



Iltezam Morrar

Women's leader, Budrus

“I asked my dad, ‘How come there are only men in the marches? I think women also have to be there.’ He said, ‘Marches are not the monopoly of men. Women are welcome.’ There was incredible enthusiasm. When women marched to the construction site, they were fired up. There was a sense of defiance. We’re going to take action. From then on, no march had only men.”



Gila Svirsky

Women's Coalition, Women in Black

“The border police exploded with stun grenades and tear gas and horses [...] Consistently in recent weeks all hell has broken loose at nonviolent demonstrations because the soldiers allow themselves to do this. Today I read a very angry response in Hebrew from an Israeli who read my report about the incident and accused me of looking for ways to harm Israel from within and to bring the wrath of the world against Israel. It's very painful.”





Ali Abu Awwad

Bereaved Families Forum, Al Tareek

“An Israeli general said that nonviolence is the most dangerous weapon Palestinians possess, because it undermines all the excuses for the occupation and the legitimacy they claim to have when destroying a house or assassinating someone.”



Kobi Snitz

Anarchists Against the Wall

“I do consider a demonstration to be nonviolent even if some of the participants are not above being provoked. As far as the demonstrations in Palestine, the youth who respond with stones are not exactly part of the demonstration. They have their own tactics, which they pursue mostly separately from the rest of the demonstration, and even the army sort of understands that distinction.”





Ayed Morrar

Leader of nonviolence movement, Budrus

“I felt that in order to succeed we had to empty our minds of traditional thinking and start being strategic. If you want people to follow you, you need to value them. You can’t simply tell them to get behind you, or say, ‘Don’t worry about it, I’ll create the tactics and you just follow me.’ That won’t work. You need to make them feel that you need them.”

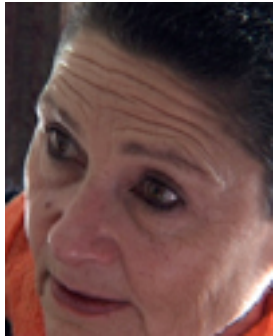




Sami Awad
Holy Land Trust

“According to the common definition of nonviolence, any act that doesn’t cause harm to the person on the other side can be called nonviolent. If stones are thrown at a distant group of soldiers when it is obvious that they won’t reach them, the act is symbolic and is considered nonviolent. [...] In my opinion it is the other side’s interpretation, and not my own, which determines whether an act is judged as violent or nonviolent. If an Israeli soldier considers a stone thrown at him a reason to use violence to defend himself, we have lost the struggle. I stress that this is my personal and philosophical opinion.”





Robi Damelin

Bereaved Families Forum

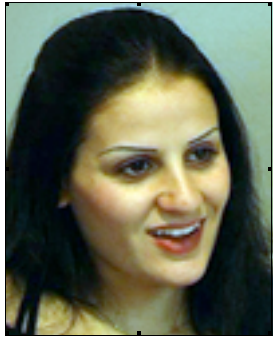
“I remember when Nelson Mandela came out of prison and he was speaking in a stadium. People were standing there with sticks, ready for revenge. He said, “take your sticks and throw them in the river, because that’s not the path we’re going to take.” Pragmatically, he understood that the best thing for the South African people, for his people, would be to take a nonviolent path.”



Kobi Snitz

Anarchists Against the Wall

“Even ten Israelis at a demonstration can make a real difference. We know from the army’s own declarations that their open fire regulations change as soon as they think there are Israelis around. For example, they are not to use live fire when there are Israelis around, and they are not to fire rubber bullets in a direction where they think there are Israelis. So even a small number of Israelis can make a difference, and a large number obviously can make a big difference.”



Yasmine Levy
Israeli Border Patrol

“The easiest thing for the Palestinians to do was to put their women at the front. You understand? So we wouldn’t use violence. We’d first try to talk to them politely and move them gently. Then, if necessary, we adopted traditional crowd dispersal methods. It was very hard for me as a woman, because there were a lot of women demonstrating. You have to take a woman and move her from the construction site, but then another woman comes and they keep coming back in rotation.”



Sami Awad

Holy Land Trust

“An Israeli presence at demonstrations helps, because in my opinion the objective is not only that they take part in the activities, but that they share their experiences with friends and family, tell them about our activities, and try to recruit others. If we confined our work only to demonstrations we would not succeed.”



Iltizam Murrar

Women's leader, Budrus

“For my whole life, my image of the Israeli has been the soldier, because when I was a kid, I used to go visit my father in prison and the only Israelis I met were soldiers. The first time Israelis came to a demonstration, I was surprised. They changed my point of view about Israelis. They showed me that not all Israelis are soldiers. Some Israelis can be our friends.”