



Palestinian Youth Network Conference, November 5-9, 2008

Madrid, Spain

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Palestinians make up the world's largest refugee population constituting more than one fourth of the whole world's refugees. Palestinians living in Palestine and in refugee camps in surrounding Arab countries exist within an apartheid paradigm in which the conditions they face prohibit basic human and civil rights that should be protected by the International courts, but are not. As the discourse about a resolution to the Palestine question in the international arena continues to fail the Palestinians' rights to sovereignty, the right of return, and justice; Palestinian youth across the world have become immeasurably compelled to reclaim the historical Palestinian narrative, and to mass mobilize for justice and peace in their homeland.

This November Nearly 200 Palestinian youth between the ages of 18 and 35, from 30 countries will join together for the third annual Palestinian Youth Network Conference in Madrid Spain.

The Palestinian Youth Network (PYN) is a non-partisan alliance of Palestinian youth driven by passion to preserve their Palestinian identity and determination to work for the liberation of their homeland and people after 60 years of occupation, oppression, displacement and apartheid. The PYN initiative began by the brainstorming of young Palestinians in Spain and France and has now become a distinguished channel geared toward significant organizing for and by Palestinian youth in the homeland and in the Diaspora. This year the general assembly will elect its first ever official International Executive Board.

The first two days of the Madrid conference will bring together the founders of the network to finalize the mission, by-laws, and two years strategic action plan of activities that will be implemented and produced by Palestinians in the countries in which they reside. Following the first two days, eighty new youth will come to the conference for intensive lectures and workshops that aim to provide the youth with a basic historical knowledge of Palestinian politics and organizational methods of mass mobilization.

There will be two panels opened to Palestinian Spanish solidarity activists:

* November 7, 2008: 11:30 AM-01:30 PM: "The Palestinian National Project: Analysis and Future Perspectives" given by Dr. Asa'ad Abed Alrahman and Salah Salah.

*November 8, 2008, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM "The Historical and Future Role of Palestinian Youth in the Palestinian Struggle for Freedom" Karma Nabulsi and Husam Zalmot

Workshops:

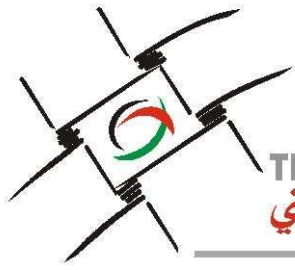
- Strategic Planning: How to end the Israeli Occupation: Ahmed Badawi
- Lobbying: George Rishmawi
- How to Contrast pro Israeli Propaganda in the Media: Ali Abunimah
- How to Utilize the Rights-Based Approach to Political Advocacy: Badil Center

For Questions or Interviews contact:

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The Palestinian Youth Network
شبكة الشباب الفلسطيني

- Cultural Resistance: Dina Omar and Tarik Khazaleh
- How to use the Apartheid Framework for Political Advocacy in Palestine: Naem Jennah

On Saturday evening, the PYN will produce an evening of Palestinian Cultural Heritage open to the public at 21:00. The performers include the Al Zaitouna Debka troupe from the UK, several poets and hip hop artists from the U.S. and a local singer from the Palestinian Spanish community. Highlighting the evening's event is young singer Mais Shalash all the way from whose voice has become iconic to represent the immense passions and desires of the Palestinian people, specifically Palestinians living in refugee camps, for freedom.

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