THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY
EDUCATION OF MEDICAL RESEARCHERS ACROSS THE BORDERS

Contributions to Global Health Research, Capacity Building and Governance
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The collaboration between the University of Oslo and Palestinian universities

Following the signing of the Oslo Interim Agreement between Palestinians and Israelis in 1993, the Norwegian Government decided to finance projects in research and higher education between Norwegian and Palestinian institutions
This resulted in un-interrupted cooperation from 1995 until now between the Department of General practice and Community Medicine/University of Oslo and Palestinian institutions, mainly Birzeit and Hebron Universities
Components

- Supporting research in the epidemiology of non-communicable diseases
- Occupational health
- General capacity building
Results

- 11 PhD students at the University of Oslo
- 9 master students
- Training of over 250 Palestinian and Norwegian researchers
Current, and former PhD students, and their supervisors
Results cont.

- The publication of more than 40 scientific articles and 21 reports
- Sustainable center for occupational health (Hebron university) and Epidemiology (Birzeit University)
- Possibility of developing a PhD program at Birzeit University
“Hope for improving the health and quality of life of Palestinians will exist only once people recognise that the structural and political conditions that they endure in the occupied Palestinian territory are the key determinants of population health.”
“With the help of international friends and collaborators, we can present ourselves positively to the world. We appeal to our friends around the world to work to remove the isolation of Palestinians, and to keep the occupied Palestinian territory connected to the world.”
"The denial of passage to Palestinian women in labour, resulting in increased numbers of childbirths at checkpoints and en route to the hospital, is consistent with the criteria for crimes against humanity."
The occupied Palestinian territory

Population in the WB=2.3 million
Area=5655 km²

46% of the population are less than 15 years

Population in GS=1.4 million
Area=365 km²
Palestinian cities, towns and villages on the West Bank

Illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land

Israeli military checkpoints

And the Separation Wall

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CROSSING TO REACH BASIC SERVICES AT GUNPOINT
THE SEPARATION WALL ON THE EDGE OF BETHLEHEM
SEPARATING PEOPLE FROM THEIR LAND
THE CONTRAST: LIVING IN OSLO
THE BEAUTIFUL NATURE
17th of MAY
MY SUPPORTIVE FAMILY
MY SUPERVISORS
PALESTINAIN FRIENDS IN NORWAY
The collaboration between the University of Oslo and the Palestinian universities resulted in significant and effective capacity building among Palestinians.

I had more good than bad and ugly experiences as a Palestinian PhD student in Oslo. Even the bad and the ugly helped me grow and become a better person and a better researcher.

And above all, the experience made me realize that not only Norwegians are very good people, but also made me understand the importance of cross cultural understanding and collaboration.