



THE CENTER FOR
NEAR EAST POLICY
RESEARCH LTD.

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BACKGROUND: PROPOSED NEWS INVESTIGATION OF THE PERES CENTER FOR PEACE

Under the auspices of the coordination with the Peres Center for Peace in Israel, the Aix Group was formed in 2002 under the auspices of the University Paul Cézanne-Aix-Marseille III in France, and and DATA Center for Studies and Research in the Palestinian Authority.

www.aixgroup.org

- the Palestinian Negotiations Support Unit (NSU)
- the Palestine Trade Center (PalTrade), the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce
- the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor
- the National Security Council (NSC)
- the Bank of Israel, the Ministry for the Development of the Negev and Galilee
- the World Bank
- the IMF
- the American Consulate in Jerusalem
- the European Union, the French Finance Ministry
- the Director of Foreign Trade and International Relations Division of the Manufacturer's Association of Israel
- the Rector of Ben-Gurion University
- Economics Professors from several universities including Bir Zeit University
- the Director General of the Peres Center for Peace, and Senior Economic Advisors

Overview

The "Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGOs Forum" is a dynamic, yet formal infrastructure, promoting ongoing cooperation and interaction between active Palestinian and Israeli Peace NGOs. Forum members work together to influence decision making and public opinion, support the peace process and reconciliation efforts by mobilizing civil society and greater populations of the region.

The Palestinian NGO, Panorama Center and the Israeli NGO, Peres Center for Peace commenced preparations for the launch of the "Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGOs Forum" in November 2005, with a view to coordinating a program of activities to enhance the independent and joint efforts of Palestinian and Israeli Peace NGOs. The Peace NGOs Forum is kindly funded by the European Union.

The program focuses on Peace NGOs, recognizing that they serve as a unique link between the macro and micro levels. On the micro level, most of the organizations that are members of the forum are grassroots organizations and consequently, have direct connections to the citizens. This, of course, enables them to reach a vast range of audiences. The program also enhances the capacities of these Peace NGOs, allowing them to better work towards their goal of reconciliation among the populations. On the macro level, although there is stagnation at the governmental level, the fact that there are joint efforts from Palestinian and Israeli peace NGOs that are dispersed over different fields makes them potential catalysts for change and dialogue.

In order to utilize this uniqueness, the Forum includes three working platforms; 1-the Palestinian Peace NGO Forum, 2-the Israeli Peace NGO Forum, and 3-the Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGO Forum. Working in parallel on three separate tracks provides a way to accommodate our societies' varying audiences and enables the generation of independent, yet, appropriate means of action and messages. Furthermore, two separate Forums, the Israeli and the Palestinian, fulfill the need for internal work between organizations, as well as in each respective society in order to strengthen the civil societies. The key elements of the three forums include ongoing meetings and workshops (separate meetings for representatives from Palestinian and Israeli Peace NGOs, joint Palestinian-Israeli conferences); Working Groups (to address specific issues of mutual concern); and an online community (website).

Through these three avenues, the program provides activities in the fields of networking, competence building and media advocacy, thereby increasing the skills of the local institutions and amplifying their message to the public.

Mission Statement

December 2008

Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGO Forum

Mission Statement

The Forum's activity is based upon the understanding that the future of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples is interdependent, and therefore requires cooperation to preserve existing ties and develop future channels of communication.

The Forum supports its members in their quests to end the occupation and encourage a just mutually agreed-upon resolution to the conflict. The Forum is convinced that only through politics and diplomacy, and not through violence and force, can a peaceful and just solution be achieved. The following parameters are paramount:

- 1. Full respect and implementation for international law which, through the resolutions of the United Nations, has allowed for the birth of the State of Israel and called for the establishment of the State of Palestine;**
- 2. Respect for and implementation of the peace accords signed since 1993 which permitted**

- the creation of the Palestinian Authority;
3. Support for the “Two States for Two Peoples” solution with the creation of an independent, viable and sovereign Palestinian State based on the boundaries preceding the 1967 war – including East Jerusalem, an end to all forms of violence, and security for all*;
 4. A balanced and mutually agreed-upon solution to the Palestinian Refugee problem.

The Forum urges the international community and its institutions to actively pursue, together with the Palestinian and Israeli constituencies, the above-mentioned objectives, in an effort to ensure the dignity, liberty and security of both nations.

* Some Forum members believe in one democratic state for all rather than the proposed “Two State Solution”, but have agreed to this version for the purpose of one voice of the document.

History

Building on the past cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, which has taken place on an ad hoc basis, the Forum creates a network to enable organizations to share and develop the skills needed in a changing political environment, providing them with greater means of communication and information flow.

The past six or so years of Intifada have been defined almost as much by the lack of contact between citizens and civil society, as they have been by the ongoing violence and diplomatic stagnation. This has served to polarize the Palestinian and Israeli populations even further, and to reinforce negative attitudes about the "other", which constitute a major impediment to reconciliation at the people-to-people level.

Recent developments – including the rise of Hamas to the Palestinian leadership – have not assisted the situation, maintaining the wide gaps between the Israeli and Palestinian leadership at the governmental level. The changes have created an environment of uncertainty across both societies, with Palestinians Peace NGO members particularly concerned about their futures.

Furthermore, movement restrictions limit face-to-face contact between Israelis and Palestinians, limiting opportunities for reconciliation activities and humanization of the other side.

In November 1999, the "Helsinki Seminar to Evaluate Palestinian-Israeli Civil Society Cooperation" was held bringing together 29 Palestinians and Israeli representatives from various NGOs for a two-day dialogue conference. The seminar prompted frank and informative dialogue among participants, enabling research to be conducted on the state of NGOs and people-to-people projects. The overall success of this gathering inspired another meeting in Rome in November 2002 which brought together 36 Palestinian and Israeli representatives from various NGOs and several international guests. Based on the success of the Helsinki gathering, the Rome seminar united Palestinian and Israelis at a time when such encounters were almost non-existent, following the outbreak of the second Intifada in September 2000.

Following a long period of limited contact, the Peres Center for Peace and Panorama Center facilitated a conference in Seville, Spain, in November 2005, which included some 35 representatives from Palestinian and Israeli Peace NGOs. The conference included many discussions about the upcoming medium of the "Peace NGOs Forum", with both sides expressing

their keen interest to work together to advance common goals.

In November 2005, the Peres Center and Panorama Center commenced preparations for the launch of the "Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGOs Forum".

Under the auspices of the Peres Center For Peace, The Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGO Forum organized to coordinate 100 organizations :

Organization List

- [Al- Quds Association for Dialogue and Democracy](#)
- [Al- Quds Dialogue Center](#)
- [Al Tareeq- The Palestinian Institution for Development and Democracy .](#)
- [All for Peace Radio](#)
- [All Nations Caf'e](#)
- [Arabian Culture & Information Center](#)
- [AREEN- The future Vision Society for Capacity Development](#)
- [Art For Peace \(AFP\)](#)
- [Bat Shalom](#)
- [Bringing Peace Together](#)
- [Budo for Peace](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Combatants for Peace](#)
- [crossroads- Collaborative Routes in the Middle East](#)
- [Economic Cooperation Foundation-ECF](#)
- [Emek Shaveh](#)
- [Friends of the Earth Middle East- FOEME](#)
- [Geneva Initiative- \(Peace Education\)](#)
- [GISHA-Legal Center for Freedom of Movement](#)
- [Givat Haviva](#)
- [Hewar Center for Peace & Development](#)
- [Hope Flowers School](#)
- [Humans Without Borders](#)
- [Interfaith Encounter Association](#)
- [International Alliance for Arab-Israel Peace \(Pal-Isr\) / "copenhagen group"](#)
- [International Peace & Cooperation Center \(IPCC\)](#)
- [Ir-Amim](#)
- [Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information \(IPCRI\)](#)
- [Israel-Syria Peace Society](#)
- [Jerusalem Center for Women](#)
- [Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies](#)

- [Jerusalem Peace Makers](#)
- [Just Vision](#)
- [Keshev- The Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel](#)
- [Kufia](#)
- [Lev Ha'ir Community Administration](#)
- [Machsom Watch](#)
- [Macro Center for Political Economics](#)
- [Mechuyavut -- Commitment to Peace and Social Justice](#)
- [mepeace.org](#)
- [Middle East Program, JDC Israel](#)
- [Middleway- Compassionate Engagement in Society](#)
- [Mifgash \(Encounter\) for Conflict Transformation](#)
- [Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development \(NISPED\)](#)
- [Neve Shalom - Wahat al Salam Village](#)
- [Olive Tree Movement](#)
- [On the Left Side](#)
- [OneVoice](#)
- [Ossim Shalom Social Workers for Peace and Social Welfare](#)
- [Our Heritage](#)
- [Palestine-Israel Journal](#)
- [Palestinian Agency for Food & Agriculture \(PAFA\)](#)
- [Palestinian Association for Education and Development \(PAED\)](#)
- [Palestinian Center for Alternative Solutions](#)
- [Palestinian Center for Dialogue](#)
- [Palestinian Center for Media & Development](#)
- [Palestinian Family Forum for Equality](#)
- [Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions \(PGFTU\)](#)
- [Palestinian Jurist's Forum](#)
- [Palestinian Peace Coalition](#)
- [Palestinian Youth Union for Cooperation of Peace](#)
- [Panorama- Center for Dissemination of Democracy & Community Development](#)
- [Parents Circle-Families Forum](#)
- [Partners for peace](#)
- [Peace and Democracy Forum](#)
- [Peace Now](#)
- [Peace Research Institute in the Middle East \(PRIME\)](#)
- [Peace Sails](#)
- [Qaffin Sports and Culture Club](#)
- [Rabbis for Human Rights](#)
- [Sabbareen Institution](#)
- [Sadka- Reut friendship village](#)
- [Save a Child's Heart](#)
- [Seeds For Peace](#)
- [Shatil](#)
- [Shira'- Laborer 's Association for Studies & Development](#)

- [Shorouq- Women's Society](#)
- [Sulha Peace Project](#)
- [Tantoura Center](#)
- [Tawasul](#)
- [The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies \(AIES\)](#)
- [The Arik Institute For Reconciliation, Tolerance and Peace](#)
- [The Association for the Commemoration](#)
- [The Center for Democracy and Community Development](#)
- [The Center for Educational Technology \(CET\)](#)
- [The Center for Emerging Futures](#)
- [The Citizens' Accord Forum Between Jews & Arabs in Israel](#)
- [The Council for Peace Initiatives](#)
- [The Future Vision Society for Development the abilities-AREEN](#)
- [The Inter-Religious Coordinating Council in Israel](#)
- [The Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization - IPSO](#)
- [The Jerusalem Intercultural Center](#)
- [The Palestinian House for Professional Solutions \(HPS\)](#)
- [The Palestinian Peace Society](#)
- [The Peres Center for Peace](#)
- [The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute](#)
- [Trust - Emun](#)
- [Ulpan Akiva](#)
- [Wa'ad](#)
- [Wi'am](#)
- [Wifaq- The Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation \(CCRR\)](#)
- [Windows for Peace Channels of Communications](#)
- [Women Legal Activists for Human Rights](#)
- [Yesh Din](#)
- [Young Israeli Forum for Cooperation](#)
- [Zman Midbar- Peace Time](#)

International Partners

[Madrid Coalition](#)

[Madrid Coalition](#)

Madrid Coalition- The Madrid coalition is a collection of Israeli, Palestinian, and European civil society organizations working to support a multilateral resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict along the lines of the Arab Peace Initiative.

Although all member organizations agree that diversity of action and dialogue are two values that must be preserved, participation in this platform emphasizes the common belief of the

multiple and varied actors that the solution to the conflict has to be negotiated between the parties with urgency, and built upon.

The objective of the Madrid Coalition is to generate a change in public opinion to gain support for a peace agreement in the framework of the Arab League's Peace Initiative, proving the extraordinary benefits of such an agreement and underlining that peace is a common concern for Israelis, Palestinians and Europeans

<http://madridcoalition.org/>

[Olof Palme](#)

International **Partners**

Olof Palme

The Olof Palme International Center works with international development co-operation and the forming of public opinion surrounding international political and security issues.

The Palme Center was established in 1992 by the Swedish Social Democratic Party, the Trade Union Confederation (LO) and the Cooperative Union (KF). Today the Palme Center has 28 member organizations within the labour movement.

The centre works in the spirit of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, reflected by the famous quotation: "Politics is wanting something. Social Democratic politics is wanting change."

Olof Palme's conviction that common security is created by co-operation and solidarity across borders, permeates the centre's activities.

The centre's board is chaired by Lena Hjelm-Wallén, former foreign minister of Sweden. Viola Furubjelke is the centre's Secretary General, and Birgitta Silén is head of development aid. There are 13 members of the board, representing member organisations.

The commitment of these member organisations is the core of the centre's activities. Besides the founding organisations, they include the Workers' Educational Association, the tenants' movement, and individual trade unions. As popular movements and voluntary organisations, they are represented in all Swedish municipalities and at many workplaces. An individual cannot be a member of the Palme Center, but the member organisations together have more than three million members.

In Sweden, the centre carries out comprehensive information and opinion-forming campaigns on issues concerning international development, security and international relations. This includes a very active schedule of seminars and publications, both printed and an e-mail newsletter.

International development co-operation is concentrated on six regions: The Balkans, Eastern Europe and Russia, Latin America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and southern Africa.

The Palme Center and its member organizations are involved in approximately 450 international development projects a year. These range from civic education and organisational structure, to human rights and reconciliation projects.

The centre has a framework agreement with the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA), which finances the international development projects of the member organisations. Most projects are carried out directly by the member organisations, which together with their local co-operation partners are responsible for project planning, initiation and evaluation. This helps to create very strong local ties. The centre carries out relatively few international development projects on its own, except in the Balkans.

The centre also administers the International Solidarity Fund (the I-Fund), which is the labour movement's fund for international solidarity and development co-operation. All

money collected by the I-Fund is used exclusively to support trade union and political development work.

The centre is located in central Stockholm. There are currently 35 employees.

Please [click here](#) to read a greeting from Mr. Nabil Saadeh, Olof Plame Regional Director at the Peace NGO Forums' 4th Bilateral meeting in Nazareth (July 29-30, 2008)



[Organization of the Month: Gisha - the Legal Center for Freedom of movement](#)

[Post Your Event](#)

© **Palestinian Israeli Peace NGO Forum**

[The Region of Tuscany](#)

[The Alliance for Middle East Peace \(ALLMEP\)](#)
[The Alliance for Middle East Peace \(ALLMEP\)](#)

The Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) is an exciting new coalition of 42 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), who promote people-to-people coexistence between Arabs and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East. Through ALLMEP, Americans from diverse religious, ethnic, and political backgrounds can finally join together in support of real efforts to build lasting peace in the region.

[click here](#) to see MOU between ALLMEP and the PIPNF

<http://www.allmep.org/>)

[EU Partnership for Peace Program](#)

EU Partnership for Peace Program

The EU Partnership for Peace Program supports local and international civil society initiatives that promote peace, tolerance and non violence in the Middle East. The objective of this support is to contribute to the rebuilding of confidence within each society and between societies.

The programme aims at promoting initiatives in areas which are likely to have an impact on people's everyday lives and welfare, including practical activities which will promote communication and understanding by demonstrating the advantages of working together for mutual benefit and tangible results. The programme also provides support to activities and research related to final status issues.

The programme is jointly managed by the EC Delegation in Tel Aviv, the EC Technical Assistance Office to the West Bank and Gaza and the EC Delegation in Jordan.

- A call for proposals is published once a year and the selection is made by a committee composed of representatives from each of the three EC offices
- The annual budget ranges from EURO 5 - 10 million
- On average 15 projects are selected each year
- The EC contributions range from EURO 50,000 - 500,000
- The maximum EC contribution is 80%
- The maximum duration for a project is 36 months
- Partnership is encouraged, but one country projects are also eligible
- Only non-profit non-governmental organisations based in the MEDA countries or in the EU are eligible to apply

Examples of Projects:

"Building Business Bridges"

"Building Business Bridges" implemented by the Israeli Centre for Jewish-Arab Economic Development (CJAED) and the Palestinian Media & Development Institute (PMDI) brings together Israeli (Jews and Arabs) and Palestinian students in an MBA programme taught by Haifa University. The overall objective is to prepare Israeli and Palestinian participants both professionally and personally to work together in a multi-cultural environment and enhance their vision as to the possibilities of promoting cooperative ventures in the future.

"Words Can Kill"

"Words Can Kill" implemented by the Israeli Keshev Centre for Israeli Democracy and the Palestinian Miftah aims to encourage a



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public and media discourse free of incitement, prejudice and dehumanization of the other in Israel and Palestine, through monitoring, research, advocacy and lobbying activities. The project will facilitate the development of an independent media and a culture of moderation, tolerance, and understanding between the two peoples, and implementation of the anti-incitement provisions in the Road Map and in agreements between Israelis and Palestinians.

"Civic Action Groups for Peace and Social Justice"

"Civic Action Groups for Peace and Social Justice" implemented by the Israeli Commitment to Peace and Social Justice aims to promote public discourse at the local and national level on the connection between peace and social justice. Civic action groups in four communities: one in development towns in the Negev, one in a nearby Bedouin community, one in the metropolitan area of Tel Aviv and one in the triangle of Palestinian Arab towns in Israel through concrete*** actions on local issues of significance will engage in developing their own awareness of the fundamental connection between peace and social justice. Ultimately the groups will combine to craft and promote a vision of Israeli society living at peace with its neighbours and resolving internal conflicts through adherence to the ideals of a just society.**

"Penultimate Jerusalem"

"Penultimate Jerusalem: Overcoming the Obstacles to Final Status in Jerusalem" implemented by the Israeli Ir Amim, together with Palestinian colleagues, seeks to render Jerusalem a more viable city, even under the current dire circumstances, while generating and promoting a more politically sustainable Jerusalem in the future. The project targets Israeli decision makers and those who influence them (e.g., aides, advisors, the international diplomatic community) and the Israeli public - through direct meetings, media, study tours, work with opinion shapers, events, website, monitoring reports, legal work - aiming to change both public policy and public perception, regarding Jerusalem. Finally, the project intends to activate a group of Palestinian and Israeli stakeholders and experts to develop, and advocate for, a series of practical policy steps to move toward final status in Jerusalem.

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