

## Newsletter

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**Shabab FM** is a community radio station broadcasting on 97.9 FM in Birzeit and Ramallah areas, in Palestine. It is an independent media, promoted by the civil society and the local community and lead by youth and women. The objectives of Shabab FM are the following:

- strengthen social cohesion and participatory processes in Palestine, also in order to promote conflict resolution practices by communication tools
- empower the social protagonism of women and youth in Palestinian society
- spread independent information and build networks with international media involved in human rights issues

The project is promoted by [COSPE](#), [PYU](#) and [AMISnet](#), cofinanced by European Commission.

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### Against the nuclear arms race

The "Review conference of the parties to the treaty on the non proliferation of nuclear weapons" took place in New York from 4 to 15 May 2009. Giorgio Alba, the founder of Bang, Ban All Nukes Generation Network, participated in the New York conference. We talk with him about the US position towards Israel. "In this conference we tried to find diplomatic solutions, respecting the rights of each country; our objective is to build a common ground with middle-eastern countries to prevent this nuclear arms race" said Alba.

[Click here to download the audiofile](#)

Khaldoun,  
Amisnet

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### The voice of rap

**DAM** is a rap group, active in Palestine from ten years. It is composed by three boys from the slums of Lod, a mix Arab-Jewish city, 20 km. from Jerusalem. Their songs are basically in Arabic, but some of them are in English and Hebrew, in order to be more communicative. DAM songs deal with the conflict, the human rights in Palestine, but also with Palestinian society, with sensitive issues, such as terrorism, drug, women's rights. Radio Shabab met DAM during their last concert in Birzeit, and we had a short interview with Mahmud Jreri, singer and author of some DAM's songs.

As rap group, do you deal with specific subjects?

There are no main issues, or specific subjects. We reflect our reality, which is a complex of social, political and personal problems. So, we fate all in our songs. We have love songs, it's not only one issue, but you can say that basically it's a protest music.

Promoting hip hop, from your point of view, is a cultural role in Palestinian society?

What we are doing is since 1999, so from ten years we're already doing Arabic hip-hop. It depends on which area we sing. Here, it's the first time we do a show in Bierzeit, but in different places, like Ramallah, all people accept the music. Lots of people accept the new genre hip-hop, and they all like it because in our music we're speaking on feelings that themselves are feeling in the same time, so when I'm singing about something and they feel it, it's hard for them to refuse it.

In your songs we can listen to words like peace, Israel and Palestine; what is your opinion about the conflict?

The Israelis and zionist people have to say sorry to the Palestinian people, for what they have been doing for more than a half century. They should say sorry about transfer Palestinians, they should say sorry because they have killed them, and then we can seat together and talk about a solution. Personally, and also as DAM's point of view, I don't believe in the "two countries solution", because it's not a solution for a far distance. I believe in a solution which lets the people live, and doesn't matter if he's a Jewish if he's Muslim or Christian. We don't feel to make one country for one religion, but only a country for everyone, and everyone can live here.



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**What is your opinion about the divisions in the Palestinian society?**

There's one of my songs I called "I want peace". This time I don't want peace between Israel and Palestine, but I want peace between my brothers, between the different parties, between Fatah and Hamas, so in this song we express that DAM is against this. We should all be one, so we want peace.

**Can you send a small gift to our public?**

Salam to Radio Al Shabab and to all the people listening to us, here with you Dam and Mahmud, which is my name [rap version, in Arabic].

Gianni Toma  
radio Shabab FM

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## Olive Picking Program 2009

For the sixth continuous year, the Joint Advocacy Initiative of the East Jerusalem YMCA and YWCA of Palestine ([JAI](#)) and the Alternative Tourism Group ([ATG](#)) are organizing the sixth *Olive Picking Program 2009* in Palestine from 17<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2009. This agricultural event is of special significance to the Palestinian economy when all energies and efforts are mobilized.

Since the beginning of the second Intifada in 2000, the olive harvest has been overshadowed by the Israeli policies of repression, closure, blockage of streets, confiscation of agricultural lands, as well as repeated attacks against Palestinian farmers by Israeli settlers. Now with the construction the Apartheid Wall and the expansion of Israeli settlements at the expense of agricultural land in the occupied Palestine, many farmers are separated from their trees.

Building on experience from previous years, the [JAI](#) and the [ATG](#) have planned a program for civil international solidarity with Palestinian people and farmers. The objective of this program is to mobilize as many people as possible for olive picking, especially in areas that are situated in proximity to Israeli settlements and bypass roads, in order to help Palestinian farmers harvest their olive trees which they might be unable to do without international support.

Besides picking olives, the program will feature introductory presentations about the organizing institutions, the current situation in Palestine and the effect of the Apartheid Wall, tours in the old city of Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, a tour of Hebron, cultural evenings and social gatherings, organized in collaboration with [ARIJ](#), [AIC](#), [BADIL](#), [HRC](#), [ICAHD](#).

The cost of the program including accommodation, meals, guides, local transportation and other relevant expenses is \$620. Accommodation can be arranged at a hotel or with a local family. A tour guide will be present with the group at all times for facilitation purposes.

For any other information, questions, concerns, or to request a registration form, please contact:

-Jawad Musleh, Alternative Tourism Group, [jawad@atg.ps](mailto:jawad@atg.ps), tel: +970-2-2772151

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To learn more about previous season: [Olive Picking Program 2008](#)

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## Bil'in International Conference on Non-Violent Resistance

***The fourth edition of the conference have been held in April 22-24, 2009, with the participation of Palestinian, Israeli and international NGOs, peace movements, academics and politicians. We publish the Closing Statement of the Conference.***

As we conclude our conference today, we remember our friend and fellow in struggle, Bassem Abu Rahma, who was killed by the Israeli army last Friday during the weekly peaceful demonstration. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family and we wish them peace in these hard times. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Tristan Anderson and his family. Tristan, an American solidarity activist, was shot and seriously injured by the Israeli army last month while he was visiting Ni'lin village.

The Fourth Bil'in Conference for Non-Violent Resistance is held this year at a critical stage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. As Israeli violence and oppression against the Palestinian people to force it into submission has intensified, and an extremist Israeli government ascended to power, the Palestinian leadership is unacceptably divided and weakened. Palestinians in Gaza are still suffering from the impact of the barbaric Israeli attack on them in Operation Cast Lead and the inhumane blockade imposed on the Strip for years now. In the West Bank, the Israeli authorities have intensified its ethnic cleansing efforts especially in



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the Jerusalem area, through house evictions, systematic killings, detentions, settlement building and the construction of the Apartheid Wall. Through an elaborate control system of more than 600 military checkpoints and hundred of military orders of house demolitions, land confiscation and blockade, Israel is actively creating facts on the ground that shall render any peaceful settlement of the conflict impossible.

Facing this painful reality, the Palestinian people must continue and develop their popular resistance to protect their basic rights to life and freedom and realize their aspirations of a peaceful future, like the rest of the world.

The participants of the Fourth Bil'in Conference for Non-Violent Resistance are committed to the rights of the Palestinian people through: supporting and promoting popular forms of resistance throughout the occupied Palestinian territories, encouraging the Palestinian leadership and civil society to assume a more active role in the popular resistance movement, promoting the culture of resistance and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel, unifying the Palestinian people geographically and politically through involving Palestinians the Gaza Strip in the popular movement and helping overcome the blockade and isolation, and raising the awareness of the daily realities of Palestinian suffering under the occupation through field visits.

The participants of the Conference emphasize the importance of the popular resistance as an effective strategy to resist oppression. Recently, several popular resistance campaigns throughout the occupied Palestinian territories have been launched or expanded. The participants discussed the developments in Ni'lin, Al-Ma'sara, the Jordan Valley, Southern Hebron and Bil'in as models of effective popular resistance. This is complemented by important developments in the BDS movement on the international level. In France and Canada, law suits have been filed against those who benefit from the occupation and settlements. The New York-based boycott campaign against settlement-builder, Lev Leviev, has spread to the UK and Norway.

Based on the discussion in the Conference and the workshops, the participants have decided to adopt the following unifying strategies as a basis for the work on the popular resistance movement:

### **Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Against Israel (BDS)**

1. Holding organizing conferences within the different regions active in BDS to coordinate BDS campaigns and initiatives.
2. Based on the resolution adopted by the World Social Forum this past January, it was decided to hold the Global BDS Day of Action on March 30 of each year, which also coincides with Land Day.

### **Promoting legal accountability for war crimes**

1. Intensifying the popular campaigns locally and internationally to prosecute Israeli war criminals.
2. Coordinating between the Palestinian civil society and human rights organizations in Europe and the US involved in prosecuting Israeli war criminals.

### **Spreading and supporting the popular nonviolent resistance**

1. Creating a coordination committee including representatives of the popular committees who attended the conference in order to facilitate the implementation of the conclusions of the Bil'in Annual conference on Popular Resistance and to support the popular resistance.
2. Increasing the coordination between the Popular Committees.
3. Providing accessible data on the activities of the Palestinian popular resistance movement.
4. Reaching out to media, focusing on success stories of the popular resistance movement.
5. Sharing experiences and learning from other popular movements around the world.
6. Differentiating between the role of the popular movement and that of the Palestinian Authority political parties and factions.

### **Building an international movement in solidarity with Palestine**

1. Improving coordination of international civil society groups working in solidarity with the popular nonviolent resistance, through transversal initiatives like the working groups of the World Social Forum for Palestine.
2. Strengthening communication, advocacy and lobbying capacity of the solidarity movements focusing on respect of international law and human rights in Palestine, and putting more pressure on foreign governments and politicians.
3. Joining the BDS movement, promoting fair trade relationships with Palestine, rejecting the upgrading of cooperation agreements between the European Union and Israel and asking for suspension of such agreements till Israel violates international law.
4. Pressing governments and parliaments worldwide to take a position against the siege on Gaza, holding Israeli war criminals accountable in international tribunals (including a Russell Tribunal for Palestine) and highlighting the voice of Israeli anti-occupation groups who denounce those crimes.
5. Empowering other international initiatives to: contrast arms trade with Israel, protect



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Palestinian prisoners, promote twinning projects with Palestinian towns/universities/refugee camps, send civilian peace teams to the Occupied Territories and organize field visits of politicians, lawyers, journalists.

The participants also demand the following:

### On the Palestinian level

1. Achieving national unity, which is a prerequisite for national liberation.
2. Serious efforts by the Palestinian president and government to implement the ruling of the International Court of Justice of July 9, 2004 and the subsequent UN General Assembly resolution.
3. Supporting the popular resistance movement by the Palestinian leadership and officials and taking a firm stance against the Judaization and ethnic cleansing of Jerusalem as well as the expansion of the settlements and the construction of the Apartheid Wall.
4. The endorsement by the Palestinian national factions of the popular resistance, namely BDS movement.

### On the Israeli level

1. Strengthening the relations with Israel peace groups that join the Palestinian popular resistance against the occupation and oppression.
2. Rejecting any and all forms of normalization and isolating those involved in it.

### On the International level

1. Institutionalizing the relations between the Palestinian popular resistance movement and international solidarity activists and inviting more activists to join and support the movement.
2. Calling on all the international organizations, unions, peace activists and civil society institutions to present the Palestinian narrative as they witnessed first hand and combat the Israeli propaganda that dehumanizes the Palestinian people.

Finally, the participants of the Conference decided that Bil'in International Conference on Non-Violent Resistance will be held in April of each year.

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