



Al-Quds Association for  
Democracy and Dialogue

מרכז פרס לשלום  
مركز بيرس للسلام  
The Peres Center For Peace



## **PASCH tournament Israel-Palestine 17-18/3/2011**

**The Peres Center for Peace and the Al-Quds association for Democracy and Dialogue** were asked to host the first PASCH football tournament in the Middle East. On March 17th and 18th, 2011 we organized the event, invited pupils from PASCH schools in the region to meet and play with youth from our **Twinned Peace Football Schools project**. The tournament was funded by the **German Federal Foreign Office** as part of its Sport and Foreign Policy initiative and implemented in cooperation with **streetfootballworld**.



The venue of the event was the Wingate Institute in Netanya – the Israeli sport academy, hosting all the 100 participants who took part in the 2 days event. The high quality of the facilities gave everyone a special feeling of the importance of the event and created a professional atmosphere. Having all the participants (9 teams of each 9 youth and adults) from both sides in the same place – playing, learning, eating, sleeping together – made it even more powerful than what we had imagined.



## The Teams:

**9 mixed-gender AND mixed nationality** (Israeli and Palestinian) football teams came together at the Wingate Institute with players, aged 14-18, to share the fun of competing in and experiencing a tournament together. The 9 teams of players were from diverse communities from Israel and Palestine:

### Israel:

Kiryat Gat (Peres center)

Yerucham (Peres center)

Merchavim (Peres center)

Ein Karem (Peres center)

Ein Raza (Peres center)

Ramle (Ramle High School - PASCH network)

### Palestine:

Bani Naim (Al-Quds)

Jericho (Al-Quds)

Yata (Al-Quds)

Samoa (Al-Quds)

Beit Lechem (Dir Kalima High School - PASCH network)

Beit Jala (Talita Kumi High School - PASCH network)

Beit Sahur (Dir Kalima High School - PASCH network)

East Jerusalem (Schmidt's Girls College - PASCH network)



A preparation meeting was organized and took place a week before the tournament at the event venue. All partners attended and were actively involved. All relevant information was given concerning the content and the logistics of the event. In the end we had an open discussion regarding the challenges and difficulties that we all faced and would face before, during and after the event.



## **The 1<sup>st</sup> day:**

After the opening ceremony all the kids took part in a big Ice breaking activity. During the activity they had the chance to meet new kids, interact with them and have fun together as a perfect start for the following workshops and tournament. The teams were mixed and split into 4 different teams which enjoyed 4 different workshops:

### **1. More ice-breaking activities**



### **2. German language and Culture**





### 3. Peace education









### 4. Football3 - Fair Play





## The 2<sup>nd</sup> day:

In the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> day, we gathered all the kids and had a presentation of the participating teams. This was the first time for the kids to find out in which team they would play and with whom. Each team was given a name of a German city randomly chosen in order to foster the “German atmosphere” of the event.

HOME B		HOME A	
<b>Düsseldorf</b>		<b>Berlin</b>	
<b>Bonn</b>		<b>Stuttgart</b>	
<b>Frankfurt</b>		<b>Augsburg</b>	
<b>Hamburg</b>		<b>Cologne</b>	
		<b>Hannover</b>	

The tournament matches were played using a unique methodology called “football3” which fosters dialogue around social skills amongst players. Every match had a session before the match where certain rules of the game were mutually decided by the teams through discussion. There were no referees for any of these matches and yet the game was played keeping in mind the importance and relevance of fair play. At the end of every match similar dialogue sessions were held where the teams reflected on how the matches were played, what issues were faced, the strengths of every team and what they could do better to improve the performance of their next match.



Apprentice coaches from the **Peres center** and **Al-Quds**, who had played matches using this methodology before, acted as mediators and facilitated the pre- and post-match sessions.



The participants who were not familiar with football3 gave positive feedback about the new methodology, and appreciated the decision of using this tool as part of the Pasch tournament.

At the end of the day, the **FRANKFURT** Team won. The team is composed of: 4 youth from Pasch schools (3 Palestinians and 1 Israeli) and 3 youth from the Twinned peace football schools project (1 Palestinian and 2 Israeli). The winning team is a mixed team in terms of gender (boys and girls), religion (Muslims, Christians and Jews) and nationality (Israelis and Palestinians)!!





During the award ceremony all teams were handed out medals for their participation. All honourable guests held speeches and emphasized their impression about the successful event. They all underlined that it was really easy to feel it from the moment they were entering the football field area. Some said that if they had not been told in advance that mixed teams of Israeli and Palestinians were playing in the tournament, they would have never been able to tell!





### **Post tournament feedback (based on random talks with kids):**

#### **Generally speaking about the participants:**

- "They were nice"
- "Friendly"
- "Totally mixed"

#### **About football3 and the mediators:**

##### Pre match discussion:

The procedure was that the mediators asked the questions and the players should answer. (E.g. is the goalkeeper allowed to use his hands etc.). As a result there was no open discussion before the games.

##### While the game:

"Fair, once almost a fight"

##### Post match discussion by the mediators:

"Gave us a chance to learn about ourselves and about our team mates"

#### **General critics:**

- "Fair play system was new"
- "Some of the boys in my team were too ambitious"
- "Fair play played a big role: I thought all the time about fair play and forgot about the football!"  
strange!
- "I got new friends on facebook" (Israeli and Palestinian).
- "The fair play system was new and interesting, but we didn't have enough time to get used to it. As we played our football matches we understood it better. We need another event like that!  
PLEASE!"
- "The tournament was very well organized and I enjoyed those two days very much. I think it's a nice idea so thank you for having me there."



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### **About The Peres Center for Peace: ([www.peres-center.org](http://www.peres-center.org))**

The Peres Center for Peace is Israel's leading non-profit organization promoting peacebuilding between Israel and its Arab neighbors, and in particular between Israelis and Palestinians. Founded in 1996 by the President of Israel and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shimon Peres, the Peres Center conducts dozens of projects, involving thousands of Israelis and Palestinians, fostering socio-economic cooperation and people-to-people interaction in a wide range of fields, such as medicine, sports, agriculture, business, the arts, and more.

Since its inception in 2002, the Sport Department of the Peres Center has organized joint sporting activities involving Palestinians and Israelis which promote cultural integration between the two populations, providing a medium for communication, and an avenue for encouraging social change. The Peres Center's flagship Twinned Peace Sport Schools programme and the Twinned Peace Kindergartens programme have touched the lives of over 14,000 Palestinian and Israeli youth from some 30 disadvantaged Palestinian, Arab and Israeli communities in the region. The department runs these programs together with a Palestinian partner association, the Al Quds Association for Democracy and Dialogue, located in Ramallah (see below).

Through sport with its values of teamwork and togetherness children and adults alike can achieve common goals, share both struggles and victories and transcend barriers; allowing them to experience a different outlook and approach the concept of peace with their counterparts. This approach of forging connections is in direct contrast to media portrayals displaying reactionary responses to immediate events and the framework of the educational system in both Israel and the Palestinian Authority which together lead the two sides to feel hatred, resentment and distrust towards each other.

### **Al-Quds Association for Democracy and Dialogue: ([www.afdd-pal.org](http://www.afdd-pal.org))**

Al-Quds Association for Democracy and Dialogue is dedicated to promoting peace, democracy, dialogue and civic participation in the development process of local communities in the Palestinian Territories focusing on peace education combined with sport activities as a tool for positive development of Palestinian youth.

Al-Quds believes that its work is essential in equipping Palestinian youth with the values and skills they need to make a difference in their environment and become responsible citizens spreading the message of democracy, peace and nonviolence within Palestine and Israel. Al-Quds believes that dialogue and exchange among young people is a key strategy to overcome conflict.

Al-Quds Association for Democracy and Dialogue is a Palestinian non-profit non-governmental organization which was founded in the year 2005 by Sulaiman Khatib and Naser Quss.

Both the Peres Center for Peace and the Al-Quds Association for Democracy and Dialogue are members of the **streetfootballworld network**.