



August 9, 2017

## Personal Stories:

### Hope vs. Despair in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

DEAR Gideon,

In the fight for justice and peace for Israelis and Palestinians, hope is often the victim of dramatic, but simplistic, generalizations. Israelis are colonialists! Palestinians are terrorists! These destructive generalizations are not limited to people facing conflict in the region, but in many cases are even worse when weaponized by international supporters of one side or the other.

At Ameinu, we see these broad social and political struggles, not as abstract causes but as a collection of individual stories of people facing great challenges, and frequently overcoming tremendous odds to make a concrete difference in the lives of Israelis and Palestinians. For us, this is at the heart of our Zionism -- where progressive Zionist values bind us to the fate of our Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel and insist that we work for freedom, equality, security and peace for Palestinians.

This edition of the Ameinu E-Newsletter embodies this core conviction that personal stories can be rays of hope and the antidote to despair. As such, we plan to make this type of story a regular feature of future newsletters.

### **Personal Stories of Zionism, Israel and Progressive Values**

The Ameinu Blog frequently highlights firsthand accounts from American and Israeli progressive Jews, with a special focus on next generation leaders, exploring the relationship between their progressive values and the centrality of Israel in their lives. While often complicated, these narratives reject the false choice between Zionism and progressive values. Read on for two recent submissions to the blog.



[Emma Grant Rosenhead  
-- Progressive Visions  
for a Zionist Future](#)



[Josh Friedes -- Beyond  
Anti-Semitism: The  
Biggest Progressive  
Problem At The  
Chicago Dyke March  
by Joshua Friedes](#)

## **Palestinian Perspectives – Justice & Peace**

As a companion to stories of Jews seeking a holistic progressive approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Ameinu, and our initiative The Third Narrative, seek to present the personal stories of Palestinians working for peace, justice and reconciliation. One such story is below.



[Oday Abdaljawwad -- From the Gaza Strip to  
Brandeis University](#)

## **Project Rozana – Israelis and Palestinians Uniting for Health**

One of Ameinu's exciting new initiatives is Project Rozana USA -- an international, multi-faith program that assists Israelis and Palestinians to come together to treat critically ill Palestinian and Syrian patients, mostly children; train Palestinian doctors, nurses and therapists to build health capacity in their own communities; and ensure that transportation is available for Palestinians receiving treatment in Israeli hospitals.

While we plan to feature stories of Israeli, Palestinian and international participants in Project Rozana in future editions, here we begin with the story of four-year-old Rozana Abu Ghannam, our inspiration.

Read below to meet Rozana.



[Rozana Abu Ghannam – Saving a Young Life](#)

## Join Ameinu Now

If you appreciate the background articles, the analytical pieces and the calls to action that you find in our newsletter and on our website, please support the effort by [joining Ameinu](#). Ameinu, the leading grassroots progressive Zionist membership organization in the United States and the U.S. affiliate of the World Labor Zionist Movement, is dedicated to promoting a negotiated peace between Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arab states, and to social and economic justice for all in Israel and America.



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