



The Third Palestinian Environmental Awareness & Education Conference

“Eco-Justice of Palestine”

17 – 19 December 2012

Jacir Palace Inter – Continental Hotel

Bethlehem – Palestine

The Environmental Education Center is an educational ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), embodying the ELCJHL's commitment to promoting holistic awareness of our environment and responsible stewardship of the magnificent creation which surrounds us. We aim to empower individuals and communities to take action for sustainable change; Support the Palestinian community in developing a deeper understanding of the symbiotic relationship between humans and their environment; Promote local and global awareness of the economic, scientific and cultural values of specific natural resources, ecosystems, and habitats; And provide a dynamic meeting place for students, teachers and the public.

In 2010 EEC inaugurated its first annual conference focused on “Environmental Responsibility: Individually and collectively.” The conference addressed three basic elements that have great impact in changing the behavior of the Palestinian community which are: Education, Media and Law.

The Second annual conference was in 2011 and focused on “Environmental responsibility of Youth.” This conference provided a forum focused on the current environmental situation and the role of youth in Palestinian society, which is one of great influence and capacity for positive change.

In December 2012 EEC will hold its third annual conference entitled “Eco-justice of Palestine,” which will focus on the international and local responsibility to care for and protect the Palestinian environment. Palestinians have lived under Occupation for 45 years; consequently access to and ability to control and protect the natural resources have been restricted, human livelihoods have been affected, and the Palestinian environment has suffered greatly. For these reasons, the international community must play a role in caring for and protecting the environment of Palestine.





International law demonstrates the need for environmental care to transcend borders, particularly with regards to human life and well-being. Throughout presentations on international environmental law and a close examination of the impact that the Israeli Occupation has had, both on human lives and the natural world, this conference intends to highlight the degradation of the Palestinian environment and call for international collaboration in promoting environmental justice in Palestine.

The present situation of the Palestinian environment is very grave; water disparities, destruction of the agricultural lands, uprooting of trees, constructing the apartheid wall, restriction to access our natural resources and causing pollution are just the beginning of the environmental crises facing Palestine today due to the Israeli occupation. Throughout the conference, an evaluation of the current environmental status will be presented by scholars and activists, from both local and international communities. Daily life, economic prosperity, human health, and overall well-being have been and continue to be stifled by the Israeli Occupation's impact on the Palestinian environment. Human suffering cannot be seen as separate from environmental degradation.

Throughout the course of this conference, the EEC aims to:

- Accurately emphasize the current environmental situation facing the Palestinian environment, particularly with regards to the impact on human health and the wellness of Palestinian society.
- Highlight the role of the international community in caring for the Palestinian environment. Care for the environment is an international concern, particularly when a nation is unable to provide adequate environmental care; it is clear that the Palestinian environment is a victim of the Israeli Occupation, which continues to influence and degrade the quality of human life. Consequently, the international community has a responsibility to provide care and proper management for the Palestinian environment.
- Draw correlations between environment and human beings. Inadequate access to water, restriction on access to land, and the rampant pollution that occurs all have detrimental effects on the Palestinian people and their daily life. Individuals from international and local communities have taken note of these correlations and have called for a halt on the environmental degradation that has occurred.





The purpose of this conference is to raise the awareness of the local and international communities about the critical environmental situation in Palestine due to the occupation's actions against it, and advocate for sustainable change on both an international and a local level. Through presentations, dialogue and interactions with one another, it is hoped that the international community will recognize its responsibility towards the Palestinian environment. The role of the international community is extraordinarily valuable when speaking about the well-being of the Palestinian environment, its people and the overall prosperity of Palestine. This conference is a means to recognize the shared responsibility of Palestinians and internationals and improve the education, awareness building, and advocacy in order to achieve eco-justice in Palestine and this can be only take place on the ground with the help and support of the international community.





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Day One Monday 17 December 2012

9:30 – 10:30	Registration
10:30 – 11:30	Opening Ceremony
11:30 – 12:15	Coffee / Tea Break
12:15 – 14:15	Session 1: Status of Environment in Palestine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Israeli Violation to Environment and Land• Water Distribution Injustice• Impact of the Wall on the Environment• Status of Environment and International Law
14:15 – 15:15	Lunch
15:15 – 17:15	Session 2: International Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gaza in 2020• UNEP reports on the Palestinian Environment• Palestinian Daily Life and Environment
17:15 – 18:45	Free Time
19:00 – 21:00	Cultural Night and Dinner (Palestinian Folklore Dance Performance)





Day Two Tuesday 18 December 2012

9:00 – 11:30

Session 3: Eco Justice of Palestine

- Eco-justice in Palestine / Theological and Ethical Insights
- Colonizing the Environment – An International Perspective on Environmental Injustice in Palestine
- Environmental Impact and Human Rights
- Rights to Water
- Rights based approached to Natural Resources Management

11:30 – 12:00

Coffee / Tea Break

12:00 – 14:00

Session 4: Health and Food Sovereignty in Palestine

- Human Health and the Environment
- Food Sovereignty
- Sustainable Development
- Occupation Impacts on Students Health

14:00 – 15:00

Lunch

15:00 – 17:00

Session 5:

A- Group work

B- Round table Discussion

17:00 – 17:30

Summary Outcome and Recommendation





Day Three Wednesday 19 December 2012 (Field Trip) optional

7:30am	Gathering at Hotel Lobby
7:45am	Leave the Hotel
8:00 – 10:00	Field visit in Bethlehem Area (Visit to a Refugee Camp – Israeli Settlements and Settler roads – Palestinian Village)
11:00 – 14:00	Field visit in Hebron Area (Edna Village – Old city of Hebron – Israeli Settlement – Hebron Rehabilitation Committee)
14:00 – 14:30	Press Conference
14:30 – 15:30	Lunch and departure

Note: Instant translation will be available in both languages Arabic and English

