



## What Else Can We Do?

The 'We' in the title refers to the Palestinian civil society. So what else can we do other than remain steadfast till the Almighty miraculously changes facts on the ground (keeping our fingers crossed that those changes will be to our advantage) and justice to prevail? We could pray really hard, but it would be good to take heed to what Pope Francis said. "You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works." Of course, we could always sit and have faith in our political establishment to resolve the conflict and improve on our social and economic situation. Hmmmm.

Truth be told though, a lot has and is being done by the Palestinian civil society, and I really wouldn't know where to start in naming them. The million dollar question remains, however "Has it been enough? I suppose a simple answer to this question is 'The proof is in the pudding.' No question that our situation is complex, and no doubt that our path towards peace and justice is an accumulative process, but there is always something more that we can do.

Lately, a few people have been discussing the following question: should Palestinians somehow reach the Israeli public and enforce on it our narrative, our opinion, our culture, even our day-to-day triumphs and failures? Reaching them *not* in the manner of Voice of Palestine news bulletin in Hebrew to which I expect three to five people worldwide listens to, but more like imposing on them something like *This Week in Palestine* apolitical articles. Articles on our taboun bread (before they appropriate it), or about our banking sector, or simply about a new novel telling a story of a Palestinian love affair. With varied points of view, Palestinian reaction ranged from "Yeah, go for it; they ought to know," to "Why? It's all in the news if they care to know?" On the other hand, judging from the Israeli political barometer, I expect, the vast majority of the Israeli public would resist such social invasion and possibly would consider it a grave security threat if not an existential one! The issue has not yet been solved.

Don't we have cultural immunity? Do we need to prove anything to anyone? Isn't practically everything happening in Palestine being reported in one media or another? Do we have to prove to anyone that we are humans too? These are truly all legitimate questions. I wish though that anyone has a magical solution and would deliver us from our predicament. In the meantime, however, one thing we cannot do; and that's sit idle and wait for a miraculous solution. That simply won't happen. This initiative might or might not work, but the thought process of what can be done should never cease.

**Feistily,  
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