://virtualgallery.birzeit.edu/>

Electronic Exhibition: Bashir Makhoul- artist of the month (through March 30 daily 24 hours), <http://virtualgallery.birzeit.edu/>

Electronic Exhibition: Spirit & Perfumes by Hawajri Mohamed (through March 30 daily 24 hours), http://virtualgallery.birzeit.edu

Electronic Exhibition: The VALLEY, a part of "Les inquiets exhibition" by Ahlam Shibli (through March 30 daily 24 hours), <http://virtualgallery.birzeit.edu>

Electronic Exhibition: Banksy in Palestine (through March 30 daily 24 hours), <http://virtualgallery.birzeit.edu>

10:00-14:00 Continuation of an art exhibition entitled "Badrans a Century of Tradition and Innovation" (through April 15 daily from 10:00 till 14:00 except Fridays and Sundays), Birzeit Ethnographic and Art Museum

Thursday 6

18:30 Inauguration of a photographic exhibition by the French-Portugese photographer Lucia Cristina Estrada Mota about 3 years of life in Palestine, Franco-German Cultural Center

Sunday 9

18:30 Video instillation entitled "Macro-Micro" of the French architect Odile Decq, about 10 years of her agency's work, Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center

Monday 24

18:30 Inauguration of an art exhibition entitled "Spirit and Perfumes" by Mohamed El Hawajri, part of the Gaz'art program, Franco- German Cultural Center

CONCERTS

Saturday 1

19:00 Piano Concert by "Eric Stumacher," Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center

Thursday 13

18:30 Michel Sajrawy, guitar music oscillates between jazz and maqamat, Franco- German Cultural Center

Saturday 15

19:00 Brahms and Mozart Trios, presented by the Barenboim-Said Foundation, supported by A.M. Qattan Foundation/ Culture & Arts Programme, Ramallah Friends Meeting House

Tuesday 18

19:00 A concert of French music with Jacques Yvart and the Senegalese band Meissa, at the occasion of the Francophonie's days, Franco-German Cultural Center

Sunday 30

19:00 A concert of Poulenc, Crussel, Muczynski and Haydn entitled "Gioco delle coppie" part of the classical music program "La plume et l'archet", in partnership with the Barenboim Foundation, Franco- German Cultural Center

DANCE

Saturday 1

18:00 Wishah Troupe, Ramallah Cultural Palace

Thursday 27

19:00 El Fonoun Troupe, Ramallah Cultural Palace

FILMS

Tuesday 4

16:30 De battre mon coeur s'est arrêté, Franco- German Cultural Center

Tuesday 11

18:00 Frontiers of dreams and fears by Mai Masri's, part of the monthly program "Documentaires" by the Media Center of Birzeit University's director Inaam Obeid, Franco- German Cultural Center

Saturday 15

15:30 Adventures of Prince Ahmad, Franco-German Cultural Center

LECTURES

Saturday 8

16:30 On the occasion of International Women's Day, a reading about "Women, Today, in Palestine" by the ex-minister of Women Affairs and director of the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentary Center Zahira Kamal, Franco- German Cultural Center

Commercials zero illusions?

REAL
COLA
TASTE



Monday 10

14:00 A lecture entitled "Horizons" about the extreme-contemporary architecture by the French architect Odile Decq director of the architecture school of Paris, Birzeit university

LITERATURE

Tuesday 4

18:30 On the occasion of the international event, "The Poets' Spring" an exceptional meeting and reading with the French-Moroccan poet Abdellatif Laabi and the Palestinian poet Ghassan Zaqtan, Franco-German Cultural Center

PLAYS

Saturday 8

19:00 A Doll's House Nora, New production for Al Kasaba Theatre, supported by The Norwegian Representative Office, Al Kasaba Theatre

Thursday 13

19:00 A Doll's House Nora, New production for Al Kasaba Theatre, supported by The Norwegian Representative Office, Al Kasaba Theatre

Thursday 20

19:00 A Doll's House Nora, New production for Al Kasaba Theatre, supported by The Norwegian Representative Office, Al Kasaba Theatre

19:00 Phèdre by Jean Racine, directed by Patrice Chéreau, Ashtar Theater

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 19

18:00 Francophonie's days, a full program of movies, assorted foods that represent the countries of origin of the films, Franco-German Cultural Center

Friday 28

18:00 Francophonie's days, a full program of movies, assorted foods that represent the countries of origin of the films, Franco-German Cultural Center

TOURS

Sunday 9

9:00 The Vicinity of Ramallah, PACE

Sunday 30

9:00 The Vicinity of Ramallah, PACE

NABLUS (09)

French Cultural Center (CCF), tel. 238 5914; Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE), tel. 02 240 7611

ART

Sunday 2

18:00 Inauguration of a photography and video exhibition entitled "Images for Life", by children from Aida refugee camp, a project initiated by Al-Rowwad, financed by the French Consulate (through March 7 daily from 9:00 till 19:00 except Fridays), CCF

Saturday 8

18:00 Inauguration of a photography exhibition entitled "Palestinian Women/ In-sights" by French photographer Myrtille (Mireille Dupont) celebration of the International Women's Day (through March 22 daily from 9:00 till 19:00 except Fridays), CCF

Sunday 23

18:00 Inauguration of an art exhibition entitled "Simply a Camp" by Shareef Sarhan (through April 6 daily from 9:00 till 19:00 except on Fridays), CCF

FILM

Tuesday 4

18:00 Les mains (Hands), Les pieds, by French filmmaker Christophe Loizillon, CCF

LITERATURE

Thursday 6

18:00 On the occasion of the international event, "The Poets' Spring" an exceptional meeting and reading with the French-Moroccan poet Abdellatif Laabi and the Palestinian poet Ghassan Zaqtan, CCF

TOUR

Sunday 2

9:00 Nablus, PACE

HEBRON (02)

Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE), tel. 240 7611

TOUR

Sunday 23

9:00 Hebron, PACE

JERUSALEM

THE EAST SIDE STORY

A Film By Mohammed Alatar

*"The air above Jerusalem is filled with prayers and dreams
Like air above cities with heavy industry
Hard to breathe
From time to time a new shipment of
history arrives"-
Yehuda Amichai*

The latest shipment of history is the Israeli occupation. In 1948, the western part of the city fell under Israeli control; in 1967, the eastern part fell under Israeli occupation. Since then, Israel has pursued a policy of Judaizing the city, aiming to achieve 'Jewish demographic superiority.' Part of this policy is to drive Palestinian Muslims and Christians out of the city; denying their presence, history, and ties to the land.

The documentary takes you on a journey exposing Israel's policy to gain supremacy and hegemony over the city and its inhabitants. It also touches on the future of the city: Jerusalem is the key to peace; without Jerusalem, there is no peace for anyone.

The film includes interviews with Palestinian and Israeli leaders, human rights activists and political analysts.



Available at:

Jerusalem: Educational Bookshop
American Colony Bookstore
Bethlehem: Bethlehem Peace Center
Ramallah: Pronto's Cafe

Palestinian
Agricultural
Relief
Committees



www.eastsidestory.ps

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

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

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

Gallery Anadiel
Tel: 628 2811, Fax: 626 4403

Hakawati Group
f.abousalem@tiscali.fr

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

Palestinian Art Court - Al Hoash
Telefax: 627 3501
info@alhoashgallery.org, www.alhoashgallery.org

Palestinian National Theatre
Tel: 628 0957, Fax: 627 6293
pnt@palnet.com

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, www.birzeit.edu/music

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

Turkish Cultural Centre
Tel: 540 0592, Fax: 532 3310
kudustur@netvision.net.il
www.kudusbk.com

Yabous Productions
Tel: 626 1045, Fax: 626 1372
info@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, 0599 938 0887
artasfc@yahoo.com

Bethlehem Academy of Music/ Bethlehem Music Society
Tel: 277 7141, Fax: 277 7142

Bethlehem Peace Center
Telefax: 276 6677
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@bethlehem2000.org
www.bethlehem2000.org/cchp

Inad Centre for Theatre & Arts
Telefax: 276 6263
www.inadtheatre.org

International Centre of Bethlehem-Dar Annadwa
Tel: 277 0047, Fax: 277 0048

PALTEL Showrooms / West Bank & Gaza

Bethlehem

- **Alnahd St.**
Tel: 02-2751100
Fax: 02-2750999
e-Fax: 02-2350599
- **Behind the County**
Tel: 02-2748484
Fax: 02-2740599

Gaza

- **Al-Shuhada' St.**
Tel: 08-2888222
Fax: 08-2822900
- **Al-Nuseirat/Al-Souk St.**
opp. Al-Zohair Pharmacy
Tel: 08-2550555
Fax: 08-2555222
- **Deir Al Balah**
Tel: 08-2532555
Fax: 08-2555222
- **Jabalia Camp**
Tel: 08-2462228
Fax: 08-2472221
- **Khan Yunis Main St.**
Tel: 08-2866610
Fax: 08-2860666
- **Rafah / Downtown**
Tel: 08-2136300
Fax: 08-2136500
- **Shaikh Radwan St.**
Tel: 08-2850600
Fax: 08-2859900

Hebron

- **Aln Sara St.**
Tel: 02-2223999
Fax: 02-2255555
- **Al-Zahra**
Tel: 02-2266199
- **Dara / Town Center**
Tel: 02-2281999
- **Tatta / Town Center**
Tel: 02-2278200

Jenin

- **Abu Baker St.**
Tel: 04-2505600
e-Fax: 09-2350005
- **Haifa St.**
Tel: 04-2505199
e-Fax: 09-2350035
- **Nazareth St.**
Tel: 04-2502300
e-Fax: 09-2350112

Jerusalem

- **Al-Azariya main St.**
Tel: 02-2796199
- **Al-Ram Main St.**
Tel: 02-2342991
- **Jericho - Arab Bank St.**
Tel: 02-2321199

Nablus

- **Eastern Nablus / Near the Arab Bank**
Tel: 09-2328199
E-Fax: 09-2320199

- **Faisal St.**
Tel: 09-2390109/2390108
e-Fax: 09-2350140
- **Rafidia HQ**
Tel: 09-2389532

Qalqilia

Downtown, Azzam Jannous Mall
Tel: 09-2948325

Ramallah & Al-Beireh

- **Al-Ersal**
Tel: 02-2976599
e-Fax: 02-2350116
- **Al-Sa'a Square**
Tel: 02-2966399
e-Fax: 02-2350116
- **Nablus St.**
Tel: 02-2408118
e-Fax: 02-2350116

Salfit

Tel: 09-2515251

Tulkarem

- **Abu Saifiah bldg**
Tel: 09-2671199
Fax: 09-2350699

Tubas

Tel: 09-2574699

Customer Care: 199
Maintenance: 166
Call Center: 144

JAWWAL Showrooms / West Bank & Gaza

Bethlehem Tel: 02-2764644/5
Gaza

- **Al-Jala' St.**
Tel: 08-2833220
- **Al-Nasser St.**
Tel: 08-2851910
- **Deir Al-Balah**
Tel: 08-2539118
- **Downtown**
Tel: 08-2818188/101/102
- **Jabalia Camp**
Tel: 08-2455333
- **Rharyounes**
Tel: 08-2050333

• **Rafah**
Tel: 08-2139110

Hebron

- **Dara**
Tel: 02-2285254
- **Ein Sara St.**
Tel: 02-2214661/3
- **Halhoul**
Tel: 02-2299051
- **University St.**
Tel: 02-2293101/2/3

Jenin Tel: 04-2505547/8
Jericho Tel: 02-2322222
Nablus Tel: 09-2337367/8/9

Qalqilia Tel: 09-2945800

Ramallah & Al-Beireh

- **Al-Bakur HQ**
Tel: 02-2968004/5/6/7
- **Birzeit**
Tel: 02-2811656
- **Main St.**
Tel: 02-2971114
- **Nablus St.**
Tel: 02-2407476/7/8/9
- **Plaza Mall**
Tel: 02-2403802/3/5

Tulkarem Tel: 09-2681199
Call Center 111

PALTEL GROUP Social Responsibility Fund / West Bank & Gaza

North Area
Tel: 09 2390444
Fax: 09 2350739

Middle and South Area
Tel: 02 2944040
Fax: 09 2350592

Gaza Strip
Tel: 08 2885132
Fax: 08 2885136

Public Relations & Investors Ramallah & Al-Beireh Tel: 02 2944041 Fax: 02 2957416

• You can buy all Hadesa products & ADSL lines from all PalTel & Jawwal showrooms. **Marlana Help Desk: 1700-100-100**

www.paltelgroup.ps

addar@annadwa.org
www.annadwa.org

ITIP Center "Italian Tourist Information Point"
Tel: 276 0411
itipcenter@yahoo.com

Palestinian Heritage Center
Tel: 274 2381, 274 2642
mahasaca@palestinianheritagecenter.com
www.palestinianheritagecenter.com

Palestinian Group for the Revival of Popular Heritage
Tel: 274 7945

Sabreen Association for Artistic Development
Tel: 275 0091, Fax: 275 0092
sabreen@sabreen.org, www.sabreen.org

Tent of Nations
Tel: 274 3071, Fax: 276 7446
tnations@p-ol.com, www.tentofnations.org

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music
Tel: 274 8726
info@ncm.birzeit.edu, www.birzeit.edu/music

The Higher Institute of Music
Tel: 275 2492
highiom@hotmail.com
www.thehigherinstituteofmusic.ps

Turathuna - Centre for Palestinian Heritage (B.Uni.)
Tel: 274 1241, Fax: 274 4440
pdaoud@bethlehem.edu, www.bethlehem.edu

Hebron (02)

Al Sanabl Centre for Studies and Heritage
Tel: 256 0280
e-mail: sanabelssc@yahoo.com
www.sanabl.org, www.sanabl.ps

Association d'Echanges Culturels Hebron-France (AECHF)
Tel: 222 4811
info@hebron-france.org, www.hebron-france.org

Badil Centre
Tel: 277 7086

Beit Et Tifl Compound
Tel: 229 1559
tdphebron@alqudsnet.com

British Council- Palestine Polytechnic University
Tel: 229 3717
information@ps.britishcouncil.org
www.britishcouncil.org.ps

Children Happiness Center
Tel: 229 9545
children_hc@yahoo.com

Dura Cultural Martyrs Center
Tel: 228 3663
nader@duramun.org, www.duramun.org

Palestinian Child Arts Center (PCAC)
Tel: 222 4813, Fax: 222 0855
pcac@hotmail.com, www.pcac.net

Theater day production Yes Theater
Tel: 229 1559,
www.yestheatre.org, info@yestheatre.org

The International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL)
Tel: 222 9131, Fax: 229 0652
itv@ipyl.org, www.ipyl.org

Jericho (02)

Jericho Community Centre
Tel: 232 5007

Jericho Culture & Art Center
Tel: 232 1047

Municipality Theatre
Tel: 232 2417, Fax: 232 2604

Jenin (04)

The Freedom Theatre/Jenin Refugee Camp
Tel: 250 3345
info@thefreedomtheatre.org

Nablus (09)

British Council- Al Najah University
Tel: 237 5950
information@ps.britishcouncil.org
www.britishcouncil.org/ps

Cultural Centre for Child Development
Tel: 238 6290, Fax: 239 7518
nutaleb@hotmail.com, www.nutaleb.cjb.net

Cultural Heritage Enrichment Center
Tel: 237 2863, Fax: 237 8275
arafatn24@yahoo.com

French Cultural Centre
Tel: 238 5914, Fax: 238 7593
ccfnaplouse@consulfrance-jerusalem.org

Nablus The Culture
Tel: 233 2084, Fax: 234 5325
info@nablusculture.ps, www.nablusculture.ps

Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02)

A. M. Qattan Foundation
Tel: 296 0544, Fax: 298 4886
info@qattanfoundation.org, www.qattanfoundation.org

Al-Kamandjati Association
Tel: 297 3101
info@alkamandjati.com, www.alkamandjati.com

Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque
Tel: 296 5292/3, Fax: 296 5294
info@alkasaba.org, www.alkasaba.org

Al-Rahhalah Theatre
Tel: 298 8091
alrahhalah@hotmail.com

Amideast
Tel: 240 8023, Fax: 240 8017
westbank-gaza@amideast.org, www.amideast.org

Ashtar for Theatre Production
Tel: 298 0037, Fax: 296 0326
info@ashtar-theatre.org, www.ashtar-theatre.org

Baladna Cultural Center
Tel: 295 8435

BirZeit Ethnographic and Art Museum
Tel: 298 2976
www.virtualgallery.birzeit.edu

British Council
Tel: 296 3293-6, Fax: 296 3297
information@ps.britishcouncil.org
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, www.el-funoun.org

First Ramallah Group, Sareyyet Ramallah
Tel: 295 2706 - 295 2690, Fax: 298 0583
sirreyeh@palnet.com, www.sirreyeh.org

Franco-German Cultural Centre Ramallah
Tel: 298 1922 / 7727, Fax: 298 1923
info@ccf-goethe.org, www.ccf-goethe-ramallah.org

Greek Cultural Centre - "Macedonia"
Tel: 298 1736 / 298 0546
makedonia@palnet.com

In'ash Al-Ura Society- Center for Heritage & Folklore Studies
Tel: 240 1123 / 240 2876, Tel: 240 1544
usra@palnet.com, www.inash.org

Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center
Tel: 298 7374, Fax: 296 6820
sakakini@sakakini.org, www.sakakini.org

Manar Cultural Center
Tel: 295 7937, Fax: 298 7598

Mazra'a Qibliyeh Heritage and Tourism Centre
Tel: 281 5825
mazraaheritage@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/mazraaheritage/

Palestinian Association for Contemporary Art PACA
Tel: 296 7601, fax: 295 1849
paca@pal-paca.org, www.pal-paca.org

Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE)
Tel: 240 7611, Telfax: 240 7610
pace@p-ol.com, www.pace.ps

Popular Art Center
Tel: 240 3891, Fax: 240 2851
info@popularartcentre.org, www.popularartcentre.org

Ramallah Cultural Palace
Tel: 298 4704 / 295 2105, Fax: 295 2107
rcevents@ramallah-city.org
www.ramallahculturalpalace.org

RIWAQ: Centre for Architectural Conservation
Tel: 240 6887, Fax: 240 6986
riwaq@palnet.com, www.riwaq.org

Sandouq Elajab Theatre
Tel: 296 5638, 295 3206
sandouqelajab@yahoo.com

Shashat
Tel: 297 3336, Fax: 297 3338
info@shashat.org, www.shashat.org

Sharek Youth Forum
Tel: 296 7741, Fax: 296 7742
info@sharek.ps, www.sharek.ps

Tamer Institute for Community Education
Tel: 298 6121/ 2, Fax: 298 8160
tamer@palnet.com, www.tamerinst.org

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music
Tel: 295 9070, Fax: 295 9071
info@ncm.birzeit.edu, www.birzeit.edu/music

The Palestinian Circus School
Tel: 0545- 671 911 or 0599- 926 107
www.palcircus.ps, info@palcircus.ps

The Palestinian Network of Art Centres
Tel: 298 0036, 296 43489/, Fax: 296 0326
iman_aoun@yahoo.com

Young Artist Forum
Tel: 296 7654
yaf@palnet.com

Gaza Strip (08)

Al-Qattan Centre for the Child
Tel: 283 9929, Fax: 283 9949
reem@qcc.qattanfoundation.org
www.qattanfoundation.org/qcc

Arts & Crafts Village
Tel: 284 6405
artvlg@palnet.com, www.gazavillage.org

Ashtar for Culture & Arts
Tel: 283 3565
atlas9@palnet.com

Fawanees Theatre Group
Tel: 288 4403

Culture & Light Centre
Tel: 286 5896, ifarah@palnet.com

French Cultural Centre
Tel: 286 7883, Fax: 282 8811
ccfgaza@consulfrance-jerusalem.org

Gaza Theatre
Tel: 282 4860, Fax: 282 4870

Global Production and Distribution
Tel: 288 4399
art.global@yahoo.com

Goethe Institute
Tel: 284 7595, Fax: 284 7595

Holst Cultural Centre
Tel: 281 0476, Fax: 280 8896
mrcrg@palnet.com

Theatre Day Productions
Tel: 283 6766
tdpgaza@palnet.com

Accommodation

East Jerusalem (02)

Addar Hotel (30 suites; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 626 3111, Fax: 626 0791
www.addar-hotel.com

Alcazar Hotel (38 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 628 1111; Fax: 628 7360
admin@jrscazar.com, www.jrscazar.com

Ambassador Hotel (122 rooms; bf; cf; mr; res)
Tel: 541 2222, Fax: 582 8202
reservation@jerusalemambassador.com
www.jerusalemambassador.com

American Colony Hotel
(84 rooms; bf; cf; mr; res)
Tel: 627 9777, Fax: 627 9779
reserv@amcol.co.il, www.americancolony.com

Austrian Hospice
Tel: 626 5800, Fax: 627 1472
office@austrianhospice.com
www.austrianhospice.com

Azzahra Hotel (15 rooms, res)
Tel: 628 2447, Fax: 628 3960
azzahrahotel@shabaka.net, www.azzahrahotel.com

Capitol Hotel (54 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 628 2561/2, Fax: 626 4352

Capitolina Hotel (ex. YMCA)
(55 rooms; bf; cf; mr; res)
Tel: 628 6888, Fax: 627 6301
capitol@cast-jerusalem-ymca.org

Christmas Hotel (37 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 628 2588, Fax: 626 4417

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

Golden Walls Hotel (112 rooms)
Tel: 627 2416, Fax: 626 4658
info@goldenwalls.com, www.goldenwalls.com

Holy Land Hotel (105 rooms; bf; cf; mr; res)
Tel: 627 2888, info@holylanhotel.com
www.holylanhotel.com

Jerusalem Hotel (14 rooms; bf; mr; res; live music)
Tel: 628 3282, Fax: 628 3282
raed@jrshotel.com, www.jrshotel.com

Jerusalem Claridge Hotel (30 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 234 7137, Fax: 234 7139
claridge@palnet.com

Jerusalem Meridian Hotel
(74 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 628 5212, Fax: 628 5214
www.jerusalem-meridian.com

Jerusalem Panorama Hotel
(74 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 627 2277, Fax: 627 3699
panaroma@trendline.com.il

Hashimi Hotel
Tel: 628 4410, Fax: 628 4667
info@hashimihotel.com



Knights Palace Guesthouse (50 rooms)
Tel: 628 2537, Fax: 628 2401, kp@actcom.co.il

Lawrence Hotel (30 rooms; business facilities; res)
Tel: 626 4208, Fax: 627 1285
karine@actcom.co.il

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, www.mtolives.com

Mount Scopus Hotel (65 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 582 8891, Fax: 582 8825
mtscopus@netvision.net.il

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

New Swedish Hostel
Tel: 627 7855, Fax: 626 4124
swedishhost@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/swedishhostel

Notre Dame Guesthouse
Tel: 627 9111, Fax: 627 1995

Petra Hostel and Hotel
Tel: 628 6618

Pilgrims Inn Hotel (16 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 627 2416
info@goldenwalls.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

St. Andrew's Scottish Guesthouse
"The Scottie" (17 rooms + 1 hostel)
Tel: 673 2401; Fax: 673 1711
standjer@netvision.net.il, www.scothotels.co.il

St. George Hotel (144 rooms; bf; cf; mr; res)

Tel: 627 7232 - 627 7323, Fax: 628 2575
stgeorge1@bezeqint.net, www.hotelsstgeorge-jer.com

St. George's Pilgrim Guest House
(25 rooms; bf; res)
Tel: 628 3302, Fax: 628 2253
sgshostel@bezeqint.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

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

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

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

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
grandhotel_beth@hotmail.com

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

JERUSALEM Hotel

Stay connected Free with:
- Our fast adsl internet connection in every room
- Our wireless internet
- YES cable TV in the comfort of your room

At The Jerusalem Hotel

KAN ZAMAN RESTAURANT
Mediterranean Cuisine

Live Music on Friday and Monday evenings

P.O. Box 19130, Jerusalem, Nabulus Rd.
Tel. & Fax 02-5283282, rseo@jrhotel.com
www.jrhotel.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

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

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

Paradise Hotel (166 rooms; cf; bf; mr; res; su; pf)
Tel: 274 45424544 274 - 3/
paradise@p-ol.com

Saint Antonio Hotel (36 rooms; mr; cf; res; pf)
Tel: 274 4308, Fax: 277 0524

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

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

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
e-mail: hebron_hotel@hotmail.com

Regency Hotel (76 rooms; su; res; tb; cf; bf)
Tel: 225 7389/98, Fax: 225 7388
regency@palnet.com, www.hebron-regency.com

Nablus (09)

Al-Qaser Hotel (38 rooms; bf; cf; mr; res)
Tel: 238 5444, Fax: 238 5944
alqasr@netvision.net.il

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 Hotel (12 rooms)
Telefax: 233 3281

Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02)

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

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

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

Al-Murouj Pension (Jifna village) (8 rooms;
res)
Telefax: 281 0881

Al-Wihdah Hotel
Telefax: 298 0412

Ankars Suites (22 suites; cf; res; bf)
Tel: 295 2602, Fax: 295 2603
info@ankarsuites.com

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

City Inn Palace Hotel (47 rooms; bf; cf; res)
Tel: 240 8080, Fax: 240 8091

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

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

Pension Miami (12 rooms)
Telefax: 295 6808

Plaza Hotel
Telefax: 298 2020

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

Retno Hotel (15 rooms & su; res; mr; gm; sp)
Telefax: 295 0022



retnohotel@yahoo.com

Royal Court Suite Hotel (24 suites; res)
Tel: 296 4040, Fax: 296 4047

Gaza Strip (08)

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

**Al-Amal, Palestinian Red Crescent
Guesthouse**
Tel: 286 1832

Al-Deira (11 suites; cf; mr; res; ter)
Tel: 283 8100/200/300, Fax: 283 8400
ADEIRA@P-I-S.com

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

Al-Waha Hotel
Tel: 287 0880, Fax: 287 0889

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

Cliff Hotel (24 rooms; bf; mr; res)
Tel: 282 3450, Fax: 282 0742

Commodore Gaza Hotel (120 rooms; su; bf)
Tel: 283 4400, Fax: 282 2623
hotel@commodorgaza.com

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

Grand Palace Hotel (20 rooms; cr; mr; cf; res; internet)
Tel: 284 94986468/8, Fax: 284 9497
grand_palace@p-i-s.com

Hotel Sea Breeze
Tel: 283 0277 - 284 2654, Fax: 282 4231

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

Summerland Tourist Village (casino; cf; res)
Tel: 284 7171, Fax: 286 4008

Zahrat Al-Madain
Tel: 282 6801

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)

3 Arches Restaurant

Tel: 569 2692, Fax: 623 5192

Al-Diwan (Ambassador Hotel)

Tel: 541 2213, Fax: 582 8202

Al-Mihbash

Tel: 628 9185

Al-Shuleh Grill

Tel: 627 3768

Amigo Emil

Tel: 628 8090, Fax: 626 1457

Antonio's (Ambassador Hotel)

Tel: 541 2213

Arabesque, Poolside & Patio Restaurants

(American Colony Hotel)

Tel: 627 9777, Fax: 627 9779

Armenian Tavern

Tel: 627 3854

Askidinya

Tel: 532 4590

Az-Zahra

Tel: 628 2447

Blue Dolphin

Tel: 532 2001, Fax: 581 1737

Borderline Restaurant Café

Tel: 532 8342

Café Europe

Tel: 628 4313

Café Imperial

Tel: 628 2261, Fax: 627 1530

Chinese Restaurant

Tel: 626 3465, Fax: 626 3471

El Dorada Coffee Shop & Internet Café

Tel: 626 0993

Four Seasons Restaurants & Coffee Shop

Tel: 628 6061, Fax: 628 6097

Goodies

Tel: 585 3223

Kan Zaman (Jerusalem Hotel)

Tel: 627 1356

Lotus and Olive Garden (Jerusalem Meridian Hotel)

Tel: 628 5212

Moon Light Pizza

Tel: 627 5277

Nafoura

Tel: 626 0034

Notre Dame - La Rotisserie

Tel: 627 9114, Fax: 627 1995

Panorama Restaurant

Tel: 626 3344

Papa Andreas

Tel: 628 4433, Fax: 627 5224

Pasha's

Tel: 582 5162 - 532 8342

Patisserie Suisse

Tel: 628 4377

Pizza House

Tel: 627 3970 - 628 8135

Popular Arab

Tel: 583 3226

Shalizar Restuarant

Tel: 582 9061

The Gate Café

Tel: 627 4282

The Patio (Christmas Hotel)

Tel: 628 2588 - 626 4418

Victoria Restaurant

Tel: 628 3051

Bethlehem (02)

Abu Eli Restaurant

Tel: 274 1897

Abu Shanab Restaurant

Tel: 274 2985

Al-Hakura Restaurant

Tel: 277 3335

Akkawi Café

Tel: 274 8447

Al Makan Bar - Jacir Palace Inter-Continental Bethlehem

Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6770

Baidar - Jacir Palace Inter-Continental Bethlehem

Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6770

Balloons

Tel: 275 0221, Fax: 277 7115

Bonjour Restaurant and Café

Tel: 274 0406

Café Sima

Tel: 275 2058

Cigar Bar (Jacir Palace Inter-Continental Bethlehem)

Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6770

Dar Jdoudnah Coffee Shop

Tel: 274 3212

Grotto Restuarant

Telefax: 274 8844

Golden Roof

Tel: 274 3224

Il'iliyeh Restaurant

Tel: 277 0047

La Terrasse

Tel: 275 3678

Mariachi (Grand Hotel)

Tel: 274 1440 - 274 1602
274 1603, Fax: 274 1604

Opera Bistro & Lounge

Tel: 275 0859

Riwaq Courtyard (Jacir Palace Inter-Continental)

Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6754

Shepherds Valley Village (The Tent)

Tel: 277 3875

St. George Restaurant

Tel: 274 3780, Fax: 274 1833

Tachi Chinese

Tel: 274 4382

Taboo - Restaurant & Bar

Tel: 274 0711, Fax: 274 1862

Zaitouneh - Jacir Palace Inter-Continental Bethlehem

Tel: 276 6777, Fax: 276 6154

Jericho (02)

Al-Nafoura Restaurant

(Jericho Resort Village)
Tel: 232 1255, Fax: 232 2189

Al-Rawda

Telefax: 232 2555

Green Valley Park

Tel: 232 2349

Jabal Quruntul

Tel: 232 2614, Fax: 232 2659

Seven Trees

Tel: 232 2781

Nablus (09)

Salim Afandi

Tel: 237 1332

Zeit Ou Zaater

(Al-Yasmeen Hotel)
Tel: 238 3164, Fax: 233 3666

Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02)

Al Makan

Tel: 295 7676, Fax: 297 1776

Almonds

Tel: 295 7028

Al-Aseel

Tel: 298 0456

Angelo's

Tel: 295 6408 - 298 1455

Azure Restaurant & Coffeeshop

Telefax: 295 7850

Baba's Brunch

Tel: 2976931

Baladna Ice Cream

Telefax: 295 6721

Birth Café

Tel: 297 6614

Caesar's (Grand Park Hotel)

Tel: 298 6194

Café De La Paix

Tel: 298 0880

Café Mocha Rena

Tel: 298 1460

Casablanca

Tel: 298 7658

Chinese House Restaurant

Tel: 296 4081

Darna

Tel: 295 0590/ 1

Diwan Art coffee Shop

Tel: 297 3043

Elite Coffee House

Tel: 296 5169

Ein Al-Marj (Birzeit)

Tel: 281 0220/ 1

Fawanees

Tel: 298 7046

Kings

Tel: 296 4040

K5M - Caterers

Tel: 295 6813

Mac Chain Restaurant

Tel: 297 2125

Mac Simon

Tel: 297 2088

Mr. Donuts Cafe

Tel: 240 7196

Mr. Pizza

Tel: 240 3016 - 240 8182

Muntaza Restaurant & Garden

Tel: 295 6835

Osama's Pizza

Tel: 295 3270

Piano Restaurant

Tel: 298 7995

Pizza Inn

Tel: 298 1181/ 2/3

Plaza Restaurant & Park

Tel: 295 6020, Fax: 296 4693

Pollo-Loco (Mexican)

Tel: 298 1984

Pronto Resto-Café (Italian)

Tel: 298 7312

Rukab's Ice Cream

Tel: 295 3467

Saba Sandwiches

Tel: 296 0116

Samer

Tel: 240 5338 - 240 3088

Sangria's

Tel: 295 6808

Shukeireh Restaurant

Tel: 297 5233

Sinatra Cafe & Cheese Cake

Tel: 2971028

Stones

Tel: 296 6038

Tabash (Jifna village)

Tel: 281 0932

Tal El-Qamar Roof

Tel: 298 7905/ 6

The Orthodox Club

Tel: 295 6520

Tomasso's

Tel: 240 9991/ 2

Tropicana

Tel: 297 5661

Urobian Coffee shop

Tel: 295 7031 - 296 6505

Vatche's Garden Restaurant

Tel: 296 5966 - 296 5988

Zan Restaurant and Pub

Tel: 297 0548

Zarour Bar BQ

Tel: 295 6767 - 296 4480

Fax: 296 4357

Zeit ou Zaater

Tel: 295 4455

Ziryab

Tel: 295 9093

Gaza Strip (08)

Al-Andalus

Tel: 282 1272 - 283 3769

Al-Deira

Tel: 283 8100/ 200/ 300

Al-Diwanea Tourist

Tel: 282 5062

Alladin

Tel: 282 3355

Al-Marsa

Tel: 286 3599

Al-Molouke

Tel: 286 8397

Al-Salam

Tel: 282 2705, Telefax: 283 3188

Al-Sammak

Tel: 286 4385

Al-Sammak Ghornata

Tel: 284 0107

Al-Sayyad

Tel: 283 4779

La Mirage

Tel: 286 5128

Lido

Tel: 286 4198

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

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 • **The Birzeit University Ethnographic and Art Museum** Tel: 298 2976, vtamari@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 • **Natural History Museum**, Telefax: 02-276 5574, eec@p-ol.com, www.eecp.org • **The Crib of Nativity Museum**, Tel: 276 0876, Fax: 276 0877, info@cribofnativity.com, www.cribofnativity.com • **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

Transportation

East Jerusalem (02) **Car Rental** • **Car & Drive**, Tel: 656 5562/3 • **Dallah Al-Barakah**, Tel: 656 4150 • **Good Luck**, Tel: 627 7033 - 656 9851 • **Green Peace Rent A Car Ltd.**, Tel: 582 2179, Fax: 582 2173 • **Orabi**, Tel: 585 3101 • **Petra**, Tel: 582 0716 **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 **Taxis** **Asha'b**, Tel: 274 2309 • **Beit Jala**, Tel: 274 2629

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 • **Omaya**, Tel: 295 6120 • **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-ltd.com • **Albina Tours Ltd.**, Tel: 628 3397, Fax: 628 1215, albina@netvision.net.il; info@albinatours.com, www.albinatours.com • **Arab Tourist Agency (ATA)**, Tel: 627 7442, Fax: 628 4366, george@atajrs.com • **Aswar Tourism Services**, Tel: 628 2183, Fax: 628 2189, hai_mou_t_s@yahoo.com • **Atic Tours & Travel Ltd.**, Tel: 628 6159, Fax: 626 4023, info@atictour.com, www.atictour.com • **Awad & Co. Tourist Agency**, Tel: 628 4021, Fax: 628 7990, admin@awad.tours.com, www.awad-tours.com • **Aweidah Bros. Co.**, Tel: 628 2365, Fax: 628 2366, aweidah@netvision.net.il, www.aweidah.com • **Ayoub Caravan Tours**, Tel: 628 4361, Fax: 628 5804 caravan@palnet.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 1146, Fax: 628 1406, carawan@rol.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 • **Egythai Int. Tours and Travel**, Tel: 628 1184, Fax: 628 4701, holyland@egythai.com • **Gates of Jerusalem Travel Agency**, Tel: 234 4365, Fax: 234 3835, gates@alqudsnet.com • **George Garabedian Co.**, Tel: 628 3398, Fax: 628 7896, gcc@gcc-jer.com • **GEMM Travel**, Tel: 628 25356/ sales@gemmtravel.com • **Golden Dome Company for Hajj & Umra Services**, Tel: 628 0770, Fax: 628 5912 • **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@holyjerusalemtours.com, www.holyjerusalemtours.com • **Holy Land Tours**, Tel: 532 3232, Fax: 532 3292, info@holylandtours.biz • **J. Sylvia Tours**, Tel: 628 1146, Fax: 628 8277, sylviatours@yahoo.com • **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@jotweb.com • **JT & T**, Tel: 628 9418, 628 9422, Fax: 628 9298, jt@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 • **Lourdes Tourist & Travel Agency**, Tel: 627 5332, Telefax: 627 5336, lourdestravel@bezeqint.net • **Middle East Car Rental**, Tel: 626 2777, Fax: 626 2203 • **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 • **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 • **Royal Orient Tours & Travel**, Tel: 626 4181/2, Fax: 626 4186, info@royal-orient.net • **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 • **Season Travel Ltd.**, Tel: 627 7552, Fax: 627 7564, info@season-travel.com, www.season-travel.com • **Shepherds 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 • **Siniora Star Tours**, Tel: 628 6373, Fax: 628 9078, travel@siniora.net • **Terra Sancta Tourist Co**, Tel: 628 4733, Fax: 626 4472 • **The Pioneer Links Travel & Tourism Bureau**, Tel: 626 1963, Fax: 628 4714, www.pioneer-links.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.unitedtraveltd.com • **Universal Tourist Agency**, Tel: 628 4383, Fax: 626 4448, uta@zahav.net.il, www.universal-jer.com • **Zatarah Tourist & Travel Agency**, Tel: 627 2725, Fax: 628 9873, zaatarah@palnet.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 • **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 • **Friendship Travel & Tourism**, Tel: 277 7967, Fax: 277 7987, friendshipst@yahoo.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 • **Mousallam Int'l Tours**, Tel: 277 0054, Fax: 277 0054, Mitours@palnet.com • **Nativity Travel**, Tel: 274 2966, Fax: 274 4546 • **Sky Lark Tours and Travel**, Tel: 274 2886, Fax: 276 4962, skylark@palnet.com • **Terra Santa Tourist Co.**, Tel: 277 0249 Fax: 277 0250

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, e-mail: atg@p-ol.com, www.patg.org • **Brothers Travel & Tours**, Tel: 277 5188, Fax: 277 5189, holyland@brostours.com, www.brostours.com • **Magi Tours**, Telefax: 277 5798, magitours@spidernet.ps

Hebron (02) **Al Amir Tours**, Telefax: 221 2065, alamiredu@yahoo.com • **Alkiram Tourism**, Tel: 225 6501/2, Fax: 225 6504, alkiram@hebronet.com • **Al-Haya Travel & Tourism**, Tel: 229 3108, Fax: 229 7496 • **Al-Salam Travel and Tours Co.**, Tel: 221 5574, Fax: 223 3747 • **Arab Nisir Travel & Tourism**, Tel: 221 5970/1, Fax: 229 2730/1, arabnisir@yahoo.com • **Sabeen Travel Tourism**, Telefax: 229 4775, sabeenco@yahoo.com

Ramallah (02) **Al-Asmar Travel Agency**, Telefax: 295 4140, 296 5775, asmar@p-ol.com • **Al Awdah Tourism & Travel**, Tel: 295 2597, Fax: 295 2989 • **All Middle East Pilgrimage and Tourism Coordination Office**, Telefax: 289 8123, admin@historicholyland.com, www.ameptco.com • **Amani Tours**, Telefax: 298 7013, amanitr@

p-ol.com • **Anwar Travel Agency**, Tel: 295 6388, 295 1706, alaa@anwartravel.ps • **Arab Office for Travel & Tourism**, Tel: 295 6640, Fax: 295 1331 • **Arseema for Travel & Tourism**, Tel: 297 5571, Fax: 297 5572, info@arseema.ps • **Atlas Tours & Travel**, Tel: 295 2180, Fax: 298 6395, 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 • **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, kashoua@hotmail.com • **Paltour for Tours and Travel**, Tel: 297 5456, Fax: 297 6079, op@paltour.ps • **The Pioneer Links Travel & Tourism Bureau**, Tel: 240 7859, Fax: 240 7860, pioneer@pioneer-links.com • **Rahhal Tours & Travel**, Tel: 240 3256, Fax: 240 6692, rahhal@mail.com • **Raha Tours and Travel**, Tel: 296 1780, Fax: 296 1782, www.rahatt.com, www.rahatravel.com • **Ramallah Travel Agency**, Tel: 295 3692, Fax: 295 5029, admin@kaoud.org, www.kaoud.org • **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 • **Salah Tours**, Tel: 295 9931, Fax: 298 7206 • **Shbat & Abdul Nur**, Tel: 295 6267, Fax: 295 7246 • **Skyway Tourist Agency**, Telefax: 296 5090

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

Nablus (09) 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 • **Yaish International Tours**, Telefax: 238 1410, 238 1437, yaishtri@palnet.com

Tulkarem (09) Faj Tours, Tel: 2672 486, Fax: 2686 070, 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, www.halabitours.ps • **Maxim Tours**, Tel: 282 4415 Fax: 286 7596 • **National Tourist Office**, Tel: 286 0616 Fax: 286 0682, shurafa@mtcgaza.com • **Time Travel Ltd.**, Tel: 283 6775, Fax: 283 6855, timetravel@mama.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) • **British Airways**, Tel: 02 628 8654 (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) • **Gulf Air**, Tel: 09 238 6312 (Nablus), Tel: 02 295 3912/3 (Ramallah) • **Iberia**, Tel: 02 628 3235/7238 (Jerusalem) • **Lufthansa**, Tel: 09 238 2065 (Nablus) • **Malev-Hungarian Airlines**, Tel: 02 295 2180 (Ramallah) • **Middle East Car Rental**, Tel: 02 295 2602, Fax: 295 2603 • **PAL AVIATION**, Tel: 02-2967250 Telefax: 02-2986395 (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



Lawrence TOURS Quality Service since 1962

Operating incoming groups to the Holy Land, Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon, with extensions to Turkey, Greece, and all of Europe

Pilgrimage tours, archeological, leisure, adventure, educational and private tours

Incentive and conferences for the private sector and NGO's

IATA members; qualified to issue tickets to all international airlines

Tel: 02-6284887, 02-6271283, 18, Salah Eddin Street

E-mail: info@lawrence-tours.com www.lawrence-tours.com

Diplomatic Missions

CONSULATES

East Jerusalem (02) Apostolic Delegation, Tel: 628 2298, Fax: 628 1880 • **Belgium**, Tel: 582 8263, Fax: 581 4063, e-mail: jerusalem@diplobel.org • **European Community - Delegation to the OPT**, Tel: 541 5888, Fax: 541 5848 • **France**, Tel: 582 8250, Fax: 582 0032 • **Great Britain**, Tel: 541 4100, Fax: 532, 2368, britain.jerusalem@fo.gov.uk, www.britishconsulate.org • **Greece**, Tel: 582 8316, Fax: 532 5392 • **Italy**, Tel: 582 2170, 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, e-mail: turkudus@netvision.net.il, www.kudusbk.com • **United States of America**, Tel: 622 7230, Fax: 625 9270

REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES TO THE PNA

Ramallah & Al-Bireh (02) Australia, Tel: 240 7710, Fax: 240 8290, austrep@palnet.com, ausaid@palnet.com • **Austria**, Tel: 240 1477, Fax: 240 0479 • **Brazil**, Tel: 295 3753, Fax 295 3756, admin-office@rep-brazil.org • **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**, Tel: 240 58 60/1, Fax: 2405862, representacionpalestina@yahoo.com / representacionpalestina@hotmail.com • **Canada**, Tel: 297 8430, Fax: 297 8446, rmlah@international.gc.ca • **Chile**, Tel: 296 0850, Fax: 298 4768, chileram@palnet.com • **Cyprus**, Tel: 240 6959, Fax: 240 4897 • **Czech Republic**, Tel: 296 5595, Fax: 296 5596 • **Denmark**, Tel: 240 2330, Fax: 240 0331 • **Egypt**, Tel: 297 7774, Fax: 297 7772 • **Finland**, Tel: 240 0340, Fax: 240 0343 • **Germany**, Tel: 298 4788, Fax: 298 4786, gerprof@palnet.com • **Hungary**, Tel: 240 7676, Fax: 240 7678, humisram@palnet.com • **India**, Tel: 290 3033, Fax: 290 3035, roi_ramallah@palnet.com • **Ireland**, Tel: 240 6811/2/3, Fax: 240 6816, irshrep@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 • **Norway**, Tel: 234 5050, Fax: 234 5079, reprim@mfa.no • **Poland**, Tel: 2971318, Fax: 2971319 • **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, www.sarep.org • **Sri Lanka**, Telefax: 290 4271 • **Switzerland**, Tel: 240 8360, e-mail: 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

Gaza Strip (08) Egypt, Tel: 282 4290, Fax: 282 0718 • **Germany**, Tel: 282 5586, 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 & INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Jerusalem (02), TeleFax: 532 2757, 532 1950, registry.fao@undp.org, 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, firstletterofsumame.familyname@worldbank.org • **IMF - International Monetary Fund**, 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, **Ramallah (02)**, Tel: 290 0022 Fax: 290 0023, **Nablus (09)**, Tel: 237 5692 Tel: 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, **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 • **UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund, Jerusalem (02)**, Tel: 581 7292, Fax: 581 7382, unfpa.ps@undp.org, www.unfpa.ps • **UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund, Jerusalem (02)**, Tel: 583 0013,4 Fax: 583 0806, **Gaza (08)**, Tel: 286 2400 Fax: 286 2800, Jerusalem@unicef.org • **UNIFEM - United Nations Development Fund for Women**, Tel/ Fax: 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, www.ochaopt.org • **UNRWA - United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Gaza (08)**, Tel: 677 7333, Fax: 677 7555, unrwapio@unrwa.org, **West Bank (02)**, Tel: 589 0401, Fax: 532 2714, firstletterofsumame.familyname @unrwa.org • **UNSCO - Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process**, Tel: 08-2843555/02-5687276, Fax: 08-2820966/02-5687288, UNSCO-Media@un.org, www.unsco.org • **UNTSO - United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, Jerusalem (02)**, Tel: 568 7222 - 568 7444, Fax: 568 7400, 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 • **WHO - World Health Organization, Jerusalem (02)**, Tel: 540 0595 Fax: 581 0193, who@papp.undp.org, **Gaza (08)** Tel: 282 2033 Fax: 284 5409, 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 / 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: 582 8188 • **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: 586 056 • **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 • **Al-Za'tari**, Tel: 222 9035 • **Hamdan**, Tel: 228 1860 • **Mohammed Ali**, Tel: 225 3883/4 • **Shaheera**, Tel: 222 6982 • **St. John's Ophthalmic**, Tel: 223 5042 • **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: 09 294 7666 • **Al-Ittihad**, Tel: 237 1491 • **Al-Watani**, Tel: 238 0039 • **Al-Zakat Hospital (TolKarem)**, Tel: 09 268 0680 • **Aqraba Maternity Home**, Tel: 09 259 8550 • **Rafida**, Tel: 239 0390 • **Salfit Emergency Governmental Hospital**, Tel: 09 251 5111 • **Specialized Arab Hospital**, Tel: 239 0390 • **St. Luke's**, Tel: 238 3818 • **UNRWA Qalqilia Hospital (Qalqiliya)**, Tel: 09 294 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**, Tel: 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) Arab Bank (Al-Ezzariah), 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) 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) 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 Land Bank**, Tel: 295 8421 • **Bank of Palestine Ltd.**, Tel: 298 5921, Fax: 298 5920 • **Bank of Palestine Ltd., (Al-Irsal)** Tel: 296 6860, Fax: 296 6864 • **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 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) Arab Bank, Tel: 08-286 6288, Fax: 282 0704 • **Arab Bank (Al-Rimal)**, Tel: 282 4729, Fax: 282 4719 • **Arab Bank (Khan Yunis)**, 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) 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	02-274 8231
Gaza	08-2863633	101 / 08-2863633	08-2863400
Hebron	102/22 28121-2-3	101	100
Jericho	02-232 2658	101 / 02-232 1170	02-232 2521
Jenin	04-250 1225	101 / 04-250 2601	04-250 1035
Nablus	09-238 3444	101 / 09-238 0399	09-238 3518
Ramallah	02-295 6102	101 / 02-240 0666	02-295 6571
Child helpline Palestine	(121)free line		
Tulkarem	09-267 2106	101 / 09-267 2140	09-267 2161
Qalqilia	09-294 0440	101 / 09-294 0440	09-294 22730

Telephone Services

Bezeq	
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

Population and Demography (revised - 2007)

Projected Population (1/12/2007)

(Census - 2007, Preliminary Finding)

Palestinian Territory	3,761,646
West Bank (All governorates)	2,345,107

Gaza Strip	1,416,539
Jerusalem Governorate	362,521

Projected Population by Age (END 2006)	
0-17 years	52.5%
18-64	44.5%
65+	3.0%
Sex Ratio (2007)	103.0%

(Census - 2007, Preliminary Finding)

Fertility rate (2006)	4.6%
Population Natural Increase Rate (2006)	3.3%
Percentage of Youth (15-29 years old), (END Year 2005)	27.0%
Percentage of Households that have at least one person between ages 15 and 29 Year (2006)	74.0%
Percentage of Households headed by youth (15-29 years old) (2006)	12.6%
Both Sexes	13.5%
Male	13.5%
Female	2.9%

Land Use and Agriculture

Palestinian Territory (PT) Area (Km ²)	6,020
Area of PT by Type of Use (<i>different reference periods</i>)	
• Agricultural Land (2006)	24.6%
• Forest and Wooded Land (2005)	1.5%
• Palestinian Built-up Land (2000)	9.7%
Area of built-up land in Israeli Settlements of the total area of West Bank (August, 2005)	3.3%

Cultivated Area (Km²) - 2005/2006	1,826.1
---	----------------

Education (2007/2008)

Illiteracy rate for persons 15 years and over (3 rd quarter of 2007)	6.1%
Illiteracy rate for persons 15-29 years (3 rd quarter of 2007)	1.0%
No. of schools **	2,415
No. of school teachers **	45,522
No. of school students **	1,103,801
Students per class (schools) **	33.3%
Drop-out rate (schools 2005/2006)	0.8%
Repetition rate (schools 2005/2006)	1.5%

Health (2006)

No. of hospitals (2006)	78
Doctors per 1000 population (2006)	1.6
Nurses per 1000 population (2006)	2.1
Beds per 1000 population (2006)	1.4

Culture (2006)

No. of mosques (in operation)	2,228
No. of churches	160
No. of newspapers (in operation)	13
No. of theaters (in operation)	9
No. of museums (in operation)	8
No. of cultural centers (in operation)	161

Information & Communication Technology (2006)

Availability of TV sets	95.3%
Availability of satellite dish for household having TV set	80.4%
Availability of computers at home	32.9%
Availability of Internet at home	15.9%
Persons (10 years and over) who have access to the Internet	18.4%

Persons (10 years and over) who use computer	50.9%
Percentage of households that have a mobile phone	81.0%
Percentage of households that have a telephone	50.8%
Percentage of households that view Palestine TV	29.9%

Living Standards and Humanitarian Aid (2006)

Percentage of Households below poverty line	56.8%
Number of Individuals below poverty line	2,208,550
Percentage of households that lost more than half of their income during Al-Aqsa Intifada	51.6%
Percentage of households that indicated their need for assistance	67.0%
Average Monthly per capita Expenditure in the Palestinian Territory	92.3

Labour Force (3rd quarter of 2007)

	Males	Females
Labour Force participation rate	69.3%	15.7%
Unemployment rate in Palestinian Territory (PT)	23.4%	22.1%
Unemployment rate in West Bank	18.6%	18.6%
Unemployment rate in Gaza Strip	33.1%	32.1%
Average net daily wage for employees working in PT (US\$)	17.8	15.1

Percentage of working children (5-17 years) July - September 2007	8.0 %	1.1 %
--	--------------	--------------

Percentage of graduates of high education and vocational training of persons aged 15 years and over (End 2005)	14.5%
---	--------------

Percentage of graduates of high education and vocational training who participated in labour force (End 2005)	83.4%
--	--------------

Unemployment rate of graduates of high education and vocational training (End 2005)	25.4%
--	--------------

Economics

GDP (2006-million US\$)-at constant prices (RWB and GS)**	4,107.0
GDP Per Capita (2006- US\$)-at constant prices (RWB and GS)**	1,129.2

CPI and percent change in Palestinian Territory

in January 2008 Compare with December 2007	166.47	1.50%
GDP per capita for the 3 rd Quarter 2007 in US \$ at constant price (RWB & GS)	272.4	
Quarterly GDP at constant price in millions of US \$ (RWB & GS) for the 3 rd Quarter 2007	1,028.2	

Number of Establishments in Operation in Private Sector and Non Governmental

Organization Sector by Economic Activity (2006)**

■ Mining and Quarrying	204
■ Manufacturing	12,907
■ Electricity and Water supply	498
■ Construction	570
■ Commerce	54,861
■ Transportation, storage and communication	821
■ Hotels and Restaurants	4,185
■ Financial Intermediation	727
■ Real Estate, Rental and Business Activities	3,833
■ Education	1,929
■ Health and Social work	3,654
■ Other Community, Social and Personal Services	6,351

Imports of Goods (2005 million US\$)	2,666.8
---	----------------

Exports of Goods (2005 million US\$)	335.4
---	--------------

Hotels (4th Quarter, 2007)

Room occupancy rate	28.0%
Bed occupancy rate	23.8 %

Environment

Available quantities of water (2006 - mcm)	319.1
Connected households to wastewater network (2006)	45.3%

Housing Conditions (2006)

Average number of rooms in housing units	3.3
Average number of persons per room (housing density)***	1.8

(RWB and GS)=Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip

* **RWB and GS at constant prices: 1997 is the base year: revised version**

** It's primary results

*** Revised Figures

Prepared by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Tel: 02-240 6340, Fax: 02-240 6343

e-mail: diwan@pcbs.gov.ps - URL: www.pcbs.gov.ps

Cyber Palestine

As Palestine continues its struggle for independence, it has already begun to acquire sovereign cyberspace recognition. A difficult three-year international debate resulted in the "Occupied Palestinian Territory" being officially assigned the two-letter suffix, ".ps," in the ISO 3166-1 list for the representation of names of countries or territories. The successful struggle to attain country code 970 led the way for the Internet Corporation for Associated Names and Numbers (ICANN), the international corporation that manages the country code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) system on the Internet, on 22 March 2000, to assign Palestine its unique country identifier, ".ps," in line with other sovereign nations such as .fr for France and .ca for Canada.

ARTS AND CULTURE: Ashtar Theater www.ashtar-theatre.org, Al Kasaba Theatre and Cinematheque www.alkasaba.org, Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art www.almamalfoundation.org, ArtSchool Palestine www.artschoolpalestine.com, Baha Boukhari www.baha-cartoon.net, Family Net www.palestine-family.net, Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center (Ramallah) www.sakakini.org, Paltel Virtual Gallery (Birzeit University) www.virtualgallery.birzeit.edu, Rim Banna www.rimbanna.com, RIWAQ: Centre for Architectural Conservation www.riwaq.org, Sunbula (fair trade/crafts) www.sunbula.org, The International Center of Bethlehem (Dar Annadwa) www.annadwa.org, The Popular Arts Centre www.popularartcentre.org, Shammout.com www.shammout.com, Sumud www.sumud.net, Palestinian Pottery www.palestinianpottery.com, A.M. Qattan Foundation www.qattanfoundation.org, The Musical Intifada www.docjazz.com, El-funoun www.el-funoun.org, Sabreen Association for Artistic Development www.sabreen.org, The Virtual Gallery www.virtualgallery.birzeit.edu, Al Rowwad Theatre Centre www.alrowwad.virtualactivism.net

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY: Arab Palestinian Investment Company www.apic-pal.com, Hebron Store www.hebron-store.com, Massar www.massar.com, The Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) www.pecdar.org, Palestinian Securities Exchange, Ltd. www.p-s-e.com, Palestine Development and Investment Ltd. (PADICO) www.padico.com, Tatweer Information Technology & Business Solutions www.progress.ps, Wataniya Palestine www.wataniya-palestine.com

DIRECTORIES, ISPs AND PORTALS: Jaffa Net www.weino.com; Palestine-Net www.palestine-net.com, Hadara www.hadara.ps, Al-Quds Network www.alqudsnet.com, Palseek www.palseek.com, Paleyev www.paleyev.com, Al Buraq www.alburaq.net

GOVERNMENT: PLO Negotiations Affairs Department (NAD) www.nad-plo.org, PNA www.pna.gov.ps, Ministry of Higher Education www.mohe.gov.ps, Ministry of Industry www.industry.gov.ps, Ministry of Education www.moe.gov.ps, Ministry of Health www.moh.gov.ps, Government Computer Center www.gcc.gov.ps, Orient House www.orienthouse.org

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH: Augusta Victoria Hospital www.avh.org, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme www.gcmhp.net, Ministry of Health www.moh.gov.ps Palestinian Counseling Center www.pcc-jer.org, Red Crescent Society www.palestinercs.org, Spafford Children's Clinic www.spafford-jerusalem.org, UNFPA www.unfpa.ps, Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees www.upmrc.org, Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation www.basr.org, Palestine Medical Council www.pmc.ps

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS: Al Haq www.alhaq.org, Defence for Children International Palestine Section www.dci-pal.org, LAW - The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment www.lawsociety.org, The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights www.pchrgaza.org, BADIL www.badil.org, Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) www.pal-watc.org, www.pcc-jer.org

RESEARCH AND NEWS: Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem www.arj.org, JMCC www.jmcc.org, PASSIA www.passia.org, MIFTAH www.miftah.org, AMIN www.amin.org, Al Quds www.alquds.com, Al Ayyam www.al-ayyam.com, Wafa www.wafa.pna.net, Al-Hayat www.alhayat-j.com, Palestine Wildlife Society www.wildlife-pal.org, 93.6 RAM FM www.ramfm.net, Ramallah on line www.ramallahonline.com, Ramattan Studios www.ramattan.com, Palestine Family Net www.palestine-family.net, Palestine Mapping Centre www.palmap.org, The Palestine Monitor www.palestinemonitor.org, The Palestinian Center for Rapprochement between People www.imemc.org, OCHA- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs www.ochaopt.org

TOURISM: Ministry of Tourism www.visit-palestine.com, Arab Hotel Association www.palestinehotels.com, Arab Travel Association www.visit-holyland.com

TRAVEL AGENCIES: Alternative Tourism Group www.patg.org, Atlas Aviation www.atlasavia.com, Awad Tourist Agency www.awad-tours.com, Aweidah Tours www.aweidah.com, Blessed Land Travel www.blessedland.com, Crown Tours www.crown-tours.com, Daher Travel www.dahertravel.com, Guiding Star www.guidingstar1td.com, Halabi Tours and Travel Co. www.halabitours.ps, Jiro Tours www.jirotours.com, Mt. of Olives Tours www.olivetours.com, Pioneer Links www.pioneer-links.com, Raha Tours www.rahatravel.com, Ramallah Travel Agency www.kaoud.org, United Travel www.unitedtravelltd.com, Universal Tourist Agency www.universal-jer.com

UNIVERSITIES: Birzeit University www.birzeit.edu, An-Najah University www.najah.edu, Al-Quds University www.alquds.edu, Al-Azhar University (Gaza) www.alazhar-gaza.edu, Arab American University www.aauj.edu, Bethlehem University www.bethlehem.edu, Hebron University www.hebron.edu, The Islamic University (Gaza) www.iugaza.edu, Palestine Polytechnic www.ppi.edu.

Palestine Road Map



	Crossing Point		Road 6 (Trans Israel Highway) (Under Construction)
	International Crossing		Palestinian Built-up Area
	Highway		Israeli Built-up Area
	Main Road		No-Mans Land
	Regional Road		
	Local Road		

GSE
Good Shepherd Engineering & Computing
8 Jamal Abdel Nasser St.,
Bethlehem, West Bank

Email: map@gsecc.com
Internet: www.gsecc.com

JERUSALEM



Map of Jerusalem source: Arab Hotel Association/Pedcar

Where to Go?

Al-Hoash



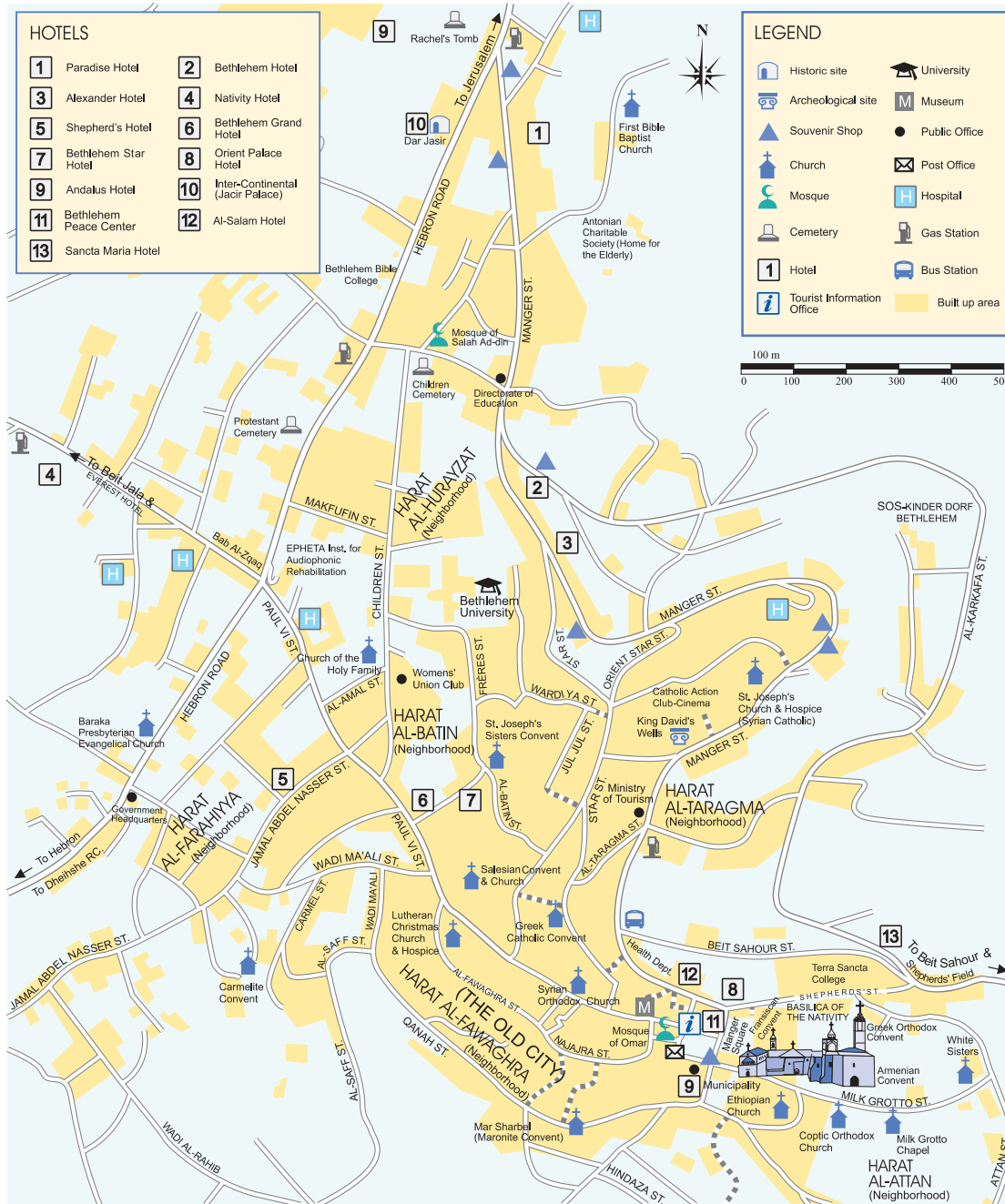
The Palestinian Art Court Al-Hoash has already become an important forum for art and artists in Jerusalem. Established in 2004 by a group of Palestinians from all walks of life, its main goal is to preserve, promote and develop Palestinian visual arts. It highlights and showcases the civilized character of the Palestinians, particularly in the field of art.

Al-Hoash periodically stages exhibitions in its premises which are located in the Nuzha Building on Nablus Road, next to the Tombs of the Kings and the American Colony Hotel. It also offers artists the opportunity to exhibit their art in its gallery. In addition, Al-Hoash organizes workshops, lectures, film screenings and more.

For more information visit www.alhoashgallery.org or call 02-627-3501.



BETHLEHEM



Where to Go?

Paul VI Street



As a souvenir of the pilgrimage of Paul VI, the first Pope who came to Bethlehem, the main trading street which crosses the town from the east to the west, from Manger Square to the Bab Izqaq crossroad, was given his name. On entering the street from Manger Square, one encounters a museum of traditional clothes and heritage items belonging to the Arab Women's Union, called Our Old Bethlehem Home. Heading out of the museum one comes to Star Square. From there climb the stairs that lead, to the left, to Bethlehem's marketplace, which was once located on Manger square and Bedouins from all around the region, and which moved to its present location in 1929.

Continue along the street to reach Al-Fawaghreh Quarter and the Salesian Convent. Some 50 metres further one will come to the Lutheran Church on the left and the Salesian Technical School to the right. At the end of Paul VI Street one encounters the impressive building of the Holy Family Hospital and Church run by the Sisters of Charity, who also manage the adjoining crèche. The Hospital is only a few metres away from Bab Izqaq, the other end of this busy thoroughfare.

From Bethlehem 2000, A Guide to Bethlehem and its Surroundings by Sawsan and Qustandi Shomali.

RAMALLAH



Where to Go?

The Ramallah Museum



The Ramallah Museum is located in the old town of Ramallah. Originally, the building was the private home of the Al-Zaro family, a native of the city. It consists of three floors: the basement was built in the early 19th century, while the upper two floors were added in the early 20th century.

The Museum was restored by the Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in 1997-1998 as part of the "Emergency Clearance Campaign of 100 Archaeological Sites in Palestine," funded by the Dutch government in order to utilize it as an educational museum in the Ramallah Governorate. The rehabilitation work was supported by UNESCO.

The centre consists of exhibition halls, a lecture room, a library and a mosaics laboratory. In addition to the display of artifacts, the Museum targets local students, specifically adolescents, and offers educational programmes designed to provide students with a wealth of information on cultural heritage, within the framework of the national school curriculum. It also serves as a "Cultural Heritage Resource Centre," to contribute to the conservation and management of the cultural heritage of the city and the area of Ramallah. It aims to promote and follow up on cultural heritage preservation in the West Bank and Gaza in a more effective way.

The Museum is located in Ramallah's old town. For more information call 02-295 9561.

The Last Word

The Palestinian Mother

Mother's Day in Palestine is celebrated on March 21; the first day of spring. In my opinion, that date could not be more appropriate to remember and pay tribute to those who have probably suffered and given the most in our struggle for freedom: our mothers. Coincidentally, *Woman's Day* is celebrated in Palestine and internationally on March 8, the day on which all women are honoured.

How often have we seen a Palestinian mother cry? Whether over a fallen husband, son, or daughter, or over the injury or imprisonment of her dear ones, or over a demolished house – by a missile or a bulldozer – or even over damaged crops, an uprooted olive tree, or the refusal of her request to cross a checkpoint. How often have we seen a mother with a look of anguish and pain caused by an injustice? Yet, like the freshness and determination of the first day of spring, the Palestinian mother rises to every occasion, licks her wounds, and continues to give without expecting anything in return.

Our national history is full of examples of exceptional women and mothers who stood out because they dedicated their lives to our cause. Samiha Khalil (Um Khalil) is one such great woman who devoted her entire life to helping others. Her efforts were crowned by the building of a solid and sustainable institution called *In'ash al Usra* in El Bireh which, for decades now, has helped and empowered thousands of victimised women to withstand and overcome harsh circumstances. Hind Hussein, Zlikha Shihabi, Elizabeth Nasir, and Isam Abdel Hadi are but a few names from a long list of women who have left their mark on Palestinian society. In addition, the silent mothers who work tirelessly in their homes raising their children and protecting their families in the midst of the current dire political and social circumstances are also real heroes. It sometimes seems as though the reason for the existence of Palestinian mothers is to look after their offspring, even after they marry them off! Typically, their lives revolve around the welfare of their children.

Social and domestic duties, unfortunately, are not eased for a working mother. Although there are signs of domestic help from some husbands, the norm, however, is still a hands-off attitude towards household chores and the day-to-day upbringing of children, even in urban centres. It is not something to be proud of, but it remains a fact in our society. A mother's additional status as bread-earner has simply contributed to the burden of responsibility on her shoulders.

A phenomenon that is even more worrying is the perception that some women have of themselves and of what their role should be. If these women would realise that a society cannot develop when half of its members do not participate actively in civic and economic life, we would be much better off today. I remember a conversation with a well-known El Bireh personality about what some older women of his city were saying when Um Khalil ran against Yasser Arafat for the presidency of the Palestinian Authority in the early nineties. In effect, they were saying: "Aren't there enough men for the job?" In my opinion, proper early education and genuine women's empowerment should help to get us out of this vicious cycle.

To all of our Palestinian women all over the world, particularly our mothers, we salute you on your day, and we pray that one day we will be able to give back even a fraction of all that you have given to us; particularly your never-ending love and affection.

Sani P. Meo



PICTURESQUE PALESTINE

JAFFA, the sea from rooftops, before 1914. Matson Collection
The port from which many Palestinians were forced to immigrate



Extra, the new prepaid plan



Extra package for 49NIS only.

Get a low minute rate, 49 agoras and a monthly subscription, 9 NIS/month.

Jawwal 
The Network of Palestine

For more details please call 111
for free or visit www.jawwal.ps

A Paltel Group Company