



# Replanting Olive Trees for Peace in Palestine

Israelis have destroyed over one million olive trees belonging to Palestinians. Why? To strike at their livelihoods, create economic hardships, and displace them from their land. Once trees are removed and farmers are forced to leave their land, Israelis may claim and add this land to their settlements in occupied Palestine. This is one of many aggravating factors leading to Palestinian resistance and the current war.

Help MennoPIN (Mennonite Palestine Israel Network) and the Mennonite Men JoinTrees campaign raise \$50,000 to replace 2,500-3,000 olive trees and enable Palestinian families to remain on their land.

## Background

Trees of life are presented in the first and last chapters of the Bible and Ezekiel 34:25-31 as essential for God's peace. Through history, olive trees have been the most important trees in Palestine and are protected under Mosaic law (Deut. 20:19).

Today, olive trees are part of the identity of Palestinians and vital for their livelihood. Palestinian families have olive trees, some over 1,000 years old, that have passed from generation to generation. Critical in the economy of Palestine, nearly half of agricultural lands are olive orchards for essential products for local consumption and foreign export. Because olive trees are tough and resilient, they also represent Palestinian resistance.

## Response

MennoPIN and Mennonite Men are raising funds to replace destroyed olive trees and planning to help Palestinians replant. These are acts of solidarity, support, and resistance.

## Make a Contribution

Donate to replant olive trees to provide practical support for Palestinians and promote God's peace. Send contributions to Mennonite Men or MennoPIN.

- Mennonite Men, 718 North Main St., Newton, KS 67114. Write "Plant olive trees" in memo line.
- MennoPIN c/o Jim Norton, 1410 Pembroke Cir # 4, Goshen, IN 46526. Make checks out to "MennoPIN" with "Plant olive trees" in memo line.

## Trip to Palestine

Along with raising funds for this campaign, MennoPIN and Mennonite Men are planning a working and learning trip to Palestine and Israel February 12-27, 2025 to work with Palestinian groups and farmers to plant olive trees. This trip will include visits to holy sites in the life of Jesus and learning his way of peace. Request information for Trees, the Land, and Jesus: A Working and Learning Trip to Palestine and Israel from contact persons below.

## Contact Persons

Bob Atchison, Director of MennoPIN, professional forester, and peace and justice advocate.

- Email: [robertleatchison@gmail.com](mailto:robertleatchison@gmail.com)
- Phone: 785.313.2292

Steve Thomas, US director of Mennonite Men, certified arborist, and coordinator for JoinTrees campaign.

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