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HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST
APRIL 4 AND 5 IN PORTLAND

TO SPEAK ON PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN PALESTINE

Author, professor and human rights activist Mazin Qumsiyeh will speak on "Prospects for Peace and Justice in Palestine" Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5 at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland, Oregon.

Professor Qumsiyeh is a Palestinian Christian who firmly believes in nonviolent civic engagement to effect positive change in society. After earning his doctorate at Texas Tech University and teaching genetics at Duke and Yale Universities, he returned home to Palestine, where he teaches and does research at Bethlehem and Birzeit Universities.

Qumsiyeh is active in the daily nonviolent liberation struggles and campaigns of the Palestinian people against the illegal and brutal Israeli military occupation. He serves as chairman of the board of the Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People and coordinator of the Popular Committee Against the Wall and Settlements in Beit Sahour.

His primary interest is media activism and public education. To that end, he has authored books including *Sharing the Land of Canaan: Human Rights and the Israeli/Palestinian Struggle* (2004) and *Popular Resistance in Palestine: A History of Hope and Empowerment* (2011), is a prolific writer of news articles and opinion pieces, lectures on human rights and international law, and maintains a blog, quimsiyeh.org, with a large international following.

Qumsiyeh brings a passion for humanity to his quest for social justice for all people. His energy and optimism are infectious. "Don't become pro-Palestinian, anti-Israeli," he says. "Be pro-human being. We need to encourage the goodness in all of us. The issue is human rights, equal rights."

He calls for global civil society to aid native resistance to oppression, not only through education but also via boycotts, divestments, and sanctions, to arrive at peace with justice.

Of US involvement in the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Qumsiyeh says, "Of course without the US support of Israel, Israel can't survive as a colonial power. That is why work in the US has been and must continue to be a center of focus. We simply must change US policy in the Middle East – if nothing else than to save the US from economic collapse!"

When asked about the risks involved when carrying out his work, Professor Qumsiyeh, who has been arrested multiple times by Israeli security officers, says, "When resisting colonial occupation, there is always risk and definitely a price to pay. Each of us judges how far and how much of a price to pay. But it is also a blessing for us to engage in activism in many ways. Life is far more meaningful and full when we engage in it fully and positively instead of passively letting it pass by."

Professor Qumsiyeh's lectures 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.

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

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