



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

MCCWorldwide, Public Relations, 203-324-1768
Susan Mirbach, Executive Director 650-303-7368
Deanna Armbruster, Media Committee 818-693-1144

42 Israeli & Palestinian Organizations Pitch Coexistence Projects to Foundations in New York City

Thursday, March 15, 2007.....The Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP), a coalition of 42 leading non-governmental Israeli, Palestinian and American organizations working for peace and coexistence in the Middle East, is hosting informational breakfast meetings for major foundations in the New York metropolitan area this week. **Delegations of ALLMEP NGO leaders will be meeting with members of Congress and congressional staff, officials from USAID and the State Department, Middle East embassies, and Middle East interest groups. The meetings will take place on Friday, March 16. Interviews with any member of ALLMEP can be arranged by calling Susan Mirbach at 650-303-7368 or Marilyn Esposito at 203-324-1768.**

“Dozens of representatives from Israel, the West Bank and around the U.S. have come together to spread their message of real hope and develop new and expanded resources to support grassroots peace efforts,” said Susan Mirbach, Executive Director of ALLMEP.

“Our goal is to introduce the coalition and increase understanding about the critical role that people-to-people programs play in establishing the conditions necessary for resolution of conflict in the region,” said Ami Nahshon, President of Abraham Fund Initiatives who also co-chairs the ALLMEP Foundation Outreach Committee.

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Also this week, ALLMEP and the Palestinian Israeli Peace NGO Forum announced a Memorandum of Understanding to leverage each other's work and geographic focus in areas including: hosting delegations, government relations and legislative outreach.

Several pairs of Palestinian/Israeli co-directors will be participating. Specifically, Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information (Gershon Baskin and Hanna Sinoria) and the Sulha Peace Project (Gabriel Meyer and Ihab Balha). We also have Israeli American/Palestinian American co-Directors, such as Arie Zmora and Lou Kanavati of Middle East College of Reconciliation and Development, associated with Hamline University in MN. The chairs of these two events are ALLMEP's Foundation Outreach Co-Chairs, Ami Nahshon, President of The Abraham Funds Initiative and Stuart Brown, Director of the Nehemiah and Naomi Cohen Foundation and Board member of Hand in Hand. Maysa Siniora and Shimon Malka of All for Peace Radio (Is/Pal) co-directors will also be present.

ALLMEP (www.allmep.org) is a coalition of leading non-governmental organizations working to foster coexistence and reconciliation in the Middle East. The 42 member organizations are involved in a broad range of areas including education, environment, social policy, economic development and interfaith cooperation which have come together to raise awareness about their work, recruit new participants and supporters, spread their message of real hope and develop new and expanded resources to support grassroots peace efforts. ALLMEP (www.allmep.org) is a coalition of leading non-governmental organizations working to foster coexistence and reconciliation in the Middle East. The 42 member organizations are involved in a broad range of areas including education, environment, social policy, economic development and interfaith cooperation which have come together to raise awareness about their work, recruit new participants and supporters, spread their message of real hope and develop new and expanded resources to support grassroots peace efforts.

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