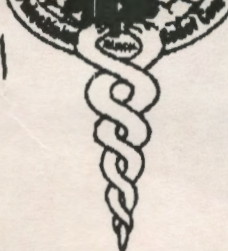


Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees
Jerusalem

اتحاد لجان الإغاثة الطبية
الفلسطينية
القدس



March 18th, 2003

Dear parents, family, friends, and colleagues of Rachel Corrie.

Sunday, March 16th was not the right time for Rachel Corrie to die. No time can possibly be the right time for a 23-year-old young woman – with a life so full of hope, promise and love – to die.

But as Martin Luther King said, "The time is always right to do what is right." And doing what is right is exactly what young Rachel did. And for this, she paid with her precious life.

From what we know about Rachel, she would not have wanted our gratitude. Rachel was unusual. Not only because she was a hero, did the extraordinary, or something above and beyond the call of duty, but because she did what should be the entirely ordinary. She accepted her responsibility as a member of the human race, simply and quietly, and acted on that responsibility. For that, we, the Palestinian people, are grateful.

Horace Mann once said, "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity." By that token, there is no shame in Rachel's death for her family and loved ones. And yet there is shame in her death. Shame on the part of a world that would tolerate the killing of women, men and children by an army intent on stealing freedom and justice away from a dignified and generous people. Shame on the part of an army that would murder an innocent young woman standing up for that freedom, justice and life. The stain of Rachel's blood will remain on the world's conscience forever.

But this is no consolation for Rachel's parents, who have not lost an activist or a hero – they have simply lost their youngest daughter. We, the Palestinian people, who lose our sons and daughters everyday, feel your grief and your pain. We share your agony. You are one of us. And there is one thing I can promise you with great confidence: Rachel's name will never be forgotten. It has already been deeply embedded in the heart of every Palestinian.

Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi

President of the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, Health Development Information and Policy Institute of Palestine, and member of Grassroots International Protection for Palestinians (GIPP)