

DR. ZIAD MEDOUKH

Recipient of the International Award for Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India - 2017

Born: February 18, 1966

Dr. Ziad Medoukh, a teacher and researcher is a Palestinian professor and Director of the French Department at Al-Aqsa University in Gaza, Palestine. He is a staunch believer of the principles of democracy, freedom, human rights and is part of the Francophonie. He was the first Palestinian to be recognized as the Knight of the Order of Academic Palms of the French Republic in 2011. He presents to his students a brilliant testimony of non-violence.

Community work: Dr. Medoukh has manifested the development of a nonviolent economy in the Gaza Strip by mobilizing Palestinians to produce, use and market local products. He has initiated agricultural and organic farming in the community and handicrafts in villages and refugee camps. Agricultural cooperatives are also formed. Farmers and families are also helped in setting up small enterprises in the Gaza Strip to produce cheese, olive oils, and preserves, solely to promote local products, create employment and improve the standard of living. Fishermen always face a threat from Israeli Navy in the Gaza Sea. They are shot and their boats are confiscated. To protect and safeguard these fishermen, he accompanies the fishermen in the sea. In addition, Dr. Medoukh's work has been impactful as a Coordinator of the Peace Centre, and host, presenter of a French radio, live show on Gaza and the local population in the Gaza Strip.

With the youth: Dr. Ziad closely works with the young people in Gaza through different initiatives. He also invites individuals and organizations of civil society to his university for organizing training, meetings, knowledge exchange workshops, seminars, tours and to share diverse information with his students. The students further visit the community to organize meetings with families, neighborhoods and structures to sensitize people about nonviolence and human rights and its applications.

Dr. Ziad Medoukh provides an opportunity to each one, to express and to show their talents. He has helped many young people to get associated with various organisations and centers in the Gaza Strip. Dr. Medoukh's decision to be present for the young people, to build their morale and give them hope in the midst of difficult and traumatic situations, considering the bleak situation marked by the blockade, the attacks, and lack of prospects for the future; is exemplary.

International solidarity: The number one concern of Dr. Medoukh is to sensitize each in the Gaza Strip on non-violence and peace, either directly through the actions and activities of the Peace Center or indirectly via his testimonies, writings, poems, articles and information dissemination on non-violent actions in Gaza. He is an indefatigable speaker for Palestine in French-speaking countries. Apart from his participation in several trainings and meetings on non-violence; exposure and training visits on non-violence and peace for the teachers and the youth are also organised to France, Switzerland, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon to enlighten them. International solidarity is Dr. Medoukh's vision and mission.

He personally strives to sensitize and train future teachers in Palestine. The trainings and non-violent actions have helped to disseminate a culture of nonviolence in the Palestinian society. His work extension also includes educating the Francophonie world (via testimonials and live news), to carry out peaceful operations in the Gaza Strip. He proactively participates in peaceful demonstrations in the Gaza Strip to protest against the violence everywhere.

Peace Center: Dr. Medoukh alongwith his friends set up the Peace Center in 2006. Its actions following Gandhian principles of nonviolent economy have been able to show the importance of education as a form of non-violent resistance in Palestine. This has motivated young people to study in the University, despite the difficult local context; they face in their daily life. The Peace Center has organized more than 120 workshops between 2006 and 2017, including courses on human

rights, democracy and peace. The youth are the ambassadors who visit the community to propagate nonviolence and human rights work.

In 2014, and after the last Israeli military offensive against Gaza, Dr. Ziad Medoukh set up a psychological support cell to deal with traumatized children of war. Between 2014 and 2017, the psychological support unit organized more than 100 sessions in the kindergartens, schools and shelters for children in Gaza. More than 4,000 children have benefited from these sessions. Dr. Medoukh brings joy to the children of Gaza.

Books and literature: Some of Dr. Medoukh's work on non-violent actions are:

- 2014: Paper on the latest Israeli offense on Gaza "Chronicles of a murderous summer in Gaza-The Story of a Repeated Genocide"
- 2011: Collection of poems titled "Gaza: Awaited Peace"
- 2009: Collection of poems "I Teach Peace in Gaza and Palestinian Peace".

Articles / Participations: Dr. Ziad Medoukh has published more than 500 articles in Arabic and French which are published in various Palestinian and French newspapers and websites. Some of which are

- 2014: Article on the resistance of the Palestinian university researchers in the Gaza Strip against the Israeli blockade
- 2010: Participation in the symposium "Towards a Nonviolent Economy", through an article on non-violent economy in Palestine presented in Bhopal (India) • Article on "Nonviolent resistance in Palestine: Choices, Strategies and Challenges"
- 2001-2011: Published over 120 articles on French websites viz. Palestine Solidarity in Association France Palestine Solidarité; Peace in Palestine, Children of Palestine talk about the situation in Palestine, The Francophony in Palestine, Non-violence and Peace in the Peace center of Al-Aqsa University
- 2015: Participation in the Franco-Palestinian Relationship seminar, Al-Aqsa University, Gaza.

Talks, courses, conferences, media communication:

- 2006: Lectures on "Education for Peace in Palestine" during the World Meeting for Peace, Verdun, France; "Nonviolence in Palestine for Iraqi NGOs" in Jordan;
- 2005: Lecture on the issue of water in Palestine during the International Meeting of Young Francophone People in Cairo, Cairo University, Egypt

Awards and Associations: Dr. Ziad Medoukh has received several awards in Palestine and abroad. He is rewarded for his peace work in Palestine.

- Universal Ambassador of Peace, Universal Circle of Peace Ambassadors, 2014
- Winner of Francophone Poetry Europoetry competition, 2016
- Member, Scientific Committee of Erasmus Experts, 2015
- Honorary Diploma of the Francophony, Europoetry, 2015
- Diploma of Merit and Honor For Peace, Universal Circle of Peace Ambassadors, 2015

Contact details

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