

You are invited to the conference:

Solidarity Now: Building Joint Forces for Change

Saturday 11.6.11 10:00 to 16:00

Mahmoud Darwish Cultural Center, Nazareth

Dear Human rights activists and peace activists,

in January 2011 in Wahat al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom a number of NGOs attended a meeting that examined, among other things, partnership between Jews and Arabs in the struggle for peace and human rights.

The participants concluded that such partnership was regrettably difficult.

- While much activity of the left has focused upon resistance to the occupation, there has been insufficient awareness among Jewish organizations of discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel.
- At the same time, there is a feeling that Palestinian organizations in Israel are not sufficiently involved in resisting the occupation, especially in activities initiated by the Jewish left.

A factor in this has been the shadow cast by the events of October 2000. Because some left-wing Jewish organizations did not take a clear position towards what happened then, this undermined trust in them by Palestinian citizens.

There is a need to expose the Jewish public to the important social struggles within Palestinian civil society in Israel and to deepen awareness of these.

There is a need to strive to increase the expression of solidarity and assistance by Jewish organizations and activists in these struggles, such as those of Tarabut/ Hithabrut, the Sheikh Jarrah Solidarity Movement and the Al-Arakib activists.

Conference objectives:

- ***Rebuild the trust and partnership between left-wing organizations and human rights activists - Jews and Arabs.***
- ***Reduce knowledge gaps regarding the situation of Palestinian citizens in Israel and their struggle with state institutions.***
- ***Permit, build and encourage new partnerships between leftist, peace and human rights organizations for practical struggles.***

Program

9:00 to 10:00	Registration
10:00 to 10:30	Opening Greetings: Mr. Armaz Jaraisi, Mayor of Nazareth, and chair of the Arab authorities. Mr. Mohammad Zidan, chair of the Arab Supreme Monitoring Committee
10:30 to 12:30	<p><u>Palestinian society in Israel - new perspectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Societal processes in Palestinian society in Israel today - Dr. Amal Jamal. • Future Vision of the Palestinian minority in Israel - Dr. Mary Totri. • Local Government - Mayor of Nazareth and head of the National Committee of Arab Local Authorities - Mr. Ramez Jaraisi. • Jews, Arabs in a joint struggle: challenges and questions - Gadi Algazi, Hithabrut - Tarabut.
12:30 to 13:30	Light lunch
13:30 to 15:15	<p>Challenges to solidarity: Current perspectives on key battles: Parallel Sessions</p> <p>Session A: Planning Law Legal issues and struggles - Dr. Joseph Jabreen. Building Planning and dispossession - Architect Abed Yassin.</p> <p>Session B: Women and the younger generation: The status of women - Aida Touma-Sliman, director of the association Women Against Violence. Youth and young adults - Khaled Inbataweh.</p> <p>Session C: Education Sector: Education - Atef Ma'adi, Director of the Education Committee of the Supreme Monitoring Committee. Higher education - Rajaa Za'tara, the Hiraak organization.</p>
15:15 to 16:00	<p><u>Summary session, recommendations for continuation</u> Mr. Ahmad Hijazi, Director of the School for Peace.</p> <p><u>Stalls</u> of the organizations will expose their activity and struggles for the advancement of Palestinian society in Israel.</p>

Registration:

Nava nava.sfp@nswas.info.

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Dorit dorit@nswas.info

Additional details: Tel: 02-9991736 ext. 106 (Nava) or ext. 102 (Ahmad), or Dorit 050-8505133.

Transportation:

Transportation fee (₪ 60) Tel Aviv (Savidor Central Station) at 8:30 and Jerusalem (Binyaneh HaUma) at 8:00. If interested in transportation, please send an email mentioning point of departure.

The conference is intended for heads of organizations and activists promoting peace, equality and human rights of Jews and Arabs.

Organized with the assistance of School for Peace graduates in Nazareth.

Organizing Committee

Kharab Amara, Manar Khalilaya, Ubor Taha - Riziq, Samer Othman, Hiba Amara, Ahmad Hijazi, Nava Sonnenschein, Dorit Shippin, Shmulik David, Pepe Goldman and Karen Dahan.