

THIS WEEK IN

PALESTINE

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**Palestine:
A Donor
Country?**



Cover: *Hot Spot*, artwork by Palestinian artist Mona Hatoum.

Mona Hatoum explores a variety of subject matter via different theoretical frameworks. Her work can be interpreted as a description of the body and as a commentary on politics, gender, and difference as she explores the dangers and confines of the domestic world. Her work can also be interpreted through the concept of space, since her sculpture and installation work depend on the viewer to inhabit the surrounding space to complete the effect. There are always multiple readings of her work. The physical responses that Hatoum desires in order to provoke psychological and emotional responses ensure unique and individual reactions from different viewers.

This publication is



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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Palestine is generally perceived as a recipient of aid. Indeed, the geopolitical conditions in Palestine under occupation make it difficult to generate revenues, the economy is mostly service-based, and all international transactions must be carried out via Israel. With COVID-19, the situation is reaching a breaking point as the government is no longer able to pay salaries, and testing kits for the virus are running low. But the situation could be very different. Palestinians have traditionally contributed to development in other countries, mostly by providing expertise and engaging in economic activities when enabled to do so under less restrictive conditions abroad. Thus, our current theme explores Palestine's role as a donor country.

In this issue, you will read about official South-South cooperation carried out by Palestine and about the many successful examples and efforts, as well as recommendations for engaging in public diplomacy and country branding to highlight Palestine's positive contributions and unique features. Authors point out the contributions made by Palestinian immigrants, particularly in the Americas and the Gulf region, but also in international development organizations around the world – contributions in many fields that include the sciences, education, sports, music, and medicine, as well as business and development.

TWiP wishes to thank Masrouji Group for its support of this issue. Special gratitude goes to our authors Imad Zuhairi, Terry Ahwal, Yara Salem, Dr. Shafeeq Ghabra, Majd Zghyer, Dr. Dalal Iriqat, Dr. Alaaeldin Azmi Ahmad, Dr. Abdalhadi Alijla, Gazan Qahhat Khamis, Suhail Khoury, and Hayatt Omar. Our Personality of the Month is Dr. Shafeeq N. Ghabra. We present two Books of the Month: *I Found Myself in Palestine: Stories of Love and Renewal from Around the Globe* and *Wrestling with Zionism: Jewish Voices of Dissent*. By all means, do not miss the Exhibition of the Month, *Bethlehem Reborn: The Wonders of the Nativity*, and make sure to visit the associated videos available online that illustrate the beauty of the newly renovated basilica. Visit the archeological site Tel Dohan in *Khirbet al-Hafireh* near Jenin, and enjoy the listed events, some of which are virtual.

From the entire team at TWiP, we wish you a healthy month of October,

Tina Basem





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Solidarity through Development

The State of Palestine's Role in South-South Cooperation

By Imad Zuhairi



Guided by a vision of “solidarity through development for a more resilient world,” the State of Palestine, through the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), seeks to mobilize its skilled human resources to provide technical assistance to support partner countries in responding to crises and tackling development challenges. Precisely, PICA aims to promote South-South and triangular cooperation while realizing the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to work towards this vision, PICA was created in 2016 as the main development cooperation tool of Palestinian foreign policy with specific attention given to supporting developing countries across and beyond the Arab region. PICA envisions sustainable development becoming reality through cooperation and solidarity within a just and prosperous international community.

The Palestinian Rapid Response Team on a humanitarian mission in Dominica, 2017.



As a result, PICA aims to strengthen Palestine's relations with a variety of countries around shared interests and with the dual objective of creating value for Palestine through public diplomacy, and creating value for partners in the global South through the transfer of Palestinian knowledge, crisis-response capacity, and resilience, in addition to fostering business opportunities.

PICA works on shaping a partnership-driven approach that focuses on both technical assistance and connecting existing and emerging capacities through South-South and triangular cooperation. This approach, which integrates partnerships, innovation, and knowledge exchange as key pillars, is designed to enable PICA to achieve rapid gains while maximizing cost-effectiveness and stimulating local ownership and sustainability. Importantly, PICA seeks to further enhance social and international development through the exchange of expertise, capitalizing on Palestinian human capital in multiple industries, and engaging in a dynamic exchange of good practices rather than a traditional donor-recipient relationship. Importantly, PICA also plays a vital role in exercising solidarity on the international level by implementing bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral cooperation initiatives that lead to improved living standards and strengthened resilience across the world.

Hence, PICA is created as a result of Palestine's will to mobilize its human and institutional resources, expertise, and know-how in service of solidarity, technical assistance, and the international development cooperation agenda. In addition, PICA is mandated to provide a new platform for enhancing international development cooperation with the



Since its establishment in 2016, PICA has successfully implemented more than 45 development missions and projects in various countries across the African continent, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia, transferring Palestinian technical knowledge and know-how in diverse fields, including health, humanitarian relief, education, media, communication, renewable energy, and entrepreneurship.¹

support of Palestinian embassies abroad and dispatching qualified Palestinian expertise to provide technical assistance as an expression of sharing and solidarity with developing countries.

The agency and its team are mandated from the highest political authority of the State of Palestine, through a presidential decree, which is the foundational document. The decree is an ample license to operate



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Sovereign Order of Malta (SOM) and the State of Palestine in the presence of H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas and H.E. the late Grand Master Giacomo Dalla Torre. The MoU was signed to build a framework for a joint development cooperation between PICA and the Ministry of International Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of SOM. Rome, December 3, 2018.

and is broad enough to empower PICA to experiment with ways of delivering development solutions to partner countries and emphasize the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as a framework for enhancing cooperation, dialogue, and solidarity among nations of the global South.

Because the agency was established on the back of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its new paradigm for development, it has an exceptional opportunity to leapfrog several stages of development approaches. As PICA continues to solidify and expand the coverage of its delivery (both thematic and geographic), its tested and tried development solutions will make a bigger impact not only on the realization of the SDGs but also on strengthening solidarity between nations of the world.

To turn this mission into reality, PICA, as a young purpose-driven



Palestinian doctors transfer their know-how to health practitioners in Côte d'Ivoire.

organization, harnesses a continuous learning culture, an innovative mindset, and an ability to create and share knowledge that meets changing needs, which are aligned to the evolving targets and priorities of its partners. Importantly, PICA staff, partners, and supporters are dedicated to working together to foster this culture that is critical to realizing the shared vision of all stakeholders involved.

Despite considerable challenges, PICA has reflected the Palestinian development strategy through international actions in a large number of countries and provided as much assistance as possible.

In line with its current and future vision, the agency signed and developed long-term strategic agreements and partnerships with regional and international organizations, such as the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), and other like-minded governmental and international cooperation agencies. In addition, PICA has been able to expand its team members and integrate young Palestinian expertise in various disciplines to further enhance the achievement of its vision and objectives.

In fact, the success of PICA is directly linked to the resilience of Palestine and Palestinian technical experts. Irrespective of the thematic/sectorial profession – doctors, nurses, professors, engineers, business entrepreneurs, agricultural experts, etc. – the realities of the operating environment in Palestine lead to the ability to work “anywhere” in the world.

The core team of PICA is young, motivated, skilled, and committed to delivering on Palestine’s promise to scale up efforts to deliver on the vision of solidarity through development.

For the experts whom PICA deploys, business as usual has never been an option, so adaptability is an indispensable part of their skill set. This makes PICA able to deliver results with unusually low transaction costs in difficult risk-



PICA health mission in Côte d'Ivoire, 2019.



Palestinian agricultural engineer during a technical cooperation mission in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, October 2019.

The establishment of PICA inaugurates a new chapter of contemporary Palestinian history filled with hope and giving. This is evident through the implementation of national policies in the field of international cooperation, sustainable development, and sharpening Palestinian expertise inside the State of Palestine and in the diaspora, representing Palestinian people internationally.

filled environments. In addition to experienced professionals, young Palestinian experts are not only a key part of PICA's constituency, they are also qualified as potential experts for dispatching. The young core team of PICA is only one example; other examples are linked to the sectorial experts deployed on PICA missions.

In April 2020, PICA was chosen by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) as the South-South Cooperation Partner of the month, recognizing the great efforts made by PICA throughout the years, including its recent response to the COVID-19 pandemic.ⁱⁱ This significant recognition not only sends a clear message to the global community that Palestine is capable of providing assistance and addressing development challenges, it also gives a greater incentive for PICA staff, volunteers, supporters, and partners to work harder in the future to realize shared dreams and aspirations.

Palestine is not a donor country in the traditional sense, and it is difficult at the present time to be so, as a result of decades of occupation and deliberate deprivation in various fields of development. Despite the current status quo due to occupation, however, PICA represents a driving force of positivity and reciprocity with partners in the global South. Drawing on already existing goodwill and determination of the Palestinian people in Palestine and across the diaspora communities, PICA

PICA, as opposed to most development cooperation agencies, can draw from a national resource pool of experienced people who have turned the necessity of being able to deliver “anywhere” into a science and an art that is refined not only during missions but also at home between missions.



Palestinian agriculture experts in Venezuela, in 2018.

will continue to provide a unique and unprecedented example of the potential of public diplomacy in breaking stereotypes – both of Palestine specifically and of what a developing country can do in general.

All this can be leveraged for a stronger international engagement with the Palestinian cause and provides PICA with an opportunity to prove that development cooperation is not only the business of a few privileged donor countries.

YES, PALESTINE CAN!

Imad Zuhairi is the director general of the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency.

Article photos courtesy of PICA.

ⁱ For further information on the history of PICA missions and projects, please visit <http://pica.pna.ps>.

ⁱⁱ PICA: South-South Cooperation Partner of the Month, South-South Galaxy, available at <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/pica-south-south-cooperation-partner-of-the-month/>.

A Test of Humanity from Palestine

By Yara Salem



The current, unprecedented, challenging times that people all over the globe are facing require ingenious solutions, new perspectives, and earnest introspection to help us deal with a new world and counter what is dictated by a few. Where do we Palestinians stand, and what can we offer the world when we are at our very breaking point? Our bodies, psyches, and spirits all serve as a living example of how humanity's limits and potential are being tested in an age in which human values tend to take a back seat to oppression, greed, and destruction. How can one be human without empathizing with Palestinians – not able to recognize injustice and suffering? Being human necessitates being able to relate to the brutal uprooting of Palestinians and comprehending human rights values. And this includes expressing solidarity with the oppressed as a means of defense against violations to preserve the last traces of human dignity. We Palestinians offer the world its most valuable asset: humanity!

To augment this gift, we at Taawon work relentlessly to help reinforce Palestinian steadfastness, hoping that one day Palestinians may become full-fledged citizens of a country that enjoys independence, freedom, sovereignty, dignity, and prosperity. We envision a Palestine where citizens are empowered to reach their full human potential with excellence and creativity. A Palestine where citizens can reinvent life not only through their survival but also through their narrative, art, culture, and history. A Palestine where citizens not only stand in solidarity with other oppressed and marginalized communities across the world but also provide living examples of rising up against injustice and oppression everywhere.

As the leading civil society organization in Palestine and the Palestinian diaspora camps in Lebanon, Taawon has, during the past 37 years, anchored its interventions solidly in developing the capabilities of individuals and institutions while preserving Palestinian heritage and identity. It has supported Palestinian living culture by systematically defining Palestinian needs and priorities and actively identifying proper mechanisms to maximize the use of available resources.

In its attempt to demonstrate what it truly means to be Palestinian, Taawon has spearheaded all efforts to empower Palestinians socially and economically, striving to strengthen their sense of identity and universal significance, role, and relevance. Through its work, Taawon has highlighted Palestine's uniqueness and released the creative energies of youth, women, and children. Through the wealth of its opportunities, numerous segments of Palestinian society have managed to unleash their capabilities and creativity and give back even while living under the most difficult circumstances.

In order to preserve Palestinian identity, the emphasis was placed on generating infinite resilience by employing various tools and interventions. All these aim to deepen the connection to our heritage and land and to define and carry out our role in the world. At the same time,

Palestine's gift to the world: humanity, resilience, and steadfastness in the face of all forces of darkness.

To this end, the design of our interventions has aimed at sustainable economic and social development in close alignment with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, in partnership with all stakeholders, we have made efforts to mobilize resources towards outcome-driven projects that target education, culture, health, agriculture, enterprise-development, the care of orphans, the economic



The rehabilitation of Ammim Land, Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program.



Solar energy panels for four hospitals and health centers in the Gaza Strip.

we strive to offer a glimmer of hope to our youth, women, and civil society actors, allowing them to flourish and build as well as advance and maintain their humanity and dignity.

empowerment of youth and women, and humanitarian and emergency aid. These interventions ensure relevance for international development by

employing top-notch operating standards. They have categorized Taawon's work and helped to universally recognize its programming and institutional performance. In turn, our work has helped attract donors around the world who continue to support the needs of the Palestinians creatively, efficiently, and transparently. This recognition has manifested itself also in gaining many

as the cornerstone of a flourishing Palestinian society. To further preserve Palestine's identity and cultural heritage, which are the foundations for survival and sustainability, Taawon, through its museum, culture, and renovation programs of old cities, has worked on enriching the human experience by reinforcing connections to previous generations of Palestinian

The Palestinian reality is complex as we live tragedies that are woven into the fabric of our lives and society and that have become our identifiers. We realize that the task before us is twofold: The first focuses on active and constructive participation in building resilience foundations while attentively observing the poverty and marginalization realities of those whose land has been confiscated,

whose homes have been demolished, whose trees have been uprooted, and ultimately, whose lives have been stolen. Those who face fear, brutality, and impunity and buy life with their very lives. We only have one choice, which is to be part and parcel of the move to build a sustainable and inclusive Palestinian society that can offer hope not only to the next generations of Palestinians but also to future generations across the world.

Our second task focuses on participation in formulating the image of a vulnerable and threatened society whose image is constantly misrepresented and whose identity distorted in an age of rising global racial and ethnic biases. Through investing in Palestine's human capital and social empowerment, there is no doubt that negative stereotypes can be countered, and a new perception of humanity can be created where the values of justice, solidarity, and freedom will prevail.

Although we at Taawon contribute to this daunting task, we are conscious that it is only achievable if it is nurtured within a clear vision of the realization of the Palestine project. The continuous Palestinian tragedy

poses the single biggest ethical challenge to our humanity. Yes, we are giving to humanity and will keep giving. Surrendering is not an option. We are broken into pieces, but we will collect ourselves and stand tall in our humanity, recognizing that it is vibrant and alive. Palestinians are taking care of it all.

Director General of Taawon, Yara Salem, is a well-known global development expert with more than 23 years of high-level international experience. Yara has led development works in many countries and sectors and with clients from government, the private sector, civil society, and the diplomatic and donor communities. She has worked for the World Bank Group, IFC, and UN, with a focus on Africa (Zambia, Tanzania, Sudan, Somalia), Latin America (Caribbean Islands), East and South Asia (Nepal, Singapore, ASEAN), Eastern and Central Europe (Serbia, Kosovo), and the Middle East and North Africa (GCC, Mashreq). Previously, Yara worked for the Palestinian government and also in the Palestinian private sector. Prior to joining Taawon, she acted as the World Bank Special Country Representative to Iraq. She was born in Nablus and holds a master's degree in international commerce and trade from Middlebury Institute of International Studies, United States; a master's degree in international relations from Birzeit University; and a bachelor's degree in business administration and sociology from the University of Jordan.



Bridge Palestine, a national initiative to empower outstanding Palestinian students to enroll in prominent international universities.



Development and rehabilitation of safe playgrounds for kindergartens by the Education Program in Gaza.

internationally acclaimed awards, helping to catapult Palestine to the forefront of international excellence.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the building of solid and effective partnerships with more than 200 partner institutions, foundations, funds, and societies in the field of international development.

When it comes to programming on the ground, Taawon maintains a focus on all enablers of community resilience. Substantial investments were made in inclusive and equitable quality education to improve economic prospects, encourage societal cohesion, and foster Palestinian national identity. Well-educated Palestinians serve

narratives, discourse, literature, music, dance, theater, and visual art, as well as connecting the Palestinian experience to the world. Other community development programs that have centered on supporting economic activities and building resilience at the grassroots level have provided for the basic needs of Palestinian communities by laying the foundations for living dignified lives with the promise of a more equitable and just future. Such programs support health, agriculture, youth and women's job generation, small businesses, orphans, and relief efforts while enhancing the capacity of civil society organizations, supporting their critical role in sustaining and enhancing Palestinian livelihoods.

Palestinians in Kuwait

The Family and the Politics of Survival

By Shafeeq
N. Ghabra



As it narrates the experiences of Palestinians who came to Kuwait after the 1948 *Nakba* in Palestine and throughout the early fifties (whom I call the early-comers), this article provides only a sample of the Palestinian connections to the Arab Gulf region, focusing in particular on Kuwait when it was still a British protectorate and the early years of its independence.*

The earliest wave of migration to new exile locations in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria in response to the 1948 dispersal came from the Palestinian intelligentsia, predominantly former bureaucrats, teachers, doctors, engineers, accountants, army and police officers, and businessmen. Seeking physical survival and employment, this segment of Palestinian society moved to every corner of the Arab world. Thus, several hundred individuals from Palestine's intelligentsia moved to Kuwait between 1948 and the early 1950s. The young oil state, still a British protectorate at the time, offered increasing numbers of secure and lucrative positions, particularly in its expanding bureaucracy. The expertise and levels of education that this class possessed provided it with the keys for survival, as they constituted the skills most needed in the Arab world at the time and enabled them to relocate and immediately offer a needed service to their host country.

The second major group of Palestinians that arrived in Kuwait during the 1950s was the peasantry. No sector of Palestinian society has paid a heavier price for the events of 1948. Most of the peasants were gathered into makeshift refugee camps in, Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, the West Bank, and Jordan. Those who had not been uprooted, that is, the indigenous peasantry of what came to be called the West Bank, were severely hit economically. Most had few skills outside of agriculture, although many had worked as laborers in Palestinian coastal industries. Those who came to Kuwait were forced to travel via the dangerous underground railroad that operated between the West Bank and Kuwait. During the 1950s, thousands of young male peasants, many as young as fifteen, came to Iraq this way and then walked from Basra literally across the desert to Kuwait. Hundreds of others came to Kuwait in boats used by smugglers in the Fao area

(Iraq). On the way, some of those who crossed the desert died of sun exposure, and some of those who used the sea routes drowned.

The economic and physical survival of their families and themselves in the aftermath of the 1948 war motivated Palestinians from both the intelligentsia and the peasantry to migrate to Kuwait. After 1948, the responsibility for the family fell on the young men and women who had the ability to endure the harsh conditions. Their first priority was to relieve their families' suffering and to provide their parents, brothers, and sisters with the necessities of life. They also had to find means to ensure the education of their brothers and sisters that had been interrupted by the war. These pioneers became the bridgehead of the Palestinian community in Kuwait. Their arrival facilitated the migration of many other friends and members of their scattered families.

What follows is an account of the circumstances surrounding the arrival of a sample of the Palestinians from the early-comer intelligentsia who came to Kuwait in the aftermath of the *Nakba*. Khayriddin Abuljubayn of Jaffa came to Kuwait as a teacher in 1948. From 1953 until 1957, he also served as secretary of the sports union, and from 1957 to 1964, he was secretary of the Kuwaiti soccer union before he became the first representative of the PLO to Kuwait. Others who also engaged in sports include Zuhayr al-Karmi and Jamil al-Salih, who had exceptional careers in Kuwait's Ministry of Education. Al-Karmi simplified science through a television program called *Life and Science* that was popular during the 1960s and ran for over a decade. And al-Salih became chief math inspector for secondary schools of Kuwait and is the author of the high

The Palestinians who came to Kuwait after the exodus and during the 1950s, like the Palestinians in the rest of the Arab world, provided the roots for a new and different superstructure in the diaspora.

school mathematics curricula; he was instrumental in introducing modern math to Kuwaiti high schools.

Hani al-Qaddumi was the founder of Kuwait's first Modern Department of Residence and Passports in 1949. In that same year, he was appointed secretary to Shaykh Abdullah Mubarak al-Sabah, the deputy of Kuwait's emir. Al-Qaddumi coordinated all the diverse agencies under the jurisdiction of the emir's deputy, including the embryonic army, the civil aviation organization, the Departments of General Security, and the radio station.

Kuwait's first modern radio station was founded and directed by Muhammad Al-Ghussayn of al-Ramla. He had been a senior staff member of the British Near East Broadcasting Station in Jaffa since its inauguration during World War II. After the 1948 war, the company was transferred to Cyprus, and during the 1956 Suez War, al-Ghussayn and all the Palestinian and Arab staff members resigned. In 1958, within a year and with the help of Kuwaiti,

Arab, and Palestinian employees, al-Ghussayn founded and then directed, at Kuwait's request, the first modern radio station. Sharif al-Alami became one of the first to create a popular informative TV program called *SG* (Questions and Answers). One of the Palestinians who joined the Kuwait radio station as a translator for Reuters in 1959 was Ahmad Abd al-Al. He became one of Kuwait's most distinguished radio and television anchormen.

In 1962, when Ashraf Lutfi, a Palestinian from Jaffa and the director of the office of Kuwait's emir, had a stroke, Hani al-Qaddumi substituted for him until 1965, when he resigned to start a successful private business that became a leader in marketing medical equipment and drugs. Lutfi had previously been director of the office of Abdullah al-Mullah, the secretary of Kuwait's government, and in charge of the relations between the emir and the oil company. Upon the death of al-Mullah, Lutfi became first director of the emir's office and then general secretary of OPEC, while representing Kuwait. He was highly knowledgeable about the oil industry.

From 1948 to 1953, several other Palestinians joined the general security department as administrators. Among them were Anwar al-Hnaydi, Ziyad Zuaytar, Zakarya al-Kurdi, and Abdulkarim al-Shawwa. They all were to have remarkable careers in Kuwait's private and public sectors.

A particularly remarkable contribution to Kuwait's governmental infrastructure development came from Abdel Mohsin al-Qattan. Al-Qattan came to Kuwait in 1951 where he taught at the Mubarakiyah secondary school, at the time the only secondary school in Kuwait. He then went to Jordan where he was

Kuwaiti attitudes were very important in the Palestinians' ability to form their new diaspora society. By employing Palestinians, welcoming them, and facilitating their adaptation to Kuwait, the country significantly helped Palestinians to respond to post-1948 conditions.

in charge of West Bank commercial education until 1953. When he was hired by the Kuwaiti government in 1953, the Department of Electricity was just starting as the result of the government's taking over a small private company that generated limited electricity. By the time al-Qattan resigned in 1963, he was general inspector of the Ministry of Electricity, the second-highest position in the ministry.

But al-Qattan, like Hani al-Qaddumi and many other high-ranking Palestinian government employees, believed by the mid-1960s that it was time to resign despite Kuwaiti rejection of such resignations. Following Kuwait's independence in 1961, Kuwaiti graduates were looking to fill high-level government positions, and a slow, but long-term government policy of "Kuwaitization" began to take place.

Like most Palestinians who had worked with the government of

Kuwait, al-Qattan decided that the only way to realize his potential was through the private sector. This mentality later became widespread in the diaspora and was a revival of a centuries-old practice in urban Palestine. Thus, al-Qattan started al-Hani Corporation in the early 1960s. In a few years and with little capital, he was able to establish one of the best construction companies in Kuwait and in the region whose operations extended into Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and North Africa. Al-Qattan was a philanthropist in every meaning of the word. Along with other philanthropists, he founded Masarat, the Palestine think tank in the West Bank, in 2011. Al-Qattan shared much of his wealth to support Palestinian institutions. He also founded the Welfare Association with fellow philanthropists from the early-comers to Kuwait such as Hani al-Qaddumi, Said Khoury, and others from the Palestinian diaspora including Hasib Sabbagh, Riyadh Kamal, Samir Abdulhadi, Abdulmajeed Shouman, and Munib al-Masri. The Welfare Association is dedicated to supporting Palestinian development throughout Palestine.

Engineer Dr. Zaki Abu-Id, originally from a village near Jaffa that was ethnically cleansed and one of the few Palestinian engineers to graduate from a university in Great Britain before 1948, participated in the efforts to create a modern, efficient department of electricity. The first Arab engineer in the department, Abu-Id, rose to increasingly high-ranking positions in the new ministry to serve as chief engineer until his death in the late 1970s.

The Palestinian role in the private sector of the Gulf region expanded tremendously during this period, starting with the first oxygen factory,

founded by Salim al-Hunyadi in the late 1950s. According to the director of Kuwait's National Bank Ibrahim Dabdoub, during the 1950s the Palestinians in Kuwait were primarily individuals working in the public sector. Laws restricting non-indigenous free enterprise in Kuwait limited the emergence of Palestinian businesses. By the mid-1960s, as Kuwait embarked on an ambitious development program and Kuwaiti laws governing free enterprise were reformed, privately owned, large Palestinian businesses arose. That era also produced skilled managers, bankers, and investors such as Khalid Abu al-Saud, manager of the investments of Kuwait's late emir Shaikh Jaber al-Ahmad.

Palestinians made significant contributions to education in Kuwait. A native of Jaffa, Salwa Abu-Khadra founded the first nursery school in Kuwait and later on a very successful school. She became a key female figure in Fatah and the PLO. Darwish al-Miqdadi was assigned as director of education in 1950 due to his exceptional organizational and educational skills. During the 1930s, he had founded the Iraqi scout movement and was the president of Iraq's Higher Teachers' College (the highest educational post in the country at the time).

Dozens of Palestinian doctors also entered Kuwait between 1948 and the early 1950s. Dr. Sami Bsharah, a surgeon who before 1948 had worked in the Jaffa hospital, was one of the first Arab doctors to come to Kuwait. Only two or three doctors were in the country at that time. Later on, Bsharah became the director of Al-Amiri Hospital. Several Palestinian doctors participated in providing medical services in Kuwait during the early 1950s alongside the 32

British and Arab doctors practicing at the time. Dr. Nazim Ghabra, a cardiologist, and Dr. Ali al-Attawnah, a surgeon, have had remarkable careers. In 1965, they were members of the four-doctor team that supervised the medical treatment of Shaykh Abdullah S. al-Sabah, the former emir.

Most nursing practitioners in Kuwait were Christian Palestinian women graduates of the missionary nursing schools in Palestine, such as Saint Luke's Hospital. They headed most of the nursing departments of Al-Amiri Hospital up to the early 1960s.

Khalid al-Hasan made an outstanding contribution to the municipality of Kuwait and later became a founder of Fatah and one of its main leaders. Talat al-Ghussayn served as the assistant general secretary of the Development Board and in the 1960s he became Kuwait's ambassador to the United States. He was one of three ambassadors of Palestinian origin who represented Kuwait alongside Adel Jarrah (Moscow's ambassador) and Hasan al-Dabbagh (ambassador in Japan). These Palestinians, under the guidance of then-foreign minister Shaikh Sabah al Ahmad al Sabah, were present and active also in the preparations for Kuwait's application for membership in the United Nations after its independence in 1961.

Another pioneer, General Wajih al-Madani of Acre, made his contribution to Kuwait through the army. Born in 1921, al-Madani had served as a corporal in an Arab force during World War II. During that time, no Palestinian army officers existed in the ranks of the British army. But al-Madani's performance in the war provided him with the opportunity to enter the Sarafand British Military College in Palestine. In 1946, he graduated as a second lieutenant. From 1946 until

1947, he trained the embryonic Saudi army. With Hazim Khalidi, he also trained the 85 Palestinians who were recruited to become lieutenants and lead the Palestinians in the defense of Palestine in 1948. Many future Palestinian military leaders emerged from this group.

When al-Madani arrived in Kuwait in 1952 to work in its embryonic army, it had three lieutenants, one of them Fathi Sidir, a Palestinian who during World War II had fought with British forces. Wajih al-Madani participated in the establishment of many of the basic departments and units of the Kuwaiti army, offering his experience to his Kuwaiti colleagues to build a modern entity. His career continued until 1984, with an interruption from 1965 to 1969, when he became the first commander-in chief of the Palestine Liberation Army, the official army of the PLO.

Many other Palestinians also provided essential services to the Kuwaiti army. Umar Zuaytar, for example, founded and led the artillery and participated actively with Kuwait's troops in the 1973 war on the Syrian Golan front. In recognition of his achievements, Kuwait granted him citizenship. Khalil Shhaybar, a former Palestinian police officer, founded and led the police force in 1951, holding commanding posts until his retirement in the early 1980s.

Palestinian musician Talat al-Alami, together with other displaced musicians from Jerusalem, founded Kuwait's first military band in the early 1950s.

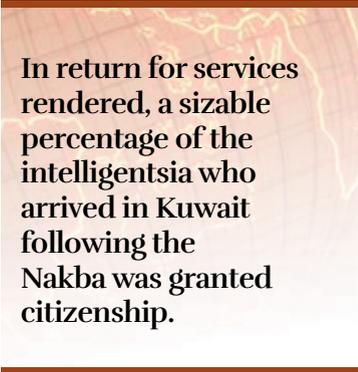
Great contributions were made by Palestinians in agriculture. Yihya Ghannam of Tulkarem had graduated from Khadduri agricultural school in Palestine just before the war of 1948. Indeed, Palestinian participation in

agricultural development in Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria has been quite integral to the politics of Palestinian survival, as thousands of Palestinians worked in agriculture in these countries, continuing the millennia-long tradition of their forebears.

In the area of finance, Haydar al-Shahabi, a graduate of the American University of Beirut, was one of five individuals who comprised the embryonic Ministry of Finance in early 1949 in Kuwait. Initially, he was appointed assistant to the director of the finance department; when he resigned in 1969 to enter the private sector, he was deputy assistant secretary of state for financial affairs.

This small, non-inclusive sample illustrates Palestinian accomplishments in Kuwait, focusing only on those who came between 1948 and 1955. The contributions of this group directly resulted from an obsession with professional standards, caused to a large extent by the need to find and maintain employment as stateless refugees. In every area of the private and public sectors, the displaced Palestinian intelligentsia left its mark.

Furthermore, these examples demonstrate how every exiled population, in adapting to a new environment, follows strategies that reflect the original society. The majority of the early-comer Palestinian intelligentsia were urban; their experience had been accumulated in cities such as Jaffa, Haifa, Lydda, Ramla, Acre, Safad, Gaza, Tiberias, and Jerusalem. Their education, knowledge of foreign languages, and experience with the British system of civil administration provided them with tools helpful for survival after the 1948 trauma.



In return for services rendered, a sizable percentage of the intelligentsia who arrived in Kuwait following the Nakba was granted citizenship.

In 1950, the first major wave of Palestinian working women after 1948, independently recruited, arrived in Kuwait. Among them Myassar Shahin, who arrived in Kuwait at the age of 24 and was assigned as principal of one of the two secondary schools for women in Kuwait at the time. Shahin had been a high school teacher in Jerusalem and was a graduate of Jerusalem's teaching college. She worked as a high school principal for 34 years, making a positive impact on women's education in Kuwait until she retired in 1984.

The experience of Said Khoury of Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC) demonstrates how powerful and motivating the force of the family can be. His family's ordeal provided him with the motivation to withstand the pressure and hardships of working after 1948 in the Syrian desert in subhuman conditions. He was particularly torn to see his father forced to cope with statelessness and poverty. The transformation of his father from a dignitary in Safad (Palestine) to a stateless refugee was the most devastating emotional experience Khoury had to endure. In 1948, Said Khoury, Hasib

Sabbagh, and Kamel Abdul-Rahman created what later became one of the most successful construction companies in the Arab world. Khoury spent years after 1948 building infrastructure projects in Lebanon and Yemen before he moved his company to Kuwait. Starting as a small subcontractor that in the 1950s operated through the US company Bechtel, CCC became a multinational corporation with a half-billion-dollar annual budget in the 1970s.

The pioneers who came to Kuwait were participating in a broad social transformation. Most of the members of the intelligentsia who went to the Gulf early were of lower- or middle-class origins. Almost all of them had either a high school or college degree, some working experience, and no investments outside of Palestine. Most of them were in their mid-to-late twenties. They were penniless when the war ended and needed to move quickly to survive and help their families, their parents, siblings,

This article has not offered an explanation of the role of the Palestinians who came to Kuwait before the *Nakba*. Most distinguished among them were the four Palestinian men and two women who were sent to Kuwait in 1936 and 1938, respectively, by Hajj Amin al-Husseini, the leader of the Palestinian nationalist movement, in response to a request by the emir of Kuwait, Shaikh Ahmad al-Jaber. The salaries of this group, which included Ahmad Shahab-Aldin, were paid partly by the Kuwaiti educational institutions and partly by the Arab Higher Committee, led by Haj Amin.

The Palestinians who came to Kuwait and the Gulf in the late 1940s and early 1950s were self-made men and women with exceptional will and intelligence. They accepted and tolerated the harsh living conditions of Kuwait, something the former elite had not been willing to do. Husayn Qalawi, who came to Kuwait in 1950 and opened the Orient Palace Hotel,

to start from scratch. My generation was a self-made working generation.”

Similar to the Palestinians who moved to Kuwait between 1948 and the early 1950s, their counterparts who moved to Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, Lebanon, and Jordan, among other Arab countries, exerted a significant influence. In almost every phase of development, be it economic, military, administrative, or educational, Palestinians had a tremendous impact, particularly from 1948 to 1965. During this period the modern economic infrastructure of Kuwait was established, and the Palestinian role in this work was crucial. In 1965, for instance, 48 percent of all employees in Kuwait’s public sector were Palestinian (15,512 male, 1,477 female). In the private sector, Palestinians comprised 41.4 percent of all employees. Not until the mid-1960s was there a balance in employment percentages between the Palestinian, Egyptian, and Kuwaiti roles in infrastructure development.

Another generation of Palestinians flourished in Kuwait in the sixties and beyond, such as the novelist Ghassan Kanafani, who lived in Kuwait for six years, and Naji al-Ali, who built his cartoonist career in Kuwait. Also, it is not a coincidence that Yasser Arafat, Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf), Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), Salim Zanoun (Abu al-Adib), and others were working in Kuwait and had the first strategic meetings in Kuwait before launching the Palestine national movement Fatah in 1965.

These Palestinians, who in response to forced exile and the ethnic cleansing of Palestine established the foundations of diaspora structures, discovered that the traditional pre-1948 system that had depended on family and property to protect individual privilege no longer existed. Education and hard work were the new tickets to survival. What they built in the diaspora was a new structure based on merit. In no way, however, can the new Palestinian diaspora structure be divorced from family. The early-come intelligentsia reestablished their success in the social and family network.

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grandparents. Their work experience and education gave them the lead in finding employment and in building the diaspora structure. Through the will to achieve, they have in fact established a society, but not in Palestine.

the second modern hotel to be built in Kuwait, explained, “In Haifa I lost my work, chiefly a business founded by my great-grandfather, which expanded during my grandfather’s and father’s days. I lost everything – work, inheritance, and country. I had

* This article is based on my book titled *Palestinians in Kuwait*, published in 1987 by Westview Press, and republished in 2019 by London and New York: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group. For a more in-depth understanding and analysis of the entire Palestinian community, including the role of the Palestinian peasantry in Kuwait, please consult this publication. For a source in Arabic, please refer to *Al-Nakbah wa Nushoo’ al Shataat al-Filastini fi al-Kuwait*, published in 2018 in Beirut by Al-Markaz al-Arabi. This more recent manuscript covers the events of 1990–91 as well and their impact on the Palestinian community in Kuwait.

Innovation for a Resilient World

By Majd Zghyer



In his famous book *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*,ⁱ the 2015 Nobel Prize–winning economist Angus Deaton warned of rising social and economic inequalities between and within countries. Specifically, he argued that although the twenty-first century seems a better era to live in – thanks to remarkable improvements in the quality of life due to increases in incomes and advances in technological innovation – millions of people across the globe have failed to escape from the cycle of poverty and underdevelopment. Importantly, he called for more innovative ways to address global development challenges and urged governments to intensify their coordinated efforts to overcome collective action failures and ensure that the most marginalized of nations can make their escape from destitution.

Significantly, 2015 is not only the year in which professor Deaton was awarded the Nobel Prize in economic sciences. During that year, we also witnessed the leaders of more than 190 countries coming together to launch the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a set of 17 globally adopted universal goals that aim to achieve a sustainable, inclusive, and fairer world by the year 2030. The SDGs include 169 targets that present an ambitious roadmap to be followed by governments in order to address the severe and unprecedented challenges of our time, such as climate change, eradication of poverty, access to clean water, energy security, gender equality, and the need for effective governance systems. In addition, the goals not only provide an opportunity for all countries – large and small, developing and

The world is facing severe development challenges that require innovative solutions and greater investment in building resilience and cooperation mechanisms.



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals offer a roadmap to building a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient world by 2030.

Turning global challenges into opportunities for innovation, solidarity, and impact (facts and figures):

- 2.6 billion people across the developing world lack access to constant and reliable electricity.
- 2.3 billion people worldwide lack access to basic sanitation.
- 4+ billion people worldwide do not have access to the internet (90 percent of them live in developing countries).
- At least 400 million people have no basic health care.
- Weak infrastructure in developing countries reduces business productivity by around 40 percent.
- Around 1.7 billion adults around the world are unbanked and do not have access to basic financial services.^{iv}
- The number of people employed by the renewable energy industry could reach 20 million by 2030.
- 4.2 billion people lived in cities in 2018, yet this figure is expected to reach 6.5 billion by 2050.

Source: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank Group (WBG).

developed alike – to cooperate and work together for the common good, they also demand the involvement of key stakeholders and partners that represent the private sector, civil society, academia, and nongovernmental organizations.

Unfortunately, the uncertainty and chaos created by the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 have exacerbated existing challenges and make the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 seem like an elusive and unrealistic target. In fact, the World Bank Group estimates that the lockdown measures imposed

by governments as a response to the virus outbreak will shrink the global economy by 5.2 percent and push more than 100 million people into extreme poverty, thus reversing decades of progress and leading to the worst economic crisis since the great depression of the 1930s. Furthermore, it is expected that marginalized communities that live in fragile and conflict settings will be the most affected by the negative repercussions of any economic or humanitarian crisis.ⁱⁱ

According to the World Bank, two-thirds of the world's extremely



Innovation capacities can play a pivotal role in building resilience in marginalized communities. Photo courtesy of PICA.

A glimpse of hope! Examples of recent successful Palestinian innovation and start-ups:

- **Young Explorer^v** is an innovative mobile app, based on artificial intelligence (AI), which aims to generate a customized rehabilitation plan that fits the needs of children with disabilities and learning difficulties. The AI-based start-up was chosen among winners of the Islamic Development Bank's Transform Fund 2019.
- **Receet^{vi}** is a mobile app platform that improves shopping experiences through digital, environmentally friendly receipts. The innovative financial technology start-up was selected as one of the Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC) Fintech Hive's 2020 accelerator cohorts.
- **WeDeliver^{vii}** is the first crowdsourced "on-the-way" technology-driven business-to-business (B2B) start-up that aims to disrupt the logistics and last-mile delivery industry across the MENA region. WeDeliver won first place in Startup Istanbul 2019 and successfully expanded its services into the Saudi Arabian market.
- **TollabCo^{viii}** started as an internship start-up project at Birzeit University's B-Hub and has managed to connect 450 current students at Birzeit with internship opportunities. TollabCo also represented Palestine and the Middle East in the final stage of the 2019 Hult Prize Challenge, the world's largest social entrepreneurship competition for students.

poor will live in countries affected by fragility, conflict, and violenceⁱⁱⁱ However, it is precisely in these vulnerable settings where investment in resilience and innovation capacities are most needed. In other words, enhancing the resilience of these communities to economic and humanitarian shocks requires greater international cooperation and the introduction of innovative technologies that can raise productivity, improve service delivery, and unlock many of the

untapped opportunities across the developing world.

As history has shown, sometimes it is in the middle of difficulties when opportunities can be realized. In other words, the ability to face complex situations and turn challenges into game-changing opportunities is what could be identified as resilience – and yes, the Palestinian people have been teaching the world all about resilience, steadfastness, and

WE INNOVATE, WE CONTRIBUTE, WE IMPACT

نبتكر .. نساهم .. نوثر

perseverance. Frankly, in the world of disruptive innovation and entrepreneurship, only the most resilient can mitigate risks, overcome challenges, and emerge stronger from unexpected shocks and crises.

Hence, there is nothing that prevents resilient Palestinian entrepreneurs and innovators from pursuing their dreams and delivering impact to their country as well as to other marginalized communities across the developing world. In fact, Palestinian entrepreneurs have not only been able to achieve remarkable success stories that deserved recognition from regional and international organizations, they have also built impactful and scalable start-ups that provide innovative tech-based solutions to some of the world's most complex challenges.

It is clear that Palestinian entrepreneurs do not lack the mentality of resilience needed for success in the rapidly changing field of innovation. Rather, they lack the support systems and public-private partnerships that would enable them to expand their offerings into new markets and apply their innovative solutions to existing challenges across the developing world. One of the recent initiatives that aims to enhance the role of Palestinian innovation in addressing global development challenges is Busala Innovation Challenge,^{ix} a multi-stakeholder platform for global innovation, launched in partnership between the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) and the Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence (HCIE). Strictly speaking, this ambitious initiative aims to create impact at home and abroad and add value to the Palestinian entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing a platform for Palestinian



innovators and entrepreneurs to apply, test, and scale their innovative solutions while helping to address some of the world's most complex development challenges. Importantly, the ultimate target of this initiative is to become a bridge that connects Palestinian innovation with the development needs of marginalized communities across the developing world, thus contributing to the realization of the SDGs and the 2030 global development agenda.

Although some might argue that Palestine is not yet prepared to enter the global innovation scene, a mere visit to one of the many co-working spaces and innovation hubs scattered across the Palestinian cities in the West Bank and Gaza could convince even the fiercest of skeptics that Palestinian entrepreneurs are not only determined to create a better future for themselves, they also strive to turn global development challenges into promising opportunities for innovation, resilience, and impact. A well-known African proverb states, "If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent a night with a mosquito." In other words, even though Palestine is a small country with limited resources and a traumatic history of struggle for justice, it is able to punch above its weight, and Palestinians have

sufficient determination and talent to help them make the world a more resilient and much better place to live in.

Majd M. Zghyer is the program officer for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) at the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA).

ⁱ For more information, please visit Goodreads, *The Great Escape*, available at <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17942017-the-great-escape>.

ⁱⁱ "COVID-19 and the SDGs: How the 'roadmap for humanity' could be changed by a pandemic," UNDP Development Programme, available at <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>.

ⁱⁱⁱ "Fragility, Conflict & Violence," the World Bank, available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview>.

^{iv} "Financial Inclusion," the World Bank, available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/financialinclusion/overview>.

^v For more information, see "Ayah Dajani, Young Explorer," *ENGAGE*, available at <https://www.isdb-engage.org/en/custom/transformer/view/24566>.

^{vi} For more information, see "Modernize Receipts," *Receet*, available at <https://getreceet.com/>.

^{vii} For more information, see WeDeliver-Home, *Facebook*, at <https://www.facebook.com/WeDeliverTech/>.

^{viii} "Representing Middle East in UN, Birzeit University team finalists in 2019 Hult Prize," Birzeit University, September 23, 2019, available at <https://www.birzeit.edu/en/news/representing-middle-east-un-birzeit-university-team-finalists-2019-hult-prize>.

^{ix} "Busala Innovation Challenge 'We innovate, we contribute, we impact,'" PICA, available at <http://pica.pna.ps/busala-innovation-challenge-we-innovate-we-contribute-we-impact/>.

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Yet Still They Rise

Palestinians in the USA

By Terry
Ahwal



A snapshot of how the world defines the Palestinian people would show nothing but tragedy, which is partly true. Indeed, the Palestinians have been expelled from their homeland and denied their history. And yes, they suffer from the betrayal of their friends who dumped them without mercy. But this should not be what defines the Palestinians. They should be recognized by their ability to rise from the ashes like the phoenix and thrive no matter what the world throws at them. They brush off the pain and lift themselves up, moving forward with optimism. The tapestry of the Palestinian people is woven with pain, ambitions, grand designs for a better life, and love for stability. An example of this can be observed in the strategies that Palestinian immigrants carried with them to the United States. With limited resources or support, they lifted themselves up by their bootstraps and forged a life of hard work and success. They not only fulfilled their dreams, they also became active contributors to the American dream and the growth of the United States.



They took a leap of faith when they came to a foreign land with a foreign language, on a journey to seek economic security, and they ended up becoming an intricate part of their new community. Palestinian immigrants who arrived in my hometown of Detroit and its suburbs pooled what little money they had, borrowed from their families, bought household products, and began to peddle them door to door when all other doors were closed to them. Their aim was not only to make a profit but also to build a better life.

When others saw only ghettos and destruction in parts of Detroit's inner city, they saw opportunities. In the 1950s and '60s they traded their peddling bags for plans to open small storefront businesses in various neighborhoods, sometimes in dangerous areas. Their keen vision, optimism, and entrepreneurial spirit became the salvation of both their families and the communities they served. Through trial and error, Palestinian immigrants kept their eyes on the prize, namely, empowering and educating their offspring to ensure that they have a more successful life. Their dedication paid off. Theirs is one of most educated and entrepreneurial communities in the United States. Their dreams of a better life and future success produced a generation of highly skilled individuals who currently impact the United States at the local and national levels.

This complex yet carefully quilted Palestinian community has produced many business leaders who either own their own businesses or who form part of the Fortune 500 corporations. Among the people who are making an impact on the global economy

Their forced separation from their homes and country gave Palestinian immigrants in the United States the impetus to seek a better education and fulfill their vision of a brighter future.

is Johny Srouji. Mr. Srouji, a Palestinian-American, is responsible for the hardware technology for Apple. He runs the division that makes processor chips, the silicon brains inside the iPhone, iPad, and other Apple products. *Bloomberg Business* called him "The Most Important Apple Executive You Never Heard Of."

From Apple to hair products, Palestinian engineers, entrepreneurs, educators, physicians, lawyers, and large- and small-business owners affect every aspect of the American and global economy. Among the giants of American industries is the humble Palestinian immigrant from Beit Ur al-Tahta, Farouk Shami. One cannot go into a retail beauty shop without seeing the CHI product, which was developed by Farouk Shami. This entrepreneur is the inventor of 23 beauty products, including the first ammonia-free hair colors and products. The owner of Farouk Systems, Inc., who was named the Entrepreneur of the Year by *Forbes Magazine*, came to the United States with only US\$ 71 and is now is running a billion-dollar

industry. His company employs 2,000 people, and its products are distributed in 144 countries.

In the United States, there are only 30 national basketball teams. Among the successful owners is Tewfiq Georgious (Tom Gores), a Palestinian American who was born in Nazareth and nurtured by his uncles who owned a grocery store in Flint, Michigan. The billionaire and founder of Platinum Equity worked as a janitor while attending college and is now one of the most powerful people in Michigan and California. Aside from employing hundreds of people in his various businesses, he is known for his philanthropy. After acquiring the Detroit Pistons, he worked on ensuring the success of the team and made the decision to move his team from a suburb to Detroit in an effort to revive the city. He is partnering with other giant businesspeople to accomplish viable urban communities despite the economic struggles due to COVID-19 and other disasters affecting the United States.

Maha Freij does not own a business, but her impact on the economy is felt throughout southeast Michigan. This formidable Palestinian woman is a champion of the underdogs. Unlike any other chief financial officer and deputy executive director of a nonprofit, she created a vision of a future prosperous community and set the building blocks to achieve this dream by investing in the underprivileged. Since arriving in the United States, she has become a trailblazer with a commitment to her constituencies. Strategically, she began to partner with individuals from the Arab-American community and others and built a



Peter Ajlouni



Maha Freij



Farouk Shami



Charles Shamieh



Johny Srouji



Edna Zaid



Tewfiq Georgious (Tom Gores)

Relying on their entrepreneurial spirit, Palestinian immigrants found ways to survive and make a living even when opportunities were scarce.

foundation that generated income for the poor for generations to come. She created the Center for Arab American Philanthropy, an institution that awards US\$1.3 million to various programs, including scholarships. One can already see the change she created.

Like the successful people named above, the Shamieh brothers bought the It's-It Ice-Cream Company when no one else would. They invested in its potential, modernized the operation, and expanded it. Their successful business employs thousands of people in Northern California. Their business model is used as a framework for long-term success.

Edna Zaid used her secretarial skills to build a multi-million-dollar agency. She was named by the National Association of Women as one of the Top 10 Women Business Owners. Her company, Regency Capital Holdings LLC, became the premier court-reporting company in the state of Michigan. She and the cadre of her employees built an impeccable reputation that relies on accuracy in reporting and transcribing. In her core business she employs 40 court reporters. In addition, Edna owns and manages multiple commercial and residential properties in Michigan and Florida, including four professional office buildings.

The engine of the US economy relies on the hope and commitment of people like the Ajluni family. Among its 3,500 members, they have more than 50 medical doctors, including Dr. Peter Ajluni, who was the president of the American Osteopathic Association, over 60 lawyers, numerous engineers and financial whizzes, such as Emeel Ajluni, a senior manager of external affairs and business development at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, with a US\$48 million budget to disburse in the community. The only unique aspect of this family is its number. The promise of America is built by the hard work and the dreams of many Palestinian Americans who want a better future.

From the first waves of immigration until now, most Palestinian-Americans have achieved and contributed to the economic growth of their communities.

Diversity in business, especially small business, is the backbone of the American economy. The Palestinian spirit is a great match for the American economic system. There are hundreds if not thousands of Palestinians who own their own businesses, from small mom-and-pop grocery stores to engineering firms, medical offices, insurance companies, franchised restaurants, and law firms. All these entities directly and indirectly pump revenues into their local, state, and federal economies.

Despite these successes, the Palestinian people believe they've only just begun. The genius of the young Palestinian generation supersedes that of their parents with their drive and passion for a better global future. Their potential knows no limit. They are driven by an obligation to build an inclusive economy that benefits the whole world. They want to build an environmentally clean and just economy. The halls of American universities are filled with people such as Mirna Kaafarani, a medical student who wants not only to become a doctor but also to specialize in research

so that she can help eradicate diseases throughout the world. She believes that a healthy society is good for the economy. Like her parents, her brothers became engineers and were recruited by major manufacturing companies who value their commitment to excellence and work ethic. They dream that one day they can become the owners or executives of these major manufacturing companies.

The theft of Palestine has not killed the dreams, hope, or entrepreneurial spirit of the Palestinian people, and given that, the hope for a prosperous Palestine is still alive.

Terry Ahwal was born in Ramallah and immigrated to Detroit, Michigan, in 1972. A graduate of the University of Michigan, her extensive career includes being the first Palestinian-American to be appointed as an Assistant County Executive in the largest county in the state of Michigan, serving as a vice president of the Detroit Medical Center and on numerous nonprofit and governmental boards, as well as being elected president of the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine. She helps local and national nonprofits with their business plans and has been banned from entering Palestine for ten years.

Barenboim-Said Center for Music Moves To New Premises

(Ramallah, Palestine, September 15) Barenboim-Said for Music (BSFM) has announced that they have just moved into their new premises, located at Al Jihad Street 22, Al Masyoun, in the center of Ramallah. The beautiful new facilities, on the former location of the Qattan Foundation, will provide students an elegant environment in which to study music and to perform concerts for the community. The official opening ceremony for the new premises of Barenboim-Said for Music in Palestine took place on the evening of Wednesday, September 9. The event included welcoming words by several speakers, musical performances by students and teachers from the Barenboim-Said Music Center and the Filasteen Young Musicians Orchestra, and a tour around the new building. In attendance were local BSFM board members Dr. Mustafa Barghouti and Dr. Mamdouh El Aker; Head of German Mission, Christian Clages; Consul General of Spain, Amb. Ignacio García Valdecasas; Governor of Palestine Monetary Authority, Mr. Azzam Shawwa; Minister of National Economy, Mr. Khalid Al-Esseily; and Mr. Tareq Al Masri and Mr.

Salem Badi from Al-Bireh Municipality. Barenboim-Said for Music aims to build an informed and vibrant Palestinian society in which music plays an integral part in educational development and shapes the identity of children. With the move to the new premises, Barenboim-Said for Music seeks to offer more young people in Ramallah the chance to learn an instrument and to encourage more Palestinians to enjoy classical music. "Crucially important about the new

building is that it is spacious and enables us to take in more students to answer the high demand – a goal that has been in our minds for many years already," says Barenboim-Said for Music's Artistic and Executive Director Liina Leijala. "We are so grateful to all our partners and sponsors who support and believe in us, and especially the German Federal Foreign Office, as their support was crucial to our move to this wonderful building." Barenboim-Said for Music receives support from and partners with a variety of organizations locally and internationally, including the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, the German Federal Foreign Office, La Junta de Andalucía, the Fundación Barenboim-Said, and the Daniel Barenboim Stiftung. With its strong focus on musical excellence and humanistic education, Barenboim-Said for Music has been a major force in transforming the classical music scene in Palestine. Its new home will serve as an ideal location for for students and teachers to share their talents and their important message with the Palestinian community and the world.

For comments, questions, or inquiries, please contact: info@barenboim-said.ps. Please visit www.barenboimsaidformusic.org for more information.

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Auswärtiges Amt وزارة الخارجية

Public Diplomacy in the Twenty-First Century

Examining the Changing Channels of International Relations and Country Branding

By Dalal Iriqat



The history of diplomacy can be traced back to the beginning of interactions between human beings. We have no record of what diplomacy might have looked like in prehistoric times, but there is no doubt that humans have always engaged in activities that involve sending messages back and forth. In 1796, Edmund Burke was the first to label diplomacy the activity that until that time had been known as negotiations.

It is generally agreed that the term public diplomacy (PD) was first used in 1965 by Edmund Gullion, an American academic who described it as trying to “influence the attitudes and opinions of other peoples and governments in such a way as to exercise influence on their foreign policy decisions.” Public diplomacy therefore engages in a contest of credibility to achieve an objective, it is strategic communication in the context of international relations.

Joseph Nye, the Harvard scholar who in 1990 defined the term “co-optive soft power,” describes PD as efforts to influence another society’s public opinion in order to influence its government. A three-word explanation of the purpose of these linked disciplines of PD, strategic communication, and soft power could be: whose story wins.ⁱ

PD in the twentieth century was viewed as a state-based instrument used by foreign ministries and other government agencies to engage and persuade foreign publics for the purpose of influencing their governments. Today, PD is conducted through various instruments used by states, associations of states, and some sub-state and non-state actors to understand cultures, attitudes, and behavior; to build and manage relationships; and to influence thoughts and mobilize actions to advance their interests and values that automatically influence their foreign policy-making.

Very often, governments have a set of objectives and a particular view about an issue and must move their collaborators’ minds to allow them to participate in the way they wish. We should be completely clear about this: diplomacy is about interests, and we’re about promoting our interests in the world. PD is about helping to persuade, engage, influence, and inform as to permit the process to happen. Twenty-first-century PD is referred to as New Public Diplomacy (NPD).

A related concept in this context is nation branding, in which the unique features of a country or nation are stressed to set it apart and make it attractive to others. The following table was introduced by Gyorgy Szondiⁱⁱ to differentiate between nation branding and public diplomacy.

| | Public diplomacy | Nation branding |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Goal | Promote political interest | Promote (mostly) economic interest |
| Context | Politicized, focus and priorities may change with change of government | Mostly depoliticized, general agreement among actors and political parties |
| | Identity-driven | Image-driven |
| | Driven by international relations and culture | Driven by marketing and consumerism |
| Targets | Public/stakeholders (active) | Masses/consumers (passive) |
| | Citizens | Consumers (of images, products, places) |
| | Key geopolitical countries | Any country, more universal |
| Direction | Foreign public | Both foreign and domestic audiences; without the consent of domestic audiences, efforts are doomed to fail |
| Role of government | Initiator as well as sender of messages; government has more control over message | Government could be the initiator but rarely is the sender (danger of propaganda); thus, less or no government control |
| Actors | State and non-state actors – government, governmental organizations, embassies, ministry of culture, ministry of foreign affairs, cultural organizations | National tourist boards, travel agencies, investment promotion and export agencies, trade boards, chambers of commerce, multinational organizations |

We agree with Szondi that nation branding and public diplomacy are not isolated concepts but rather interlinked and mutually exclusive strategies of the broader concept of national image management. Therefore, the conceptual aspects of nation branding and its conceptual linkages with public diplomacy are very close and go in parallel.

PD and propositions for Palestine

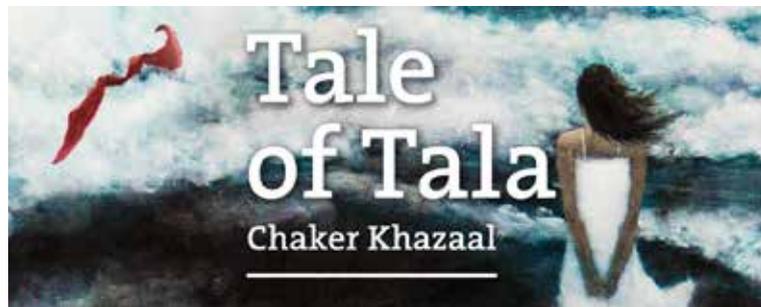
There are many examples of PD that governmental bodies can employ to better brand the nation. The story of Palestine can be echoed through the voice of a poet, artist, architect, writer, or any individual. Such communication can be much more convincing than the official story delivered by diplomats.

The Palestinian-Canadian writer Chaker Khazaal engagingly relates the story of Palestinian refugees in his novel *Tale of Tala*. During our interview, Khazaal

stressed that Palestinian refugees are entirely forgotten and live in dire conditions. He hopes that his story will refocus attention towards those refugees. When asked what we need to better brand Palestine, Chaker answered that we need a nice story, younger people, diplomacy, and technology to represent the Palestinian cause.ⁱⁱⁱ Chaker's work is an example of PD.

It is important to try to answer the question: What should Palestinian PD promote? Nations try to shed light on one or more of the elements that shape their identity, history, religion, national movements, regional

If we look at the six elements suggested by Simon Anholt to shape a national identity – people, culture, investments, policy, brands and tourism – we will easily discover that identity for Palestinians is not only about the nation's image but also about the political image of its leader and the human capital of its heroes. Leaders or personalities are human capital for Palestine and include poets, artists, and the figures who have managed to penetrate the international borders with the soft skills they have been gifted. In order to counter the image of a victim, why not introduce the heroes?



belonging, culture, grassroots, individuals, human capital and leadership, cuisine, fashion and embroidery, industry, agriculture, manufacturing, and products.

Arab states have played a major role in shaping Palestinian identity through the different strategies that each country has adopted towards the Palestinians. The Arab regional role in shaping Palestinian identity has led to introducing the Palestinians as refugees, victims, guerrilla fighters, stone throwers, and poor beggars to the international world. Whether we like it or not, the image of a Palestinian abroad is that of stateless, ID-less, jobless people.

Palestinians are perceived poorly and with sympathy, and in Palestine's nation branding, there exist a number of already established brands. The rap group DAM, young Palestinian brothers who focus on conflict and poverty; Trio Joubran, three musician brothers who have taken the oud's music to world-class level; Reem Bana, a singer, another icon in Palestinian music who travelled the world and managed to gather the love of millions around the globe. Athletes such as the Twin Skaters and the Speed Sisters, the first all-women race-car-driving team not only in the Arab world but also in the Middle East. Among poets, it is not contested

that Mahmoud Darwish, Ghassan Kanafani, and others already brought Palestine to the world in various languages. Palestine is rich as well in cartoons, a new kind of art, with names such as Naji al-Ali, Mohamed Sabaaneh, and many others whose cartoons and posters gained the attention and inspiration of the world. Artists such as Nabil Anani, Bashar Alhroub, Tayseer Barakat, Laila Shawa, and many more are shown in famous world galleries. Scholars such as Edward Said, child heroes such as Ahed Tamimi or Shadi, Ahmad, and the photographer Arine Rinawi, a young woman who managed to reshape the field of photography in Palestine, and many others. These are humble examples of personalities that make Palestine unique, and they are established brands that Palestine can utilize in its nation branding to practice public diplomacy by introducing those talents and skills that Palestine can put on the international scene and that have no duplicates anywhere else. Palestinian human capital is a major investment in building a national brand for Palestine. Palestinian official diplomacy carried out by the ministry of foreign affairs via numerous embassies sheds light on these personalities, enabling them to take part in exhibitions, concerts, and other events that take place in international cities and fora.

Tourism is another aspect. Registered old cities or cities listed in the UNESCO world heritage record can be a good focus. The Palestinian cities of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jericho, Battir, and Bethlehem have great significance for tourism, culture, history, and religion. Palestine should consider branding itself by focusing on these cities and what makes them unique, a much-needed effort to attract attention and to show the Palestine that we wish to promote.

In the past, public diplomacy was conducted through messengers, ambassadors, and official TV and radio shows. In the twenty-first century, however, in times of technology and communication, power is not only about who wins wars but rather about whose story wins! And today public diplomacy has a new set of tools.

Social media plays a huge role. There exist today a number of pages that carry out PD. For example, the Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy (PIPD), affiliated with the PLO, has been working on amplifying the positive image of Palestine. Other

We need to address two questions: How do others view us? What do we want to promote about Palestine?

online sources are *Positive Palestine*^{iv} and the YouTube channel *Dialogue* by Diana Al Shaer.^v These are social media outlets and podcasts that use all platforms, including videos and images, to promote the positive aspects of Palestine. *Craving Palestine* is another example that promotes the best recipes of Palestinian chefs and dishes made of Palestinian ingredients and herbs. Academic conferences, festivals, parades, TV shows, seminars, and webinars are all new tools to employ in new PD.

The Palestine International Cooperation Agency (PICA) is the official example of practicing PD on behalf of Palestine. PICA is

affiliated with the ministry of foreign affairs and works independently to promote Palestinian public figures, exporting Palestinian know-how and expertise to other countries. They have managed to send Palestinian expert teams in health and agriculture to different countries in Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere to provide aid to those countries and their public. Such missions definitely influence public opinion, which automatically influences their foreign policy

Palestinian culture contains many treasures: the hand-embroidered thobe (traditional dress), the dabka dance, the delicious local cuisine, and the amazing spirit of hospitality are among the many things that make Palestinian culture very attractive.

decisions. This is how states define their relationships in the twenty-first century, based on interests and needs. The country that provides more can surely win other countries' votes. Cultural exchange, international trade, and economic ambition are fundamental characteristics of human activity. We connect with each other to learn from each other's technological successes, to experience each other's cultural variety, and to build economic partnerships that can sustain our way of life.

For a nation to change its image, it needs first to change its behavior. Then, equally important, it needs to tell the world about the changes. The images of a nation won't automatically change. The way for a nation to gain a better reputation is to communicate to the international audience how good it is. This practice is called nation branding. The government needs to focus on the treasures of talent that Palestine hosts and communicate the relevant stories through their own tangible tools that will positively influence the image of Palestine.

There is no point in trying to separate hard and soft power. They are usually both in play and inextricably linked. The big difference between public diplomacy by governments and commercial branding is that "companies find it easier to be popular



with their audiences simply because they are offering something those audiences actually want to buy."^{vi} A nation cannot remake itself like a company launching a new product. In soft power, as in all forms of strategic communication, the narrative and the reality have to reflect each other. As public diplomacy and nation branding gain importance, there is a shift towards privatization. As experts and consultants provide this service

for governments, many states have created what is referred to as the "international development agency" that works in parallel with the ministry of foreign affairs and might become an essential part of organizational structures at embassies. PICA is the Palestinian example. Both fields are evolving rapidly and can change



■ Singer Reem Banna.

instantly according to political, cultural, and social developments. Thus, increased cooperation is needed between practitioners and scholars.

How can we Palestinians better manage our reputation and better brand our country? Our work must be guided by the values and criteria of credibility, collective work, and clearly

defined objectives, enabling us to make targeted investments and carry out studies and surveys to tackle our nation branding scientifically. This will help us shape and disseminate the Palestinian narrative in favor of the Palestinian cause and resist a stronger counter narrative.

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Once we decide what we want to promote, we move to the next questions: How do we promote it? What tools should Palestine actually use to export its uniqueness to the world?

ⁱ John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt, "The Emergence of Noopolitik: Toward An American Information Strategy," RAND Corporation, MR-1033-OSD, Santa Monica, Calif, 1999, p. 53. As of March 18, 2020: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1033/index.html.

ⁱⁱ Gyorgy Szondi, Discussion Papers in Diplomacy, "Public Diplomacy and Nation Branding: Conceptual Similarities and Difference," Clingendael: Netherlands Institute of International Relations, 2009.

ⁱⁱⁱ Recorded interview conducted in Ramallah on Saturday, September 22, 2018, with Chaker Khazaal.

^{iv} For more information, please visit *Positive Palestine* or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PositiveFilastin/>.

^v Available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRtpPYRdR12UkiZknSqqCmQ>

^{vi} Szondi.

Implementing Pediatric Spine-Surgery Programs

PICA Interventions in LMICs

By Alaaeldin
Azmi
Ahmad



Pediatric spine deformity (scoliosis) includes all scoliotic deformities among children. When such deformities progress untreated, the situation can be life-threatening, which makes early intervention crucial. Most patients in this category have complex spine problems with associated comorbidities. They require a multidisciplinary approach in a resource-abundant facility that is run by management that is sub-specialized in spine deformity. Ironically, the incidences of pediatric spine deformity are higher and more widespread in countries with limited resources (CLRs). Thus – except for a very sporadic provision of exemplary management of such patients in Asia, Africa, and Latin America – these patients tend to have no access to the solutions that developed nations possess.

In general, when local governments or NGOs deal with spine deformity, the assumption is that all the required resources are within reach, while the only missing link is the surgical technique. Clearly, this is not the case. Several reasons explain why CLRs lack sustainable programs that deliver pediatric spine-deformity services. First, it is a long-standing myth that very few children suffer from this problem. We now know that 2–3 percent of the population have scoliosis. If we apply this percentage to the United States, for example, there are 6–9 million cases of scoliosis, with at least 20 percent that need management, e.g., 1.2 million to 1.8 million individuals. One would think that such a magnitude of occurrence would attract more attention, especially when management is a life-saving measure.

Second, surgery has been relegated to low-priority status in global health care, believed to be an expensive measure that would compromise other large-scale global health initiatives. Third, many short-term missions were considered as a solution to implement these services, which eliminated the management of pediatric spine deformity from the aegis of global health initiatives. And fourth, prevailing misconceptions led to claims such as the false assertion that the high per-unit cost of pedicle screws makes surgery infeasible, or that local surgeons are unable to learn and implement the treatment, and that a wait-and-watch approach can be adopted. This has reduced the relative priority of spine-treatment training programs among surgeons or organizations that deal with global spine surgery.



Cover of a local newspaper in Mozambique highlighting the Palestinian contributions in managing successful pediatric spine operations in the country, April 2018.

At the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), we are convinced that such services should be a priority in our health programs for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Thus, we are offering a roadmap on how to implement this service in the limited-resource regions. We refute the claim that LMICs have all the resources

at their disposal and only need to learn and implement the technical surgical steps.

Many factors played a role when we decided to prioritize this program as part of a holistic vision for health service provision in LMICs. Not only has the epidemiological shift that was caused by global industrialization given importance to surgery as a health-promoting factor, but people living in LMICs are also now less likely to die from communicable diseases and therefore live to an age when cancer and cardiovascular problems become more prevalent.¹ Moreover, a recent shift in the attention of international societies has made surgical care a fundamental component of global health.² Global activity has moved from short-term missions with a focus on service to capacity building through long-term, sustainable programs with a special focus on education. The perception that used to consider highly specialized surgery a cost-inefficient global activity has changed; it is now considered a necessary activity that augments other health services (such as laboratory services,

The spinal surgery program at Mozambique's Maputo Central Hospital is a model for implementing a highly advanced service on a regional level. It continuously strives for society-centered appropriate care, providing high-quality services in an appropriate setting that will improve the health of patients in the most cost-effective manner for society.

radiology development, blood banking services, anesthesia services, etc.). Furthermore, awareness of the benefits of globalization has risen – especially as the novel coronavirus is affecting the entire world – and with it the fear among developed countries that vulnerable health systems in the developing world could increase the chance of reemergence of infectious diseases. This realization necessitates that health systems be improved uniformly, also in developing countries, promoting a similar approach toward subspecialized surgeries. Finally, there has been increased awareness of the importance of spine problems, as they occur at a higher rate than previously thought, and as the benefits of their early management reduce the complexities and complications associated with late interventions.

Our experience in Mozambique

The idea of implementing this service came in 2017 through collaboration between PICA and the ministry of health (MoH) in Mozambique. Spine-deformity services were not available in Mozambique because both the necessary implants and experienced people in this field were lacking. Previously, the country had a number of scattered missions that treated cases, but they lacked follow-up. The head of the orthopedic department at Maputo Central Hospital (MCH) was interested in implementing a pediatric spine-deformity service through regular missions, aiming to build the necessary local manpower that could continue to provide this service in the future.

During the 2017 meeting of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), we spoke with the health minister about establishing pediatric spine services at MCH with the full support of the head of the orthopedic

department in Mozambique and the executive hospital manager. Thus, collaboration began in 2018 through a memorandum of agreement signed by PICA and the MoH in Mozambique.

Why begin in Mozambique?

Among a population of around 30 million Mozambicans, 100,000 assumed scoliosis cases need clinical attention (extrapolated prevalence). The health care providers that would implement this service are the MoH hospitals, university hospitals, and NGO hospitals.

We decided to focus on pediatric spinal-deformity surgery because, unfortunately, there is a severe lack of personnel in this field in southeastern Africa, with no local facility in the entire region that provides such treatment. This is a highly demanding specialization that needs a sustainable program to promote local doctors and qualify them to carry out this service. Mozambique was a good starting point because an orthopedic training program had already been established by COSECSA. It is the second-largest

Our long-term strategy is to enable local health care workers to help themselves, using locally available resources. Moreover, we wish to expand capacity building by developing country-specific training programs in the COSECSA region.



Dr. Alaa Azmi Ahmad during a successful program in Pakistan, 2017.

surgical training institution in Sub-Saharan Africa, but it lacked spinal-deformity-treatment training. Thus, this service can be spread to many countries in the region through this established program.

Whereas many projects are being carried out in Africa by various organizations, they mainly depend on volunteerism via short-term missions that are resource-intensive but offer limited follow-up and provide minimal teaching. We can establish a new model, focusing mainly on sustainable partnerships that give a significant role to academic institutions and include research, training, and capacity building. This program will also be a good base to collaborate with many other global institutions that work in LMICs, enabling organizations to avoid duplications.

Our program is guided by the short- and medium-term goals of adding pediatric spine services as part of the pediatric orthopedic services at MCH with the support of the head of orthopedic services in Mozambique, Dr. Antonio Costa, a fellow of the

orthopedic college of Mozambique, and FCS COSECSA. Moreover, we are establishing scientific cooperation with highly experienced pediatric spine surgeons who visit on a regular basis, aiming to improve surgical services, screening, tracking, and follow-up protocols. In addition, we are planning to generate funding for a three-year program that aims primarily at local capacity building through teaching combined with direct clinical services in the field of pediatric orthopedics, including pediatric spine surgery.

Methods and results

From our previous experiences in pediatric spine programs, we know that the first mission is crucial, especially if you begin from scratch. It may be eyed with skepticism by local health professionals who are wondering, “Can this be done here?” particularly if they have adapted to a pathway that was considered satisfactory, e.g., sending patients to India or South Africa for such surgeries. Moreover, considering the complications that might arise in the course of such complex spine

surgeries, any mistake might cause catastrophic results that would lead to the closure of the program and make it extremely difficult to convince the health authorities to continue with it. From the beginning, and with crucial help from Dr. Antonio Costa, I embarked on setting up a multidisciplinary team. I held meetings with the heads of the pediatric, ICU, radiology, and anesthesia departments in which we discussed the needs and postoperative contributions of these departments to pediatric spine surgeries. We talked about the deficiencies we face, mainly the inability to do MRIs in the hospital because the machine was not working. So we arranged for MRIs outside the hospital, with the financial support of a private radiology center, in select cases, mainly with early-onset scoliosis (EOS).

The anesthesia department personnel asked to have an experienced anesthetist because they do not have any experience in this field. Due to a lack of tranexamic acid, a medication used to stop bleeding, we needed to work without it. Our first mission included a pediatric spine surgeon, an anesthetist experienced in dealing with scoliosis surgeries, a neuromonitor technician highly experienced in

intraoperative neuromonitoring, and a competent OR (operating-room) staff nurse.

We then treated five scoliosis cases with the active participation of two local orthopedic surgeons who had been nominated by the head of the orthopedic department to be the future pediatric spine surgeons. Utilizing internet and smart phone technologies, we followed up from abroad on the patients' pictures, x-rays, and lab investigations, monitoring general conditions through the local doctors who participated in the surgery. With the success of the first mission, everybody was enthusiastic in implementing this technique, including the health authorities in Mozambique, the sponsoring company, and of course our team.

The second mission was carried out in 2019, treating four cases of scoliosis, two of which were EOSs, done with the same technique as in the previous mission. The difference during the second mission was clear, as the mood of the local OR workers was more relaxed and confident. The surgeons contributed more to the placing of screws, local OR nurses participated more, and the ICU was better at managing the cases.

The success of our experience in implementing spine-deformity correction services in an LMIC was made possible through a number of factors. First and foremost, we had the clear support of the MoH and the head of the orthopedic department who helped implement this program through a memorandum of agreement with a clear timetable. This is of great importance since in most LMICs, the MoH has most of the health resources, and the only way to treat complicated cases is by doing them in a central government or university hospital. Ideally, such surgeries should be done

in a hospital that is accessible to all people without charge because they are too expensive for most who live in LMICs.

The sustainability of our program was ensured by the local multidisciplinary team that engaged in the program's implementation. As success in such cases depends not only on surgery, it is crucial to give local health professionals the space to engage, allowing them to feel that by the end of the program, they would be able to comfortably do most of the cases on their own. Importantly, using regular implants makes it easier for governments to buy cost-effective implants that can do the work. Circumstances might also require that the surgeries be done in accordance with the appropriate basis, yet with adjustments that work within a given context, as applicable, for example, regarding techniques to avoid bleeding or carrying out the surgery with accepted universal techniques.

Overall, it is important to know that implementing such programs in LMICs must begin with the clear vision that most health services come through the MoH. In such complex surgeries, a memorandum of agreement with the MoH is mandatory, as well as critical support from the head of the orthopedic and/or neurosurgery departments, which in our case we were very lucky to have.

It is also important to try to make these programs regional to decrease the financial burden, with consistence in multicenter educational and research activities. Motivated health workers can serve to be a professional

lobbying power on the MOH officials to improve the service in the future.

Surgery, which plays big role in management, can be done in these areas within the health and financial context by applying techniques that can overcome excessive intraoperative bleeding, expensive implants usage, and a malfunctioning follow-up system, as well as avoid the risk of doing complicated procedures.

Dr. Alaaeldin Azmi Ahmad is a professor in pediatric orthopedic surgery at An-Najah Medical School in Nablus, Palestine, and an adjunct faculty member of the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of Toledo, Ohio. His interest in global work, with a special focus on low- and middle-income countries, has led him to be part of many professional global organizations. He is the head of the orthopedic program at the Palestine International Cooperation Agency, chair of the spine committee at the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, secretary general of World Orthopedic Concern, a member of the Outreach Working Group of the North American Spine Society, a member of the Growing Spine Committee at Scoliosis Research Society, and a previous member of the International Board of AO Spine. In addition, he has published more than 35 articles, papers, and chapters in international journals and books. He is the main author of the forthcoming book Early Onset Scoliosis: Guidelines for Management in Resource-Limited Settings.

Our aim was to help establish a team in which each member would train a local health worker while performing surgeries under conditions of optimal safety.

ⁱ Colin D. Mathers and Dejan Loncar, "Projections of global mortality and burden of disease from 2002 to 2030," PLoS Medicine, November 28, 2006.

ⁱⁱ Catherine DeVries and Raymond R. Price, *Global Surgery and Public Health: A New Paradigm*, Jones & Bartlett Publishers, 2012.

Thinking of Others, Contributing to the World

By
Abdalahadi
Alijla



The Palestinians in the Diaspora

In December 2018, the Yemeni rivals signed the Stockholm Peace Agreement as the first step to de-escalate and move forward towards peace in Yemen. But who is the man behind the peace agreement between the Yemeni peoples? The principal broker and the engineer of the agreement that still holds today despite many setbacks? It is Marwan Kafarna from northern Gaza who works with the UN Special Envoy to Yemen.ⁱ Many have jokingly asked how the Palestinians could be instrumental in uniting the Yemeni people and leading them to sign a peace agreement when they are not able to do that at home. When Palestinians are given an opportunity to work under a legitimate umbrella, they not only excel, they also aim for perfection in their work, whether in ending conflicts or engaging in humanitarian work to change people's lives for the better.

Despite their low numbers compared to other nations, Palestinian immigrants have worked tirelessly to integrate into their host communities, gain an education, shine in science, or rush to help other nations and engage in humanitarian work. It has become commonplace to meet senior officials or professionals of Palestinian origin in international agencies, such as the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Qatar Foundation, the German Corporation for International Cooperation, or even in refugee agencies.

A few years ago in Beirut, as I was consulting the European Union's Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, I discovered that a few Palestinians from occupied Palestine served there as heads of regional programs or worked as program officers at senior levels. At the same time, I also found out that many academics at the American University of Beirut are Palestinians who received their education in the West and went back to teach and contribute to the development of Arab societies. In 2017, I was in Iraq as part of a humanitarian mission, when I realized that many Palestinians had joined local UN agencies such as UNHCR, WHO, and OCHA at both senior and junior levels. Their pride in being Palestinians and their commitment to their work strengthened my belief that

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the Palestinians in the European diaspora number around 300,000, as do those in North America. In South America, however, there are approximately 800,000.ⁱⁱ



Palestinians – even though they suffer from refugee status, the occupation, corruption, and inequalities – are committed to being part of global efforts to achieve sustainable development, fight poverty, and assist others. Palestinians understand very well what it means to live as refugees, exiled, in poverty, under oppression, a corrupt administration, in conflict, and in unequal societies. Their work is motivated by their deep understanding

education is the only tool available to them to create a decent life and find a place to live after having been kicked out of their homes in Palestine. Pierre De Bané, for instance, who emigrated from Haifa, became the first Palestinian in the Canadian cabinet in the seventies and contributed as minister of state for external relations, minister of fisheries and oceans, and minister of regional economic expansion.ⁱⁱⁱ



of such issues and their commitment to change. In that sense, they work as agents of change in a self-motivated manner.

Before the 1948 *Nakba* and the mass uprooting, the number of Palestinians who left for Latin America was enormous, and a few went to Europe to receive an education. The *Nakba*, however, altered the way Palestinians looked at themselves and other peoples (viewing them through the lens of colonized and colonizers). Palestinians started to settle in Europe and North America, where they integrated well into their host societies, becoming part of the political, economic, and societal forces. The first generation of Palestinians after the *Nakba* focused on educating themselves or their children because they realized that

When it comes to engagement in scientific work or to efforts to achieve the SDGs, especially in terms of fighting chronic diseases such as cancer, a good example of efforts to achieve health and well-being is professor Hashem El-Serag, whose research and findings have contributed immensely to the efforts of eradicating hepatitis and kidney disease.^{iv}

When it comes to reducing inequalities in the developed world, working for peace and justice, Dr. Laila Al-Marayati comes to mind. She was born to a Palestinian father from Gaza and is the first Arab presidential appointee to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. She is also a former president of the Muslim Women's League and has set an

example in fighting racism, inequality, and injustice in American society.^v In South America, one of the most famous human rights defenders is José Zalaquett, whose work during the military and authoritarian regime in Chile was remarkable and will always be remembered.^{vi} The above names are just examples of how Palestinians have contributed to their host communities and how their integration into their host societies is reflected in their commitments to achieve prosperity in other societies as well.

In recent years, and particularly since the civil war in Syria and the siege on the Gaza Strip, many persons of Palestinian origin immigrated to Europe in search of a better life. Dozens of them wasted no time and engaged with humanitarian agencies rather than heading back to refugee camps after they settled their legal residencies. They volunteered as teachers and health workers and mobilized donors as well. Even though the UN quota scheme of employment associates how much a donor country provides in financial aid with how many senior and operational staff from that country are hired, the Palestinians have found their way to engage through volunteering or through working in INGOs that focus

on achieving the SDGs.

It is no secret that Palestine lacks the financial capacity to be a significant donor. Because of the occupation, Palestine was forced to become a recipient country. However, Palestinians have proven to be vital donors of human capacities that contribute not only at the operational but also at the senior level, where otherwise it would be impossible to achieve and sustain certain milestones, mainly when it comes to peace- and conflict-related SDGs.

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ⁱ "The director of the UN envoy's office receives the head of the Southern Accord Committee in the capital, Aden" [in Arabic], *Alameenpress.net*, February 2020, available at <https://bit.ly/3b0JltR>.

ⁱⁱ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, "Dr. Ola Awad, reviews the conditions of the Palestinian people via statistical figures and findings, on the 72nd Annual Commemoration of the Palestinian Nakba," available at <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3734>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Johanne Fournier, "The former deputy, minister and senator Pierre De Bané is no longer," *Le Soleil*, January 11, 2019, available at <https://bit.ly/3k51QhW>.

^{iv} Hashem B. El-Serag, Baylor College of Medicine, available at <https://bit.ly/32k6SzR>.

^v Dr. Laila Al-Marayati, *The American Muslim*, October 21, 2005, available at <https://bit.ly/3mkmq5Q>.

^{vi} "José Zalaquett, Leader in Chile's Search for Truth, Dies at 77," *New York Times*, February 21, 2020, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/21/world/americas/jose-zalaquett-dead.html>.

Club Deportivo Palestino

One Hundred Years of Contribution, Resilience, and Shaping Identity in Chile

By Gazan Qahhat Khamis



Although the official founding date of Club Deportivo Palestino is August 20, 1920, the initial idea came up after the March 1916 Olympic Games that were held in Osorno, when the “free, loyal, hardworking, and healthy” Palestinian Sports Club was founded under the slogan *Mens sana in corpore sano* (a healthy mind in a healthy body). Initially, the club could boast of its outstanding tennis and football teams, and its members were exclusively of Palestinian origin.

In 1952, after 32 years of playing in the amateur leagues, Club Deportivo Palestino finally started playing in the professional leagues. Significantly, Deportivo Palestino won the championship in the Primera B division that year and was ranked at the top of its category along with the Rangers of Talca. Leaving its mark on the Chilean football scene, the club immediately qualified for the First (Primera) Division. In the beginning, all the players had been of Palestinian origin, but after becoming a professional team, Club Deportivo Palestino opened its doors to everyone. It hired important players

such as Francisco Hormazábal and thus began to contribute to the advancement of Chilean football, both regionally and internationally.

After its directors made significant investments through the purchase of players, the club became known as the “millionaire” team, winning its first First-Division title in 1955. Palestino remained in the First Division until 1970, when it fell to the Second Division (after losing to Union La Calera at the Sausalito Stadium) for two years before winning the championship and being promoted back into the First Division.

The Club Deportivo Palestino continued to develop, and the seventies proved to be the most successful years of its existence. In 1974, during its first year of being managed by Caupolicán Peña (who remained its manager until 1980), Palestino won third place in the Liguilla at the Huachipato Championship. The following year, Palestino came in fifth in the national

tournament and won the Chile Cup as well as the 1975 Liguilla Pre-Libertadores, qualifying for the 1976 Copa Libertadores (the most prestigious regional competition for Latin America’s best football teams). With Elias Figueroa on board, Palestino won the Chile Cup and the 1977 Liguilla Pre-Libertadores, which qualified the club to participate in the 1978 Copa Libertadores. Palestino then went on to beat Sao Paulo FC (then the Brazilian champion) with a score of 2–1.

On November 22, 1978, the club won the 1978 Official Tournament after defeating Colo-Colo 3–1. Most of the club’s players were members of national teams and core members of the Chilean team that won the sub-championship in the 1979 Copa America. Obtaining the 1978 title meant qualifying for the 1979 Copa Libertadores, in which they reached the semifinals but lost to the champion, Olimpia of Paraguay.



On August 20, 2020, Club Deportivo Palestino celebrated its 100th anniversary, a faithful reflection of the Palestinian presence in Chile that in its early years considered football a way not only to integrate into local society but also to prove that Palestinians are capable of using their unique Palestinian identity as a force for good and positivity wherever they reside.

From 1979 until 1985, the club did not score great results, other than participating in the final group of the Copa Polla Gol 1983; but they lost on the final day against Universidad Católica.

In 1986, Palestino and Colo Colo tied in points for the national championship, and a definition match was played at the National Stadium of Chile on January 28, 1987. Palestino lost 2–0, and Colo Colo won the championship.

In 1988, after a disastrous season, Palestino fell back to the Second Division and a new board of directors was appointed, headed by Fernando Lama, who managed to get the club back to the First Division league in less than a year. In addition, the Municipal Stadium of La Cisterna was inaugurated, the place where the club remains to this day.

In the early 1990s, Palestino did rather well and was among the five best teams in Chile. The players that

In fact, the story of Club Deportivo Palestino surviving bankruptcy and coming back to life only serves to show the true spirit of Palestinians who can stand in solidarity with each other in order to overcome challenging circumstances and build resilience for the future.



Between July 1977 and September 12, 1978, Palestino was on a winning streak with 44 unbeaten games. It is the longest winning streak in the history of Chilean football.

stood out during these years include Aníbal González, who was the goal scorer in the 1995 championship, and midfielder Jaime Valdés, who was the figure and goal scorer of the team in 1999, which earned him a transfer to the Italian football league at the end of that season. Other outstanding players were the Chilean national team players Miguel Ángel Castillo, Agustín Salvatierra, Óscar Lee Chong, Eros Pérez, Patricio Neira, Jaime Rubilar, Yerko Darlic,

and Fernando López, as well as the Argentinean players Roberto García and Marcelo Ledesma.

The arrival of the new millennium brought achievements for Palestino along with some unfortunate setbacks. In the first three years of the new millennium, 2000–2003, the club had excellent seasons. In 2005, however, Palestino went bankrupt and was bought by prominent Palestinian families in Chile who gave it a big push. At first, the situation was difficult since Palestino was at risk of losing its qualifications due to bad managerial decisions and practices. But in 2008, Club Deportivo Palestino managed to reach the final of the Closing Tournament, only to lose to Colo Colo (the most successful and highly celebrated Chilean club).

In 2014, Palestino won the Pre-Libertadores group as undefeated, beating Huachipato 6–1 overall and the Santiago Wanderers 9–2 overall. This was the third group won by the club, allowing it to return after 36 years to the Copa Libertadores de America.

In 2015, and in their re-debut in the Libertadores Cup, Palestino

faced Nacional of Uruguay in the preliminary round. They won 1–0 in Santiago and lost 2–1 in Uruguay. But thanks to the goal scored in Uruguay, Palestino reached the group stage in which they faced the Montevideo Wanderers of Uruguay, Zamora of Venezuela, and the historic Boca Juniors of Argentina. Unfortunately, however, the team was not able to move on to the next round after losing to Boca Juniors as visitors, thus ending their participation in the 2015 Copa Libertadores de America.

In 2014–2015, Palestino reached the final round of the Chilean MTS Cup, which was played as a single match at the Bicentennial Stadium of Talca, losing to the University of Concepcion 3–2. When Nicolás Córdova replaced Pablo Guede, he started spectacularly, winning four of the first five games in addition to scoring a draw. Although the remarkable start was followed by several ups and downs throughout the competition, Palestino managed to end the championship by defeating San Marcos de Arica 2–3 and qualifying for the 2016 South American Cup for the first time in its history.

Club Deportivo Palestino is highly esteemed by and considered the pride and joy of football fans in the various corners of the Palestinian diaspora and in occupied Palestine itself. The goals are heard from Santiago to Jerusalem and represent an oppressed people's cry for dignity.

In 2018, Palestino was crowned the undefeated champion of the Chile Cup, a great achievement after 40 years without major titles. Celebrating the Chile Cup victory, the president of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, wrote in November 2018: "The victory of Palestino has brought great happiness to our people. (...) Palestino represents our great nation and its just cause for freedom, justice, and peace. Palestino, like our national team, represents all Palestinians... The steadfastness of our people, both in the homeland and in the diaspora, has shown that Palestine exists. Palestino is much more than just a football team."



In 2017, the club had a bad season, fighting in the relegation positions. In the Transition 2017 tournament, the club fought hard with Curicó Unido and the Santiago Wanderers not to be relegated. On the last day, Palestino faced its direct rival in the relegation, the Santiago Wanderers, who at that time were entering the promotion for the relegation. After an exciting match, the result was 0–0, and Palestino kept its category.

There is no doubt that Deportivo Palestino is more than a football club. In 2014 in Chile, Palestino was confronted with a conflict over the superimposition of a map of historic Palestine on their shirts that replaced the number one. The Jewish community protested through the leaders of Ñublense, even asking for disaffiliation. Palestino ended up paying a monetary fine. But the cause is more than a number or a

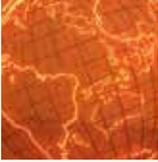


map. After this episode, the sale of T-shirts multiplied, as did the interest in the subject and the sympathy of a large sector of the non-Palestinian population. Many fans from other clubs are displaying flags in solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

The link, however, is not limited to support from a distance. In fact, several Chilean players who have played on the team have chosen to play for the national team of Palestine. In addition, the team has traveled from Chile to Palestine on sports tours in which they were received enthusiastically by their Palestinian compatriots. And the other way around, too: in 2018 President Abbas visited La Cisterna Stadium, the home of the Palestino, during a trip he made to Latin America.

The connection with Palestine is not new, however. Its historic founders saw in the club a way to keep Palestinian identity alive in the face of attempts to suppress it. And so, after the partition of Palestine in 1947 and its subsequent *Nakba* (disaster in Arabic) in 1948, which meant the dispossession of Palestinian territory, the idea was born to turn the club into a professional team, because its existence was no longer just a matter of football but rather a way of exporting Palestinian uniqueness, resilience, and excellence to the world.

Gazan Qahhat Khamis is a journalist and senior community manager of Club Deportivo Palestino.



Palestine's Contribution to the World Music Scene

By Suhail Khoury

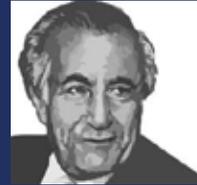
The jubilant applause that the Palestine Youth Orchestra (PYO) receives after each performance has been incredible. Standing ovations have become the norm at every European concert hall. Admiration of the orchestra's abilities and uniqueness is always apparent in the eyes of the audiences and in the comments heard as they leave the performance venues in awe. Since its inception in 2004, the PYO has toured many European countries, changing audience perceptions of Palestine and Palestinians. The orchestra's music always includes works by Palestinian and Arab contemporary composers, keeping music lovers worldwide interested in its unique signature sound. The 80-strong PYO is probably the most significant Palestinian ensemble to tour the world, and its impact has been tremendous. The influence of Palestinian musicians on the world music scene, however, goes back many years before the PYO's inception.

After the *Nakba*, many Palestinian musicians who fled their homeland took refuge in adjacent Arab countries and played a vital role in their musical

The Palestine Youth Orchestra (PYO) in rehearsal.



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Salvador Arnita.

development. Palestinians dominated the Jordanian musical scene, including radio and TV. Yousef Khasho of Jerusalem and Amin Nasser of Birzeit were instrumental in creating the Jordanian National Conservatory of Music in Amman in the 1960s. A later generation of music professionals and amateurs also played a crucial role in the National Conservatory's reestablishment in the late 1980s. Included in their ranks were Samia Ghannoum, Kareem Bawab, and

Yusra Arnita. Salvador and Yusra Arnita, as a couple, had made Lebanon their new home after the *Nakba*, and Salvador became a significant figure in the music department of the American University of Beirut. Mohammad Ghazi of Beit Dajan was entrusted by the Rahbani Brothers to teach Fairuz the *muwashahat* singing style, which had a crucial impact on her vocal development. The Sahab brothers from Jaffa became cultural figures in Lebanon and the Arab world. Most significant musically was probably conductor Selim Sahab who still leads one of the most important Arab orchestras in Egypt and is very influential in Cairo's musical circles. It is impossible to talk about the Iraqi music scene without mentioning Rawhi Al-Khammash from Nablus. Al-Khammash was considered a pillar in the development of Baghdad's academic musical life and drew great respect from his Iraqi counterparts. Hussein Nazek from Jerusalem established his musical career in Damascus. His hundreds of compositions influenced Syrians and the whole Arab world as he wrote many popular music themes for the famous Arab drama series and led important musical ensembles.



Rawhi Al-Khammash.

PYO performance in Ravello, Italy, 2012.





Saleem Abboud Ashkar.

Palestinians also made significant musical contributions to the world of classical music at large. Habib Kayaleh's violin academy in Switzerland is a world-class institute that specializes in nurturing young talent from around the world. His contributions as a leading world figure in violin pedagogy have earned him a place among the world's great violin teachers. His daughter Laurence is a star violinist and now contributes to the Canadian scene as a violin professor at various Canadian Universities. Habib Touma, an influential musician originally from Haifa who lived most of his life in Germany, made significant contributions to the world of ethnomusicology. His book, *The Music of the Arabs*, was translated into various languages and has become an imperative reference. Various Palestinian composers residing in Europe made their impact on the genre of contemporary art music. The most famous are Patrick Lama, Mounir Anastas, and Samir Odeh-Tamimi whose compositions are featured in European contemporary art circles. Issa Boulos of Ramallah also has quite a presence in America. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as well as the PYO, commissioned Boulos to write for them. Flutist

Wissam Boustany, son of the late Nadia Saba of Jerusalem, made his contribution as a performer and educator at Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music and Trinity Laban Conservatory in the United Kingdom. He is one of the world's leading contemporary flutists. Alexander Suleiman, whose ancestry goes back to Hebron, is a world-class cellist and teacher. After spending some time in California, his latest contribution has been as a cello professor at the China Conservatory of Music in Beijing. Saleem Abboud Ashkar from Nazareth has become a prominent



Wissam Boustany.

touring pianist, earning great acclaim for his interpretation of Beethoven's works. Another brilliant pianist is Karim Said, making his mark in both Europe and Jordan. He is an associate of the Royal Academy of Music in London and conducts the Jordanian Chamber Orchestra. Jenna Barghouti of Ramallah has become a topnotch violinist, performing with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra after several years with the Houston Symphony. Her Azalea String Quartet has received prestigious commendations.

Palestinians are also active participants on the world stage of opera and include Dima Bawab, Mariam Tamari, Marwan Shamieh,

and Nemeah Azzam, all contributing with their unique voices to opera worldwide and taking lead roles in international productions.

Palestinians are equally engaged in creating film music. Most important is John Bisharat, with



Simon Shaheen.

Jerusalem ancestry. He has been writing film scores for many years now and also conducts several important orchestras in California and elsewhere. His brother Charlie is a versatile violinist who is active mostly on the west coast of the United States. Another promising film-music composer is young Faris Badarneh from Haifa. The PYO

performed works of both Bisharat and Badarneh and received positive reviews.

While many Palestinian musicians are engulfed in classical Western music and made their mark in that world, others took their Arabic music with them and enriched the world music scene with their authenticity and diversity. The most prominent of these musicians is undoubtedly Simon Shaheen of Tarshiha. His musical contribution, mostly in the United States, where he resides, has been tremendous. He is probably one of the most significant Arabic music figures in North America, bringing Arabic music closer to Western audiences through his authenticity, on the one hand, and his fusion with other music genres, on the other. Shaheen's annual music retreat attracts eager learners from all over the world. No less prominent is the world-famous Trio Joubran. The three oudist brothers from Nazareth, Samir, Wisam, and Adnan, alongside their percussionist Youssef Hbeish, have been among the most influential Palestinian performers worldwide, changing the world's

Opera singer Dima Bawab with Andrea Bocelli.





Opera singer Mariam Tamari.

perception of Arabic instrumental music. Hbeish is also part of Duo Sabeel with brilliant oudist Ahmad Al-Khatib. They both have inspired scores of young musicians around the world with their virtuosic performances. Another influential percussionist is Nasser Salameh. Residing in Jordan, he performs extensively with many international musicians and has become a famous name in hand percussion.

Wafa Al-Zaghal and Lamees Audeh are a couple who make a lot of noise with their music school in Mississauga in the Toronto area of Canada. Their annual music festival and their Canadian Arab orchestra add a lot of diversity to the country's musical landscape. Leading a similar ensemble is Wanees Zarour from Ramallah. Zarour conducts the Middle East Music Ensemble of the University of Chicago and lectures in its music department. Nai Barghouti's vocal performances continue to attract much international interest. Her exclusive command

of Arabic and jazz vocal techniques mesmerizes audiences worldwide as they listen to the new sounds that emerge from this promising young Palestinian who might eventually create a new and unique genre of singing. Another vital contributor to the world music scene is Kamilya Jubran, who has experimented with new Arabic singing, fusing it with electronic music.

The PYO has been a nurturing ground for a number of young musicians, many of whom have gone on to solo performance careers, making their impact on the world music scene. In addition to some of the musicians mentioned above, Naseem Alatrash is another example of remarkable instrumentalists. His virtuosity on the cello and unique Arab-style improvisations attract a lot of attention in the United States. Similarly, clarinetist Mohamed Najem's unique sound enchants music lovers in France. Also active in the French music scene are Lamar Elias and Mirna Abu Zuluf. Although still students, they have been performing extensively in southern France where they reside.

Many more Palestinian musicians have made their mark globally, but space limitations prevent mentioning them. Many more second- and third-generation immigrant Palestinian musicians are unknown to us and are probably making their mark somewhere in the world music scene. The PYO will continue to search for these musicians and encourage them to engage with their roots.

Suhail Khoury is the general director of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music and founder of the Palestine Youth Orchestra.



PYO musicians in concert.

Forging a New Existence

By Hyatt
Omar



The Positive Impact of Diaspora Palestinians on Their Host Countries



A donor country is a country that provides aid to other countries. This can occur either directly or indirectly. Palestine was a donor country when it directly provided countries in the Middle East and beyond with qualified human resources and capital after the 1948 catastrophe. But its impact is also being felt indirectly whenever a significant Palestinian presence helps create material capital and provides financial and human capital that supports social and economic development in their host countries.

In the aftermath of the 1948 *Nakba*, over 700,000 Palestinians were forced out of their homes and became refugees. In this horrible situation, Palestinians opted for the wisest alternative and invested in their intelligence as a way to survive and tell the world that Palestine is still alive, vibrantly, inside every single person who carries Palestinian blood, no matter whether this person is a first-, second-, third-, or fourth-generation Palestinian. Yes, Palestinians do have a tragic history. But the truth is that they have survived, and their human triumph over their tragedy is testimony to their resilience and dynamism. Palestine is not only about war, disaster, and loss; it is also about surpassing and overcoming adversities and excelling in empowering the new generations by educating them.

There is a general but perhaps insufficient recognition of the fact that Palestinians invest heavily in their own and their children's education,

knowing full well that this capital cannot be stolen or denied, and its returns are handsome and fruitful. Behind every immigrant and every different accent, there is a sign of courage, the testimony of someone brave enough to leave behind all he or she ever knew to follow the call of the unknown. Most of these people migrated to a country where they were not able to understand, speak, or read the language or comprehend the local culture. Still, it was a sacrifice worth making to provide a better future for their families. Palestinians were forced out of their homes and had to work twice as hard as others to build new lives.

Palestinians are not only citizens in other countries but also entrepreneurs, doctors, engineers, professors, and more. Palestine is a donor country because its nationals are accumulating material aspects and human resources.

Nowadays, having endured suffering and engaged in hard work, Palestinians are able not only to make a positive impact on their host countries but also to create jobs and help others. They know all too well what misery means and what it takes to survive and succeed.

Palestine donates daily the labor of its own people to help improve other countries in every possible way. So yes, Palestine has given the fruits of





its peoples' labor and creativity to the world. Moreover, in all modesty, Palestine has contributed far more to others than what the world has invested in Palestinians. This is not to deny the generous help from the United Nations and donor countries; it merely aims to state that Palestinians have contributed their fair share and more in a give-and-take situation.

In Pelotas, Brazil, the town of around 300,000 inhabitants where I was born, the leadership of the commercial activities is concentrated in the hands of three families that came from Jelejlia in Palestine and moved to Brazil in the early 1970s. They were teenagers and had not yet completed high school. But they worked hard as employees for others upon their arrival and gathered some capital to invest and create their own

small businesses. One of them owns one of the state's main department stores that nowadays provides more than 1,200 jobs, which means the income to support around 5,000 people. Many other Palestinians are doing the same in other cities in Brazil, thus offering employment and support for thousands of families. In this sense, we can say that Palestine, through its people, is a donor country in an indirect way.

Another example is the small city of Santa Maria, located in southern Brazil, with a population of 280,000. Five young Palestinians migrated there from Palestine in the late 1950s and early 1960s and started their families. Like other Palestinian families, wherever they are, they try first to find a way to earn their living and then do everything possible to offer an education to their children.

These five families were able to accumulate human capital for their host city and country. Three members of the first family hold PhDs in various fields of knowledge, and two are medical doctors. The second family has two university graduates, one of which holds a PhD in engineering and serves as a university professor. The third family also has a medical doctor, and the fourth also has a son who holds PhD in engineering and teaches as a professor at the university, serving as president of the professors' syndicate and being actively involved in political movements. The fifth family has two dentists. I am not aware of any Palestinian family in Brazil that doesn't have at least one or two university graduates. Thus, while Palestinians appreciate the accommodating environment and opportunities created for them in their host countries, they also contribute to the development and growth of these countries, being active members and good citizens as a way to express their gratitude.

Many Palestinian institutions were established in Latin America, mainly in the form of social clubs. In July 1984, the COPLAC (Confederation of Palestinian Entities in Latin America and the Caribbean) was founded through the joint efforts of the Palestinian Federation of Brazil (FEPAL) and the Palestinian Club of Santiago de Chile. COPLAC is a nonpartisan civil society institution with no reference to specific religious, philosophical, or economic convictions. The role of COPLAC is to stimulate and coordinate the Palestinian communities; to develop political, social, and economic activities to defend the Palestinian national cause, as well as their own interests as citizens of their host countries.

The interaction and relation between Palestinians in the diaspora and those in their country of origin need more attention. Because the Palestinian population in the diaspora is more numerous now than that in Palestine, we must work intensely with the new generations, prepare them on an objective and scientific basis, so that they can engage and debate the question of Palestine with governmental, nongovernmental, and civil society institutions in the host countries.

At the same time, a group of Palestinian youth created Sanaud in Brazil and in many other countries in Latin America. The purpose of the organization is to create awareness of the Palestinian question, fortify youth relations with their homeland, and seek justice for crimes against humanity that they themselves had suffered and that their brothers and sisters still suffer under occupation. Sanaud played an important role in connecting the youth of Palestinian origin in each state of Brazil and throughout Latin America. Political developments after the Oslo



Accords, however, have negatively affected the performance of the organization. In the tenth FEPAL congress in 2019, the movement started to reorganize and revive itself, moving in the right direction to fulfill its objectives again. Still, several obstacles stand in the way because many youth lack solid knowledge or well-founded information regarding the Palestinian cause.

The language barrier is often another major issue. Most books and articles on Palestine are not available in Portuguese or Spanish, requiring these young descendants to learn a new language in order to educate themselves. And one of the major issues is the lack of interaction between the youth in the diaspora and those in the homeland. Many have visited Palestine with their

families, but this is not enough. They need what is called politically guided tourism with knowledgeable people who can accompany their visit and explain in detail every aspect of Palestinian history, especially the *Nakba*, the local culture, and the social tissue of Palestinian society. For sure, their parents and grandparents have passed on historical and personal aspects and stories as well as the reality of Palestine, but this knowledge remains superficial and lacks the depth and rigor of scientific analysis.

A well-organized institution in Palestine that maintains direct and constant contact with diaspora youth is needed. This institution must be one of the main and most important institutions in Palestine, equipped with competent people who understand and know how to

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reach and engage in dialogue with the generations that have been born outside Palestine, aware also of their respective countries and cultures. Our youth are the future of not only the host country but also of Palestine. Therefore, they need to educate themselves and prepare for the reality that they will be facing forever, because the Palestinian cause is everyone's responsibility.

Palestinians immigrated to Latin America with little capital, limited

immigrants and their descendants in the Americas and Europe because most of the published numbers and narratives are mere estimates. The lack of real information leads to subjective conclusions. Thus, these studies should be the first step towards gaining a better knowledge of the Palestinian diaspora and its contribution to the host countries and how they can contribute to Palestine and the Palestinian cause.



Participants at the Sanaud Congress in Brazil. Sanaud aims to connect youth with Palestinian heritage in various South-American countries with their country of origin.

knowledge in the languages of these countries, and with the majority of them having completed no more than elementary education. They did a great job in building solid human and material capital. Although they have worked hard and within their capacity to build social and civil institutions, there is still a need to consolidate and empower these institutions through solid professional and voluntary work.

Finally, I would like to raise the necessity of developing accurate statistics and studies of Palestinian

Hyatt Haj Omar is an activist for the Palestinian cause. Born in Pelotas, Brazil, to Palestinian parents, she is 22 years old and a third-year student in the honors program of psychology at York University, Toronto, Canada. Hyatt considers herself lucky to have been able to visit her homeland numerous times. Currently, she is a member of Juventude Sanaud, Brazil, and of the Canadian Palestinian Professional Foundation, working to help improve the lives of those in need.

By Haneen
Ghabra

Shafeeq Ghabra

From Freedom Fighter to Professor

A revolutionary thinker and an inspiration to many, Shafeeq Ghabra is one of the few people in the world who has gone from freedom fighter to professor. Born into the post-*Nakba* generation, his story – of being raised as a Kuwaiti to parents that were originally Palestinian – is one of diasporic heartache and exile. His father Dr. Nazem Ghabra was a highly successful cardiologist in Haifa, Palestine before arriving in Kuwait in 1952. He later became the personal cardiologist to the emir and crown prince of Kuwait. When Ghabra and his father became full citizens of Kuwait, there was a sense that the Palestinian *Naqba*'s wounds would never heal.



Ghabra sought to heal these wounds through his activism during high school in Kuwait and throughout his undergraduate studies at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, 1971–1975. He never spoke about his military experience until he published his memoir *An Unsafe Life* (in Arabic) in 2012 with Saqi Books.

In the book, Ghabra gives a detailed account of his life as a Palestinian freedom fighter in Lebanon during the 1970s. His new life as a young revolutionary entailed a six-year commitment to military service with the Palestinian resistance movement that fought to reclaim Palestine for all Palestinians who had been expelled from their homeland by Israel during the 1948 and 1967 wars and after.

He commanded an important section of the Student Battalion in South Lebanon until 1981 under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Fatah. In turn, Ghabra witnessed and participated in an important era of Palestinian and Arab activism that laid the foundation for the politics of the Arab world till today. In August 1981, he left South Lebanon and returned to the United States to complete his PhD at the University of Texas at Austin.

His career took him in many directions. First, he was the director of the Kuwait Information Office from 1998 to 2002. He then went on to establish the American University of Kuwait (founding president) from 2003 to 2006. Today, as a professor of political science at Kuwait University, Ghabra enjoys teaching and research. Ghabra is the author of nine books and dozens of journal articles and newspaper articles; he has given television and radio interviews, as well as guest lectures at renowned universities and centers worldwide.

He is a frequent political commentator on many networks, including *Al-Jazeera*, the *BBC*, and many other outlets such as *CNN* and *Fox*. His editorials have appeared in *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and he is a social media influencer on Twitter.

Ghabra was also a recipient of the highest award for Scientific Research in the Humanities and Social Science from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences chaired by the Emir of Kuwait, January 1997. Prior to that he was also the recipient of the Outstanding Academic Book award (1989) from Choice for *Palestinians in Kuwait: The Family and The Politics of Survival*.

Today, with the normalization between Israel and a few Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Ghabra reminds us of the need to continue the fight for the Palestinian cause, whether it be through resistance, freedom fighting, or academia. His visionary inspiration inscribes him in the books as one of the most progressive thinkers of the century.



I Found Myself in Palestine

Stories of Love and Renewal from
Around the Globe

Edited by Nora Lester Murad

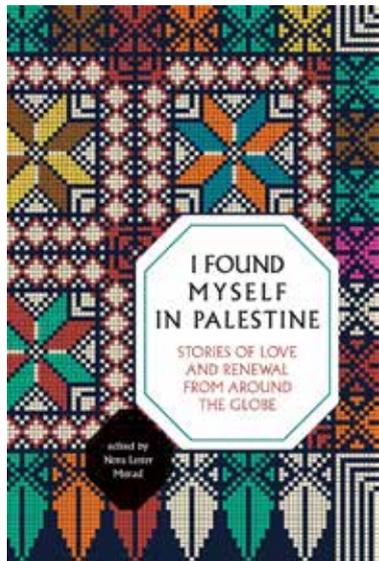
Interlink Publishing, 2020

Paperback, 256 pages, US\$ 20

“An engrossing anthology that attempts to see past the pain and bloodshed into the soul of the Palestinian people ... A diverse collection of authors with a shared connection to Palestine meditate on why their relationship to the land and its people endures.”

Kirkus Reviews

In *I Found Myself in Palestine: Stories of Love and Renewal from Around the Globe*, editor Nora Lester Murad brings together more than twenty personal reflections on being a foreigner in Palestine to offer a view into what it means to experience Palestine and its culture as an outsider.



“Mirroring the reach of Palestine’s global community, contributors come from Bolivia, Chile, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, South Africa, Sudan, the United States, and more. Spouses and parents, friends and lovers, activists, aid workers, expats and travelers – all are “ordinary people” who by choice or chance found themselves deeply involved with, and changed by, the land and people of Palestine. By turns raw, poignant, funny or sad, these “foreign reflections” on the search for belonging offer surprising glimpses into the kaleidoscope that is Palestine.

“Contributors include: Pam Bailey, Mariam Barghouti, Thimna Bunte, Jonathan Cook, Helene Furani, Fatima Gabru, Neta Golan Kamal, Nadia Hasan, Donn Hutchison, Didi Kanaaneh, Andrew Karney, Maria Khoury, Corina Mamani, Cody O’Rourke, Carolyn Quffa, Rina Rosenberg, Marty Rosenbluth, Ann Saba, Samira Safadi, Zeena Salman, Steve Sosebee, Saul Jihad Takahashi, and Trees Zbidat-Kosterman.

“Nora Lester Murad is a writer and social justice activist, originally from California. She is coauthor of *Rest in My Shade: A Poem about Roots* (Interlink, 2018). She posts her writing at www.noralestermurad.com.”

Taken from the Interlink Publishing website
(www.interlinkbooks.com)

Wrestling with Zionism

Jewish Voices of Dissent

By **Daphna Levit**

Interlink Publishing, 2020

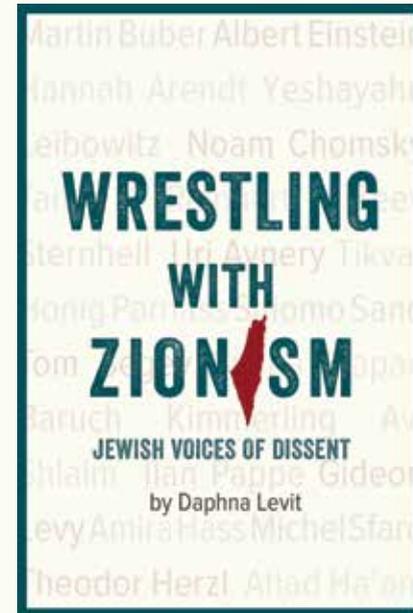
Paperback, 288 pages, US\$ 20

Daphna Levit's *Wrestling with Zionism* is an invaluable study of the dissent that political Zionism has generated among Jews ever since its articulation by Theodor Herzl. Ambitious and comprehensive in scope..." —Carolyn L. Karcher, editor of *Reclaiming Judaism from Zionism: Stories of Personal Transformation*

From the Interlink Publishing website (www.interlinkbooks.com):

"Portrayals of Israel in mainstream Western media as the 'homeland of the Jews' and 'the only democracy in the Middle East' are commonplace. Since the realities behind them are rarely shown, these truisms have become habitual assumptions underlying news coverage, public policy, and ordinary conversation. At the same time, while criticism of a government's policies is considered an essential right and safeguard of democracy, criticism of Israeli policy is persistently attacked as anti-Zionist – or even anti-Semitic – by a majority of Israelis and by those outside the country who claim to be Israel's friends. The views of independent Israelis and Jews who examine, challenge, or oppose extreme Israeli governments and policies are rarely heard.

"In *Wrestling with Zionism: Jewish Voices of Dissent*, Daphna Levit amplifies the voices of twenty-one Jewish and Israeli thinkers – scholars, theologians, journalists, lawyers, activists – who have grappled with the evolution of Zionism since its inception on political, religious, cultural, ethical, and philosophical grounds. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, well before the founding of the State of Israel, and surveying pioneering figures up until the present, she introduces, examines, and brings together a range of contrasting viewpoints into a single historical conversation. As well, with these portraits she honors a tradition of courageous intellectual inquiry and activism, rooted in Jewish ethical imperatives."



The essays gathered in *Wrestling with Zionism* seek to examine, challenge, and oppose the extreme policies of the Israeli government and how it is handling its relationship with Palestine. *Wrestling with Zionism* attests that questioning Zionism is not new or outlandish but has been a part of the Jewish ideological landscape since Israel's inception. This anthology of voices – including Ahad Ha'am, Martin Buber, Albert Einstein, Hannah Arendt, Yeshayahu Leibowitz, Noam Chomsky, Tanya Reinhart, Zeev Sternhell, Uri Avnery, Tikva-Honig Parnass, Shlomo Sand, Tom Segev, Ilan Pappé, Gideon Levy, Amira Hass, Michel Sfar, and others – enables readers to consider the relationship of modern political Zionism and Judaism in a revealing historical light.

Daphna Levit holds graduate degrees in finance (MBA) and East Asian studies (MA in economics) from Cornell University. She has contributed numerous articles in both Hebrew and English to various publications such as *Ha'aretz* and *The Other Israel* and is coauthor of *Israeli Rejectionism: A Hidden Agenda in the Middle East Peace Process*. She has also been active in Gush Shalom, B'tselem, Windows, Physicians for Human Rights, Makhsom Watch, Ta'ayush, and other peace organizations. She lives in Nova Scotia where she teaches courses at various academic institutions.

BETHLEHEM REBORN^{PALESTINE}

THE WONDERS OF THE NATIVITY

A Multimedia Exhibition on Tour through Italian and Other European Cities

Following unprecedented renovations that lasted almost ten years, the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem has been restored to its original beauty. A symbol of humanity has been given back to the faithful all over the world and to today's pilgrims who follow in the footsteps of the women and men who over the centuries have venerated the birthplace of Jesus.

Through the discoveries of new archaeological excavations and complex restoration works, this exhibition tells the story of renewed devotion – from the time of the first Christians who venerated a simple grotto to the age of the Byzantine emperors who built one of the most magnificent basilicas of antiquity that later on was fortified and lavishly decorated by the knights who founded the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem. Exhibits extend to the present day and show the long period of neglect and deterioration that had seriously jeopardized the ancient structure until the Palestinian Presidential Committee for the Restoration of the Nativity Church, with the support of the international community, forged a historic agreement. Thus, amid sensitive social, political, and diplomatic conditions, considerable financial and professional resources were committed to managing a restoration project that harmonizes the requests of the three religious communities, the Greek

It all started on December 6, 2020, at the Vatican Museum during an event organized by the Embassy of the State of Palestine to the Holy See. H.E. Ambassador Issa Kassissieh presented the results of the rehabilitation works of the Church of the Nativity and its new refurbishments in the presence of the Secretary of State of the Holy See H.E. Cardinal Pietro Parolin and Italian and Palestinian dignitaries, along with the official ambassadors to the Holy See.



From left to right: Amb. Issa Kassissieh, Dr. Riad Malki, H.E. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Dr. Ramzi Khoury, Mr. Ziad Bandak.

Orthodox, the Franciscan and the Armenian.

By documenting restoration work and archaeological excavations, the

exhibition constructs a broader and deeper story that embraces the entire space of the basilica from the system of grottos to the roof, showing its development from the oldest periods up to the present day. *Bethlehem Reborn* tells a story that goes beyond the history of politics and art to reveal, through the voices and accounts of pilgrims, the story of religious pilgrimage. It includes

***Bethlehem Reborn* invites all to discover the wonders of the Basilica of the Nativity in anticipation of a journey to Bethlehem and Palestine, the birthplace of Christianity.**



From August 18 to 23, 2020, more than 5,000 persons visited the exhibition at the Congress Palace in Rimini.

the various rituals, prayers, and voyages of the faithful who have visited the basilica throughout the centuries. This rich history accompanies the visitors of today, helping them rediscover themselves as pilgrims through a soul-searching journey.

Bethlehem Reborn, initiated and fully supported by the Embassy of the State of Palestine to the Holy See, aims to promote and make known to the world the restored face of a country, a place given back to the world and to the Christian communities of Bethlehem and Palestine, the Holy Land. It provides an

experience of knowledge and spirituality, destined to change the concept of renovation and peace, giving rise to a river of emotions similar to the stream of the pilgrims who come from all over the world every day to pass through the small Door of Humility, bowing in reverence to the divine presence in the midst of the basilica's beauty.

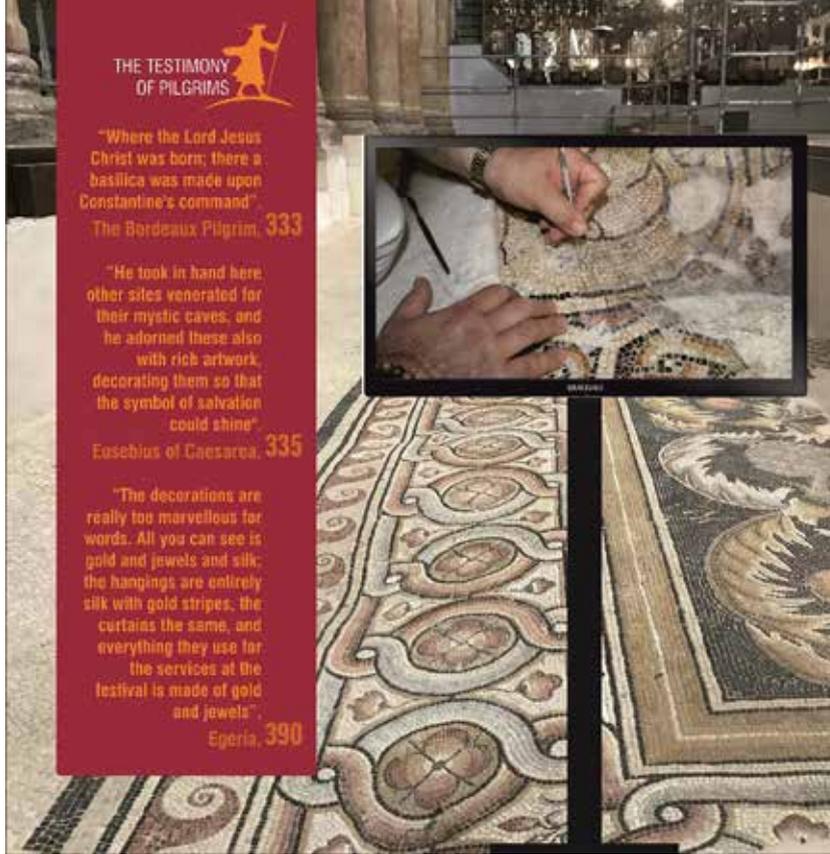
Through its five areas/sections, the exhibition uses the nearly completed restoration project as a thread that stitches together the even greater history of the oldest monument in Christendom.

1. THE PLACE OF THE STAR – From the Grotto to the Basilica

The first section is dedicated to the Constantinian-era basilica and the Grotto of the Nativity. The narration of the creation of the first church – built on the birthplace of Jesus – starts from the archaeological excavations and the restoration of the floor mosaics.

The recent renovation works brought to light wider segments of the mosaic decorations in all their splendor, whereas the new archaeological excavations gave a richer insight into the circumstances of the church's construction at the beginning of the fourth century.



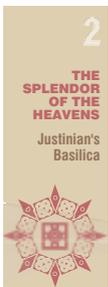


THE TESTIMONY OF PILGRIMS

"Where the Lord Jesus Christ was born; there a basilica was made upon Constantine's command"
The Bordeaux Pilgrim, 333

"He took in hand here other sites venerated for their mystic caves, and he adorned these also with rich artwork, decorating them so that the symbol of salvation could shine"
Eusebius of Caesarea, 335

"The decorations are really too marvellous for words. All you can see is gold and jewels and silk; the hangings are entirely silk with gold stripes, the curtains the same, and everything they use for the services at the festival is made of gold and jewels"
Egeria, 390



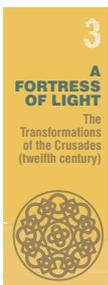
2

THE SPLENDOR OF THE HEAVENS

Justinian's Basilica

2. THE SPLENDOR OF THE HEAVENS – Justinian's Basilica

At the center of the second section is the superb three-apse building that was erected at the end of the sixth century by Emperor Justinian and that today remains more or less unchanged. Among the discoveries of the new archaeological works, there is one linked to a veritable "ritual of the light": fragile glass lanterns that lit up the old basilica were discovered in a corner between the demolished façade and the new colonnade. Other findings include the magnificent colors of the Constantinian-era fresco and the baptismal font that contained a finely sculpted capital that was used as an additional font.



3

A FORTRESS OF LIGHT

The Transformations of the Crusades (twelfth century)

3. A FORTRESS OF LIGHT – The Transformations of the Crusades (twelfth century)

The third section guides visitors through the transformations of the basilica during the Crusades. Among the most significant modifications are the construction of the fortress to welcome new waves of pilgrims from the West, the decoration of the majority of the nave columns, and the complete remaking of the mosaic decoration that illuminates the upper walls of the basilica with its gold, nacre, and glass tiles.

Although only 130 square meters survive from the alleged 2,000 square meters of the original wall mosaic, their beauty is enough to demonstrate the deep reverence shown to this basilica during the Middle Ages by the people of the prosperous city of Bethlehem.



4

THE DARK CENTURIES

The Downfall of the Basilica

4. THE DARK CENTURIES – The Downfall of the Basilica

The fourth section explores the long phase of decline which started during the ninth century and overshadowed the magnificence of the Church of the Nativity.

The chronicles of pilgrims recount how the marble covering had been taken away, the wall mosaics had started to crumble, and the condition of the roof had become precarious. This critical situation mirrored the religious tensions that, in 1852, led to the creation of the Status Quo: a decree issued by the Sultan of Constantinople that meticulously regulated the modalities, rituals, and jurisdictions of the three religious congregations that have since managed the church as part of this decree – the Greek Orthodox, Franciscan, and Armenian churches.



5

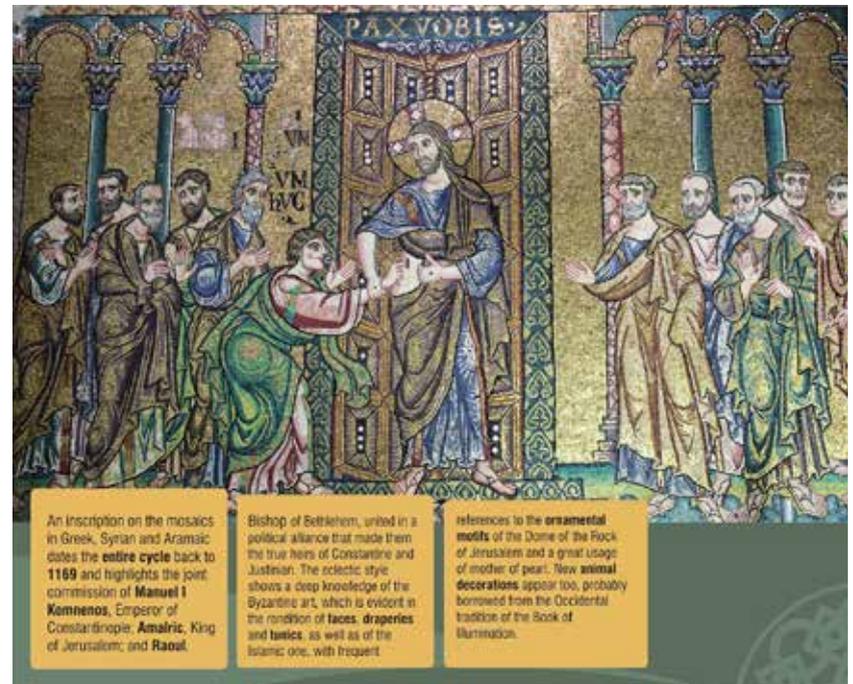
THE NATIVITY REBORN

Renovating the Basilica, 2013-2020

5. THE NATIVITY REBORN - Renovating the Basilica, 2013–2020

The fifth section gives space to the rebirth of the basilica, a literal rebirth thanks to the complex renovations that were started in 2013 by the Italian company Piacenti SpA Piacenti SpA contracted by the Palestinian Presidential Committee for the Restoration of the Nativity Church.

An experience of profound knowledge and spirituality was bound to change the concept of restoration, as a millenarian history of devotion has changed and will continue to change the destiny of Bethlehem and of Palestine.



An inscription on the mosaics in Greek, Syriac and Aramaic dates the **entire cycle** back to **1169** and highlights the joint commission of **Manuel I Komnenos**, Emperor of Constantinople, **Amalric**, King of Jerusalem, and **Raoul**.

Bishop of Bethlehem, united in a political alliance that made them the true heirs of Constantine and Justinian. The eclectic style shows a deep knowledge of the Byzantine art, which is evident in the rendition of **faces, draperies and tunics**, as well as of the Islamic one, with frequent

references to the **ornamental motifs** of the Dome of the Rock of Jerusalem and a great usage of mother of pearl. New **animal decorations** appear too, probably borrowed from the Occidental tradition of the Book of Illumination.



For decades, no living person had admired the mosaics of the naves in their original splendour; no pilgrim had been able to read the evocative paintings on the columns, nobody had stood in Manger Square and looked at the majestic structure of the Basilica. Today, pilgrims can witness the newly-refurbished Nativy Church.

Against all the odds, the first *Bethlehem Reborn* multimedia exhibition took place from August 18 to 23, 2020, at the Congress Palace in Rimini (Italy), where more than 5,000 people visited the 250 square meters of dedicated space that included 32 large panels, 5 videos, and a documentary film. More than 25,000 people joined the virtual tour (available at <https://www.meetingrimini.org/edizione-2020/mostre/bethlehem-reborn-le-meraviglie-della-nativita/>), and more than 5,000 individuals participated in the webinars. A short documentary can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXQy_1a2S9c&t=157s.

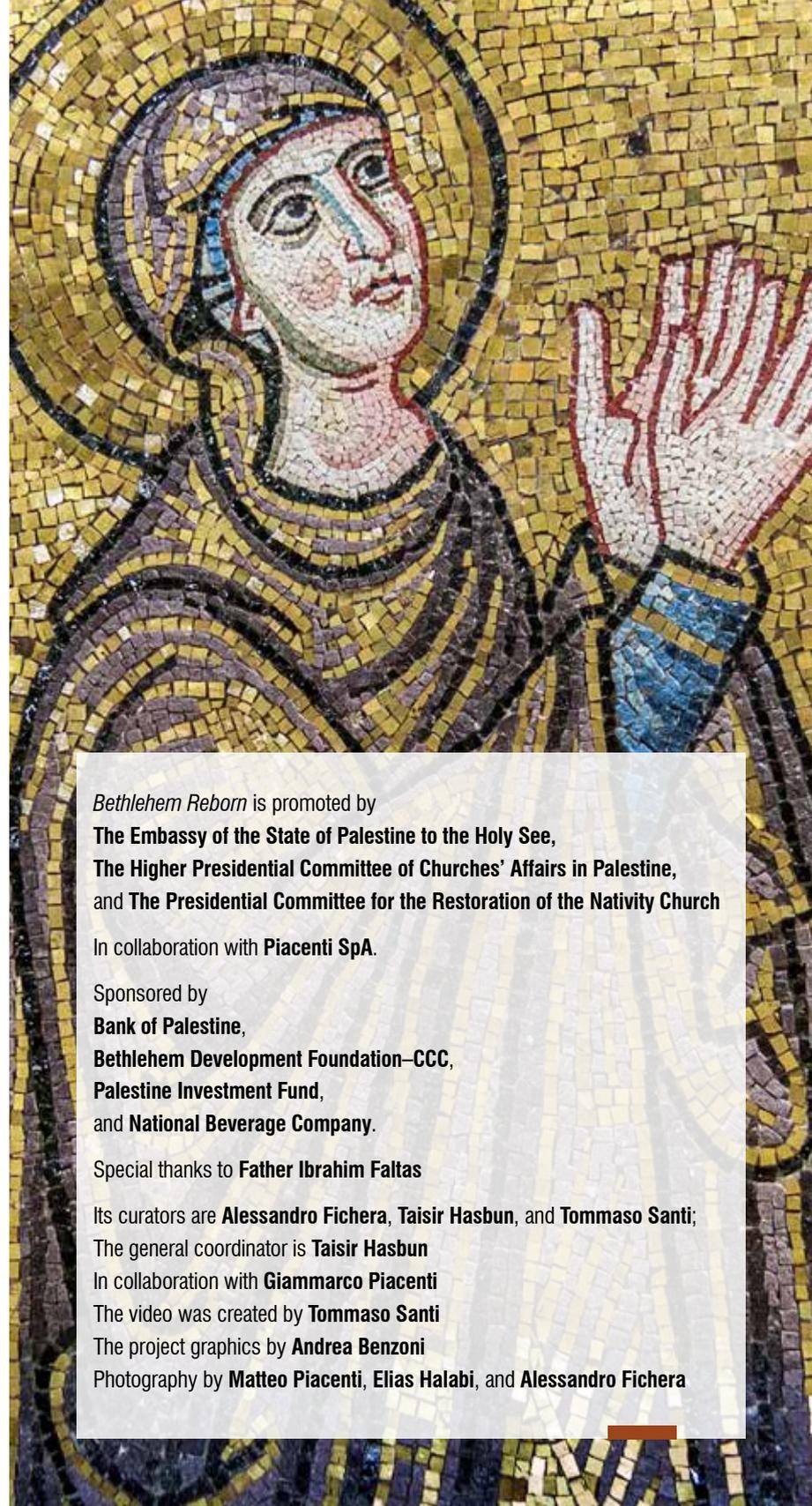
The exhibition will tour various Italian and other European cities in 2021 to keep the basilica in the hearts and minds of the faithful until COVID-19 is

As the town of the nativity, Bethlehem is one of the unique heritage and cultural cities of the world and a must-see destination for millions of pilgrims, tourists, and visitors.

defeated and they may return to pray and practice their religious rituals in Bethlehem.

Bethlehem Reborn collective

***Bethlehem Reborn* aims to reinvigorate and support the local communities who are the natural, legitimate, and rightful custodians of this spiritually significant place.**



Bethlehem Reborn is promoted by

The Embassy of the State of Palestine to the Holy See, The Higher Presidential Committee of Churches' Affairs in Palestine, and The Presidential Committee for the Restoration of the Nativy Church

In collaboration with **Piacenti SpA**.

Sponsored by

Bank of Palestine, Bethlehem Development Foundation–CCC, Palestine Investment Fund, and National Beverage Company.

Special thanks to **Father Ibrahim Faltas**

Its curators are **Alessandro Fichera, Taisir Hasbun, and Tommaso Santi;**

The general coordinator is **Taisir Hasbun**

In collaboration with **Giammarco Piacenti**

The video was created by **Tommaso Santi**

The project graphics by **Andrea Benzoni**

Photography by **Matteo Piacenti, Elias Halabi, and Alessandro Fichera**

By Bassam
Almohor

TEL DOTHAN

Tel Dothan archeological site is located in *Khirbet al-Hafireh* agricultural hamlet. A vast fertile plain three kilometers east of Arraba Village and a continuation of the wide Arraba plain which is separated from it by the Jenin-Nablus main road (Road 60). (32.410178°, 35.237273°)



ancient city of Dothan appears twice in narratives of the Old Testament.

An American archeological mission, led by Dr. Joseph Free of Wheaton College, Illinois, excavated the site over a period of twelve summers between 1953 and 1964. The excavations uncovered

two abandoned houses leads up to the tel, where you can enjoy the fresh breeze and the grand view of Arraba plain to the west and north, and see the surrounding villages of Merkeh, Arraba, Ya'abad, Kfeiret, Ber al-Basha, Al-Shuhahda, and Qabatieh in the east.



Al-Hafireh is an agricultural hamlet of around 15 houses with 70 inhabitants. Orange orchards were abundant in the fertile plain, but in 1992, a snowstorm destroyed all the citrus orchards. A sad scene for such a green, fertile oasis tucked between hills. The northern hill is an ancient biblical site, Dothan (two wells), that dates back to the Early Bronze Age.

But Al-Hafireh has more than two wells. The first one lies in the middle of the plain and is the well that is believed to be the site where Joseph was hidden by his brothers and sold to the Ishmaelites, called *Jeb Youssef* by the locals.ⁱ Al-Hafireh has ten springs that used to irrigate the vegetable fields and the citrus orchards situated on around 250 acres. Currently, water is a scarcity!

Dothan was a city known from the Bible's patriarchal narratives dealing with Joseph (Genesis 37)ⁱⁱ and the period of Elisha (2 Kings 6).ⁱⁱⁱ The

stone and metal artifacts over two millennia from the Early Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age, the Iron Age, and the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine eras. If you are in the United States, plan to visit the Wheaton College Archeological Museum, where you can see all 14,000 artifacts from Tel Dothan.

Approximately 250 meters past the Arrabeh roundabout on the main Jenin-Nablus road, turn right and drive 900 meters east to reach Joseph's well. From there, a small road between

That was my little home. I grew up there, worked the land with my late farmer father, played under every tree, and plowed every inch of the land. I swam in every little spring and made huge bonfires during winter. I lost my 18-year-old sister in the nearby well, and my parents took their last breaths on its soil.

For more information and guidance, please contact Bassam Almohor at almohor@gmail.com, or through WhatsApp: 00972-52-458-4273 or Facebook @palestinstreetlife.



ⁱ Joseph 10 (Qur'an) – "Said a speaker among them, 'Do not kill Joseph but throw him into the bottom of the well; some travelers will pick him up - if you would do.'"

ⁱⁱ Genesis 37:17 – "The man said, 'They have left here, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan."

Genesis 37:2 – "They sat down to eat bread, and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing spices and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt."

ⁱⁱⁱ 2 Kings 6:13 – "He said, 'Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him.' It was told him, saying, 'Behold, he is in Dothan.'"

JERUSALEM

CONCERTS

Monday 5

17:00–21:00 Jerusalem Pipe Organ Marathon presents a livestream concert from St. Savior’s Church, with the organists Roman Krasnovsky, Hartmut Rohmeyer, Sr. Cecilia Pia Manelli, Alexander Gorin, and Yuval Rabin. Organized as part of Terra Sancta Organ Festival. Broadcast via <https://www.facebook.com/TerraSanctaOrgan/>.

BETHLEHEM

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 10, 17, 24, 31

15:00–19:00 Farmers’ Market is a weekly market that provides a space for locals to sell homemade products, food, artifacts, and handicrafts. Organized by Bethlehem Municipality through Bethlehem Peace Center. Star Street.

RAMALLAH

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 7 – Saturday 31

9:00–17:00 Olive Harvesting Day celebrates the olive harvest by offering a tour, traditional food and drink, and volunteer work. Organized by Dar Zahran Heritage Building. Terra Fidea.

GAZA

CHILDREN’S EVENTS

Thursday 1 – Saturday 31

9:30–15:30 I-Deal sessions target children between the ages of 10 and 15 years to build their resilience through drama. Organized by Basma Society for Culture and Arts, funded by GIZ. Broadcast via messenger rooms at https://www.facebook.com/events/710790186316830/?event_time_id=710790229650159.

NAZARETH

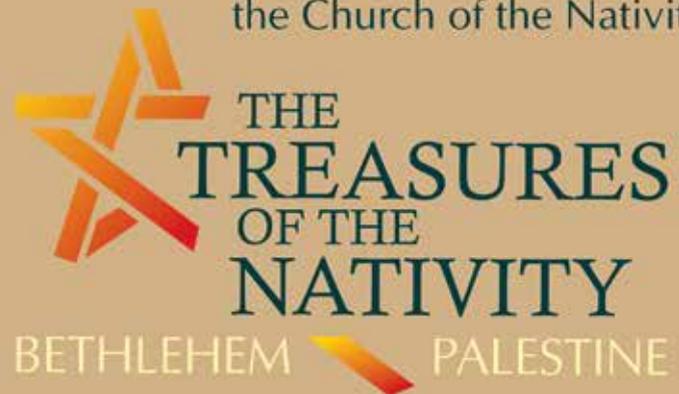
CONCERTS

Wednesday 7

17:00 Nazareth Pipe Organ Marathon presents a livestream concert from the Basilica of the Annunciation with the organists Hartmut Rohmeyer, Roman Krasnovsky, and Alexander Gorin, and the duo Tatyana Yrovsky (organ) and Anna Ioffe (violin). Organized as part of Terra Sancta Organ Festival. Broadcast via <https://www.facebook.com/TerraSanctaOrgan/>.



Visit thisweekinpalestine.com and enjoy the wonders of the Church of the Nativity



HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

In addition to the regular distribution points, it can be found at <https://www.thisweekinpalestine.com/issue/issue-260-5/> or by scanning the attached QR code.



Tel Dothan.

CULTURAL CENTERS

Jerusalem



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Palestinian Heritage Museum

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 BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (ESNCM)

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Ramallah Tel: 02-2959070-1, Fax: 02-2959071

Beit Sahour Tel & Fax: 02-2748704

Tchaikovsky Musical School Tel & Fax: 022778606

Nablus Tel & Fax: 09-2387773

Gaza Tel & Fax: 08-2628903



Photo courtesy of ESNCM



Yabous Cultural Centre

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 Jerusalem, Palestine
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 Email: officemanager@yabous.org, Website: Yabous.org

Bethlehem



Dar Al-Sabagh Centre for Diaspora Studies and Research

مركز حفظ التراث الثقافي
 CENTRE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION

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Dar Al Sabagh Diaspora Studies and Research Centre



Palestine Museum of Natural History

Mar Andrea, Antonya Street, Bethlehem
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 www.palestinenature.org/vist

Palestine Museum of Natural History

Ramallah



A.M. Qattan Foundation

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SareyyetRamallah



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The Palestinian Circus School



The Palestinian Museum

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The Palestinian Museum المتحف الفلسطيني

@palmuseum palmuseum



ACCOMMODATIONS

Jerusalem



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Casa Nova - Jerusalem Hospice Guesthouse

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Email: casanovaj@custodia.org, https://casanovaj.custodia.org/



Christmas Boutique Hotel

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christmashotel@bezeqint.net



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Jerusalem Hotel



Pontifical Institute

Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center

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Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center



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St. George Hotel

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Tantur Hills Hotel

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Ramallah



Caesar Hotel

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info@caesar-hotel.ps, www.caesar-hotel.ps



Carmel Hotel ★★★★★

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ACCOMMODATIONS

Bethlehem



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f Ibda'a Cultural Center



Jacir Palace Hotel

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Nativity Bells Hotel

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Email: nativitybells@palnet.com, www.nativitybellshotel.ps
https://www.facebook.com/NativityBellsHotel/



Saint Gabriel Hotel

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Email: info@stg-hotel.com, www.stg-hotel.com

Nablus



Al Yasmeen Hotel

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Jericho



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(Between the Telepherique and the Jericho Resorts Village)
Tel: 02-2313739, Mobile: 0599-631373, Email: Babalgamar@gmail.com
f مدينة القمر للشقق المفروشة



Oasis Hotel – Jericho

Jerusalem Street, Tel: 022311200, Fax: 022311222
Email: info@oasis-jericho.ps, website: http://www.oasis-jericho.ps
f www.facebook.com/OasisJericho, Snapchat: oasis.hotel

Rawabi



Rawabi Hotel Rental Apartments

Rawabi 666, Palestine
Mobile: 059 420 4378
rent@rawabi.ps

RESTAURANTS

Jerusalem



360°

Casanova Street, New Gate
P.O.Box 1321 Jerusalem 9101301 Israel
Tel: 02 627 1441, 02 626 2974, Fax: 02 626 4370
Email: casanovaj@custodia.org, https://casanovaj.custodia.org/



Al Diwan Restaurant

By Ambassador Collection
5 Nablus Road, Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem
el: +972 2 541 2222, Fax: +972 2 582 8202
f /diwanamb/ Mediterranean Restaurant



Bistecca Steakhouse

By Ambassador Collection
5 Ibn Khaldoun Street, Jerusalem
COMING SOON



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Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem 97200
Tel +972 (2) 532-8342, borderlinejim@gmail.com
f Borderline JLM Instagram Borderline_jlm



Cheese & Wine Rooftop Restaurant

(Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center)
Tel: 627 9177, rooftop@notredamecenter.org, www.notredamecenter.org
f Notre Dame Rooftop/Cheese & Wine Restaurant



Jerusalem Hotel Restaurant (Kan Zaman)

15 Antara Ben Shadad St., Jerusalem
Tel: 628 3282, Fax: 6283282, raed@jrshotel.com, www.jrshotel.com
f Jerusalem Hotel Mediterranean Cuisine



La Collina Bistro and Restaurant

Tantur Hills Hotel, Hebron Road 303
Tel: +972 2 5658800 Fax: +972 2 5658801
Email: reservations@tanturhills.com, www.tanturhills.com
On Waze: Tantur Hills Hotel

Opening Hours:
17.30 - 23.00

RESTAURANTS



Meejana Lounge (at St. George Hotel)

6 Amr Ibn Al A'as Street – Jerusalem
P.O.BOX 69272 Jerusalem 91544
Tel: +972 2 627 7232 , Fax: +972 2 627 7233
E-mail: info@stgeorgehoteljerusalem.com

Bethlehem



Al-Jisser Pub

Al Madares Street, Beit Sahour
Mobile: 0597492175

f Al-Jisser, i aljisser



Bab idDeir Gallery & Kitchen

D'eik Quarter, Manger Street, Bethlehem
Tel: 02 276 9222

f Bab idDeir Gallery & Kitchen

Opening hours:
Tuesday-Sunday
(9:00 AM - Midnight)



Fawda Restaurant Chef's Table

A modern take on Palestinian cuisine
Hosh Al-Syrian Guesthouse, off Star Street, Bethlehem
Tel: 02-2747529, Email reservations@hoshalsyrian.com
Bookings required at least a day in advance



Q Lounge

Nativity Street (opposite Arab Bank), Bethlehem
Tel: 02-2771481, Email: salibaasfour@gmail.com

f Q Lounge 1, i qlounge1

Closed only on Tuesday
11:00 AM till 1:00 AM



Singer Café

Old City Street, Beit Sahour
Tel: 02-2771171, Email: info@singercafe.com

f Singer Café

Ramallah



Azure Restaurant Our home is yours

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f www.facebook.com/Azure.restaurant



Pronto Lounge Italian Restaurant Est. 1997

Dr. Issa Ziadah Street , Ramallah, Palestine
Tel: 02-298-7312 or 0599-795-978, prontocafeeramallah@gmail.com

f Pronto Restocafe, i prontoramallah

RESTAURANTS



Zeit ou Zaater

Rukab St., Ramallah
(02) 295 4455, Email: zeitouzaater@gmail.com

f zeitouzaater



Zest

Issa Ziadah Street, Ramallah, Palestine
Tel: 02.295.3555, E-mail: info@zest.ps

f ZESTRestaurantOfficial, i zestrestaurantofficial

Rawabi



Artoos

The Art of Gelato

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine
Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/



Lilac

Pizza, Pasta, & Pastries

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine
Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/



Qburger

Burger

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine
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https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/



Shrak

Shawerma & Falafel

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Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/



Siroter

French Café & Bakery

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine
Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/



عالم سريع

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Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine
Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/

Nabius



Zeit ou Zaater

Tel: 09 233 3555 Fax: 09 233 3666
Info@alyasmeen.com, www.alyasmeen.com

f zeitouzaater



ATTRACTIONS

Jerusalem



Levantine Gallery

Affordable originals, top quality prints and Arabic calligraphy.

16 Christian Quarter Road, Old City Jerusalem
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Ramallah



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Email: info@bbdc.ps, Website: www.shepherds.ps

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Taybeh Brewery

Proudly Brewing & Bottling Premium Palestinian Beer since 1994.

Near the rotary, Taybeh Village, Ramallah District
Tel: 02-289-8968, taybeh@palnet.com, www.taybehbeer.com

<https://www.facebook.com/taybehbeer/>
Opening Hours: Monday- Saturday 8 AM-3:30 PM



Taybeh Winery

Making Boutique Palestinian Wines since 2013

Main Street, Taybeh Village, Ramallah District
Tel: 02-289-9440, info@taybehwinery.com, www.taybehwinery.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Taybehwinery/>
Opening Hours: Daily 9 AM-5 PM



Zawyeh Gallery

Current exhibition: "Silent Garden" by Bashar Alhroub
From September 5 to October 31 2020

7A President roundabout, Al-Balou', Albireh
Tel: 02 2426486 Mob: 0599150049
zanani@zawyeh.net | www.zawyeh.net

Jericho



Telepherique & Sultan Tourist Center

Enjoy the panoramic view of Jericho

Elisha's Spring, P.O.Box 12, Jericho
Tel: + 972 (2) 2321590; Fax: + 972 (2) 2321598
Info@jericho-cablecar.com, www.jericho-cablecar.com

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ATTRACTIONS

Rawabi



Fun Factory Rawabi

Spacious indoor amusement park that introduces fun, comfort, and happiness for all ages.

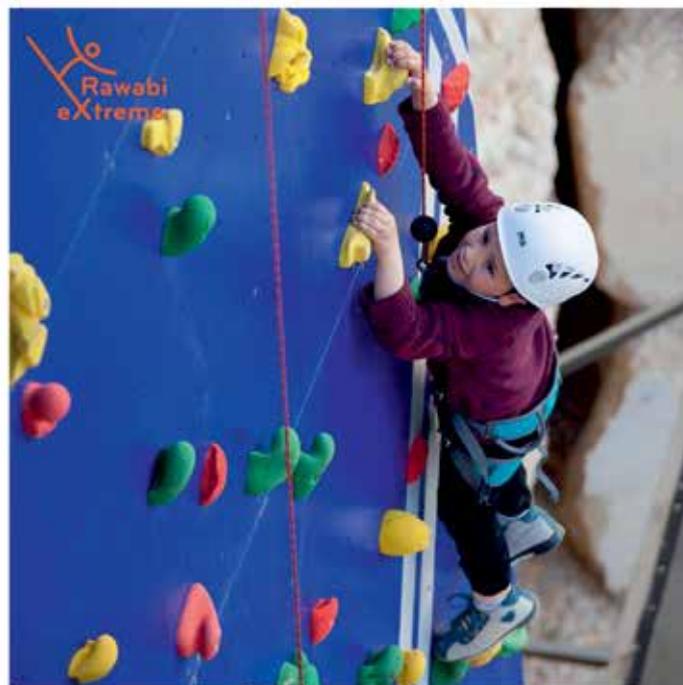
Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine
Tel: 059 594 9026, <https://www.facebook.com/funfactoryrawabi/>



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WaDina, Rawabi 666, Palestine
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Museums



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Al Nayzak - Science and Technology House
النيزك - بيت العلوم والتكنولوجيا

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Jerusalem



Daher Travel, Ltd.

14 Azzahra St., P.O.Box 19055, Jerusalem
Tel: +972 2 6283235, Fax: +972 2 627 1574
Email: Dahert@netvision.net.il



George Garabedian & Co. L.T.D.

Tourist & Travel Bureau
24 Saladin St., Jerusalem
Ticketing: +972-2-6288354, Incoming: +972-2-6283398
ggc@ggc-jer.com, www.ggc-jer.com



SAMARA

Tourist & Travel Agency
1 Greek Orthodox Pat. Rd., P.O.Box 14058, Jerusalem 9114001
Tel: +972-2-6276133, Telefax: +972-2-6271956
info@samaratours.com, www.samaratours.com



Ramallah



Golden Globe Tours

Ersal St, Ersal Center, Amaar Tower, 5th floor
Box 4181, El Bireh, Ramallah-Palestine
Tel: +972 2 2421878, Fax: +972 2 2421879, Mbl: +972 56 2550031
Email: info@gg-tours.ps, Web: www.gg-tours.ps



PALESTINE ROAD MAP



The World Has Become a Global Palestine

A few days ago, I was listening to an interview with Elia Suleiman, a Palestinian filmmaker from Nazareth best known for his 2002 film *Divine Intervention*. The film is a modern tragic comedy about life under occupation in Palestine, and it won the Jury Prize at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival. In 2009, Suleiman wrote and directed *The Time That Remains*, which is essentially an account of the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and its history to the present.

The interview was about a new film that Suleiman is making entitled *It Must Be Heaven*. It seems that he is/was on a trip to speak to producers about his new film which he says is a burlesque look at the world today. In this new film, Suleiman caricatures serious issues in ludicrous ways. In his view, the world looks terrible. There is more despair and less hope than before. He adds that the situation looks bleak, from both a political and an economic point of view. Even the ecosystem looks dismal. One of his statements really caught my attention: "In a way, the world has become a global Palestine." He elaborated, saying that tension is everywhere, police are omnipresent, imposing a state of emergency has become common, and restrictions at airports are traumatizing people because they're being treated like numbers. Much like in Palestine.

The interview included a scene where Mexican actor Gael García introduces his wife to Suleiman. García says, "Elia is Palestinian filmmaker, *but* he makes funny films." He adds, "He is now making a funny film about peace in the Middle East." García's "but" clearly stood out, and with a straight face, his wife responded, "That's funny already!" I really must watch *It Must Be Heaven* when it comes out. I love this dry sense of humor.

Coincidentally, the entire content of the October issue of *This Week in Palestine* is about Palestinian contributions to the region and to the world. Mainly through cooperation, Palestinians in the diaspora have played a variety of roles in the development of their host countries. Most evident is their positive influence in the Arabian Gulf states, particularly after the *Nakba*, and to a lesser degree, in Chile in South America, where one of the national football teams, *Deportivo Palestino*, just celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The articles in this issue highlight the positive role that Palestinians have played in Brazil, Europe, and even Africa, where medical/surgical missions were sent as support coming from Palestine. On the other hand, Palestine is certainly innocent regarding the bad conditions that a good part of the world experiences today. One can't but see the irony. The world, however, is becoming a global Palestine. Maybe now, people will get a sense of what it feels like to live under occupation!

Long live Palestine!

Sani Meo
Publisher



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