

Yachad trip schedule November 22nd-25th 2015

Sunday 22nd November

8pm: Dinner at Roza (<http://www.roza.rest-e.co.il/>) restaurant with Shay Davidovich, Breaking the Silence

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.

Breaking the Silence and Shay Davidovich

Shay Davidovich is the international relations coordinator at Breaking the Silence, where part of his remit includes working with Diaspora Jewish communities. He served in the IDF's Combat Intelligence Collection Corps from 2005 – 2008.

Breaking the Silence is an organisation of veteran combatants 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. Breaking the Silence collects and publishes testimonies from soldiers who have served in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem since September 2000, and holds lectures, house meetings, and other public events which bring to light the reality in the Territories through the voice of former combatants. The organisation also conducts tours in Hebron and the South Hebron Hills region, with the aim of giving the Israeli public access to the reality which exists minutes from their own homes, yet is rarely portrayed in the media.

Monday 23rd November

8.30am Meeting with the mayor of Efrat, Oded Revivi

Efrat and Oded Revivi

Efrat is an Israeli settlement established in 1983 and a local council in the Judean Mountains of the West Bank. Efrat is located 12 kilometers (7.5 mi) south of Jerusalem, between Bethlehem and Hebron, 6.5 km (4 mi) east of the Green line, inside of the Security Barrier. Efrat, considered the capital of the Etzion Block,[5] had 9,238 residents as of January 2013. Although it is geographically located within Gush Etzion ("Etzion Bloc"), Efrat is independent from the Gush Etzion Regional Council.

Oded Revivi was elected Mayor of Efrat on November 11, 2008 and was re-elected to a second term on October 22, 2013. Born on January 31, 1969, Oded has been an Efrat resident since 1994. He is married to Lisa and is the father of six. The family lives in the Rimon neighborhood. A practicing attorney before assuming the position of Mayor, Oded specialized in real estate law, business law and litigation. Oded received his Master's Degree in Social Sciences-Public Policy from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

10am Leave Efrat and drive to meet Daniela Gordon, Machsom Watch Guide. Drive to central West Bank with for tour with Machsom Watch around the Seam Zone.

The Seam Zone is the area of the West Bank between the Green Line and the separation barrier. We will tour the northern and central West Bank near Qalqilya, Nablus and the settlement of Alfei Menashe. We will meet with Palestinians working and living in these areas and view an agricultural checkpoint near the Palestinian town of Habla, in order to understand the day-to-day realities faced by Palestinians who live within the Seam Zone.

Machsom Watch

Machsom Watch is a volunteer organisation of Israeli women who are peace activists from all sectors of society. Since 2001 the Machsom Watch volunteers have been observing and reporting on the Occupation. On a daily basis they monitor the West Bank checkpoints, the separation fences, the agricultural gates, the military courts and Palestinian villages. They document what they see and what is reported to them by local Palestinians.

Through their observations, reports, films, photographs and tours they aim to influence public opinion in Israel and throughout the world by recording and authenticating the impossible conditions faced by the Palestinians under Israeli occupation; conditions which also corrode the fabric of Israeli society and the values of democracy. They attempt to ease the frustrations and hardships of Palestinians by offering assistance wherever they can.

6.45-7.45pm Break at the hotel

8pm Dinner at the Blue Hall Restaurant (<http://www.bluehallmusic.co.il/#!menu/ckr4>) 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. B'tselem will accompany us to the courts for the day. We will also be joined for the day by Moriel Rothman, biography below, who will aid with translation at the courts

B'tselem

B'tselem was established in February 1989 by a group of prominent academics, attorneys, journalists, and Knesset members. It endeavors 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 at The Legacy Hotel Restaurant (<http://www.jerusalemlegacy.com/dining.html>) with Ilan Baruch and Ilan Liel

Ilan Baruch

Ambassador (ret.) Ilan Baruch is currently the policy advisor for MK Zehava Galon, Chairperson of MERETZ and a peace activist. He resigned from the MFA on grounds of principle, after 36 years of diplomatic career. It included overseas postings in Asia, Europe and Africa. Head-quarter postings: founder/director of the Palestinian Autonomy department, head - coordination of the Multilateral Peace Process and head -

Middle East division for economic cooperation. Baruch was a team member of the Israeli delegation to the Oslo Peace negotiations, and participated in various negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Egypt on economic agreements. His last posting was Ambassador of Israel to South Africa, as well as Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Since his early retirement, Baruch is devoting his time and experience to projects in public diplomacy, is running a weekly program in the "All for Peace" radio, and contributes political analysis in different media outlets.

Alon Liel

Ambassador (ret.) Alon Liel holds B.A., M.A. and PhD degrees from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Liel wrote his doctoral dissertation on "The dependence of Imported Energy and its Impact on Turkey's Foreign Policy" in 1986.

Alon Liel has served for the Israeli Foreign Ministry in various positions; the head of the Israeli mission in Turkey (1981-1983), the Foreign Ministry spokesman and the member of the Israeli negotiating team at the Taba talks with Egypt (1985–1987), Ambassador to South Africa in (1992-1994), Director General of the Ministry of Economy and Planning (1994-1996), Foreign Policy Advisor to Ehud Barak (1997-1999), Director General of the Foreign Ministry (2000-2001).

Wednesday 25th November

8.30am-9.45am -Meeting with Ben Bourgel – Legal advisor to 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

Ben Bourgel

Ben Bourgel, Adv. is a legal adviser in the Department of International Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. He specializes in European Union Law and in the legal aspects of counter-terrorism. Mr. Ben Bourgel joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel as a diplomat in 2008 and held various positions in Jerusalem and overseas. Most recently, he served from 2011 to 2014 as the Deputy Head of the European Parliament Liaison Department of the Mission of Israel to the European Union in Brussels.

Mr. Bourgel holds a LLB degree in International and European Law ("Maîtrise") from Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, where he graduated magna cum laude, and an LLM in European Law ("DEA") from Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne.

09.45am-11.45am 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 at Bariba Restaurant (<http://www.derech-haim.co.il/?CategoryID=334>)

Barak Ravid

Barak Ravid is the diplomatic correspondent for Haaretz newspaper. He joined Haaretz in April 2007, covering the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Defense, dealing with issues such as U.S.-Israeli relations, EU-Israeli relations and the peace process.

Before joining Haaretz, Barak Ravid worked for two years for Maariv daily newspaper, spending a year covering the Palestinian Authority and a year as a diplomatic correspondent. Ravid has a BA in the history of the Middle East from the University of Tel Aviv. He served for six years as an officer in the Israel Defense Forces, and concluded his service with the rank of captain. He and his wife live in Tel Aviv.

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.