

## Albuquerque Muslim Jewish Peace Dialogue

Wednesday we had the honor to have a guest speaker Marc Ellis a Jewish scholar. He gave us a brief lecture on the reality of Israel and Palestine. In Mr. Ellis view the only thing that may be accomplished is that no more land will be taken, and any unauthorized land not taken officially by the state of Israel may be given back. The Palestinians will never get back any of the occupied territories. All the protesting in the world will never change anything we have been protesting for years and nobody listens. The world powers already know what is happening to the Palestinian people.

There is the wall, the numerous checkpoints and the Israel-only roads that prevent the Palestinians from moving about the country. He claims there will never be peace with Israel and Palestine, even though the US has drawn up a road map for peace. His ending statement was nothing can be done and there is no force that could stand up to Israel. His statements left us all feeling there is no hope in this situation

I mean not to tear down what was said by the truthful and wise Marc Ellis, instead, I wish to build upon it. We as Muslims should never be in despair all help comes from Allah. Nothing will ever change unless we change ourselves. The world Governments are aware that there is civil unrest in all countries. Because of the Iraqi war they are being forced to look at Palestine and something has to be done to pacify the people. The US is making a big show of the "Road Map" to peace. This has come about because of the demonstrations by civilians and unfortunately by the loss of young Palestinian lives. May Allah have mercy on them.

The "Road Map" is a joke. The Israelis will abandoned a few settlements that are composed of trailer homes and the Palestinians have to stop resisting Israel. Nothing is being mentioned about the "Wall" that is being built to imprison the Palestinian people. Or the Checkpoints that prevent the Palestinians from moving about freely to attend to their everyday life. Only after the barriers come down, can there be a possibility of peace negotiations. Only Allah knows what the outcome of this will be.

We need to speak out against the injustice and not just among ourselves. It has to be spread to all the peoples of the world. Allah has given us the means and technologies to make our own "Road Map" to peace. The only thing that lacks is the unity amongst our selves. Once everyone holds onto the rope, we can stand up and shout out with a united voice of power and let the world know where we stand, what we think, and what needs to be done. Only then, can we challenge and bring to light the injustices that have been committed. We cannot let this to continue to happen again, and again and again.

So pray that Allah gives us the strength to do this, and Insh'allah, His endless mercy will be given to us, and to the Palestinian people. Also ask Allah that he has compassion on those who have stood by and allowed such a tragedy happen

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**From the Islamic Center of New Mexico**