

Diyar Consortium  
Paul VI St. 109, Bethlehem  
Tel: +970 2 2770047  
Fax: +970 2 2770048  
Email: info@diyar.ps



DiyarConsortium



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Diyar Productions

[www.diyar.ps](http://www.diyar.ps)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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# FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

Salaam from Bethlehem. The year 2014 was another remarkable year for Diyar despite facing major political difficulties. The 2014 summer war on Gaza affected the morale and productivity of our staff as they witnessed the destruction of an important part of our country with over 2,500 people killed and 10,000 persons injured. The tourism sector was also strongly hit by the war, which resulted in wide group cancelations and severe drop in the local income generated by our tourism programs, especially the restaurant, guesthouse and tours, which forced us to let go of 10% of our staff. The Israeli withholding of the Palestinian tax money also affected the number of registered students, causing it to drop as many did not have the financial resources necessary to pay even the low but required tuition fees.



The good news, however, were plenty. A major accomplishment during 2014 was the inauguration of two new buildings on DAK compound: The Cultural Heritage and Community Development Building and the Indoor Sports Hall, the second biggest in the West Bank. These two new facilities will help us consolidate our Tourism Studies' programs as well as our outreach initiatives and efforts to the community.

New projects and partnerships were also formed in 2014: "Portraits of Palestine" with the World Bank through QIF, "The Future of the Past" with the Euro-Mediterranean Network, "Social Transformation through Youth Media" with Otto Per Mille, and "Made in Palestine" with FELM and NCA.

The innovative work of the Civic Engagement program continued to place Diyar on the national and international maps of civil society work: Diyar launched its first national campaign on youth unemployment entitled "My Right" while one of its projects, the "Diyar Civic Cultural Network", was shortlisted for the 2014 Nelson Mandela-Graça Machel Innovation Award in South Africa.

The "Religion and State" project reached new heights with the launching of the regional document "From the Nile to the Euphrates: The Call of Faith and Citizenship" and by creating "The Christian Academic Forum for Citizenship in the Arab World" (CAFCAW) with scholars from 24 universities in the Middle East.

Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture grew as the address for art and art collections. We purchased the largest embroidery collection in Palestine from Ms. Vivi Siniora, which is exhibited at the Cultural Heritage and Community Development Building, while the Armenian Palestinian artist Lucy Janjigian donated her painting collection called "Palestinian" to the University College.

The year 2014 also witnessed the largest media coverage ever in our history with national, regional and international media outlets, including two films in connection with the FIFA World Cup.

Diyar continues to defy the hopelessness and despair with programs designed to empower our community to creatively resist the Occupation, and communicating the human story and aspirations of our people for abundant living. Diyar continues to be a success story because of its vision, mission, its members, board, staff, friends and supporters. Their commitment makes all the difference. We thank the lord for that.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb  
President  
2014

# Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture

The year 2014 was a year of expansion of the premises, as the second building The Cultural Heritage and Community Development Building was dedicated and became operational in September 2014.

The University College has also expanded its course and program offerings and applied for 6 new programs in the fields of its specializations.

In addition, the University College held its fifth graduation ceremony, with 69 students graduating, during September 2014.

## Cultural Heritage and Tourism Studies

### *Culinary Art Program (CA)*

- Two cooking courses were held in January and February 2014 by Ms. Melanie Henn, the German expert sent by the GIZ, namely: (1) Vegetarian and Vegan Food and (2) Breads.
- The manual for the field training section was completed in April 2014. It will be used for the students training in hotels and restaurants.
- The Culinary Arts students and instructors participated in the Palestinian Art Festival, organized by Bright Stars of Bethlehem in the

United States, in September 2014. They visited several cities and prepared traditional Palestinian food, accompanied by live presentations for those attending the different activities.

- DAK hosted a French chef for three weeks in September 2014. The chef taught in the Culinary Arts program and conducted a course in "French Desserts" for the local experts, cooks and assistant cooks.
- The Culinary Arts instructors participated in the competition "Young Chefs of Palestine" and in the workshop "Effective Pedagogy of the Teaching of the Culinary Arts Training Modules."
- As part of the EU project "Culinary Art Development in Bethlehem", the instructors participated in several workshops for curricula development.



### *Palestinian Tour Guides Program (PTG)*

- The PTG program became a major partner in the project "Future of the Past." The project has as its main objective the creation of a systemic approach to the knowledge, protection, management, tourist valorisation and enforcement of those Historical Centres (HC) of the Mediterranean countries involved, which for their peculiarities and specificity, have become centers of tourist and economic development, deserving, in some cases, to be included in UNESCO World Heritage List. The project aims at sharing among Mediterranean countries (Italy: Lazio, Basilicata, Campania, Egypt/Alexandria, Spain/Còrdoba, Malta/Malta, Palestinian Authority/Bethlehem, Tunisia/Monastir, Lebanon/Beirut) a cross-border model of socio-economic cooperation, focusing on the realization and promotion of management and tourist valorisation plans of cultural and environmental heritage of specific HC in order to strengthen and qualify their tourist usability.

As part of the project, several training sessions were offered for the stakeholders in the tourism sector to develop together a sustainable tourism development plan for the historical center of Bethlehem. This plan will be applied by all partners such as the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Bethlehem Municipality, Bethlehem Governorate, the Tour Operators, the Tour Guides Union and the Arab Hotel Association.

- The partnership with the Tourism Department at the University in Eberswalde continued for the second year. In May, a delegation from DAK consisting of Dr. Nuha Khoury, Judy Bandak, Sami Backleh and four students visited the partner university. During that visit, two workshops were held: The first on the BA curricula development and the second on teaching methods. The delegation visited also different tourism companies. In November, a delegation from the partner university and the film production team “Silberstern” from Bavaria visited us. Together with the Guiding and the Documentary Film students, the German film team produced a short

film on Solomon’s Pools to promote the place as a tourist destination.



## Success Story

The “Sahari Training” was accomplished in July 2014. A group of Bedouin youth was trained to be tour guides for the Jerusalem Wilderness region. A special training was designed for this target group for 6 months and was funded by the UNRWA.

## Visual Arts

### Projects

- Funded by the World Bank through QIF, DAK launched the project “Portraits of Palestine”. The overall vision and goal of this project is to empower and equip young students with the needed skills and linkages that can help them, through getting employment, to have an active role and contribute to the variety and quality of the local media and film production so as to reflect a positive image of Palestine. The “Portrait of Palestine” project aims to upgrade the curriculum of the “Documentary Film Production” diploma program. As part of the project, an academic

meeting was held in Amman, Jordan, between May 27 – 29, 2014 to review the audio-visual academic studies in five Arab countries and to strengthen the network between DAK and each one of them. The five institutions are:

- Zayed University, in Abu-Dhabi, UAE
- Zayed University, in Dubai, UAE
- Notre Dame University, Beirut, Lebanon
- American University in Cairo, Egypt
- The Royal Film Commission, Amman, Jordan

Another component of the project was an assessment study done on media and film production in Palestine, in addition to a 3-day workshop held in Jericho to update DAK faculty on modified “Film and Television Professions” curriculum from August 11 – 13, 2014.

- The “**Made in Palestine**” Project, funded by NCA and FELM, to establish a cooperative called “Made in Palestine” that focuses on silver and jewelry design and production by women.



- The Italian Otto per Mille project **“Social Transformation through Youth Media”**. Ten films were produced by young directors ( 5 fiction films and 5 documentary films).

### Visiting Artists

- Iraqi artist **Mr. Sina Ata** was a visiting artist and lecturer during winter 2014. Sina Ata taught three courses and contributed to the artistic discourse at the department.
- American artist and professor **Dr. George Rivera** from the University of Colorado- Boulder was at DAK from August 14 – 28, 2014. He supervised a 3-day workshop and curated the exhibition “Mahmud Darwish: An Art Homage to a Poet of Resistance” at DAK gallery. The opening was on August 26, 2014. His visit was supported by the Fulbright Program.
- **Ms. Inger Jonasson** supervised a water color symposium from April 6 – 16 with 15 Swedish artists and students from contemporary art departments. They painted in Sabastia/Nablus,

Tiberius, Jerusalem, Mar Saba, Makhrou/Beit Jala and Beit-Sahour.

- British filmmaker **Mr. Aaqil Ahmed**, Commissioning Editor of Religion and Head of Religion & Ethics at BBC, gave a master class for the film students on his work and department at the BBC on October 30, 2014.

### Study Tours

In cooperation with the Iraqi Business Council DAK offered two courses in **“Art for Social Change”** in Amman in 2014.

- The first course was from January 21 – 28, with five student participants from the Contemporary Fine Art program. The course was around the theme “The City”. The students did photography and paintings.
- The second course was from August 30 to September 5, 2014. Six students from the Documentary Film Production program participated and did photography works around the theme “Beginning and End”. Three young

Iraqi students from the Fine Art Academy in Baghdad joined this course. An exhibition was held after each course in Amman, attended by representatives from the Iraqi Embassy and a large group of people interested in the arts.



### Residencies

Residency opportunities for students and graduates in different places were available in 2014. These residencies included:

- Art residency for two students in Denmark (January – June).
- In cooperation with and financial support from Diocese of Lund, a scholarship was granted for a graduate from the Contemporary Fine Art

diploma program, to study for one academic year, 2014 – 2015, at the Glimåkra Folkhögskola.

### Success story

The film “Burhan Kashour” by the student Muhammad al-Fateh Abu Snineh received the award for Best Documentary in the Zayed University Middle East Film Festival. This is the third year in a row that a DAK student receives an award at this festival.

### Performing Arts

#### Music Performance Program

In cooperation with Kuopio Conservatoire and Savonia University, a project entitled **“Strength for Development through Culture”** was launched to support DAK in offering advanced education in music through exchange of teachers, students and know-how. The core of the project is the so-called “training of trainers” aimed at developing the capacity of the music faculty at DAK. Several exchange visits took

place between teachers and administrators at both universities in 2014, thus strengthening the ties between Finland and Palestine.

### Curricula Development and Applying for New Programs

The following programs were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Higher Education for accreditation:

- BA in Cultural and Sustainable Tourism
- BA in Graphic Design for Branding & Marketing
- BA in Product Design
- BA in Performing Arts
- BA in Sports Sciences
- A Diploma in Hospitality and Fine Dining

### Dar al Kalima Library in Numbers!

#### 2014 Acquisitions :

665	Number of books acquired in 2014
46	Number of reference books acquired in 2014
27	Number of films acquired in 2014

By end of 2014 the total number of acquisitions at the library reached **7284 items**



### Numbers of Students in 2014

Program	Winter 2014	Summer 2014	Fall 2014
Visual Arts Department	122	19	121
Tourism Studies Department	87	52	108
Performing Arts Department	17	1	22



# Religion and State II

The Religion and State program was launched in its first phase by Diyar in 2008 with the aim of creating a healthier relationship between “Religion” and “State” in the Middle East in pursuit of assuring the human dignity and improving the quality of life of the peoples of the region.

The objective for 2014 and Phase II of the program has been to produce a document that would serve as the framework for the project’s overall goal “to insure a future where ALL citizens enjoy freedom, equality, justice, a higher quality of life and full human dignity.” Therefore, in 2014, having identified 10 critical issues facing the region, we concentrated on bringing the experience and expertise of Christian academics (professors, university students and graduates) to bear on those issues.

Five major events were held to fulfill the 2014 strategic plan that was worked out earlier:

- **A Joint Conference for Christian Youth** was held in Amman, Jordan, 23 – 25 January, bringing together some 50 young women and men, ages 20 to 35, plus some highly regarded leaders and mentors from Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria and Iraq, to consider the theme : “*Toward a Youthful Vision for the Future of the Middle East.*” Guided by the leaders, the youth identified some of the pivotal changes that have occurred in their societies during the recent period.
- **A “Think Tank” Leadership Conference** was called together during 27 – 29 April. The purpose of this conference was essentially to work toward

the production of a unique framework document that would spell out the major issues that face the region today, with an analysis of the root causes, and an effective plan to address those issues from within an authentic Middle Eastern contextual theology for the public sphere.

- **A Second Think Tank Leadership Conference** was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 11 – 14 June. This second conference in the 2014 series had a three-part agenda:
  - a. Conducting a critical discussion of the first draft of the Document that was prepared and circulated since the previous conference;
  - b. Hearing situation reports and studies of the Arab world, including those published by the United Nations, presentations by a number of young persons specially invited to be part of this process, the status of conflicts, war and peace and the role of academia in peace building, and an inventory of Arab Christian websites – especially those pertaining to the youth’s engagement in society;
  - c. Developing the strategic plan for continuing the work before us.

- **A Third Think Tank Leadership Conference**, held also in Istanbul, 16 – 18 July, sitting now as the proposed “forum,” considered the launching of this entity, approved it formally and discussed possible names. It settled on “Christian Academic Forum for Citizenship in the Arab World” – CAFCAW, and recommended opening it for wider membership.
- **A Conference on “Middle East Christians and the Public Sphere”** was organized and took place in Beirut, Lebanon, from 3 – 5 December, and was attended by 45 persons, from Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia/ USA. In this conference, the Document entitled “From the Nile to the Euphrates: The Call of Faith and Citizenship” was endorsed and launched. The document has 4 parts. The first part is an introduction to the background of the document, its authors, target group and genre. Here, the document understands itself being a document of “Public Theology”. The second part highlights the ten most challenging issues for the region. The third part highlights the “Christian, Human,



and National Role” of the Christians in the Arab World, while the last part is a contextualized text of the creed, highlighting commitments that stem out of the Christian faith.

#### Success Story

The outcome of the year’s activities, as described below, has produced the document entitled “From the Nile to the Euphrates: The Call of Faith and Citizenship.” It is noteworthy that, to our knowledge, this is the First Middle Eastern Public Theology Document to be formulated. As a vehicle for the next stage, a “Christian Academic Forum for Citizenship in the Arab World” (CAFCAW), was established. It will invite eligible persons to become members; and its membership will remain open for further growth. During Phase III (2015 and 2016), CAFCAW will have a leading role in carrying out this movement.



# The Civic Engagement Program

The year 2014 witnessed four significant developments in the Civic Engagement Program, which led to a further strengthening and impact of this important work on the Palestinian youth, and enhanced the overall visibility and mission of Diyar, both locally and internationally. The major highlights in 2014 were the following:

## **1. Organizing a national campaign on youth unemployment entitled "My Right" with multiple, creative activities.**

The young members of the Civic Cultural Network organized themselves around an issue that they

considered to be critical to their future, which is unemployment. It was a first for Diyar at large to run an advocacy national campaign, which proved to be a worthy undertaking.

By working on this campaign, the process of having the Palestinian youth become agents of social change has begun as it provided a platform for all of the network's members to be collectively engaged in, and to put to



use their acquired skills in a democratic way. They became more politicized, articulate and vocal about their rights as youth, and they acquired further understanding of the political and lobbying process. This enhanced political understanding was strongly reflected during the elections day when candidates nominated themselves to become members of the network's advisory committee.



It also opened the doors for many as they came into contact with financial institutions such as banks, governmental bodies such as the Palestinian Ministry of Labor, private sector such as the chambers of commerce and others. Also, by becoming members

of this national network, space was provided for networking among each other. As a result, we witnessed a surge in employment for 60.28% of the network's members are now employed (and this percentage does not include those who are still students); and although there is no precise figure to how many were employed before joining the network, but feedback and initial information suggest a 25% increase.

Finally, we saw an enhanced visibility of the young people and consequently gaining access and presence within the public sphere. Their visibility took on different forms, particularly in the local media as no less than 100 media coverage were made (written, audio-visual and web) with many young people speaking to journalists, reporters and writers.

The advocacy efforts and campaign activities were plenty, and were divided across the districts that were represented by the young members. These activities included distribution of "My Right" campaign poster and "Support Palestinian Products" flyer, sit-ins, summer camps awareness-raising

sessions, mural painting, schools workshops, petition and meeting with the Palestinian Ministry of Labor representatives, bicycle marathon, and "My Right To Work" Career Day.

## **2. Finalizing the structure of the national youth network, the Diyar Civic Cultural Network.**

In a two-day conference, elections of the Civic Cultural Network's advisory committee and the ratification of its internal regulations took place. This activity was critical for the sustainability of the network as its structure and operations became more defined and organized. There were 24 young people elected as members of the advisory committee, representing different geographical areas to ensure a smoother management of the network's operations.



## **3. Holding a Cultural Day to promote the Civic Cultural Creativity Competition artistic productions.**

The Cultural Day constituted a major forum for the artistic productions that were created by the winners of the Civic Cultural Creativity Competition in 2012 and 2013. This activity was important because new audiences, including new youth groups, were exposed to the creativity of these young people who were able to artistically articulate a significant civil society issue.



## **Success Story**

### ***The "Diyar Civic Cultural Network" project becoming a finalist in the 2014 Nelson Mandela-Graça Machel Innovation Award***

The "Diyar Civic Cultural Network" project was nominated for the 2014 Nelson Mandela-Graça Machel Innovation Award in South Africa. This award, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, is granted by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, which is an international alliance and network of organizations that spans the spectrum of civil society, with currently more than 1100 members (organizations and individuals) from all over the world who support its work.

By being in the finals of such a prestigious award with an innovative civil society initiative placed Diyar on the international map of civil society work. Among hundreds of nominations from different countries, the Diyar Civic Cultural Network was selected and shortlisted among 6 finalists in the category of organization. This in itself was truly a great honor, as the initiative competed against other worthy projects from countries such as Syria, Cameroon, Pakistan and Nigeria.





# Ajyal Elderly Care Program

Ajyal Elderly Care Program continued to provide quality services for its members and to create space for hope and healing for the elderly. It is based on the Faith Community Nursing framework, and unlike traditional dependency models, it has a proactive nature that explores the contributing potential of the elderly in Palestine.

The main program highlights in 2014 were the following:

- **A Workshop on Alzheimer's Disease:** In cooperation with the MOST (Mission Opportunities Short Term) Ministries, the Ajyal program implemented a 3-day workshop on Alzheimer's disease in Bethlehem From June 5-7, 2014.

Nurses, social workers and care givers from several senior care and rehabilitation centers as well as elderly homes in the Bethlehem district participated in this workshop. The focus was on discussing the effects and consequences of the Alzheimer's disease on patients and their close relatives, and offering a detailed account on how to cope with this life-altering disease.

- **Drama Productions:** Drama is an important component in the Ajyal program because we strongly believe that it has the power to transform lives and is a powerful tool for lifelong learning. As such, there were two theater plays produced in 2014. The first one was "**Me & My Grandma!**", which is also mentioned in the Diyar

Academy for Children & Youth's annual report, as it was a joint work between the two programs. "**Me & My Grandma!**" was comprised of three sketches: *Born Blind*, which is an adaptation of CS Lewis' *A Man Born Blind*; *Three Questions*, an adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's *Three Questions*; and *The Gatekeepers*, which is inspired by Franz Kafka's *Before the Law*. All three sketches were directed by Elizabeth Malone from Compass Theater Company, who was also responsible for the adaptation of the first two sketches and the writing of the last one.

The second theater play entitled "Inheritance" was produced and performed on Mother's Day in March 2014. It addressed a very sensitive topic within the Palestinian community, which is women's right to inheritance.

- **International Group Visits:** There were two main group visits in 2014. They came to help with the Ajyal program, particularly in raising awareness of important health issues. The first group was from the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minnesota, led

by Rev. Beth Warpmaeker, who visited us in April. During this visit, many important topics were presented including Palliative Care, Osteoporosis Disease and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The second group was the Parish Nurse group from the US, who make this visit in November of each year. The main aim of these visits is to provide basic medical services to the Ajyal elderly members. In 2014, the elderly learned about Atrial fibrillation, which is an abnormal rhythm of the heart, and were also trained on how to do a breast self-exam.



# Azwaj Program

With the vision of creating stronger and healthier family relationships, the young couples program Azwaj continued to serve many committed families from the Bethlehem area. The main highlights of this program in 2014 were the following:

- **“Psychological and Mental Health” Educational Series:** The main educational theme of 2014 was on the psychological and mental health, and as such many awareness-raising sessions and workshops were given over the course of the year. The topics given as part of this educational series were: stress and ways to reduce it, recognizing and responding to stress in teens, emotional eating, five simple rules for a happy life, television & obesity, self-esteem, parent/child relationship challenges, and depression.

- **Celebrate Recovery Initiative:** Celebrate Recovery is an amazing tool for healing life’s small and large wounds. It is essentially a recovery program that started at Saddleback Church in California and now is in 20,000 churches in the US and 50 other countries. It is a powerful tool to heal “big” struggles like drug dependency, sexual addiction and abuse. Likewise, it is effective in dealing with smaller struggles such as anger issues, poor boundaries and stress. It is confidential and specifically formatted to fit Palestinian context.

Although this initiative introduced a new concept into Palestine, it has been greatly welcomed by many people who have shown an unconditional and extraordinary commitment to it. The

initiative was launched in October 2014 with a three-day workshop that included 16 persons. By the end of December, it expanded to include 90 people from the Azwaj program, the Ajyal Elderly Care program and a group of independent women who heard about Celebrate Recovery and wanted to be part of it.





# Fit For Life Project

The progress of the Fit for Life project continued into its third and final year. There were several major achievements, which included:

- 24 women from Al-Walaja, Dar Salah and Beit Fajjar villages were trained in exercise, nutrition and women's and psychological health, graduating with a certificate that qualifies them as physical fitness trainers.
- Fit for Life Initiative, through the women trainers, worked with 468 women in their communities. Various segments of women were targeted, including a large number of teenagers and elderly women.
- In addition to the two main villages of Beit Fajjar and Dar Salah, the physical exercises

and nutritional counseling extended to the neighboring villages, including al-Khader, Bateer, Husan, al-Khas al-Nu'man and Im Salamona.

- Fit for Life's activities expanded to include fitness programs, health education, nutrition counseling, stress management and relaxation classes, and life coaching techniques.
- The women trainers demonstrated tremendous personal and professional growth; they are continuously improving the quality of training sessions by learning and applying new techniques.
- The results showed a significant improvement in women's health and nutritional awareness. The majority of the beneficiaries, 96% to be exact, reported monitoring their bodies for changes on a monthly basis. Increased positive body-

image, confidence and enhanced self-esteem were also reported. Women's empowerment within these communities were also enhanced as, for example, 71% reported that more women activities were now held in the villages and 91% felt supported by their communities in leading a physically active life.

- Enhanced networking efforts with various organizations such as the Civil Defense, Bethlehem University, Red Crescent and many other health institutions.

## *Success Stories*

- Four trainers from Beit Fajjar and Dar Salah opened their own sports centers in their villages. They are utilizing and applying the knowledge and experience they gained from the Fit for Life initiative successfully and effectively.
- The Dar Salah Center opened a certified kindergarten for children. The project's local coordinator is now the head principal of this nursery school, while two other women trainers are current teachers.
- Two trainers in Beit Fajjar are managing a local school's cafeteria. They are promoting and serving healthy and organic food to the students.

# Diyar Academy for Children and Youth

The Diyar Academy for Children and Youth continued its growth and expansion in 2014, with highly successful programs and activities in its theater and dance, sports and art schools. The highlights of 2014 were the following:

## The Theater & Dance School

### *Students Creative Labs*

The creative labs expose the students to the essential elements of theater and dance and allow them to create a production from the ground up. The following productions were made in 2014:

- **“Fed Up”**: Students from the youngsters’ drama group produced a comedy play entitled “Fed Up”, in March 2014. They wrote their own scripts that were based on personal stories, which dealt with important socio-economic and political issues that are of concern to the Palestinian youth.



- **“Me & My Grandma!”**: This play was a joint work between the Diyar Academy for Children and Youth, the Ajyal Elderly Care Program, and Compass Theater Company. Produced in June, the play provided a medium for each generational performer to see the other in a new light and to celebrate the insight of both the young and old.



## *Theater & Dance Productions*



- **“Boesman & Lena”**: The “Boesman & Lena” play, by South African playwright Athol Fugard, was the fourth major theater production of Diyar Dance Theater and the first piece comprised solely of actors. It describes a harrowing dramatic journey through a single night in the life of a homeless “colored” couple in South Africa during the time of ruthless Apartheid. The play, produced in June, was directed by Joe Martin, a playwright, author, director and a senior lecturer in theater at Johns Hopkins University.

- **“Selfie with Grandma & Grandpa!”:** This was a 50-minute Christmas theater play for children performed during the Christmas season 2014. The play aimed to educate children about the values of family, respect, tolerance and equality through the spirit of Christmas and the Santa Claus character.



### ***International Tours and Intercultural Exchanges***

The Diyar Dance Theater participated in August 2014 in the International Cultural Folk Dance Festival in Sidi Bel Abbas, Algeria. Also, four of its members

participated in a week-long exchange visit to Poland in September with two Polish institutions, namely the Youth Academy of Culture and the Vector of Culture Association. Finally, Diyar Dance Theater participated in an exchange project together with Lidicehaus Bremen and Dee Loopers Dance Company in October in Bremen, Germany. The project aimed at creating an artistic work entitled “Boundless”, which was shown both in Bremen and Köln.

## **The Sports School**

### ***The Under-16 Girls Championship***

Diyar Girls Soccer Team participated in the Palestinian Football Association’s Under-16 Girls Championship from October to December 2014. It became the Palestinian champion, defeating over 12 other girl teams from different cities in the West Bank. It is the second year to win this championship.

### ***The Diyar Summer Sports Camps for Girls***

The Diyar Summer Sports Camps for Girls reached out to 115 girls in 2014, whose ages ranged between 7

to 14 years old and they came from different localities including marginalized areas such as the surrounding villages, refugee camps and area C. The activities of the summer sports camps consisted of intensive athletic training in soccer and basketball, social leadership sessions, recreational activities and a final day tournament where four other teams from the Bethlehem district were invited to engage in friendly competitive games.



### ***Success Story***

Diyar Theater Week

The Diyar Theater Week took place in Bethlehem in October 2014, with an attendance of more than 2000 people. It was a festival designed to showcase the Palestinian artistic productions and creativity through different art mediums including theater plays, dance performances and music concerts. It hosted seven performances by different theater and dance companies from the Bethlehem region.

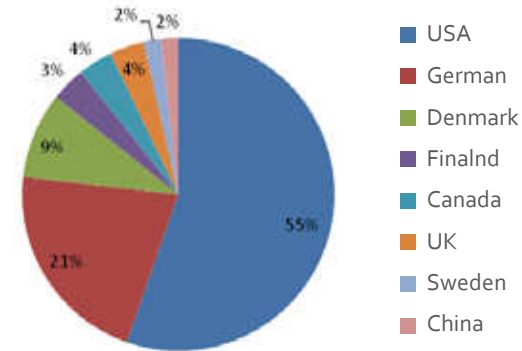
# Authentic Tourism Program

## Authentic Tourism Groups:

Due to the 2014 summer war on Gaza, we witnessed a dramatic drop in the number of groups staying at the Abu Jubran Guest House compared to the number of groups in 2013. In total, we received 28 groups from Australia, Germany, Sweden, Norway and USA. They were accommodated at Abu Jubran Guest House for a total of 98 nights and 1430 meals from Illiyeh Restaurant. The total number of visitors was 475 persons, as the average group number was between 15 to 20 persons.

As for the number of groups who visited Diyar for a lecture or a tour, it is illustrated in the following chart:

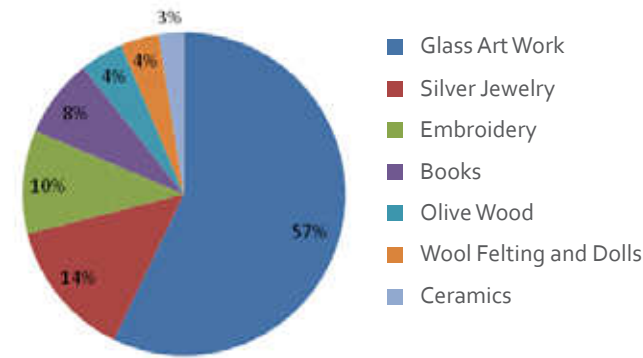
Group Visits during 2014



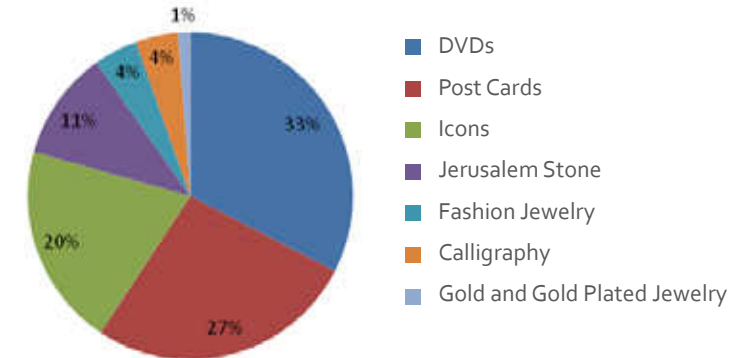
We received **149** groups from the United States, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Canada, UK, Sweden, China, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The total number of visitors was **3288** persons for the year 2014.

# Gift Shop Sales for 2014

Best Sales



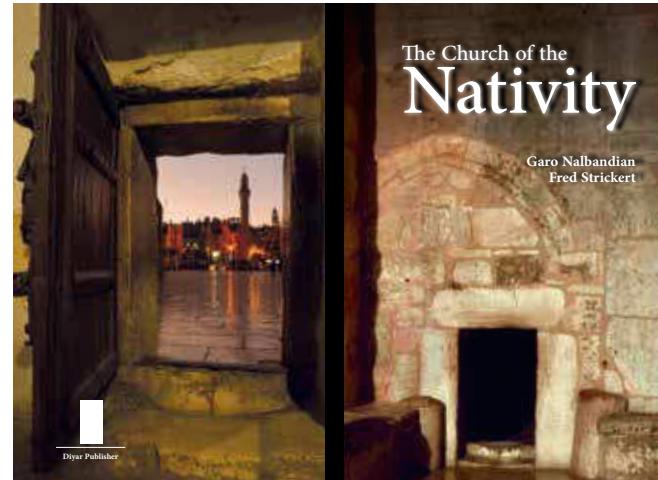
Other Sales



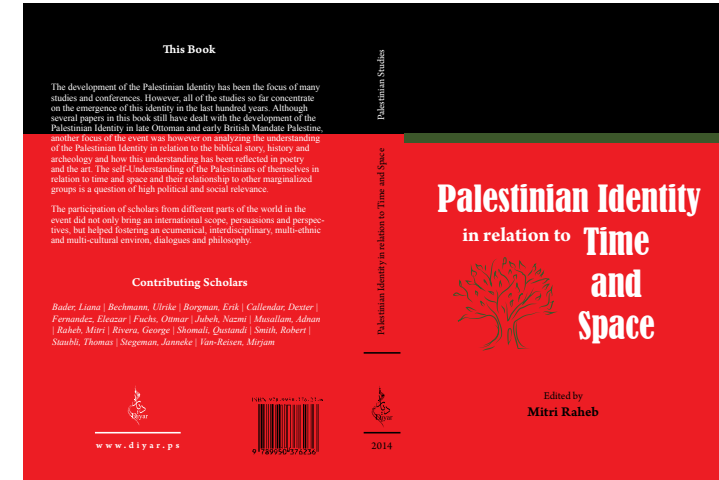


# Diyar Publisher

Five books were published by Diyar Publisher in 2014:



**The Church of the Nativity**  
By: Garo Nalbandian & Fred Strickert  
Language: English



**Palestinian Identity in relation to Time and Space**  
Edited by: Mitri Raheb  
Language: English

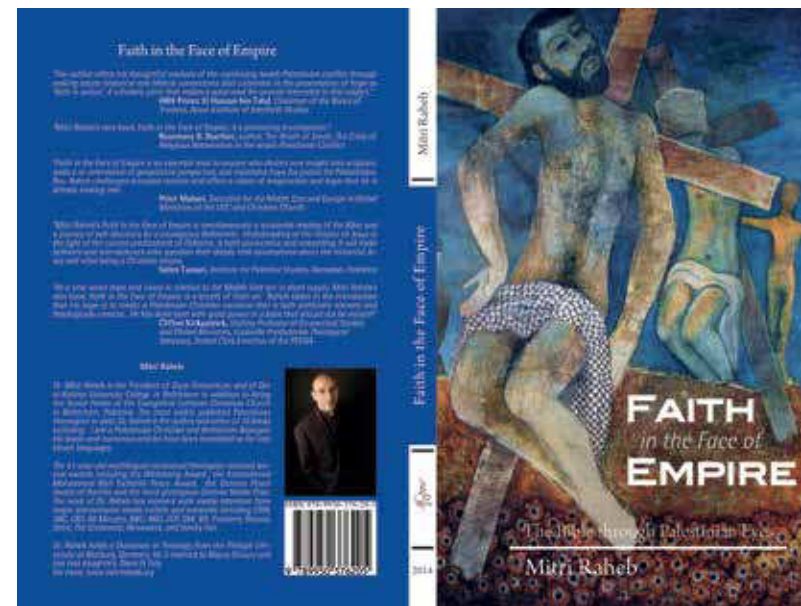


**Beit Sahour: Biographies**  
By: Michael Rishmawi  
Language: Arabic





**Palestine: Land, People, Identity – A Photography Book**  
By: Iyas Abu Rahmeh  
Language: Arabic and English



**Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible through Palestinian Eyes**  
By: Mitri Raheb  
Language: English, German, Swedish, Danish and Dutch.

## Success Story

Publishers Weekly listed “Faith in the Face of Empire” as one of the best books of 2014. Only 20 books from the religion category made it to the top list, and Raheb’s book was one of them.

Amazon ranked “Faith in the Face of Empire” as #1 best seller in the category of Liberation Theology books and one of the top 10 in Middle Eastern issues.

For Orbis books, NY, “Faith in the Face of Empire” was #1 best seller among all their books published in 2014.

The book has been translated so far into languages: Danish, German, Swedish, and Dutch.

# Media Coverage

Media coverage in 2014 brought Diyar into the spotlight in the local media. To begin with, there were 132 written news reports published during the year: 64 reports were published in Al-Quds daily Newspaper, 66 reports in Al-Ayyam daily Newspaper, and 2 reports in Al-Hayat newspaper.

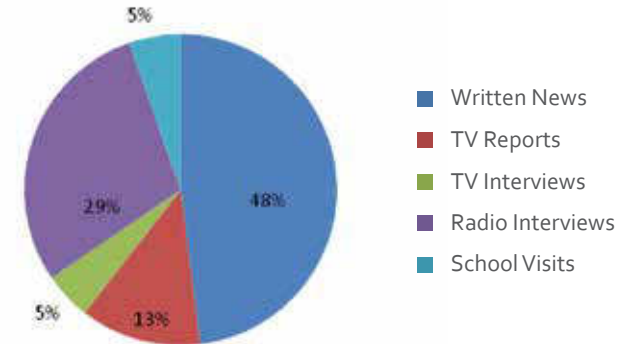
In addition, 11 television interviews were aired on satellite TV channels: 8 interviews were aired on Ma'an Network TV, 2 on the Palestinian Satellite Channel, and 1 interview was aired on Al-Hurrah Satellite Channel.

As well, 28 television news reports were made on Diyar: 13 reports were made by Ma'an Network TV, 6 reports were made by the Palestine Satellite Channel, 5 reports were made by the Palestinian News Network

PNN, 2 were made by Watan Palestinian TV, 1 report was made by Aram TV, and 1 report was made by Al Mayadeen Arab World Satellite TV Channel.

There were also 65 radio interviews during 2014: 19 interviews were aired on Radio Bethlehem 2000, 8 interviews on Mawwal radio station in Bethlehem, 7 interviews on Baladna Radio in Bethlehem, 19 interviews on Al-Nisa' radio station in Ramallah, 1 interview on Sawa Middle Eastern radio station, and 11 interviews on many other radio stations.

## Media and Visibility



## Launching New Websites

Diyar and Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture launched new websites with new features in 2014. These websites accommodate the new technologies, especially since both are mobile-friendly with an easy access to all the features. Both websites are in Arabic and English.



# Construction Projects

We celebrated in 2014 the inauguration of two new buildings. They were:

## The Dar Al-Kalima Indoor Sports Hall

On March 2, the Dar al-Kalima Indoor Sports Hall was inaugurated. The 1,500 square-meter sports hall offers space to soccer, basketball and volleyball teams, as well as tennis and handball players. It is the largest indoor sports facility in the Bethlehem district and second largest in Palestine. To help launch this unique hall, the six-time Olympic medalist, Canadian speed skater Cindy Klassen took part. She also participated in a symposium entitled “Empowering Women through Sports”, held during the official opening, with several local Palestinian women sports figures and role models.



## Facts & Figures!

400	Seats, sports equipment and score board, goals and nets in the indoor sports hall. All Italian made, approved and recommended by FIFA. The chairs are also fire proof and FIFA certified.
1300	Square meters of sports hall special flooring, marking and lining. Certificates and proofs from the manufacturers in the Netherlands that the flooring material is approved and recommended by FIFA and other sports organizations.
5	Multi sports that the flooring is suitable for, namely basketball, tennis, volleyball, soccer and handball.
36	Lighting fixtures Disano, Italy 400 W metal Halide, high bay with die cast aluminum. These fixtures are durable and energy savers.

- &
- Stone floor tiling of the pavement around the sports hall. All stone works are from local quarries.
  - Completed asphaltting the driveways and parking around the building.

The Cultural Heritage and Community Development Building

Inaugurated on May 30, the building is comprised of three finished floors with a total of 2,200 square meters of space. The building houses twelve offices to accommodate the staff of the Cultural Heritage and Community Development programs, in addition to a meeting room, three lecture halls, a teachers’ room and restrooms. As well, a-top-of-the-line training kitchen and all related facilities and infrastructure, including equipment, utensils and dining room for training are located on the second floor.

The building is equipped with VRV heating and air-conditioning; this system is environmentally friendly with low electricity consumption. Kitchen water is heated with solar panels, and there are good prospects for solar power for lighting, heating and air-conditioning.



Project Highlights:

2200	Square meters of total space.
16000	Blocks are used for external wall insulation and block partitioning.
1800	Square meters of wall and ceiling plastering.
160	Different windows are installed in the building to allow natural lighting and ventilation.
2600	Square meters of wall and ceiling paint.
3400	A total of working days for finishing the building.
10	Workers a day on average: each worker is responsible for a family of 5 persons from Bethlehem district.

Success Story

The inauguration of the Cultural Heritage and Community Development Building with a total of 2,200 square meters of space was a success story of the construction projects in the year 2014. This building hosts the largest embroidery collection in Palestine, collected by Ms. Vivi Siniora. Some pieces are approximately 200 years old.

# Culture Program

Diyar hosted a variety of cultural events in 2014, including theater plays, musical concerts, film screenings, festivals, conferences and workshops, book launchings and so on, even though it was a very difficult year for the Palestinians, politically-speaking, due to the summer war on Gaza.

The highlights of the Culture program in the year 2014 were as follows:

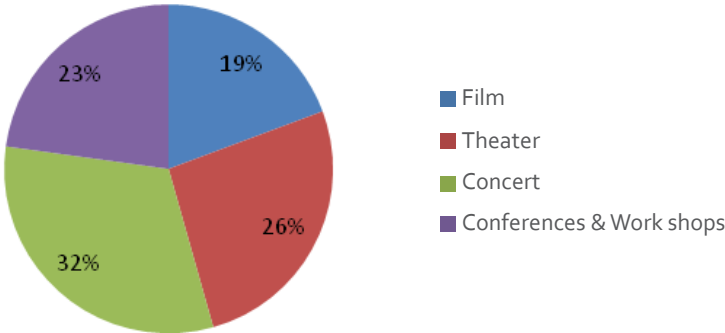
- Similar to the previous years and in cooperation with the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, we were delighted to host part of the “Saturdays in Music” festival, which was held from January to May 2014. It comprised of concerts ranging from classical to contemporary music. Some of these concerts included a

performance by the talented Palestinian musician Nai Barghouthi and a concert of “Peter and the Wolf”, performed by local and international musicians. A second festival was also held, which is the “Christmas Festival”, from November 2014 to January 2015.

- The Peacemaking Conference of the Presbyterian Church (USA) was held in Bethlehem during May 2014, with more than 100 participants from the USA who joined to learn more about the situation in Palestine.
- A performance from the Folkwang University of Arts in Germany was given, which was a dramatic collage on WWI by Gerold Theobalt, combining contemporary texts and music from the days of the First World War which broke out in Europe one hundred years ago. The trauma of this war

in all its terrible facets has been reflected by writers and artists of all affected countries and languages. The performance dealt with texts, poems and songs written by famous authors such as Erich Maria Remarque, Robert Musil, Stefan Zweig, Boris Pasternak, T.E. Lawrence, Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos and Robert Rolland. The storyline of this performance corresponds totally to the current global situation.

Events 2014



Events in Numbers

11	Film Screenings
15	Theater Plays
18	Concerts
13	Conferences & Workshops
57	Events in Grand Total



## *Special Thanks to...*

*Our friends, supporters  
and donors who believe  
in what we do, and to  
those who contributed  
directly or indirectly to  
our ministries.*

- AGEH
- Arab Bank
- Bethlehem Venner
- Bright Stars of Bethlehem
- Church of Sweden
- Churches Helping Churches
- DAAD
- Diakonia Austria
- EU – ENPI
- Ev. Missionwerk Hamburg
- FELM
- Foerderverein Bethlehem Dar al-Kalima Akademie
- Healing Across the Divide
- ICCO
- KARIBU
- KREDO
- LWF | CLWR – Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- Norwegian Church Aid
- Otto Per Mille
- PCUSA
- Pilgrims of Ibillin
- Presbyterian Foundation
- QIF – World Bank
- Sternenstaub
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland
- The Olof Palme International Center
- UCC | Disciples of Christ
- United Nations Office Geneva
- United Palestinian Appeal

*Diyar Consortium*