***Arna’s Children Docs.***

*These links and materials are intended as follow-up to the online discussion organised by GISIG on 13 October 2024.*

*Here are the links to the films we re-viewed:*

Link to Arna’s Children. <https://youtu.be/DvtzDPdHeeU>

Jenin’s children’s theatre. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZuOSIn6YdY>

**This collection is not about accusing anyone, any group or any nation. It focuses on the futility of war – and on those few who strive for peace in the midst of insanity.**

**The situation is bleak – but there are groups which continue to work for peace and reconciliation:**

**Jewish/Arab reconciliation Groups.**

**‘Standing Together’**. This is their website:

<https://www.standing-together.org/en>

Another, similar group is the **Bereaved Families Forum**, who go into schools in pairs – one Israeli/Jew, one Palestinian, and tell their stories:

<https://www.theparentscircle.org/en/homepage-en/>

And yet another: **Women Wage Peace**

<https://www.womenwagepeace.org.il/en/>

One of the activists in Women Wage Peace was **Vivian Silver**, who was killed on October 7th. She has recently been commemorated in one of the camps in Khan Yunes: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-peace-activist-murdered-by-hamas-is-memorialized-in-gaza-evacuee-camp/>

**A British-Jewish group: ‘Yachad’**, which means ‘together’ in Hebrew.

[https://yachad.org.uk](https://yachad.org.uk/)

**West-Eastern Divan Orchestra**

<https://west-eastern-divan.org/>

**Hastings Jews for Justice.**

<https://hastingsonlinetimes.co.uk/hot-topics/politics/new-jewish-group-calls-for-pledges-from-parliamentary-candidates>

**Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salam, The School for Peace**. <https://sfpeace.org/>

Founded 1979 based in Israel with 50/50 staff and pupil ratio of Jews and Palestinians. It’s a school from primary upwards.

**“What can TESOL**

**educators do?”** at: <https://tinyurl.com/mtcc78c4>

**FREE PALESTINE! Some Jewish-Palestinian bridges (Kindly sent in by Bill Templer)**

**Re: Arna Mer Khamis**

One interesting aspect not commented on is Arna’s very Zionist upbringing in a spotlighted early Zionist settlement: she was born and raised in **Rosh Pina**, the first major Zionist moshav settlement in Galilee from the 1880s, one mile east of Safed (Tsfat). How that shaped her remains an intriguing question. Watch this [Xcellent 12-min. video](https://youtu.be/mwfgYWoZb7o) on Rosh Pina. For tourism, the film is full of its ‘special’ Zionist history. Arna knew these things, was raised surrounded by them in the 1930s/40s. She later became an atheistic communist in MAKI, where she met her husband. And some in Jenin criticized esp. her atheism, working with Muslim Gaza children. The Freedom Theatre had many foes inside Jenin, for religious and other reasons.

She didn’t want to be buried in Rosh Pina I imagine. The kibbutz Ramot Menashe southeast of Haifa ‘accepted’ her and later Juliano for burial. She may have had a Palmach connection with that kibbutz in 1948/49. Juliano’s film doesn’t explain that Arna’s father [Gideon Mer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gideon_Mer), M.D. was a well-known (and politically quite Zionist) malaria scientist, see his UK [obit](https://www.bmj.com/content/2/5247/315.3). Rosh Pina (population ca. 3,300 nowadays) has been evacuated since last October, like Safed nearby, since both are situated close to Lebanon.

Here is a range of links regarding Arna, Juliano, Jenin Freedom Theatre, including:

Arna’s Right Livelihood Award from Sweden: <https://rightlivelihood.org/> Her speech 1993 accepting the award: [https://web.archive.org/web/20081119053604/http://www.rightlivelihood.org/mer\_khamis\_speech.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20081119053604/http:/www.rightlivelihood.org/mer_khamis_speech.html)

Informative Urquhart article in *THE GUARDIAN* on Juliano after his murder: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/apr/10/juliano-mer-khamis-west-bank-freedom-theatre>

Listen on *AJ* especially to [Ahmed Tobasi](https://www.democracynow.org/2023/12/15/ahmed_tobasi_of_the_freedom_theatre), artistic director of the [Freedom Theatre](https://thefreedomtheatre.org/who-we-are/) in Jenin, along with [archivist Mayar Hamdan](http://mayarhamdan.com/bio) and [folklorist Serena Rasoul.](http://www.tiktok.com/@palfolklore) Superb panel talk! The art of resistance: Jenin’s [Freedom Theatre](https://youtu.be/XRQaoP3RjkU) tells Palestinian stories (15 March 2024). *Democracy Now!* (15 Dec. 2023) Israel Raids Freedom Theatre in Jenin Refugee Camp; [Director Speaks Ou](https://youtu.be/YBQaG8XmM80)t After Being Jailed & Beaten.

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**On trauma**

Recommend this [interview with Gabor Maté](https://www.nif.org/blog/deep-dive-bedouin-in-the-negev-yesterday-today-tomorrow/), his critique of Zionism at this juncture. GISIG should be stressing/sharing his talks online and books. Listen to Gabor on the [myth of normal](https://youtu.be/OvSL6RZCkyI), another [incisive talk](https://youtu.be/KqgEUjQv_oU) by Maté, many online. Share his book *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness & Healing in a Toxic Culture*. Avery/Penguin. ([2022](https://drgabormate.com/book/the-myth-of-normal/)).

**Some Jewish-Palestinian bridge-building:**

1. [Jewish Voice for Peace](https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/), the largest Jewish anti-Zionist organization worldwide. Introduce to students, colleagues, discuss.
2. **+972** magazine brings Jews and Palestinians together: <https://www.972mag.com/>
3. *Standing Together*: <https://www.standing-together.org/en> [mentioned in 13 Oct. confab]
4. **HADASH** communist party in Israeli Knesset (since 1977): <https://hadash.org.il/english/>
5. **Ofer Cassif**, outspoken HADASH Knesset MP: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ofer_Cassif>
6. **Uri Avnery** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uri_Avnery> (died 2018) He published an article on the film *Arna’s Children* (2004) ‘The Palestinian Romeo’ <http://www.miftah.org/Display.cfm?DocId=3292&CategoryId=5> **Gush Shalom** was a peace NGO founded by Avnery: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gush_Shalom> Gush Shalom website***, still operational today*** after Uri’s death: <http://zope.gush-shalom.org/index_en.html> Avnery was very critical of Zionist politics.
7. **Anarchists against the Wall** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anarchists_Against_the_Wall>

BOOK: Uri Gordon & Ohal Grietzer (Eds.), *Anarchists Against the Wall: Direct Action and Solidarity With The Palestinian Popular Struggle.* AK Press 2013 Listen to [an extraordinary story](https://youtu.be/y3Ga4DiV7eM), Stav and Ronnie, aired on *AJ* recently. Listen to extended recent video talk with [Uri Gordon](https://youtu.be/vz_T2I0kIHM).

(8) Longstanding IDF soldiers’ organization on the left: **Breaking the Silence**  NGO is still active: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breaking_the_Silence_(organization)> They speak out. Some are arrested for their criticisms.

(9) **Yesh Gvul**: [https://www.yesh-gvul.org.il/english founded in 1982](https://www.yesh-gvul.org.il/english%20founded%20in%201982). Refuseniks, anti-occupation, anti-IDF service. Still active, see: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20240529-unprecedented-surge-in-conscription-refusals-amid-gaza-war-israeli-group/> Sofi Orr, a ‘refusenik’: <https://www.pressenza.com/2024/02/sofia-orr-this-is-why-i-refuse-to-enlist-in-the-israeli-army/> See this video interview with [Sofi Orr](https://youtu.be/RxZvOqpLU_s), a conscientious objector to military service in the Israeli IDF at age 18, her comments powerful and brave **(10) PELED** Given the social justice mega-crisis our teaching confronts, discover/share Dr. Nurit Peled-Elhanan’s ([2012](https://www.amazon.com/Palestine-Israeli-School-Books-Propaganda/dp/1780765053/ref=pd_bxgy_d_sccl_1/142-1861275-1705558); [2023](https://www.amazon.com/Holocaust-Education-Semiotics-Othering-Schoolbooks/dp/195779206X)) incisive books on Israeli hyper-nationalist education. And watch her [critical webinar](https://youtu.be/l5MgCGa0R8k) (Jan. 2024), an [interview 7 Nov. 2023](https://youtu.be/CCjpinLxIFM) and [Miko Peled’s talk](https://youtu.be/LY1gq-VYr7g) (July 2024), at Palestine Museum US, dismantling Israeli core ‘toxic hyper-nationalist illusions’. Listen also to [his interview Aug. 2024](https://youtu.be/sQnvfpb4NoU). Nurit and Miko’s father was Gen. Mattityahu Peled, a key widely known IDF general who in later years turned to Jewish-Palestinian bridging politics, founding a political party Progressive List for Peace in 1984, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progressive_List_for_Peace> )

**From GILE Newsletter. October 2024.**

**(GILE is the Special Interest Group on Global Issues of the Japan Association of Language Teachers (JALT). It has been a pioneer leader in raising awareness of global issues of all kinds for 30+ years.)**

It’s been one year since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023. Since then, Israel has carried out a brutal military invasion that has caused misery, death and destruction in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon, numerous war crimes and the deaths of 41,000 Palestinians. Join your students to study this violent conflict, help the victims, work for a ceasefire and brainstorm how to create a peaceful future.

**Online Articles and Resources**

§ *No Return to Class in War-Torn Gaza* (Sept 2024)

§ *Scholars Against the War on Palestine*

§ *Oxfam: Talking about Israel & Palestine in School*

§ Video: *Israeli teacher locked up for opposing war*

§ *UN Experts concerned over Scholasticide in Gaza*

§ *International educators need to end their silence*

*on Gaza* (Mark Ashwill, January 13, 2024)

§ *Students at Kyoto University Issue Gaza Support*

§ *Open letter by Gaza academics* (May 29, 2024)

§ *Portland to Palestine: Student-to-Student Project*

§ Youtube song*: Palestine will be free* – Maher Zain

**Open Letter on Gaza from the ELT Community** § https://tinyurl.com/5d9n4syh

**Official Statements on the Israel-Gaza Conflict**

§ https://tinyurl.com/mw43mkpr

**Grim Statistics: The Israel-Gaza Conflict**

Israeli Casualties

§ people killed: 1,478 (including 200 foreigners)

§ hostages kidnapped: 251 (105 released, 34 dead)

§ displaced civilians: 100,000

Palestinian Casualties

§ people killed: 41,431 (2% of Gaza’s population)

§ children: 14,100 § women: 9,000 (UNICEF)

§ displaced civilians: 1.9 million (99% of population)

Casualties and Destruction

§ journalists killed: 120 § UN staff killed: 200

§ schools: 285 § hospitals: 31 § mosques: 340

Statistics as of October 2, 2024 (Wikipedia, UN, NGOs…)

**One Year Anniversary: What Can We Do?**

§ Teach about this conflict and ways we can stop it

§ Organize an event in your class, school or city

§ Interview Palestinians and Israelis in Japan

§ Support the worldwide call for a ceasefire

§ Raise money for NGOs helping war victims

§ Send petitions to the Israeli and US Embassies

§ Write letters of support to victims of the conflict

§ Lend a hand to Palestinian refugees in Japan

Read this 2024 GILE article “What can TESOL educators do?” at: <https://tinyurl.com/mtcc78c4>

**Poems, songs etc. (Kindly sent in by Fernanda Felix Binati)**

Rafeef Ziadah - 'We teach life, sir"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKucPh9xHtM](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/goog_577203371)Rafeef Ziadah - Shades of Anger

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2vFJE93LTI](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/goog_577203371)

Mahmoud Darwish - War and Peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_eAeAFLXck>

***A song***

*Canta Palestina*

by Enzo Avitabile ft Amal Mukus (Palestinian)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTG8rQFNoFA>

English lyrics

<https://www.antiwarsongs.org/confronta.php?id=4693&ver=5712&lang=en>

***Article***

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/aug/11/poetry.israelandthepalestinians>

**Some poems relating to the idiocy of war.**

***War. Alan Maley***

*An eye for an eye*

*And a tooth for a tooth.*

*A lie for a lie*

*And a truth for a truth.*

*An error for an error*

*And a strife for a strife.*

*A terror for a terror*

*And a life for a life.*

*A loss for a loss.*

*A breath for a breath.*

*A cross for a cross.*

*A death for a death.*

*A space for a space.*

*A hate for a hate.*

*A race for a race.*

*A state for a state.*

*A crime for a crime.*

*A pain for a pain.*

*Time after time,*

*It happens again...*

***Peace or death? Alan Maley***

*Now we want each other dead:*

*Why not live in peace instead?*

*I kill your child, you kill mine:*

*Humanity's in steep decline.*

*If I am right, and so are you,*

*What the hell are we to do?*

***Right and Wrong.  Alan Maley***

*"You are wrong, and we are right:*

*that's the reason we must fight.*

*"No, we are right and you are wrong:*

*it's time to teach you where you belong."*

*So everyone's right*

*and everyone's wrong -*

*and they all go on singing*

*the same old song.*

*The children scream, their mothers wail.*

*The peace negotiations fail.*

*The war goes on, the dead increase.*

*We dread this hell will never cease.*

***Casual. Alan Maley***

*When the bombs drop,*

*When the missile strikes,*

*When the mine explodes –*

*There are casualties.*

*Tattered rags of flesh*

*Float down to hang*

*Like some malign fruit*

*From splintered trees.*

*Bones split and spill their marrow*

*On the receiving earth,*

*Infertile remnants which earth*

*Does not thank them for.*

*A child cowers in a corner.*

*A mother grieves over her baby.*

*A boy screams in agony,*

*Yet this dog lifts its leg as usual -*

*Casually.*

**The important news according to Yahoo. Alan Maley**

Rita Ora wore a TOTALLY see-through dress, and we can’t unsee it.

Addison Rae looks more toned than ever in tiny white dress.

Carol Vorderman commands attention in skin-tight latex dress.

Anya Taylor-Joy wore a see-through couture dress at the Critics’ Choice Awards.

Jennifer Lopez just stunned in a fully naked dress.

See Emily Ratajkowski do (her) own stunts in the nude – dramatic video from set.

Shaunia Twain almost bares all in revealing leather outfit.

Christina Aguilera just pasted a topless photo and I’m speechless.

Salma Hayek wows in a plunging green dress.

Jesy Nelson shares naked bath photo and fans are speechless.

Rochelle Himes, 33, shares unedited bikini pic after posing naked for WH.

Lourdes Lean is everything in new naked dress outfit.

Olivia Rodrigo just wore a see-through dress to the Grammys.

Kendall Jenner wears teeny-tiny bikini in new beach pics.

Jennifer Lopez dazzles in netted naked dress and thong body suit.

Palestine? *Palestine? Is that in Israel?*

And Ukraine? *What? Where’s that?*

And Trump*? Who? Never heard of him.*

Climate change? *What’s that?*

The cost of living? *Duh…*

**Poems read by Luke Prodromou:**

<https://youtu.be/yjTEx3dsNIk?si=3oQ3UKy3ATpidTp1>

<https://youtu.be/SvKLK2Glphk?si=Y7lojTKQTQfgs-8z>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZH5L5f5a9k>