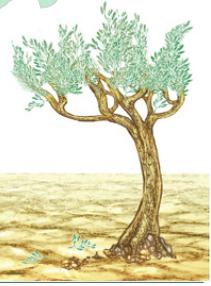


yalla yalla yalla



For Immediate Release—Tuesday October 17th, 2006

“Creating a safe space for our voices to co-exist in a time where there is no such physical space”

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VOICES OF ARAB AND JEWISH YOUTH UNITE THROUGH COLLABORATIVE JOURNAL The Printing of The *Yalla* Journal Gives Voice to What the Future of Arab-Israeli Relations Could Be

The second edition of the innovative *Yalla* Journal is ready to be released. The launches will take place at 7pm on Thursday October 26th in Toronto at the U of T Faculty of Law, Flavelle House (78 Queen’s Park) and at 4pm on Sunday October 29th in Montreal at Casa del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd). The launch parties will feature live Arabic and Jewish musicians, journal readings, and free copies of the books.

Everyday the bodies of Israeli and Palestinian youth are used by politicians as weapons to further their agendas. Despite this manipulation and the frequent labeling of this demographic as “the future” and “the hope” of the never-ending Arab-Israeli conflict, the youth have often been unable to affect real change. The Arab and Jewish editors of *Yalla* Journal decided to come together to create a space in the form of a printed book where their voices could coexist in a time where there is no such physical space.

The *Yalla* Journal is a grassroots collaborative book that is a youth response to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It features 200 pages of the poetry, photography, personal narrative, short stories, and essays of Jewish and Arab youth aged 18-30 from across the world. The Arabic word *Yalla* means “Come on! Let’s get going!” and is used colloquially in both Palestinian and Israeli dialect today. Through this call to action, the journal hopes to inspire the reader to choose communication over silence and dialogue over violence when dealing with the present situation. The journal asks the questions: “What does this conflict mean to Arab and Jewish youth today?” and “What does it mean to be Palestinian or Israeli?” It attempts to weave together a narrative through the stories and meditations generated by the various responses to these questions. In essence, *Yalla* hopes to help open up the much-needed lines of communication between Arab and Jewish communities abroad.

The first edition of the *Yalla* journal was released in 2005 across University Campuses in Canada. The first launch was co-sponsored by the Arab Student’s Association and Hillel student groups. It generated much public interest. *Yalla* editors were featured in both the local and national print media, were interviewed on local radio, and spoke at various University events across Eastern North America. They were also recipients of the Quebec Government’s *Forces Avenir* Award.

***Yalla* invites you to join us as we “Get Going”**

Press copies are available upon request

For further information contact yallajournal@yahoo.ca

