

Fall 2024 Olive Harvest Focus: Resources for further learning



As farmers bring in their crops across Canada, we'll connect with the olive harvest in Palestine. In the West Bank and Gaza the olive industry is very important. Many families inherited their trees going back generations, so there is enormous family pride in the trees and a strong sense of rootedness in the land. The trees are tough. They are resistant to drought and can survive in poor rocky soil. To Palestinians olive trees are powerful symbols of resilience, permanence, and resistance. They are much

more than a source of income; they are integral to the Palestinian identity. They are holy. The significance of olive trees to Palestinians has made them a target for Israeli settlers. Around the harvest season in particular, which traditionally is a community celebration, Israeli settlers harass farmers, spray crops, destroy and vandalize trees. Between 2000-2017 over 500,000 olive trees were uprooted by Israeli authorities and settler violence. You're invited to learn more about this situation, with the lands you live on and the food you rely on in mind. [Click here for a full overview of the olive harvest focus.](#)

Resources below include: **Short videos; key groups; presenters; children's books; supplies: olive oil and olive trees.**

1. SHORT VIDEOS

- **Olive Harvest in Palestine:** Rick Steves, 2:20 mins. 2013. [Click here for the YouTube link.](#)
A good basic cultural introduction.
- **Olive oil: the story of Palestinian identity.** [Click here for the YouTube link.](#) Middle East Eye, 6 mins, 2020
- **Olive harvest initiative 2020 - Setting the frame:** World Council of Churches (WCC), 2:11 mins. [Click here for the YouTube link.](#)
An excellent video which briefly explains the significance of olive trees and challenges faced by farmers.
- **Palestinian farmers threatened by Israeli settlers as olive harvest approaches:** Al-Jazeera. 2:16 mins, 2021. [Click here for the YouTube link.](#)
Palestinian farmers challenges, and initiatives to protect farmers and have settlers designated as terror groups.

The tree hugger: Settler attacks on Palestinian farmers and their olive trees
Al Jazeera World, 1:35 mins, 2020. [Click here for the YouTube link.](#) A story of resistance.

Why Are Palestinian Christians Leaving Jesus' Birthplace? A short, accessible introduction to the Christian community of Bethlehem, and the day to day lived impact of the military occupation and separation wall on urban and rural life. 12 minutes. [YouTube link here](#).

KEY GROUPS TO LEARN FROM

[B'tselem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.](#)

[Rabbis for Human Rights](#)

[The Sabeel Centre for Liberation Theology](#)

[Tent of Nations](#)

[Wiam Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre](#)

PRESENTERS

The following have all participated in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel and are available to speak: **Brenda Curtis**, Saskatoon; **Vicki Obedkoff**, Saskatoon; **Laura Sundberg**, Regina. Please contact the Living Skies Regional office at livingskies@united-church.ca

CHILDREN'S BOOKS: *These Olive Trees*, Aya Ghanameh (a child says goodbye to home, ages 3+) ; *Olive Harvest in Palestine*, Wafa Shami (describes harvest traditions), ages 6+

PRAYERS: please see the separate prayer file and the olive oil communion liturgy for Worldwide Communion Sunday [on our main olive harvest page](#).

PALESTINIAN OLIVE OIL

- **Village Goods**, Edmonton, <https://www.villagegoods.ca/>
Fair trade Zatoun olive oil: 500 ml @ \$30, 750 ml @ \$35. Can only ship in Alberta.
- **Zatoun**, <https://zatoun.com/> Only sells large quantities at this time.
Eg., 12 - 750 ml @ \$360 CA, shipping included.

OLIVE SEEDLINGS (all prices in CA\$)

- **Presbyterian Church in Canada** (works with JAI below) \$30 per tree. [Click here for more information](#). In its Olive Tree Campaign, The Joint Advocacy Initiative (JAI) of East Jerusalem YMCA and the YWCA of Palestine works to replenish the orchards of affected farmers and advocate on their behalf.
- **Islamic Relief Canada** \$10 per tree <https://www.islamicreliefcanada.org/campaign/giving-tuesday-plant-olive-trees-in-palestine-611#attr=>
- **Zatoun**, ("Palestine Peace Awareness Inc.) <https://zatoun.com/> Tree sponsorships are \$20 each.