



Dear Friend,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being with us every step of the way this year. While the past few months have been devastating for our joint community, we are **strengthened by your incredible solidarity** and steadfast belief in our movement. In these dark times, we continue to spread our message of hope. We continue to choose to hold each other's pain and work to lift one another's burdens.

As the tidal wave of dehumanization and injustice rises and the calls for violent solutions grow louder, **we raise the voice of humanity.** Combatants for Peace continues to work tirelessly to engage Israelis and Palestinians in transformation and nonviolent resistance, to empower the younger generation to change the status quo, and to inspire the world through our joint community **that demonstrates that another way is possible.** From years of experience, we know that the only way to overcome the systemic separation that the governments promote is to meet, listen, be heard, and take action together. Last weekend, our Palestinian and Israeli activists met to do exactly this. Below is a photo of our activists holding a moment of silence for every victim of the ongoing violence.

We know that there is so much work ahead. We cling to our commitment to **co-create a just peace**, and we will not stop taking action until all are free. No matter how challenging the situation may be, there is one thing that binds us together: our belief in a future where **all people**, from the river to the sea, live in peace with **dignity, justice, and liberty.**



Rana Salman

*Palestinian Executive Director
Combatants for Peace*





Dear Friend,

Never have we had a year of such sharp contrasts of horror and hope as 2023 has turned out to be. We began this year with a full-on Jewish Supremacy Israeli government that aimed to bring an occupation mentality to all facets of Israeli life. Yet rather than allow what remains of our democracy to crumble, we've seen an entire public not only take to the streets but rather full-on take over the streets. Peeking at a 15,000-strong Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial Ceremony, **ours was a simple message: There cannot be democracy - there cannot be normal life - when there is occupation.**

Our previous "government of change" believed the occupation to be a side issue, only to fall because of it. The leaders of the pro-democracy movement believed it was not the time to discuss the occupation for most of this year. Then came the horror of October 7th in Israel and the ensuing devastation in Gaza. War plants the seeds of the next war, and decades of strife have come to a horrible harvest. And yet, **as peace has never been further from the hearts of many, it has never been closer as the only practical, sustainable solution.**

In the months ahead, **we will take back the streets with a conviction like never before.** But this time, 'the situation' will not be a side-topic; the occupation will be THE topic. And in that, **Combatants for Peace will continue to lead by example**, with Israelis and Palestinians courageously showcasing how **we can work together against all odds, we can see the humanity in one another, and we can make peace with each other.**



Yonatan Gher

*Israeli Executive Director
Combatants for Peace*