

May2006workshops

Report on three workshops held in Jerusalem by PDF on behalf of PPC/GI as per the Spanish project.

As per the signed agreement and on behalf of PPC/GI, the PDF implemented three workshops during the month of May 2006, on the 6th, the 20th and the 27th.

May 6, 2006

The workshop was held on the concept of “Democracy versus Peace” at the hall of “Bayt al-Tifl” organisation in Azariya. The 38 participants (workers, students and women from the Azariya area) were between 25 and 35 years of age. The workshop started at 2:30 pm and ended at 6:00 pm.

The activity started with an introduction by the coordinator of the event, Thaer Anis, explaining the cooperation efforts between Bayt al-Tifl and the Palestinian Peace Coalition. Then Mr. Mohammad Qutteineh gave a presentation on the concept explaining the importance of people’s participation and involvement in the affairs of their institutions and in the society in order to make their voice heard loud and clear and in order to make their opinions known to their peers. The presenter clarified the relation between democratization and the peaceful means and tools used in the process promoting tolerance of the other and promoting the need to listen to the others opinions.

After a 15 minutes coffee break, the discussion was open and frank where participants expressed their views on the presentation raising questions on whether the society is ready for such concepts. The presenter explained how every society can practice the said concept if they were given the chance.

May 20, 2006

The concept of “Non-Violence and Non-Violent Tools” was the topic of the workshop held at the hall of the Jerusalemite Mt. of Olives Club . The event which was coordinated by Sawsan Hashimeh started at 2:00 pm and ended at 6:00 pm. 35 school and university students (ages 18 to 25) participated in the workshop and listened first to a 90 minutes presentation by Mr. Firas Abu Ghosh on how the concept of non-violence is a valid concept in the struggle for noble goals and how non-violent methods and tools of confrontation produce better results in a good number cases, and how, most certainly, it should be viewed as a legitimate method in struggles and in confrontations.

The questions after the presentation dealt with how the Palestinian society views such a concept as less manly or even cowardly. The presenter’s responses introduced examples of successful non-violent methods used worldwide and how it even led to end different forms of oppression or even foreign occupation, as in the case of India.

Participants expressed interest in pursuing such discussions in view of the benefits they concluded at the end of the workshop.

May 27, 2006

Forty Two Palestinians, mainly students from al-Quds University in Abu Dis participated in the workshop on the concept of “Peace and Elections” held at al-Nojoom hall in Abu Dis. The age range of the participants was between 22 and 25 years old although a few older people from the area attended. The event was coordinated by Mr. Akram Usho, and it started at 2:00 pm and ended at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Saman Khoury from the PDF introduced the objectives and aims of the PPC/GI and explained the type of activities held by the NGO to promote the peace proposals and to call for negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli parties to find a solution to the conflict.

Dr. Walid Ayyad from al-Quds University lectured on the concept of peace as a better and more productive strategy that should be adopted by the Palestinian leadership in order to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, explaining the continued harm inflicted on the Palestinian people due to the unfruitful strategy of fighting adopted so far especially in the last five years.

Dr. Taleb Awad from the PPC presented the Palestinian basic law on elections and referendum explaining the need for peaceful environment in order to apply such people’s participation in running their own affairs of life.

The discussion that followed raised questions and argued that a strategy of peace requires a partner who believes and behaves along similar lines. Over two hours of discussion the presenters responded to specific questions and concentrated on the concept of peace to be adopted as a strategy.