

Nonviolence and agricultural cooperation in Palestine

**2013 - 2016
REPORT**

A partnership



Les dossiers

du
Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente

n°14 EN
Février 2017
5€



With support of



Région
Provence
Alpes
Côte d'Azur



Thanks to Véronique MOREIRA for the English translation



Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente – MAN

Groupe de Lyon

187 montée de Choulans

69005 Lyon

Tel: 06 28 96 31 85

Email : man.lyon@nonviolence.fr

<http://nonviolence.fr/lyon>



MAN-Lyon

SOMMAIRE

Thanks to	4
Activities report	5
Highlights	7
Preparatory trip in 2013	7
March 2014	7
April 2014	8
April – May 2014	9
June 2014	9
June - July 2014	9
July 2014	10
October 2014	11
December 2014	12
April 2015	12
July 2015	12
September 2015	12
October 2015	13
The realisations in Beit Ommar	14
Fields 1 and 2	14
Field on route 60	15
Trainings realised by our partner	16
Campaign Save the Land	16
Summer camp for children 2015	16
Women’s organisations meeting in March	17
Realisations in the Jordan Valley	18
Rehabilitation of the road leading to Fasayel	18
Plantations	18
Campaign Save the Land	18
Training sessions	19
Bricks machine	19
The milk factory	20
In Rhône-Alpes, around the project	21
Meetings around the project	23
Follow-ups	24
Around the project in France	25
Financial report	27
Difficulties	28
Along the project	28
Conclusion	32
Final assessment	33
Annex	34

1. THANKS TO

The **Regional council of Rhône Alpes**, (now regional Council of Auvergne-Rhône Alpes) and more precisely

Veronique MOREIRA, vice-president EELV Regional council of Rhône Alpes, in charge of international cooperation who supported the project from the beginning and followed it until the regional elections in December 2015.

Anna FIORINI-BERLOT, officer in charge of Mediterranean and Armenian cooperation at the DERIC (Direction of Europe, of international Relations and Cooperation) regional Council of Rhône-Alpes

The **Regional Council of PACA** and more precisely

Jean FLEURY, officer in charge of PEI / MA, Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

he **French Consulate of Jerusalem** and more precisely

Minh-di Tang, Deputy Consul

Delphine DUFOIX, officer for decentralized cooperation, Embassy of Palestine in France

The **Governor of Jericho**, Majed ALFETYANI

The **Governor of Hebron**, Kamel HEMEID

The **Council of Beit Ommar**

The different partners:

MAN Lyon and more precisely Serge PERRIN, Marine KOHLHAAS, Paola CAILLAT, Paule et Gérard LEGRAND,

AFPS 07-26 and more precisely Marc FERRAPIE et Michel KRAU,

The **Châteaubriant's area Palestine-Israel comity** and more precisely Louis DAVID et Marie BAUCERE

AJAM2France Valence and more precisely Selma and Younes AOUDJIT

JVS Albertville and more precisely Gérard PAUCHET

The **AFPS Lyon and Savoie**

The Regional chamber of Agriculture

We would like to thank for their financial support

Regional council of Rhône Alpes

Regional council of PACA

The CBSP

The AFPS Savoie

BDS 42

The AFPS 07 – 26

The MAN Lyon.

And of course, thanks to all the activists who have been involved in one way or another, all along the project, and more precisely: Alice WEITH, Lolita WISSART, Monique RIBARD, Aimée MOUCHET, Yéza LUCAS and to great personalities who provided financial support: Simone DE BOLLARDIERE, Louis VIANNET, former CGT's General Secretary ...

2. ACTIVITIES REPORT

In 2011, Mousa ABU MARIA, Palestinian non violent activist from Beit Ommar, was introduced to the MAN by Lyon's section of the AFPS (Association France Palestine Solidarité), through the section Ardeche which had already supported farmers in Beit Ommar (purchase of a ploughing tractor).

In 2012, the MAN invited Mousa for a conference tour about the non-violent resistance he leads with his organisation PSP (Palestine Solidarity Project) in Beit Ommar.

Mousa asked the MAN if they would agree with a partnership with PSP as a non-violent movement.

During this tour we introduced him to politicians, among whom Veronique Moreira, vice-president in charge of international cooperation at the Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes.



Mousa ABU MARIA in conference in Lyon

She accepted to support Mousa ABU MARIA's demand.

Thus, the MAN Lyon and the AFPS 07-26 considered Mousa's demand and organised a partnership based on training to non-violence and support to the sustainability of agriculture in Palestine.

As a matter of fact, and since Beit Ommar is located in area C (under control of the Israeli army), the management and use of the land have become vital issues (the land area C are frequently stolen to extend the colonies or to build roads for settlers).

Mousa ABU MARIA said that non-violent resistance was over all necessary to stay in the area and thus to keep on farming, despite the physical threats from the settlers, and the economical threats from the occupation system.

At that time, the Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes was involved in a partnership with Jericho's governorate, and wished the Jordan Valley to join the project for the part concerning farm investment.

Since Beit Ommar is in Hebron's area, which cooperates with the Regional Council of PACA, we also asked for support from this Council.

The MAN Lyon recruited a trainee, Yeza LUCAS, from April 15 to July 15 2013 so as to prepare the project of cooperation between MAN Lyon, AFPS Drôme Ardèche and the organisation Centre for Freedom and Justice from Beit Ommar, since Mousa ABU MARIA introduced the Centre as an organisation rallying several groups, among which PSP, the Comity of Women, and the youth group.

The partnership named « Non-violence and support to Palestinian agriculture » was launched during a trip on site in September 2013 and planned for 3 years.

It rallied the MAN Lyon, the AFPS Drôme-Ardèche and the Centre for Freedom and Justice. Two other organisations joined afterwards: Jordan Valley Solidarity, a defensive committee located in the Jordan Valley, and the Chateaubriand Israel-Palestine committee (Loire Atlantique) which had been in touch with Beit Ommar's council for years.

This partnership was based on two principles:

1. Grassroots and civic non-violent cooperation

The agenda aimed at empowering the local grassroots actors and spread a culture of non-violence and peace so as to improve the relationship between Palestinians and Israelis and make possible the implementation of a democratic governance at local level.

What was at stake was:

The diminution of the young people's use of violence, based on debates, reflexions around the resolution of conflicts, intercultural exchanges and non violent action trainings

The training of local leaders so as to make them able to speak for the Palestinian people and to support the implementation of a democratic governance at local level.. This training was meant to make them gain respect and confidence from the people, and over all to spread a culture of peace and dialogue in their work places, universities, or within their families.

The strengthening of the dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis, more specifically the reinforcement of local activists for a non-violent resistance against occupation.

The strengthening of an international support network for non-violent resistance to occupation and Israel's illegal exploitation in Palestine.

2. Farming cooperation

The agenda of farming cooperation was aimed at improving the living conditions of rural people in the Jordan Valley and Beit Ommar (area C) especially impacted by limitations to free circulation, by physical and psychological violence and by land grabbing. It is a core component of the grassroots non-violent resistance strategy.

What was at stake was:

To use the development of farming in order to improve the economical welfare of rural communities of the Jordan Valley and Beit Ommar and more specifically the economic empowerment of women.

To maintain and develop the farming activities in the Jordan Valley and Beit Ommar through strengthening the distribution channels on the Palestinian territory, so that the local production could be sold. This was possible with back up on the local farmers' skills.

To curb land grabbing by Israeli settlers in both regions, through a priority on farming in vulnerable areas next to the settlements.

To foster the sharing of knowledge and inter-cultural links through exchanges between Palestinian and French farmers.

These activities in 2014 and 2015 have been reported in details and can be found on the site: <http://nonviolence.fr/spip.php?rubrique2>

We have also written information letters, sent to more than 250 readers who gave their email to follow the project.

We also opened a Facebook page « Non-violence and support to Palestinian agriculture ».

3. HIGHLIGHTS

Preparatory trip in 2013

A delegation of the MAN and AFPS, with Serge Perrin (coordinator of MAN), Paola Caillat (MAN member in charge of its international projects) and Marc Ferrapie (AFPS Drôme Ardèche) went to Palestine in 2013, from September 1st to 6th .

The goals:

Meet the members of Palestine Solidarity Project (PSP) and Centre for Freedom and Justice (CFJ) so as to know better the organisations' functioning and actions.

Discuss and complete the multi-year project for a partnership CFJ/MAN/AFPS.

Meet potential partners from Israeli and Jericho's organisations

Paola CAILLAT was committed in the organisation of Mousa ABU MARIA's advocacy tour in August and September 2012; she also took part in the setting up of the partnership project lead by Yeza, trainee at MAN.

She thus discovered the context and helped to translate the discussions.



First meeting with Rashed from JVS and Tal AMIT

During this trip, Mousa ABU MARIA met Rashed KHUDAIRY from Jordan Solidarity Valley, and the global partnership Project came through.

March 2014

Four young people from the MAN Lyon (Jean-Guy Audéoud, Marie Orset, Alice Weith et Lolita Wissart) took part in the women's conference organised by the Centre in Beit Ommar and met partners to get their views on the progress of the project, their expectations and needs.

For these young people, this first step on the ground has been mostly fruitful.

They attended the fourth conference organised by the Centre for Justice and Freedom to celebrate the international Women's day.



Young people visiting the grounds with Mousa

The officials from Beit Ommar and Hebron, and different organisations (such as JVS, C4FJ's new partner) presented their situation and activities. They pointed injustice, resistance, the importance of economical local development as a type of non-violent resistance. A member of MAN presented the partnership and the financial support of the regional council of Rhône Alpes. Thanks to this conference, the Palestinian women shared their experience and gained confidence in their choice of non-violent resistance.

The young ones were welcomed by the governor of Hebron and visited the communities who live in the south of the city experiencing very difficult living conditions.

They also met the deputy governor of Jericho when they visited the Jordan Valley.

April 2014

A delegation was hosted in April from the 22 to the 26th.

The partnership agreement was signed by the 5 organisations, and members of the 2 Palestinian organisations were there: Mousa ABU MARIA, (Centre for Freedom and Justice, Beit Ommar) and Sireen KHUDAIRY, (Jordan Valley Solidarity).



The delegation to the Rhône-Alpes Regional Council

Amina MAJED ALFETYANI, Governor of Jericho was also part of the delegation (cooperation agreement with the regional council of Rhône-Alpes), along with Seham MAYSAR, chief advisor of the governor of Hebron (territory that includes Beit Ommar and that cooperates with the regional council of PACA), Nasri SABARNA, mayor of Beit Ommar and his wife Mrs Hanaa

SABARNA, Islam AWAD, communication manager of Beit Ommar and Tal AMIT, Israeli activist for peace.

Mr and Mrs Bassel GHATTAS, Palestinian Israeli and Aziz ABUAMDIAM, from AL Araqib who represented the Israeli Bedouin minority joined the delegation. Meetings were organised in other cities of the area: St Etienne and le Puy en Velay.

A meeting was also organised at the Regional Council, with elected representatives among whom the vice-president in charge of international cooperation Mrs Véronique MOREIRA and Mrs Lela BENCHARIF, vice-president in charge of participative democracy, associative life and non formal education. Then, representatives from other organisations exchanged further. The day ended with a public event at the Maison des Passages in Lyon. Pierre Benite's human rights league had set up that event to listen to witnesses and reports of non-violent resistance in Palestine. Mr MAJED ALFETYANI, governor of Jericho, and Sireen KHUDAIRY from Jordan Valley Solidarity were present.

The delegation travelled then to Châteaubriant where meetings were organised by the committee.

The Palestinian delegation was received at the Parliament by members of France Palestine friendship group: Xavier BRETON, MP for Ain and Vice President of the friendship group,

Jean GLAVANY, former minister. This meeting was due to Yves DANIEL, MP for Châteaubriant 44. Claude LEOSTIC, President of the platform of NGOs for Palestine was present too.



Public evening with the Governor of Jericho

April – May 2014

MAN set up a training programme based on non-violent action (framed by the European programme Youth in Action) from April 26 to May 4th. There were young people from Italy, Germany, Spain, Jordan, Tunisia, and France, and two Palestinians from Beit Ommar and a woman from the Jordan Valley.

Ten fruitful days that allowed the youngsters to share their experience on non-violence, which is very different in the different countries.

June 2014

From June 6 to 9, the Peace Event framed international meetings in Sarajevo. It was an opportunity for citizens from sixty countries to talk together. A delegation of MAN (Lyon and Alsace centre) and Ecole de la Paix facilitated workshops.

On June 7, MAN Lyon facilitated a workshop with various European organisations, to consider the feasible actions to support non-violent resistance in Palestine.

Our friends, non-violent resistance leaders, (Mousa ABU MARIA, Beit Ommar and Rashed KHUDAIRY, Jordan Valley Solidarity) could not attend because of visa problems, although we expected them to talk about their experience.

We met and had talks with Bassem TAMIMI, non-violent leader in Palestine, who presented the context in Palestine, and mentioned actions to strengthen the grassroots initiatives and to maintain the population on their land. He insisted on the importance of projects that help people on the ground, but he delivered the message that what counts most for Palestinian people is political advocacy from European and international organisations towards governments, European union leaders and UNO

June - July 2014

AA 4 Palestinian women delegation attended the regional conference for international cooperation in Rhône Alpes from June 26 to July 7.

Members of this delegation:

- Mona EBRIGHITH, director of the Centre for Freedom and Justice
- Sawsan AWAD, Centre for Freedom and Justice

- Nevin BARAHMA, Jordan Valley Solidarity
- Haneen IQTISHAT, Jordan Valley Solidarity

After the conferences, the delegation met people from the council of Annemasse (that was planning a twinning with a council of the Jordan Valley) and Saint-Fons.

We set up meetings with AFRAT who facilitates the project « Abraham' path" that links Hebron to Jericho. The regional council of Rhône-Alpes, the French Development Agency and the European Union support this project.

We wanted to make sure what kind of opportunities could be considered between Beit Ommar, the Jordan Valley's projects and this kind of solidarity tourism.

We organised visits on farms in Ardeche, jam-producing workshops and local community stores in the monts du lyonnais. This was planned in accordance with the project that aimed at processing and selling fruit in Beit Ommar.



In Ardèche we visited the domain Olivier de Serres of Pradel where the delegation met the director of the agricultural secondary school, the president of the regional chamber of agriculture.

Then the delegation attended the Fête de l'Humanité Ardèche, where Ephraim DAVIDI, important member of the Israeli communist party and François JACQUART, Regional counciler were present.

The delegation of women to the Rhône-Alpes Regional Council

attended the national AFPS summer camp in Tournon and an agora during the Dialogues en Humanité in Lyon.

The delegation finally

July 2014

The Movement for a non-violent Alternative organises every 2 year a national forum national all the local groups can join.

In July 2014, some sections of MAN that lead actions concerning Palestine organised a workshop in Alsace to tackle the issue of non violent struggle in Palestine, coordinated with the local section of AFPS.

About 50 people took part in the workshop.

We presented the partnership and what we did in France and Palestine

Then the movement BDS (boycott, divestment and sanction) was explained and discussed, as long as hints for action.

The partnership got great support with many people expressing their opinions in the context of the conflict in Gaza and the ban of demonstrations in France.

The day before, we had got a message from some representatives of Israeli communities from Alsace, sharing their concerns on the rise of anti-Semitism. Six people from this community attended the workshop and when they left, they mentioned they had been comforted after listening to our message.

October 2014

From October 12 to 22nd, a delegation composed of six people, among whom three elected representatives (Lela BENCHARIF, vice-president of the regional council of Rhône-Alpes, Philippe LEEUWENBERG, member of the general council of Drôme and municipal councillor of Die, Pierre TRAPIER, former mayor and local councillor of Portes les Valence, Marc FERRAPIE, member of AFPS Drôme-Ardèche, Serge PERRIN, and Marine KOHLHAAS for the MAN) spent a week in Palestine.

The mission aimed at showing the realisation of ground projects to elected representatives support-to-be sharing views with the actors involved in the projet (non government organisations, institutions)

It was also important to assess the impact of the ground project on local people and to rise awareness on the context of occupation in Palestinian territories very concretely.



The delegation received in the town hall of Al Jeflit

This one-week-trip was fruitful thanks to the meetings with Palestinian people, Israeli peace activists and international organisations who were present to report on and protect farmers against the Israeli army.

Several political meetings were set up to gain support and involve institutions on their support of grassroots organisations, specifically in area C.

Hence, we met the governors of Hebron and Jericho, the French Consulate of Jerusalem, the councils of Beit Ommar, Al Jeftlik and Fassayel.

We also met the Institute for applied research of Jerusalem (ARIJ) to attend to a presentation of the evolution of settlements, based on detailed maps . We also shared views in an interesting meeting in Bethleem with Hind KHOURY, a former delegate for Palestine in France (from 2006 to 2010).

A meeting with two Israeli activists members of several organisations, including Machsom Watch, allowed to consider the context and the difficulties of peace activists in Israel

We visited fields where our projects were settled and learned about hte progress of the initiatives. For example, in Beit Ommar, the rehabilitation of 2 orchards and the implementation of a water tank led to the recruitment of 5 Palestinian workers for 4 months.

We visited a farmers' cooperative that processes grapes and raisins and we understood better how they worked and hence brought concrete information to the women of Beit Ommar who expect to develop the selling of their production.

We measured the impact of the projects and the commitment of the population through talks with farmers, women's groups and young people from the Centre for Freedom and Justice.

The youngsters explained the difficulties they face and the initiatives they implement to develop solutions.

The three young Palestinians who came to France in May for the workshop on non-violent action of the European programme "Jeunesse en Action" enjoyed sharing their experience and they are deeply involved in the projects the association is leading. What is to be enlightened is the fact that the relationship initiated in the first year of the project is now a close-knit relation.

December 2014

Public meetings were organised to report on the October mission, in Lyon, St Etienne, Portes Les Valence.

On the 17th December 2014, Mousa ABU MARIA went to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, along with Lela BENCHARIF, Serge PERRIN, Jean-Yves CARLEN and Marine KOHLHAAS (MAN) to attend the vote of the resolution for the recognition of the state of Palestine.



The delegation with MEPs EELV

Mousa ABU MARIA met elected representatives (Michele RIVASI, Pascal DURAND, Karima DELLI for the greens/ALE group, Marie-Christine VERGIAT and Patrick LE HYARIC for the GUE/NGL group.

April 2015

A delegation from Palestine and Israel, related to our partner from the Comité Israël Palestine (pays de Châteaubriant), was hosted in Rhône Alpes, like the year before.

Eitan BRONSTEIN and Eléonore MERZA BRONSTEIN, founding activists from Zochrot, an Israeli organisation, and members of the Israeli "De Colonizer", were present, as long as Dr Mazin QUMSIYEH,

teacher and president of the Palestinian Centre for closer ties between people, and Tal AMIT, Israeli peace activist .

July 2015

A youth summer camp was held in Lyon on les 5, 6, 7 et 8 July 2015, and we received Farah FAHAN from Bethléem who studies French and works for the French Alliance.

We shared her experience through training sessions or workshops, and also through non formal discussions.

She offered to facilitate the exchanges around the project, in relation with Beit Ommar.

September 2015

A training session was implemented for 4 young Palestinian farmers at the CFPPA Olivier de Serres - Domaine du Pradel, Mirabel (Ardèche) from September the 14 to the 25th.

The main issues were sheep raising and cheese making, to improve the Al Jeflit milk-factory project. there were also trainings on fruit production and transformation to improve the productions in Beit Ommar, where lands had been rehabilitated and where a women's cooperative is to be set up to sell local products.

We also planned to show the importance of resource pooling (cooperatives for instance).

The Palestinians who came :

- Sadem, 20, farmer and breeder in the Jordan Valley,
- Hisham, 26, farmer's son from the Jordan Valley
- Mysar, 29, tree grower from Beit Ommar,
- Ahmad, 26, farming engineer from Beit Ommar.

The 4 trainees met young people from d'AJAM2France (Valence) on September the 19 and 20th.

Sylvie DUBOIS, department Councilor in charge of International Solidarities expressed the support of the Ardeche Departmental Council.

Thanks to the AFPS close relation with several organisations in Ardeche, the delegation were welcomed and attended the Confédération Paysanne Party and met representatives of the town of Cruas (which was considering a twinning with a Palestinian city).



Palestinian farmers in training in Ardèche

October 2015

A delegation went to Palestine, like every year, to meet the partners and see the progress of the projects.

From October the 18 to 25, Serge PERRIN (MAN Lyon), Marc FERRAPIE (AFPS Ardèche-Drôme), Marie Paule FRISTOT (MAN Metz) Selma BAHOUS and Youness AOUDJIT (AJAM Valence) were the members of this delegation.

They aimed at:

- sharing the progress of the actions framed by the project « "Non-violence and support to agriculture in Palestine".
- meeting the people involved in the project : Center for Freedom and Justice / Jordan Valley Solidarity / farmers and women related to the project
- visiting the cultivated lands Beit Ommar and the Jordan Valley,
- getting an overview of the project to discuss the prospects and the bad financial resources
- if possible visiting Bethléem, Jérusalem, Hébron for those who came for the first time in Palestine.

4. THE REALISATIONS IN BEIT OMMAR



The 2 plots of the field restored in 2014

Fields 1 and 2

In 2014 a one-hectare field was cultivated on two plots in the surroundings of south Beit Ommar, next to the settlement Kamir Zur.

The fields had to be cleaned and rehabilitated with bulldozers, and circled by stonewalls.

A water tank was set up on one plot to irrigate the cultures.

Since Palestinians are forbidden to dig wells, the different equipment to insure irrigation are being developed.

A concrete slab in the basin –covered with a grid for security reasons–ensured its sealing. 1000 trees were planted (peach trees and grapevines)

Legumes were planted between the trees as soon as 2015 to make the most of the land and water from the water tank.



The field with the plantations in October 2015

5 people worked on the site for 4 months, which is very important given the economic hardships in Palestine.



The filled tank and the background fields

Field on route 60

This 2.7 ha field enjoys a nice location along route 60 that links Jerusalem to Hebron, on a strategic spot between the village and the road.

Passers by, among whom extremist settlers from Hebron, can observe the site from route 60. The works should have started in 2014, yet the field was used as a storage area for a new water pipe.

The site rehabilitation started in 2015: levelling, building of circling walls, setting of a local market place next to a small building close by.



View of the field at the end of the site, road 60 at the bottom

A water tank to collect the rainwater is to be installed in 2016, delay due to the lack of financial resources.

2200 trees were planted in autumn 2015 (apricots, quinces, peaches and grapevine) thanks to the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee (PVWC) and the Arab Group for Protection of Nature.

In autumn 2015 the Israeli Army ordered the curtailment of the works.

The Center for Freedom and Justice challenged the decision with their lawyers, because the land is located in a full Palestinian property on legal accounts. In December 2015, following mishaps in Hebron region and in Beit Ommar, the Israeli Army entered the field, destroyed the plants and made up barriers with heaps of mud.

They wanted to confine Beit Ommar.

The MAN appealed to the Israeli Embassy, the regional councils of PACA et Rhône-Alpes



November 2015 the Israeli army blocked the entrance of the field

and the French Consulate in Jerusalem, that appealed to the Israeli's authorities. In January, probably due to the reactions, the Israeli Army set up a long barrier on road 60, hindering access to the field and thus access to the local market place. Negotiations were initiated and the following decision was for the Centre to set up a 2-meter-high wire fence on the wall against the removal of the Israeli fence.

Actually, the wire-fence was set up yet the Israeli Army did not remove their fence, which did hinder the project.

This is how the Israeli Army occupation policy aims at hindering the economical development of Palestine, and explains its behaviour on security grounds.

Trainings realised by our partner



Training in the Center for Freedom and Justice

Numerous training sessions were organised thanks to the partnership, and aimed at young people specifically:

A training session on security in November 2014

A training session « leadership » in February and March 2015

A judicial training session on the context of area C in April 2015

Educational activities for young people in May 2015

Series of training sessions on non-violent resistance at Hebron and Bethlehem universities with Youssef SABRNH.

Campaign Save the Land



Planting of trees for the occupation of agricultural land (with the Comité Populaire de Résistance) in March 2015.

Non-violent actions to save the land in Palestine were implemented during the partnership :

in November 2014, planting of olive trees next to Bethlehem on lands that were located behind an Israeli settlement

in January and february 2015 planting of 800 trees with 20 farmers, and distribution of equipments and fertilizer to 8 farmers (with Jerusalem Fund)

in February 2015, participation in the plantation campaign in the Jordan Valley actions against occupation in area C

Summer camp for children 2015

60 children joined the summer camp from august 1 to 8 2015 in Beit Ommar with patrimonial visits, art, dance and sports

200 parents and friends enjoyed the festival at the end of the camp.

In 2016 the summer camp was organised again with the Israeli organisation



Summer Camp for Children in 2015

Women's organisations meeting in March

Every year on March 8, the Centre for Freedom and Justice organises conferences on the Palestinian women's situation, and often invites Israeli and international speakers.

In 2015 the conference took place in the Jordan Valley with Jordan Valley Solidarity.



Meeting of women in the Jordan Valley



Reconversion of Israeli sleeves to Beit Ommar...

5. REALISATIONS IN THE JORDAN VALLEY

Rehabilitation of the road leading to Fasayel



Strengthening of the road before concreting

Fasayel is located north to Al Auja and is made of 3 small villages.

Since the Israeli Army forbids infrastructure investments, the road that links one of the villages to the main road was not asphalted. Hence the people could seldom use it, especially in winter when rainwater damages the path.

JVS decided to rehabilitate this road, and to fill the potholes.

When the road was rehabilitated, the governorate of Jericho offered to asphalt the road, and the settlers agreed.



Stripping of the strains before laying the roasting and then the plantings

Plantations

In September 2014, the old trees were removed and the site was fenced, to rehabilitate the field surrounding JVS's house in Fasayel .

Then, in 2015, trees and herbs and medicinal plants were planted.

Campaign Save the Land

In 2015 this project aimed at getting back a 1-ha-field in Fasayel.

These sites had been abandoned for years because of lack of water due to the Israeli's occupation.

Planting these sites is important because the Israeli's policy tends to confiscate sites that have not been cultivated for 3 years.

Protection fences were installed around the fields, and water tanks were set up, with pipes to water the trees.

In January 2015 the Israeli Army ordered to restore one of the fields.



Plantations with signs showing international support

Training sessions

- 5-days judicial formation (may 2014)

- Women's organisation meeting with the Centre (March 2015)

- 3 surveys on living conditions in the Jordan Valley (education, health, farming)



Training in the Jordan Valley

Bricks machine

JVS built a machine to make up clay-bricks for the milk manufacture. They used the adobe technique that allows building with a limited ecological impact and does not use Israeli firms' cement material.

Since building in area C is forbidden, the Israeli army regularly destroys the houses. Yet, houses made of clay can be built again when collecting the earth on site after the destructions.



The brick machine



The community house built with earthen bricks

The machine was completed with other partners (Swiss for example) and there were different steps to improve its functioning.

A common area was built in one day by a team of international and Palestinian partners, thanks to the machine.

The milk factory

We had planned to improve agriculture and the local production, and access to the local market for breeders.

As a condition, we wanted the project to be economically viable and to rely on a farmers' cooperative. JVS has no legal body; we needed to be sure about the status of the property and the management capacities.

The regional Council of Rhône Alpes has set up cooperation with Palestine, with several partners, and they let us meet Issa Elshatleh and ACAD.

He showed us the project was not only about building houses but also about implementing a global strategy on farming:

- it needed strict health monitoring since a sick animal can endanger the whole milk factory,
- we had to tackle the issue of the conservation of milk : so far, the farmers have always transformed the milk as soon as the milking is done,
- to consider collecting milk, we had to provide refrigerated tanks, which is an issue with frequent power outage in Palestine,
- an other issue on collecting milk: it implies buying a refrigerated truck, but transport in the valley depends on the Israeli Army's good will. If the Army confiscates the truck, we need an other one to replace it.
- the issue of products marketing: what kind of cheese should we make for the Palestinian market? What kind of market opportunities given there is no lack of milk products (cheese or yoghurt)



The house proposed for the dairy

All these issues deterred us from this action, given the lack of governance organisation and the amount of needed investment (very high compared to our means)

6. IN RHÔNE-ALPES, AROUND THE PROJECT

Regional Palestine network

The partnership allowed us to meet many organisations working in Palestine and supported by the regional council.

We took an active part in the network meeting and noticed the importance of coordination between the actors on the ground: the regional council bought a bus for Jericho's women's organisation that could have been used by other organisations.

It was also important to understand the real context and the impact of the different actions led by the organisations, and sharing information was essential.

Thanks to these meetings, a solid network was building up: AFRAT and TETRAKTYS were working on Abraham's path, the Secours Populaire with Jericho's women's organisation, the regional AFPS on water tanks in Al Aujat, Afak Bethleem on art in Jericho, and Man and AFPS Drôme-Ardèche on farming and peace. It's a pity the coordination was not supported after the regional elections.

A network dedicated to Peace, human rights and cooperation

The regional council set up a network to gather organisations dedicated to international solidarity, to promote the complementarity of economic development, human rights and peace, and to drive the actors to question all these fields.

The partnership with Palestine was consistent in that respect: a country at war, an endangered economical development, non-respected human rights. This initiative was thus consistent with the MAN's purpose.

The main members of the network were Ecole de la Paix (Grenoble), the CADR, Forum Réfugiés COSI, Agir Ensemble pour les Droits Humains, Resacoop, Institut des Droits de l'Homme (Lyon), Yerkir Europe, the Arab-Jewish friendship association Raja Tikva, CIEDEL, Reporterre sans Frontière and the MAN. During the regional conference on International solidarity, we organised the hosting of 4 Palestinian women and a meeting with the network members and the école de la paix's guests from Mali.

Thanks to this network we got to know better and to share our actions.

Thus during the Non-Violence and Peace Fortnight there were meetings between the network members.

We also met Raja Tikva with whom we set up the support to 3 Israeli peace organisations, started in 2016.



Muna in the workshop of the Regional Solidarity Cooperation

Meeting with local councils

As we wanted to support the civil society in relation with institutions, we insisted on finding partners to the Palestinian local councils we were in touch with.

For Beit Ommar we looked for such partners in the region PACA, and in Rhône Alpes we met Annemasse and Cruas' local councils, which planned collaborations with local councils in the Jordan Valley (Al Jeflit and Fasayel).

Yet such a job needs time and we could not organise direct contacts.

The implementation of twinning with Palestinian cities is more complex (for political and technical reasons) than twinning with other cities. We also met the local council of Saint-Fons that had already supported meetings between Israeli and Palestinian organisations.

Public meetings

In 2013, 2014, 2015, we organized public meetings in Lyon and Ardeche when we were back from the missions.

Thanks to presentations of our trip, the participants learned about the situation in Palestine, and understood the population's resistance capacities and the prospects the partnership opened up.

In April 2014, 2015 and 2016 public meetings hosted the Israeli Palestinian delegations, invited with the Comité of Châteaubriant. There were also several meetings with other organisations (CCFD, UJFP...).

In July 2014 we organized a public meeting in Saint Fons (south to Lyon) with the women's organisation.

Public meetings were also organized by the Comité of Châteaubriant on their April General Assembly.

In Drôme Ardèche, several meetings were also offered:

- 23/24 November 2013 Presentation of the project in Romans for the « solidarity with Palestine weekend ». More than 200 people attended.
- September 2014, 7, presentation of the project in Portes les Valence, for the Allobroges Day. 250 people attended.
- October 2014, 9, presentation of the project in Portes les Valence on behalf of "Portes Citoyennes" : 100 people attended.
- October 2014, 11, the project was presented to 400 people at the end of a pro-Gaza demonstration, just before the delegation's departure for Palestine.
- November 2014, 22/23, we presented the development of the project during the solidarity week end in Romans ; 250 people attended.
- December 2014, 22, in Portes les Valence, we accounted for the mission in Palestine, in front of 3 elected representatives and of Mousa ABU MARIA : 250 people attended on Christmas eve ; the young members of AJAM2France offered a friendly meal to all the participants .
- August 2015, 30, Allobroges Day in Portes les Valence, 200 people
- October 2015, 31, Selma , Younes and Marc presented their mission in Palestine to 200 people from Portes Citoyennes .
- November 2015, 25, the mission was presented to 80 people in Tournon.

7. MEETINGS AROUND THE PROJECT

As we wanted to open the project to any partner wishing to support Beit Ommar and the Jordan Valley, we saw great interest from many other organisations.

AJAM 2 France

This youth organisation in Valence joined the protest against the 2014 bombings in Gaza. Thanks to AFPS 07-26 they discovered the project and the young people decided to take part in the 2015 October trip.

They met Israeli citizens who are critical of the occupation in Palestine. They became aware of the difference between anti Zionism and anti Semitism. Today, this association has united the project that supports Israeli Peace organisations.

JVS Alberville

This association was created by two activists, Gérard et Patricia, who often travel to Palestine and are friends with Rashed, who facilitates Jordan Valley Solidarity. They wished to support the milk factory project; unfortunately it could not be implemented because of the lack of local organisations able to hold it.

BDS 42

The Saint Etienne group for Boycott Desinvestment Sanction against Israel met Mousa Abu Maria during his trip in France. This organisation advocates in favour of the creation of a Palestinian state.

They organised actions to collect support, for ex a football contest that collected more than 1500 euros.

AFPS Savoie-Chambéry

This local group contributed to the financial resource from the beginning of the project.

CBSP

Le Comité de Bienfaisance et de Secours aux Palestiniens helped the project in 2014 and 2015, met the group from Lyon who ran an information stand for their 25-year—birthday in Lyon.

Agir pour l'Égalité - SOS Racisme

The Lyon group organised a trip to Palestine in July 2015. They called to MAN to offer a training session to present the situation in Palestine, the stakes of the armed conflict and the correct behaviour during the trip.

We shared our contacts, which allowed them to meet nice people during the trip.

On their return they organised a friendly evening.

In May 2016 a conference on non-violent resistance was organized with Mousa ABU MARIA and Serge PERRIN.

Artisans du Monde

This movement launched a campaign on « dates for peace », with dates from the Jordan Valley.

We talked with them about the precise location of the dates production and transformation site.

We thought that connecting different initiatives in the Jordan Valley would be of interest. We also noticed that dates canning workshops were already implemented in Jericho.

Médias citoyens Rhône-Alpes

Given their contacts with the regional council of Rhône Alpes and on behalf of Mousa ABU MARIA, the association Médias citoyens Rhône-Alpes initiated a project on training and strengthening a citizens media centre in Palestine. Our contacts allowed exchanges to be created; yet the project couldn't be launched because of the lack of local participants other than Beit Ommar's Centre.

Agir Ensemble pour les Droits Humains

We have been contacted by AEDH whose support had been requested by Mousa ABU MARIA.

We can be used as referents for actions in Beit Ommar, and this is important for other organisations that wish to support initiatives in Palestine.

The regional networks are a useful means to allow different organisations to share views.

Follow-ups

The MAN has been involved for several years in promoting non-violence in the Israel-Palestine conflict resolution.

Our strategy promotes citizen mediation between Israeli and Palestinian grassroots organisations, and it is approved by organisations that engage in a peaceful political solution to the conflict.

We facilitated a debate around the movie « This land is my land », broadcasted at the cinema Zola in Villeurbanne, during the Israeli film festival, organised by Espace Hillel, which is a Lyon's Jewish cultural and social centre

In 2016, we started supporting Israeli organisations for peace with Raja-Tikva and AJAM, as a follow up of our partnership with Palestinian organisations.

Around the project in France

8. AROUND THE PROJECT IN FRANCE

Platform of NGOs for Palestine

Because we were involved in a project to support farming in Beit Ommar and the Jordan Valley, we felt we should join the Platform of NGOs for Palestine, to present our initiatives. We wanted the platform to offer relations with organisations in contact with the Jordan Valley, but this demand did not succeed.

The MAN trained members of the platform on the non-violent behaviour to adopt about the Palestinian issue.

Embassy of Palestine in France

We have always kept informed the Palestinian representation in France. We shared with them our 2014, 2015 and 2016 activity reports.

We enjoyed friendly contacts with M AL FAHOUM, head of the mission, Noha RASHMAWI, Mr the Ambassador's chief of staff, Safwat IBRAGHITH, in charge of the partnership and bilateral cooperation.

Marc FERRAPIE (AFPS) , Serge PERRIN (MAN) and sometimes Louis DAVID (Comité Châteaubriant) were present.

CBSP

On November 4, 2014 Marc FERRAPIE and Serge PERRIN met the CBSP and its director Mouloud BOUZIDI.

The CBSP had agreed to support the farming project in Beit Ommar for 10 000 euros, on a request from AFPS 07.

The CBSP agreed to give direct subsidies to the MAN Lyon.

We were invited to the 25-years-birthday party the CBSP organised at the Arab world Institute on June 2015, 12, and

Serge PERRIN presented the work that had been done thanks to the CBSP support.

Another 20 000 euro donation was given in 2016.

CCFD

The MAN has always had good relationship with the CCFD. Even if this movement did not support the partnership, they acknowledged our expertise.

Serge PERRIN facilitated a national training session about « how to talk about the conflict when back from a mission ».

Tight links have been knitted with the CCFD group in Lyon, and a common conference was set in april 2015 with the Palestinian and Israeli delegation.

Café géo in Montpellier

Following the youth organisation trip (march 2014), one of the participants, who was a geographer initiated contacts with people in charge of "café-géo".

Thus, on April 2015, 7, Serge PERRIN and Chloé YVROU intervened in a « café géo » in Montpellier, to speak about: "Palestine-Israel: a territorial issue". They presented the partnership and our organisations' approach.

Meetings with politicians

We met Xavier BRETON, LR, member of parliament for Bourg en Bresse and member of the France-Palestine friendship group.

PS Senator Christiane DEMONTES received us in March 2013, when we were preparing the partnership.

In September 2012, we met Marc BARETY, Deputy director for Africa and Middle East (foreign affairs ministry) with Erik LALOY, AFPS.

In Marseille we met Patrick ALLEMAND, 1st vice president in charge of International Solidarity for the Regional Council of PACA, Kamel HEMEID, governor of Hebron and Ludovic POUILLE, Marc BARETY 's substitute at the Middle East direction of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, during a meeting about « the Israel-Palestine dialogue and civic society », organised by the group of Aix and the Regional Council of PACA.

A meeting was organised at the European Parliament in December 2014.

Elected representatives from ardeche met for a presentation of the project

Marc BOLLOMEY, Vice President of the Department Council of Ardeche, in charge of International Solidarity

Maurice WEISS, Vice President of the Department Council of Ardeche, in charge of Finance

Robert COTTA, Vice President of the Department Council of Ardeche and mayor of Cruas.

Denis DUCHAMP, Vice President of the Department Council of Ardeche

Sabine BUIS, Member of Parliament for Ardèche and Department councillor.

In 2014 we also presented the partnership to elected representatives members of commission for international relations of the Regional Council of Rhône Alpes



Panel in front of one of the fields in Beit Ommar



Panel in Fasayel

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

Spendings

Although we couldn't obtain all the subsidies we had demanded, the partnership received important financial support.

The total spending amounted to 193 655 € from 2013 to 2016, of which 105 800 € were transferred to the Centre for Freedom and Justice, and 87 855 € for expenses in France (salaries : 23 075 €, social security costs : 15 785 €, travel costs : 46 223 €).

List of travels :

- preparatory trip in Palestine, September 2013= 1 844 €
- young French activists in Palestine, march 2013= 2530€
- Palestinians and Israeli in France, April 2014= 5 971 €
- Trip to Sarajevo, June 2014 = 1 334 €
- Palestinian women in France, June-July 2014 = 2 078 €
- French activists to Palestine - October 2014 = 4 232 €
- Palestinian delegation, July 2015 = 1 220 €
- 4 Palestinian farmers' training in France, September 2015 = 12 252 €
- trip in October 2015 = 3 547 €
- Palestinian and Israeli in France - April 2016 = 723 €.

Plus the transports in France to meet local council or personalities (Paris, Strasbourg, Marseille, Annemasse, Cruas...).

Revenues

Over the 3 years we obtained important subsidies from

the Regional Council of Rhône Alpes : 2 endowments for operations (36 020 € and 36 000 €) , and an investment subsidy (33 980 €), we spend only up 17 147 €, which makes a global revenue of 89 167 €.

the Regional Council of PACA : one endowments for operations (10 000 € for the women's conference in 2015 and the farmers' training in 2016) and an investment subsidy (25000 € for the rehabilitation of fields in Beit Ommar, which makes a total of soit 35 000 €

CBSP gave us 10 000 € in 2014 and 20 000 € in 2016 (reported on budget 2015) which makes 30 000 €.

AFPS Drôme Ardèche gave three times 5 000 € and contributed to the transport costs for 5 114 €, which amounts to 20 114 €.

AFPS Savoie-Chambéry gave 3 000 €.

Comité BDS 42 gave 1 666 €.

The MAN Lyon collected 3 183 € in 2014, 3 224 € in 2015, 1 905 € in 2016, which amount to 8 312 €.

The total is 180 307 € .

Balance

The MAN will take over the negative balance that amounts to - 11 605 €, in the case the Regional Council of Rhone Alpes agrees to paying in 2017 the remnant of 18 000 € (2015 operations subsidy) and 6 953 € (investment subsidy).

It represents a huge effort that is superior to the cost of action the MAN, small organisation, usually leads.

10. DIFFICULTIES

Along the project

Languages

We speak English as a common language. Yet all the French and Palestinian activists do not speak fluently, which is a problem.

Consequently we lack precision in the discussions with local actors on the ground, were they farmers or institutional bodies.

We often regretted not being able to detail the problems.

When discussions were possible in Arabic, with Arabic speaking French people, it helped a lot, for example in the farmers' training (where we had an Arabic speaking interpreter) and with our partner AJAM from Valence when they were in Palestine too.

English makes the discussions between young people easy, and Facebook and other social networks allow exchanges with the young Palestinians who came to France.

Sometimes we could talk with French-speaking Palestinians, who had often studied in France. We thus pointed out the political and cultural problems we met in the partnership.

As an example, the word "association" has a different meaning in French and Arabic : for us it refers to a judicial institution framed by the 1901 law ; yet for our partners, it refers to a combination of cooperatives, small business, partnership, informal gatherings...

The property documents and the orders from the occupant are written in Hebrew and Arabic ; we could not understand them.

The bills were also written in Arabic, and do not always detail whether the money is euro or Israeli shekels.

These difficulties underlight the cultural differences between the partners.

Financial management

Our partnership relied on a complex financial combination, with operations subsidies and investment subsidies, from 2 different regional Councils.

Financial reports were difficult to complete because we had to distribute expenses according to the subsidies and to the paying institution : investment/operations and regional council PACA / regional council RA.

All the invoice are copied in the files.

We spent a lot of time completing the files because getting the invoice is not easy in Palestine ; we also had to translate the names of the business entities, their mission and the amount of the invoices ; then we had to distribute the amount between every institution and to write the financial and technical reports.

When we submit a project, we have to prepare a provisional budget. It was difficult to coordinate the demands of the Centre for Freedom and Justice, Jordan Valley Solidarity and the MAN, because the provisional budget was often over-evaluated, the staff costs copied the French ones) and to recap the opportunities to get subsidies. Despite numerous discussions about the project, we found our partners did not take part in the preparation of the budget and in the reports.

Another problem was to provide cost estimations to the regional council of Paca, as costs are very difficult to estimate.

Reports agendas

Our partners did not understand the time-delay between the deposit of the dossier and the beginning of the project : 3 months in PACA (before October 31 of the former year). Thus it was not possible to ask the regional Council of PACA for funds for the fields on route 60, although it had started in early 2015, because we had not completed the previous dossier of investment for the fields.

It also takes a long time to get answers from institutions: the subsidies demanded to the regional council of PACA for 2014 were granted only on October 2014, 17.

The CBSP granted the funds for 2015 in March 2016.

There is an uncomfortable delay between the implementation of actions, the sending of funds by the MAN and the receipt of funds by the MAN. This delay causes tensions and misunderstandings as we will see further.

Budgets evolution

Our partners did not understand another problem: the difference between provisional budgets, that include the funds we ask for, and the real budget, with the actual subsidies. This difference results in modifications of the project all along the year.

Thus, actions we could not fund were started in Beit Ommar, because of this kind of misunderstanding or lack of communication.

The institution also ask for complementary funds ((80 % for PACA) , which obliges to present dossiers with different sources of funding.

Advance payments

The regional councils pay a 50% (RRA) or 60% (PACA) advance payment and the remaining funds only when the expenses are done, when the final report is presented.

The MAN wanted to help his partners as much as possible, sending the funds needed for the actions before getting the subsidies.

We thus acted like a bank and created overdraft that made us borrow money to the federal body and to members of the MAN.

The overdraft was 11 293 € at the end of 2013, 40 575 € at the end of 2014, 54 876 € at the end of 2015 and 31 348 € at the end of 2016.

When the regional Council of Auvergne Rhône-Alpes pays the remnant of the investment and operations subsidy, 11605 euro will remain at the expense of the MAN.

We feel we have been considered like a bank, and had to lend the money our partners needed, and we regret it because we had a different opinion about a partnership on equal basis. What is all the more unfair is that the Man was said to draw benefits from the actions.

Budgets correct application

To respond our funding institutions' demands, we must justify the amount and the use of the subsidies we get.

Actually, things do not always happen as planned. Modifications are then to be explained to the funders. Hence the investment subsidy addressed to the regional council of PACA was meant for the field next to route 60. Yet this field was not available in 2015; the Centre started installations in two other fields next to Karmi Sur settlement.

As a consequence, we had to make changes in the document addressed to PACA, to specify the new location of the project. In 2015 when the works started in the field next to route 60, we should have filled a new subsidy application for the same field.

The French accounting system is different from the Palestinian one. Investment expenses must appear apart from operating expenses, which are funded by different subsidies and accounts.

So we had to take into account the accounting system to present our financial report to the regional councils.

Our partners used the money they got without respecting the assignment defined for it, which led to tensions between the Centre (that received the money) and JVS that had not received the money we had assigned to them. The Palestinian partners nearly split up in 2015.

Monitoring of expenses and transport costs

We had to limit the staff expenses in the provisional budgets ; yet, the Palestinians travels are impacted by the occupation and the Israeli authorities' voluntary obstacles.

Israelis can fly from Tel-Aviv to Lyon, for less than 500 €.

A Palestinian can't get to Tel-Aviv (interdiction to enter Israel and Jerusalem most of the time).

So they need to leave Palestine via Allenby Bridge and fly from Amman (Jordan).

The costs are much more expensive (about 1 000 €) and to get cheaper costs several connections are needed (through other cities).

The delays to be allowed to leave Palestine oblige to be one-day early, and the taxis are expensive, so are hotels in Amman.

The French Embassy in Jerusalem delivers visas. Yet, the delay to get a Shengen visa is 3 weeks now. So the documents must be ready and the flight tickets must be bought early.

The Embassy has always tried to deliver the visas on time but the Palestinian partners are not always able to plan one month ahead.

The Palestinians have to go to Jerusalem, at precise hours to get their visa, which is difficult for them in the context.

In France

A scattering of programmes

We noticed that the solidarity actions from France to Palestinian territory were really scattered -it is the same for Gaza but because of the material and human blockade, partnerships are more difficult-

This is why we offered an open partnership to any structure willing to support Beit Ommar or the Jordan Valley.

Although some organisations joined us, we noticed that gathering initiatives for Palestine is not common.

We called to the NGOs platform for Palestine, because we wanted to coordinate with AFPS or Artisans du Monde groups that were already working in the Jordan Valley.

It could not be done, probably because of long-lasting relationships' duration and nature, and also because of a feeble political will.

Moreover the Palestinian people who lead organisations are supported for their own personality. More than organisations, individuals are being supported. Normal human relationships can lead to misunderstandings on the political and collective meaning of international solidarity actions.

Cooperation and solidarity are mixed up with humanitarian actions. Since the Palestinians experience Israel's occupation, the humanitarian approach is favoured, rather than a more collective approach or economic and social strategies to support the Palestinian society.

Palestinians participate every week to public meetings, invited by one or another French group. Sometimes, several public meetings are organised in big cities, without interaction between the inviting groups.

As a consequence of this French scattering of support, Palestinians seek support from a

kind of French organisations' market: an organisation is called to for a project, another one for money, sometimes for a project already implemented. Is that really effective?

Trips to Palestine are a good way to support the population's resistance.

We saw many French trips to Palestine; yet the hosting conditions is not framed up: hosting at local leaders' home, with or without a financial counterpart, « friendly » meals costs, gifts, those differences lead to misunderstandings, or tensions between Palestinian people. The language is another source of misunderstanding since French activists or Palestinians do not master English, and the actual context of popular non-violent Palestinian resistance.

In Palestine

English-speaking Palestinians often tend to use the numerous supports to exit the territory, get incomes, be recognised as a leader in their own communities.

The scattering of resistance initiatives is favoured by the fragmentation of Palestine and by the obstacles to free moves.

We could not see any coordination on the Palestinian side.

Every one more or less knows the others, but each one weaves their own relationships to complete their actions.

THus, In Beit Ommar Younes Arrar created a "comité populaire" after he left the Centre; so he was able to be invited by a AFPS group and came in France.

There were no relationships between the Centre and JVS.

Both organisations decided to work together because they were interested by the idea of a common funding.

Yet it was not easy and led to tensions between their leaders, Mousa ABU MARIA and Rashed KHUDAIRY.

11. CONCLUSION

In Rhône Alpes, as the majority elected representatives belonged to another political trend, the budget of international solidarity was really reduced (for 1/3rd). We could not support the partnership any further.

Fortunately, CBSP reimbursed the funds sent in 2015.

Mousa ABU MARIA, who had weaved relationships with other French partners, had started to come to France for several weeks since December 2015, apart from the partnership frame.

Mousa's French contacts privileged their personal link with him rather than a collective approach.

Mousa probably thought he would obtain more support and money from our funders than what had already been obtained, and he got in touch with them without us.

Misunderstandings and suspicions resulted, and, from June 2016, when we received the amount the CBSP had promised since March, 3rd, Mousa ABU MARIA accused us (the MAN and some of its employees) of misappropriation. This is false, since the provisional budgets and the subsidies demanded had been obtained. Was that due to an attempt to break up to launch new partnerships?

The accusation of activists is really unpleasant, all the more when they are ungrounded and non-justified.

What is true is that Mousa ABU MARIA was not aware of the actual budget and the demands for subsidies, although all the documents had been transmitted to the Centre and especially the regional Councils dossiers (Mousa was in copy of all the messages)

We must affirm that Mousa ABU MARIA was not able to create decent relationships with different partners:

- he contacted the Governor of Jericho and thus bypassed JVS and tried to pick up international volunteers from JVS,
- the Palestinian partners who were involved in the financed project « Médias Citoyens Rhône-Alpes » refused to work with Mousa ABU MARIA and the project was put to an end,
- Mousa ABU MARIA refused to come to St Etienne to learn French, as was proposed by partners to respond to his demand, and that refusal embarrassed the people who had negotiated for that.

12. FINAL ASSESSMENT

Our project was based on the strengthening of the Palestinian civil society, and specifically on two organisations.

Despite the obstacles, JVS confirms they do not have an official organisation, which is a respectable political choice, but that limits our opportunities to support them and the development of their movement.

Centre for Freedom and Justice does not seem to have strengthened the impact of non-violence Beit Ommar's young people : there, the conflicts with the Israeli Army are frequent and badly organised (according to what we saw on site)

When he broke up with us, Mousa ABU MARIA got closer to Younes ARAR.

Younes was a director for the Centre for Freedom and Justice he let in the end of 2012 because of a disagreement with Mousa ABU MARIA.

Younes implemented then a Popular Resistance Committee in Beit Ommar, with Youssef ABU MARIA, Mousa's brother.

This leads us to conclude that their differences are more motivated by opportunities to get international support than actual differences on strategy.

We allowed the realisation of farming projects, that could finance several salaries. Not so bad, and we hope it is a long-term result.

We allowed two organisations to implement farming initiatives, to get training sessions, to support their resistance capacity, but long term is not secured for a democratic and popular associative development.

We allowed the creation of a Palestinians and French network, specifically young people, who keep on communicating.

We promoted development of awareness in favour of the Palestinians-Israeli dialogue, because the discussions with anti-Zionists enlightened the context in terms of politics and not in terms of religion. It is a contribution to the making up of a « community life » in France.

In addition, the project allowed recruiting a person for one year, and she remains involved in international solidarity.

It is really difficult to bring funds to small organisations. That could back up the idea that we'd better work with bigger organisations, despite all the difficulties (human super structure, resource capture and limited impact on the ground, towards smaller organisations, institutionalisation of Development Aid, with no real impact)

Yet we think better to insure projects that support citizenship and a community responsibility, even with less important financial support.

What could be suggested is to develop financial contribution from local actors (50 % for example) in order to improve commitment.

Otherwise training sessions and monitoring should be led by international agents ; but this approach is similar to neo-colonialism and we refused it from the beginning.

The fact that the Israeli Army systematically destroys installations consolidates the feeling we had of working like Sisyphus in terms of building economy in an occupied Palestine.

As some Palestinians told us « your job is to make us free thanks to the pressure you put on our governments. As for money, we have the means at home: if the rich Palestinians wanted to pay to build again the houses that have been destroyed, they could do it even without your money ».

13. ANNEX

Flyer featuring action

Le conflit israélo-palestinien en quelques mots

Le conflit israélo-palestinien débute officiellement le 14 mai 1948, jour de la création de l'État d'Israël. Il prolonge les tensions entre les communautés arabe et juive de la région depuis que la Palestine a été promise aux organisations sionistes par l'Angleterre, entraînant une immigration croissante et rapide.

Les enjeux du conflit

Un enjeu de territoire masqué derrière des revendications nationalistes et religieuses (reconnaissance mutuelle des deux peuples ; création d'un État palestinien aux côtés d'Israël ; contrôle des lieux saints).

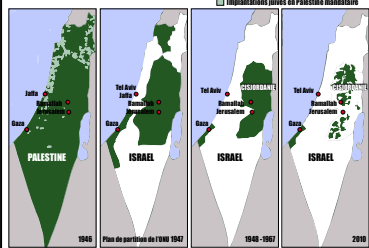
Enjeux géostratégiques (partage et de l'exploitation des ressources naturelles et notamment de l'eau et de la terre).

L'occupation militaire israélienne d'une grande partie du territoire palestinien.

Suite aux Accords d'Oslo, la Cisjordanie est morcelée en différentes zones : zone A, B et zone C (60%) entièrement sous contrôle israélien. La ville d'Hébron normalement en zone A est séparée en deux zones : H1 sous contrôle palestinien, et H2 sous contrôle israélien.

La multiplication de colonies israéliennes sur le territoire palestinien se traduit par l'émiettement du territoire de la Palestine, l'entrave à la circulation des Palestiniens (mise en place de check-points, etc.), et l'accaparement de la grande majorité des ressources naturelles (terre, eau...). Nous sommes témoins d'une volonté d'élimination du peuple palestinien.

ÉVOLUTION DE LA PALESTINE DEPUIS 1946



Les partenaires

Center for Freedom and Justice

Le Center For Freedom and Justice est une organisation palestinienne créée en 2009 dans le village de Beit Ommar. Il œuvre pour l'instauration des droits humains, de la démocratie, de la sécurité, de la paix et du développement économique.
www.center4freedom.org



Jordan Valley Solidarity

Jordan Valley Solidarity est un réseau réunissant des Palestiniens de toute la Vallée du Jourdain et des sympathisants internationaux. Son objectif est de protéger l'existence des Palestiniens dans la Vallée du Jourdain.
www.jordanvalleysolidarity.org



MAN - groupe de Lyon

Le Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente a pour objectif de promouvoir la non-violence et de faire valoir son apport spécifique dans la résolution des conflits, dans la vie quotidienne, dans l'éducation et les luttes sociales et en solidarité internationale.
www.nonviolence.fr



AFPS - groupe Drôme-Ardèche

L'AFPS soutient le peuple palestinien dans sa lutte pour la réalisation de ses droits nationaux. Elle agit pour une paix réelle et durable, en lien avec le peuple palestinien.
www.france-palestine.org



Comité Palestine Israéli Méditerranée du Pays de Châteaubriant

Fort de 400 adhérents, le Comité s'est engagé dans le soutien à la construction de chemins à Beit Ommar, ce qui permettent aux paysans palestiniens d'accéder à leurs champs. Il favorise le maintien des paysans et des ruraux en les aidants à se structurer économiquement en coopératives ou groupements afin de créer une dynamique d'ensemble.



Renforcement des sociétés civiles dans la culture de non-violence et dans des projets agricoles

Non-violence et maintien de l'agriculture en Palestine

Un partenariat



Beit Ommar



Vallée du Jourdain



Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente
 187 montée de Choulans
 69005 LYON
 04 78 67 46 10
palestine@nonviolence.fr
www.nonviolence.fr

Groupe 07-26
 Contact
 Marc FERRAPIE
 04 75 07 37 74
marc.ferrapie@orange.fr

Beit Ommar et Vallée du Jourdain

Zone A sous contrôle de l'autorité palestinienne
Zone B sous contrôle conjoint avec l'autorité palestinienne
Zone C sous contrôle de l'armée israélienne (60% du territoire)

La commune de **Beit Ommar**, comme la **Vallée du Jourdain**, sont des territoires très fertiles. L'agriculture y est l'activité principale. Les deux régions sont également sous contrôle israélien intégral (zone C). La confiscation des ressources en eau par les autorités israéliennes, ainsi que le vol des terres par les colons israéliens, y sont particulièrement importants. L'impact sur les communautés palestiniennes est sévère : difficultés économiques d'une part, mais aussi éloignement des populations – et surtout des jeunes – de la vie politique et citoyenne. Dans ce contexte de désillusionnement, les animateurs des associations partenaires organisent des **actions de résistances non-violentes**. L'objectif général de ce programme est de favoriser une approche globale des problèmes posés aux palestiniens de la zone C de la Cisjordanie. Il défend l'idée que résistance non-violente se conjugue avec développement local : pour les communautés palestiniennes, « **exister c'est résister** ».

Ce partenariat est soutenu par :

AFPS Savoie - Rhône
 MAN Fédéral



Le projet

Ce partenariat comporte 2 axes :

Soutien à la résistance non-violente, populaire et citoyenne

Le programme de coopération citoyenne vise à renforcer les capacités des acteurs locaux de la société civile et à diffuser une culture de non-violence et de paix afin de permettre une solution politique au conflit.

- aider les jeunes à résister par des actions non-violentes ;
- former des leaders locaux capables de porter la voix de la société palestinienne et d'appuyer la mise en place d'une gouvernance démocratique ;
- renforcer le dialogue entre Palestiniens et Israéliens oeuvrant pour la paix ;
- renforcer un réseau de soutien international pour la résistance non-violente à l'occupation.

Coopération agricole

Le programme de coopération agricole vise à améliorer les conditions de vie des populations rurales de la Vallée du Jourdain et de Beit Ommar, touchées particulièrement par la limitation des libertés de déplacement, par la violence physique et psychologique et par l'accaparement des terres.

- favoriser le développement agricole pour améliorer l'économie des communautés rurales de la Vallée du Jourdain et de Beit Ommar et en particulier l'émancipation économique des femmes ;
- maintenir et développer l'activité agricole dans la Vallée du Jourdain et à Beit Ommar, en aidant à la valorisation des produits sur place (fromagerie dans la vallée du Jourdain, ateliers de transformation à Beit Ommar) et en renforçant les circuits de distribution au niveau du territoire palestinien pour l'écoulement des productions locales ;
- endiguer l'accaparement des terres palestiniennes par les colons israéliens dans les deux régions en cultivant prioritairement les terres vulnérables à proximité des colonies.

Ce projet est prévu sur 3 ans.

Non-violence et maintien de l'agriculture en Palestine

Renforcement des sociétés civiles dans la culture de non-violence et dans des projets agricoles

- Je souhaite être informé du projet
- J'apporte ma contribution en versant la somme de € (reçu fiscal délivré à partir de 50 €)

Nom, Prénom :

Adresse :

Tél :

Email :

A renvoyer à :

AFPS Drôme - Rue Pierre Curie - 26100 Romans sur Isère

ou
 MAN Lyon - 187 montée de Choulans - 69005 LYON

La banque postale, Centre financier, 69900 LYON cedex 20
 IBAN : FR68 2004 1010 0701 6619 2503 847
 BIC : PSSTFRPLYO
 mention Palestine

Flyer in english

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict officially begins in May 14, 1948, the day of the establishment of the State of Israel. It extends tensions between the Arab and Jewish communities in the region since Palestine was promised to Zionists organisations by England, which led to a quick and increasing immigration.

Issues of conflict.

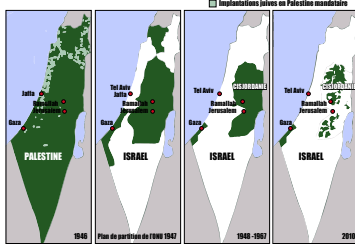
A territory issues hidden behind nationalist and religious claims (mutual recognition of two people; creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel; control of holy places). Geopolitical issues (sharing and exploitation of natural resources including water and land). The military occupation by Israel of a large part of Palestinian territory.

Following the Oslo Accords, the West Bank is fragmented into different areas: A, B and C areas (72%) completely under Israeli control. The city of Hebron, supposed to be in Zone A, is separated into two areas: H1 under Palestinian control, and H2 under Israeli control.

The proliferation of Israeli settlements in the territory Palestinian results in fragmentation of the territory of Palestine, obstructing the movement of Palestinians (setting up checkpoints, etc...) and grabbing large majority of natural resources (land, water ...).

We are the witnesses of a willingness elimination of the Palestinian people.

ÉVOLUTION DE LA PALESTINE DEPUIS 1946



Partnership

Center for Freedom and Justice

The Center For Freedom and Justice is a Palestinian organization founded in 2009 in the village of Beit Ummar. It works to the introduction of human rights, democracy, security, peace and economic development.
www.center4freedom.org



Jordan Valley Solidarity

Jordan Valley Solidarity is a network of Palestinians leaving in all the Jordan valley and international supporters. Its goal is to protect the existence of Palestinians in the Jordan Valley
www.jordanvalleysolidarity.org



MAN - Lyon

The Movement for a Non-Violent Alternative goal is to promote non-violence and to make its specific contribution in conflict resolution, in everyday life, in education, in social struggles and international solidarity
www.nonviolence.fr



AFPS - Drôme-Ardèche

The AFPS supports the Palestinian people in their struggle for the realization of its national rights. Their actios are in favour of a real and lasting peace, in connection with the Palestinian people.
www.france-palestine.org



Comité Palestine Israël Méditerranée du Pays de Châteaubriant

With 400 members, the Committee is engaged in the support of construction of paths in Beit Ummar, which allow Palestinian farmers to access their fields. It favors farmers and rural people to stay in their lands, by helping them to economically organize into cooperatives or groupments to create a group dynamic.



Civil societies reinforcement in nonviolent culture and agricultural projects

Nonviolence and agricultural cooperation in Palestine

A partnership



Beit Ummar



Vallée du Jourdain



Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente
187 montée de Choulans
69005 LYON
04 78 67 46 10
man.lyon@nonviolence.fr
www.nonviolence.fr



Comité Palestine Israël Méditerranée du Pays de Châteaubriant
Groupe 07-26
Contact
Marc FERRAPIE
04 75 07 37 74
marc.ferrapie@orange.fr

Beit Ummar and Vallée du Jourdain



The city of Beit Ummar, as the Jordan Valley, are very fertile lands. Agriculture is the main activity. The two regions are also under total control by Israel (zone C). Confiscation of water resources by Israeli authorities, and the theft of land by Israeli settlers are particularly important.

The impact on Palestinian communities is serious: economic difficulties on one hand, but also removal of people - especially young - from politics and citizenship. In this context of disillusionment, the leaders of the associations we are working with, are organizing **non violent actions of resistance**.

The overall objective of this program is to promote a global approach, close to the problems of the Palestinian leaving in Area C of the West Bank.

It argues that nonviolent resistance is combined with local development. For Palestinian communities, «to exist is to resist.»

The project

This partnership has two axes:

Support of non-violent popular and civil resistance

Citizen cooperation program aims at strengthening capacity of local civil society and release a culture of non-violence and peace to allow political solution to the conflict.

- Reduce the use of violence among young people;
- Train local leaders able to bring the voice of the Palestinian society and to support the establishment of a democratic governance;
- Strengthen the dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis working for peace;
- Strengthen a network of international support for the non violent resistance toward the occupation.

Agricultural cooperation

The agricultural cooperation program aims at improving living conditions of rural populations in Jordan Valley and Beit Ummar, particularly affected by the limitation of freedom of movement, by physical and psychological violence and land grabbing ...

- Use agricultural development to improve the economic situation of rural communities in the Jordan Valley and Beit Ummar and in particular the economic empowerment of women;
- Maintain and develop farming in the Jordan Valley and Beit Ummar, strengthening distribution circuits in the Palestinian territory for the flow local production, relying on the skills already acquired from local farmers;
- Stop the grabbing of Palestinian land by Israeli settlers in the two regions by cultivating vulnerable land near settlements;
- Promote the sharing of knowledge and intercultural enrichment through exchanges between Palestinian and french farmers

This project is planned over 3 years.

Nonviolence and agricultural cooperation in Palestine

Civil societies reinforcement in nonviolent culture and agricultural projects

- I wish to be informed of the project
- I bring my contribution by paying sum. €

Name, First Name:

Address:

Country:

Tel:

Email:

Send to:
MAN Lyon - 187 montée de Choulans - 69005 LYON FRANCE
IBAN : FR68 2004 1010 0701 6619 2503 847
BIC : PSSTFRPP30
mention Palestine

This partnership is supported by:



Non-violence et maintien de l'agriculture en Palestine

Soutien à la résistance non-violente, populaire et citoyenne

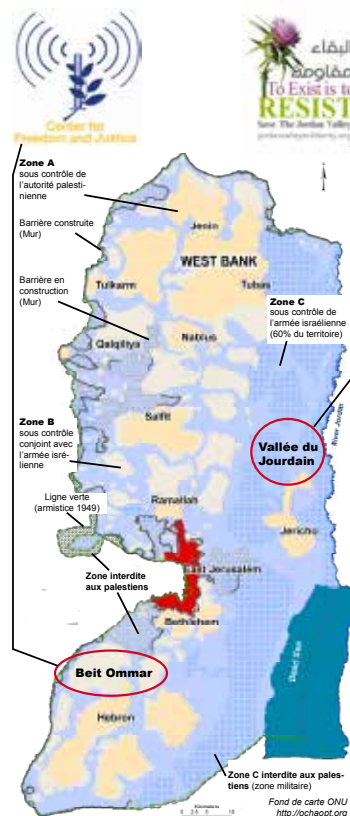
Le programme de coopération citoyenne vise à renforcer les capacités des acteurs locaux de la société civile et à diffuser une culture de non-violence et de paix afin de permettre une solution politique au conflit.

- aider les jeunes à résister par des actions non-violentes ;
- former des leaders locaux capables de porter la voix de la société palestinienne et d'appuyer la mise en place d'une gouvernance démocratique ;
- renforcer le dialogue entre Palestiniens et Israéliens oeuvrant pour la paix ;
- renforcer un réseau de soutien international pour la résistance non-violente à l'occupation

Coopération agricole

Le programme de coopération agricole vise à améliorer les conditions de vie des populations rurales de la Vallée du Jourdain et de Beit Ommar, touchées particulièrement par la limitation des libertés de déplacement, par la violence physique et psychologique et par l'accaparement des terres.

- favoriser le développement agricole pour améliorer l'économie des communautés rurales de la Vallée du Jourdain et de Beit Ommar et en particulier l'émancipation économique des femmes ;
- maintenir et développer l'activité agricole dans la Vallée du Jourdain et à Beit Ommar, en aidant à la valorisation des produits sur place (fromagerie dans la vallée du Jourdain, ateliers de transformation à Beit Ommar) et en renforçant les circuits de distribution au niveau du territoire palestinien pour l'écoulement des productions locales ;
- endiguer l'accaparement des terres palestiniennes par les colons israéliens dans les deux régions en cultivant prioritairement les terres vulnérables à proximité des colonies.



Partenariat entre
Center for Freedom and Justice
 Beit Ommar
 (entre Hébron et Bethléem)
Jordan Valley Solidarity
 Vallée du Jourdain
 (nord de Jéricho)
 et
Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente
AFPS 07-26
Comité Palestine-Israéli de Châteaubriant
JVS Albertville

avec le soutien de

- AFPS Savoie
- AFPS Rhône
- CBSF
- Région Rhône-Alpes
- Région PACA



MAN
 187 montée de Choulans
 69005 LYON
 04 78 67 46 10
 palestine@nonviolence.fr
 www.nonviolence.fr
AFPS
 Groupe 07-26
 Contact
 Marc FERRAPIE
 04 75 07 37 74