

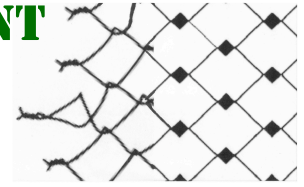
THE FREE PALESTINE MOVEMENT

405 Vista Heights Road, El Cerrito, CA 94530, USA

Telephone: +1 510-232-2500

Email: contact@freepalestinemovement.org

Website: www.freepalestinemovement.org



The Palestinian Return from Exile Project

The Palestinian Return from Exile Project is proposed by the Free Palestine Movement as a creative means of exercising Palestinian rights and challenging Israel's dispossession of Palestinians from their homes. It is, however, a plan that FPM can only facilitate and support and which must be led and implemented mainly by Palestinian organizations and individuals, with international support.

The plan

On May 14, 2010, more than 100 Palestinians and supporters will fly to Lid airport (Ben Gurion International Airport). They will take a variety of routes and arrive on different flights. Both the Palestinians and their supporters will be nationals who do not ordinarily require visas to visit Israel. However, they will be selected from among those who have personally been denied permission to enter.

The nationalities of the volunteers will qualify them to board the flights. However, Israeli customs authorities will probably stop them upon arrival, place them in detention, and try to deport them as soon as possible. El Al flights should be avoided, where Israeli security would probably prevent boarding.

The volunteers will nonviolently resist deportation, through non-cooperation and by refusing to comply with airline passenger requirements. Previous resistance of this type has shown that the captain of the aircraft will refuse to accept such passengers, who will then be returned to detention.

Lawyers will be arranged in advance, who will argue that the volunteers should be permitted to exercise their right to enter, and to remain at least until their cases are heard. Some cases may be appealed to the High Court and possibly to the International Court of Justice, if there is a means to do so.

The message

The message is that the volunteers want only to visit their homes and country. They will carry copies of documents and pictures showing their place of origin, and possibly copies of keys, as well. They will insist that although they have the right to live in their homes, their purpose at this time is merely to visit. If, in fact, Israel chooses to let some or all of the volunteers enter, that is exactly what they will do.

The message will be amplified by a network of supporting organizations and a media committee that will prepare and coordinate media efforts. Its proposed date is intended to compete with and build upon news coverage of Israeli celebrations, and to educate the public about the Palestinian Nakba.

Next steps

The Free Palestine Movement is seeking Palestinian organizations, groups and individuals who wish to further discuss this project and to participate in its planning and implementation. It is expected that the suggestions in this proposal will be modified through such a process.