

At the beginning I would like to thank deeply from my heart all the efforts and all the people how work hard to make this events success, and also thank you for the worm reception and welcoming us.

The topic we are going to discuss is important, and its becomes more crucial because we meet in especial country that experienced all topics of discrimination, but great leaders and people as well as civilization have all contributed to defeat discrimination for ever, this experience has become a good example for all oppressed people all over the world and especially for us as Palestinians who still suffer a lot from the vicious Israeli occupation.

There is no doubt that your great leader Mr. Nelson Mandela become one of the slogans of the non-violent struggle, liberation and peaceful solutions in the world.

He said that (..... if you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy , then he becomes your partner) .

This were playing football and other programs and activities can be looked at and intrepid within the great wisdom of Nelson Mandela, which becomes way of life for me to look for and create partners in the other side, for that the main aim of course to bring the party (the Israelis) into a better understanding to the Palestinian question, in order to be real partners.

Football is a tool of development and cultural field , civilization, international language , to bring people and communities together for cultural contributions and global cooperation, but in our area as Palestinians we us football as tool of war against the radical and extremist to prove to them that its possible , we can live and play together Palestinian and Israelis, we ask them to weak up, we want to look forward, and not to continue live in the past, past is pain , pain is the main power for revenge or justice and reconciliation , we can decide , it's the time to stop this circle of killing which continue more that 100 years between the two peoples , and the result is more pain and more victims .

Our main enemy in the world and especially in Palestine /Israel is the fear , we are in the same side, the other side is the occupation and the fear, we cant be prisoners anymore to our fear.Dr Martin King said (... people hate on another because they fear one another, and they fear one another because they don't know one another, and they didn't know one another because they often separated one from another) .

Alquds Association for Democracy and Dialogue (AFDD) proved that football can be effective tool for peace building through the “Twinned Peace Sport Schools” program which run by AFDD and our Israeli partner NGO the Peres Center for Peace since many years ago., we have around 2000 kids

from both sides, and we can see the results on our kids who they change there ideas from the first meeting, the Israeli discover that not all the Palestinians are asuside bombers , and the Palestinian discover that not all the Israelis are brutal occupiers, they are very similar and they declared that we refuse to be enemies.

At the end of my message to all of you, your help and support is very important for us to continue our struggle against the hate and madness in our area, and to continue our educational program for peace culture for our hope the new generation .

We are all victims for the brutal occupation which harm all of us, personally I have been paid very high price because of the occupation, I spend 7 years in the Israeli occupation jails when I was 17 years old, and recently in the 16th of January 2007, I lost my 10 years old daughter Abir to an Israeli Border Police in front of her school in her head from distance of 15 meters, in her way home, I didn't ask for revenge, which is very easy, I ask for justice and to built more bridges for reconciliation and dialogue.

I know that after many years of conflict Israel isn't safe and Palestine isn't free, we need to change our way to end the occupation , the effective way is to start to talk the same language , football and sport.

Bassam Aramin