



December 2019

Christmas Wishes from the AEI in Bethlehem

Please find here some video Christmas wishes from the AEI team members!

On December 7 AEI organized together with students of five schools and groups of young women a conference to evaluate 10 advocacy actions of last year that took place in different areas of Bethlehem and Hebron. The youths also decided about a national advocacy campaign in 2020 with the title: “Access to Services, Access to Rights.” Afterwards the annual Christmas-Human Rights Day- Teacher Day was celebrated in the presence of some 250 teachers and Islamic and Christian personalities.

Earlier in the year, AEI organized its Ninth Annual Sumud Festival in September in the context of the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel and the International Day of Prayer for Peace. This year’s festival’s title was “The Wall is a Denial of God’s Creation,” in accordance with the theme chosen for the World



Week by members of the World Council of Churches. The aim was to raise voices of Palestinian youth, children and women saying “no” to the Wall as a denial of God’s image in His creation and a violation of values of freedom and equality.

https://aeicenter.org/?page_id=95

Wall Information Center

Reflection Corner at the Wall

An initiative of the Wall Information Center, AEI 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 by the Wall. The corner is part of the ‘Wall Museum’ and contains quotes of Bethlehemites about imprisoned life and of the poet Mahmoud Darwish articulating the trauma of a broken home/homeland. 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. Together with Palestinian kids, Dutch visual artist Ada Krowinkel, of the Friends of Young Bethlehem, helped preparing the paintings.

<https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-article-Wall-corner.pdf>

The Wall Information Center and the Wall Museum

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].

About the Wall Museum, with a link to photos of posters:

https://aeicenter.org/?page_id=94

For a reading of all story wall posters:

<https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-resource-wall-posters-all.pdf>

Sumud advocacy

Engaging, empowering and equipping diverse and marginalised youth and amplifying their voices for peace

Coordinated by the Arab Educational Institute, Palestinian schools and youth/women clubs in the occupied West Bank are involved in an advocacy project for Palestinian youth in the West Bank (2018-2020). The project promotes civil society engagement in non-violent action for a just peace.

For a presentation of the project, see **here**.

<https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-article-presentation-EU-project-in-West-Bank.pdf>

For an article about the project in the magazine *This Week in Palestine*, see **here**

<https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-article-EU.pdf>

For 20 narratives written by youths as part of the project, see **here**. <https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-resource-narratives.pdf>

Conflict advocacy

Palestinian Youth Protecting Civic Values in Conflict

“Palestinian Youth Protecting Civic Values in Conflict” led by AEI is a so-called ‘conflict advocacy’ project conducted by 8 groups of 50 Palestinian school youth (13-17 years) in the larger Bethlehem district. In 2019 the youths did, among other things, research about the major conflicts and tensions that bear upon the communities in which they live. The following magazine gives insight into the project’s youth research – a relatively new extracurricular track at Palestinian schools which clearly helps independent and critical thinking. Funding partner Zivik Ifa and the German federal government made the project and the publication possible.

For the magazine in Arabic, see **here**.

<https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-resource-youth-research-Arabic.pdf>

In English, see **here**.

<https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-resource-youth-research-English.pdf>

Games

Awareness

AEI develops a series of educational or awareness-raising games, with different purposes in mind:

Some show the absurdities of occupation including an (old) checkpoint game (still available in French) and a new permit card game, in English.

Others support critical thinking among Palestinian youths, such as the ‘Rules of Respect Game’ (Arabic).

Still other games support the documentation of heritage stories, like the ‘Wisdom of Sumud Game’ (English).

For a brief overview of the games, see **here**.

<https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-Article-Game.pdf>

For the cards of the Permit Card game, see **here**.

<https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-resource-Permit-cardgame.pdf>

For the cards in the Wisdom of Sumud game, see **here**.

<https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-Resource-Wisdom-Of-Sumud.pdf>

Blog

”I Give You Three Months”

Find here the latest blog of Toine van Teeffelen.

A passport control is normally a formal encounter, a rule-governed bureaucratic transaction.

At the Allenby Bridge, entering from Jordan, I recently handed over my passport to an Israeli functionary behind glass. He asked me to sit down in a designated area. Sitting down at Allenby is customary for my ‘category’ of visitors, internationals married with a Palestinian West Bank ID holder. How long one waits differs, from half an hour to about two hours, in my experience.

See:

<https://aeicenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AEI-2019-resource-blog-Toine.pdf>

More resources

[Click here](#) for more about AEI’s **Sumud Story House**:

[Click here](#) for info about AEI’s **inter-religious school project**, ‘Citizenship and Diversity: Christian-Moslem Living Together’,

A 20-minute **documentary** about children’s life near the Wall made last year by Rinske Bosch for Dutch TV (IKON, series Mensjesrechten), English subtitled, in cooperation with AEI and Al-Rowwad in Aida camp:

<https://vimeo.com/143601177>

Helpful for school lessons.

For an overview of AEI’s **wall posters**, [see here](#)

Supported by ArtLab in East-Jerusalem, AEI facilitated the making of two brief **animation cartoons**, in English, made by Palestinian children from the Bethlehem area:

1: [The Horse](#)

2: [MMI](#)

A 9-minute **video about the [Wall Museum](#)** around Rachel’s Tomb in Bethlehem:

And further

Join a Journey to Palestine

Comments on journeys organized by AEI:

*“It has been a very educational experience which gave me more understanding of the situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories.” “I now know, that I didn’t know anything of the situation here at all.” “I’m very much inspired by the friendly people and their optimism.” - by **Alfred Keienburg** (67) Essen, Germany*

*“Visiting the Sumud Story House was the best beginning of a very moving, intriguing week.” “Through the choir we could really feel what Sumud means.” “This trip was so perfectly organised. I was so impressed. The program was amazing.” “This trip was very special and unique, as is the country. Through the AEI we really got a very profound insight.” “It was very emotional and depressing, but with every encounter we heard: there’s hope, there’s Sumud!” - by **Katarina** (24), from Germany*

YouTube video about [AEI](#) (4 min), made by Fadi Abou Akleh.

Wall story posters for sale

AEI has story wall posters for sale in the format 24/34 cm.

It concerns the following stories: Bethlehem, Surfing, The pigeon, I caught his hand, Hug, Laundry, Rescue, Stand-off.

For all posters, [see here](#)

Youth and women’s stories on Wall posters

Two AEI publications include English poster stories attached to the Wall around Rachel’s Tomb. Price: 20 shekel or 5 Euro, excl. postage. Copies can be ordered via info@aeicenter.org

Palestine-Family.net

[Palestine-Family net](#) features many visual and written items about Palestinian heritage and history.

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