

The Fatah Jubilee

A long time ago, when I was a child of about seven years old, I used to proclaim: "I am Fatah". I used to love Fatah. In Fatah, I loved a patient old man who never stopped telling stories of his bravery in smuggling weapons between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and stories of his heroic adventures crossing the Jordan River with his guerilla brethren (fedayeen). In Fatah I also loved a young man in his twenties who was addicted to Marcel Khalife and Ahmad Qa'bour and who sneaked from Amman to Beirut in the summer of 1967 to join the fighters there. In Fatah I loved a village woman. Her sons were many: some were martyred, others were detained, but her beloved never left her, not even for one night: the flag of Palestine. In Fatah I loved the song, "Hold the Kaffieh high and wave it, wave it". I love most our tears, our chill and thrill for the memory of the old Fatah. Today is the golden jubilee of Fatah, but it is not a sparkling one. It lost its glitter with the loss of its supporters: the old man, the young man, the village woman, and the [embroidered] leaves on the dress. Today, I am Fatah no more...but I will remain to love Fatah.

Editor in Chief

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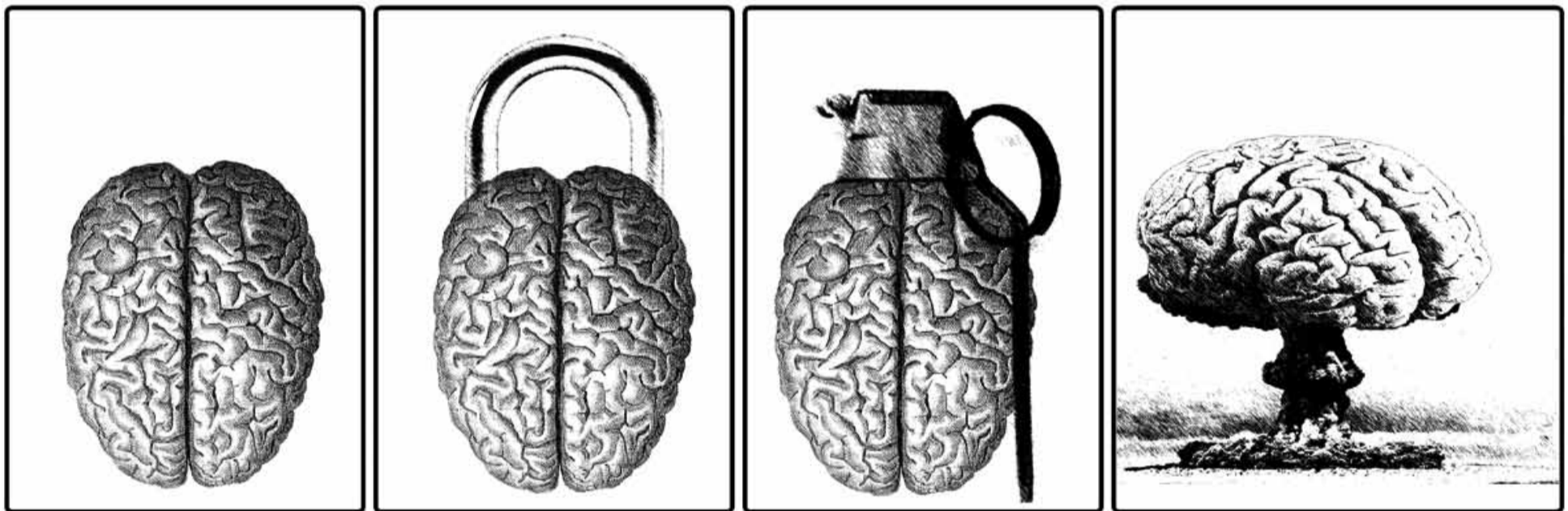
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ISIS does not come from outside



Phases of brain evolution

 Political analysis: Aref Hijawi

The human brain is small. This is demonstrated in how easy it is to program. A person can rapidly give up his essential thoughts and be the subject of programming: a hole is opened at the top of the head, a funnel inserted, and a formed idea poured in before closing the opening. We have witnessed such fanaticism and racial prejudice by the settlers and by Hitler Youth (Hitler jugend). Those youths, some just 15 years old, continued to defend Berlin while the Russian mortars were harvesting them. In their small heads, the idea existed of the superiority of the German people and their inevitable victory. Nowadays, we look at those blond-haired youngsters holding machine guns heavier than them and say, "Poor things!"

Today, I look at those bearded or veiled young militants and also say, "Poor things!" Ideologies disable the brain, but there are also other basic reasons: poverty, injustice and delusion.

In the Gaza Strip, there are people nearly starving to death and subjected to horrible injustices and oppression. Life becomes cheap, and the illusion

comes along of the hand of a savior. The poor oppressed youth raises his head, stands high, and says, "Instead of resistance and struggle, I will take revenge on the whole world." The solution to the ISIS dilemma is not an issue of security, but a social issue. ISIS is not entitled to establish itself in Palestine any more than Al Qaeda was. The ugly statement issued and signed by ISIS, accusing some people of immorality and atheism, is similar to the insults exchanged by anonymous cowards on the internet. However, the bullet that does not hit still causes an uproar and it is the right of intellectuals and journalists to be concerned and sickened by this cowardly threat.

The solution is a social one. Social solidarity in Palestine is not an impossible dream and has dual benefits. First, it links the community together and enhances genuine will to struggle against Israel. Yes, the brand new BMWs will disappear from our streets, expensive restaurants will be less popular, but life will still be possible without these non-essential luxuries. Second, social solidarity would dry up the swamps of extreme poverty and wither fanaticism. The

Palestinian government should start the process with itself. For them, we quote a paragraph from an article written by Professor Robert Wade, Professor of Political Economy and Development at the London School of Economics (Its name is school though it grants a PHD): "Everywhere I went, I encountered despair about the Palestinian Authority and its ineffectiveness, even allowing for the tight Israeli constraints. Some 70 per cent of the PA's revenues goes on salaries to public officials. Members of parliament, ministers and the President pay themselves extremely generously compared to average income: their average salary is about 24 times the Palestinian average and is one of the highest ratios in the world: (in Lebanon it is 15:1; in Bolivia 10:1; Saudi Arabia 5:1; USA 5:1; Norway 2:1)." (Extracted from London Review of Books).

In a country whose rulers belong to the Palestinian revolution, one expects something different. I have no statistics about Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip, but the Palestinian Authority media talked a lot about millionaires in Gaza, and I do not counter that. Palestinian intellectuals have cursed

ISIS in a plethora of articles and statements articulated in resonant language with superb analogies and talk of struggle and resistance. But the solution, as we see it, lies in social solidarity. Greed must be combatted. Religion is not the problem. I knew two elderly women in Jerusalem, one a Muslim and the other a Christian, who each used to fast for two months and ten days a year, through Ramadan and the forty sacred days, just to honor their neighborhood. That was thirty years ago.

Here is Jalalabadi, a poet and lyricist of songs in the Indian movies of Raj Kapoor (known for the Sangam film). His poems embrace many Arabic words and concepts, as in his song "Dum Dum" in the film Chhalia, which rhymes as Hayya Allah (Hallelujah) and Subhan Allah (Glory to God). This Hindu poet and lyricist used to worship God by reading the Quran, the Bible and the Sanskrit Gita all together.

Religion is not the problem. Greed is the problem, as well as poverty and injustice. ISIS is not a bacterial disease. If we get it, it will not be from abroad, but will emerge from within.

For Israel, the color of the identity card justifies the separation of family members and the severing of relations between relatives

Juliana Zanayed

The Israeli occupation not only divides Palestine geographically and shrinks the borders of the West Bank borders to a minimum, but also imposes the fragmentation of Palestinian society to dismantle its familial bonds at a later stage. The occupation imposes barriers to communication between Palestinians in the 1948 territories and those living in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. What follows is the account of a group of people holding a Jerusalem ID and married to the holder of a West Bank ID. Mrs. H.I. told Al-Hal that she had been married to a Jerusalemite for two and a half years and holds a West Bank ID. Her suffering starts at the Qalandia checkpoint with a false work permit that she obtained from some acquaintances of her husband and for which she pays NIS400 per month. She is banned from staying in Jerusalem after 7 pm but finishes her job at 4 pm, rushing to the checkpoint, which is often closed to her on the grounds that there are only two hours left for the expiration of her permit. As a result she spends many nights away from her home and her husband.

Living in hiding

The woman, who refused to disclose her name, added that she has limited options as she cannot leave her new house in Jerusalem and pay rent for another house, or buy another house and rent her own. Therefore, she is forced to undergo these circumstances every day, deprived of performing social obligations and feeling isolated because of shortage of time to

participate in family occasions. She does not feel as comfortable as a normal newlywed because she feels fear when she goes out with her husband in the evenings, especially during Jewish holidays. Going out is impossible when the Israeli police impose restrictive measures. She believes that this situation is an obstacle to having children. Where would they live? How would they be registered? Would they suffer on a daily basis like her?

Mr. J.Z. married a woman from Birzeit eight years ago and confirmed the statement by Mrs. H.I. After his first child was born, he was deprived of national insurance and could not register his son on his ID as the Israeli authorities considered him to be illegitimate. The daughter born later was luckier as she was automatically registered when he renewed his ID.

The sufferings of the mother and father are reflected in their separation and inability to live as a family. Each has a border crossing and route of travel. The most miserable is the child with no ID. He has no path ahead, as in the case of Mrs. C.K. from Sakhnin inside the Green Line [the 1948 territories] who married a man from Ramallah in 1978 and had six children. Only their youngest has a Jerusalem ID and the woman is forced to live separately from her sons, who are denied residence in Jerusalem. She and her husband had frequently taken risks in order to work and make a living, residing together in Jerusalem in spite of all the prohibitions.

Sixteen years later, thanks to the intervention of the youngest child, the double standards of Israeli law, and the bribes paid to lawyers, the other five children were given IDs. Yet, although the



Blue and green are two colors that determine the type of suffering.

youngest was granted a Jerusalemite ID, his sister, who was born in 1992 in the same Israeli hospital of Bikur Holim, was denied registration in her mother's ID and was only given a Palestinian birth certificate.

A temporary identity after 36 years of marriage

After Mrs. C.K. paid USD 5000 to the lawyer, he pushed to resolve her case and her husband was granted a temporary, not a permanent, ID. After 36 years in courts and official departments, and after obtaining the right of residency in Jerusalem for her six children and obtaining Jerusalem IDs, the psychological effects of the partial separation imposed on the family for 16 years remained. She says that some barriers exist between her and her husband, as well as between him and their children, each of whom has

an independent personality as they were raised away from her and her husband. Each has his way of life and personal space which he refuses to share with the others in the family.

Widow H.S. was less fortunate. Her daughter, who is 27 years old, has still not obtained a Jerusalem ID or a right to family reunification. The youngest son obtained an Israeli birth certificate when he was eleven years old. The situation became complicated when the daughter married her cousin, who holds a Jerusalem ID, but divorced after seven years and was deprived of her children on the grounds that they are Israeli citizens and she has no right to raise them. After many difficulties, the Israeli occupation authorities permitted the right to "see" her children for one hour; her role as a mother ends when the hour expires!

ISIS...a scarecrow or panic coming to Gaza!

Samia Zubeidy and Nisreen Mussa

In the past few weeks, unknown attackers detonated explosives in front of the houses of several Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip, along with the platform erected for the celebration of the late Yaser Arafat. They also exploded bombs next to the walls of the French cultural center. Prior to that, a development association was blown up in the south of the Gaza Strip. Female students and other women were threatened that they must comply with Sharia dress. A number of male and female writers were also threatened with death if they did not stop writing items described as "offensive to Islam".

Statements circulated on the internet attributed these crimes to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, so-called ISIS. Some people believe these claims and some are skeptical, but the claims have incited debate and fear among those targeted, as well as among the general public who barely escaped with their lives after the recent assault [Israeli war against the Gaza Strip] and who still suffer severely from its distressing consequences.

Writer Wesam Oweida lives in fear after he was listed and highlighted with another 17 writers and poets in a statement by ISIS. He told Al-Hal: "Whether the statement is issued by ISIS or by someone else, it is distressing." He criticized the way in which the security agencies addressed these crimes, describing their investigations as "limited and a formality".

In face of this, the security agencies of both the reconciliation government and Hamas were, in fact, confused. At the

time, they strongly denied the presence of ISIS in the Gaza Strip. Any information that confirmed otherwise was withheld from the public, except for a statement issued to a number of journalists by Dr. Musa Abu Marzouk, Deputy Head of the Hamas Political Bureau, declaring that investigations revealed that one of the authors listed in the [supposedly ISIS] statement was behind its release.

The Abu Marzouk statement prompted Sahar Musa, one of the threatened writers, to ask: "Is Dr. Abu Marzouk the one responsible for announcing the results of the investigations!? And how can this take place without us, the plaintiffs, being notified by the relevant parties?"

Abu Anas, a member of the Islamic army, told Al-Hal: "The information we have indicates that Hamas itself is behind these incidents and is falsely claiming that ISIS is the perpetrator." He added: "If it was us who did it, none of us would still be in our homes." He accused the Hamas security agencies of hunting members of the Islamic army, breaking into their houses and arresting them.

Asked about their readiness to establish a Caliphate in the Gaza Strip, Abu Anas replied: "We have no commands regarding this so far and we currently lack the means to do it because Hamas opposes and persecutes us."

In a statement, Jihadist Salafist groups denied the presence "of any organization or group called Islamic State. However, if the intention concerns a Caliphate state in Iraq and the Levant - Blessed by God - that policy does not entail the bombing of an empty car here, or targeting a house gate there...

we deny any knowledge or responsibility for those bombings or vain statements."

Abu Hafs of the Al-Umah (nation) Army denied any link with internal violence targeting civil peace in the Gaza Strip, describing their mission as greater than this. He explained their approach of da'wah [advocacy and inviting people to Islam] as followers of the benevolent Prophet, whose approach was "argue with them in the best way". But for the enemies of Islam, the approach is jihad to end the occupation.

Abu Hafs also denied any knowledge of a pledge of allegiance and obedience to the Caliph Al Bagdadi by Al-Umah, saying that the army has no relationship with any external organization at all.

The organization of Ansar Al Sharia - Bait Al Maqdes (Helpers of Islamic law-Jerusalem), one of the Salafist groups active in the Gaza Strip, pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and Caliph Abu Bakr Al Bagdadi a month ago in a video broadcast on YouTube. A veiled militant appearing in the video said that the organization would support Islamic State with people, money and da'wah (advocacy), but ruled out that ISIS or any of these organizations are behind the recent statements.

Abdel Jawad Zyadeh, a Fatah leader in the northern Gaza Strip whose house was targeted by an explosive device, believes that this crime must be committed by a party that has the organization, power and capabilities, supported by security cover that allows free movement in the early hours, to carry out a series of simultaneous explosions.

A number of political analysts believe that ISIS is present in the Gaza Strip, but under different names. Talal Okal said, "ISIS is there, but without an official pledge of allegiance." He argues that the threat to writers in the name of ISIS is simply "exploitation of the name" and he denied that Hamas has any interest in the existence of ISIS in the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Mukheimer Abu Sa'ada believes that there are groups in the Gaza Strip that share the same ideas as ISIS and some of them express their loyalty as well. However, he minimized their ability to take action in Gaza.

Political researcher Talal Abu Rukbeh stated that Hamas will not allow the presence of an Islamic party that aims to dominate the Palestinian public, and Hamas is capable of destroying it just as it did with Abdel Latif Musa and his organization five years ago.

Abu Rukbeh summarized his opinion of what is taking place as "using the name of ISIS to terrorize the public that any alternative to the absence of Hamas or the end of its security control in the Gaza Strip would be chaos and murder committed by extremist terrorists." This implies that Hamas or some groups in it are behind these explosions. He based his argument on the saying, "A perfect crime is that committed by an authority". Al-Hal tried to contact a number of Ministry of Interior spokesmen without success.

This type of analysis finds fertile ground in the silence of the government and its security agencies, while these crimes increase by the day and no criminals have yet been put behind the bars of justice.

The Palestinian Museum:

Collecting the pieces of the Palestinian story to present it to the world in one piece

Noor Aktash

A map of the world was engraved on the foundation stone of the Palestinian Museum to express the project's concept of breaking down the borders that have torn the Palestinian people apart, forced half of the population to seek refuge all over the world, and left others either sinking under occupation or as second-class citizens in the Palestinian occupied territories [of 1948].

In an interview with Al-Hal, Jack Persekian, director and head curator of the Palestinian Museum said: "The strong point of the Palestinian Museum lies in it being a trans-border institution geographically and politically. It promotes intellectual and artistic mobility for all and encourages the new and innovative, especially in light of the diversity of Palestinian art, which has failed to create links between these activities. The role of the Museum is to attempt to create these bonds."

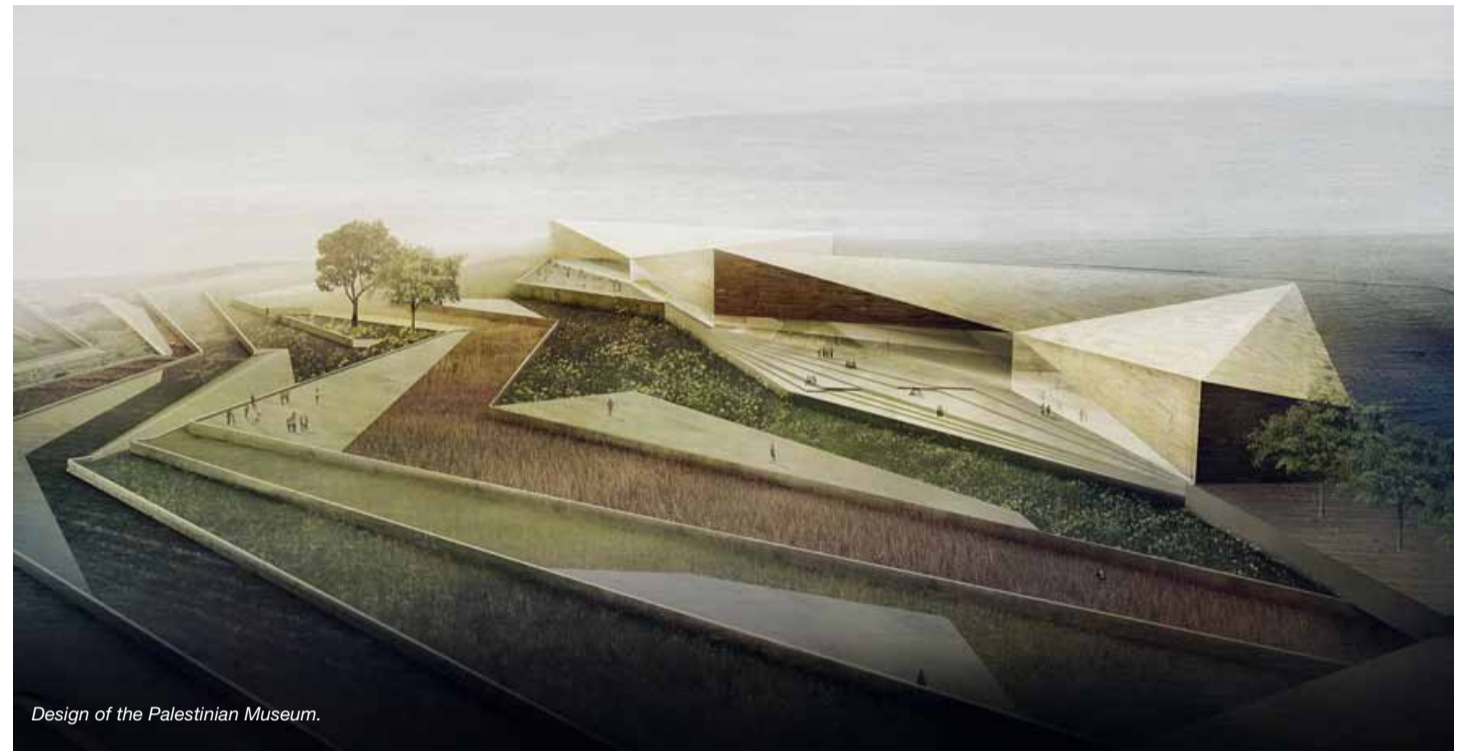
The Palestinian Museum is established on 40 dunums of land in the town of Birzeit, north of Ramallah and Al-Bireh. The Museum sits on the top of a hill overlooking the east coast of the Mediterranean. Birzeit University donated the land at a nominal rent, providing the stimulus to establish the Museum adjacent to the University. This fulfills the vision of the Museum to become a research institution for interaction with students and other research institutions and researchers. The central location of Birzeit makes it easy for visitors to reach it from all over Palestine, according to Persekian.

The project employs companies with Palestinian assets for construction management and implementation. The Museum Director confirms that the selection of Palestinian companies such as PROJACS and the Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC) represented a convergence of interests by companies wishing to engage in construction in Palestine with the need of the Museum to exploit the international expertise of these companies in the construction of large and complex buildings throughout the world, given that the design of the Museum building is extremely complex. It has slanted ceilings of various degrees and there are details related to environmental protection.

The first green building in Palestine

Those in charge of the project hope to be awarded the silver certificate from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, known as LEED. This is a rating system and the Museum hopes to become the first green building in Palestine as it has abided by the standards and specifications for green buildings in terms of the design, construction and operation of the Museum building.

Wejdan Sharif, a founder of the Palestine Green Building Council, clarifies that the establishment of an environmentally friendly building in Palestine requires



Design of the Palestinian Museum.

strict compliance to exacting standards ranging from the design through all phases of construction and up to the final day of work on the site. She noted that the results of this compliance must be displayed after the building comes into operation and in future water and energy bills.

Several standards are being adhered to during the construction project, ranging from soil erosion prevention, minimization of dust emission, protection of natural surfaces, and the allocation of special areas for waste management and recycling. Luay Shahin, the engineer responsible for maintaining the green nature of the building, added that there are also other standards relating to the design and shape of the building to absorb sunlight and wind so as to minimize the need for heating and to guarantee better ventilation. Insulation is ensured by many layers, similar to the skin on the body.

The Director of the Museum stresses that the Museum will be a model for environmental sustainability in Palestine through the creation of an ideal healthy environment for visitors and employees alike. He emphasized the importance of looking for green solutions in the design and construction of the building, reflected in a reduction in water and energy consumption of 23%.

The design is associated with the philosophy of Palestinian architecture

Conner Sreenan of Heneghan Peng Architects from Ireland said, "The design of the Museum was inspired by traditional Palestinian methods of utilizing agricultural land by gradient terracing and contouring upwards to reach the building on the top of the hill." Sreenan, who was involved in the design of the Museum, said that the design evolved after visits and observation of the difficult mountainous nature of West Bank areas, resulting in an architectural vision. He stressed that, "This vision

originated from the land of Palestine and therefore differs from the construction in the Palestinian urban environment."

Engineer Haitham Issa, director of the construction project for the CCC, clarifies that this project is significant in its design and theme. The design defines a philosophy linked to civilization and culture and takes into consideration the shape of the building from every side and its view.

Engineer Firas Tbeileh sees the Palestinian Museum construction project as reviving Palestinian architectural identity. "The design was very successful in interpreting Palestinian human-based architecture, the sense of nature and how a visitor views the Museum from different angles. Every step was employed to accommodate authentic details and redefine Palestinian architecture in a modern way."

Operation of the Museum ahead of the opening of the building

Although the Museum is still under

construction, teams are implementing a number of projects at temporary offices in Ramallah. According to the Museum administration, the Museum's visual archives were established recently and partnerships initiated with Palestinian refugees in refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon and with the Palestinian diaspora in the Americas. Networking also took place with museums in Palestine to work collectively to promote this sector and to enhance the skills of personnel through a series of workshops and the first two exhibitions of the Palestinian Museum.

The Palestinian Museum is a major project of the Welfare Association. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of next year and it will open to the public in early 2016. The design selected was that presented by Heneghan Peng Architects from Ireland, while PROJACS is supervising the construction project, the CCC is implementing the project and Arab Tech Jardaneh is providing advisory services.

alhal

Al Hal is a monthly newspaper that has been issued since 2005, it's a critical daring newspaper that discuss controversial delicate issues that varies between political, economic, social and cultural themes, with the participation of a group of professional outstanding journalists in West Bank and Gaza, in addition to Media students at Birzeit University, Al Hal has contributed to uncovering lots of cases that are not being publicized in daily newspapers or being banned for censorship; subjects of Al Hal are handled through reporting ,investigative reporting, articles and interviews along with criticizing caricatures in every edition, The newspaper has in parallel to the paper edition a digital version that showcases best articles in multimedia, check our newspaper website following this link:

<http://hal.birzeit.edu>

“Palestine Remix”

...Make your movie on the Palestinian cause

Khaled Saleem

Documentary film maker Rawan Damen was presented with a great challenge to transform a traditional work into a unique idea. The concept required three months of hard work and the birth coincided with the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, observed by the United Nations on the 29th of November, with the child named “Palestine Remix”.

A series of documentary films directed by Rawan Damen and her colleagues at Al Jazeera media network on many aspects of the Palestinian cause have been compiled to form a historical, textual, vocal and visual portrait of the entire history of the Palestinian cause. On YouTube, 17 documentary films are made available to everyone. However, Damen was searching for another way to make use of this library beyond merely watching and receiving.

The receiver becomes interactive

Social media activist Mahmoud Hreibat described the project enthusiastically. “Palestine Remix is not an ordinary project, but goes beyond traditional formats to enter an amazing world of innovation. It allows you to put your finger prints on someone else’s production because it turns the spectator, receiver and user into an interactive person who both learns and participates in the information. It provides a huge archive that permits the use of any specific detail in an easy and creative manner, allowing the spectator to create and display content in a personal and unique way.”

According to Mohammad Haddad, a Palestinian from Haifa living in South Africa, “The Remix idea has been there for years, but the application was for short texts only and in English. There were no such applications in the field of documentaries or for long texts.” He explained to Damen that the concept is an electronic link between the text and the video that, over time, allows the text to be brought to life by the video.

Damen liked the idea and contacted Mark Boas, a British Remix web developer to apply it to long documentary films in four languages.

A unique programming method

Dr. Mohammad Abu Rub, a Professor at Birzeit University, said of this type of programming: “Palestine Remix utilizes the latest programming technology and interactive visual composition to allow the user to interact with the content and recompose it. It is an important source for teaching and training, especially for media students who are interested in



Rawan Damen during the launch of “Palestine Remix”.

learning about the latest visual media and electronic interaction.”

The Editor-in-Chief of Oud Al-Ned electronic magazine and a trainer in multimedia, Dr. Adly Huwary, finds that, “This site has employed technology in a remarkable way to achieve benefits. It reminds me of the technology for Quran memorization, which enables the user to hear a Quranic verse with a touch of the mouse.” He believes that it is useful to have the site in more than one language to introduce the Palestinian cause. Great efforts have clearly been made in the implementation of the project and users can also create innovative ideas or abridge a particular part according to their vision. For instance, the transformation of one hour of filming to a quarter of an hour meets the needs of amateur technological [film] directors and trains them in the skill of editing.”

Knowledge, awareness and promotion

Dr. Huwary stressed that, “The compilation of documentaries related to Palestine in one location facilitates knowledge about it and saves time searching for all items relating to Palestine.” Hreibat also believes that, “The facility of four languages on this site will provide the world with an interactive

electronic gateway for any specialist interested in a specific detail regarding the suffering of the Palestinian people. It will also mobilize many supporters to interact with the Palestinian cause.”

Abu Rub added, “The four languages available on the site will serve the Palestinian cause. The content is multilingual and, in spite of its modern nature, it is anticipated that the site will contribute to raising the awareness of the foreign public about the Palestinian cause, especially English-speaking users. The promotion of the site should not be overlooked, specifically by posting funded advertisements via social communication networks.”

Damen is satisfied with the reactions to the site. During the first ten days following the launch of Palestine Remix, over 400 people had visited the site, especially from the United States, Egypt and Palestine. This is a large number bearing in mind that the current version is experimental and advertising had only been in the form of a small digital campaign. Damen said, “The reactions received via Facebook and Twitter were excellent. There is a feeling among interested people that the site may act as an educational and cultural tool for raising awareness on the Palestinian issue in general, and particularly documentary work on Palestine.”

Hreibat believes that Al Jazeera’s embrace of Palestine Remix is

important and useful to promote the site. He added, “A close look at the site shows innovative thinking and unique mechanisms. Work is complementary and interactive, representing a quantum leap in the coverage of the Palestinian cause. We used to utilize social communication networks to highlight the Palestinian issue and this was successful. But this site is totally dedicated to the Palestinian cause and has Facebook and Twitter accounts. We are proud to have Palestine Remix.”

Targeted audience

According to Damen, a media graduate from Birzeit University, the site targets three categories: those interested in the short movie industry, which is a small category involved in the new technique of producing remixes of text montages. The second category is wider and consists of those interested in participating with movie clips to raise awareness about Palestinian issues via social communication networks. The third category is the wider general public who are interested in finding out more about the Palestinian cause. Young people will have a space to get to know Palestine in a more attractive way visually and interactively. Damen expects that a mobile phone application will be launched before the end of this year in four languages.