

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ISRAELI PEACE ACTIVIST **MIKO PELED** TO SPEAK ON HOPE FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN PALESTINE AT PORTLAND CONFERENCE APRIL 5

PORTLAND, OR . . . Israeli peace activist and author Miko Peled will speak on *"Beyond Zionism: Hope for Freedom and Justice in Palestine"* Saturday, April 5 at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St.

The lecture is part of a two-day conference and call to action, SEEDS OF JUSTICE AND HOPE FOR PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS: WHAT IS REQUIRED OF US, hosted by the Portland action group of Friends of Sabeel – North America on April 4 and 5.

Miko Peled, the author of *The General's Son: Journey of an Israeli in Palestine*, dares to say in public what many choose to deny. He was born in Jerusalem in 1961 into a well-known Zionist family. His grandfather was a signer of Israel's Declaration of Independence. His father was an officer in the 1948 war and a general in the war of 1967 when Israel conquered the West Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights and Sinai. Peled himself is a former member of Israel's Special Forces.

On Saturday of the conference, Peled will join co-panelists Max Blumenthal and Steve Niva in a plenary on The Judaization of Palestine.

Since 1997, when his niece was killed in a suicide attack on Jerusalem, Miko Peled has dedicated himself to transforming the Israeli apartheid system into a secular democracy, where Israelis and Palestinians will live as equal citizens.

Peled says, "The State of Israel today is governed in a way that cannot be sustained, where the two nations it governs, Israelis and Palestinians, are used and abused: Half of the population is governed by a radical Zionist regime that sees the struggle for control over the land as a zero sum game, and the other half of the population is governed by the security forces of this Zionist regime; one nation ruling over another while controlling the land and its resources. It is a reality where half the population lives in what it thinks is a Western democracy while keeping the other half imprisoned by a ruthless defense apparatus that is becoming more violent by the day."

Peled's unlikely opinions reflect his father's legacy. General Peled was a war hero who subsequently dedicated his life to the achievement of Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Information about speakers and tickets to the conference may be purchased at <http://sabeel-pdx.brownpapertickets.com/>

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Advance interviews with Miko Peled and other speakers on Israel-Palestine issues may be arranged by contacting:

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