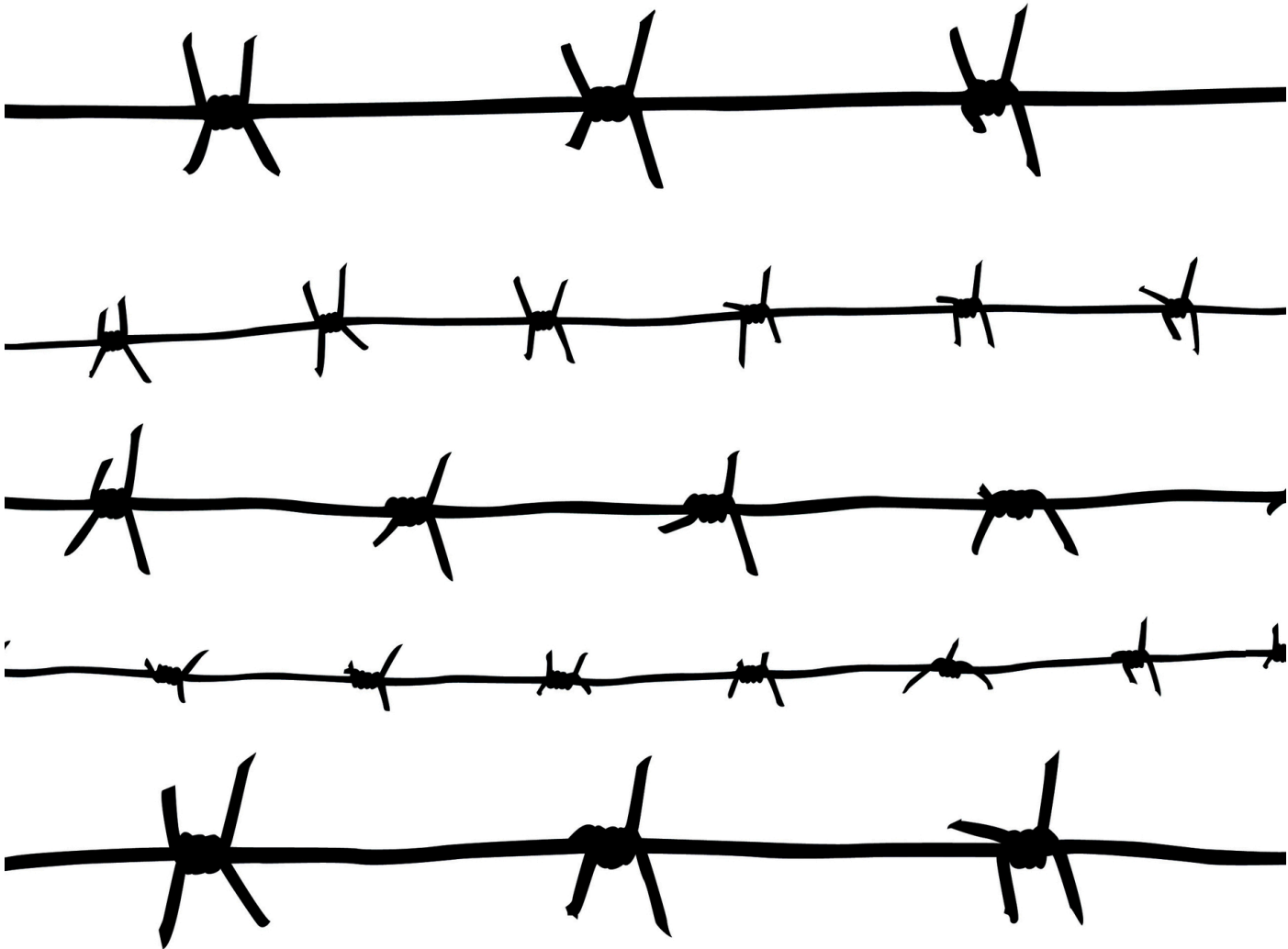


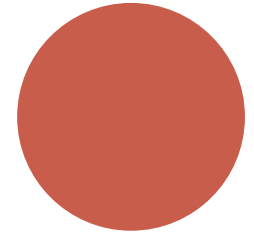
PROCESSIONS OF THE SUN

Eye On Palestine Arts and Film Festival | 2018

Seventh Edition | Ghent | February 18-24



‘Processions of the sun’ explores carceral politics by drawing on the long legacy of Black-Palestinian solidarity. At a moment of growing resistance against state violence, political imprisonment and injustice, this seventh edition of *Eye On Palestine* focuses on the historical and contemporary role of artistic production and political activism in forging global alliances between decolonization and liberation struggles. ‘Procession of the sun’ aims not only to make visible carceral power as a historical technology of control and repression, it also explores how the Black and Palestinian movements overcome repression, isolation and censorship to situate themselves within a broader context of global solidarity. Bringing together scholars, artists and activists to discuss and reflect on intimate prison writings, posters, films, poetry and lived experiences, the program engages with the disruptive potential of art and struggle to enlarge our political imaginaries.



This program has been conceived by the Middle East and North Africa Research Group (Ghent University), Vrede and Masereelfonds

George Jackson in the Sun of Palestine

by Greg Thomas



For George Jackson, like many Black revolutionaries, prison was a place of both political captivity and radical education. He amassed a library of more than 99 books with which he used to educate himself and which he shared among his fellow prisoners. Jackson, a Black Panther and an author, was one of the Soledad Brothers. Less well-known is the fact that Jackson also turned to the Palestinian struggle for inspiration during this time, and that the Palestinian prisoner writings that influenced him would continue to have an impact in the US Black community for decades to come. That encounter has now inspired a new exhibition that highlights the historic and continuing kinship between the Palestinian and Black American prisoners' movements. Curated by Tufts University's English and Africana studies professor Greg Thomas, *George Jackson in the Sun of Palestine* features international book covers, woodcuts, paintings, political posters and other works tied to Jackson's life and the US prisoners movement. Previously presented by Al-Quds University's Abu Jihad Museum in Abu Dis, the exhibition also includes the coverage of Jackson's slaying by a prison guard and its aftermath by the Black Panther Party's official newspaper and prints signed in solidarity with Palestine by Emory Douglas, the former Black Panther minister of culture and graphic artist. Prof. Greg Thomas points to a common language shared by Black Americans and Palestinians, for whom widespread incarceration of their communities is not an issue of crime and punishment, but the result of a system designed to punish them for their very presence.

Exhibition

Vernissage
Sunday 18 February
De Expeditie, Gent
11AM

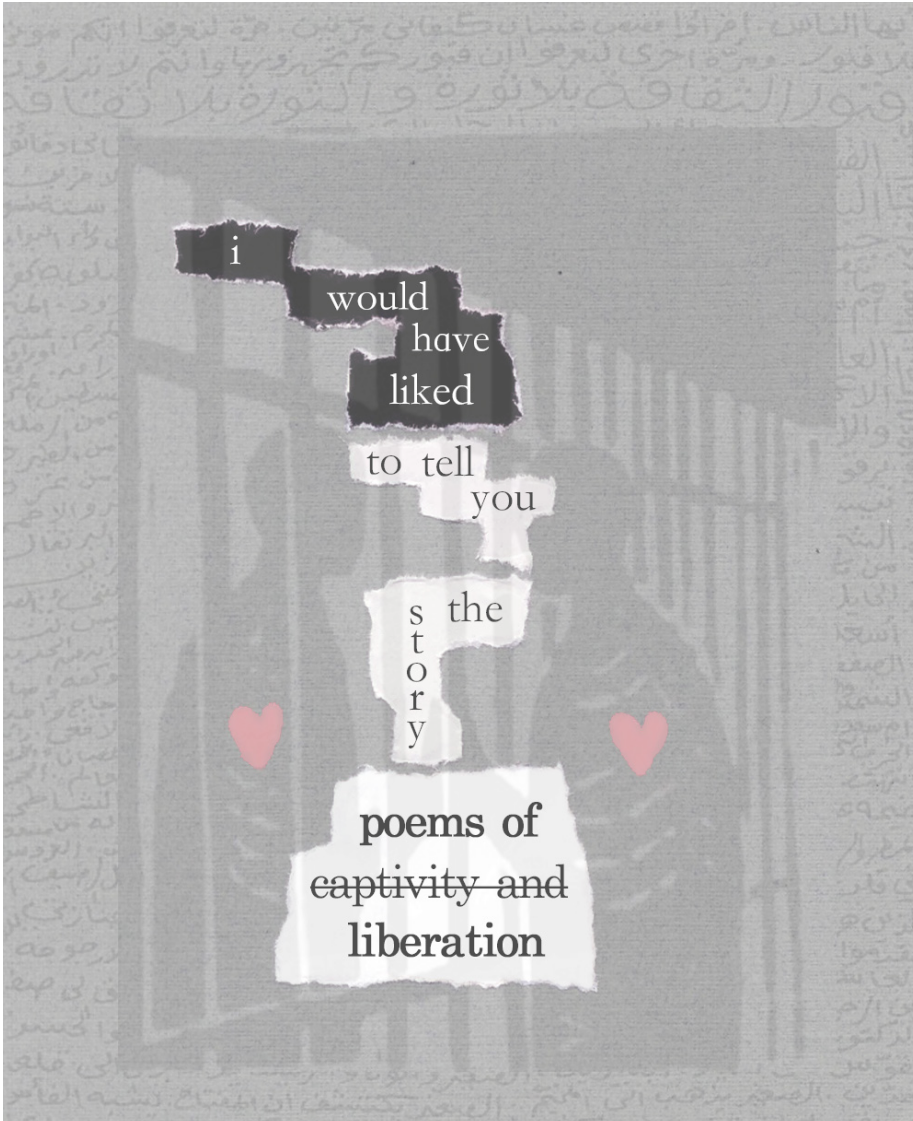
Free

Introduced by Greg Thomas

The exhibition runs from
18-24 February (10AM-5PM)

For the opening, on Sunday 18
February, there will be a brunch
starting at 11AM (5 Euros)

"I would have liked to tell you" Poems of captivity and liberation



Spoken Word

Sunday 18 February
De Expeditie, Gent
13PM

Pay what you want

For this event we defy poets to engage with the echoes of intersectionality, incarceration and resistance underpinning the exhibition George Jackson in the Sun of Palestine. From the civil rights movement and the Palestinian liberation movement, to the struggle for decolonization today in Belgium and beyond, different performers will share their poetry, reclaim or transcend authorship to eventually converge with other words, authors and struggles.

With Giovanni Baudonck, Nisma Al Aklouk, Lindah Nyirenda, Dalia Taha and Farah Bouguerra (Host)

In collaboration with Stand & Deliver

Jean Genet, un captif amoureux, parcours d'un poète combattant



Film

Sunday 18 February
Minard, Gent
17PM

Michèle Collery
France | 2016 | 74 minutes
Documentary
French

Pay what you want

Septembre 1982, Jean Genet confronts the massacres in the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Chatila in Beirut. Influenced by these events, he writes « Quatre heures à Chatila » after twenty years of literary silence. Soon after he writes “Un captif amoureux”, an account of souvenirs where he evokes his poetic combats with the Black Panthers and the Palestinian feddayin. A collection of interviews, archival film and photographic footage as well as staged readings, the film traces Genet’s poetic and political trajectory since the 70s to his death in 1986.

The film will be followed by a discussion with the Director Michèle Collery and Leila Shahid

After she did literature and film studies in France, **Michèle Collery** spent nearly a decade in Italy where she wrote for different cultural reviews and organised an annual festival in Rome. While in Italy she worked for RAI, bringing together innovative film directors for various audiovisual projects. During the 1990s she traveled to Qatar to produce and direct two television programs for the Qatar Broadcasting Services. She has also directed various documentaries for Canal + and Arte. Since her return to Paris, Collery has been involved with documentary film projects around Arab and Magreb music and cinema.

Born in exile in Lebanon of Palestinian parents, **Leila Shahid** studied Anthropology at the American University in Beirut and the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. She was General Delegate of Palestine at the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg from December 2005 till 2016.

" Mettre à l'abri toutes
les images du langage
et se servir d'elles,
car elles sont dans
le désert où il
faut aller les
chercher. "

Jean Genet

" Un captif amoureux "

Blame It on the Sun: George Jackson and Poetry of Palestinian Resistance



Keynote Lecture

Monday 19 February
Minard, Gent
16PM

Free

The fifth Eye On Palestine keynote lecture explores the political significance of a literary ‘mistake’ made in 1971 in the historical context of Black/Palestinian solidarity. After the assassination of George Jackson, the revolutionary prisoner who had been recently designated Field Marshal of the Black Panther Party, prison guards seized Palestinian resistance poetry from his prison cell in San Quentin, California. Some of this poetry by Samih Al-Qasim, Palestinian resistance poet par excellence, was thought to be written by Jackson and published under his name in the Black Panther newspaper. An uncanny resemblance between the voices of Jackson and Al-Qasim, as well as the conditions of Blacks in North America and Palestinians, made this ‘mis-attribution’ possible. It is thus argued that what might be viewed as a literary ‘mistake’ instead can be viewed as a powerful illustration of kinship in the practice of revolutionary political solidarity. Ultimately, this solidarity would be recalled and renewed in a 2015–16 exhibition featuring George Jackson at the Abu Jihad Center for Prisoner Movement Affairs in Palestine.

Greg Thomas is Associate Professor who teaches Black Studies and literature in English at Tufts University. Currently, he is at work on a book manuscript on the revolutionary writings of George L. Jackson, “The Dragon.” As an outgrowth of that project, he curated the “George Jackson in the Sun of Palestine” exhibit in October 2015 for the Abu Jihad Museum for Political Prisoner Affairs at the Abu Dis campus of Al Quds University.

I may, if you wish, lose my livelihood,
I may sell my shirt and my bed,
I may work as a stonecutter,
A street sweeper, a porter,
I may clean your store
Or rummage your garbage for food,
O enemy of the sun
But, I shall not compromise,
And to the last pulse in my veins,
I shall resist.

You may take the last strip of my land,
You may plunder my heritage,
You may burn my books and my poems,
Or throw my flesh to the dogs,
You may spread a web of terror,
On the roof tops of my village,
O enemy of the sun,
But, I shall not compromise,
And to the last pulse in my veins,
I shall resist.

You may put out the light in my eyes,
You may deprive me of my mother's kisses,
You may destroy my history,
You may curse my father, my people,
You may deprive my children of their smile
And of life's necessities,
You may fool my people with a borrowed face,
You may spread a wall of terror around me,
You may glue my eyes with humiliation,
O enemy of the sun,
But, I shall not compromise,
And to the last pulse in my veins,
I shall resist,
O enemy of the sun.

The decorations are raised at the port,
The exclamations fill the air,
The heart is a glow,
A sail is seen in the horizon,
Challenging the wind and the depths,
It is Homer,
Returning home from the sea of losses.
The sun has returned,
Together with my exiled ones,
For her sake, and his
I swear, I shall not compromise,
And to the last pulse in my veins,
I shall resist, I shall resist,
I SHALL RESIST!!!!

3000 Nights



Film

Monday 19 February
Minard, Gent
19:30PM

Mai Masri
Palestine | 2015 | 103 minutes
Fiction
Arabic with English Subtitles

Pay what you want

Inspired by the true story of a young Palestinian mother who gave birth to her child in an Israeli prison, 3000 Nights is a story about resilience and the imagination in a genre -- the prison genre-- that has rarely dealt with women's experiences, let alone Palestinian women's. Set in Nablus in 1980, Masri draws on realities she has both experienced first hand and explored in her earlier documentary work. Shot in a real prison in a cinema verite style with handheld cameras, the film has a raw documentary edge that resonates with the reality it portrays. What is it like to raise a child behind bars? How do women survive, educate each other, suspect and support each other in prison? What happens in this unique situation in which Palestinian political prisoners mix with Israeli women incarcerated on criminal charges? 3000 Nights has been described as "a poetic, compelling and raw allegory for freedom under occupation." The film just received the Young Jury Prize at the International Film Festival on Human Rights in Geneva.

The film will be followed by a discussion with Mai Masri

Mai Masri is a Palestinian filmmaker who studied film at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University (USA) where she graduated with a BA degree. She founded Nour Productions in 1995 with her husband, filmmaker Jean Chamoun and directed several documentaries that received over 60 international awards including the Trailblazer Award at Mipdoc Cannes (2011) and the Luchino Visconti Award in Italy (2004). Her films were screened on more than 100 television stations worldwide including PBS, BBC, Channel 4, France 2 and RTBF.

Ghost Hunting



Film

Tuesday 20 February
Minard, Gent
19:30PM

Raed Andoni
2017 | France, Palestine, Qatar,
Switzerland | 94 minutes
Documentary

Arabic with English Subtitles

Pay what you want

In order to confront the ghosts that haunt him, Palestinian director Raed Andoni assembles an eclectic group of ex-prisoners to build a replicate of Al-Moskobiya, Israel's main interrogation centre, where he was himself jailed at age 18. From fragmentary memory, day after day, they give shape to the interrogation centre they all experienced, and re-enact its stories. As the walls of the cells rise, the tongues and the emotions loosen.

The film will be followed by a discussion with Raed Andoni (tbc) and Wadee Hanani

Raed Andoni is a Palestinian director and producer. He and was born in 1967 in Amman (Jordan). Andoni started his carrier in the film industry in 1997 as independent producer. He cofounded 2 production houses: Dar Films in Palestine, and Les Films de Zayna in Paris. His first documentary as a director, *Improvisation* (2005), is an appealing insight into a Palestinian Joubran family during the Caesarean birth of their musical "Oud" trio. For his first feature length film, *Fix Me* (2009) Andoni filmed 20 sessions of his own therapy in Ramallah. Featuring a colorful array of characters, including members of Andoni's own family, *Fix Me* explores the need for finding individuality in a place so dominated by collective consciousness and identity. *Fix Me* was premiered in Sundance and Cannes. *Ghost Hunting* is his second feature film and the recipient of the Berlinale's 2017 Documentary Award.

Wadee Hanani is a Palestinian filmmaker and image technician. Currently he is doing a Master in Documentary Film at La Fémis, École Nationale Supérieure des Métiers de l'Image et du Son, and is artist in residence at the Cité des Arts in Paris. He was Assistant Director for "Ghost Hunting".

Imprisonment and Solidarity in Palestine and Beyond

This panel brings together key figures in the Palestinian struggle and the Black and Prison Abolitionists movements to discuss similarities and differences of Black and Palestinian life under conditions of mass incarceration. Drawing parallels between these movements, the discussion will deal with questions of racist state violence in an era of neoliberal globalization, the ramified effects of this violence across public and intimate spheres of social life, the connections and solidarities across continents needed to confront it, and the legacies of past movements and struggles that continue to inform the work of human liberation.

A discussion with Rasmea Odeh, Dhoruba Bin Wahad and Charlotte Kates moderated by Luk Vervaeet

Rasmea Odeh is a leading member of Chicago's Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim communities, and her decade of service in Chicago has changed the lives of thousands of people, particularly disenfranchised Arab women and their families. She has been with the Arab American Action Network (AAAN) since 2004, and is responsible for the management of day-to-day operations and the coordination of its Arab Women's Committee, which has a membership of nearly 600 and leads the organization's work in the areas of defending civil liberties and immigrants' rights. She is a mentor to hundreds of immigrant women, as well as many members of the AAAN's staff and board, and is a well-known and respected organizer throughout Chicagoland, the U.S. and the world.

Dhoruba Bin Wahad was a leader member of the new York Black Panther Party, a Field Secretary of the BPP responsible for organizing chapters throughout the East Coast, and a member of the Panther 21. Arrested June 1971, he was framed as part of the illegal FBI Counter Intelligence program (COINTELPRO) and subjected to unfair treatment and torture during his nineteen years in prison. During Dhoruba's incarceration, litigation on his behalf produced over three hundred thousand pages of COINTELPRO documentation, and upon release in 1990 he was able to bring a successful lawsuit against the New York Department of Corrections for all their wrongdoings and criminal activities. Living in both Ghana and the U.S. Dhoruba, an uncompromising critic of imperialism and capitalism, continues to write and work promoting freedom for all political prisoners and revolutionary Pan-Africanism.

Debate

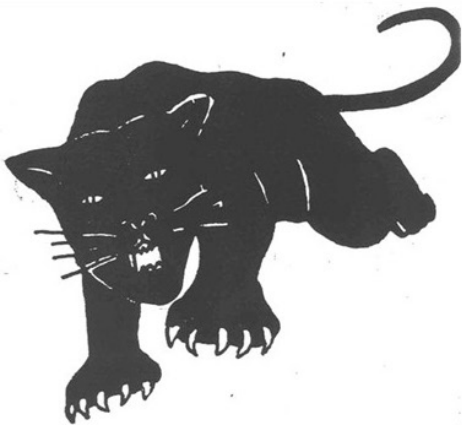
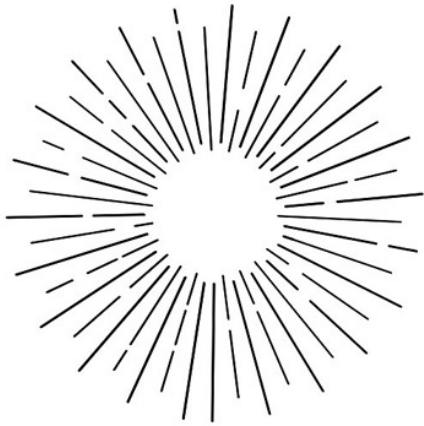
Wednesday 21 February
De Expeditie, Gent
19:30PM

Pay what you want

I've been patient, but where I'm concerned patience has its limits.
Take it too far, and it's cowardice (George Jackson)

Charlotte Kates is the international coordinator of Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network and the coordinator of the International Committee of the National Lawyers Guild. She is also a member of the Organizing Collective of the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel and Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition.

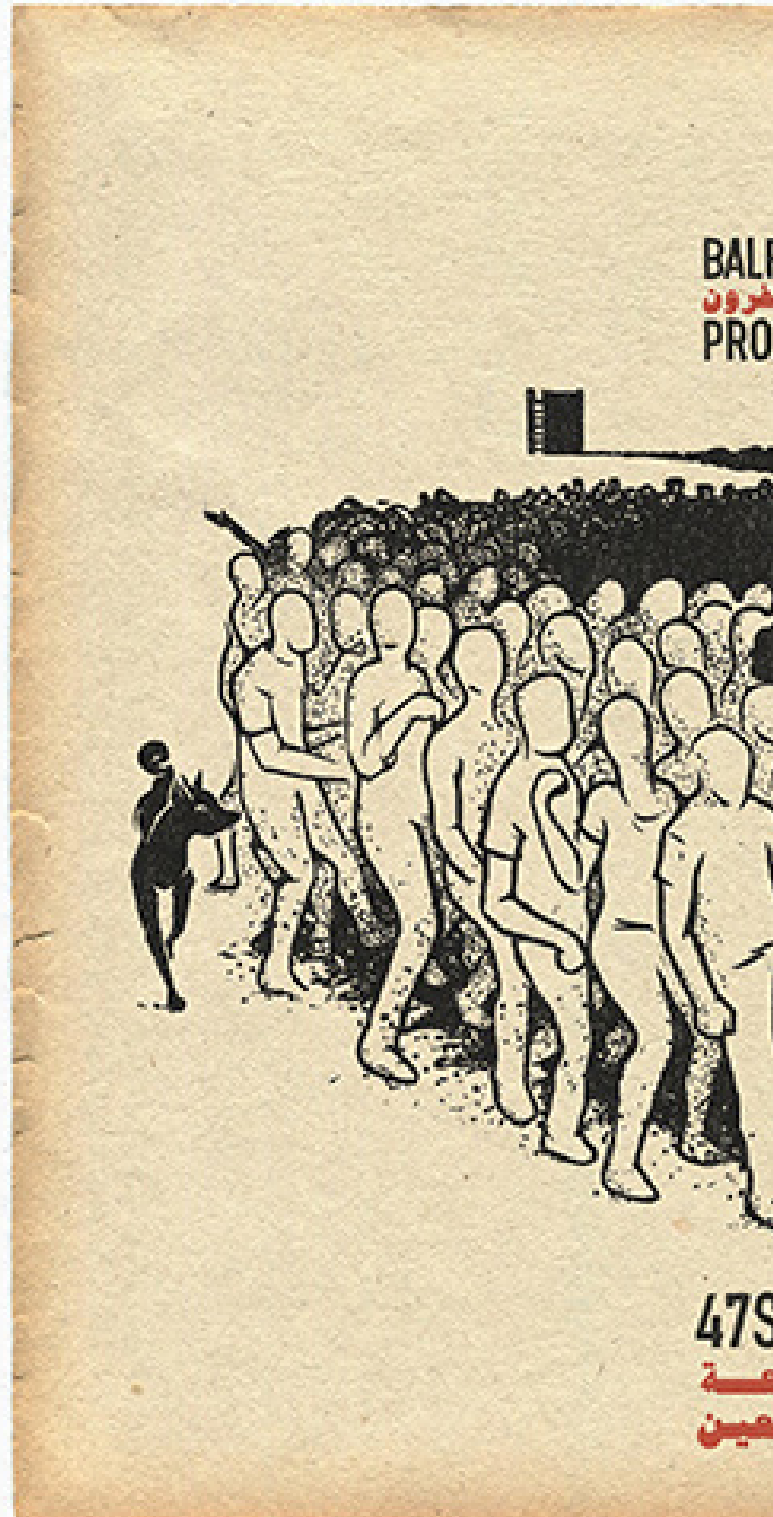
Luk Vervaet is a prison activist and author. From 1973 to 2003, he was one of the leaders of the group “Alle Macht aan de Arbeiders” (All Power to the Workers) and of the “Partij van de Arbeid” (Workers Party of Belgium). He left the party in 2003 and started working as a prison teacher in Brussels from 2004 until 2009. In 2009 he was banned from prisons on ‘security grounds’. Two years later, the Constitutional Court revoked the ban, but his exclusion by the prison authorities and the ministry of Justice has been upheld. Luk Vervae is the author of ‘Le making-of d’Anders B. Breivik’ (2012), ‘Nizar Trabelsi: Guantanamo chez nous?’ (2014) and ‘De grote stap achterwaarts, teksten over straf en gevangenis’ (2016).



Balfron Promise

by 47SOUL

47SOUL is an Electro Arabic Dabke (Sham-step) band formed in Amman Jordan in 2013. The members are rooted in Bilad Al-Sham, spanning the divides from Amman to the Galilee to Ramallah and the rest of the Palestinian Diaspora. This new sound of 47SOUL has rapidly amassed fans in the Arab World and Europe by blasting the electric Arabic Dabke sound through underground music scenes. On top of the beats that have been bumping in the Arab World for centuries, 47SOUL hypes it up with analog synthesizers, hypnotic guitar lines, and shattering verses from the four singers. Every show ends in relentless dance and trance from all parties involved. Their lyrics, mixing Arabic and English, call for celebration and freedom in the struggle for equality, inside Bilad Al Sham and throughout the world.





Concert

Friday 23 February
Vooruit, Gent
20PM

10 Euros

The current lineup of 2016 includes: Z the People (vocals & synths) El Far3i (darouka, Mc/Vocals) Walaa Sbeit (percussion, Mc/vocals) El Jehaz (guitar & vocals)

Co-hosted with Vooruit and
Underconstruction

An Evening With Rasmae Odeh

A Life of Struggle for Justice

Rasmae Odeh is a Palestinian-American feminist, activist, educator and community leader. She has served as the associate director of the Arab American Action Network (AAAN) in Chicago since 2004. For the past two decades, Rasmae has built unprecedented community support for close to 600 Arab immigrant women on issues related to English literacy, gender violence, inter-generational cultural conflicts, racial profiling, immigrant rights, and access to social and economic resources. She has established community-wide education projects related to civil and human rights, social justice, and community economic development and workshops that allow Arab immigrant women to tell, write, and perform their immigration stories while improving their writing skills. In 2013, Rasmae received the “Outstanding Community Leader Award” from the Chicago Cultural Alliance.

In 2013, Rasmae was charged with an immigration violation by the Department of Homeland Security. She has spent the last years leading a powerful battle to resist this attack, joined by hundreds of supporters for every court appearance, and thousands of supporters across the country and the world. Rasmae was deported from the US in 2017.

In 1969, as a college student, Rasmae was arrested by the Israeli police, along with as many as 500 others, and accused of involvement in two bombings. She was tortured for 25 days (including electric shocks and sexual assault), as was her father in her presence; and then tried before a kangaroo Israeli military court. This tribunal convicts over 99% of its Palestinian prisoners. She was found guilty based on a confession coerced through torture, and then given a life sentence. In 1979, she was freed with other Palestinians in a prisoner exchange.

In collaboration with Palestina Solidariteit, Association Belgo-Palestinienne and Le Space

Open Talk

Saturday 24 February
Le Sspace, Brussels
18PM

Pay what you want



“In Israel, its society continues to criminalize and dehumanize Palestinians, similarly to the way that U.S. society criminalizes and dehumanizes Black people, Latinos and other non-white immigrants, Arabs, Muslims, and others. In both countries, these communities continue to face racism and violence. This is why we need to continue to develop our joint struggle, and why our responsibility is to support each other’s struggles and the struggles of those oppressed in the U.S., in Palestine, and all over the world.”

Rasmea Odeh



Program Team

Yannick Beck PROMOTION

Joachim Ben Yakoub CONCEPT

Ludo de Bravander CONCEPT, COORDINATION

Ann-Sophie Hoste CONCEPT, COORDINATION, FINANCES

Omar Jabary Salamanca CONCEPT, COORDINATION, DESIGN

Lieve Van Dijck DESIGN, PROMOTION

Partners

Masserelfonds

Middle East North Africa Research Group - Ghent University

Vrede VZW

Collaborations

Stand & Deliver

Palestina Solidariteit

Association Belgo-Palestinienne

Le Space

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Thanks

Nahla Abdo-Zubi
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Tunde Adefioye
Nisma Al Aklouk
Raed Andoni
Rachida Aziz
Giovanni Baudonck
Dhouraba Bin Wahad
Wiepke Boogaerts
Samia Botmeh
Farah Bouguerra

Mathieu Charles
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Andy Clarno
Hildegarde De Vuyst
Nadia Farkh
Wadee Hanani
Charlotte Kates
Paul Kerstens
Mai Masri
Viktoria R.L. Metschl
Lindah Nyirenda
Rasmea Odeh

Selwa Othman
Mezna Qato
Leila Shahid
Dalia Taha
Pieter Teilrinck
Greg Thomas
Barbara Van Dyck
Luk Vervaeet
Koen Vanrumste
Mohanad Yaqubi
Sami Zemni
and to all volunteers!

Information

De Expeditie
Dok-Noord 4
9000, Gent

Minard
Korianderstraat 13
9000, Gent

Le Space
Rue de la Clé 26
1000, Brussels

Vooruit
Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 23
9000, Ghent

For more information eyeonpalestine.be / underconstructionfestival.org
Mail us with your suggestions and comments to info@eyeonpalestine.be

From the narrow window of my small cell,
I see trees that are smiling at me
and rooftops crowded with my family.
And windows weeping and praying for me.
From the narrow window of my small cell
I can see your big cell!

Samih il-Qassim

eye on palestine
TOWARDS CONVERGENCE