

Welcoming Night Party at Atatürk Square

Nmezi Onyedikachi Uzozie

The Welcoming Night Party organized by the Social and Cultural Activities Directorate as part of the Orientation Days for new students was fascinating. The appreciative rock and roll music, the blazing of the twirling guitars and other musical instruments revealed yet another exciting campus funfare. The louder the music were, the more the uncontrollable student's reply in excitements.

The stage program featured a DJ performance by the EMU Radio and the International Center, a Turkish Cypriot folk dancing show and concerts by the Music Club, the Manavella and the Nafiz Dölek band, all thrilling the students to the fullness at the Welcoming Night social gathering. The blend of the Nigerian popular music 'o wu sagi' and a mixture of other African sounds were compelling

to the core.

However, a look at the mixture of men and ladies in the displayed traditional Cyprus dance, one can picture out the use of props arrangement as in the use of sickles, spectacles, forms and costumes perfectly communicated to the ever interesting crowd.

The Director of the International Center heartily welcomed the new students on campus to the EMU family, wishing them a nice stay and assuring them that they will enjoy their university education.

Cheering noises pervaded the arena as the Rector Prof. Dr. Abdullah Y. Oztoprak stood on the platform to deliver his welcome speech. Prof. Dr. Oztoprak welcomed the students and admonished them to shun violence. "You should note that you are going to be in a multicultural programme on campus, behave care-



fully, use up the opportunities that come your way and once again, university education is not only in the class, but with the people and the environment you live in. There are facilities on campus; use them and enjoy yourself" he concluded.

While the show continued with entertainment until late night, the event at Atatürk Square witnessed an exhibition of different faculties, each under their cubicle welcoming and cheering up new students, with their enquiries.



<http://gundem.emu.edu.tr>

Gündem

ENGLISH

Faculty of Communication And Media Studies Student Newspaper

Issue: 31 September-October-November 2012



"Mom" is a revolutionary: Notes from the daily life of a Syrian woman activist

Hussein Alrajab

Media often spoke about the role of women in the Syrian uprising. Women are politically active, but they have to play their roles as mothers and wives as well. What are the social challenges faced by those women activists? How do they prove their presence in this revolution? How much time do they spend on their political activities? We asked these questions to a woman activist in Daria, Damascus via Skype programme on the internet. For reasons of security we will not disclose her name.

She tells us that every day she wakes up at around five o'clock in the morning. Until her kids wake up, she completes some revolutionary work such as writing reports and essays and printing them. "In the early morning, I communicate with activists across the Internet in order to coordinate matters concerning the revolution" she says. When her kids wake up at seven o'clock, she stops being a revolutionary for a while to fulfil her duty towards her children as a mother. About ten o'clock she goes out to do some activities like visiting the

homes of the families of martyrs or participating in demonstrations, sit-ins and psychological support campaigns for children. "I carry my small child, who is 3 years old, with me and leave the two older children at home alone" she says. Usually at two o'clock in the afternoon, she goes back home to see how her children are doing and to bring them food. She then tidies her house and goes



out at five o'clock to complete her activities.

At about eight o'clock in the evening she stops being a "revolutionary" and becomes a housewife. "When I go back home, I find my husband waiting for me. We sit and talk about what we have done during the day and we make our dinner. When I get to bed at night I am usually so tired that I can't move" she tells.

Having children is not a problem for her revolutionary work, she says. What do her children think about their mother's activities as a revolutionary? We asked this question to one of her children. "I do

not see my mother too much, she is always busy, she is either on the computer or outside" he says. What about her husband? We asked her husband about his opinion on her work in the uprising. He said he was very happy to see his wife helping people. However, he was somewhat cynical about her political activities: "The revolution needs her, but so do her kids," he said. Last note : After a week we conducted our interview with her, she was arrested in Damascus when she was trying to go to Homs to deliver food and medicine to the opposition.

Abandonment of nuclear energy



Abtin Badie

Since the history tells us, the human beings had always lacks of many things to survive, so that our ancestors had to work on these lacks to fulfil the gaps of surviving to continue their life. The interesting thing is that the human body is very weak in comparison to other creatures to survive in nature. For instance we cannot run so fast as many animals, neither jump like them or even fly, but because the human beings are intelligent and are able to think and create new ideas, thus we can advance our civilization. There is also constantly a making progress in human's life, so we can be much more powerful in achieving such mentioned tasks but with the help of devices, which are made through our minds.

One of the most important things that were always important to human beings for survival was the energy and more importantly how to make it. Maybe the first energy, which was known to the early humans, was the heat energy, so the way of how to make fire was invented and even was being advanced until today.

Clean energy versus dirty energy

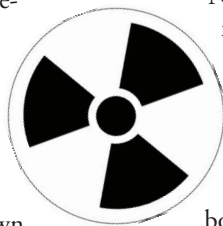
But through our development and in our advanced life today we are aware of other energies and now we can produce them with our sophisticated technology, so that many other energies in our age are produced but now there are serious problems with these processes.

For the first times almost many new

processes have been in making the energies considered as success in human's life and advanced the social life but later it could be exposed to us, that it is not reasonable to continue such processes in sake of our environment. To understand this matter deeply we have to know these two terms, dirty energy and clean energy.

The clean energy is produced through wind, water and sunshine, but dirty energy is produced through coal, oil, wood and nuclear, which damage the environment in the long term. Now the most controversial energy on the Earth is the nuclear energy.

The problem with nuclear wastes



Nuclear energy is not an ordinary energy; it requires much more attention, because there are many risks connected to the nuclear plants. In cases of accidents like earth quake, plane crash, fire and suicide bomb attacks we will be facing a huge disaster, which is not to recover even after thousands of years. Through radioactive contamination the genetic make-up of human beings can be so damaged, so that a possibility of complete recovery from generation to generation is not possible.

In process of making nuclear energy, there is the problem of nuclear waste materials, which are permanently produced by side. Until now the only way out is to bury these materials very deeply under the earth. In the countries of European Union there are some locations for burying those materials, which caused many protests. For instance the radioactive waste materials from France are always transported to Germany near to the city of Gorleben. There are now some scientific researches in Europe to reduce the contamination of radioactive waste materials to several hundred years instead of thousands or millions of years, but this is now still pie in the sky.

Cheap but unhealthy

Nuclear energy is the description of energy, which is produced in nuclear plants. Basically it is considered as cheaper than alternative energies to produce but more dangerous and unhealthy.

The main goals of having nuclear plants are to produce heat and electrical energy. Because of high energy potentials of radioactive substances, the energy made in nuclear plants is extremely high. In addition, the

demand of security and safety is extremely high, because of hidden dangers involved in the nuclear energy process.

The first step in the nuclear energy process is the mining of uranium, which is risky, because it poisons the workers and the environment. The second step is the process of purification of uranium into plutonium, so that it could be used as a source of energy in nuclear plants and this is a very risky task. The third step is how to use this energy in a nuclear plant in a safe way.

Every now and then we are witnessing by watching television how the inner facilities look in a nuclear plant, and, strangely, we see how the coworkers are dressed up in white overalls and wearing mouth masks and even gas masks. This easily indicates how dangerous and unhealthy the job is. When we a little bit think about it we find that something oddness is in doing this job and the irony is that these coworkers must work almost even every working day a week under such pollution and condition!

The supporters of nuclear energy in the business world support the nuclear energy by making advertisements such as prospects and brochures; and there are even businesses in the stock exchange. The other support, which is disturbing, comes from the governments of some countries like North Korea and Iran, and at the top of them Russia and China, which do a lucrative business with those countries in that matter.

Sanctions against Iran

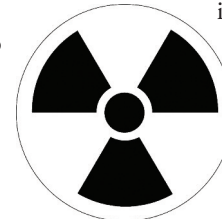
In a controversial case like Iran there is the assumption of making an atom bomb. Therefore the European Union increased the sanctions against Iran. The European Union decided to introduce new measures against Iran in the finance, trade and oil industry sectors. Any monetary transaction is now forbidden between the European Union and Iran. In addition, certain metals and software are not allowed to be delivered to Iran, and also the delivery of natural gas from Iran is canceled to the European Union.

North Korea already admitted that it made the atom bomb, despite of claiming first that the nuclear plant was used only for peaceful purposes. After an earth quake from another part of the world it had been confirmed, that the location of this earth quake was deep under North Korea by exploding an atom bomb as test, so that North Korea is in possession of atom bomb.

The nuclear plants and their usages are much discussed in the world press. Only 30 countries in the World are in possession of nuclear plants, but some of these countries have already decided or are deciding to abandon nuclear energy. For instance, Italy is the first country, which has abandoned nuclear energy completely and further countries like Germany, Belgium and Switzerland have decided to abandon nuclear energy. Austria didn't begin to use the brand new nuclear plant Zwentendorf. Further countries canceled partly their planned nuclear energy productions.

To achieve the abandonment of nuclear energy within a country, political decision making is required. For example, after the Fukushima disaster in Japan there were many cover-ups relating to the aftermath of disaster and there were no actual reaction from the government to change the attitude of energy producing. Despite of frequent demonstrations against the nuclear energy in Japan, the government wasn't seriously interested to change its policy.

Unless a group of German experts in the Green Party of Germany traveled to Japan to help Japanese people to establish the Green Party in Japan, which didn't exist until that date. With that act it made possible to interfere in political decision making of Japanese parliament.

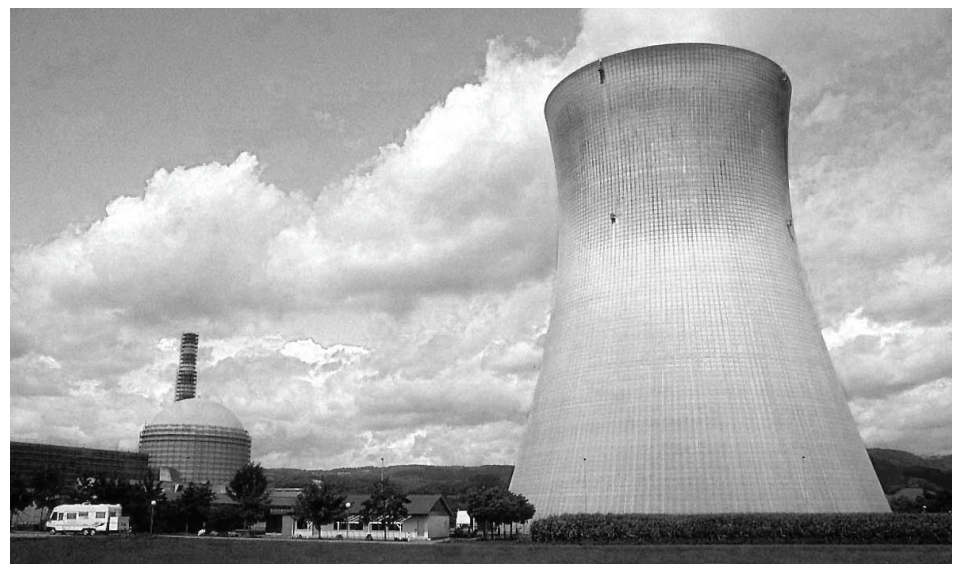


"Having the nuclear energy is a right of Iranian people"

The most important issue for enlightenment of citizens of a country regarding the nuclear energy is the real explanation about the truth of advantages and disadvantages through the mass media, to be independent of governmental interests. For instance, in Iran, we encounter permanently this argument from the Iranian mass media, which teaches the Iranian people how to think about the nuclear policies in their country. It claims that "having the nuclear energy is one of the rights of Iranian people". This sentence is even printed on one of the bills of the Iranian currency.

There are always different points of view, different perspectives and different storytelling so the narrative can change many things, but with freedom of information, people can be aware of a whole issue, and not only a part of it.

There is an issue, which is the most important one to be aware of: we need the nature, the nature doesn't need us.



The 4th International Conference on Women Studies: Gender Equality and the Law

Nmezi Onyedikachi

The 4th International Conference on Women Studies on "Gender Equality and the Law" was held in Rauf Raif Denktaş Conference and Congress Center between the dates of October 3-5. Organized by the EMU Center for Women's Studies, Koç University Center for Gender Studies and Ankara University Women's Studies Center, the conference gathered academicians from 26 different countries.

Declaring the opening of the conference, Vice Rector of Eastern Mediterranean University Ülker Vancı Osam, welcomed the participants and showed her gratitude to see the programme organized in the EMU. In her keynote opening address, the first guest speaker, the Chairperson of the Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation, Emine Çolak, narrated the chronicles and struggles that led to the establishment of the

human rights foundation within the region, in search for peace and justice. Emine Çolak said that breaches of the human rights led Cypriot peace activists, who were business people, journalists, lawyers, artists and academicians, to establish the Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation in 2005.

Following Çolak's speech, Şebnem Korur Fincancı, the Head of the Foundation of Human Rights of Turkey welcomed the attendees and highlighted the consequences of establishing the foundation in Turkey. Fincancı elaborated on the history of human rights struggle in Turkey after the 1980 military coup, leading to the establishment of the Foundation of Human Rights of Turkey in 1990.

The three days conference also featured keynote speeches by the eminent philosophy professor Prof. Ionna Kucuradi and Israeli peace activist Prof. Anat Biletzki from Tel Aviv and Quinnipiac Universities.



The conference presentations addressed various themes on gender studies and brought together scholars, researchers, performers, and activists from various disciplines to present their works and exchange ideas on a wide range of issues in the fields of economics, law, politics, communi-

cation and design. Some of the topical issues on the theme of the conference "Gender Equality and the Law" were law, justice and gender, women and peace, women and violence, women and discrimination, gender and development, and women and public policy.

The first bicycle race on the campus

Yazan Albarahma

On Wednesday the 10th of October, the Activity Center in the EMU held the first bicycle race in our university. The race started from the Rector's office building, it continued to Nampor café, up to the Library, to the Lala Mustafa Pasha Sports Center, then circled around the dorms, then to the Rector's office again.

The Rector of our university Professor Abdullah Oztoprak opened the race with a short speech he made at 5 p.m, where he discussed the importance of sports to

our university and what aspects it has in gathering the students from different nationalities to be together and do activities with each other.

The race had 21 different teams, each consisting of six students. Students from Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Cyprus, Palestine, Jordan, Nigeria and many other nationalities joined the race.

After almost two hours of racing, a team from Cyprus won the race. They received one bicycle as an award as well receiving the golden medals.



History burns in Syria

Hussein Alrajab

Fire swept through the ancient covered market in the heart of the old city of Aleppo on the 29th of September, and caused extensive damage in the market, which is a heritage of Middle Ages. This barbaric attack has appeared in the video footage aired by the activists on their web site, showing the scale of the devastation and loss that has befallen in the market. Clouds of dark smoke billowed over the city of Aleppo as a result of the fire. This market was the spirit of Aleppo and one of the oldest inhabited areas in the world.

Without any deaths immediately from the fire, the losses are limited to the combustion of a large part of the rich market which is one of the most important treasures of the ancient city and it is likely that this work angers the Syrians because of its direct relationship with the day-to-day lives and livelihoods.

A doctor in Aleppo who presented herself as Dima said, "It's not just

the market and shops that is burned, but also of our spirit." On the other hand, Brigadier Commander Bashir Haji, who leads the battle to liberate Aleppo said that the Free Army was advancing towards the center of the city of Aleppo and that control was imminent. Brigadier Haji said he had visited the market area. "There is anger, but is anger against Bashar and his regime" he commented in an interview.

The market in Aleppo historically goes back to 17th century. It was not only a tourist destination, but also a vital center for trade and society. It is not clear how the fire broke out but it came after the clashes between the Free Army and the regime's army. Some activists said they tried to put out the fire, but they were surprised by the difficulty extinguished because of the spread of Syrian regime snipers on neighboring buildings to the market and their inability to put out the fire because of the intensity of the fire by snipers.

Coping with culture shock

Nmezi Onyedikachi Uozzie

The Social and Cultural Activities Directorate Hall was set agog about the morning hours on the 21st of September as the powerfully rendered lecture by Dr. Uğur Maner rents the air. Delivering the lecture on culture shock Dr. Maner x-rays the very many challenges students face as they pursue their university education abroad. According to the lecturer, "the study opportunity is a good chance for the students to discover lifestyles in other places of the world where new friends and knowledge about new cultures are great experience".

Coping with a new situation or environment may sometimes be a bit tiring and hard. She pointed out the many symptoms of culture shock as homesickness, stress, fear and confusion. She entreated that living in an environment different from ones usual setting may be the reason for culture shock. Dr Uğur also said that sometimes one feels the urge to run back home as soon as possible, however, having the patience to stay contributes also.

Stages of culture shock
Hearing her admonish in the seminar, she went further to highlight the culture shock in various stages: Firstly, was the stage of excessive enthusiasm (honeymoon). In this stage everything goes out well and the students are having a great time in a new environment. In the second stage of shock, one does not know how to deal with the many unfamiliar things in the new country and this increases unhappiness and consciousness of anxiety. Then comes the stage of transition, where the students starts to cope with new problems and harmonize new experiences with the ones they have had before; and fourthly, the stage of acceptance where the students accepts and adapts to the new environment and become happier.

Explaining the symptoms of culture shock to the attendee students, Dr. Maner expressed signs like excessive anger towards small issues, making an effort to stay away from people you consider as different; excessive home sickness appetite, dullness, boredom, excessive need for sleep, head ache, gastric disorders, depressive mood, un-

willingness to study, bouts crying, excessive cleaning and feeling sick and exhausted most of the day. Some of the advices she gave for coping with culture shock were as follows: do not expect to be perfect in this new environment. You may have some difficulties, although students have some knowledge about North Cyprus in general and EMU in particular. Do not judge this new culture before getting to know it better. Do not consider this culture as 'better' or 'worse' than your own culture but as something different. Being active participant in the university's activities, one can learn the culture of the EMU and North Cyprus by living it. For example, the students can start from the local foods. She also reminded that students should endeavour to keep in touch with their families and friends in their countries while they are in the process of experiencing the culture of North Cyprus. And more importantly, she stressed, involving in groups that have members from different cultures as studying abroad is a special experience and will hold a unique place in student's life.

When “enemies” become friends: a Palestinian student’s interview with an Israeli professor

Yazan Albarahma

The EMU Center for Women’s Studies together with Koç University Center for Gender Studies and Ankara University Women’s Studies Center organized the 4th International Conference on Women’s Studies, which focused on “Gender Equality and The Law”. The conference, which was held in Rauf Raif Denktaş Conference and Congress Center between the dates of 3-5 October, gathered many professors, experts and professionals from different countries to discuss important issues on women’s rights movements and feminism in general. One of the most interesting people I had the chance to meet was Professor Anat Biletzki, a philosophy lecturer in Tel Aviv University and Quinnipiac University in Hamden. She is a feminist, leftist and a peace activist working in many organizations in the Middle East. She has written many articles and conducted research on the Israeli- Palestinian conflict. Professor Biletzki is a supporter of Palestinian human rights and believes in the equality of Arabs and Jews living in the Occupied Territories, West Bank and the Gaza Strip. She is also a supporter of the one state solution to end the conflict, a democratic state for all living peacefully together. At the conference, Professor Biletzki made a speech on “Militaristic Women: The Odd Case of Israeli Feminism”, in which she analyzed the situation of Israeli women who do military service. As a Palestinian student at the EMU I found her speech very interesting. The main focus of her speech was the feminist demand in Israel for women to serve equally in battle positions, but also to have the right of not serving since Israel is the only country in the world where military service for women is mandatory. After her speech I was able to do an interview with her.

Dear Professor Biletzki, I thank you for meeting me and if we could start this interview by discussing the following incident: Three female soldiers, capturing a Palestinian female, blindfolded her, handcuffed her while standing behind her and taking pictures of their “accomplishment”. How does that reflect the main argument of feminism in the Israeli lands who are asking for more rights for women in joining the army?

I was speaking about the internal Israeli tension between being a feminist of one type which is a feminist who refuses to fight in the army and a feminist who thinks that fighting in the army is even greater for feminism than being just non-military. What I didn’t mention is that the specific part of the army in the occupation. You are bringing up the most painful part of being in the army. (In my speech) I mentioned in general why people refuse to go in. People who go in are part of an occupying army. People who go to the army and want to prove that they are just as good as the best Israeli soldiers are going to make a special effort in being more aggressive, better killers, better in combat, more torturing than a regular soldier in their desire to prove their point. When you get a woman who is trying to prove that she is as good as any male soldier she is going to be more brutal against the Palestinians than a male. Now another thing that you brought up is that they were laughing at a Palestinian woman. I don’t think it really matters if it’s a Palestinian man or woman. It matters that it’s a Palestinian!

As a feminist what kind of things can you do to change such tragedies?

Perhaps because I’m so politically involved what I see here is the Israeli Palestinian issue rather than the feminism issue, not if I want to

look at it through feminist eyes. I would say that women have something to offer and I’m not stereotyping women but I do think women’s experience and women’s sensitivity and the way women look at the world is something that we can offer even to the army. There is a wonderful group called “Checkpoint Watch”. It was put together by women and their whole point was that as feminists they could teach the people at the checkpoints, men or women, to behave differently. Feminists and women have helped in trying to get the army educated about these kind of things. However, I’m still not completely clear if its feminism or women because those are two different things.

As an Israeli, how do you see Palestinian woman?

First of all, I consider myself a cosmopolitan. As I told you before I am a “one stater”. I think that the division between Jews and Palestinians in Israel is worthless and has brought more wars. Until all eleven millions of us, from the sea to the river, live together, I think we’re not going anywhere. I have a lot of Palestinian friends who are women. There are three populations of Palestinian women: the women in the West Bank, in Gaza and Palestinian women who are citizens of Israel. They have always been called Israeli Arabs, I can’t stand that. They are not Israeli Arabs. They are Palestinians who are Israeli citizens. We do see some interesting sociological things. For instance, in the past 20 to 30 years the education of Palestinian women in Israel has gone up. Instead of leaving school at the average age of 13 or 14, they are finishing high school now. Interestingly, we are seeing a drop in the birth rates. So, the whole society is changing and I work with a lot

of them in peace movements and human rights organizations. The women in occupied Palestine, I think, have the hardest life possible.

They have to fight both for their rights in an Arab Muslim society and against the occupation. I think they are doing the most courageous work possible.

You are a leftist living under an extreme rightist Zionist government. The government of Benjamin Netanyahu is, in fact, against any leftist movement in Israel. Does that threaten you or put you in danger?

The whole society has moved to the right and the numbers are astounding. We just

had poles three months ago. Only 18-20 percent call themselves leftists, both radical and moderate leftists, so the left is gone. It’s not there anymore. The country is becoming less and less democratic. Now that being said, I don’t think any of us is in danger. Some people leave, some continue fighting, and some people internalize things and stop being a part of the fight. I do think that it’s becoming harder and harder to be a leftist in Israel. Just two weeks ago a government committee decided that they are going to close the politics and government department in Beer Sheva University because it’s a “leftist department”. We never had those things. So, yes, things are getting unbearable, but, and I say this cynically, I don’t think there is any danger to any of us because we are Jews. Jews don’t do anything to other

Jews, even though, yes, they assassinated Rabin. But I think its unpleasant being a leftist in Israel today. It is not dangerous just unpleasant. Nothing that any

of us undergoes can be compared to what the Palestinians undergo. So, yes, I have a harder time getting an article on the newspaper but so what? Or people are saying that some of us aren’t getting promotions in the university. I am not even sure that is correct. During demonstrations, the police are more violent or more brutal, fine. But still, when we go to demonstrations against the wall if they arrest two Israelis and two Palestinians, the two Israelis are let go that evening and the Palestinians go in for demonstrative detention for several weeks or several months. It’s not pleasant being a leftist in Israel, but it’s a good fight! And Palestinians are the ones who are getting the brunt of the Israeli occupation.

There’s an argument that says “not every Palestinian is born to be a freedom fighter, but every Israeli is born to be a soldier.” How does that make you feel? Every Israeli is going to the army and possibly killing Palestinians. I’m a Palestinian, you’re sitting here with me and

I have never held a gun in my life. That’s a huge difference between Palestinians and Israelis. As a leftist feminist looking for gender equality in the Israeli army, does that support your argument or make it harder for you as a supporter of Palestinians?

One of the reasons I

think we are a cursed society is that we are a military society. You know, when I was a child, people used to say that we had no option but to defend ourselves. Today we’re a military society, we idolize the army and I think it makes a perverse society. I think we can explain it. I don’t justify it but I can explain it. Jews always say that we are posttraumatic. We are posttraumatic and dramatized all the time. It is a paranoid society and I think it’s a very troubled society but the militaristic part of it just adds on to. I’m not saying that we don’t need an army, a defense army, but there is a distance between being a defense army and being an occupying force, of what we have become. We don’t need mandatory military service anymore. If you made it a professional army like in the United States we

could do just as well. There’s no reason, as you said, to have every baby born being a soldier.

How do you see the Palestinian progress in the United Nations?

I thought that last year’s activity in the UN was brilliant. If the Security Council is so skewed and so biased, America is never going to vote for Palestine becoming a member, so go differently. There are other ways to do it and I think what they were planning for this year is brilliant. Palestine is in UNESCO now; it did make it into UNESCO which might be the start of becoming a full member in the UN.

Do you think it will solve the conflict?

No, but it will make progress. Palestine is a society and not a state perhaps, but a community that is recognized. The only thing that will solve the conflict is Israel getting out of those territories.



 **Gündem**

PUBLISHER
On behalf of Eastern Mediterranean University,
Rector Prof. Dr. Abdullah Y. Öztoprak

COMMITTEE OF ADVISORS
Prof. Dr. Süleyman İrvan
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hanife Aliefendioğlu
Assist. Prof. Dr. Pembe Behçetoğulları
Assist. Prof. Dr. Metin Ersoy

EDITOR
Ayça Atay
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Mert Yusuf Özlük
GRAPHIC DESIGN
Mehmet Balyemez

CONTRIBUTORS
Yazan Albarahma
Hussein Alrajab
Abtin Badie
Nmezi Onyedikachi Uzozie

Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies
Tel: 0392 630 16 42
E-mail: gundem@emu.edu.tr
Printed at EMU Printing House