



Tatsiana Hulko and WATC colleague Narmeen Fayyaleh

Jerusalem, Ramallah, Beit Sahour. August 15, 2007. As the summer draws to a close, four Advocacy Project Peace Fellows from American universities are wrapping up their work with diverse non-governmental organizations in Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Since June, four women from the United States have been volunteering with organizations in Jerusalem and the West Bank. Recruited by The Advocacy Project (AP), a Washington, DC-based NGO, each of the fellows has volunteered her time with a partner organization in the region in order to strengthen organizational capacity with

an emphasis on the ability to produce and disseminate information effectively.

Eliza Bates of Columbia University volunteered with the Democracy and Workers' Rights Center (DWRC) in the West Bank. The Ramallah-based organization seeks to promote workers' rights through democratic and participatory structures independent of political affiliation. Tatsiana Hulko of Georgetown University was placed with the Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC), also based in Ramallah. WATC works to increase women's participation in politics and society through training, education and networking.



Amali Tower

Amali Tower of Columbia University volunteered in Beit Sahour with the Alternative Information Center (AIC), an NGO dedicated to Israeli-Palestinian communication, as well as political advocacy for groups and individuals whose rights have been compromised.



Eliza Bates

Erin Wroblewski of Georgetown University volunteered with the German organization Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) throughout the summer. Her work at FES has helped facilitate dialogue between German parliamentarians and Palestinians. She has also worked on training programs for moderate Palestinian political parties and civil society groups, and networked with European partners.

Throughout the course of the summer the four fellows have helped their host organizations to achieve a greater capacity for sharing information about their work through the creation of websites, press releases and newsletters. Beyond these platforms, each has taken part in organizing events and creating programs with their hosts. With the DWRC, Eliza Bates facilitated a conference, resulting in the formation of a new independent labor coalition to rival existing unions. At WATC, Tatsiana Hulko aided in organizing training for Palestinian women serving in local councils. Amali Tower has written about the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip on behalf of AIC. And at FES, Erin Wroblewski has helped facilitate workshops on campaign management for burgeoning alternative political parties with moderate and democratic approaches to the peace process.

Following their departure the Peace Fellows leave their organizations better equipped to spread their messages. Just as importantly, however, each of them will return to the US as an advocate for the work of their hosts. The fellows from the West Bank and Jerusalem are not alone in their endeavors. The Advocacy Project deployed 31 Peace Fellows to partner organizations worldwide this summer. Further information about the fellows, their hosts and The Advocacy Project can be found at www.advocacynet.org.



*Erin Wroblewski at a campaign workshop
in Ramallah*