

OLIVE TREE CALENDAR

2008





KEEP HOPE ALIVE

THE JAI PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Campaigns:

- Keep Hope Alive
- Boycott - Divestment - Sanctions against Israel
- Stop the Wall
- Ad hoc Campaigns.

Networking and building alliances with Church-related organizations, non-governmental and governmental Palestinian and international organizations all over Palestine and Diaspora.

Partnership: with various international YMCA/YWCA, church related and international organizations.

Advocacy visits and trips including the youth Journey for Justice program, Olive Picking Program and Olive Planting Programs.

Empowering and building the capacity of the local civil society with concepts and tools in the fields of advocacy and conflict transformation, especially youth and children.

Raising awareness: through our website, magazine, publications, monthly newsletters, press releases, reports, calls ...etc.

Carrying out essential **research** projects related to the Joint Advocacy Initiative activities and programs.

January

Olive Tree Planting Season

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 New Year (Catholic)	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany (Catholic)
7 Christmas Day (Orthodox) Palestinian Martyrs' Day	8	9	10 Al-Hijra (Islam New Year)	11	12	13
14 New Year (Orthodox)	15 Arbor Day	16	17	18	19 Epiphany (Orthodox)	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Anniversary of first Palestinian presidential & legislation council elections
28	29	30	31			

Olive Tree Products:

Olives are harvested from November until March. The various products from olive trees include: olive oil, olive oil soap, olive wood and olive leaves. Olive Oil, must be pressed within 10 hours of being picked in order to ensure the best quality. A cold press method is used so that the olive oil maintains its natural flavor, color and nutritional value. Today oil is pressed in both traditional stone mills and new mechanical presses. An average olive tree produces 9 kg of olives, yielding 2 liters of oil. One bar of Olive Oil Soap is made from a mixture of 360 g of virgin olive oil, 150 g water, 50 g caustic soda, and some optional scent. One liter of olive oil produces around 12-14 bars of soap. Olive Wood products have been hand-carved by Bethlehem Palestinians for centuries and Olive Leaves are used for food pickling.



February

Olive Tree Planting Season

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3 Planned JAI Olive Tree Planting Program
4	5	6	7	8 Boy Scout Day	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Non-Violent resistance Day	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Leap Year Day		

Olive Tree Planting:

Sponsoring olive trees to be planted in a Palestinian farmer's land gives him/her and their families support in their struggle against the occupation. Each sponsored tree is a sign to the occupiers that there are people from various countries in the world looking after this land, and that this land is the home and source of life for many people. The olive tree planting program creates a grassroots link between the international world and the Palestinian land.

By sponsoring an olive tree and participating in the replanting of the olive trees you plant the seed of hope for the farmer, the land and the future of Palestine.

The JAI has planned an olive planting program in February 2008 for internationals from anywhere in the world, to come and join us in keeping hope alive.



March

Olive Tree Planting Season

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3 Second Planned JAI Olive Tree Planting Day	4	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day	9
10	11	12	13	14 Good Friday (Catholic)	15 End of Olive Tree Planting Season	16 Palm Sunday (Catholic)
17	18	19	20 Birth of prophet Muhammad (Islam)	21 Mothers' Day / International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	22 World Day for Water	23 Easter (Catholic) American activist Rachel Corrie killed by Israeli soldier (2003)
24 31	25 Annunciation (Catholic)	26	27	28	29	30 Palestinian Land Day

Farmer – Land Relationship:

Arab Palestinians were a largely agrarian people. Before the Palestinian catastrophe and displacement in 1948, 75% made their living through agriculture. Like its trees, Palestinian farmers are rooted deep into the soil of the land to which they belong. Land functions as the source of communal identity, purpose and honor. Israel's Absentees' Property Law of March 1950 transferred the right of land ownership to a Custodian of Absentee Property. In addition to confiscating the land of Palestinian refugees, the law is also used to confiscate the lands of Palestinian citizens in Israel who are classified by law as "absent". Land Day is a commemoration and tribute to those who are forced to struggle to hold onto their land and identity. It is a day for the expression of political discontent in solidarity with the Palestinian citizens of Israel.



April

Olive Tree Calendar 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3 The Jenin Massacre (2002)	4	5 Palestinian Child Day	6
7 Annunciation (Orthodox) World Health Day	8	9 Deir Yassin massacre (1948)	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Palestinian Prisoner's Day	18	19	20 Palm Sunday (Orthodox)
21	22	23	24 World YWCA's Round-the-world breakfast	25 Good Friday (Orthodox)	26	27 Easter (Orthodox)
28	29	30				

Marketing Palestinian Olive Products:

Palestine produces an average of around 35,784 tons of olive oil per year and consumes about 12,500 tons. Palestinian farmers face very serious challenges in marketing the remaining 23,284 tons.

The various problems facing the Palestinian agricultural sector include: Israeli authorities preventing the export of national products to outside countries, lack of information about the importer markets, lack of knowledge of the agreements of exportation and importation, inability to track products to their final market, competition, and Israeli procedures that force Palestinian exporters to price their exportation products at non-market prices. All of these factors affect the ability of Palestinians to compete in the world market and thus decreases the revenue generated from the exportation process.



May

Olive Tree Calendar 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Ascension (Catholic) Labor Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Pentecost (Catholic)
12	13	14	15 Palestinian Nakhba Day (1948)	16	17	18
19	20	21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	22	23	24	25 Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
26	27	28 Adaptation of the Palestinian Constitution by the Palestinian National Council	29	30	31	

Women's role in gardening & farming:

Agriculture is a key pillar of the Palestinian economy and represents the strongest foundation for developing the status and role of Palestinian women. About 80% of the farm activities are the women's responsibility, so few men are involved. In addition, women take full responsibility for the up-keep of the home and raising the children. Plowing and planting crops, bringing fruits and vegetables to the market and selling them are just a few of the tasks in which women play the leadership role. Also, it is mostly women who are the holders of the traditional technical knowledge of livestock breeding. Statistics indicate that almost 90% of women in the informal economy work in agriculture.



June

Olive Tree Calendar 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 PLO founded 1964	3	4 International Day of Innocent Child Victims of Aggression	5 Ascension (Orthodox) Al Naksa (1967 Six Day's War) / World Environment Day	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 All Palestine Saints World Day against Child Labor	13	14	15 Pentecost (Orthodox)
16	17 World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought	18	19	20 World Refugee Day	21	22
23 30	24	25	26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	27	28 Day Israel illegally annexed East Jerusalem (1967)	29

Farmers in Palestine:

Over 17% of the population in Palestine is involved in farming and women make up the vast majority of this percentage. Forty-five percent of Palestinian agricultural land (228,560 acres/914,235 dunums) is planted with olive trees. Much of the Palestinian landscape contains olive fields which can be traced back to over six thousand years ago. The olive industry promises to contribute over 118 million USD (based on 2003/4 figures) to the fragile West Bank economy - 22 percent of total agricultural production. The costs for the farmer to produce 1 kg of olive oil is approximately 2.3 USD.



July

Olive Tree Calendar 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>International Day of Co-operatives</i>	6
7	8	9 <i>Advisory opinion of the ICJ on the Israeli Wall / BDS Campaign luncheon</i>	10	11 <i>World Population Day</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 <i>Israa' and Miraj (Islam)</i>	31			


Diseases & infection of olive trees:

The Olive Fly (*Bactrocera-Dacus-oleae*) is considered one of the most serious and dangerous pests to olive trees. It causes great economic loss for olive farmers throughout the Mediterranean region. In Palestine it infects 50 % of the gross olive production every year. The size of the Olive Fly is close to that of a normal fly, reaching 5 mm in length. The fly activity starts in June and during the olive growing season it lays about 300 eggs deep inside the olives. This leads to the appearance of black spots on the surface of the fruits. The infection causes the fruits to fall off of the tree before they are ripe. It also increases the pH, decreases the oil percentage, and increases the risk of the olives to other diseases, including *Microphoma*. The disease can be prevented by using proper planting techniques with nets, vaccinations, and anti-infection medications.



August

Olive Tree Calendar 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3 YMCA Europe Youth Festival, Prague
4	5	6	7	8	9 International Day of Indigenous People	10
11	12 International Youth Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Water resources in Palestine:



Palestine has three resources for water: rain, surface water and aquifers. Rain is the main source for irrigating most of the agricultural lands and feeding the underground aquifers with 30% of its gross amount. Surface water, including rivers, lakes and shallow wells is used for drinking and irrigation. Underground aquifers provide additional sources for water in the form of fountains and springs.

75% of the Occupied West Bank & Gaza Strip's renewable water resources are used by Israel. Three million Palestinians are allowed to use 250 million cubic meters per annum (83 cubic meters for each Palestinian per year) while six million Israelis enjoy the use of 2,000 million cubic meters per annum (333 cubic meter for each Israeli per year), which means that one Israeli consumes as much water as do four Palestinians. Even more unjust is that each Israeli settler is allowed to consume 1,450 cubic meters of water per year, even though they live in the Palestinian territories.



September

Olive Tree Calendar 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2 Ramadan begins (Islam)	3	4	5	6	7
8 International Literacy Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Sabra and Shatila massacre (1982)	18	19	20	21 International Day of Peace
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Beginning of the Second Intifada (2000)
29	30 					

Land Reclamation:

Agricultural land makes up 24% of the total land area in the West bank and Gaza. Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the agricultural land is planted with perennial trees. The rest is used for seasonal agriculture where the crops need to be replanted each year and the practice of land reclamation important. Land reclamation is the annual process which farmers in Palestine follow to keep the soil clean from being contaminated by many types of chemicals, waste or anything that might be destructive for farming the land. It is an additional step to other activities that prepare the land for the upcoming planting season such as plowing the land, fixing terraces, pruning trees and removing unnecessary plants. Land reclamation usually takes place in the beginning of autumn.



October

Olive Tree Calendar 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 World Habitat Day	2 Eid Fitr (Islam) Al-Aqsa massacre (1990)	3	4	5 World Teachers' Day
6 Planned JAI Journey for Justice Youth program	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Planned JAI International Peace Conference, Jerusalem	14	15 Planned JAI Olive Picking Program	16 World Food Day	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26
27	28	29 Kufur Kasem massacre (1956)	30 Disarmament Week	31		

The Campaign and olive picking program:


The Olive Tree Campaign and the olive picking program encourage people from all over the world to participate to keep hope alive for the Palestinian farmers and the Palestinian people. Since the second Intifada in 2000, around half a million olive trees have been uprooted and destroyed. Farmers are afraid to cultivate or harvest their olives in some of the land that remains. In areas that are situated near Israeli settlements and bypass roads there is a history of attacks by fanatical Israeli settlers and international companions are needed to keep olive farmers safe in their fields.

By participating in the olive picking program, you show solidarity with the Palestinian people. The JAI organizes its olive picking program in late October every year.



November

Olive Picking Season

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2 Balfour Declaration (1917)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 International Day against the Wall (Berlin Wall destroyed 1989)
10	11 Death of Palestinian President Arafat	12	13	14	15 Palestinian Independence Day (Constitution of 1988)	16 International Day of Tolerance
17 End of Olive picking season	18	19	20 Universal Children's Day	21	22	23
24	25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	26	27	28	29 International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	30

Land confiscation, settlements & the Wall:

Since 1967, the Israeli military and illegal settlers have destroyed more than one million olive trees and confiscated thousands of acres of fertile land and renewable water resources, in order to expand the Israeli settlements, build their bypass roads and construct the Wall.

Until January 2007, 408 km of the Wall was constructed inside the West Bank, annexing more than 12% of its land. More than 500,000 Palestinian communities are directly affected by the Wall and the more than 150 settlements constructed inside the West Bank. Palestinian farmers are forced to give their land away as a result of Israel's closure policy as settlers move in. A lot of Palestinian families are separated from their farmlands by the Wall and are unable to use or cross the bypass roads that dissect Palestinian lands.



December

Olive Picking Season

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 World AIDS Day	2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	3 International Day of Disabled Persons	4	5	6	7
8	9 Eid Al-Adha (Islam) Beginning of the First Intifada (1987)	10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14
15 Beginning of the Olive Tree Planting Season	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas ceremony at the Shepherds Field YMCA, Beit Sahour	25 Christmas (Catholic)	26	27	28
29	30	31 				

The medical benefits of olives & olive oil:

Olives contain 15 – 20% oil, 4% protein, 1% phosphoric salts, iron, calcium, as well as vitamins A and B in large quantities. Medical studies have shown that using olive oil instead of animal fats reduces the risk of developing heart disease, insulin resistance in diabetes patients and certain cancers. Its nutritional value is such that it has many medicinal benefits as well. Olive oil can help with kidney and gallbladder diseases by fragmenting the concretions. As a cream, olive oil is also used for hemorrhoids, boils, dry hands and feet, herpes, hair loss, rheumatism, poly-neuritis, protection from sunlight and face wrinkles.

