

# Palestine News

The International Center of Bethlehem (ICB) hosted an Intercultural Media Consultation between November 24 and 29, 2002. After many failed attempts to schedule the event in Bethlehem it was finally held in Jerusalem. Bethlehem, at the time of writing remains a Closed Military Area, with all inhabitants under house arrest by Israeli occupation forces. Bethlehemites were not allowed out of Bethlehem to travel the 7 km to Jerusalem for the event, but using some ingenuity and at personal risk some of the hosts managed to attend with other participants from Palestine, Israel, USA, Germany, UK, Lebanon, Spain and Denmark.



The event looked at the way the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is presented in the media, with presentations from notable journalists such as Miguel Murado and Israel Shamir. The consultation also looked at the Bethlehem Media Center, part of the ICB.

The Bethlehem Media Center was conceived of to work with and through the local community, to strengthen the role of Palestinians, particularly the Palestinian Christians, in the news media worldwide. Palestinians do not have a voice to the outside world. The consultation focused on how the Bethlehem Media Center could be a place where such a voice can be articulated, where networks could be established to empower the local community to tell its story and to advocate for peace and justice. There was technical input from professionals in television, radio and print. Ideas discussed for future action include video production and local TV broadcasting, radio broadcasting and a NewsWire from the Bethelhem area for journalists worldwide who need reliable news from non-Israeli sources. Currently all Palestinian journalists have had their accreditation taken away from them, almost all news on Palestine comes through Israeli military sources.

More info from the ICB: <http://www.annadwa.org>