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Why We Give

As a Jewish American, Dr. Steve Feldman grew up collecting coins to support planting trees in Israel. His lifetime interest in the Holy Land eventually led him to CPWJ. Steve decided to become involved with CPWJ four years ago after a Winston-Salem interfaith group he was involved with hosted one of the many speakers CPWJ brings to North Carolina every year.

Steve grew up in a Jewish community learning that Israel could do no wrong but his understanding evolved. “I came to believe that Palestinian families deserve peace and justice just as much—no more, no less—than Israeli families or anyone else. Judaism taught me that all people should be treated as equal. The Holocaust taught me that it is wrong to mistreat people—not just Jewish people,” he said. “CPWJ is working to help end the mistreatment of Palestinian families, and nothing could be more consistent with Jewish morality. I felt the need to do something, and CPWJ was doing something,” he added.

Not long after that, Steve accepted an invitation to serve on CPWJ’s Board of Directors. “It was an opportunity to have more involvement in deciding what we could do to help promote peace and justice for both Palestinian and Israeli families. I was excited to help with that,” he said.

CPWJ recently began a sustaining donor campaign, “Sustain Hope for Palestine.” Steve was one of the first to sign up. “Non-profits need financial stability as a foundation for successfully achieving their aims. Non-profits also need folks who will step up and be an example. Being a sustaining donor helps the organization’s bottom line directly and, by demonstrating commitment to the organization, indirectly encourages donations from others.”

Make a lasting investment in peace with justice in Israel-Palestine by becoming a monthly donor today. Visit peace-with-justice.org/donate to set up your gift or contact managing director Dee Froeber at cpwj.contact@peace-with-justice.org or 919-342-8928 for assistance.





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CPWJ: Providing Relief In Gaza

The Coalition for Peace with Justice mission is unique. There are many organizations in the U.S. that support an end to the occupation through education and activism. Many raise funds for one peace building organization in Israel/Palestine. CPWJ goes beyond offering direct financial support for one or two organizations. Your gifts to CPWJ provide financial support to 10 different Palestinian and Israeli organizations.

During the shelling of Gaza this past summer, Al Ahli Arab Hospital, one of the organizations CPWJ supports, issued an urgent appeal for financial help. CPWJ heard the call and responded. Through the generous support of donors, we received over \$2,000 for Al Ahli to aid their heroic efforts in providing treatment for thousands of burned, wounded and traumatized Palestinians.

Al Ahli Arab Hospital is an 80-bed facility located in Gaza City. A mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, it offers high quality medical care without prejudice to any religious or ethnic community and irrespective of social class, gender or political affiliation. While providing surgical and medical treatment, Al Ahli provides free breast cancer screening, operates a center for elderly women, and runs a mobile unit with free medical care and food for people from surrounding towns and villages.

CPWJ provides funds for these organizations from designated and undesignated tax-deductible contributions. Part of every gift made to CPWJ provides support for Al Ahli and nine other organizations:

- **Al-Rowwad Theatre and Cultural Center** initiates artistic programs, known as “Beautiful Acts of Resistance” to provide creative alternatives to violence.
- **Badil** defends and promotes the rights of Palestinian refugees & internally displaced Palestinians.
- **Bright Stars of Bethlehem** focuses on holistic community building to support civic, cultural, psychosocial, artistic and educational programs.
- **Hope Flowers School** excels in education based on peace and democratic values, and in specific, programs for children who have learning disabilities or are traumatized by conflict.
- **ICAHD** (Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions) works non-violently and provides a framework for understanding all aspects of Israel’s Occupation and control of Palestinians. ICAHD resists the Israeli demolition of Palestinian houses and rebuilds Palestinian homes.
- **Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center** brings together the Palestinian Christian community and advocates internationally and nationally to bring justice for all people in the Holy Land.
- **Shufat Community Center** offers programs in health and education for youth and the disabled at Shufat Refugee Camp in East Jerusalem.
- **Tent of Nations** builds bridges of understanding and peace through educational programs that respect the environment and cultivate Palestinian land under threat of confiscation.
- **Wi`am** empowers the community and promotes peaceful alternatives to conflict within families, the community and beyond.



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CPWJ Hires Managing Director

CPWJ took a major step forward in March when Davis “Dee” Froeber became its first managing director. He has an imposing portfolio: program development, advocacy, fundraising and nonprofit management. And he brings to the role an extensive background in the world of citizen diplomacy and international relations.

Dee spent the month of June in Palestine and Israel, meeting with more than 25 organizations that are dedicated to non-violent resistance to the Occupation. Among them were the leaders of eight organizations that receive financial support from CPWJ.

“I’ve had a keen interest in the Middle East and Israel/Palestine for many years,” Dee said. “I’m impressed with CPWJ’s legacy of educating the public about the Nakba of 1948 and the plight of Palestinians, as well as its financial support of organizations in Israel/Palestine that use non-violent resistance to end the Occupation.”

Dee describes his month in Palestine and Israel as “an extremely visceral experience. I heard first-hand from Palestinians the frustration, anger, humiliation and despair they experience daily, living under military occupation. But I also have vivid memories of their stories of resilience and hope for a better future. It was a life-changing experience.”

He said he believes that CPWJ can increase its impact by attracting more volunteers and financial support as it continues to work with other organizations that share its goals. “We need to reach a wider audience with high quality educational programs,” he said, “and increase our advocacy work with elected officials. The Board and I are developing a strategic plan that will help take CPWJ to the next level.”

A native of North Carolina, Dee majored in religion at Campbell University and earned a Master of Divinity degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He did postgraduate work at the Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication in Portland, Ore., and at North Carolina State University. Areas of focus have included comparative religion, Islam, intercultural communication, interfaith dialogue, and a summer in Shanghai studying Chinese culture and language. This past September he earned a certificate in nonprofit management from Duke University.

Dee served as Minister to Internationals at Forest Hills Baptist Church (FHBC) in Raleigh from 1981 to 2010. He launched programs and services that eventually attracted up to 1,500 internationals weekly from some 70 countries.

Programs and services for internationals that Dee developed at the church ranged from weekend retreats and social events to sponsorship of refugees and asylum seekers, cross-cultural counseling, and interfaith dialogue. He recruited and trained an annual pool of 75 volunteers to staff them.

Responding to post-9/11 Islamophobia, Dee established people-to-people exchanges between FHBC and the Islamic Center of Raleigh. In cooperation with the International Visitors Council and U.S. State Department, he hosted senior religious and political leaders from North Africa and the Middle East for dialogues on religion-state relations and religious pluralism/freedom in American society. Dee was instrumental in founding pan-African, Chinese and Iranian churches, sponsored by FHBC.

Dee also supervised Chinese (P.R.C.), Taiwanese and Iranian language schools at the church for 900 children. He hosted visits to the schools by diplomatic staff from the People's Republic of China's U.S. embassy and the Taipei (Taiwan) Economic and Cultural Office.

Other highlights of Dee's career include organizing Sino-U.S. dialogues on interfaith and religion-state relations. At the request of China's ambassador to the U.S., he hosted a 2008 U.S. tour of China's multi-faith leaders meeting with U.S. multi-faith leaders, members of Congress, the State Department officials, and former President Jimmy Carter. The following year, China's minister of religious affairs invited him to bring a delegation of U.S. multi-faith leaders to China for dialogue.

In 2010 Dee founded the Global Institute for Religious and Cultural Diplomacy. His leadership led to the first U.S. summit of Chinese and U.S. Protestant leaders on Christianity in China and Sino-U.S. Christian relations.

Dee's background in international relations and nonprofit leadership is a good fit for CPWJ. "CPWJ has untapped potential to influence public opinion and impact the discourse on peace with justice in Israel/Palestine," Dee said, "and I'm excited to be part of that."

Submitted by Barbara Ryan



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From Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

THE DETENTION OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

Approximately 700 Palestinian children under the age of 18 from the occupied West Bank are prosecuted every year through Israeli military courts after being arrested, interrogated and detained by the Israeli army. The most common charge levied against children is throwing stones, a crime that is punishable under military law by up to 20 years in prison. Since 2000, more than 8,000 Palestinian children have been detained.

In practice before the military court system, there are no special interrogation procedures for children detained by the Israeli military, nor are there provisions for an attorney or even a family member to be present when a child is questioned. The majority of children report being subjected to ill-treatment and having forced confessions extracted from them during interrogations. Forms of ill-treatment used by the Israeli soldiers during a child's arrest and interrogation usually include slapping, beating, kicking and violent pushing. Palestinian children are also routinely verbally abused. Despite recommendations by the UN Committee against Torture in May 2009 that the interrogations should be video recorded, no provisions to this effect have yet been enacted.

Many Palestinian children even serve time in the same Israeli prisons and detention facilities as adults. Military Order 1644, issued on 29 July 2009, established a separate military court for Palestinian children and ended 42 years of trying children as young as 12 years of age in the same courts as adults. However, the order fails to correct many of the fair trial deficiencies in the military courts relating to children (including insufficient provisions regarding qualifications for the judges, no added protections during interrogations, and discretionary language granting the prosecutor broad authority to suspend protections for children), which indicate that Military Order 1644 will do little to improve the protection of Palestinian children before the Israeli military legal system.

While the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a "child" as "every human being below the age of eighteen years", according to Israeli military order 132, Palestinian children age 16 and older were previously tried and sentenced by Israeli military courts as adults. By comparison, juvenile legislation defines Israeli children as age 18 or younger. What's more, a Palestinian child's sentence is decided on the basis of the child's age at the



time of sentencing, and not at the time when the alleged offense was committed. Thus, a child who is accused of committing an offense when he or she is 15 will therefore be punished as an adult if he or she has a birthday while awaiting sentencing.

On 27 September 2011, the OC Central Comman signed an amendment to raise the age of Palestinian minors in the military court system from 16 to 18 years. Another stipulation of the amendment is a requirement to immediately notify the child's parents upon his or her arrest and interrogation. However, the amendment gives interrogators many openings to avoid the requirement. Furthermore, the amendment requires interrogators to inform minors of their right to attorney, but states that they will only notify an attorney "whose particulars were provided by the minor," which is highly unlikely to occur. An additional provision refers to the length of time that has passed since an offense was committed. Previously, if the offense was committed two or more years earlier, the child could not be prosecuted; the new amendment reduces this period to one year. However, the reduced period is negated in instances of "security offenses," which include some of the most common charges against Palestinian youths, such as stone-throwing and participating in demonstrations. Lastly, despite the minority age being raised to 18, the amendment states that minors over the age of 16 may still be held in detention with adults, which is contradictory to the requirements of international law.

As of 1 September 2012, there were approximately 194 Palestinian children detained in two Israeli prisons and detention centers, including: Ofer and Megiddo. Out of these, at least 30 were under the age of 16.

Total number of children in detention at the end of the month since January 2008

(Statistics from 2008-2010 are based on reports from DCI; statistics from 2011 and 2012 are based on reports from the Israeli Prison Service, via B'tselem, and Addameer documentation)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	327	307	325	327	337	323	324	293	304	297	327	342
2009	389	423	420	391	346	353	342	339	326	302	310	296
2010	318	343	342	355	305	291	284	286	269	256	228	213
2011	209	221	216	224	217	211	-	201	176	262	150	159
2012	132	166	183	203	218	192	220	210	194	-	-	-

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Very limited provisions are made for the education of Palestinian child detainees. The Israeli Prison Service provides education only in Megiddo and Rimonim prisons but imposes restrictions on what subjects can be taught, allowing children to study only mathematics and humanities, and banning other subjects for "security reasons". Girls under the age of 18 are usually detained with adult female prisoners and receive no formal education. While Israeli

boys who are detained in Rimonim receive approximately 20 hours of taught classes per week and study in a special classroom, Palestinian boys detained in Megiddo prison are forced to study in the prison's courtyard without any protection from weather conditions. Importantly, the Israeli Prison Service refuses to establish any coordination mechanism with the Palestinian Authority and as a consequence, Palestinian child detainees are taught according to the Israeli-Arab curriculum, instead of the official curriculum adopted by the Palestinian Ministry of Education. This has obvious negative consequences on a child detainee's performance in school after he or she is released from prison.

RECRUITMENT CONCERNS

In the areas of the West Bank and East Jerusalem that are most affected by Israel's colonial occupation policies, particularly including the Annexation Wall, settler violence and house demolitions, youths and children as young as twelve are often the first ones to be arrested in mass arrest campaigns, either during demonstrations, immediately after them or during night raids. Evidence suggests that the purpose of their arrest and detention is threefold. First, targeting the youngest and most vulnerable is intended to exert pressure on their family and the entire community to put an end to all social mobilization. Second, Israeli soldiers and police often arrest children for recruitment purposes. Addameer has collected testimonies suggesting that children from East Jerusalem and Wall and settlement-affected communities are routinely asked to become informants and provide information on both prominent figures involved in advocacy efforts and other children participating in demonstrations. Lastly, arrest is also used as a strategy to deter children from participating in demonstrations and from throwing stones at the Wall or other targets. However, while stone-throwing is the most common charge used against them, children in high-conflict areas are regularly arrested indiscriminately and remanded in detention with little or no evidence, with the military court often relying only on soldiers' testimonies to convict.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THREATS

Increasingly, Israeli soldiers and ISA officers use sexual threats including threats of rape as a way of inflicting fear upon children and coercing them into giving confessions. In 2009, Addameer has documented at least five cases of children who report having been sexually assaulted or threatened with sexual assault during the operation of arrest, transfers to detention centers and during interrogation. Sexual assaults by Israeli interrogators against children take numerous forms, including the form of grabbing a child's testicles and threats of rape or sodomy with an object.

(1) See DCI-Palestine, *Palestinian child prisoners: The systematic and institutionalized ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities*, June 2009, p. 8 (available at: <http://www.dci-pal.org/english/publ/research/CPReport.pdf>)

<http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=296> Retrieved 11/14/14



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Advocacy with Elected Officials

Advocacy is a stated goal of CPWJ. CPWJ has a long history of regular meetings with elected officials and staff in order to bring awareness of the changing realities in the region. In October, Mary Lou Leiser Smith, CPWJ founder, and Dee Froeber, managing director, met with Rep. David Price, (D) 14th District.

Smith and Froeber discussed two main issues from their June travels to Jerusalem and the West Bank. Smith expressed appreciation for Price's efforts to prevent a demolition on the property of Hope Flowers School, one of CPWJ's peace building organizations in Bethlehem, Palestine. She went on to point out Israeli land grabs and subsequent settlement expansion in the area near the school, all of which are illegal under international law.

Referring to a recent J Street open letter to Pres. Obama, Smith and Froeber requested that Rep. Price use his influence to move the White House to call Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories illegal and to determine definitive actions in American policy that would force Israel to be accountable for its illegal actions.

Froeber briefed Rep. Price, and presented documentation (see article, "The Detention of Palestinian Children"), detailing the arrest and abuse of Palestinian minors. There are approximately 700 children under the age of 18 who are prosecuted in military court each year with 8,000 being detained since the year 2000. Defense of Children International, Military Court Watch, and Addameer have documented the frequent physical and psychological torture, including sexual abuse and threats of sexual abuse, of these children.

Froeber and Smith asked Rep. Price to investigate this grave abuse of human rights, suggest actions that can be taken, and to continue a dialogue with CPWJ about this issue.