



“Women do not birth nor raise sons and daughters for war.”

Iraqi Kurdistan: Organise a protest in solidarity with Badinan Activists

At this time there are 78 Activists from the Badinan region of Iraqi Kurdistan in prison. 17 of them have been charged with espionage and sabotage despite lack of evidence. The Kurdistan Regional Government is targeting these people because they have spoken out against government corruption and for fair treatment of workers. They are being made an example of, to discourage others from criticising the government. We are campaigning for their freedom.

You can support this struggle by organising a solidarity protest in your country.

Recently a group of activists in the Netherlands protested against the detainment of the Badinan activists and this has led to members of the Iraqi government taking a greater interest in the case. We need to continue this vital international pressure.

We suggest organising a protest out in front of offices of Iraqi or Kurdistan region representatives in your country or phoning the offices to voice your concerns for freedom of expression and ask for the immediate release of the Badinan Activists.

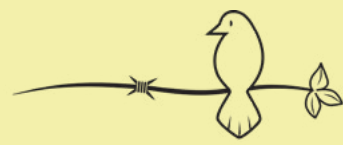
Please send us photos of any actions you organise so we can share them on our social media and families and friends of the activists can learn about your support.

We have been following these trials closely and have a number of articles and reports on our website which you can easily access at cptaction.org

Cover photo: Trevor Brady. Poster photo: Caldwell Manners



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Take Action

ORGANISE A PROTEST IN
SOLIDARITY WITH
BADINAN ACTIVISTS



Padraig O'Tuama on
Collective Liberation

CPT PEACEMAKER CONGRESS

CPT CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF ACTION

THE HEART OF
ACCOMPANIMENT

SUSTAINABILITY
SPOTLIGHT

POSTER INSIDE



Building Partnerships to
Transform Violence and
Oppression

Collective Liberation

By Pádraig O'Tuama

*Read or watch entire poem and keynote address at cpt.org

On September 25, we hosted the CPT Peace-maker Congress, marking our 35 years of solidarity work and action for peace. Over one hundred participants from all over the world joined us for a virtual event which included a workshop on Undoing Oppressions and another on Nonviolence. In his keynote speech, Irish poet and theologian Pádraig O'Tuama invited us to consider how we hold power as we work together for collective liberation.

The following is an excerpt from his address. You can view the complete speech on our website, cpt.org

I have been shocked and curious, and upset and bothered in so many ways by the question of power my whole life. How is it that in rooms of power, we acknowledge power? Often it seems to me that in rooms of power, those with the most power also perform the most fear in the name of saying that they're the ones under the most threat; while they're threatening and dismantling and devoicing, other people actu-

ally under measurable serious threat. How do we pay attention to this?

Sometimes I've been the one with no power, and I've been the one who's had to be ten times as gracious in order to appease the performed anxieties of the powerful. Other times though, I have been the one with power, and I have been the one living with my own defences and defensive about my own defences. Here's a poem about that.

Postcards to the Centre
To the center from the edge:
This circle's marked out
by the dredges of your justice
and at these edgeplace ruts,
we eat the crusts of hope.

Must this circle never end?
Please can we make a new shape
shaped a bit like you
and shaped like me
shaped like how we think that things might be

if things were not the way they've been.
And yes, I know, that's a dreamer's dream
but sometimes dreams,
like nightmares, can be real.

To the center from the edge:
We're still here if you drown out all our voices
you will not drown out your fear.
We're still here.

To the center from the edge:
We will live with you
if you will live with us
You go first and then we'll follow.
You start off today,
and we'll catch up tomorrow.*

This question of how is it that people with disparate levels of power and utterly different levels of threat, they're living under, can come together in a way to look at each other in the eye, not just for peace and reconciliation or a room where people hug or shake hands or say they're friends.

That's nice for that little corner of the world, but it doesn't impact the rest of the world. How is it that those rooms can begin to exercise a muscle where people who have power that they are using and abusing, and denying that they are using and abusing, can begin to reckon with the impact of the power they have - the privilege of the power they have? How can they begin to say: I don't care about my intention?

Everybody's intentions are probably okay. I want to be nice. I want to be good enough. I want to be okay. I want my friends to like me. I want my partner or my children or my colleagues to like me. I want to be successful. Those are fine intentions, but in the context, and you know this so well, better than I, in the context of conflict, intentions don't matter. Impact does. Somebody whose intention is to protect themselves from the imagined siege they're under can kill you. Therefore their intention doesn't matter too much. It is their impact.*

The Heart of our Accompaniment

By Milena Rincón

"How has it been to have meetings in your language?" I asked.

"It feels different; we have enjoyed it together, but don't get me wrong! We want CPTers from other countries to join our team."

This short exchange reminded me of a similar conversation a few years ago. It made me aware of how far CPT's commitment to undoing oppression has led us to have CPTers from our program locations join the teams—in their own country or another location. Please don't get us wrong! CPT's goal is to have a very diverse and qualified membership. We believe everyone can be a peacemaker and a CPTer.

As CPT, we have been walking a journey that started at least two decades ago to develop an accompaniment model of CPT teams that reflect the rich diversity of the human family. This journey has led us to do the intentional internal anti-op-

pression work of analyzing and acting upon an accompaniment concept that privileges specific individuals to do this work as part of an international organization. For many people, protective and political international accompaniment can only be done by white foreigners with certain passports because this literally translates into neutrality, impartiality, increased visibility, advocacy and lobby opportunities. This accompaniment model relies on the consideration that some lives are more valuable than others, the perpetuation of a hierarchy among individuals eager to do accompaniment, and the risk that those doing accompaniment will be more visible, listened to, and perceived as more courageous and committed than the communities and organizations with whom they want to be in solidarity. CPT's own journey with the help of its partners allowed CPT to move from this traditional model based on privilege to-

wards building partnerships for supporting our mutual transformation; For CPT, this meant opening our membership to a diverse and expansive community of CPTers.

Our ongoing commitment to have a diverse and dedicated group of CPTers, regardless of their nationality, has been especially crucial for CPT's work since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020. While many accompaniment organizations suspended their operations due to their staff needing to leave, CPT continued accompanying our partners on the ground. Our CPT members from the countries we work in made it possible. All teams adjusted to the ongoing COVID-19 safety and health requirements regulated by the local and national authorities, and at the same time, continued accompanying partners while implementing best practices to mutually care for each other. Virtual and phone communication became quite an accompa-

niment tool for teams and partners until they could meet again in person.

For our partners, CPT presence during COVID-19 has been crucial and supportive. They love all CPTers, no doubt. Yet during the pandemic, things changed. Partners continued their work for justice and peace while facing the impact of COVID-19 and experiencing more complications in their socio-political contexts. So, for them to be able to easily contact a CPTer, and have the space to share about how they are doing, to ask CPTers how they are doing, strategize, and ask for CPT accompaniment, gives them strength and energy to continue. They know they are not alone; and, CPTers from our program locations have been, indeed, the heart of this connection, the drive of our accompaniment during this time and over the last decades. Thank you, shukran, sor zpas, gracias, efiaristó.

Sustainability Spotlight

By Mark Frey, Global Sustainability Working Group

CPT takes its commitment to sustainability seriously. Recently, our Global Sustainability Working Group asked our Programs to complete an electricity usage profile. Behind every kilowatt of electricity is climate-warming CO2 that was released to generate the electricity. Our Program teams are like a collection of households, and the GSWG encourages our teams to look for ways to reduce energy consumption. The teams' responses below give insight into how our teams live and work and reveal that they are already thinking about energy consumption.

CPT Colombia

Electricity generation in Colombia is primarily from hydropower.

Context: Barrancabermeja city has an average daily temperature of 35 to 45 degrees

Celsius (95-113 F) and high humidity. Air conditioning is essential for shared office space, and some team members occasionally use air conditioners in their bedrooms for a couple of hours at night. Any area that doesn't have air conditioning must have a

ceiling fan.
What are the team's consumption habits? Air conditioners, fridge, ceiling fans, lights, computers.

What are the ways to reduce consumption? The only way we see possible to reduce consumption is to make sure we turn off ceiling fans while no one is present.

What are the possibilities for solar power, and how much would it cost? Solar energy is possible. We get almost 11 hours of very intense sunlight per day. The cost to install a solar system would be about 45 million pesos (USD 12,000). CPT does not own the house, and because the landlord would not assist with this endeavour, CPT would have to pay the cost of installation and take-down when we leave. There is a high risk of damage or theft of the system due to social-economic injustice in our part of the city.

CPT Iraqi Kurdistan

Electricity is generated primarily from burning oil. Iraq's grid is old, and approximately 50% of electricity is lost in transmission.

What are the team's consumption habits?

Our house is connected to two sources of power: the city's primary grid provides electricity for only part of the day and we "rent" access to a private neighbourhood diesel generator that provides power for the remaining hours. The generator allows only 8 amperes of current and some appliances like the washing machine and water heater-boiler cannot run on it. In the winter and summer months, when the power

consumption in the city peaks (because of AC units), there are some hours without power.

What are your habits of consumption?

We have computers, printer, camera battery, internet, phones, lights, water heater, washing machine, coffee maker, water kettle, a few fans and essential water/swamp coolers (we have two which run for about 12 hours daily over about 5 months in a year). We recently purchased a water filter that eliminates plastic bottled water, but it does use electricity. We heat rooms with portable propane and kerosene heaters for winter months and rarely use a few small electric heaters. We cook on propane gas.

What are the ways to reduce consumption?

We cannot think of much besides being more aware of turning off lights. Some lights in Kurdish homes are expected to stay on for the whole night.

CPT Palestine

Israel controls electricity generation through natural gas, coal and oil.

What are the team's consumption habits?

The lights are on most of the time. We forget to turn off a couple of unneeded lights inside the office. In the winter (and even in the summer) we use a lot of electricity for heaters since the office is located in an old stone building that is cold sometimes. Most of the team makes sure to turn off the lights and anything connected to electricity before we leave.

What are the ways to reduce consumption?

We can change the light bulbs to LEDs. Unplug the computers before we leave the

office. In winter we can change from electric heaters to propane.

What are the undoing oppressions questions that might apply?

Who has access to—or can afford—electricity alternatives? Does everyone have access to electricity in the first place? In the South Hebron Hills, people are already

struggling to get an electricity generator where they live! Does every house (e.g. crowded neighbourhoods, refugee camps, etc.) have good access to sunlight so they can use solar power?

The charts below show the dramatic increase in global energy usage since 1950 [FSU = Former Soviet Union]. While we've asked our international Programs—all located outside the United States—to examine their energy consumption, the US dwarfs all other regions in per capita energy usage. CPT asks its US supporters to consider their own energy usage!

Email sustainability@cpt.org if you're interested in supporting CPT as we move toward greater sustainability.

