

National YWCA of Palestine Newsletter Vol.1, March 2016

Between the Hammer of Settler Colonialism and Anvil of Patriarchy

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.

What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.

And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future.

The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory."

– Howard Zinn

As the current escalation of violence moves into its sixth month, The YWCA of Palestine lifts up the women in Palestine who are imprisoned and mourning the loss of their children, husbands or other family members in extrajudicial killings. We stand with them as they stand outside their demolished homes.

We also stand with them when they manage to succeed in their careers, challenge the system of patriarchy, or find new ways to be creative. They are living as they think human beings should live, "in defiance of all that is bad around us." Finally note that the Palestinian people are staying steadfast even when third party states refuse to follow international law or support UN resolutions that support women' rights to freedom and dignity.

The YWCA of Palestine asks you to join them in remembering that human history is also one of "compassion, sacrifice, courage and kindness." Let this give us all the energy to act, to create a succession of "presents" that leads to change and transformation.

10-year-old Gazan girl dies due to Israeli blockade



A 10-year-old Palestinian girl breathed her last on Wednesday morning after she could not gain access out of the blockaded Gaza Strip to receive treatment in 1948 Occupied Palestine.

Mourning his little kid, the father Abdul Halim Diab told the PIC that his child, Marah Diab, had been suffering from a renal failure for more than six years, during which she had undergone kidney flush in Gaza hospitals. <http://english.palinfo.com/site/pages/details.aspx?itemid=76865>

The youngest female prisoner in the world ... Dima Wawi in Israeli jails

Dima Wawi a young Palestinian girl was frequently described in the Israeli media as a "terrorist" after



she tried, according to the Israeli media, to kill Israeli settlers and soldiers while the fact is that Dima is only a twelve years old girl living happily in her family's house in the town of Halhul, north of al-Khalil city.

The Israeli occupation had arrested Dima near the settlement of Karam Tzur, which is established on the lands of al-Khalil, and accused her of trying to carry out a stabbing attack, although her young age and physique tell that it is impossible

for her to be able to do such things.

<http://english.palinfo.com/site/pages/details.aspx?itemid=77022#.Vs8b-XfyUCc.facebook>

WHY ISRAEL IS FIGHTING THE INDIGENOUS PALESTINIANS BY [HANEEN ZOABI](#)

A 15-year-old girl lies severely wounded, bleeding from multiple bullet wounds on the sidewalk. A man walks up and cold-bloodedly shoots her in the head, a final and fatal shot ending a young life on a

Jerusalem sidewalk. Another "terrorist" shot by a "hero." Or is it yet another extra judicial execution of the type we have become so used to?

Even the language has changed: "neutralized" is the media term for a human life ended. A Palestinian life that is.

We are no longer capable of seeing the horrific tragedy of the bloodied school uniform, the bag of books and decorated notice-pads scattered about on the pavement. And among all these, also a small pair of scissors with which the girl had attempted to stab an elderly man.



And there she lies, another nameless "terrorist", another young victim born to the daily reality of the occupation with its night raids, its oppression and humiliation, its discriminatory (security) wall, its home demolitions, its roads for Israelis only, its roadblocks, its church and mosque burnings. Its random shootings by settlers and security forces. A daily life, grey and lacking all hope.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/israel-state-fighting-indigenous-palestinians-425546?rm=eu>

Two prominent Palestinian women freed from Israeli prison, highlight struggles of imprisoned girls and injured women

[Manal Tamimi](#), prominent Palestinian activist in the village of Nabi Saleh against settlement expansion on her village's land, was freed [late Thursday, 10 March](#) from Israeli jail after 2 days of detention. Tamimi, 43, paid a fine of 4,000 NIS (approximately \$1,000 USD) and agreed to not publish any Facebook posts or photos of Israeli border guard, Yousef Nasser Eddin, who “[complained that she shared](#) a video of



him violently attacking Palestinian paramedics and journalists, during clashes near Beit El checkpoint, to the north of Ramallah, back in October of 2015.”

Earlier, the Israeli military court at Ofer had extended her arrest until 11 March. Tamimi was arrested in the early morning hours of Tuesday, 8 March, in a raid on her home by Israeli occupation forces. She and her family in Nabi Saleh village are internationally known for their popular, grassroots struggle and protests against the confiscation of

their agricultural land by an illegal Israeli settlement

<http://samidoun.net/2016/03/two-prominent-palestinian-women-freed-from-israeli-prison-highlight-struggles-of-imprisoned-girls-and-injured-women/>

Jerusalem lawyer Shireen Issawi jailed for doing her job



The well-known Palestinian lawyer and activist [Shireen Issawi](#) was sentenced to four years in prison by an Israeli court on Monday. Her brother Medhat was sentenced to eight years at the same hearing in [Jerusalem](#). The two are accused of [passing information and transferring funds](#) between prisoners and political organizations banned by Israeli occupation authorities.

Israel considers most Palestinian political parties, including [Hamas](#), the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#) and [Islamic Jihad](#), as “terrorist organizations.”

Shireen and Medhat run the Al-Quds Office for Legal and Commercial Affairs, a private legal firm based in Jerusalem, their home city.

<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/charlotte-silver/jerusalem-lawyer-shireen-issawi-jailed-doing-her-job>

In Gaza, Bicycles Are a Battleground for Women Who Dare to Ride



SALAHUDDIN ROAD, Gaza Strip — The four women pedaling bicycles with jammed gears and wobbly chains up Salahuddin Road, Gaza’s bumpy main highway, on a recent morning caused quite a stir.

The driver of a three-wheeled tuk-tuk slowed down and a teenager on a horse-drawn cart sped up to match the women’s pace. A jeep filled with Hamas gunmen beeped and cheered as it passed, and a pack of men on motorbikes left a wake of catcalls. The sight of women on two wheels was so unusual that Alaa, 11, who was

grazing sheep on the grassy median, assumed they were foreigners and shouted out his limited English vocabulary: “Hello! One, two, three!”

The women ignored the hubbub as they pedaled from Jabalia, a crammed cinder-block town in Gaza’s north, to the Hamas checkpoint before the heavily restricted border crossing into Israel. They dumped their bikes in a nearby olive grove and sat down for a picnic of cheese sandwiches.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/23/world/middleeast/gaza-women-on-bikes-face-a-long-road-to-acceptance.html?_r=0

Hanan Al Hroub’s ‘Global Teacher award’ is a victory for all Palestinian educators over Israeli occupation and PA corruption



Every now and then, an Israeli or American politician will reiterate some version of the accusation that the Palestinian curriculum teaches Palestinian kids to “hate Jews.” That accusation has been debunked again and again, with studies showing the opposite, namely that racism pervades Israeli textbooks. Today, a large section of Israeli society is racist, and proud of it, as evidenced by multiple reports and YouTube videos, including chants of “Death to Arabs.” Israel’s overall national ethos, and more specifically its school curriculum, are to blame.

<http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/hanan-al-hroubs-global-teacher-award-is-a-victory-for-all-palestinian-educators-over-israeli-occupation-and-pa-corruption/>

Gaza Women, Their Stories, and Theater: Bringing The Sound of Ah to Ramallah

The Sound of Ah is the newest project in a series of storytelling events that came about when Theater Day Productions (TDP) started this women’s program. Why storytelling? Telling stories is inherent to being

human. It holds a particularly important place in the Arabic cultural tradition. *Al-Hakawati* (the storyteller) has been revered and loved throughout the Arab world. In Palestine, suppressed over decades of occupation, the cultural tradition of storytelling is being reinvented and revived – in TDP from a theatrical perspective. The secret is in the magic of the stories and their empowering energy. Stories move us to feel, and stories move us to act for change.

<http://thisweekinpalestine.com/gaza-women-their-stories-and-theatre/>

Women's Radio in Ramallah (video interview with

<http://www.dw.com/en/womens-radio-in-ramallah/av-19099514?maca=en-Facebook-sharing>



How Palestinian women are enlisting traditional dresses into the struggle

A woman is prettier, more feminine and more attractive when wearing a dress. That's what they taught us, and I won't get into the question of who is behind this theory and whom or what it serves. What is certain is that women have always held in special regard this specific article of clothing, which in some cultures represents hiding the beautiful body of a woman, and in other cultures to highlight and accentuate that

glorious body. In both cases dresses represent the social status, economic status, strength and taste of the woman wearing them.

So it shouldn't be surprising that just like in all of society, in the world of clothing (not fashion) women's clothing fight for their place in the closet of public consciousness. That is the unique situation that occurs

when said society is in a fight for survival, as a national collective fighting for national recognition and national liberation. In such a situation, what is thought of as more patriotic: the masculine or the feminine?



That is the situation in Palestinian society. Masculine items of clothing, like the black and white keffiyeh, have become symbols of popular struggle, of nationalism and Palestinian identity, which has taken its place on the world stage. Young women, too, have adopted the keffiyeh, worn around their necks as scarves at demonstrations, marches and public events. But the need for an authentic feminine Palestinian

symbol has quickly risen, which has led the traditional embroidered Palestinian dress, "Fustan," to be liberated from the back of the closet to its current rebirth among Arab women. Slowly slowly the long and heavy "thoub" dress has become a symbol of female pride and liberating creativity.

<http://972mag.com/how-palestinian-women-are-enlisting-traditional-dresses-into-the-struggle/117802/>

Israel, US Reject UN Resolution to Empower Palestinian Women

Israel and the United States were the only countries to reject a resolution adopted Thursday during a U.N. forum focused on the empowerment of women, as the text especially emphasized the difficulties of Palestinian women under Israeli occupation.

A total of 20 countries approved the resolution adopted on the last day of the 60th session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which started 10 days ago in New York. 11 preferred to abstain, most of them from Europe.

The document stated that the Israeli occupation remained the main obstacle to women could be fully integrated in society, evoking the impact of the 51-day air strikes on the Gaza Strip carried out during the 2014 summer, among other examples.

<http://www.telesur.tv/english/news/Israel-US-Reject-UN-Resolution-To-Empower-Palestinian-Women-20160324-0057.html>

Women's Rights are Human Rights from YWCA of Palestine on International Women's Day

<https://www.facebook.com/1424491494470521/photos/a.1424596087793395.1073741828.1424491494470521/1693149037604764/?type=3&theater>