



Combatants for Peace

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



“There is another way”

“For over a decade, CFP has served as a model of equality, security and dignity for all. Through joint nonviolence action in the present, we lay the foundation for a nonviolent future.”



ABOUT US

In 2006, Palestinian and Israeli former combatants laid down their weapons and established Combatants for Peace (CfP). Committed to joint nonviolence since its foundation, CfP works to end the Israeli occupation and all forms of violence between the two sides, and to build a peaceful future for everyone. For over a decade we have led actions based on the shared values of freedom, democracy, security and dignity for all. We inspire profound individual and communal change in Israel and Palestine and serve as a model for societies across the world, especially those separated by seemingly intractable violence. Combatants for Peace is the world's only nonviolent movement founded and sustained by former armed combatants from both sides of an ongoing conflict. The unique impact of our grassroots, binational approach was recognized in both 2017 and 2018 when CfP was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.



MESSAGE FROM OUR COORDINATORS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2018 has been a challenging year. We saw another round of harsh violence in Palestine and Israel, shrinking spaces for democracy worldwide, the expansion of settlements in the occupied territories of Palestine, and ongoing violence on the border of Gaza.

Despite the painful political climate, we continue our work – more dedicated than ever. Our regional groups consolidated forces, and have maintained and expanded their local programming. We managed to welcome

almost 8000 people for the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial Ceremony, and we have been active in dozens of demonstrations and events throughout both Israel and Palestine.

We know that despite these dark times, it is possible to build a peaceful future based on coexistence and respect between our two peoples.

All of this would not have been possible without your most generous support. In the name of all members of Combatants for Peace, we want to thank you and motivate you, to continue to walk on the path of justice with us in 2019.

Yours truly, Mohammed and Tuly
General Coordinators, Combatants for Peace



active on the ground

Our bi-national regional activist groups are the core of the Combatants for Peace movement. Together we are building a community of activists to realize our shared values of humanity and dignity for all. In these groups, activists' from Israeli and Palestinian cities pair up to address local needs, protect civilians against settler and military violence and help solve communities' problems. In addition to our regional groups in the South, the Center and the North, we also maintain a women's group and a theater group. In 2018, the groups created a unique space for bi-national women's leadership development, built several playgrounds in the Jordan Valley, participated in olive harvests around Qualqilia - in areas targeted by settlers, rebuilt demolished homes and structures in the South, protected shepherds

from violence in the North and participated in direct action coalitions such as our campaign to protect the village of Khan Al Ahmar and other communities in the Jordan Valley. The groups worked with our Encounter program to host parlor meetings, conducted educational tours for Israelis and internationals in the West Bank, enacted Theatre of the Oppressed activities and more. Additionally, Combatants for Peace developed its first-ever youth group, conducting a round of workshops for Palestinian youth, targeting the next generation, in order to teach them the power of nonviolence. We have begun the process of bringing youth together from both Palestine and Israel, to participate in bi-national activism, and will develop this group more fully in 2019.

NON-VIOLENCE IN

KHAN AL AHMAR

In Fall 2018, our work was dominated by the constant, severe threat of the demolition of Khan Al Ahmar, the small Bedouin community between Jerusalem and Jericho.

For the first time, ever, a small village in the middle of the desert was getting international attention. Around 200 Palestinian Bedouins live in Khan Al Ahmar, where they settled several generations ago, after being evicted by Israel from the Negev (southern Israel) in 1948. Now the Israeli government is trying to force them to move again, so that it can build a settlement block in the center of the West Bank – effectively dividing the West Bank in two.

For several months, Combatants for Peace was present in Khan Al Ahmar, staging daily “sit-ins” and even “sleep-ins,” sleeping in the village overnight to ensure the village would not be destroyed in the middle of the night. Israeli forces have responded several times with violent assaults as well as arrests. In response, we held nonviolence trainings for our activists, teaching ourselves how to remain entirely nonviolent when faced with physical violence and assault. Together, in coalition with activists groups throughout both Palestine and Israel, we have staged mass nonviolent resistance on the ground, and created a broad international lobbying campaign. In the end - Khan al Ahmar is still standing!



OUR APPROACH

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BUILDING A COMMUNITY BASED ON EQUALITY

We are building an ever-expanding Palestinian-Israeli joint activist community and coalition that embodies and serves as a model of peaceful coexistence. In a society that is vastly unequal, we provide a new model of full equality, dignity and respect, based on democratic principles.

NONVIOLENT ACTION

We motivate broad and effective bi-national, non-violent activism,, which promotes freedom and security for both peoples. We use nonviolent action, activism and communication techniques to challenge the occupation, protect individuals and communities from systemic oppression and violence, and pull youth on both sides out of the cycle of violence.

CHANGE THE DISCOURSE

We challenge the discourse that claims there is no partner for peace on the other side. We know there is a partner – we work with each other everyday. Our work transforms attitudes on a wide scale, both within the Israeli and Palestinian publics, as well as within the governments. Through nonviolent direct action, personal storytelling and education, we work to reveal the humanity of the “other.”



	2015	2016	2017	2018
Members (ca.)	200	300	400	300
House Meeting Participants	1613	3064	3065	3150
Memorial Day Participants	3000	3500	4500	8000
Tours	8	7	13	12
NVC/ NVA-Trainings	0	1	2	4

Despite the worsening political situation, Combatants for Peace continues to reach new milestones, expand our reach, and develop new initiatives. Collectively we declare: Violence is not our fate! There is another way! The past year has seen extensive growth of our programs, the implementation of new partnerships and coalitions, and the continued growth of the largest-ever binational community of Palestinians and Israelis engaged in peace-building and nonviolent direct action.

KEY PROGRAMMATIC GROWTH 2015-2018

09

8000 people in HaYarkon Park Tel Aviv say YES to peace

This year we doubled the number of participants in the joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Ceremony. Despite the many attacks and attempts to prevent us from holding this event, we came together for an evening of mourning our loved-ones and created hope for a nonviolent future.

BUILDING HOPE



REMEMBERING. OUR FUTURE. TOGETHER.

This Ceremony is undoubtedly our flagship project, which we organize in cooperation with the Parent Circle - Family Forum. We recognize the asymmetry of power in the conflict, and therefore, this event focuses on the Israeli power to effect and demand change. This Ceremony honors the fallen and sends the message that both Israelis and Palestinians are victims of violence and it is we, the people who are capable of changing our society. This unique event provides the

platform for Israelis and Palestinians to both grieve together and to stand strong in demanding an end to the occupation. We provide a cathartic alternative for Israelis who want to commemorate Israeli Memorial Day but seek a ceremony that both honors the victims of violence and does not inflame nationalist and militaristic passions. This event's unique nature draws attendees from a diverse political spectrum within Israel, who are all seeking a different way. It allows us to challenge the notion that

the conflict is inevitable, and opens up the doors of hope. Each year, the event succeeds in injecting Combatants for Peace's values, rejecting violence and embracing another way, into public discourse. The success of the event models for Israeli, Palestinian and international audiences that nonviolent, bi-national cooperation is feasible. Thanks to domestic and overseas media coverage, including over 50,000 people livestreaming the ceremony, we are able to spread our message and call on ever-increasing numbers of people to join our bi-national, nonviolent movement for peace.

OUR KEY ACTIVITIES

In 2018 we continued to strengthen our key activities in EDUCATION, ACTION and INFLUENCE. The heart of the movement is our house meetings. We regularly meet with large numbers of Israelis, Palestinians and internationals, introducing them to the narratives on both sides. Our main programs target Israeli teens before they join the army, interested Palestinian communities, the general Israeli public and political or international delegations. We use our personal stories and the stories of personal transformation to show everyone, that change – both personally and politically – is possible. Once convinced, we ACT – meaning we work to bring people to the street in nonviolent resistance. We rebuild demolished homes and structures; help Palestinians harvest their crops when faced with settler or military violence, protect shepherds in the Jordan Valley who are faced with systemic violence, build rain water catchment systems for those denied access to running water, and protest injustice and inequality, such as street closures in the West Bank. At the same time we have begun to implement additional national and international campaigning and lobbying.



House Meetings
Community Building



NVA
Direct Actions



Tours
Seeing the reality



Advocacy
Raising our voice

MORE ACHIEVEMENTS 2018

Theater of the Opressed

We use theater in order to enact personal and political transformation. We believe that change starts from within, and Theater of the Opressed is a useful tool to reflect our own role and responsibilities in either perpetuating – or ending – this conflict. We do performances on the street, in villages, at checkpoints or in front of settlements, and through this work, people realize the idiocy and pain of occupation.

Creating Coalitions

We know that we cannot do this alone. Only through successful coalition and partnership will we be able to challenge the occupation and bring peace to both sides. We see our network as important as our movement. 2018 we successfully cooperated with many partners including: The Parents Circle, Breaking the Silence, All That's Left, ALLMEP, Tayyush, Holy Land Trust and many more.

Training on NVC

We organized three workshops for CFP and our coalition partners to learn and practice “Nonviolent Communication” - a key strategy not only for improving our internal communication but also in aiding successful activism on the ground.





OUR INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

After a successful establishment of **American Friends of Combatants for Peace** on September 5, 2017, this year, we also established a **German Friendship Group**. Both groups are dedicated to our work on the ground and represent our work in their respective countries. We organized three speaking tours in the U.S. as well as a trip for Americans to visit Israel and Palestine and learn about the situation first-hand. In Germany, we participated in our first lobbying tour of CFP to the German parliament and met with many members of the German governmental institutions. We'll be happy to put you in touch with either group, just contact us (office@cfpeace.org) and we will connect you!



RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

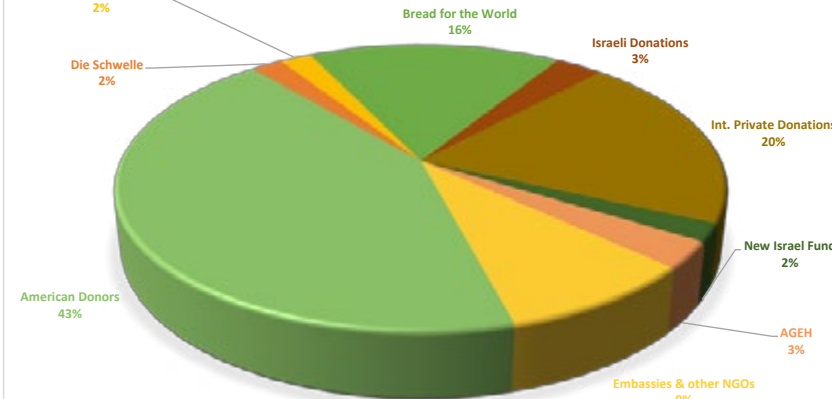
Thank You to our generous donors, individuals and organizations, we couldn't do this work without your help. An independent auditor approves all of our accounting records, and all financial reports are available upon request and published online according to Israeli law. As our movement is led and organized by volunteers, most of the funds were funneled directly into our activities, and we were able to keep administration costs low. Several positions in the movement receive a symbolical salary.

EXPENSES 2018 (501.000 USD)

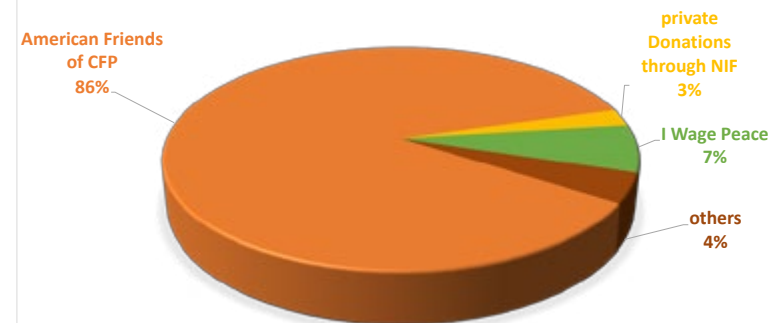


* Salaries for professionals in Management, Administration, Media, Project Coordination)

INCOME 2018 (TOTAL 543.000 USD)



AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR CFP IN 2018





Combatants for Peace
(NGO ID-Nr. 513797902)

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