

The Palestinian Centre For Rapprochement Between People (PCR)



PCR

**ANNUAL REPORT
2006**

Annual Progress Report for the year 2006

Introduction:

Unlike previous years, the year 2006 witnessed an increase in the activities organized by PCR.

A youth training program started and a summer camp was organized, in addition to more developments on the media project.

The overall performance of PCR in the year 2006 was very good and more connections and cooperation with other groups and organizations were made.

While PCR continued to suffer a financial crises accumulated from previous years, it managed to build relations with new funding organizations.

1. PCR Current Projects

I. The Young Advocates Program - YAP

The Young Advocates Program (YAP) is a training project with an aim to prepare a pool of young advocates to take part in current and future activities of the Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement between People (PCR).

The project provides a civil-based platform for young Palestinians to use in their struggle for freedom against the Israeli Occupation of Palestine.

Trainees will be potential candidates for speaking tours and international youth exchange programs.

The YAP is part of the Action for Peace and Justice and Capacity building efforts that PCR has as a major part of its goals and objectives.

During the project, five training courses were held. The courses were basic ones as planned for the first stage of the year number 1. More advanced training will be given in stage two.

Evaluation session was held after each course in order to overcome problems and avoid mistakes made in stage one in the second stage.

Suggested changes include session length and frequency. The sessions were 2 hours each. Some were twice a week and other were one time per week only. Most of the trainees suggested having two sessions per week with slightly longer sessions.

The following table explains the sessions

Session	# Trainees	Hours	Frequency
Human Rights	30	30	1 Session / week
Communication	15	30	1 Session / Week
Advocacy Skills	10	30	2 Sessions / Week
Web Design	11	30	2 Sessions / Week (3 hours each)
Media Training	11	30	2 Sessions / Week (3 hours each)

The only problem that faced the project is the availability of the trainees. Some joined courses and dropped halfway because of time limitations.

Two suggested solutions:

1- To change the criteria of the target group in way that allows more committed people to join further trainings.

2- A simple fee may be considered from the participants for the second stage to discourage them from dropping.

In the first stage, trainees learned basic issues about Human Rights including the Universal declaration of Human Rights and the Palestinian basic law and the court system in Palestine.

Some of the participants joined the Activists Summer Training Camp organized by PCR, sponsored by the Quakers office in Jerusalem, in July.

During the camp, local and International participants received training in nonviolence civil-based resistance and participated in peaceful protests in Beit Sahour.

The experience in this camp made it evident that training is needed for young Palestinians. Some of the camp participants were involved in PCR for more than two years and others were new. With no doubt, the performance and attitude of the participants who were more involved in PCR were much better than those who have recently joined.

Part of the training was a trip at the annexation wall built around Bethlehem. Surprisingly, fifteen out of twenty Palestinians who live in Bethlehem did not know that the wall cuts through the Bethlehem area especially on the Rachel Tomb side.

Most of them believed the Israeli story that the wall is built on the Green line, the internationally recognized border for the lands occupied by Israel in 1967.

Although the Communication Skills training was a little interrupted because of final examinations and the Activists Summer Camp, yet trainees had a chance to learn better ways for good communication. For example, active listening was a skill that almost none of the participants had. Yet, students learned how to hold a good interactive conversation, a skill very much needed in advocacy. Most importantly, trainees learned how to respect other people's opinion and that respecting other opinion does not necessarily mean that you agree to it.

The Advocacy Skills training was conducted in August-September and was attended by 10 trainees. In the course of the training, trainees discussed core issues of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict regarding the origins of the conflict and the various stages it passed.

In addition, trainees were exposed to the political structures and the ideologies of both the Palestinian and the Israeli political parties.

The Web Pages Design training provided the trainees with skills to build basic web pages. The training was conducted in a computer lab of the Arab Orthodox Charitable Society in Beit Sahour.

This training was followed with training in media skills. Basic training in writing short news reports and how to give interviews was given. Trainees also learned how to edit audio segments in order to use them in radio programs. The trainees will be given a chance to join the International Middle East Media Center (IMEMC).

The second stage of the program will start in January of 2007 if the funds were received on time. Stage one was delayed for two months because no funds were available on the planned time.

a. Evaluation:

An evaluation session was held, where most of the participants of the different courses participated.

The participants discussed the training and pointed out what they thought is good or not. All participants agreed that there should be an advanced training to follow the basic training.

The evaluation included the logistics for the training, trainers, and the content of the trainings.

The results can be summarized as follows:

i. *The Human Rights Training:*

Thirty participants attended this session, which was 30 hours held on weekly basis. The content of the session was evaluated as fairly good, and demanded advanced training and new information.

Most of the Participants said the trainer was excellent and the style is very good. They all said they would choose him again for further training.

ii. *The Communication Skills Training:*

The course was attended by 15 participants and was held once a week and covered 30 training hours.

The participants were happy with the content of the sessions however most of them expressed dissatisfaction with the schedule, because the training was interrupted with the final exams. Therefore, they recommended that the future trainings avoid the final exams period. On the other hand, most of the trainees said the trainer was very good and would like to be with him in the further trainings.

iii. *The Advocacy training:*

Only ten participants attended the training which was held twice a week, 2 hours each session and covered 30 training hours.

The evaluation indicated that this was the best of the other four trainings included in this program. The content was seen as excellent, and the training style was great. They all said they would love more courses with the same trainer.

iv. *The Web Design Training:*

Eleven participants attended this training. They were satisfied with the content, although they said

they needed more content in the course. They said the content was complicated because it included some coding training. They all thought they need more training in this field as it is new to them.

However, they were not pleased with the trainer because the training was given in English as the trainer was an American resident of Palestine. The trainees graded the trainer 6 out of 10.

v. *The Media training:*

Similar to the Web Training, 11 participants attended. All trainees said the content of the training was very good and the performance of the trainer was good. The trainer is the same web trainer. However, apparently after 30 hours of web training trainees got used to the language. In this training, the trainees graded the same trainer 8 out of 10.

b. *Conclusion & Recommendations:*

The over all evaluation of the training was very good, and most of the participants expressed will and readiness to participate in further trainings. They however recommended that future trainings avoid the Exams period and preferred Arabic-speaking trainers. In addition, participants asked for Material for the training and more audio-visual illustrations to be provided.

II. *The Activists Summer Camp – July 16 – 26, 2006*

23 young Palestinians and Internationals joined in the Activist Summer Camp organized by the Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement between People and The American Friends Service Committee and the Holy Land Trust.

The camp was held on 16 – 27 of July and provided a chance for young people to get involved and enhance their skills in civil-based resistance, and to increase their knowledge about Palestine in terms of politics, history and Geography.

The camp included training, sight seeing, educational trips and some sports and entertainment.

There were five days of on-site training with two sessions per day. The typical camp day starts with a 3-hour training session after breakfast followed by a lunch break then, another 3-hour training session followed by dinner.

The camp was based at the YMCA which provided showers and a modest kitchen. Food was usually brought to the camp cooked by a local family which gave the trainees and especially the international ones a sense about the Palestinian cuisine. The sessions used to be held outdoors under the trees.

There were three field trips during the camp. The first one was in Bethlehem area. It was not a sight-seeing only trip. The campers visited the Church of the Nativity and Solomon's pools in the morning. Then visited the Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem where they listened to a lecture by Dr. Jad Isaac about the latest development on the ground with a focus on the geo-political situation in Palestine.

The trip also included a tour around the annexation wall in Bethlehem area to show the impact of the wall on the local Palestinian population of Bethlehem.

The second trip was to Hebron, where the activists of the camp met with the Christian Peace Makers Teams who took them around in the old city of Hebron where they saw the way the Israeli army is controlling the live of the Palestinian people including their religious life.

The trip was intense as the situation in Hebron is intense. The presence of the armed settlers in Hebron turned the city to become a ghost town.

The third trip was more of an entertainment and sight seeing. The group visited the oldest and lowest point on earth; Jericho. The group also visited Hisham Palace, an old Islamic Palace of the Abbasid era.

The camp was set to accommodate 30 participants; however, Egyptian, Moroccan and other participants from East Europe were not granted VISA to Israel, therefore they could not join the camp. Only those from Palestine, UK, and the USA joined the camp.

The training was offered by trainers some of which have been practicing nonviolent resistance and have been involved in civil based resistance for long times.

c. The training covered some of the important basics of nonviolent resistance. The following topics were covered during the camp.

1. Intro to Conflict, Conflict analysis & understanding
2. Response to Violence
3. Introduction to Nonviolence & Practical Role Play
4. Nonviolent Resistance to Injustice
5. Communication Skills
6. Media Work for Organizers
7. Democracy, Human Rights & Peace building
8. Action Planning and Goal Setting

d. Camp Activities:

- 1- Participants watched Gandhi Film
- 2- Planned and prepared to join a nonviolent demonstration in Al-Khader village, however the demonstration was cancelled in the last moment.
- 3- The camp hosted Ghassan Andoni, founder of the Rapprochement Center (PCR) and co-founder of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) who is nominated for the Noble Peace Prize by the American Friends Service Committee.
- 4- On one evening, the camp participants joined a demonstration in Beit Sahour organized by a local group in the town to protest the Israeli offensives against Lebanon and Gaza Strip.
- 5- One dinner was taken at the house of one of the local participants in town.
- 6- The camp hosted a concert by a group of young Palestinians from Beit Sahour
- 7- Fare-well party was held as a simple graduation celebration at the Citadel restaurant in the old city of Beit Sahour.

III. The International Middle East Media Center (IMEMC)

1- Volunteers & Staff

During the year, PCR hosted quite a good number of long and short term volunteers, especially during the summer.

Pennie Quinton, a British volunteer with radio experience helped develop the audio section. She

worked partially in the office and spent the rest of her time in different parts of the west bank and made audio reports for IMEMC and were also aired on Renaissance Radio in UK, where she works. Pennie, also helped editing IMEMC reports and is coming back in February 2007 to help with IMEMC Audio Department. Pennie started the Palestine Today news cast which became a daily program produced by IMEMC.

Seth Porcello, a Canadian volunteer from the CKUT Radio in Montreal also helped develop and enhance the audio quality. He also spent his time between the office and visiting different areas in the West Bank and also produced reports about Bil'in and Jenin in addition to his contribution to the IMEMC Audio reports.

Hanin Amr, Tania Tabar and Vivian Tabar are three volunteers from Canada, also involved with the CKUT. They volunteered with PCR based on an exchange program with CKUT and produced several audio pieces during their time with IMEMC. Hanin and Tania spent six weeks in July and August, while Vivian spent 3 weeks in Nazareth with another media organization "I'laam" and came to IMEMC for two weeks only.

The Exchange with CKUT has a second stage where an IMEMC team member will go to work for six weeks with CKUT in Montreal. The program is a beginning of an ongoing cooperation with CKUT, who regularly air IMEMC reports.

Freda Guttman, also from Montreal, Canada joined the IMEMC team for three months, June through August. Freda helped editing IMEMC reports and also tried to work on Grant writing for PCR.

She submitted a proposal to Open Society Institute (OSI) and George Soros organization for core funding, however, the fund was not granted.

During her time in PCR, Freda who is an artist produced two post cards showing the different stages of building the illegal settlement of Har Homa on Abu Ghoneim Mountain, and the uprooting of olive trees for the construction of the annexation wall in the West Bank.

Stacy Miller and Nazim Bouadjemi are two Americans who volunteered in PCR through the Travel and Encounter Program of the Holy Land Trust. Stacy was mainly editing the IMEMC reports and sometimes contributed some articles to the site, while Nazim was mainly working on collecting material and footage for a planned documentary film on PCR.

Nazim donated an external Hard Drive of 400 GB to PCR, which is very helpful for the audio archiving.

Jacque Shoen, is another American student of journalism who participated in the Summer Activist Camp in Beit Sahour, and decided to become a volunteer for IMEMC. Jackie was of a great help as she was the main editor for more than four months. In addition, she voiced the daily and sometimes the weekly reports.

The volunteers supported the IMEMC staff and helped develop their skills. Therefore, PCR will continue to look for volunteers to fill up the shortage in staff due to the financial crisis.

2- *IMEMC Audio Reports*

IMEMC has been producing Audio reports since late 2004. The Audio production was

limited to the weekly report. It used to be produced outside the office, until the Studio was built by a fund from the Canadian Friends Service Committee.

a. *This Week in Palestine*

This Week in Palestine is a weekly report which provides a socio-political update regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in addition to the major events of the week and the latest developments in the region. The report is usually 10 – 15 minutes long with some exceptions. The report is produced on Fridays and is being aired on many community radios in different parts of the world, especially in the US, UK and Australia. The report is usually supported by actualities, including interviews with top Palestinian officials and leaders, average residents, resistance fighters and international and local peace activists.

b. *Palestine Today*

Palestine Today is a daily short news cast which provides information about the main incidents of the day in addition to some political developments. The report is usually 4 – 6 minutes covering arrests, invasions, assassinations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestine Today includes sometimes interviews with people on the ground.

c. *Headlines and Feature Stories*

IMEMC continued to produce Headlines and Feature stories to Free Speech Radio News (FSRN) in the USA who broadcast them on their Radio stations. “Democracy Now” and Pacifica Radio have also aired some of IMEMC Audio reports. Headlines and Feature stories are being produced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to FSRN. The stories are prepared by reporters and then recorded in the Studio. Interviews with a wide variety of figures and average people and politicians have been conducted through out the past year and were all included in headlines and feature stories.

IMEMC is planning to include other languages for the Audio programs and the text coverage as well.

3- *IMEMC Coverage*

The IMEMC reporting covers news related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip and Israel. In addition, IMEMC covers related news and incident and political developments in any part of the world as much as possible.

IMEMC continue to depend on different trusted independent media outlets and sources its articles from them. In most of the cases, especially for the local news, IMEMC double checks the reports to verify the facts.

IMEMC is planning to reformat the Website and use a different technology. The new format will use Oscailt, a PHP code used by some of the Indymedia sites, and was developed by Ireland Indymedia. The source code is offered for free. A group called “Cauterized” had generously donated the Web hosting for IMEMC which solved a very complicated technical problem, instead of saving some money. The Hosting at Cauterized started in September of 2006. Prior to this new host, IMEMC had some setbacks due to server issues.

IV. The Candle Procession: Light a Candle for the End of Violence and the Unity of the Nation and Lifting the blockade

At least 2000 Palestinians and Internationals joined the Candle Light procession in the town of Beit Sahour on Christmas Day to light a candle for the End of Violence, Unity of the Nation and the Lifting of the Blockade imposed on the Palestinian people.

The march was organized by the Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement between people and is the first of its kind that is organized by the civil society organizations.

The march started at around 4 pm and was accompanied by local boy-scout groups where the music was playing Christmas carols and songs calling for peace.

The marchers carried torches and candles and signs calling for the end of violence and end of the Israeli occupation to the Palestinian land and the removal of the separation wall.

The parade arrived at the hall of the main church in town where the crowd were welcomed by the march organizers. Following the Palestinian National Anthem that was played Bag pipers of the boy scouts of the Arab Orthodox and Club, the Pax-Christi Netherlands choir chanted some Christmas Carols.

The Mayor of Beit Sahour, Mr. Hani El-Hayek spoke to the crowd saying that the march is an example of unity among the Palestinian People. "In Gaza they were fighting, and here in Beit Sahour we are marching hand in hand in unity," said Mr. El-Hayek.

The National Follow up committee which represents all the Palestinian factions and the civil society organizations in Beit Sahour issued a statement in which the committee stressed several issues including the immediate end to all forms of infighting called for the unity of the Palestinian people. The statement also called for an immediate release of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Mr. Lutfi Abu Hasheesh the coordinator of the committee said, the infighting and the internal violence in Palestine is a crime against the nation and the cause.

This march came after clashes that erupted between Hamas and Fatah supporters in the Gaza Strip and some areas of the West Bank, which claimed the lives of several Palestinians, including three children, following the call of the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for early elections.

The procession is an annual activity that is being organized since 1991. The first march was titled, "Light a Candle for Peace and Justice" and was a joint Palestinian-Israeli activity during the first Intifada.

2. International Activities & Participation

I. Next Stop Denmark

In the time of an escalating crisis between Denmark and Muslim countries, *The Danish Association for International Cooperation* thought there is a need for dialogue between Danish and Muslim youth. Therefore, the DCA organized a program called, Next Stop Denmark,

through which 50 young people from a number of countries in the Middle East to visit Denmark for a week in March.

The whole incident symbolizes a vital need for cultural and political dialogue to deepen our knowledge of other peoples.

PCR participated by sending two of its activists, Mousa Sheikh Yousef, Board member and Nahid Jibrin, to Denmark for one week during which they met with Danish youth and other Muslim youth from different countries around the world.

The program was fully covered by the Danish Association for International Cooperation, including flight tickets and accommodation in Denmark.

II. Tunis Meeting

A meeting was held in Tunis in August of 2006 to plan for more cooperation among five Mediterranean countries namely, France, Italy, Tunis, Morocco and Palestine.

PCR Participated in the meeting by sending Nisreen Al-Bardaweel. The program was partially covered by the France and Italy. The Participant had to pay for the transportation to and from Tunis including the flight ticket.

The meeting resulted in planning for Tunis, France, Morocco to participate in the POPOLI Festival 2007 in Corsano Italy in August 2007.

PCR submitted a simple plan for the organizers of the camp and was accepted. Since the festival is cultural in nature, PCR will present the Palestinian culture in Italy through performing the Palestinian Wedding, and some folklore dancing and Arabic food.

III. Seminar on Nonviolence in Amman-Jordan

PCR took part in the first seminar of its kind on Nonviolent Resistance organized by Catalan organization NOVA.

The seminar which was held in Amman-Jordan joined for the first time at least 17 Arab trainers of nonviolence and leaders of nonviolent movements in their countries.

Trainers from Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq met to discuss the creation of a network for Arab Organizations involved in training and leading Nonviolent Activities in their countries.

The network will aim at trying to find support for the member organizations and to share training material and experience in this field.

PCR as a leading organization in nonviolence was invited by NOVA who promotes the role of civil society in solving conflicts.

PCR was represented by its director George N. Rishmawi whop joined the first session of the seminar which was held between October 29 – Nov 1, 2006.

PCR presented a proposed structure for the network to the group to discuss and shared the long experience of the PCR in peace work and nonviolence which started in 1988, during the first Intifada.

IV. Youth Advocacy Team

Elias Deis of Beit Sahour represented PCR in the Youth Advocacy Team, a joint project of the United Network of Young Peace Builders and Fundacion Cultura de Paz.

PCR participation came in the sixth year of the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-violence, declared by the United Nations' General Assembly (2001 – 2010).

Elias was a member of a team of twelve youth peace activists descended upon the headquarters of the United Nations, to lobby over a two-week period from 9th to 20th of October, 2006, for further commitments to the realization of a Culture of Peace.

3. Local Activities & Participation

Palestinian Counseling Center

PCR Participated in several local activities and programs, in the West Bank.

PCR joined the workshops of the Palestinian Counseling Center in Ramallah who are organizing a program for young people.

PCR's participation will be in the Gender issues and nonviolence. The program is meant to get youth involved in discussions about these issues, among other issues, and to cast their opinion.

The Project tackles issues related to Gender Issues, Violence Behavior and The Effect of the Occupation on the youth Creativity.

Student Forum

PCR Also participated in some of the activities organized by the Student Forum. PCR Director spoke to the youth group in the organization about the main achievements of PCR since it started. PCR and the Student Forum are planning a joint project together with the Quaker-Palestine group. The Program is related to youth role in Media with a goal to train some people who work for different official and non-official organizations on media issues to enhance the publication level in these organizations.

A project proposal has been prepared and will be sent to donors as soon as possible.

Wi'am – PCR Meetings

PCR held two meetings that both youth groups of PCR and Wi'am center in Bethlehem. The first meeting was held on The Independence Day, November 15 at Wi'am Center during which participants played a Q&A game. The questions were focused on the Declaration of Independence of Nov. 15, 1988.

The second meeting was at PCR premises where the participants joined a workshop about Gender Issues held by Linda Jarayseh.

4. PCR Finance:

PCR continued to suffer a serious financial crisis through the year of 2006 which restricted its development. Lack of funding disabled PCR to employ more people to handle activities and projects. This resulted in adding a heavy load on the existing employees and short term volunteers.

PCR received some General donations from different individuals; however, although they were very helpful, they stood short of breaking even with the PCR expenses, which resulted in a deficit in the fiscal year 2006.

During this year, PCR spent a total of \$81,013.45 and received only \$36,712.93 leaving a deficit of \$44,300.52. PCR covered the deficit from its reserve money in the bank.

Following is the audited Statement of Income and Expenses for the Year ending December 31, 2006.

Statement of Income and Expenses for PCR as for the year ending 12/31/2006			
Income	USD	Expenditures	USD
<i>Revenues</i>		<i>Expenses</i>	
Donations	\$11,375.17	Salaries	\$21,100.00
YAP (Oxfam-GB)	\$13,300.00	YAP	\$11,111.60
IMEMC (FSRN + CFSC)	\$4,775.00	IMEMC	\$8,165.93
Summer Camp (AFSC)	\$5,000.00	Refund for Peace Quest – Sweden	\$7,175.00
Summer Camp (Participation Fees)	\$1647.89	Activists Summer Camp	\$6,285.29
Interest Revenue	<u>\$614.87</u>	Candles Procession Project	\$1,703.96
Total Income	\$36,712.93	Office Rent	\$4,800.00
		Telephone + Cell Phone	\$3,998.02
		Electricity	\$2,328.52
		Cleaning	\$967.82
		Audit Fees 2005	\$1,000.00
		Termination Compensation	\$2,050.00
		Computer Expenses	\$806.53
		Gifts and Donations	\$750.00
		Income Tax for Salaries	\$739.93
		Transportation	\$543.20
		Bank Charges	\$442.66
		Entertainment	\$352.36
		Stationary	\$405.05
		Repair & Maintenance	\$164.10
		Property Tax	\$144.04
		Miscellaneous	\$117.55
		Water	\$68.69
		Different in Exchange	\$47.79
		Depreciation Expense	5745.41
		Total Expenses	
		Excess of Income over Expense	<u>(\$44,300.52)</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$36,712.93</u>	TOTAL	<u>\$36,712.93</u>

List of this years Donors:

<i>Individual Donors:</i>	
Ann Roberts	\$2,000.00
M A Qavi	\$2,300.00
Mike Mullinix	\$240.00
William	\$11,375.00
<i>Donor Organizations:</i>	
Oxfam-GB	\$13,300.00
Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC)	\$2,180.00
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	\$5,000.00
Total Donations	