

More Information

Zatoun Olive Oil

www.zatoun.com

Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee

www.pal-arcc.org

Amnesty International

-Surviving under siege: The impact of movement restrictions on the right to work, September 7, 2003
http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/israel_and_occupied_territories/reports.do

Oxfam International Briefing Papers:

-Forgotten Villages: Struggling to Survive under Closure in the West Bank, September 9, 2002
www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/conflict_disasters/bp28_forgotten.htm

-Protecting Civilians: A Cornerstone of Middle East Peace, May 2004
www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/conflict_disasters/bp62_prot_civil.htm

World Bank

-Twenty-Seven Months - Intifada, Closures and Palestinian Economic Crisis, May 2003.
<http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/mna/mena.nsf>

Electronic Intifada

www.electronicintifada.net/v2/article3301.shtml

Rabbis For Human Rights

www.rhr.israel.net

International Herald Tribune

The Olive Tree and Its Shadow of Hope, by Nadia Hijab, November 22, 2004



Photo courtesy of World Bank

Get Involved

Two house party or small gathering formats are available from Ziyarat az Zeitoun**:

Tasting the Olive Cuisine

Sample different types of olive oil; learn different recipes for cooking with olive oil; learn about the traditions of olives and oil in Palestinian culture; attend cooking demonstration**

Beyond the Olive Branch: Harvest Realities

Presentation on the challenges Palestinian olive tree farmers face – destruction of trees, curfews, closures and checkpoints – and the solidarity that is organized by Israelis and internationals. Participants may sample and purchase olive oil.

* Project only available to Chicago-area residents at this time

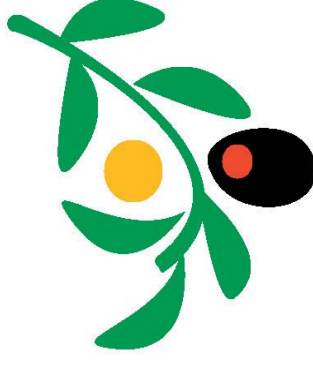
** Cooking demonstrations available on a limited basis.

Contact us if you are interested in joining the Olive Harvest Delegation in the fall 2005.

Email for more information
olives@afsc.org



Visiting the Olives Ziyarat az Zeitoun



“There will be oil to heal the wounds, and there will be olive branches to wave when peace arrives.”

Palestinian pastor
Mitri Raheb
November 2004



**American Friends
Service Committee**

Quaker values in action



Photo courtesy of Elimo Spain

Ziyarat az Zeitoun

Ziyarat az Zeitoun (Arabic for Visiting the Olives) is a project to bring people together to learn more about Palestinian culture and current political realities on the ground in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ziyarat az Zeitoun offers resources for individuals and groups to plan small or large gatherings where participants can sample and purchase Palestinian olive oil, view images and hear stories of olive harvesting, learn about the situation of Palestinian farmers and the solidarity efforts of Israeli and international peace groups.

Symbol of Palestine

Olive trees have been a part of the Palestinian landscape for thousands of years. They are also the second major crop in Palestine, used to produce olive oil, olive wood and olive based soap.

Symbolically, olive trees represent the Palestinian nation and people's ties to the land. More

broadly, the olive branches are international symbols of peace and tranquility, needed now more than ever in this devastated part of the world.



Photo courtesy of Electronic Intifada

Economic Situation

For thousands of rural families in Palestine, agriculture is the main economic activity, as well as the major source of food. Every year, olive oil production accounts for 15 to 19% of total agricultural output in Palestine.

Since 2000 and the subsequent tightening of Israeli military closure policies, restrictions of movement and access to water, Palestinian productive capacities have been severely limited.

Palestinian olive producers have been brought to the brink of destitution. Prevented from accessing their land, markets and the cities, the farmers are now struggling to make ends meet.

Struggling to survive the hard times, families have been spending their savings or relying on loans, sometimes selling land and livestock to buy food or meet emergency needs (Oxfam 2002).

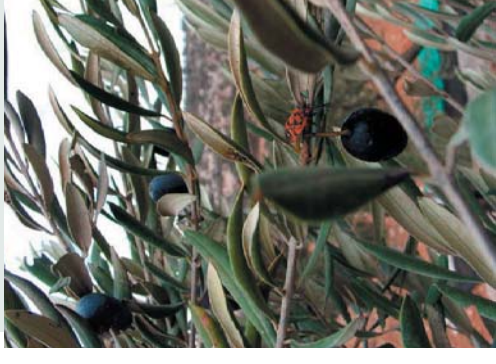


Photo courtesy of Electronic Intifada

Amnesty International reported in 2003 that over a half of residents of West Bank now live below the poverty line. In Gaza, it is estimated that number is even higher.



Photo courtesy of Electronic Intifada