



# WRONGFULLY EVICTED: CPT's Partners in El Guayabo Violently Displaced From Their Land

p.7

## TEAM REPORTS



### Palestine

*The Ongoing  
Struggle Against  
Occupation*



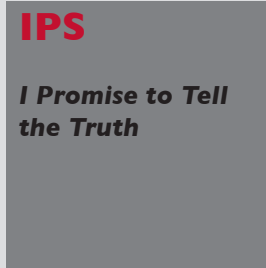
### Colombia

*Our Faith*



### Kurdistan

*Villagers Show  
Solidarity to the  
People of Afrin,  
Syria*



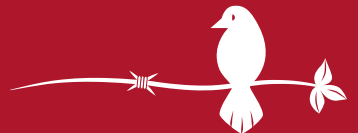
### IPS

*I Promise to Tell  
the Truth*

CPT Annual Report: Hope in Times of Crisis p.2 | Lesvos: No One is an Island p.14  
Mailbag p.15

# BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO TRANSFORM VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION

vol.xxviii, No. 1; JAN - MAR 2018



christian peacemaker teams



## Hope in Times of Crisis

*I am open and I am willing,  
For to be hopeless would seem so strange.  
It dishonors those who go before us;  
So lift me up to the light of change.*

**Holly Near**

**The past year has been a difficult time for Christian Peacemaker Teams and our partners, but we continue to step forward in the name of hope. In this, your unwavering support has been crucial. We have held you in a spirit of gratitude as you read our partners' stories and passed them on, to be sure that their voices are heard. We have been with you as you hosted CPTers in your homes, churches, and communities. We have been nourished by your contributions of time, funds, and prayers. Thank you for helping to keep us strong.**

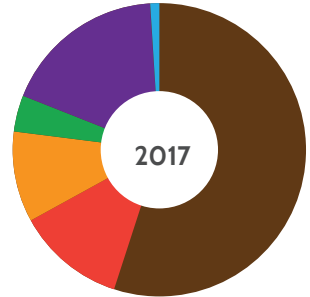
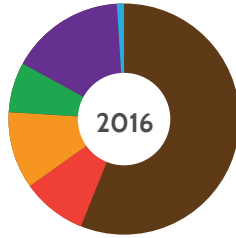
Across all of our projects, the challenges have been great. The year ended in **Palestine** with rising violence from the occupying force, as our partner communities were shaken by the USA's decision to acknowledge Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In **Colombia**, we stood with our partners in El Guayabo as they were forcibly displaced from their land. We were there as **Iraqi Kurdistan** voted in a referendum for independence, and as the Iraqi government responded with force. The **Indigenous Peoples Solidarity** Team lent their voices to our partners' demand to recognize the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Canada, and in the call for justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women.

And yet, we hold hope that the world can yet change. Our partners continue to work toward a future of peace and fair treatment, and we are proud to stand with them. **Thank you for joining with us in this peacemaking work.** In continuing to share our stories and nourish our projects with your contributions, you are helping to keep that hope alive. **All of these struggles are still alive and hurting as we enter 2018, and we hope that you will continue to move forward with us.**



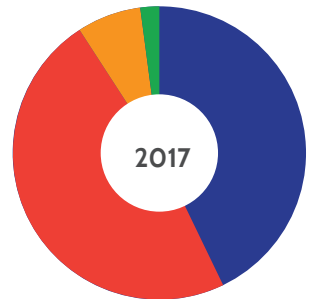
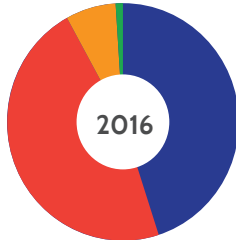
## Fiscal Year Ending 10/31/17

### ORDINARY INCOME



SOURCE		2016	2017
Individuals	590,600 / 56%	609,700 / 55%	
Congregations	92,500 / 9%	134,700 / 12%	
Delegations	112,600 / 11%	116,400 / 10%	
Major Gifts	71,600 / 7%	40,000 / 4%	
Grants	162,400 / 16%	195,100 / 18%	
Other	17,000 / 1%	14,300 / 1%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,046,700</b>	<b>1,110,200</b>	

### ORDINARY EXPENSE



SOURCE		2016	2017
Program	445,900 / 45%	476,600 / 43%	
Peacemaker Corps	466,800 / 47%	522,600 / 48%	
Admin & Fundraising	64,000 / 7%	75,600 / 7%	
Other	13,900 / 1%	22,900 / 2%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>990,600</b>	<b>1,097,700</b>	



*One of hundreds of Palestinians detained by the Israeli Occupation Forces in December, 2017.*

## **Palestine and the Ongoing Struggle Against Occupation**

*By CPT Palestine Team Member*

On the wall in the CPT Palestine Office is the phrase “Dream, Hope, Work for the day to come...”

The dreams and hopes of CPT, and even more those of the Palestinian people, were given a blow on December 6, 2017, when an announcement was made by the USA Administration recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, in violation of UN Resolution 478, and the earlier UN Resolution 476.

Life for the Palestinians under the Occupation is always difficult, but this has been even more disrupted since December. There has been an escalation of chaos and violence in many of the cities in the West Bank, including al-Khalil, where CPT Palestine is based. The Palestinians rightfully take to the streets and exercise their right to peaceful demonstrations and protests, but they are met with the violence of the gun by the Israeli Occupying Force (IOF). The IOF have “occupied” the streets of many of the cities in the West Bank, and their orders prevail over the needs and lives of the people. Any attempt to go against what they order is met by excessive force in the form of sound grenades, tear gas, live ammunition and rubber bullets.

Between December 6 and 27, the IOF unlawfully killed 15 Palestinians, detained 610, and injured thousands. The detained Palestinians are arrested during protests, at checkpoints, or through house raids. Of the detainees, twelve are women, and 184 are children. Palestinian children as young as six years of age have not been spared. At the age of twelve, Palestinian children are considered adults before the law, and so can be arrested and imprisoned. This does not apply to Israeli children, who are considered adults at the age of eighteen in accordance with International Law.

In the present day, the IOF continues mass arrest and harassment campaigns as part of their

collective punishment, which is a systematic policy against Palestinians. They target all Palestinians including vulnerable groups: children, women, elders, and disabled people. The use of extra force is systematic during protests and arrests. The IOF grossly violates and assaults detainees during arrest, brutally beating them, causing physical and psychological harm.

These policies are in direct violation of Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 50 of The Hague Regulations, which specifically prohibits collective punishment. These systematic practices of the Israeli forces go further than collective punishment. This is an attempt to expand Israel's control and domination over Palestinians and deny them the right to self-determination.

Despite this show of power and force, the people have not given up, and come out in large numbers to protest the many illegal acts and violence of the IOF. Seventeen-year-old A'hed al-Tamini, arrested on charges of slapping an Israeli soldier, has gained wide recognition in the international media. She has become a symbol of the many Palestinian children who are resisting the Occupation. No other country in the world automatically prosecutes children in Military Courts that fundamentally lack the basics of fair trial guarantee. Since the year 2000 at least 8000 Palestinian children have been arrested and prosecuted in an Israeli Detention system notorious for its systematic ill treatment and torture of Palestinian children.

## **Settler Parade Illustrates Illegal Apartheid System Enforced By Israeli Forces on Palestinians in al-Khalil**

*By CPT Palestine Team Member*

On March 1, 2018, around noon-time, Israeli forces increased restrictions and collective punishment on the civilian Palestinian population in the old city of occupied al-Khalil. These increased restrictions were enforced in order to facilitate movement of settlers from the illegal settlements. This led to Palestinians being stuck and detained at checkpoints, including students and kindergarten children on their way home. The routinely high levels of restricted movement, collective punishment, intimidation and harassment of Palestinians are scaled up even further during Jewish holidays.

These settlers were celebrating the Jewish holiday of Purim. Many of them were wearing costumes, with some of them, including small children, dressed up as fully-armed Israeli soldiers. Others were dressed up as "Palestinians" wearing a kaffiyeh. As they paraded down Shuhada Street, this procession did not only impede Palestinian freedom of movement to facilitate settler movement, but additionally illustrated the apartheid policies enforced by the army. Since 1994, Israeli forces have banned Palestinians from accessing the vast majority of Shuhada Street, solely and exclusively based on their ethnicity as Palestinians: a fact, furthermore, that the Israelis deny, referring to them as "Arabs." There is a tiny strip of Shuhada Street that is still accessible to Palestinians, and the very few Palestinians still allowed to access this section have been assigned specific numbers as 'residents,' which allow them to pass to their own homes. Any Palestinian not registered as a resident in the area, and thus without a number, is not even allowed to access this small part of Shuhada Street by the Israeli forces.

As Israeli settlers paraded from the settlement in the Palestinian neighborhood of Tel Rumeida, down Shuhada Street and towards the Ibrahimi mosque, Israeli forces shut down checkpoints. This was done in order to allow the settler parade to move freely, while denying Palestinians their right to go about their work and day. The checkpoints were closed for up to two hours.

These checkpoints, many of which are fortified, are strategically placed to impede Palestinians' freedom of movement. For Palestinians of all ages, checkpoints are a daily obstacle on their way to school, work, home, and medical facilities, or simply on their way to visit family and friends and go



*The settler parade causes disruptions in the daily routine of Palestinians.*

about their everyday life. The arbitrary checkpoint closures are never announced, and Palestinians are completely stopped in their ability to move without prior warning. Students and teachers from Qurtuba school were detained on the stairs leading towards Shuhada Street, as they were trying to get home. Students and teachers at this school are only allowed to pass in the mornings on their way to school, and in the afternoon as they go home.

Checkpoint 56, located on Shuhada street (one of the checkpoints leading to the Palestinian neighborhoods of Tel Rumeida), was closed for several hours. Similarly, at various checkpoints in the vicinity of the Ibrahim Mosque, Israeli forces closed down and even locked checkpoints with padlocks, and stopped complete movement of Palestinians below the Mosque checkpoint. These measures were taken by the Israeli forces solely for the benefit of the illegal settlers, to celebrate their holiday in a zone without any presence of the occupied Palestinian population. This is in clear contravention to the obligation of Israel as the occupying power to enable normal life for the occupied population. As stated in Article 43 of the Hague Regulation, “it is the duty of an occupying State to exercise their power for the benefit of the occupied area and population.”

In occupied al-Khalil, where the restrictions and harassment of the occupation are visible and palpable around the clock for the Palestinian population, Jewish holidays and events just add an additional layer of restrictions, intimidations, and harassments for Palestinians.



*Campesinx farmers observe while Rodrigo Lopez Henao's hired men destroy their house.*

## **Campesinx<sup>1</sup> Victims of the Conflict Evicted from their Land**

*By Hannah Redekop, CPT Colombia*

On December 13, 2017, municipal authorities in Puerto Wilches evicted 60 farming families from the land they depend on to ensure the food security for their families and the inhabitants of the township of El Guayabo. The community was violently displaced from 11 farms that they have been harvesting for 30 years, causing a humanitarian crisis.

In a process full of irregularities, the police arrived at 9:30am to proceed without having notified the occupants as required by law. Two police checkpoints blocked a public road for about two hours, prohibiting the occupiers of the land, the community lawyer Jorge Gómez Lizarazo, and national and international organizations from witnessing the eviction. The order was executed without the presence of the municipal judge of Puerto Wilches and without the guarantees ordered by the National Prosecutor's Office and the National Land Agency (ANT) set in place to respond to the communities' status as victims.

The police inspector in charge of executing the judge's orders refused to meet with Mr. Lizarazo, and did not present himself for the procedure. Likewise, the municipal ombudsman responsible for ensuring that human rights were upheld demonstrated his clear bias against the community by not intervening on their behalf. Throughout the procedure, it was Rodrigo Lopez Henao, the land claimant, who gave orders to Captain Rivera of the police. Dozens of police from the Mobile Anti-Riot Squad fired tear gas at the community and protected the men hired by Mr. Lopez so they could enter the farms, knock down houses, and destroy crops. This was the culmination of several irregular eviction attempts and continuous acts of violence against the community for the past 5 years by Mr. Lopez.

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<sup>1</sup> Small farmer. The 'x' is used for gender inclusivity.



*Community members' belongings are piled up beside the river after being evicted from their farms.*

In the context following the new peace agreements signed by the Colombian government and the guerrilla group FARC, it is extremely alarming that a population recognized as victims, who should be protected and compensated, is instead being revictimized by the state. The first point in the agreements speaks of comprehensive rural reform to ensure land for peasant farmer campesinxs. This eviction is one of many examples where the state continues to give priority to large landowners who have never lived or worked on the lands they claim. In addition, part of the land in question is state land, and only the ANT can take legal action over these lands. The ANT has a duty to enter the region and clarify the boundaries of state lands, as it not a judge's jurisdiction to preside over cases involving state lands.

The community and supporting organizations are meeting with the authorities to demand an investigation by the National Prosecutor's Office regarding the irregularities of procedure, focusing not only on the events of December 13, but also on a full review of all legal proceedings brought forth by Mr. Lopez to claim these lands. They also demand guarantees for the people of El Guayabo, a recognized victim community of human rights activists, who depend on the land to support their families. Finally, the National Land Agency must survey, demarcate, and take concrete actions with regards to state owned lands.





*Sandro Jiménez and CPTer Carolina Gouveia chat on the banks of the Magdalena river about the recent eviction his family experienced on December 13, 2017 in El Guayabo. Caldwell Manners/CPT*

## Our Faith

He has died,  
 They have told me he has died,  
 He has died,  
 I saw him, he is dead,  
 He has died,  
 And with him, we have died,  
 He has died,  
 And with him our hopes  
 Have died,  
 And with him our liberation  
 Has died,  
 And with him the light has gone out,  
 He has died,  
 And he has left us alone in the darkness,  
 He has died,  
 And with him everything is gone... including  
 my life.

But what happened?

They have crucified him,  
 And on his body they made the reason very  
 clear,  
 They have crucified him,  
 And on his hands the holes of the seeds we  
 never sowed,  
 They have crucified him,  
 And on his forehead the thorns over which  
 we the poor have walked,  
 They have crucified him,  
 And from his body the blood of our brothers  
 and sisters,  
 They have crucified him,  
 And from his eyes our tears have been dried,  
 They have crucified him,  
 And our mothers who give birth in pain, today  
 fall in pain,  
 They have crucified him,

*By Jhon Henry, CPT Colombia*

And with him the poor who die day by day  
 looking to the sky and asking why?

And what happened to his body?

In a hole,  
 They have buried him,  
 In a hole,  
 Where we are only a memory,  
 In a hole,  
 Where tears become silence,  
 In a hole,  
 Where our brothers and sisters wait for his  
 return,  
 In a hole,  
 Where those who killed him cannot reach  
 him,  
 In a hole,  
 Where today he distances himself from this  
 hell,  
 In a hole,  
 Where our dreams are found.

And so everything is finished?

He has resurrected,  
 And some are crazier to continue trying,  
 He has resurrected,  
 And it appears that the righteous are  
 multiplying,  
 He has resurrected,  
 And in his name the poor have won battles,  
 He has resurrected,  
 And life has been given to the assassinated,  
 He has resurrected,  
 And those who killed them have no more  
 hope,  
 He has resurrected,  
 And with him our hopes have triumphed.



*Women of Basta and neighboring villages in Iraqi Kurdistan gather in solidarity for the Kurdish town of Afrin, Syria, which is under attack from the Turkish government.*

## **Villagers Impacted by Turkish Bombardments Show Solidarity with the People of Afrin, Syria**

*By CPT Iraqi Kurdistan Team Member*

Basta village has been affected by cross border bombardments for decades. It is located along an active front line in the Turkish government's war targeting the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) based in the Qandil mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan. Over the past decade, CPT has partnered with the villagers in this area as they resist displacement and are forced to continuously rebuild on their ancestral lands.

Kak Bapir is Basta's mukhtar (village leader), and also represents many other surrounding villages. On January 30, 2018, CPT was invited into his family's home to talk about recent issues regarding the local villages. After a warm welcome and a wonderful meal, Kak Bapir updated CPT about a new electrical project that was installed in November.

After updates about the village, Kak Bapir began to talk about a more personal issue. His teenage son is in dire need of hip replacement surgery, and like so many families in this region, he does not have access to the funds required to have this surgery (approximately \$3,000 USD). Currently, Kak Bapir is looking for an NGO who specializes in medical aid to assist in this matter.

Later that day, we were invited to an event in support of the Kurdish town of Afrin in Syria, which has been under attack by the Turkish government. The women of Basta, along with women from neighboring villages, organized a rally to raise awareness of the attack on Afrin, and to show solidarity with Kurds in Syria.



The rally started with a woman calling for solidarity, saying “We ask all nations to organize, protest, and work together against the Turkish government to protect Afrin.” She spoke about the persistent killing of Kurds by the Turkish government, describing it as a genocide.

“You all know it has been ten days that Turkey as a member of NATO has been attacking Afrin ... We ask the Western Powers to stop their attack on the Kurdish homeland,” said another young woman. Later a young man added, “An attack on Afrin is an attack on all of us.”

Villagers in the area of Basta have experienced a constant threat of Turkish bombardments for decades. Their voices rang out loudly as they condemned these types of attacks on other Kurdish towns.

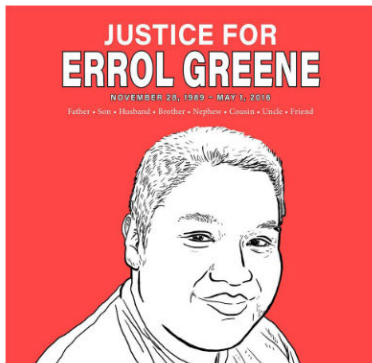
Visiting their community, CPT’s team members are able to see the many ways that they work to support each other in this time of crisis, ranging from the most personal family problems to the challenges that threaten the wider Kurdish community. We seek to amplify their words, so that others also will know their stories.

Please help to stop the attacks on the people of Afrin.  
Follow this link to support Afrin: <http://bit.ly/2HDDB6D>





# Indigenous Peoples Solidarity



Images created in the name of remembrance and justice for Colten Boushie, Tina Fontaine, and Errol Greene.

## I Promise to Tell the Truth

By Kathy Moorhead Thiessen, IPS Team Member

I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth –  
So help me God, One who is forever watching.

January 29, 2018: this day, three court events began their course in Western Canada. Manitoba and Saskatchewan and all of Canada watched and read and commented. Loved ones sat in the gallery, waiting for truth – hoping and praying for justice to show herself. Witnesses came into the rooms of our legal system – some walking by themselves, Others guarded by sheriffs – clinking as they moved over the marble floor – Sitting in the box at the front – expected to tell their truth.

In two of the cases, jury members listened for the truth – maybe some prayed for wisdom. In the third, a judge continues listening for the truth of an inquest – maybe she prays for wisdom too.

But in all these cases, three people were not there.

Three people who had walked and breathed and laughed and cried.

Three beautiful, young Indigenous human beings whose lives were ended.

They have no chance to speak their truth; to tell their story of what happened that day.

They had no opportunity to say, “I did not want that gun pointed at my head.”

To say, “I wanted to be safe; I did not want to be stuffed into a duvet cover and thrown into the Red River.”

To say, “I asked and asked for my medication. Why did you not give it to me when I asked?”

*Colten Boushie (age 22) of Red Pheasant First Nation: Gerald Stanley shot him in the back of his head with a handgun following a confrontation between the farmer and a carload of Indigenous youth.*

*Tina Fontaine (age 15) of Sagkeeng First Nation: her petite body was found in the Red River in Winnipeg, wrapped in a duvet cover weighed down by rocks.*

*Errol Greene (age 26) of Poplar River First Nation: died of a seizure in the Remand Centre on the 3rd day after arrest. He was not provided with his epilepsy medication by the prison medical team. He was handcuffed and shackled after the first seizure and died approximately 15 minutes later.*

Where is the accountability? Where is the truth?

Here is the truth:



*Community members in Winnipeg walk in honor of Tina Fontaine.*

The attitudes and actions of colonization are alive and well.

There is a divide, an enmity between many who have come to the land in the last 200 years and the ones who were here when we arrived. The divide/fear/hate that makes a farmer pull out a handgun based on assumptions of what could happen with a carload of Indigenous youth.

There are over 1,100 Indigenous women and girls missing or murdered across this land called Canada in the past 30 years alone. "Indigenous women make up 16% of all murdered women and 11% of missing women, yet only 4.3% of the female Canadian population," reports the Ontario Native Women's Association.

There is a surge in the Canadian imprisonment of Indigenous people. Statistics show that nationwide, 22.8% of people in our prisons are Indigenous. Yet they make up only 4% of the population of Canada. As one report shares, "criminologists have begun quietly referring to Canada's prisons and jails as the country's 'new residential schools.'" For Errol Greene, the Remand Centre was his death place.

Lady Justice has not shown herself.

The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So help me God/One who is forever watching.



*A CPT Lesvos Team member helps amplify the voices of the victimized Kurdish community members of Afrin, Syria.*

## **No One is an Island**

*By Chihchun Yuan, CPT Reservist*

On Feb. 12, in the city center of Mytilene, Lesvos, there was a social gathering to remember the Syrian civilians who lost their lives in a recent bombing. In the past weeks, Turkish-sanctioned air strikes have killed and injured hundreds of civilians in Afrin, Syria, the home of a Kurdish minority group. The Kurdish civilians there are trying to establish social safety by forming an autonomous territory. The action was conducted by the Turkish Military and Airforce.

The CPT Lesvos team helped spread awareness, and engage in conversation with nearby pedestrians. In a conversation about the effects this has on refugees trying to enter the European Union, one medical practitioner shared their observation about a rescue mission operated by the authorities. They witnessed, for example, the Turkish coast guard approaching the refugees' dinghy boat quite intimidatingly. Because of the EU-Turkey statement, the Turkish government has received money from EU to stop the refugee boats from entering Greece. This is especially worrisome since Turkey is also the country launching the attacks that are causing these people to flee their homeland. There is a direct correlation between the refugee crisis in the EU and the attacks happening in Syria, Iraq, and other Middle Eastern countries.

The EU has implemented a policy of sending the refugees to a third "safety" country. By doing so, the EU is excluding itself from international responsibility and violating its culture of human rights. Who are these "safety" countries? Turkey, as well as countries in North America, are chosen for this purpose. Almost every year, the United Nations, EU commissions, and the US State Department publish human rights reports or humanitarian reports to address the political and social instability in those so-called "safe third countries," but in spite of these reports, many white politicians have no guilt in placing their responsibilities on the shoulders of people of color.

Turkey, for example, has been involved in attacking minority groups in Syria, and has implemented policies to oppress the rights of civilians internally, which negatively affects the strength of the

civil society. For hosting refugees, the civil society is one of the most important elements (as reported in the Country of Origin Information Report: Turkey Country Focus, published by European Asylum Support Office).

CPT's Lesvos Team would like our supporters to continue paying attention to the military actions and the global political agenda of white hegemony, and to support the grassroots organizations around you. We need to strengthen the capacity of civil society for the purpose of remembering: in the words of Haruki Murakami, "If there is a hard, high wall and an egg that breaks against it, no matter how right the wall or how wrong the egg, I will stand on the side of the egg...to fight the wall, we must join our souls together for warmth, strength. We must not let the system control us — create who we are. It is we who created the system." (The Guardian, Nov. 1, 2016).

*At the end of 2017, we invited our constituents to share messages of support with the field teams, as they encounter situations of conflict, tension, and violence in their work. Here we would like to share one message that was offered.*

Hello to all the Teams:

This is just to let you know that I read all the reports from all of you and try to share as many as I can on social media - Twitter and Facebook. Thank you for the work you do which I know can be very difficult and discouraging but also full of blessing. It is really encouraging to know that you are there doing what you can to walk alongside people who are suffering and don't have a voice. You amplify their voice. Linda and I watched the CBC news the other night and they reviewed many of the world tragedies to people in 2017 ... The playing out of all this tragedy was almost more than I could bear. It is encouraging for us (Linda and me) to know that you are there in each place, Palestine, Kurdistan, Colombia, North America with Indigenous people, and Lesvos.

**LOVE AND BLESSINGS TO ALL OF YOU. YOU ARE VERY APPRECIATED.**

**MURRAY LUMLEY, CPT RESERVIST, TORONTO, CANADA**

*We would like to reaffirm and echo this message of gratitude and support to our field teams, who dedicate their time and energy to accompany our partners, and do the work of CPT.*

### Contact CPT

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Indigenous Peoples Solidarity <i>Winnipeg, Manitoba</i>	CPT-IPS.tumblr.com	ips@cpt.org
Iraqi Kurdistan Team <i>Suleimani, Iraqi Kurdistan</i>	CPTIK.org	cptiraq@cpt.org



The CPT Administrative Team gathered in Chicago in March to connect with one another and discuss their shared work.

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26 June-6 July

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
SOLIDARITY**

11-20 May  
20-30 July

**IRAQI-KURDISTAN**

21 April-5 May  
22 September-6 October

**PALESTINE/ISRAEL**

30 April-14 May  
7-21 August  
22 October-5 November  
30 November-14 December

To learn more, visit <http://cpt.org/participate/delegation> or  
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