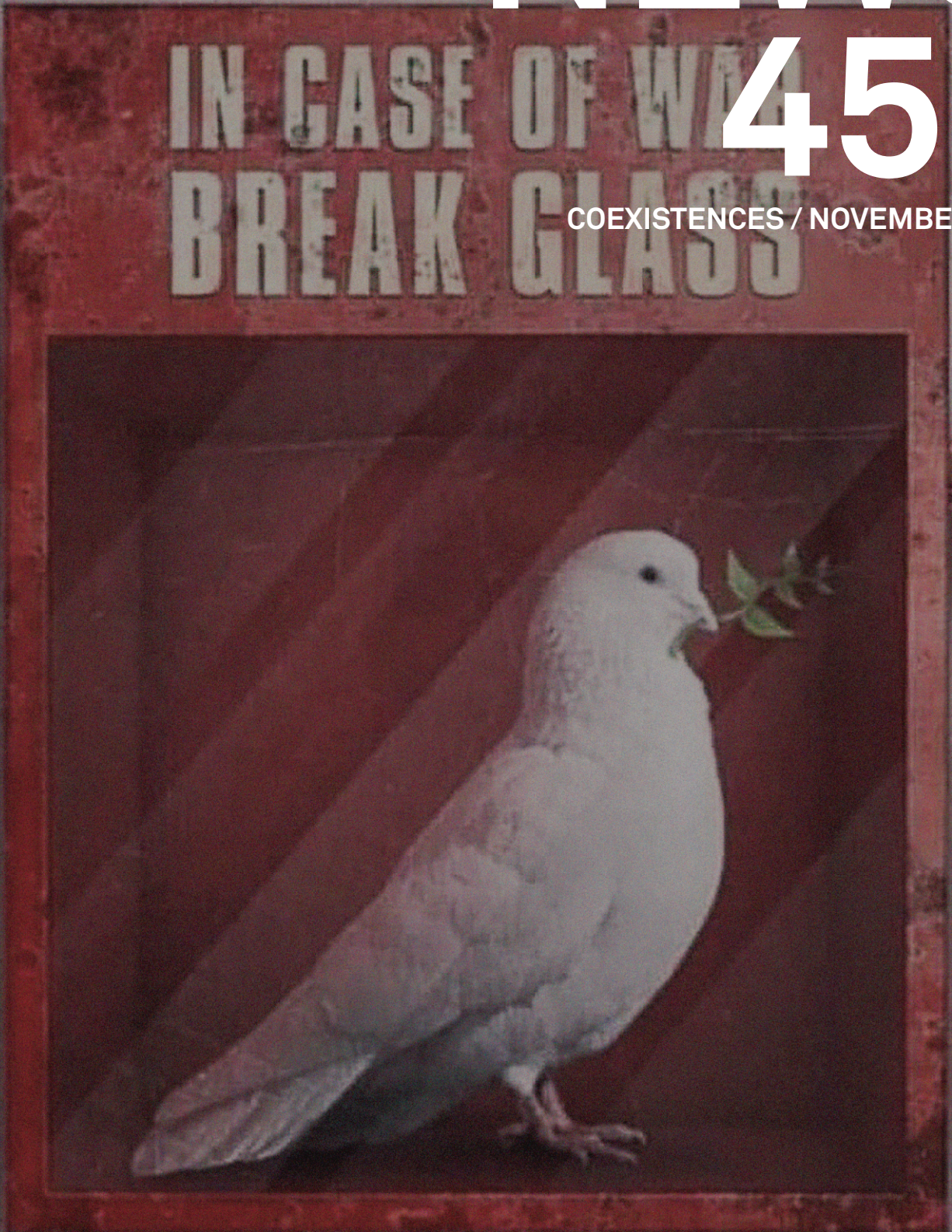


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COEXISTENCES / NOVEMBER 2024

IN CASE OF WAR
BREAK GLASS



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During the terrible war enduring for a year now, we might have thought that our action would be paralysed or, at the very least, greatly slowed down. In actual fact, we have been able to successfully welcome two groups this summer, *Journey to Healing* and *Breaking the Ice* and we are preparing to receive in December the group of nurses from Rozana Health.

Massimo Sandri and François Feihl spent several days in Israel and in the West Bank in June. You can read the impressions of Massimo Sandri in his travelogue.

The general assembly took place on 24 September and demonstrated a very vibrant association, in particular thanks to the reflexions of the “How to continue?” group.

Bassam Aramin and Rami Elhanan from the *Forum of Bereaved Parents* continue to witness to the necessity of a reconciliation and we heard their moving testimony in Lausanne. And for those who wonder what is the use of continuing to support the dialogue in the present situation, we would cite Aïna Skjellaug in her editorial in “Le Temps” on the 11 October concerning their action : “Good sentiments have a bad reputation: here they are the mark of decisive courage, and hope against hope.”

We hope you pass a peaceful end-of-year festivities and invite you on 10 January 2025 for the Petit Nouvel An Grand Ball, an excellent opportunity to support our finances.

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TRIP TO ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK, JUNE 2024

MASSIMO SANDRI'S ACCOUNT

With François F. I travelled to Israel and the West Bank in the month of June last for a few days.

It is primarily due to our practice of alpinism and mountaineering that François and I became friends. Thus, last spring we thought it would be good to take advantage of our predisposition as alpinists to walk along the sharp ridges, jump over crevasses, avoid any falls, loose rocks, or avalanches. So it was in this spirit that we set off.

WHY THIS TRIP?

I felt an urgent need to see with my own eyes what it was possible to see, I wanted to meet the people, to have an idea of the mental state of our friends there. Above all we felt the need to demonstrate our solidarity. Beyond words, discussions, ideological opinions, wars of words, opinion pieces from here contaminating our networks.

In actual fact I have a problem with the interpretation of the Greek myth of the Medusa Gorgon, such a horrible monster that just to see her turns humans and beasts into stone. Thanks to Athena's shiny shield, which allowed him to perceive the image of the monster, Perseus kills Medusa. The image is what makes it possible to contemplate reality without succumbing to it, which is the common moral of this myth. Indeed, the image maybe in principle allows taking a step back, but today it has taken the upper hand and we wage war through proxy images.

I wanted to meet real people, listen to them, breathe the same air as them, feel their difficulties, their anguish, without pretending to bring any solution to their problems. A little support perhaps. Support, if possible without borders.



ON THE HEIGHTS OF KARMIEL, WALKING WITH OREN / PHOTOS: FRANÇOIS FEIH AND MASSIMO SANDRI

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TRIP TO ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK, JUNE 2024

So we travelled extensively between Israel and the West Bank (I don't say Palestine since we couldn't enter Gaza...). Every time we were welcomed by friends, all those we received in turn one day in Switzerland.

The West Bank, what can we say about the situation of Jamal in his small hamlet next to Beit Ummar, in the district of Hebron, surrounded by settlements, unable every other day to travel because of road blocks set up unpredictably, and who endeavours to subsist with the few sheep he had been able to buy. This is a situation of great distress. We received Jamal in 2008 with the group of ex-soldiers and combatants who had passed on to non-violence. In 2016, during a trip for the 10th anniversary of the existence of Coexistences, he hosted more than a dozen of our members in his home.

Or what about Ahmed the Bedouin from Jericho who is fighting to bring his sister out of Gaza, a woman who is severely handicapped and suffering from Alzheimer disease? We also knew him in Switzerland in 2008. He is a parliamentary assistant, a Parliament which doesn't function...

In the Galilee, we were in a low mountain village where Oren, a Tsahal reservist, responsible for the security of the village, his wife, a paediatrician who travels every day to the Dead Sea to care for traumatised children, survivors of the massacres of 7 October, their children who asked us – yes us - our prognostic on the war... Oren was a facilitator a few years ago for the BTI group. He showed us the mountain opposite, not far off, where he goes with his team every week to extinguish the gigantic forest fires caused by Hezbollah rocket attacks. It is possible that at this very moment he is at the Northern border...



MASSIMO AND FRANÇOIS WITH 'AHMED IN JERICHO
JAFFA'S BEACH

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TRIP TO ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK, JUNE 2024

What about Asaf who tells us that he has not closed an eye since his son left for Gaza in an elite unit, that's to say seven months? Asaf heads an institution intended to develop Judeo-Arab relations in the town of Haifa...

In Tel Aviv, we demonstrated on the Ayalon Highway for the liberation of the hostages and therefore for an immediate ceasefire. There too we experienced first-hand the distress of ever-betrayed expectations.

Finally, back to Ramallah, when we experienced what it is to cross the Qalqilya check-point to go to Jerusalem, I couldn't help thinking of Dante's Inferno. And to think we had spent a peaceful day with Ameera, her husband and small daughter who were part of the voyage of the facilitators in Estavayer-le-Lac in 2023.

WHAT CAN WE DRAW FROM THIS TRIP?

The situation is so tragic, so complex, we feel so powerless that it is no wonder you come back depressed, say certain friends.

What astonishes me, and which is perhaps encouraging, is that I came back energised, more than ever convinced that it is possible to do something. At Coexistences we are go-betweens, we create bridges, albeit modest, but bridges all the same.

Our friends from there were so happy to see us, to welcome us, in the return flight I said to myself: "it's good what we are doing at Coexistences, it's worth continuing."

MASSIMO SANDRI, OCTOBER 2024



ARRIVING TO QALQILYA CHECK-POINT.
IN RAMALLAH, BEFORE NELSON MANDELA STATUE: ISABELLA, AMEERA AND RAOUF

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STAYS OF SUMMER 2024 / JOURNEY TO HEALING

JOURNEY TO HEALING, 7-15 AUGUST 2024

In the shadow of the massacres of 7 October 2023 and the devastating war carried out in Gaza, in a context of permanent tension and major difficulties to express oneself freely, Ulfat Haider proposed to give a mixed group of women active in social work the possibility of a stay in Switzerland. Indeed, in a very brutal conflict period, many were, and continue to be, those in Israel who despair and feel trapped in a paralysing impotence. Numerous participants in the demonstrations against the judiciary reform and who were at the origin of social change programmes are exhausted, isolated and/or inactive. The war and the repression of the demonstrations have had a draining effect on social involvement.

The aim of the stay was to allow the participants to restore their strength, to take care of and recuperate their personal and collective resources in order to pursue their social involvement. To share the upheavals the war brought about in their lives and revisit their individual paths was intended to allow them to identify once again the roles they want to assume in this period of huge challenges. This time, as opposed to the other stays we organise and because the situation is so specific, the dialogue work has been set aside.

The group which was formed at short notice, composes, in fine, 11 women, 7 Arabs from Israel and 4 Jewish Israelis (one Jewish Israeli having renounced at the last minute, worried by the potential of war in Lebanon), of varying ages.

The stay in Switzerland took place exclusively in the mountains for six days, without spending time with host families. To compensate this absence, a meeting with the members of Coexistences took place a few days after their arrival. Eleven women and the two facilitators Ulfat Haider and Yaël Maayan (who had facilitated the seminar n° 2 of the facilitators) stayed in the beautiful chalet loaned to us by our new member, Nicolette Manson.



PHOTOS OF THE GROUP JOURNEY TO HEALING : ALAIN KISSLING

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STAYS OF SUMMER 2024 / JOURNEY TO HEALING

The stay alternated between daily excursions and internal work. With regard to the walks, the physical difficulty was moderate so that everyone could participate and benefit from contact with nature. As for the internal work, Ulfat and Yaël organised reflective and reconnecting activities around earth, fire, water and air with many rituals constituting as many subjects of sharing and establishing the group dynamics.

During the first excursion, which ended around a fondue and a raclette, Nicolette Manson and Valérie Jennings from Coexistences allowed them to discover the Galérie Defago in Champéry.

The following day, after a morning's work, the meeting with the members of Coexistences was enriching for all: about ten members who made the journey in the middle of the summer holidays, were regaled by the participants who prepared for them a delicious meal with a very touching presentation. Informal exchanges in small groups of two or three lasted a long time and were enriching for everybody.

The following day they discovered the lake of Chésery and the Green Lake above Morgins, during a harder but magnificent itinerary. Another excursion took them to the Dent de la Valérette above Chindonne (in the fog all the way). Finally, a last walk leading to the brige-way of Farinet above Saillon, followed by a few hours in the baths; it was very hot that day!

The last day was devoted to the discovery of Lausanne, from the Castle to the Cathedral then to the Place de la Palud, followed by free time to explore. Veronique Rochat from Coexistences offered them at the end of the day an aperitif in her home which has a breath-taking view over the lake.

The participants left early the next day while Ulfat and Yaël stayed a day and a half longer. In conclusion, the aim of "restoring energy" and relaxation was successful and made it possible to support their individual and group resilience. The participants left with the impression of being like a family, meaning that bonds had been woven and that an "us" had been established. A transmission was realised among these women of different generations. Taking into account the context, many of them didn't look forward to going home: whereas usually the group is the place of uncertainty, now it is the country.

BRAVO to these courageous women who continue to confront this ongoing war.

This project was made possible thanks to the involvement of an exclusively feminine work group made up of Valérie Jennings, Nicolette Manson, Véronique Rochat, Halina Sandri Rabczynska, Caroline Vuillemin and Fiuna Seylan Ongen. Thanks to all of them for their time, enthusiasm and huge kindness and attention with which the stay was prepared and the group received, conveyed and many other things, in short "carried". Our warm thanks go to the Moser Foundation for their precious donation and Nicolette Manson for the loan of her wonderfully welcoming chalet.

FIUNA SEYLAN ONGEN, HALINA SANDRI RABCZYNSKA, 14 OCTOBER 2024

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STAYS OF SUMMER 2024 / JOURNEY TO HEALING



SIMA, ZYONA
GADEER, NOOR AND ULFAT

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ASMAA AND YAËL
IRIT AND LIRAZ

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STAYS OF SUMMER 2024 / JOURNEY TO HEALING



EINAV, NASREEN
LORA AND REEMA

BREAKING THE ICE / 19-30 AUGUST 2024

Once again, and despite the terrible situation which prevails in the Middle East, a mixed group came to hike in our Alps this summer. The trip lasted from 19 to 30 August.

The tensions engendered by the war made the recruitment of the participants more difficult. In effect, the *Kibbutzim College* with whom we collaborated in 2022 and 2023, was not able to find this year enough motivated students, a failure acted belatedly (the beginning of June). The decision was taken nonetheless to bring a group this summer. To achieve this, Ulfat associated with the *Mabat* organisation.

Mabat is a small NGO dedicated to the promotion of coexistence in the region of Haifa. It organises in particular visits open to all between Jewish and Arab communities, or proposing nature walks during which conversations are held alternatively, every two hours, in Arabic, Hebrew and English. Furthermore, the collaborators of Mabat facilitate dialogue groups in a dozen universities in the country.

The Director of *Mabat* is Lior Shorer. He has known Ulfat for a long time, has facilitated groups with her a number of times. He is affable, knowledgeable with a large experience in facilitation and community action. He will be the Jewish co-facilitator of the future group.

Using their contacts, Ulfat and Lior assembled a group composed of people living in Israel, professionally active, already involved (except for one) in the active promotion of coexistence and eager to reinforce this commitment. This group is made up of 3 Jewish women and 7 Arab participants (4 men and 3 women, Druze and Palestinian). Interestingly, their ages are very diverse ranging 20 to 64. Four of them have already participated in *Breaking the Ice* in the past.

The group cannot be constituted once and for all before mid-July, leaving little time for the preparation in Israel, which is therefore less in-depth than usual.

The first 7 days of the stay in Switzerland (19 – 25 August) take place in the Diablerets, with lodgings in a chalet and daily hikes led as usual by our favourite guide, Nadja Schmidt (as a reminder, Nadja has led *Breaking the Ice* every year since 2015). The three following days are led by her colleague Marie-Jeanne Hugon, in the region of Anzeindaz where the group spent two nights in the Barraud cabin, and made a long excursion towards the Chamois path on the 26th. Return to the Diablerets on the 27th for a day of activities, debriefing and preparation for the follow-up in Israel on the 28th.

On the 29th, transportation to Lausanne, where the Valentin Catholic School, in the person of its Director Ahmad Abu Nijmeh, welcomes the group for the midday meal and sleeping quarters (the last night before the departure in the school's gymnasium). The farewell evening took place in the playground with the participation of about a dozen members of Coexistences...

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STAYS OF SUMMER 2024 / BREAKING THE ICE

On several occasions, the group is exposed to our culture: visit of an alpine cheese dairy in Les Mosses, a fondue prepared by Marie-Jeanne in the Barraud cabin, a very animated discussion of the Swiss political system one evening with Massimo, François and Fiuna. A dash of Italian culture too, in the form of a state-of-the art risotto according to Massimo Tinghi one evening in the chalet of the Diablerets. Last but certainly not least, a visit to the Cantonal Parliament in the afternoon of 29 August.

Massimo and François accompany the group during their entire stay. Fiuna and Valérie come to walk for a few days. We can guarantee the extremely positive and joyful atmosphere which prevailed during this stay, as well the maturity of each one of the participants.

Followed by François, the group work appears very different from the previous years. Facilitation is led by Ulfat and Lior. According to them, the stress/trauma inflicted by the war makes it impossible to have a traditional dialogue based on the confrontation of identities and narratives. They privilege a process centred on the intensification of mutual knowledge and the constitution of a group identity. This, in the idea of reinforcing the capacity of each person to lead a similar process, in their environment back home. It is essential that they constitute a group away from the terrible tensions prevailing in Israel, giving them a breathing space, and “recharge their batteries”.

The group leaves with a short-term project: organising an action to help gather olives in the Arab communities in the north of Israel, each person having recruited volunteers in their neighbourhood. Longer term, everyone is invited to enlist in one of Mabat’s community programmes, or even to create one.

Thanks to:

- The Securitas Direct SA which contributed to the financing of the project.
- The Diablerets Swiss Alpine Club section which offered free-of-charge overnights in the Barraud cabin.
- The Diablerets Municipality who offered the ski lift to the summit of Chamossaire free of charge.
- The Federal Chancellery who invited the group to visit the Cantonal Parliament.
- Ahmad Abu Nijmeh, Director of the Valentin Catholic School who arranged for the group to be welcomed, fed and put up.

FRANÇOIS FEIHL, OCTOBER 2024

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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LIOR, ADHAM, KARMIT, NADJA, IFRAT, NOUR, MIRHAN
IN THE BACK: HAITAM, RAIF, LIZA, HUWAIDA, ULFAT, NASHAT, ADAM / PHOTOS: FRANÇOIS FEIHL

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ON TOP: MEETING SNOW AT COL DES CHAMOIS
BOTTOM: DBRIEFING DAY AT THE DOMAINE DES SOURCES IN THE DIABLERETS, NOUR AND HUWAIDA
PHOTOS: FRANÇOIS FEIHL

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

Since the members of Coexistences have all received the minutes of the assembly, here we will recapitulate the marking moments rather than making a detailed account.

“HOW TO CONTINUE?”

The “How to continue?” work group, in concertation with the committee, advocated the implementation of four priorities. These actions start now with the accord of the GA.

Inventories of the competences, a project led by Sandra Modiano. Our members have competences which could be useful to the association, listing them would make it possible to exploit them judiciously.

The constitution of a crisis unit, project led by Andre Katz. This cell could help the committee and the association in the case of a crisis like the one experienced on the day after the 7-October and the war which followed.

The preservation of relations in Israel and Palestine, project led by Fiuna Seylan Ongen. Conserve contact with our partners on the ground, be aware of the projects over ther that we could welcome here, such is the aim of this group.

To redefine the transversal coordination, project led by Celine Rozenblat. Within the association help the communication between the different work groups.

CHANGES IN THE COMMITTEE

Fiuna Seylan Ongen leaves the presidency of the association. Should she be warmly thanked for the intense work she has given to our cause over 11 years. Nathalie Katz Lachavanne and Delphine Friedmann both leave the committee, thank you to them for their commitment.

The new committee comprises Massimo Sandri, President, Andre Katz, Treasurer, Laurent Enser, Carole Guinard, Celine Rozenblat, Halina Sandri Rabczynska, members. Emmanuelle Allais remains the secretary.

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OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

BASSAM ARAMIN AND RAMI ELHANAN / 16-18 OCTOBER

Bassam from Palestine and Rami from Israel both lost a child in the conflict. They came to talk of bereavement, hope, fraternity and peace, on 16 October at the EPFL, on 17 October at the Sacré-Coeur and on 18 October at the Scots Kirk in Lausanne, at the initiative of Alice Goodman, assistant at the EPFL.



Bassam Aramin lives in Jericho, in the West Bank. At the age of 17, he was incarcerated and spent seven years in an Israeli prison. Then he studied history and holds a masters in Holocaust studies from Bradford University in England. In 2005, Bassam was one of the founders of *Combatants for Peace*, alongside Elik, Rami's son. He became a member of the *Parents Circle* in 2007 after having lost his daughter Abir, aged 10, killed by a border policeman in front of her school. Bassam devotes his time and energy to his conviction of a peaceful and non-violent end of the conflict. Bassam was the Palestinian co-director of the *Parents Circle - Families Forum* until August 2020.

Rami Elhanan is a Jerusalemite of the 7th generation on his mother's side. His father is a survivor of Auschwitz. He is a retired soldier of the Israeli Defence Forces having participated in three wars. He considers himself as Jewish, an Israeli and, first and foremost, as a human being. On the first day of the school year in 1997, Rami's daughter, Smadar, aged 14, was killed by Palestinian kamikazes in the centre of Jerusalem. One year later, Rami joined the *Parents Circle - Families Forum* for which he was the Israeli co-director until August 2020.

You certainly remember that in the summer of 2023 we welcomed the *Young Ambassadors for Peace* group, born of the Forum of bereaved families (*Parents Circle - Families Forum*). So we were very moved by the narratives of Bassam and Rami.

We invite you to read the following article by of Aïna Skjellaug which appeared in the newspaper *Le Temps* on 11 October 2024.

SAR'A DOCUMENTARY / 31 OCTOBER

Michael Kaminer, an Israeli documentarist, discovers by chance that his kibbutz *Tzor'a* was built on the ruins of an Arab village called *Sar'a* before being moved a year later a few kilometers lower in the valley. The documentary relates his journey in the quest of the missing part of the narrative of his place of birth.

The idea of the screening of this film was born on 29 April last around a meeting of EPER (Protestant Mutual Aid) in the CityClub in Pully, around a documentary about this quest, "Two dreams – the Israeli-Palestinian history of a village". Michael Kaminer was in Italy in October, and he accepted to come to Lausanne to present his film to the members and sympathisers of Coexistences and reply to our questions. He is convinced that a reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians is not possible unless the two peoples open up to the other and listen to their narrative.

About thirty people assisted at the screening of the film at the Espace Dickens and participated in the passionate debate of more than an hour which followed. The next day, Fiuna Seylan Ongen organised an additional screening/discussion in her home. Michael Kaminer impressed us by his calm and his unfazed desire to keep the dialogue open. This was a rich, instructive and moving encounter.

Thanks to Fiuna for her relentless involvement in this project since the first contacts in Basel, her return journey to Aoste to drive Michael Kaminer and her hospitality in Lausanne!

6 Suisse

«Les militants ont presque tout juste»

VAUD Un an après le nouvel embrasement au Proche-Orient, le campus de l'EPFL et de l'Unil reçoit une organisation pacifiste conjointe israélo-palestinienne. Des parents endeuillés par la perte de leur enfant, qui ont choisi de transcender leur peine par la fraternité

AÏNA SKJELLAUG

Très vite après le 7 octobre 2023, les campus universitaires sont devenus, en Suisse comme ailleurs, les lieux d'indignation sur la situation à Gaza, sans que leurs rectorats ne sachent comment éviter le sentiment d'exclusion d'une partie des étudiants. Un an après, sur impulsion de l'aumônerie de l'Unil et de l'EPFL, le campus lausannois accueille le 16 octobre le Cercle des parents israéliens et palestiniens dans son grand auditorium Forum Rolex. Une organisation moyen-orientale désormais connue dans le monde entier qui, depuis bientôt trente ans, tente de dépasser les anathèmes habituels.

«Le prix à payer pour rejoindre notre association est conséquent. Vous devez avoir perdu un enfant dans le conflit israélo-palestinien», déclare Rami Elhanan, contacté par visioconférence, depuis son salon à Jérusalem. Ce septuagénaire porte le deuil de sa fille, tuée en 1997 par un attentat suicide lorsqu'elle avait 14 ans. Quand, quelques années plus tard, son ami palestinien Bassam Aramin perd à son tour sa fille de 10 ans, abattue par des tirs israéliens alors qu'elle achetait des bonbons, Rami se rend à l'hôpital pour le soutenir: «C'était terrible, je savais exactement ce qu'il traversait». Depuis, ils prônent ensemble la réconciliation entre leurs deux peuples.

Interdiction de se rendre dans les écoles

Le Cercle des parents comprend aujourd'hui 700 membres. Beaucoup l'ont rejoint cette année. «Nous ne sommes pas un groupe de soutien psychologique, mais une organisation politique», clarifie Rami. Dans ses statuts sont mentionnés l'équilibre et l'égalité entre les membres israéliens et palestiniens. Deux bureaux, deux directeurs, l'un à Beit Jala en Cisjordanie, l'autre à Tel-Aviv. «L'occupation est la raison pour laquelle nous avons perdu nos enfants, notre mission est de dénoncer cette situation brutale. Depuis un an, il est devenu



(MIRJANA FARKAS POUR LE TEMPS)

encore plus difficile pour les gens de nous écouter, à cause de leur haine et de leur souffrance. Le gouvernement israélien tente de bloquer notre message, il est effrayé par notre projet de réconciliation. Il nous interdit par exemple d'aller parler dans les écoles comme nous le faisons jusqu' alors. Pourtant, nous offrons une lumière dans l'obscurité.»

Joint alors qu'il est dans sa voiture, entre Bethléem et Jéricho, Bassam Aramin acquiesce. «Nous sommes dans une situation difficile, mais nous n'avons pas d'autres options que de continuer à transmettre notre message partout où nous le pouvons. Nous incarnons un espoir, l'exemple vivant que les choses peuvent être différentes. On se parle, on se respecte les uns les autres, on s'aime.»

«Nous ne sommes pas un groupe de soutien psychologique, mais une organisation politique»

RAMI ELHANAN, CERCLE DES PARENTS ISRAËLIENS ET PALESTINIENS

Tous deux témoigneront de l'année écoulée devant les étudiants de l'Unil et de l'EPFL dans quelques jours. Ils raconteront leurs deux communautés «coincées». Arrêtées à la date du 7 octobre pour l'une, au 8 octobre pour l'autre.

«Nous n'avons qu'une peur, que le Cercle cesse d'exister depuis le redémarrage du conflit l'année dernière», explique Alice Goodman, assistante à l'EPFL et organisatrice de leur venue en Suisse. «C'est le contraire qui s'est produit. Des gens meurtris sont venus écouter la souffrance de l'autre et y ont trouvé une humanité commune. Ils se sont engagés à casser le cycle de la violence.» «Je les vois comme des artisans de paix, abonde dans le même sens Alexandre Mayor, aumônier sur le campus. Ils se rapprochent de figures

comme Martin Luther King ou Nelson Mandela. On veut montrer aux étudiants que l'on peut se mettre à l'écoute de gens qui rassemblent. La direction de l'EPFL a soutenu la démarche.»

Le soutien des étudiants à travers l'Europe

Bassam et Rami ont suivi avec émotion les mouvements de protestation qui ont surgi tout au long de l'année sur les campus universitaires en Europe et aux États-Unis. «Les soulèvements dans les universités en Suisse et ailleurs ont eu quelque chose d'admirable. Les étudiants montrent qu'ils ne sont pas indifférents à ce qu'il se passe chez nous», approuve Rami, l'Israélien. «Personnellement, je ne soutiens pas les boycotts demandés par certains. Je comprends qu'il s'agisse de mettre des

limites à ce qu'Israël peut ou ne peut pas faire, mais chez nous, les citoyens qui sont contre l'occupation ont aussi besoin du soutien des étudiants d'Europe. En boycottant, vous isolez les universités israéliennes et vous vous fâchez avec cette communauté, ce qui n'est pas idéal pour combattre l'opposant. Il s'agit de penser avec sagesse, afin d'être toujours plus nombreux dans la lutte contre l'occupation.» «Ils ont presque tout juste, confirme Bassam. Manifester est la bonne chose à faire, cela reste des protestations non violentes.»

Depuis un an, l'aumônerie de l'Unil-EPFL a été témoin des souffrances et engagements des étudiants. Elle s'est engagée à garder le dialogue ouvert avec tous. Aujourd'hui, Alexandre Mayor peut imaginer que le message de Bassam et Rami soit considéré comme de la naïveté par certains étudiants, mais il refuse l'idée «que le réalisme soit tenu par les combattants.» «On peut imaginer qu'il soit au contraire aux mains de ceux qui brisent le cercle de la violence.» Lui, comme Rami, est persuadé que ce conflit ne durera pas éternellement. «Regardez la réconciliation entre les Français et les Allemands, ou le chemin qu'a parcouru l'Afrique du Sud.»

Leur histoire, Bassam Aramin et Rami Elhanan l'ont mise en mots un nombre incalculable de fois, toujours semblable et toujours renouvelée, devant des audiences en Israël, en Palestine, un peu partout dans le monde. Elle a été romancée en 2020 par l'écrivain irlandais Colum McCann dans *Apeiragon*.

Du 16 au 18 octobre, ils seront tous deux à Lausanne, et donneront trois conférences. La première à l'EPFL pour les universitaires et les collaborateurs uniquement, le 17 octobre à l'église du Sacré-Cœur et le 18 à l'église écossaise, pour des rencontres ouvertes à tous, sur inscription. «Nos étudiants viennent de partout, ce sont eux qui construiront le monde de demain, concluent les organisateurs. Ils se sentent touchés par ce conflit israélo-palestinien. Nous avons envie qu'ils puissent entendre la voix de la vie.» ■

ROZANA / 6 - 14 DECEMBER 2024

Rozana Health Diplomacy programme founded in 2013, aims at promoting cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian health professionals. We will receive a group of head nurses who participate in a project uniting clinical training and peace building.

These health professionals who work in seven major hospitals in the West Bank and Israel have undertaken a two-year cycle during which the teams improve their professional competences, learn from each other, build a collaborative approach and find answers to everyday obstacles linked to the lack of confidence and prejudices between themselves and their patients.

You will receive in due time, by e-mail, an invitation to meet them.

“PETIT NOUVEL AN” GRAND BALL / 10 JANUARY 2025

The preparations for the “Petit Nouvel An” Grand Ball are in full swing, the musicians are warming up, the work group led by Massimo Sandri is getting ready and we look forward to seeing you, the public, in the Salle des Fêtes of the Casino of Montbenon, as from 8 pm.

This evening is the occasion to bring funds to Coexistences and hence allow us to continue to receive in Switzerland people who are active in the dialogue in Israel and Palestine.

Come along, bring your friends, you won't regret it! And until then, we hope you pass a peaceful holiday season.

THE COMMUNICATION GROUP