



Call for donations



Please Contact:

COURAGE FOR PEACE

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Please ask for the new brochure and spread this call widely
www.courage-for-peace.com (under construction)



THERE IS A PARTNER ON THE OTHER SIDE

It sounds trivial, but it is extremely rare, if not unique, that the Palestinian coordinator Mohammed from a village near Qalquilia, a city on the West Bank, enclosed by the Israeli Separation Wall, and the moderator Shulti from a kibbutz in northern Israel are working together as a tandem in peace-education - since 15 years – against very many difficulties. They organized meetings for hundreds of young people who – in the beginning - were just curious to meet 'the others' but after two weeks many of them were emotionally shaken or completely changed their opinion. Mohammed and Shulti worked without any institutional framework, meanwhile also independently from the action "Vacation from War."

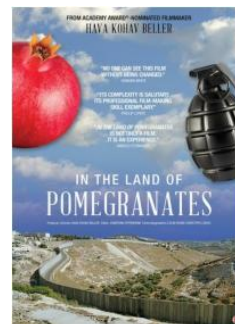
Movie: 'In the land of Pomegranates'

It was not easy for Hava Beller -a well-known documentary film maker from New York- to record this movie because most of the young people from Israel and Palestine rejected strictly all photographs and tapes. Coming back home they fear to be branded as traitors on both sides. It took Hava more than two years to build trust before she could start working.

<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/in-the-land-of-pomegranates-2018>

Video in German and English : 'German wave', 'Deutsche Welle'

<https://www.dw.com/en/reporters-sandra-havenith-joins-young-israelis-and-palestinians-as-they-take-a-break-from-the-middle-east-conflict/av-5855958>
[ferien-vom-nahost-konflikt/av-5855829](https://www.dw.com/en/ferien-vom-nahost-konflikt/av-5855829)



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www.courage-for-peace.com (under construction) or **online** via
<https://www.spendenportal.de/projekte/projekt/15935>

COURAGE FOR PEACE – Encounters, Dialogue-Seminars and nonviolent joint actions for young people from Israel and Palestine

The Near-East conflict is always viewed from above and from the outside. International leaders meet wherever in the world and negotiate peace plans and roadmaps. This has not improved the situation since 50 years. On the contrary! In retrospect, doubts arise whether these negotiations were conducted seriously.

The perspective of COURAGE FOR PEACE is from below by a grassroots approach and from inside the territories and societies. In the tense situation, in 2002, during the Second Intifada, Helga Dieter initiated the campaign 'Vacation from War' (Committee for Fundamental Rights and Democracy). She has had seven years of experience, with orphans and refugee children from the battlefields in the former Yugoslavia, spending their holidays together by the sea.

The young adults from Israel and Palestine were invited to Germany for joint dialogue seminars with the goal of a non-violent social movement that beyond walls and borders puts pressure on the rulers on both sides. The interest of young people was greater than our donation volume and our team could afford. From 2002 to 2014, more than 1,000 Israelis and 1,000 Palestinians participated in meetings. They spent together two weeks in a hostel with a demanding seminar program. The feedback comments often tell in moving words how important and unique this experience has been personally (see brochure). There is a great need for such meetings, but it is often overlaid by intimidation, prohibitions and fear of punishment as traitors.

The drawback of the project from the beginning was that almost 200 participants returned home each year, who were motivated to continue to work together politically. There is no support from a network or infrastructure to encourage them.

The first encounters in Germany focus on the process of understanding and rapprochement. **COURAGE FOR PEACE** requires this experience. It is about supporting advanced concepts for peace activists, deepens them and makes possible new opportunities through networking. 'COURAGE FOR PEACE' is independent from political institutions also from 'Vacation from War'. The new team in Germany is not interested in a follow-up-cooperation and dismissed the 'old' coordinators and facilitators from Israel and Palestine. Since 2014 they want to start something new..

Since 2017 four seminars **COURAGE FOR PEACE** took place in Aqaba/Jordan for former participants, who want to become active and other groups who want to take part in joint activities. The young people discuss possibilities to meet, to exchange and networking as well as training in nonviolent resistance.

But no one should be endangered. On both sides dialogue projects are controversial. The verdict of 'normalization' means to boycott all contacts to Israelis as part of the BDS campaign in the Palestinian civil society. On the Israeli side, the official criminalization of contacts becomes really frightening.

In our new brochure we summarize all joint activities of the former participants and follow-up activities of the groups. It is an impressive collection from olive-picking to the astonishing draft of a peace-contract after the simulation of peace-negotiations. Then follow reports of the successful meetings in Aqaba. The seminars show that a constant coordination is necessary for the exchange of ideas and networking of activities.

'Courage for Peace' needs your donation to continue the advanced training in Aqaba and the networking coordination with other peace initiatives. Please read our new brochure and pass it over to friends.

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