

## Update: Palestine *by Peter Gubser*

**M**y November trip to the Middle East coincided with the second month of the new intifada. The violence started after Ariel Sharon, leader of the Likud Party and a symbol of what the Palestinians dislike and fear most about Israel, visited Haram al-Sharif, also called the Temple Mount, on September 28, 2000. Although not the fundamental cause, this was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back, the spark that ignited escalating rounds of violence. So far, more than 350 people have been killed and thousands wounded, mostly Palestinians, although the casualties include increasing numbers of Israeli soldiers and civilians.

The most immediate cause of the violence is the continued military occupation, which has kept the Palestinian people under the control of the Israeli authorities for 33 years. The daily humiliation of checkpoints on roads, restrictions on the economy, and limited access to the outside world have profoundly and negatively affected the population. Through the new intifada and in other, more peaceful ways, Palestinians are saying

they want a fundamentally different status — independence in the West Bank and Gaza.

Seven years since the initiation of the Oslo peace process, the Palestinians are asking, "How long do we have to negotiate before we realize a final settlement acceptable to both sides?" Many people assert that the process is fundamentally flawed and

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*Most Palestinian schools have held classes intermittently throughout the last few months.*

a new one must be initiated. Their arguments are fueled by the unabated growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Most Palestinians thought the settlement process, the taking of land and building of highways, would be frozen during the Oslo peace process. The opposite has been the case. In January 1993, Israeli settlers in the West Bank and

Gaza numbered 115,000.<sup>1</sup> As of November 2000, the number had tripled with more than 360,000 Israelis now living in settlements.<sup>2</sup> Palestinians are questioning the intentions of their partner in peace.

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## Emergency Medical Relief in Palestine

**T**o alleviate suffering associated with the new intifada, in October ANERA distributed \$1 million in medicines and health related supplies to hospitals operated by the Palestinian National Authority.

By January 2001 ANERA will have distributed an additional \$1.8 million of donated materials to hospitals and clinics run by charitable associations and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

According to Dr. Rand Salman, ANERA's public health coordinator, medical centers are unable to maintain adequate supplies to treat the number of casualties, including many children.

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# Thank you!

*A special note of thanks to ANERA's volunteers who are helping our Washington office manage donors' generous response to Palestinians' emergency needs.*

Economic hardship has actually increased in the post Oslo period. Unemployment during the current emergency has soared to an estimated 50% or more. Meanwhile the GNP has declined. Most factories do not have raw materials, which come from Israel, and are thus closed. Construction projects are slowed or stopped. Tourism is dead. As a case in point, I joined the Mayor of Bethlehem at the new Jacir Palace Hotel, an elegantly renovated 1920s palace. We were the only customers.

In November, the Israeli government cut the flow of all goods, except food and medicine, to the West Bank and Gaza. Due to the decline



William Carter

*Many Palestinian small factories, have closed their doors since their ability to receive or ship goods is severely restricted.*

in people's income, village mayors are fearful that they will be unable to collect enough revenues from their residential electricity customers to pay the Israeli electricity company. Overall, people are afraid that the lack of energy sources – gasoline, fuel, and electricity – will soon have

dire consequences on the already degraded quality of life.

I fear most for poor people, the ordinary laborers and their families. They are dependent on day jobs to feed their families. Their resources will run out soon. Local charitable societies and the municipalities will respond, but they cannot cover all of the needs.

Many Palestinians are frustrated with the corruption and ineptitude in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). They see Israelis and Jordanians experiencing better and more honest government. People are increasingly saying that the PNA is at fault for the failed peace process. Some people blame the Palestinians who returned to Palestine from Tunis

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William Carter



*The closure of roads by Israeli military checkpoints, concrete barriers or large ditches have slowed or stopped the movement of both people and goods.*

## In Memory of Dr. Timothy W. Childs

**W**e are deeply saddened by the death of Dr. Timothy W. Childs, a close friend and wonderful supporter of ANERA's work over many years. Dr. Childs served on ANERA's Board of Directors and numerous committees from 1993 to the present. He lent us his great knowledge of the Middle East, his broad experience with institution building and philanthropy, and his wonderful sense of humor and sensibility. In the course of his career, Dr. Childs served in the U.S. Army and Foreign Service, posted primarily in the Middle East. He re-

signed from the State Department to pursue an academic career, receiving his Ph.D. in Modern European and Middle Eastern History at Georgetown University in 1982. Subsequently he taught at Georgetown and its McGhee Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies in Turkey. Tim Childs will be remembered for his strong contribution in many capacities to U.S. - Middle East relations, his generosity, his broad range of passionate interests, his love of life and people, and his heart of gold. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Hope and his family. ❁

## Stocks Appreciated!

Thanks to the many friends who have made gifts of appreciated stock to ANERA in recent months. These gifts are crucial for our work and have major tax advantages for you. For details, please contact Nina Dodge or Cyril Bindah at (202) 347-2558.

## In Honor of...

Essa Bateh • Val Beasley • Sally Blaker • compromise & peace • Thomas Dale • Edna B. Davis • Catherine N. Deverall • Clarel O. Dickson • Doris Dodge • Mr. & Mrs. Simon Estfan • Alyse S. Ferris • Ernest Ferris • Nelda Fry • David H. Gillard • Lucy P. Guilbeau • Grace Halsell • Jesus Christ • Dr. Kalbian • Medical • Sybel Morris • Tom & Pat Neu • Palestinians • late parents • Peace Center for the Blind in Jerusalem • Clarice B. Robinson • Daniel B. Street • Gale Will • working at ACS

with Arafat seven years ago, but others criticize all who hold power.

Some outside observers speculate or contend that Arafat can and does control the unrest on the street, the stone throwing and shootings. Others say he has lost control, is losing control, or never had control. I do not know which case is true, but at the end of 2000, there are legitimate doubts concerning his level of influence. As an Arab diplomat who is very committed to the larger peace process with Israel told me: "Perhaps there is no other way!" He speculates with sadness that non-peaceful means may be necessary to arrive at peace. ❁

1 "Losing the Demographic War." *Report on Israeli Settlement in the Occupied Territories*, January 1993, Volume 3, Number 1.

2 "Palestinian Revolt Centers Around Settlements." *Report on Israeli Settlement in the Occupied Territories*, November-December 2000, Volume 10, Number 6.

## ANERA's Peace Plan Begins 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

We wish to thank all participants in ANERA's Peace Plan. Our members provide ANERA with year-round income, ensuring programs can be planned and implemented to meet long term challenges in a region facing conflict and economic hardship. ANERA's Peace Plan also reduces administrative cost, thus enabling more resources to reach our essential programs.

If you are interested in joining ANERA's Peace Plan, you have two ways to join. One is to fill out the form below, write a check for the amount you wish to give monthly and mail it to ANERA. Each month an electronic bank transfer will enable your gift to reach ANERA. Also, you may join by using your credit card via our website. Visit [www.anera.org](http://www.anera.org) and click the donate button. On the form simply indicate how much you would like to give and indicate that it should be a monthly gift. ANERA will send a confirmation letter and form to confirm your monthly credit card gift. For more information please contact Paula McNicholas at (202) 347-2558.

Thank you for your commitment towards relieving suffering and improving the lives of people in the Middle East.

## Staff Transitions

Three new staff members have joined ANERA in the past months.

- ▶ **Heather Britt** is our Planning and Evaluation Officer in Gaza and is also a Volunteer in Mission with the Episcopal Church. She is from Salado, Texas, and a graduate of the University of Texas and Boston College.
- ▶ **Adrian Loucks** is ANERA's new Capital Campaign Associate. Prior to joining ANERA, she was Stewart Title Guaranty's Austin district manager for marketing

and auditing and was an award-winning volunteer with the American Red Cross. Adrian received her B.A. in Spanish and Anthropology from the University of Texas.

- ▶ **Paula McNicholas** joined ANERA in August as the Director of Donor Development. She previously worked as the Volunteer/ Resource Coordinator for the International Rescue Committee's refugee resettlement office in Atlanta, Georgia. She continues to volunteer with organizations assisting refugees. ❁

**Your personal commitment makes a difference in the lives of others!**

*Yes, I want to join ANERA's Peace Plan.*

Here is my monthly gift of:

\$100  \$50  \$25  \$10

I authorize my bank to transfer the amount above from my account each month. A record of each contribution will appear on my bank statement and serve as my receipt. I understand that I may stop my contribution at any time, by contacting ANERA at 1522 K. St., NW, Suite 202, Washington, DC 20005-1270, (202) 347-2558, or my bank.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*I have enclosed a check for my first monthly contribution, made payable to ANERA.*

ANERA has received generous in-kind donations from AmeriCares, the Catholic Medical Mission Board, Direct Relief International, US Omen, the American Priory of the Order of St. John, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

ANERA ships goods by sea or air, clears them through customs and coordinates their distribution from ANERA's warehouse in the West Bank. All in-kind donations are accepted by ANERA on the basis of the needs of the various institutions receiving the donations.

Given the ongoing pressing medical needs, ANERA is planning new shipments scheduled for distribution later this year.

An outpouring of financial support from ANERA's donors and Board of Directors has made possible these shipments of emergency medical relief. ❁

*Laird Mortimer*



Donors of in-kind medical supplies visited the U.S. warehouse the day their donations were sent to hospitals and clinics in the West Bank and Gaza.

## Your Legacy

Through a bequest in your will or trust, you can extend your support for Palestinians and Lebanese in need and the worthy institutions that help them beyond your lifetime. We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Please use ANERA's full name "American Near East Refugee Aid" in your bequest documents, followed by our address. For information on the ANERA Legacy Society or bequests to ANERA, contact Nina Dodge at (202) 347-2558.

# ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

FOUNDED 1968

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### ANERA

1522 K Street, NW, Suite 202

Washington, DC 20005-1270

Tel: (202) 347-2558 • Fax: (202) 682-1637

anera@anera.org • www.anera.org

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1522 K STREET NW, SUITE 202  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-1270

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Ms. Doris Warrell  
3200 16th St NW Apt 412  
Washington DC 20010-3333

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