

Khalil Toama
**Impressions at a Meeting between Palestinians and Israelis in the “hot”
summer 2006.**



In the dialogue seminars between Israelis and Palestinians in Germany, the darkest chapter of German history is of necessity somehow always present.

I suggested a meeting with a Jewish survivor of the resistance and gave some personal facts about him. There was great interest. And I actually managed to persuade an old friend, despite his frailty and illness, to give a lecture about the Nazi time and his life as a member of the resistance. Peter Gingold meanwhile has died.

He affirmed the right of the Palestinians to fight against the occupation and at the same time warned: “But we did everything possible to avoid innocent people and civilians to suffer from the resistance. This is what Palestinians ought to do too.”

Two of the Israeli participants were greatly encouraged by the fact that Peter Gingold concentrated on resistance. It was very important for the Israelis to perceive the apparent agreement of the Palestinians in their nodding, when Peter Gingold made it a condition for militant resistance to spare civilians.

This meeting between young Israelis and Palestinians lasted twice as long as the planned hour. For me too this encounter was full of insights. Our goodbyes were warmhearted. Peter Gingold was invited both to Israel and Palestine in order to visit participants and talk about his experiences.

Asked how they had experienced this encounter with the darkest chapter of German history, many participants said that this presentation far surpassed their expectations.

(summery and translation by W.Dieter)