

## Draft schedule Yachad trip November 2015

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

**8pm:** Dinner in central Jerusalem restaurant with Hagit Ofran (TBC)

This is an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the landscape of the West Bank and ensure the entire group has a good background briefing to issues such as control of land in the West Bank, Areas A, B and C etc.

#### Hagit Ofran Biography

Born in Jerusalem and raised in a politically-minded, Orthodox family Hagit Ofran is the Director of Peace Now's Settlement Watch team, where she coordinates the most comprehensive independent database on settlements, collects and publishes reports regarding settlement development and policy and has been involved in providing evidence for several appeals, the majority of which deal with illegal settlement and outpost construction. Settlement Watch was established to bring to the attention of the Israeli public information regarding what is being done on the eastern side of the Green Line. Settlement Watch believes it is extremely important for people to be familiar with basic facts as a condition for carrying out informed discussions about the future of the State of Israel's control in the territories.

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

**8.30am** Visiting Hebron with Breaking the Silence

Hebron is the second largest city in the West Bank and the only one which has an Israeli settlement inside it which is home to approximately 500 permanent residents. Whilst Hebron is unique in this regard, it serves as a microcosm for understanding many of the issues related to maintaining military control over the population of the West Bank at large.

We will be guided by a group of former IDF soldiers from Breaking the Silence, an organisation of former IDF veterans who have served in the Israeli military since the start of the Second Intifada and have taken it upon themselves to expose the Israeli public to the reality of everyday life in the Occupied Territories. BTS endeavors to stimulate public debate about the price paid for a reality in which young soldiers face a civilian population on a daily basis, and are engaged in the control of that population's everyday life.

**4pm** Meeting with the Yesha Council – the official representative body of the settler movement (exact timing and location TBC)

We will meet with an official representative of the settler movement which will be an opportunity to discuss different perspectives and opinions related to ongoing and long term Israeli presence in the West Bank.

**6-7.30pm** Break at the hotel

**7.45pm** Dinner with the director of Molad, Mikhael Manekin

### Molad

Molad is an independent, non-partisan Israeli think tank that works to reinvigorate Israeli society by injecting new ideas into all spheres of public discourse. Molad's vision combines progressive values with a realistic approach to the political and geopolitical challenges of Israeli reality. Molad informs public debate with responsible content that meets the highest possible standards of research and analysis – the dearth of which has played a crucial role in Israel's ongoing state of crisis. Mikhael Manekin is the executive director of Molad. In this capacity, Mikhael manages the political work of Molad, which includes both strategic and policy work with members of the coalition and opposition, and with relevant political parties.

## **Tuesday 24th November**

**8.30am** Meeting with B'tselem at hotel for background briefing ahead of a visit to the military courts. We will also be joined for the day by Moriel Rothman, biography below, who will aid with translation at the courts

### B'tselem

Btselem was established in February 1989 by a group of prominent academics, attorneys, journalists, and Knesset members. It endeavours to document and educate the Israeli public and policymakers about human rights violations in the Occupied Territories, combat the phenomenon of denial prevalent among the Israeli public, and help create a human rights culture in Israel. As an Israeli human rights organization, B'Tselem acts primarily to change Israeli policy in the Occupied Territories and ensure that its government, which rules the Occupied Territories, protects the human rights of residents there and complies with its obligations under international law.

**9.15am-10am** Travel to Ofer Military Base with B'tselem

**10-12.30pm** Observing legal process in Ofer Military Court

**NB translators will be present and packed lunches will be provided to eat en-route**

*Ofer Military Court*

Ofer Military Court is next to the Ofer prison, both situated very close to Ramallah. Thousands of Palestinians go on trial every year in the Ofer military court for offenses like illegally entering Israel or throwing stones.

**1-5pm** Visit to Nabi Salah Village to meet with residents many of whom have been and tried and imprisoned by the Israeli military

*Nabi Salah*

Nabi Salah's residents have hosted weekly demonstrations in protest at the confiscation of the village's lands and the takeover of their spring by the nearby Israeli settlement, Halamish. During the protests, there are regular clashes with the Israeli Army who attempt to disperse crowds by using teargas, skunk water, rubber bullets, sound grenades, and other dispersal methods while Palestinian youth respond by hurling stones. The Israeli authorities have tried to prevent the raids by using tactics such as night incursions targeting homes and arrests of alleged stone throwers. Nabi Salah has become a well-known flash point in the West Bank as a result.

*Moriel Rothman Biography*

Moriel is an American-Israeli writer, activist, refusenik and spoken word poet. He was born in Jerusalem, and raised in Yellow Springs, Ohio and Zikhron Ya'akov, Israel. He holds a degree in Arabic and Political Science from Middlebury College in Vermont. After graduating, Moriel moved back to Jerusalem and worked as a field activist in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with Rabbis for Human Rights. In the fall of 2012, Moriel spent a short time in military jail for refusing to serve in the Israeli army. Since his release, Moriel has continued to be involved in on the ground activism, writing and community organizing against the occupation. He worked as the Just Vision Programme Coordinator until summer 2014. His writings have appeared in publications including Haaretz, the Huffington Post, the Daily Beast, +972 Magazine, and many more. He blogs independently at The Leftern Wall, which has been cited in sources including the Washington Post, Haaretz, Al Jazeera and more.

**6-8pm** Break at the hotel

**8pm** Dinner with invited guests TBD

## **Wednesday 25th November**

**8am-9.30am** -Meeting with Sarah Weiss Maudi – Director of the International Law Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

This will be an opportunity to discuss official Israeli policy in relation to the challenges Israel faces in the international arena vis-à-vis the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict

### **Biography**

Sarah Weiss Ma'udi, Adv. is the Director of the International Law Department at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this position, she has served as counsel in matters relating to: maritime law; water law; international borders; international law relating to natural gas and oil, the recognition of states; Israeli domestic sanctions policies; human rights law; humanitarian law and Israeli policies vis-à-vis its neighbors (Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians) and the European Union

**09.30am-11.30am** Tour of east Jerusalem with Danny Seidemann

### **Danny Seidemann biography**

Daniel Seidemann MBE is Israel's leading expert on Jerusalem and the founder of Terrestrial Jerusalem, an Israeli non-governmental organization that works to identify and track the full spectrum of developments in Jerusalem that could impact either the political process or permanent status options, destabilize the city or spark violence, or create humanitarian crises. Danny is frequently consulted by governmental bodies in Israel and the Palestinian territories and regularly briefs international governments including the Foreign and Commonwealth office in the UK and White House officials on matters pertaining to Israeli-Palestinian relations and developments in Jerusalem.

Danny has been a practicing attorney in Jerusalem and a partner in a firm specializing in commercial law since 1987. Since 1991, he has also specialized in legal and public issues in East Jerusalem. Since 1994, Danny has participated in numerous Track II talks on Jerusalem between Israelis and Palestinians. In 2000-2001, he served in an informal advisory capacity to the final status negotiations, serving as a member of a committee of experts commissioned by Prime Minister Barak's office to generate sustainable arrangements geared to implement the emerging political understandings with the Palestinians

**11.45am-12.45pm** Travel to Tel Aviv

**12.45pm-2.15pm** Lunch with Barak Ravid, diplomatic correspondent for Ha'aretz

**2.15-3pm** Final Debrief

**3.30pm-4.45pm** Meeting with the British Ambassador to Israel, David Quarry, in the Ambassador's residence, Ramat Gan

This will be an opportunity for us to discuss different aspects of British Foreign Policy and British-Israel relations with the British Ambassador to Israel

**5pm-5.30pm** Travel to Ben Gurion airport.