

The “Forgotten Palestinians”

The Arab Israeli struggle for democracy inside today’s Israel

Slideshow and discussion

Where: 91A Fourth Ave
When: Wednesday, 14 Nov.

Many Canadians are aware of the injustices facing Palestinians in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza.

But Israeli academic Ilan Pappé refers to the Arab Israelis living inside Israel as “The Forgotten Palestinians.”

Following up on a trip to Jerusalem and the West Bank made 2 years ago, Peter Larson returned to focus on Israel. He spent 2 weeks interviewing civil rights activists (Jewish and Palestinian), teachers, lawyers, journalists, members of the Knesset and church leaders. He travelled from Be’er Sheva in the Negev desert where Bedouins are fighting to keep their traditional lands, to Acre in the north, where Palestinians are struggling to protect their language and civic rights.

His findings might surprise you. The Palestinian citizens of Israel have certain democratic rights, including the right to vote. But as “non Jews”, they face significant economic and social discrimination in the “Jewish state” of Israel. Despite the general indifference (and even hostility of the Israeli Jewish population) they seem determined to seek equality and democracy.



Bedouin tribal leader Shaikh Sayak al Turi, has been leading a year long struggle to prevent the Israeli government and the JNF from destroying his village of Al Araqip and taking over his lands in the Negev.



The public education system for Palestinian Israelis is of rather poor quality. It appears that Israel spends approximately 3 times as much on its Jewish children’s education as on that of its citizens who speak Arabic. Educational outcomes reflect this differential.

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