

Combatants for Peace

A unique group of Israeli and Palestinian former combatants engaged in a non-violent joint struggle to end the Israeli occupation, visit England 3-10 September 2011

Hosted by **Encounters** in association with
Amnesty International UK and the Forgiveness project

From 3-10 September 2011, Encounters are very proud to once more be hosting a group of Israeli and Palestinian members of the pioneering **Combatants for Peace** movement for a UK tour of public events to share their personal stories and non-violent creative methods for resolving conflict, with a focus on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

The **Combatants for Peace** (CfP) movement was started in 2005 by Palestinians who had been part of the violent struggle against the occupation and Israelis who had fought in the Israeli army. Having put down their arms, CfP members are engaged in a non-violent struggle against the Israeli occupation and for a viable peace in the area. They are committed to using dialogue and reconciliation as a way to promote the establishment of a Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem, alongside the State of Israel.

Combatants for Peace are represented in the UK by 16 members of Movements steering group, who are responsible for co-ordinating the five bi-national local activist groups operating in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. CfP uses theatre as one of its tools for dialogue, action and transformation.

For an organisation whose bi-national members routinely risk arrest and resentment from within their own communities simply for meeting together, this extraordinary UK visit offers a safe space for CfP members to deepen relationships within their group as well as share their creative approach through a series of public events.

Their UK hosts, **Encounters**, are an arts practice working at the intersection of social and ecological sustainability to offer frameworks for people to explore their identity and imagine new interconnected stories to live by. We will be hosting this unique group at our new home on The Dartington Hall Estate (3-7th) and then travelling to London to join with our Partners, Amnesty International UK and Cardboard Citizens Theatre Company.

Encounters and **Combatants for Peace** invite you to join them:

6th September -

7.30 - 9.30 pm No Victory in Violence: An Evening with Combatants for Peace in Exeter

Members of Combatants for Peace share their journeys from division and violence towards non-violence and peace The Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT

7th September

7.30 - 9.30 pm No Victory in Violence: An Evening with Combatants for Peace in Totnes

Members of Combatants for Peace share their journeys from division and violence towards non-violence and peace. **Totnes Civic Hall, Totnes Market Square**

[Amnesty International UK, Human Rights Action Centre, London](#)

Friday 9th of September

10am - 5.30pm Images of Occupation day-long workshop led by Adrian Jackson, a leading Boal translator, expert on the Theatre of the Oppressed, and Artistic Director of [Cardboard Citizens Theatre Company](#). Image games and theatre techniques to offer different perspectives on the conflict. Places cost £70/£35 concessions- all proceeds go to CfPs ongoing work. To apply please contact Ann David (ann.david@virgin.net)

7.00 - 9.30 pm No Victory in Violence: An Evening with Combatants for Peace

Members of Combatants for Peace share their journeys from division and violence towards non-violence and peace. Chaired by Kristyan Benedict, Campaign Manager, Amnesty International UK. Book at <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/combatants>

More about the events and workshops:

No Victory in Violence: An Evening with Combatants for Peace

Members of Combatants for Peace reveal some of the personal stories of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict that are simply not heard in the UK or Europe. Moments of seeing 'the other side' through different eyes - seeing others' daughters as your own, the enemy's' doctor as your own life-saver; stories of meetings of minds rather than guns, transitions from checkpoint commando to creative peace-maker, from desperation to reconciliation; life-changing shifts in perception that pave the way for compassion and collective imagination of how to live alongside others. The evening offers a mix of forms of presentation and dialogue including theatre scenes to bring some of these stories to life, inviting the audience to respond and take part in shaping the proceedings.

[Images of Occupation \(London\)](#)

A day-long experiential, participative workshop offering up to 30 places for UK based participants. The workshop will draw on the innovative methodologies of Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed to explore the complexities of conflict, the roles of oppressed, oppressor, the victim and how our real and projected identities perpetuate notions of hopelessness and despair. We will look for ways to view the other / the enemy / the alien / the one who is dangerous as intrinsically linked to us. We will look at how we can transform our own narrative through the active and different choices we make. The workshops are a place for profound personal exploration and questioning of our identity in relation to others, rather than an opportunity to discuss the politics of the Middle East. Go to this address for flyer of the workshop-

<http://www.cardboardcitizens.org.uk/images/download/download.php?f=Imagesof.pdf>

Combatants for Peace UK visit is funded by

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For further information about the visit, please contact **Ben Yeger**, Creative Director of Encounters and UK representative of Combatants for Peace on <mailto:ben@encounters-arts.org.uk> or 07977 449901.