

# Montana Peace Seekers



## **Mazin Qumsiyeh, Peace Seeker of the Year 2013**

The Montana Peace Seekers Network is blessed and deeply privileged to name you -- Mazin Qumsiyeh, Palestinian peace, justice and nonviolent liberation leader, courageous advocate of human rights for all -- as Peace Seeker of the Year 2013. This award is an expression of the deep respect, appreciation and honor in which you are held by the peace and justice community of Montana, and it represents a tribute to you for the courageous leadership, perseverance, and unshakable spirit of nonviolent popular resistance that you have manifested by:

- listening and responding with all your heart and mind and action to the Palestinian people as they suffer and die under the Zionist government of Israel and its cruel, brutal and illegal military occupation of Palestinian lands
- working daily to educate us and the world about Israeli repression of the human and national rights of the Palestinian people, and to call us to sustained action, along with thousands of internationals, to join the Palestinian struggle for justice and to intensify the campaign against Israeli occupation, colonization and apartheid
- not looking the other way, by refusing to keep quiet about and bury the murderous truth that the creation of the state of Israel led to what Palestinians call the Nakba, the Catastrophe, the Zionist terrorist expulsion of 750,000 Palestinian people from their homes, people and their descendents who are still refugees today, leading to the dispossession of land and homes and wealth of an entire population, all with the complicity of the U.S. and Western governments and of corporations who help Israel maintain its illegal occupation and colonial expansion
- responding like a voice of compassion and truth in the wilderness of international geopolitical greed, raising the laments of the Palestinian people for our attention, calling us to respond with compassion and action for justice
- putting your life and body in the way of the illegal military occupiers, rejecting their works of war and repression and responding not with violence, but instead practicing the nonviolent work of popular resistance and mercy day in and day out, defying the so-called rulers of Israel as they pursue unjust and deadly military repression and strategies of death and destruction and deny human needs and fails to protect the world's children and the most vulnerable.
- being an ambassador of peace, a faithful and humble representative of your master Jesus/Yesua/Issa, who said (in words posted prominently on your website "You have heard that it was said, 'love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven... For if you love only those who love you, what reward have you?")
- bringing a heart of compassion and nonviolence into the discussions of foreign and military policy -- asking us not to follow those who would lead us and our sons and daughters and friends toward more killing and more destruction
- for being a vessel of love and compassion and courage, inspiring a wider and wider circle of peacemakers and justicemakers, helping to form a powerful community of gentle, strong people who cannot be turned back from the works of mercy and justice for the Palestinian people and for all people
- working day in day out, when you are in prison and when you are out of prison, to inflame in all you meet passions for justice and peace and compassion rather than passions for hatred and war and injustice; and
- for giving us hope that we can get together nonviolently, hand holding hand, catching courage from one another to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine and move us all to the works of justice and mercy.

***We see in your loving heart and hands the light and love that shines and dances and makes us one with all life. We pledge to go with you to light, life and love, rejecting the works of military occupation and repression, to follow you in doing the works of popular resistance, justice, mercy and peace.***

