



## THE PALESTINIAN CIRCUS SCHOOL مدرسة سيرك فلسطين

**Newsletter – March 2010**

### **NEWS NEWS NEWS ...**

*Dearest friends and supporters of the Palestinian Circus School,*

*We wonder when will come the time we can only report positive news to you...*

*The circus IS doing great. More students are joining and getting infected with the circus virus. A new show is in the making. New future trainers are being trained. So, lots of good news. But for the second time a student of ours was detained on March 4. He was finally released on Sunday March 28.*

*Equally, March 16, was again the scene of serious clashes between stone throwing Palestinians and armed Israeli soldiers following numerous provocations at the Palestinian address (settlement increase, inclusion of Palestinian Holy Sites to the Israeli Patrimony, threats by the extreme right settlers of entering the holiest Muslim site in Jerusalem etc ... )*

*Our region stays soaked in tensions and the need of keeping young people's spirits up is as urgent as always.*

### **LATEST NEWS**

#### **A NEW CIRCUS CLUB TRAINING OF TRAINERS HAS STARTED**

On Sunday January 10, we started with a new circus club: Training of Trainers. 11 young women and man between the ages of 18 and 31 are getting introduced to the techniques and pedagogy of circus, during 4 hours every week. Next to their specialised trainings, they will start assisting during the trainings of the beginners classes. The circus club will last until December 2010, counting for an average 150 hours of training.

With this project we want to allow future new trainers to join the team and the opening of new circus clubs around the West Bank as from January 2011.

We now have 90 students following circus on a weekly basis. We hope to reach the number of 150 in 2011!



#### **VISIT OF THE IRISH CLOWNS WITHOUT BORDERS**

From February 19 till 24, 4 Irish Clowns came to join the PCS during its weekly circus trainings in Ramallah and Jenin.

We organised performances for them in the following locations reaching up to 1000 children and their parents with a lot of laughter:

- Refugee Camps of Jenin, Al Jalazon and Al Amari
- The African Community Centre in the old city of Jerusalem
- The Child Happiness Centre in Hebron
- At our own circus premises in Ramallah



## DETENTION OF YET ANOTHER STUDENT



We are very happy to announce that our student Sharaf has been released after a month of detention. The Israeli military judge deemed that Sharaf, who is now 17, had to be punished and to serve a month in prison allegedly for having thrown stones to the Israeli occupation forces some five years ago, at the age of 12 when he was not imputable for his actions.

As you might have understood by now, the "legal" system Israel is imposing on the Palestinians does not have any of the features that advanced and democratic legislation do.

We hope that being back to the Circus family, engaging in training, rehearsals and plenty of acrobatics will help Sharaf in the difficult process of recovering from this terrible experience. We are sure that Sharaf will charm you again with his energy and enthusiasm in the upcoming shows.

Welcome back Sharaf!

The link to the press release on his detention here.

## YEAR REPORT 2009 IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC

Want to know how the PCS is growing and dynamic as ever? The year report 2009, in English and Arabic, is ready and can be found and downloaded from the website.

Go to [www.palcircus.ps](http://www.palcircus.ps)

## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US IN 2010

- Our weekly trainings continue in Ramallah and Jenin. The **Open Days** will be held on April 28 in Jenin and on April 30 in Ramallah, more news will follow.
- Mays, Nayef and Fadi, our main trainers, are working hard on a new production. In April and May, the show will be touring around the West Bank. Stay tuned at the website for the calendar.
- Between June 2 and 12 the team will travel to Amman for an intensive workshop with 40 children, invited by the Amman Municipality.
- As every year we will have the Summer School in June and the Mobile Circus tour from July 3 to 8.
- 'Circus Behind the Wall' will be going to Italy and France in the summer for 8 to 10 shows and to Egypt in October!
- [Festiclown](#): from 25 till 31 of October 2010, an invasion of laughter with tens of foreign clowns in Palestine. Read all about it in English or in Arabic!

**Stay tuned!!!**

**Many happy greetings from the Palestinian Circus School family**