



## Palestinian Activists in Durban for short tour



The IPCI and the Masjid Abu Bakr Siddique hosted three Palestinian activists, Firhan Farrah, Osama Nazzal and Rula Tammini on a two-day visit to Durban on August 29 and 30. The trio addressed were guests at a dinner and lecture at the IPCI headquarters in Grey Street. The next day, the Women's Cultural Group held a women's only meeting at their Centre in Kenilworth Road, Overport. While Cartoonist Nazzal held an exhibition at the Silveroaks Boutique Hotel in Morningside.



Human Rights Defenders' Firhan Farrah whose son, Shadi became the youngest person to be arrested and imprisoned by the Israeli forces told a heart wrenching story about the pain of so many mothers whose children are incarcerated. Her family lives in Kofr Aqab and has to make a three-hour car journey to visit her son.

## Top Cop hit by Israeli's Inhumanity

It turned out to be a night when a big, burly policeman felt the pain in his heart when he listened to three Palestinian activists tells their story of misery at the Islamic Propagation International Centre this week.

Inspector Ally said that he was devastated when he heard their accounts of murder, mayhem, torture and imprisonment of children, the elderly, women and even the dead who are kept in prison in fridges. "There is a pain in my heart," he said. What can we do to help the people of Palestine?" he asked with anguish.

He listened to the plight of Firhan Farrah whose 14-year-old son is serving a three-year sentence in jail because he was supposedly overheard saying "one day I will take revenge on Israel."

"I am not the only mother who is suffering. We only want our children home and to have them do normal childish things. We want them to play with their toys, go to school and enjoy their youth," she said.

Cartoonist, Osama Nazza said that he used his work as a weapon against the State of Israel whose cruelty amounts to crimes against humanity. He told of how bodies of prisoners were kept in fridges behind bars until the full sentence of an unjust court is completed. "It is horrific. Nowhere in the world do anyone do this to anybody. It is being done in Israel and it is perpetrated against the Palestinians. I have been arrested, imprisoned and persecuted, but I will continue with my work, regardless of the consequences," he said.

Rula Timimi highlighted the atrocities which children, some as young as four being jailed because the Israelis regard them as enemies of their state. "They imprison our children far away from their homes making it very difficult for their parents to visit them. Travelling within the country is very difficult for the Palestinians because of so many restrictions," she said.



Cartoonist Osama Nazzal uses his art work as a "weapon" to expose the atrocities perpetrated by the Israelis. His novel approach was highly acclaimed during his visit to South Africa.



Osama Nazzal seen here (second left) with artist Jessica Bothma, Nadia Meer and artist sculptor Andries Botha visiting PHANSI Museum. Top: Osama's tribute to Nelson Mandela



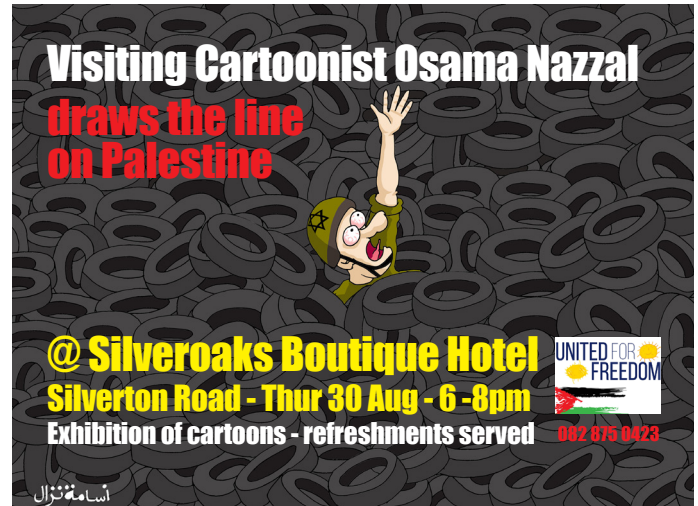
Rula Tammini who hails from Nabi Saleh Village and who studied at the Al Quds University highlighted the suffering of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, especially children.

# Visiting Cartoonist Osama Nazzal draws the line on Palestine

A cartoon exhibition that aimed to show the realities confronted by Palestinians subjected to military occupation and siege, their resistance and determination as seen through the eyes of renowned cartoonist, Osama Nazzal was hosted on Thursday 30 August at the Silver Oaks Boutique Hotel. Osama who lives in the village of Kafr Ni'ma, west of Ramallah is currently on tour to South Africa and was eager to connect with South African audiences and to promote solidarity with his beloved homeland.

The intimate venue provided a perfect backdrop for engagement, connection with acclaimed Durban political cartoonist, Dr Nanda Sooben and 'animated' discussion on the role of artists and cultural resistance. Osama, who is chairperson of the Palestinian Association of Contemporary Art, believes that there are few art forms that are more effective than cartoons and caricatures to comment on human rights abuses and political oppression. Freedom of expression is a crucial issue as censorship and attacks on journalists, activists and artists are growing in Palestine and many, like Osama himself are subjected to repeated arrests, harassment, destruction of not only their artwork and materials but the art studios too. He was arrested in 2005 and sentenced to six and a half years in Israeli prisons.

**Nadia Meer - 2SunsShamsaan**



Bottom (L/R) : Exhibition of cartoons at Silveroaks Boutique Hotel - Osama Nazzal, AK Mohamed, Aisha Seyam, Dr Nanda Sooben, Dr Fatima Doerat and Mohamed Seyam . Below Dr Faisal Suliman of SAMNET on the plight in Palestine and the need for global support for the cause - Osama Nazzal, Amro Gabriels doing the translation, Nadia Meer, Zahida Danka, Durban Cartoonist Dr Nanda Sooben, Shabnum Mahomed & Dr Fatima Doerat - A selection of A3 cartoons are available for sale - contact Shahnaaz at 082 875 0423

