

The Wall Is a Denial of God's Creation

An initiative of the Wall Information Center, AEI has opened a 'reflection corner' at the Wall around Rachel's Tomb for visitors and locals alike to contemplate the impact of the Wall in an imprisoned area. The corner is actually where the Anastas family house is surrounded on three sides by the Wall. It is part of the 'Wall Museum' and contains quotes of Bethlehemites about imprisoned life, and also of the poet Mahmoud Darwish in which he articulates the trauma of a broken home/homeland and curtailed freedom.

The 'opening' took place on 13 September in preparation of the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel convened by the World Council of Churches in the third week of September.





See here the quotes attached to the Wall:

Palestinian women:

- Bethlehem is an open prison.
- I just want to go outside, be free and have lots of room to play.
- Since I could think, live and breathe I think of my freedom.
- This land is all you have; it's for you and for your children after you.
- A wall in my own country!
- Most of the time I try to ignore the wall. I know it is there but one day it will fall.
- Here, where the olive trees have such strong roots that no one in the world can uproot them.
- She dreamt that she would return, at least once, before she died.

- The Wall is like a sign to say: "Go away from here".
- All your efforts to destroy our spirits are not going to succeed. What God has created, no one can destroy!"
- The wall creates a feeling... the feeling that it surrounds you; that you are not permitted to move.
- When I go to the Wall I feel that something closes in on my heart.
- When I see the Wall I also feel ashamed of myself, because it is created by human beings.
- We are imprisoned here in Bethlehem. All my relationships with Jerusalem are dead. I am a dying woman.

Mahmoud Darwish:

- I have a mother, a house with many windows, brothers, friends and a prison cell
With a chilly window!
- I have learned and dismantled all the words in order to draw from them a single word: *Home*.
- Where should we go after the last border? Where should birds fly after the last sky?
Where should plants sleep after the last breath of air?
- I ask: Is it true, good ladies and gentlemen, that the earth of Man is for all human beings
as you say? In that case, where is my little cottage, and where am I?
- Where can I free myself of the homeland in my body?
- A boundary within a boundary surrounds us.
- People are birds unable to fly
- A mother reprimands the prison guard:
Why have you spilled our coffee onto the grass, you mischief maker?
- A bird born from me who builds a nest in my ruins
- Windows, but not for us, to exchange greetings in every language.

- I am here stranger, sitting in the corner.
(What color are your eyes? What is your name?
How shall I call to you as you pass by,
As I sit waiting for you?)
- You walk as if you were someone else.
- I'll ask the first to cross the path,
Have you ever seen a ghost like me,
Searching for his yesterday?
- I say: Life defined only as the opposite of death is not life.



The Wall Information Center provides information about the impact of the Israeli wall in the occupied Palestinian territories. It gives attention to people's narratives of loss as well as sumud [steadfastness, resilience]. The Center is designed to advocate the right to protection, human security and human development in accordance with principles of human rights and international humanitarian law. Following Security Council Resolution

1325, it will amplify the voices of Palestinian women living in the shadow of the wall and support women's participation and protection at all levels.