



World  
Council of  
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### **Rifat Kassis departs as EAPPI International Coordinator**

Rifat Kassis leaves EAPPI at the end of August. He will be missed by all associated with the programme, who have valued his dynamic input and visionary leadership. He returns to Beit Sahour, Palestine, where he will continue serving the ecumenical family.

### **Prayers for peace in Jerusalem**

EAs attended Prayers for Peace services in different Churches in Jerusalem, from August 15 to 28, showing solidarity with people and Churches struggling for justice and peace. In Syrian, Arabic, Ethiopian, Armenian, Latin, English, French and German, EAs had the occasion to discover the rich liturgy of the different denominations present in Jerusalem. The large number of people attending these prayers (up to 100 some nights) is a great proof that there's no need to wait for the week for Christian unity to embody it and that diversity can enrich us when we take the time to celebrate it on a grassroots level.

(Photo right: St Marks, by Magnus Hestness)



### **Placement updates**



#### **Jerusalem**

EAs continue their presence in Shufat camp – Jerusalem's only refugee camp. They also continue to monitor checkpoints limiting Palestinian access to Jerusalem, including a flying checkpoint after Qalandia, which appears to be becoming permanent even though it is located only approximately 1 km from the Qalandia terminal (photo left Gro Davidsen).

#### **Bethlehem**

The situation at the main checkpoint terminal between Bethlehem and Jerusalem continues to deteriorate. EAs report longer queues and increased searches, including a few women forced to strip down to their underwear.

EAs also attend non-violent demonstrations in surrounding villages, mostly held on Fridays, where communities protest land confiscation, wall construction and settlement expansion activity.

#### **Tulkarem**

EAs are doing an increasing amount of checkpoint and gate monitoring in the Tulkarem area. This team has started to engage in the village of Shufa where the road settlers use divides the village in two parts and forces the Palestinians to make long detours to reach the other side of the community.

#### **Jayyous**

Jayyous gate monitoring by EAs has proceeded relatively smoothly in recent months. Fewer farmers are passing through the gates, as many are refused permits by the Israeli authorities. EAs are also monitoring the Qalqilya checkpoint, the only entrance and exit from this town encircled by the separation barrier. Jayyous and Tulkarem based EAs are cooperating in a UN OCHA survey, monitoring access to agricultural gates.

## Hebron

Residents of Susiya, a small village in the very south of the West Bank are at risk of being displaced. With school holidays, the EAs placed in Hebron have had more time to visit and provide protective presence to this community and others in the South Hebron hills as they are effected by Jewish settlements in their vicinity

## Yanoun

EAs continue to attend Church in Nablus on Sundays. In addition to their protective presence in Yanoun, they show solidarity with cave dwellers with eviction orders and recently at a house demolition near Aqraba. They have also visited the small villages of Hadidiya and Humsa.

The next edition of ChainReaction will focus on the theme of house and home, particularly house demolitions or people forced to leave their homes, an issue affecting communities in all placements.

## EAPPI Publications

The latest edition of the EAPPI magazine, **ChainReaction**, entitled: **40 Years of Occupation**. To obtain hard copies or an electronic PDF, please contact EAPPI at [eappi-co@wcc-coe.org](mailto:eappi-co@wcc-coe.org)

A German special edition of ChainReaction for **Kirchentag** is available by contacting [kontakt@eappi-netzwerk.de](mailto:kontakt@eappi-netzwerk.de)



Group 23 EAs and staff with His Grace the Rt Revd Suheil Duwani, Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem  
*To view Group 23 EA profiles please go to: <http://www.eappi.org/> and click on Accompaniers Reports and then Profiles of Ecumenical Accompaniers*

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*The **Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)** supports Palestinians and Israelis working for peace by monitoring and reporting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, offering protection by accompanying local communities in daily activities, and by advocating with churches for a peaceful end to the Occupation. The programme, which began in 2002, is coordinated by the **World Council of Churches (WCC)**. The **WCC** is a fellowship of 347 churches, in more than 100 countries in all continents from virtually all Christian traditions. Its office is in Geneva, Switzerland.*

For more information on the WCC: [www.wcc-coe.org](http://www.wcc-coe.org)

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