

Resources on Current Tensions in Palestine/Israel

Stay Informed about Latest Developments and Analyses

IFPB is following the outbreak of current tension in Palestine/Israel closely. Recent events have caused us pain, sadness, and frustration. Our hearts go out to all the victims and our solidarity to those who are struggling for justice. We remain steadfast in our belief that peace will come through justice, and offer the following online resources to help you learn more and stay engaged.



Compilations

[Resources on the Current Crisis](#) (Institute for Middle East Understanding)

[Latest on Israel/Palestine](#) (Mondoweiss)

[Young Palestinians on Current Unrest](#) (Al Jazeera)

Reports and Statements from IFPB Delegation Partners

[Human Rights Organizations in Israel: Politicians' calls to police and soldiers to shoot rather than arrest endorse the killing of Palestinians](#) (B'tselem, Adalah, PCATI, Gisha, ACRI, Yesh Din, and others)

[Palestinians Must Not Fall into This Trap, Again!](#) (Sam Bahour)

[Highest Number of Fatalities and Injuries since 2005 - Weekly Report](#) (OCHA oPT)

Articles by IFPB Delegation Participants

[Israel's Crackdown on Protesters is Illegal, Costly, and Reckless](#) (Julie Norman)

[Palestinian Activist Killed in Bethlehem as Israel Vows Harsher Crackdown](#) (Nora Barrows-Friedman)

Want More?

- Follow IFPB on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).
 - Sign up to [receive reports](#) from the Olive Harvest Delegation traveling in two weeks.
 - For more information about the work of IFPB's 1,000+ delegates, see our ["Delegates in Action!" blog](#).
 - Get [updates about IFPB's 2016 delegations](#). Travel and solidarity is more important now than ever.
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Not Defined by Despair

2009 IFPB Delegate Kate Gould Works to Influence US Policy in the Middle East | By Christy Wise

Kate Gould, legislative associate for Middle East Policy at Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), brings a steadfast, inclusive and focused voice to discourse around Middle East policy. Under relentless questioning by Fox News television host Bill O'Reilly about her vision for a political solution to the Islamic State incursion, Kate held her own. Her grounded demeanor in attempting to answer O'Reilly's question while under his verbal fire exemplified Kate's deep belief in nonviolence.

Kate's interest in Middle East issues began while she was an undergraduate at Western Washington University organizing against the US invasion and occupation of Iraq. That work led to a job with FCNL as legislative program assistant. A visit to Palestine/Israel with Interfaith Peace-Builders (IFPB) in 2009 expanded her understanding of the region.

"The IFPB delegation introduced me to a whole Israel/Palestine that I didn't know existed even though I'd been working on Israel/Palestine advocacy up to that point," Kate said. "IFPB introduced me to an Israel/Palestine that wasn't defined by despair. So many incredible and inspiring grassroots activists and people – both Palestinians and Israelis – are involved in the movement to end the Occupation and find a just solution. It was uplifting."

After her IFPB trip, Kate lived in the West Bank, teaching advanced English to Palestinian schoolteachers from rural and underserved schools, and coordinating a joint Israeli-Palestinian radio show for a think tank in Jerusalem. Now with FCNL, Kate works to influence US policy in the Middle East. In her work, she continues to share the stories of people she met on her IFPB delegation. "I talk about those stories to emphasize that there's a lot of variety of viewpoints that they don't always hear about," she said. "It's particularly impactful for Members of Congress and their staff to hear about Israelis who have a different vision going forward about the Occupation."

During challenging times working on Palestine/Israel, Kate is sustained by the dedication of activists she met through IFPB, and others like them. "IFPB introduced me ...to people who are making huge strides and showing the world what nonviolence looks like and what really difficult peace-building looks like under the most dire circumstances," she said.

If O'Reilly asked for Kate's vision of a political solution to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, and if she were given time to reply, she would say: "A political solution to the Israel/Palestine conflict can begin when the Occupation ends, which must include lifting the blockade on Gaza and allowing for freedom of movement and access for all Israelis and Palestinians."

"There will have to be intensive negotiations and support for Israelis and Palestinians working for non-violent solutions to end the conflict. The US has the leverage to save lives, and carve out a more hopeful future for the region. It's critical that any long-term solution provides sovereignty and safety for Israelis and Palestinians."

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