

NGO Action News
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North America

Al-Awda, The Palestinian Right to Return Coalition — San Francisco will hold its Fourth Annual International Convention from 14 to 16 July 2006. For further information, visit the Al-Awda's Web site: <http://www.al-awda.org>.

Brandeis University has shown an art exhibit in April entitled “Voices from Palestine” by Palestinian children from the Aida refugee camp. For further information, contact e-mail: Liorhalperin@comcast.net.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) sent a letter on 3 May, signed by heads of CMEP member churches and organizations, addressed jointly to President George W. Bush, President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. For further information, contact e-mail: info@cmepe.org or visit CMEP's web site: <http://www.cmepe.org>

Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (FFIPP) is working with Palestinian universities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to place international faculty in Palestinian universities to teach agriculture, administration and science courses in July and August 2006. FFIPP is also placing students in art and culture centres, like the Freedom Theatre in Hebron; and with peace organizations like MachsomWatch and B'Tselem. For further information, contact e-mail: ffippusa@comcast.net or visit FFIPP's Web site: <http://www.ffipp.org>.

Friends of Sabeel–North America will hold an International Young Adults Conference from 28 July to 5 August 2006, in Jerusalem. The conference includes visits to towns and villages, cultural events, workshops and group discussions. The aim of the conference is to bring together young internationals to join the Palestinian Christian youth to learn the issues of the Christian community. For further information, visit the Web site: <http://www.fosna.org>.

Palestine Center will hold a presentation on 11 May 2006 entitled “The Peace Process and Palestinian Refugee Claims” by Michael Fishbach, a Professor of History at Randolph-Macon College, author of “Records of Dispossession: Palestinian Refugee Property and the Arab-Israeli Conflict,” currently working on a book on Jewish claims for property loss in Arab countries. For further information, contact e-mail: info@palestine-center.org or visit the Center's Web site: <http://www.thejerusalemfund.org>.

US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and the Joint Advocacy Institute launched in May 2006 the “Olive Tree Campaign,” for planting olives trees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. For further information, contact e-mail:

uscampaign@mail.democracyinaction.org or visit the Campaign's Web site:
<http://www.endtheoccupation.org>.

Europe

The Peace Cycle London will organize a "Cycle to Jerusalem" from August to September 2006, a journey across Europe to Jerusalem, cycling through 12 countries, meeting politicians and public to call for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. For further information, contact e-mail: Mustafa@thepeacecycle.org or Sheridan@thepeacecycle.org or visit Peace Cycle's Web site:
<http://www.thepeacecycle.org>

Latin America

Asociación de Socorro al Pueblo Palestino will hold a press conference on 13 May 2006 in Caracas, Venezuela. The Association will also hold on 18 May the screening of the documentary "Fronteras de los sueños y los temores" by filmmaker May Masri and an exhibit of photographs of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. For further information, contact e-mail: Palestinians_natives@yahoo.com or visit the Association's Web site:
<http://www.canaan.com.ve>.

Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

Alternative Information Center (AIC), Bat Shalom, Ta'ayush, and Gush Shalom, Jerusalem Committees Against the Wall and the Coalition for Jerusalem, residents of Al-Ram, will hold on 13 May 2006 a joint march in Al-Ram to protest against the wall built at the main street of Al-Ram in Jerusalem, turning it into a jail, dividing families, stopping workers from reaching their workplace and cutting off teachers and students from their schools. For further information, contact e-mail: pngonet@pngo.net or visit PNGO's Web site: <http://www.pngo.net>.

The Association of International Development Organization (AIDA) held a press conference on 4 May in Jerusalem to warn against the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and stating that the administrative, management and coordination responsibilities of public sector institutions cannot be replaced by NGOs and the United Nations. A statement was released and endorsed by AIDA's 36 international aid member organizations. For further information, contact e-mail: allyn_dhynes@wvi.org or visit AIDA's Web site: <http://www.aida-jer.org>.

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) issued a report on 9 May 2006 entitled "Poverty in the Gaza Strip." For further information, contact e-mail: pchr@pchrgaza.org or visit PCHR's Web site: <http://www.pchrgaza.org>.

PCHR issued in April a position paper on “The decision to Stop International Aid to the Palestinian Authority–Punishing the Victim,” outlining the repercussions in the upcoming period on humanitarian and living conditions for Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

PCHR, The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Al-Quds Association and Hickman and Rose Solicitors organized a conference from 28 to 30 April 2006 entitled “Rule of Law and Universal Jurisdiction” in Malaga, Spain. Lawyers, human rights activists, NGOs and international solidarity committees from Asia, Europe and the Americas presented findings and shared experiences in universal jurisdiction cases spanning from four continents.

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG) issued a report on 9 May 2006 entitled “Withdrawing Israeli and Foreign Assistance to the PA—The Human Rights Impact of a Predicted Collapse in Palestine.” For further information, contact e-mail: admin@phrmg.org or visit PHRMG’s Web site: <http://www.phrmg.org>.

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) issued a report on 9 May 2006 entitled “Collapse of the Palestinian Health System.” The report describes the short- and long-term consequences of stopping aid to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. For further information, contact e-mail: shabtai@phr.org.il or visit PHR’s web site: <http://www.org.il/phr/article>.

The NGO Action News is a bi-weekly newsletter issued by the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat and intended to provide information on worldwide NGO activities relevant to the question of Palestine. Organizations interested in sharing information about their activities through this newsletter may contact the Division for Palestinian Rights at:

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