

UK Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum (FBFF)

Newsletter 34

October 2013



Dear Friends,

We have a very exciting programme of events lined up for the visit of forum members Palestinian Bassam Aramin and Israeli Robi Damelin in November. The itinerary includes a variety of public and

private events (see p4) and the highlight of the week – our fundraising dinner on Sunday 10th November. We do hope you will come along to one or more of the events. We still have a few tickets left for the dinner so let us know as soon as possible if you

would like to attend.

We hope to spread the message of peace and reconciliation far and wide during Robi and Bassam's visit. They are an inspiring example of what is possible when human beings are able to look at each other

simply as human beings and they represent a huge amount of work by forum members on the ground to build a critical mass for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Diane Taylor

WOMEN WORKING FOR RECONCILIATION



The Parents Circle-Families Forum held a large public event at the Tel Aviv Cinemateque on International Peace Day at the end of September.

It was called 'Neighbours – Women Creating Reconciliation' and used the slogan 'Let's Start from Talking'.

More details and pictures of the different projects on display are on the next page.



BOUSTANI TO PERFORM AT FBFF DINNER

We are thrilled that the Lebanese international flautist Wissam Boustani will be joining us for our fundraising dinner on Sunday 10th

November. Wissam will be performing a very beautiful piece of his own music. He is the founder of Towards Humanity, a long-term

international initiative that uses music as a catalyst to support humanitarian efforts in many parts of the globe.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY, TEL AVIV

Around 250 Palestinians from the West Bank and 1,500 Israelis came to this unique event in the heart of Tel Aviv which presented the fruits of a year's work by the PC-FF women's group – Israeli and Palestinian bereaved mothers, sisters, wives and daughters. There was an art exhibition, a photography exhibition, dialogue encounters, home made foods for sale and a selection of handiworks.

All those taking part called for a change in the current situation and a speedy solution to the long-running conflict.

Highlights of the exhibition included:

'The Presence of the Void' –

An exhibition of photographs created by ten Palestinian and Israeli bereaved women, who embarked on a moving journey to photograph the continuing presence in their lives of the person they had loved and lost.

The project was led by the



professional photographers Vardi Kahana, Atta Awisat and Miki Kratsman. A piece of video art created by the director Nurit Keidar about this exhibition was also presented at the event. The exhibition can be viewed at the Cinemateque until 14th October.

'The Texture of Life' –

An exhibition of 15 handmade books created by Palestinian and

Israeli bereaved women who presented the milestones of their lives in an artistic way. The visitors to the exhibition also read the text that was set next to each book telling the story of the woman who made the book. This project was led by the artist Dvora Morag.

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PHOTOS AND JAMS, PICKLES AND TALK

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‘Jam Session’ –

Hundreds of home made jams and pickles, prepared by Israeli and Palestinian women under the guidance of chefs Gil Hovav and

Hussam Abbas, were displayed for sale.

‘Connecting Threads’ –

Hundreds of handmade Palestinian embroidery products were displayed and sold at the event.



PARLIAMENTARIANS PUSH FOR PEACE

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have held a new round of talks. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has held a rare meeting with a group of Israeli parliamentarians. He said that this could be the last chance to reach a deal to end decades of conflict and create two independent states living side by side.

A senior Palestinian official told Reuters that the talks were intensifying, with the negotiating teams agreeing to meet for up to eight hours a day and to see one another more regularly than at the start of their latest diplomatic drive.

The delegation of Israeli politicians was from the Caucus for Ending the Israeli-Arab Conflict. They traveled to the Mukata, the Palestinian Authority's headquarters in Ramallah, to meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

OneVoice helped organise the meeting, which followed the successful 31st July visit, where Palestinian officials came to the Israeli parliament.

'The OneVoice Movement was honoured to take part in the making of this unique and historic meeting at the Mukata,' said OneVoice Israel (OVI) Executive Director Tal Harris.

'Each side's commitment to engage in a meaningful dialogue highlights the reality that we are another step closer to making the dream of

ending the conflict and the vision of the two-state solution a reality.

'As we move past this event, the OneVoice Movement will continue to leverage our regional grassroots networks to help mobilise civil society and amplify the voice of the moderate majority on both sides.'

'We are another step closer to making the dream of ending the conflict and the vision of the two-state solution a reality...'

OneVoice Palestine (OVP) Executive Director Samer Makhoul said: 'We are pleased to see the progress being made by the OneVoice Movement's Caucus for Ending the Israeli-Arab Conflict.

'Although headway is being made, both sides must recognise that there are still significant issues to be addressed, primarily the freezing of settlement activities. Our organisation will continue to support the joint work of our government and civil society partners and work with OneVoice youth leaders to support the efforts of President Abbas and lead us on a substantive path toward a two-state solution.'

FBFF works to support reconciliation activities in Israel/Palestine.

Please support our work by signing a standing order (on next page).

Or click here to make an on-line credit card donation:



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EVENTS DURING ROBI AND BASSAM'S VISIT TO THE UK

These events are open to all and no booking is required:

Thursday, 7th November, 7.30pm: Public meeting at All Saints Church, Kingston, Market Place, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1JP.

Monday, 11th November, 8.00pm: Public meeting at the Oxford Jewish Centre, Richmond Road, Oxford OX1 2JI.

Tuesday, 12th November, 12.30pm: lunchtime reception and talk at Sales Force, 26th Floor, Heron Tower, 110 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AY.

Tuesday, 12th November, 7.30pm: Public meeting at Friends Meeting House, Mill Lane, Godalming, Surrey.



UK Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum (FBFF)

Standing Order Form

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If you are a UK tax payer, we can recover the tax on your donation if you sign this Gift Aid declaration:

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***Please send the bottom part of this form to:
Hon Treasurer, FBFF, 16 Lynmouth Road, London N2 9LS.***