

Wheatmark Announces

... an engrossing new book
about the lives of Palestinian people

Letters from PALESTINE

*Palestinians Speak Out about Their Lives,
Their Country, and the Power of Nonviolence*

Kenneth Ring, PhD
Ghassan Abdullah



Many books have been written dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the pro-Israeli perspective. However, relatively few reflect the Palestinian point of view. *Letters from Palestine* is one of the rare books that offers an American audience the chance to listen to and learn about the lives of actual Palestinian people as they describe what it is like to live in the occupied territories of the West Bank or Gaza, or to grow up as a Palestinian in the U.S.



These stories can be read almost as if each contributor is writing a letter to an American friend. It will give the reader a vivid sense both of the writer's own personality and his or her daily life as a Palestinian. To further this sense of personal intimacy, each contribution is accompanied by a photograph and an introductory paragraph or two about the writer.

The contents include not only accounts of everyday trials, hassles, and humiliations that Palestinians suffer, but also stories of triumphs over these adversities and the use of humor to cope with the sometimes almost surreal absurdities of life under occupation. These stories—lively, poignant, tragic, funny, reflective, heartbreaking—inspire readers with the resourcefulness of the Palestinian people, demonstrating their resilience and creativity under the most trying of conditions. There are also stories about life under the destructive sieges of 2002, and some searing firsthand dispatches of what people experienced during the savage bombardment of Gaza in 2008–2009.

Readers will meet and come to know Palestinians in all their humanness, and begin to see them beyond the usual stereotypes. Most of all, these stories will introduce Americans to contemporary Palestinians who represent both the traditions of their culture and the bright promise of their future.

Advance praise for

Letters from Palestine



The letters in this book will break your heart and they will make you laugh. I am excited to invite others to learn from them as I have. It is my hope that these Palestinian voices will inspire you, as they have inspired me, to believe that a peaceful and just future in Palestine is not only essential, but indeed possible.

—Anna Baltzer
Author of *Witness in Palestine*

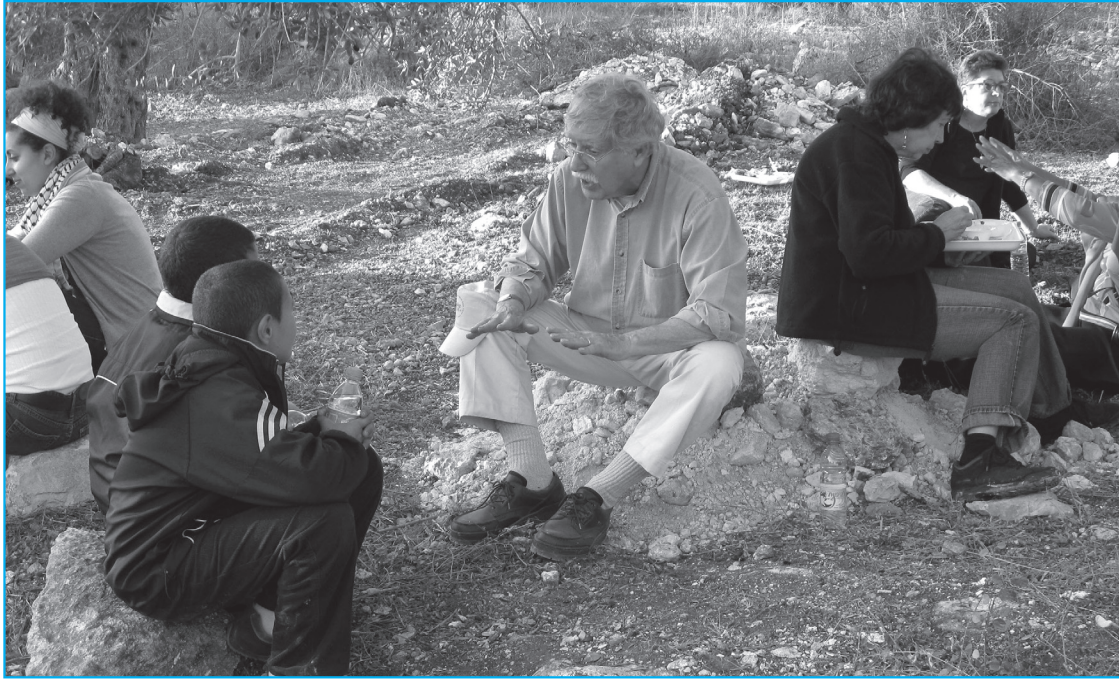
Kenneth Ring's compassion and his clear understanding of what decades of dispossession have meant to the Palestinian people come through strongly in this beautiful book. He has been able to draw out the Palestinians who speak here to talk about what Israeli oppression and the lack of freedom mean to Palestinians as individuals and to the Palestinian nation. The result is a powerful testimony to collective heartbreak and pain, but also a story of continued Palestinian determination and the endurance of their quest for justice.

—Kathy Christison
Author of *Palestine in Pieces*

It's rare to find a book that tells a story, political to the core, in such a personal, apolitical manner. *Letters from Palestine* is that type of book. Its stories are articulated through the views, so heartfelt and personal, of dozens of Palestinians, many of them young. But within the seeming simplicity and straightforwardness of their stories lies their unmitigated depth, strength and extraordinariness because it's these sentiments, the loss, the longing, the hurt and the hope that have shaped and continue to shape the Palestinian history of steadfastness and struggle.

Letters from Palestine is searching and powerful, remarkable and daring. It's a serious attempt at understanding what the media have missed, deliberately or otherwise, for many years. It must be read and recounted for years to come.

—Ramzy Baroud
Author of *My Father Was a Freedom Fighter*



About the Authors

Kenneth Ring, PhD, is Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Connecticut, and a world-renowned expert on near-death experiences on which subject he has published five books, including *Heading Toward Omega* and *Lessons from the Light*. This, however, is his first book on Palestinian-related issues, though he has published articles on contemporary events in Palestine.

Ghassan Abdullah lives in Ramallah in the West Bank. He studied mathematics and computing in England, and later worked at Birzeit University for nearly a decade. A former editor of science journals, he is currently active in several Palestinian civil society NGOs, in heritage, human rights, development and the arts.

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