

## A delegation of young people from Berlin visits FES Jerusalem



The delegation from Berlin in front of the FES building

The Haus Wannsee-Konferenz has been cooperating with the Arab youth association Karama from Berlin-Moabit on a special youth project since October 2007. In this setting, Berlin youngsters, predominantly with Palestinian backgrounds, tackle the topics of Palestine since the 1930s, Israel, Nazism, the Holocaust and their own family history.

Part of the project is a study trip financed by the “Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future” foundation to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

In 2008, the project group visited the FES Jerusalem team. At a session held in the garden of the Jerusalem offices, Tim O. Petschulat, a project manager at FES Jerusalem, filled the young people in on the special role that the city of Jerusalem plays in the political process between Israel and the Palestinians. In order to bring the explanations home, the program then included a political tour of East Jerusalem.



Explanations looking over at the Old City



Young people’s spontaneous reaction at the West Bank Barrier

During their visit, the young people were able to gain their own direct impressions of the key political problems of the Jerusalem question. The tour took the visitors past Israeli settlements in Palestinian parts of the city and the Israeli security barrier which runs east of the internationally recognized border. A high concrete wall, this cuts Palestinian parts of town in two. From two look-out points on the Mount of Olives, many additional problems

affecting Jerusalem also became clear. Some of the youngsters were struck by the lack of urban development in East Jerusalem, and the cheek-by-jowl juxtaposition of the holy places of Jews, Muslims and Christians.