

"VACATION FROM WAR - SUMMER 2006"

Comments of the first two groups

15.7.06

Young people from Palestine and Israel are saying: Peace between us is possible

We, young people from Israel and Palestine, took part in a seminar-program, called „Vacation from War“, organized by the Komitee für Grundrechte und Demokratie in Germany. We came together, because we wanted to know more about the „other side“, their feelings and their thinking, the way they look at the conflict and their wishes and visions for the future.

In the weeks before we came to Germany the situation in the Middle East was getting worse and worse. Now, during the first seminar (first two weeks in July), the Israly Army bombed Beirut and other places in Libanon and in the Gaza-Stripe. The Hisbollah and other militarily organized groups attacked cities and villages in Israel. Many civilians of both sides lost their life or were heavily injured. Some of our participants had to be worried about the life of their parents and relatives.

Reflecting this, after two weeks of working together in the seminar, of living together in the same place, of talking, sometimes even argueing, but also of doing some exciting excursions and other activities, we are more convinced than ever, that there has to be peace in the Middle East and that peace between us is possible. We got more aware and we felt it by talking one with the other, that there is only a future for us, if we think about it as a common future, without fear, without hate and without any violence between us.

MEMBERS OF RE'UT SADAKA (ISRAEL) AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH UNION  
(PALESTINE)

Breaking Barriers seminar

July 20006

Dear sir and madam

We, the participants of the breaking barriers siminar 10th - 23rd july 2006 in Walberberg, would like to thank you for making it possible for us to meet the other side and to get to know them deeply. We appreciate your hospitality and your generosity. Thanks for your kindness we were able to discuss the hard issues of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It was a unique experience filled with

different kinds of emotions, intellectual thinking and values.

We had to deal with things we do not usually deal with in real life. We, in our daily life, we do not have such experiences because the situation is not encouraging it. We learned to get to know the other side personally, their arguments and opinions about the conflict.

We believe that when we go back we will be more active, more aware and try changing the negative images and stereotipic thinking of both sides.

Finally, in behalf of our group we would like to thank all the people around the world, who support and encourage, financially and morally, the peace believers in order to stop the violence and ignorance all over the world and specially in our area. Your money is invested in peace and the big dividend you have is more aware people that want to solve the situation.

Thank you from all of us,

Breaking Barriers seminar, 2006