



Israel/Palestine – People break through the spiral of hatred



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For example, a group of young activists organized in September 2016 in Jerusalem four evenings for gameing with the board game 'Backgammon'. The success was great, already at the first evening 150 participants came: Palestinians with headscarf as well as orthodox Jewesses with stroller / baby carriages, strict believers with black kippa were loosely together with young people from the Arabian quarters. Special police protection was deliberately renounced. For many of the participants it was a kind of time machine, back into a more light-hearted time of everyday interaction when no barrier walls separated Arabs and Jews from each other.

Also in Switzerland – in May 2016 – at the "Day of International Friendship" – organized by Ivo Sasek – a sign of reconciliation between Jews and Palestinians could be set. Thus a Palestinian testified how he previously experienced the Six-Day-War and the subsequent wars and despite much painful experiences he was able to let go of his hatred and forgive his enemies. As a visible sign of reconciliation he embraced a woman from Israel on the stage.

When in November 2016 tens of thousands of Israelis needed to flee their homes due to major fires Palestinian firefighters helped side by side with their Israeli colleagues to bring the situation back under control.

In October 2016 the movement "Women Wage Peace" organized a 14-day "march of hope". Starting in Northern Israel 4,000 Palestinian and Israeli women walked side by side 200 km to Jerusalem to demonstrate for peace. The singer Yael Deckelbaum commented the march saying, "We were 4,000 women and half of them were Palestinians. They always told me that there is not one to make peace with. Today we proved that this is wrong. "

At the final rally in front of the residence of Prime Minister Netanyahu about 10,000 people gathered. Among others the Lebanese Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee and Michal Froman, a young woman, spoke. The late was injured in January 2016 through a knife attack done by a Palestinian teenager. Froman said at this rally:

"Choosing life means recognizing the complexity of the situation here. To learn – from necessity – to defend his life, but also to notice the misery and to stretch out a helping hand. Someone who is dead feels nothing anymore. I've chosen to feel and give space to the whole spectrum of feelings – pain, resentment, but also forgiveness and love. Death is separation. Life is encountering / meeting / coming together, life is peace. Life here will only be possible if we stop to accuse each other and stop to be victims. We all have to overcome this and accept responsibility and begin to work for life."

Also similar to the great peace marches in the Ukraine this great demonstration unfortunately was not worth a line to the local mass media. It continues being up to the people to make this wave of hope known to all friends, acquaintances and also unknown people so that it becomes imitated as much as possible. To these courageous women one can only express most heartfelt thanks and say: Great, this is exactly how to do it!

See at the end the moving impressions of the Peace March in connection with the song "Prayer of the Mothers", which was produced on the occasion of the "March of Hope" and produced by singer Yael Deckelbaum.

from tz.

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