

Young Voices from St. Mary's, Palestine

My name is Maria Michel Massad. I am 15 years old and in the 10th grade. I live in the small and beautiful village of Aboud. I like to play basketball, but I love folk dancing more because it expresses our Palestinian identity and our feelings through its movements.

I would love to travel, but I cannot because of the embarrassing financial situation of my family. We in Palestine are experiencing a severe financial crisis and high cost of living. Salaries are insufficient to provide the basic needs of family members.

Here, I would like to say that every child has the right to live in safety, but children in Palestine are subjected to harassment and bad living conditions by the Israeli Occupation. We always feel fear, terror and insecurity. We suffer at the Israeli army roadblocks which hinder the movement of people and their access to work and schools. And we see acts of violence practiced by the Occupation on the Palestinian people on television and through social media.

In the end, I hope to live safely in my homeland and to break down all the barriers that hinder me from achieving my dream of becoming an editor.



My name is Ibrahim Faeq Khoury from Aboud village. I am fifteen. I go 30 kilometers to high school in Ramallah city. Transportation and school fees are costly. My father earns just enough for food and basic necessities to support our family of seven. Except at times it is not enough.

Politically, we suffer from the difficulty of moving between villages and cities because of the barriers imposed by the Israeli Occupation and the harassment of young people and hindering them from reaching the safety of their studies and work.

We, as a Palestinian people, under all these difficult circumstances, lack the well-being of the rest of the world. We are isolated from the outside world and the monthly income level of the family does not allow us to live well.