

"Journey to Israel and the Palestinian Occupied Territories, October, 2007"

Reflections and discussion by Kim Beach

Here are some questions that arise from on my experience of the Palestinian crisis:

- Is it a separation fence, a security barrier, or an "apartheid wall?"
- Does our view of the barrier depend on how we understand its purposes?
- What is the intent, and the effect, of all those check points and settlers-only roads?
- Are they settlers or colonists?
- Fanatics or just folks looking for subsidized housing?
- Why all the house demolitions?
- Why the continued settlement and "outpost" construction while they cry "peace, peace" and there is no peace?
- Why are conditions getting more desperate for Palestinians since the Oslo accords of 1995 established the PA (Palestinian Authority)?
- Have they tried non-violent resistance?
- Do they justify violence, even suicide bombing?
- Can we understand violence without forgiving it?
- And about that Annapolis peace conference that Condoleezza Rice has been working on, what is its promise, and what is its threat?
- Is this decades-long conflict somebody else's problem or our own?
- Then why is it the great non-subject in the current U. S. Presidential horse race?
- Because it's somebody else's fight, not our own?