

PIN Bulletin For Local Organizers

Volume 40, November 2022

*Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?*



[REUTERS/Mussa Qawasma]

A major focus of EPF PIN advocacy is demanding Israeli adherence to Article 37 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. At the 79th General Convention in 2018 the PIN-supported Resolution C038 - *Safeguard the Rights of Palestinian Children* - was affirmed as the policy of our church. On the basis of this policy, the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations has issued an important Action Alert. EPF PIN commends OGR for this action as military and settler violence against Palestinian children in the Occupied Territories and Gaza will be increasing exponentially under the new far-right Israeli government.

AN ACTION ALERT : EPISCOPAL PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK

* * * * * **ACT NOW** * * * * *

Defend the Human Rights of Palestinian Children

In October, Shadi Khoury, a 16-year-old Palestinian and a student at the Ramallah Friends School, was kidnapped from his home in East Jerusalem, arrested, and detained by Israeli forces. He remains in detention while awaiting a court date currently set for November 23, after having been pushed back several times. Five other youths were also arrested and detained at that time.

We recognize the connections many Episcopalians have with the family, in particular Shadi's grandmother, Samia Khoury, the co-founder of [Sabeel](#). We also know that this case is one among many that partners such as [Defense for Children International - Palestine](#) regularly document. Partners with whom we work closely, such as Churches for Middle East Peace, of which The Episcopal Church was a founding member, have also been engaged in advocating for Shadi's release as well as continue to push for action to release all children in detention. A CMEP statement on Shadi's arrest and detention can be found [here](#).

The arrest and detention of Palestinian children is all too common. General Convention passed a [resolution](#) in 2018 condemning this practice, and we have supported legislation that would ensure no U.S. funds are used for the detention of children.

Please take action now, by asking your Representative to co-sponsor [H.R. 2590](#): Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act. We also encourage you to ask your Members of Congress to push for the immediate release of Shadi Khoury and encourage the release of all children in child detention.

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A Public Forum in the Diocese of Michigan

It is not often at church that one gets to participate in an educational forum on Palestine-Israel with an expert Muslim, Jew, and Christian presenting and leading the

discussion. On November 5, 2022, the Intercultural Community Center of Dearborn (ICCD) hosted a successful public forum at Christ Episcopal Church in Dearborn, Michigan. The forum was a hybrid event that was both in-person and online via Zoom. The forum was documented by a professional photographer/videographer and those links are provided below to YouTube and Facebook.



*****Barbara Harvey, Tarek Khalil, Jonathan Kuttab*****
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The presenters were: Jonathan Kuttab of FOSNA (Friends of Sabeel North America), a Christian voice for Palestine, Barbara Harvey representing the Detroit Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), and Tarek Khalil from American Muslims for Palestine (AMP). The moderator was The Rev. Terri C. Pilarski, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church and Executive Director of the ICCD. Following the panel presentations and discussion was a period of Q&A and the viewing of a documentary film entitled “Disturbing the Peace” produced by an Israeli-Palestinian organization called Combatants for Peace.

The goals of this forum were educational and to build personal connections between Christians, Muslims, and Jews to increase our work together for justice and peace in Palestine-Israel. The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan provided a grant to assist with the costs of producing the event. Organizers identified and invited the panelists, decided on which documentary film to show, procured books and literature for a table on the day of the event, found volunteers in the church to handle the sound amplification and Zoom technology, and prepared a flyer and text for distribution to many individuals and organizations by e-mail, and on social media. We also set up a literature table at the diocesan convention in October to help get the word out about the event. It turned out very well with lots of positive feedback. The Task Force of the ICCD is discussing next steps, including a possible educational event in coordination with the Arab-American National Museum, which is also in Dearborn.

By Tom Russell
Member of the ICCD Task Force

Link to recording on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okkZL5utAME>

Link to multiple photos on Facebook page for the Intercultural Community Center of Dearborn:

<https://www.facebook.com/ICCDearborn>

Link to documentary film “Disturbing the Peace”

<https://www.disturbingthepeacefilm.com>

SAVE THE DATE!

Confronting Apartheid

**A webinar on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm CT
(5 pm PT, 6 pm MT, 8 pm ET)**

This webinar is sponsored by the Peace & Justice Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and Episcopal Peace Fellowship-Palestine Israel Network. It follows the resolution *Confronting Apartheid*, approved at the Diocese of Chicago Convention in November 2021, which recognized that Israeli treatment of Palestinians constitutes apartheid as defined in international law. How do people of faith and conscience take a moral stand on this issue?

Participants:

Richard Falk – professor emeritus of international law at Princeton University, former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 – will explain how Israeli apartheid corresponds to the definition in international conventions.

Rabbi Brant Rosen – founder Rabbi of the synagogue Tzedek Chicago and co-founder of the Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council – will discuss how Judaism inspires Jews to oppose apartheid.

Mai Kakish Khader – Director of TEE Arabic Language & Culture for Children of the Arab Diaspora, board member of the Seraj Library Project, founder and writer with Almondandfig.com – will describe how apartheid affects the daily life of her family in Palestine.

Harry Gunkel – member of the steering committee of Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Israel Network – will facilitate.

Further information will follow.





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