



EYEWITNESS PALESTINE ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2019 - JUNE 2020



INTRODUCTION

What a year it's been! We started out our fiscal year last summer with a group of artists, storytellers, and creators as part of our creative resistance delegation. Little did we know that less than a year later we'd be in the midst of a pandemic and hosting delegations virtually! But whether we are traveling to Palestine/Israel in person or virtually, our mission to center Palestinians and Palestinian liberation continues.

The Coronavirus pandemic made us pause. For the first time in our 19 years of existence, we had to cancel all of our delegations in 2020. As an organization whose core programming relies on travel, we could have been on the brink of crisis. But thanks to some quick thinking and the incredible support of our delegates and donors, **we pivoted our programming to be 100% virtual.** This pivot brings in more people than ever to our organization and the movement for Palestinian liberation!

Our core programming is connecting people in the US to Palestinians in Palestine. We take our cues from Palestinians who are fighting for liberation and creating a society that is rooted in justice and equity. Not only is it important to share what is happening in Palestine, but it is also important to connect our struggles across movements, that is, fight for collective liberation.

By fighting for racial justice and equity in our neighborhoods and communities, we help the fight for justice and equity in Palestine. In this annual report you'll find stories and highlights of people fighting for racial justice and equity both in Palestine and here in the US. Oppression takes many shapes, and so we believe that we need multiple forms of resistance to fight it. Making these connections is one important way that we challenge the roots of oppression across spaces and continue to make progress in the fight for Palestinian liberation. Thank you for your continued support of Eyewitness Palestine. **To freedom and justice!**

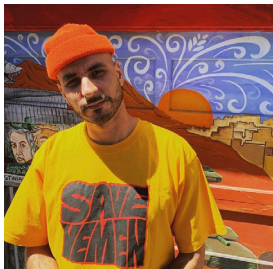
RETURN IS A RIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

We believe that it is the responsibility of those in solidarity with Palestinians to facilitate their ability to return and visit their homeland. That's why Eyewitness Palestine has launched this new scholarship fund, specifically for Palestinians with citizenship in North America.

The **Return is a Right Scholarship Fund** helps pay the delegation costs for Palestinians who want to participate in an Eyewitness Palestine delegation without taking on the financial risk of getting denied entry at any border controlled by Israel. With your generous contributions, we sent six Palestinians on an Eyewitness Palestine delegation in the first year of this scholarship! Read more about this scholarship at EyewitnessPalestine.org.



Jumana Al-Qawasmi is a graphic designer and graduate student based in Chicago, IL. In 2015, she founded Watan (Arabic for "homeland"), a Chicago & Amman-based art studio and community space focused on exploring Palestinian cultural, intellectual, and historical heritage. Jumana is especially interested in institution building for the Palestinian community.



Chris Gazaleh is a Palestinian artist from San Francisco dedicated to promoting cultural, political, and social awareness from a Palestinian-American perspective that is rooted in social justice. Gazaleh uses many mediums to create and spread his art to the world, from murals, to illustrations, to graffiti style pieces, and to clothing designs.

IMPACT REPORT



2 Delegations
to Palestine



52 Delegates Total
including 25 POC/Black delegates



Virtual Delegations
150 people



\$27,450
distributed in scholarships
and financial aid



23 Delegates
received scholarships
and financial aid

RACIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY + EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

Webinars we've hosted:



Water as a
Public Health Issue



Psycho Social & Physical
Health in Gaza



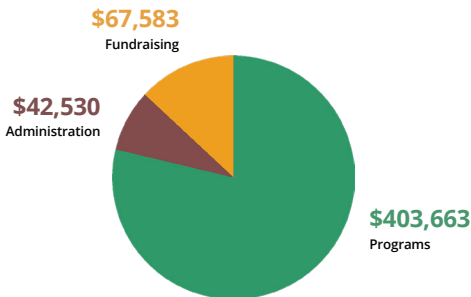
What Comprehensive
Liberation Means for Palestinians

IMPACT + ENGAGEMENT

\$6,000

Raised this spring for **23 partners** in Palestine/Israel to help offset the revenue from honorariums that our delegations provide and support these small organizations and community leaders weathering this pandemic storm.

FINANCIALS



Eyewitness Palestine is a people-powered 501(c)3 registered nonprofit organization with the IRS as Interfaith Peace-Builders doing business as Eyewitness Palestine. Our Federal Tax ID is 03-0598184. Our funding sources include both private foundations and individuals. Over 3/4 of our support comes from individuals who donate at all levels - from \$10 to \$10,000.

Your support helps people of all ages become lifetime changemakers in the movement for Palestinian rights.

LET'S GET FREE

Around 7 Black youth and mentors from Washington, D.C. will participate in an Eyewitness Palestine delegation in June 2021. The delegation was postponed due to COVID-19, but this has given us additional time together. This will include:

- **Ten full days in Palestine**
- **Over a year of virtual and in-person preparation sessions** organized by Movement for Racial Justice, ONE DC and Eyewitness Palestine
- **Involvement in Eyewitness Palestine's racial justice curriculum** prior to delegation
- **Six months of follow up sessions**, both as part of Eyewitness Palestine's Education & Advocacy program and also in person political education organized by March for Racial Justice, ONE DC, and Eyewitness Palestine

Black D.C. youth will have the opportunity to learn and identify methods and practices from the people of Palestine who are engaged in a daily fight for their survival. Having the chance to witness the beautiful, determined strength and love of a people suffering from White Supremacy/Settler



Colonialism will change the lives of these youth forever and create clarity on the existing systems designed to destroy any resemblance of self-determination and liberation and most importantly, develop tactics to fight back against these systems.



“ I am a grassroots activist, a national organizer, historian and a fierce educator on all matters related to the liberation of black and brown people in Washington, D.C. and around the world. As a devoted advocate of our nation's black and brown children, I fight tirelessly against the occupying forces of capitalism, educational inequality, gentrification/ displacement, criminal justice abuse, and white supremacy. ”

- MAURICE

“ Participating in Let's Get Free is very important to me as true liberation is not possible without international solidarity and shining a light on the oppression of Palestinian people and supporting their human right (and dignity) to self-determination! My goals are to observe, participate fully in a cultural exchange, and bring back real stories of day to day life under occupation, to further educate and inspire work in the communities I'm involved with. ”

- QUESHIA



“ I am a D.C. native and lifelong Ward 5 resident fighting for racial equity. I am a community organizer with Empower DC and I have been a member of the D.C. chapter of Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100) since 2016. Let's Get Free is important to me because it provides me with the opportunity as a young Black woman to explore communities and cultures different from my own. My goal with my participation in this program is to broaden my understanding of organizing in marginalized communities different than my own. I want a more well-rounded understanding of the connection between the United States' police state and the Israeli military state. ”

- JILLIAN

“ I am a Washingtonian and recent Business Technology graduate from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), now working toward an additional degree in Business Management from UDC. While working on my studies, I have achieved notoriety as a spoken word poet with the majority of my pieces dedicated to inspiring others. I am excited to participate in Let's Get Free because it gives me the opportunity to travel out of the United States for the first time and learn new things, gain new skills, and pass down everything I've learned to empower others. ”

- CHRISTIAN



EYEWITNESS PALESTINE BOARD & STAFF

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

Board:

Osama Ahmed
Huwaida Arraf
Naser Al Sharif
Susan Bramhall
Joseph Groves
Mark Harrison
Tom Hier
Katie Huerter
Rami Natsheh
Rev. Joi Orr
Sarah Scruggs
Cecilie Surasky
Mary Ann Weston

Staff:

Nada El-Eryan
Emily Siegel
Nadya Tannous
Omar Zahzah



Eyewitness Palestine Board and Staff during our annual Board retreat.

MISSION

Eyewitness Palestine is a transformational education program that inspires and trains participants to be accountable lifelong social justice advocates in the Palestine solidarity movement and within their own communities.

VISION

We're building a world where Palestine is liberated and all are free.