



As always, this issue has been made valuable by the contributions of our authors, to whom TWIP extends our sincere thanks. Also, we would like to thank the readers who shared testimonies on what it means for them to feel secure.

There are so many aspects to feeling secure. Some of them are personal, and everyone experiences them, to a greater or lesser degree, even in societies where life is comfortable and safe, at least comparatively. In other areas of the world, security is a rare commodity. Palestine certainly belongs

among the less-than-secure areas.

Rooted in 1948's great loss, the Palestinian sense of vulnerability stretches across the generations and affects initiative, the readiness to take risks, and development. Most survivors of the generation who witnessed the *Nakba* never truly recovered or felt secure again. A friend of mine from East Jerusalem, whose family lost most of their lands and belongings in 1948, once related his father's response when in the early 1970s a prime piece of land in Jerusalem was for sale for relatively little money: "Why? So the Jews would come and take it?" The younger generations who have witnessed violence and helplessness in the *Naqsa*, the Intifadas, and the wars on Gaza, be it firsthand or via media, perpetuate these feelings. Sometimes we are only vaguely aware of them, at others, they are debilitating. Finding hope, and going after it, requires the full awareness of our insecurity – and then daily, persistent mental work. And that will be our only way out. Humanity has evolved through so much. "What would we do if we still lived in caves?" is a running source of discussion within my family.

Imagine: What if instead of, or even in addition to our human feelings of insecurity, we could not escape and were forced to experience situations that are generally understood and accepted to be insecure? To be sure, in Palestine we do have a segment of society that lives rather comfortably, certainly on a comparative level. "We should not compare ourselves to the ones who have it better than we do," I would reply to my kids. A source of argument has been the question of whether we would gain or lose if wealth were to be distributed equally. But we belong to the segment that lives relatively comfortably, with regard to many aspects (though permission of residence is not one of them). Do we remember enough those who do not live as comfortably?

Especially in the recent cold spell, are we mindful of the people whose houses were demolished in order to assure Israeli demographic hegemony over occupied territory? What about Gaza and the people whose homes have not been rebuilt in a year and a half? Can we imagine the situation of political prisoners, or of children in detention and of their parents who are struggling to cope with an unbearable situation? The articles and poems in this issue present the hopes of Palestinians for a better world and a better future.

May it soon become a reality!

Bettina Ezbidi
Editor



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