



Sarah Karajeh

Bereaved Families Forum

“There are Jews that believe the occupation of this land is wrong and that Palestinians should retain their rights. Religion isn't the main factor. During the land confiscation in the north of Palestine for construction of the racist Wall, I was surprised to see an NGO of Jewish rabbis who defended human rights. This indicates it isn't an issue of religion. The rabbis tied themselves with chains, not to defend Islam or Judaism, but to defend human rights in this land.”



Ibtisam Mahameed

Interfaith Encounter Association, Middleway

"If I consider myself a peace activist, then all my words and actions must be devoted to peace. For me this is Jihad, and if I die doing this I will be considered a martyr... How do I identify a martyr? He is one that takes a role in improving his community and its situation, according to his own understanding. People can call him what they like, but I consider this a sacred mission that I could use to help the next generations."



George Sa'adeh

Bereaved Families Forum

"With our faith in God Almighty, we strongly believe in Him; this is what strengthens us--our faith and the forgiveness within us. We also call for peace that is just and real where there will be no Palestinian or Israeli family that has to go through the same thing we did. Our goal now is to try as much as we can through our love and forgiveness to carry on with our lives and help others not to go through what we went through."





Eliyahu McLean

Sulha Peace Project, Jerusalem
Peacemakers, Middleway

“We're trying to reclaim the indigenous tools of Middle Eastern peace wisdom-- the *sulha*, text study-- tools found within Islam and Judaism in particular, but of course also in Christianity and in all the traditions here. Spirituality deals with the trans-rational level, the non-rational world, with spiritual ideals. Sometimes if you try to approach this conflict only from a rational point of view, you don't get anywhere; it's almost like deadlock.”



Shwanesh Maniov

Seeds of Peace

“People believe. Religion is involved, and to me religion is a very negative thing; it makes people think emotionally and not rationally. When you're dealing with an emotional issue, it's very difficult to influence a person or change his or her beliefs because they come from the heart and not from rational thoughts. The war here is very religious.”



Yitzhak Frankenthal

The Arik Institute for Reconciliation,
Tolerance and Peace

"Judaism means worshipping the Holy One, blessed be He, without any slogans, words, figurative depictions such as 'Our Lord', 'King of the Universe'. Forget about those. You worship Him because you are a Jew, period.... You worship Him without expecting to receive anything in return, because He does not worship you. But we've forgotten these things, transformed stones into sacred objects, turned land into holy land. The sanctity of the Land of Israel was never measured by sovereignty. Sovereignty is irrelevant to sanctity... When a man sanctifies a site and for that repulsive sanctity surrenders his life, or his children's lives, it's a tragedy."