

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What: Friends of Sabeel - North America to host regional conference on Palestine / Israel titled "*Seeds of Justice and Hope for Palestinians and Israelis: What is required of US.*"

When: April 4th and 5th, 2014

Where: First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland, OR

Who: Local, national and international speakers / authors on the subject of the Israel / Palestine conflict, non-violent resistance and the current peace negotiations.

The Portland action group of Friends of Sabeel--North America in collaboration with over 20 regional church mission groups, non-profit organizations and educational groups will host an important conference on the subject of the Israel / Palestine conflict. The conference titled "*Seeds of Justice and Hope for Palestinians and Israelis: What is required of US*" will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Portland, April 4th and 5th.

A stellar list of international, national and local speakers will talk on topics including:

- *Current Status of Peace Talks*
- *The prophets and the gospels: Christian responsibility for Palestinian justice*
- *Does the debate over Israel and apartheid help or hinder the pursuit of justice?*
- *Biblical sources of justice and hope for peace.*
- *Will Christians survive in the Holy Land?*
- *Gaza and the Siege*

Speakers at the conference include: Max Blumenthal, New York Times best selling author and author of the recent controversial book *Goliath*; Rev. Brian McLaren, leading Christian pastor in the emerging church movement and author of *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road?*; Josh Ruebner, author of *Shattered Hopes: The Failure of Obama's Middle East Peace Process*; Mads Gilbert MD, specialist in anesthesiology and emergency medicine at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza and author with Erik Fosse of *Eyes in Gaza*; Rev. Naim Ateek, founder and director of Sabeel-Jerusalem and author of *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*.

Additional speakers include Hatem Bazian, Pamela Olson, Phyllis Bennis, Mark Braverman, Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, Rev. Don Wagner, Mazin Qumsiye, Shakeel Syed, Ned Rosch, Zaha Hassan, Chris McGreal, Steve Niva, Cindy and Craig Corrie, Janet Lahr Lewis, Claire Anastas, Donna Boyd, Kelly Lynn, Peter Miller and more.

Rev. Richard Toll, co-chair of the event, says "I've helped organize 34 conferences on the subject of Israel and Palestine during the past 12 years across the US. Never before has there been a gathering of such high caliber speakers as this in one place at the same time." Toll continues, "The education that takes place at these conferences has greatly influenced the churches and concerned people of all faiths. The ongoing military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is hurting Israel as well as Palestinians and must come to an end."

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FOSNA is a non-profit, tax-exempt Christian ecumenical organization seeking justice and peace in the Holy Land through non-violence and education. FOSNA works in the U.S. and Canada to support the vision of Sabeel, cultivating the support of American churches through co-sponsored regional educational conference, alternative pilgrimage, witness trips, and international gatherings in the Holy Land.

Sabeel is an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land, who seek a just peace based on two states—Palestine and Israel—as defined by international law and existing United Nations resolutions.

Press packets available on request.

Additional Information at: <http://tinyurl.com/FOSNA-PDX> or <http://tinyurl.com/Mideast-PDX>

Pre-conference interviews can be arranged with many of the speakers. Contact sabeel.pdx.2014@mideastpeace.net for more information.

Friends of Sabeel—North America (dba) is a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization—EIN 38-3419440—incorporated as Friends of Peace and Justice in the Holy Land.

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