

The Forum for Human Rights in Israel/Palestine invites you to an exchange between Swiss civil society actors (NGOs, unions, churches, associations) in the field of international cooperation, solidarity, workers rights, women's rights, peace, human rights, and consumer groups.

## Workshop with international guests

### Respect for human rights and international law: How civil society actors can respond to Israel's total disregard for international law

Wednesday, 12 May 2010, 9.15 to 12.30

Le Cap (French Church), Predigergasse 3, Bern, Room "Nicolas Manuel"

Aims of the Workshop: to open a new debate over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in light of the failure of diplomatic initiatives to further peace in the region in the last two years. Violence only leads to a dead end. Building on the example of the Ant-Apartheid movement in South Africa, more and more voices in the region and worldwide are calling for an approach that focuses on the respect for the human rights of everyone. Various campaigns have been undertaken to call for the implementation of international law. However, there is a need for widening the scope of knowledge concerning this human rights approach and open the discussion about the relevancy and legitimacy of strengthening this kind of advocacy work, including the Palestinian campaign called BDS (Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions). This workshop aims at promoting much-needed discussion and networking between different actors (including organizations which have not until now concerned themselves with the issue of Israel/Palestine) for a maximum exchange of resources, in order to give added momentum to these approaches.

The discussion will be in English.

Registration for the workshop until Monday 19 April 2010.

#### Programm

- 9.15-9.30** Welcome/Introduction, Forum for Human Rights in Israel/Palestine
- 9.30-10.00** Short introductory statements from guest speakers Hind Awwad, Udi Aloni, Basma Fahoum and Adri Nieuwhof (5' each)  
Conflict assessment; human rights approach and BDS campaign, civil society responsibility and action, examples in different areas (culture, research, business, corporate responsibility, consumer power)
- 10.00-11.00** Working groups - presentation of 4 groups  
Concrete strategies and approaches for action; priorities, resources,
- a) Military cooperation, arms manufacturers, impunity for war crimes
  - b) Trade agreements and relations, consumption, labeling, ethical codes
  - c) Financial investments, banc sector, companies, pension funds

- d) Culture, science, research; normalization, cooperation, boycott between Switzerland - Israel - Palestine

**11.15-12.15**     **Debate and Conclusion:** Common strategies, campaigns, networks to implement respect for humanitarian law and human rights; concrete steps, resources

For preparation

- “Peacemaking?” A discussion paper by the Forum for Human Rights in Israel/Palestine
- BDS-Call (see [www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net) or [www.bds-info.ch](http://www.bds-info.ch))
- More information, contacts and resources will be available at the event.

#### **Guest speakers**

**Hind Awwad**, coordinator for the Palestinian BDS National Committee, Ramallah  
[www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net)

**Udi Aloni**, filmmaker, Tel Aviv/New York  
[www.udialoni.com](http://www.udialoni.com)

**Basma Fahoum**, activist, Who profits? Coalition of Women for Peace, Tel Aviv/Nazareth  
[www.whoprofits.org](http://www.whoprofits.org)

**Adri Nieuwhof**, consultant, Human Rights activist in the Anti-Apartheid movement and the BDS-movement, Netherlands/Geneva  
[cosmos.ucc.ie/cs1064/jabowen/IPSC/php/authors.php?auid=2749](http://cosmos.ucc.ie/cs1064/jabowen/IPSC/php/authors.php?auid=2749)

*The Forum for Human Rights in Israel/Palestine is a working group made up of the following Swiss organisations which are active in the Middle East in the fields of development and human rights: Amnesty International Switzerland, Caritas Switzerland, cfd - the feminist peace organisation, Society for Threatened Peoples, Association Switzerland-Palestine, HEKS-EPER, Department for Ecumenical Affairs and Cooperation, Reformed Churches Berne-Jura-Solothurn, Horyzon - Swiss aid and development organisation for young people/YWCA, Palestine Solidarity Basel. The Forum advocates respect for human rights in Israel/Palestine. It informs on human rights situations in Israel/Palestine, on strategies that can be used to further the application of international law in the political process, as well as on possible avenues of action open in Switzerland. It also promotes awareness of the responsibility that Switzerland and the rest of the European community share in the history of the conflict in the Middle East. The Forum asks Swiss government authorities and parliamentarians to act decisively in the face of events in Israel/ Palestine.*

#### **Contact and registration:**

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