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AUTHOR AND ACTIVIST JOSH RUEBNER TO SPEAK ON U.S. COMPLICITY IN ISRAEL'S OPPRESSION OF THE PALESTINIANS FRIDAY, APRIL 4 IN PORTLAND

Author and activist Josh Ruebner will speak on "Challenging U.S. Complicity in Israel's Oppression of the Palestinians" Friday, April 4 at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland, Oregon.

Ruebner is the author of *Shattered Hopes: Obama's Failure to Broker Israeli-Palestinian Peace*, published September 2013.

Taking advantage of a wide range of new sources, including WikiLeaks and the Palestine Papers, the book provides a welcome clarity that cuts through years of stale disinformation. With the passion of a longtime activist and the rigor of a trained researcher, Ruebner creates a tour de force analysis of Obama's failed Middle East policy.

Ruebner concludes that the more Israel deliberately frustrated and humiliated U.S. efforts to broker Israeli-Palestinian peace, the more rewards it was offered by the United States as a result. His book is a stinging indictment of the absurdity of the Obama administration's failed peace process.

"It's important for all of America to care about this because we are directly complicit in the oppression of Palestine because of our weapons and politics," Ruebner says.

Ruebner makes a point to refer to the Israeli-Palestinian issue not as a conflict, but as apartheid. He makes the distinction because conflict implies an interstate war being waged, but that's not the case in this instance.

Instead, he says the Israeli state is oppressing the Palestinian people with military force while there is no Palestinian army to fight back. Israel is using its superior and U.S.-funded military to systematically destroy and uproot the 750,000 to 1,000,000 Palestinian people who resided in historic Palestine. Such action falls under the United Nations definition of apartheid, which it recognizes as a crime against humanity.

Ruebner is national advocacy director of the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. He has also served as executive director of Jews for Peace in Palestine and Israel, and as a Middle East analyst for the Congressional Research Service.

Ruebner's lecture will be presented at the SEEDS OF JUSTICE AND HOPE FOR PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS: WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US conference hosted by the Portland action group of Friends of Sabeel – North America. Sabeel is an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians.

At the conference, Ruebner will also be joined by Peter Miller and Mohammed Qandil in leading a workshop on "Activism Now and in the Future," a discussion of local and national opportunities for making a difference. What works and what doesn't, why and why not, and where are things going?

Peter Miller is founder and president of Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights, and co-chair of the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. In 2011 he spoke as a representative of global civil society to the United Nations General Assembly.

Mohamed Qandil is a Palestinian-American graduate student at Portland State University. He recently won a student achievement award from the Muslim Educational Trust.

Schedule and tickets available at <http://sabeel-pdx.brownpapertickets.com/>

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Advance interviews with Josh Ruebner and other speakers on Israel-Palestine issues may be arranged by contacting: sabeel.pdx.2014@midwestpeace.net Rev. Richard Toll (503) 201-7158 or Mark Eichinger-Wiese (206) 922-9026