

Episode 45: Creating Safer and Braver Spaces to Talk about Israel/Palestine in Schools II

Guests: Mohamed Ibrahim & Sapir Huberman

Host: Efe

Bio: Mohamed Ibrahim is a political scientist with a focus on international cooperation. For over 15 years, he has led workshops on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with Israeli colleagues and works as an interreligious and intercultural trainer in Jewish-Muslim and Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. He's been regularly invited to facilitate workshop at the Jewish and Muslim scholarship foundations Ehrlich-Ludwig-Studienwerk and Avicenna Studienwerk. He also moderated a prominent Jewish-Muslim discussion group at the Jewish Museum Berlin for many years. Mohamed Ibrahim was born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon and grew up in Germany. In 2015, he received the Flechtheim Prize for Democracy and Human Rights together with Shemi Shabat for his engagement in dialogue work. He is one of the most renowned voices of dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians in Germany.

Sapir Huberman is a respected Israeli mediator, curator, scholar, and cultural educator. She develops inspiring and thought provoking educational programs on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Jewish history, and Jewish life, creating historically and politically informed formats that bring different perspectives into dialogue. She is pursuing a PhD in the international doctoral program in Literature and Cultural Studies at Justus Liebig University Giessen. Sapir Huberman was born and raised in Tel Aviv as a descendant of Holocaust survivors and has been living in Berlin for several years. The current escalation of the Middle East conflict is also highly personal for her. Her siblings survived the October 7 massacre in a safe room in the Kibbutz Beerli.

Together, Sapir and Mohamed create unique spaces for dialogue that foster understanding through multiperspectivity, enabling nuanced and critical engagement with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They bring a rare depth and authenticity to these conversations, listening and reflecting with care, and cultivating spaces that can hold the conflicting emotions arising from vastly different lived experiences.

In this Episode: We speak with Mohamed Ibrahim and Sapir Huberman about their personal and family connections to Israel and Palestine and how these shaped their identities in Germany. They discuss their first conscious encounters with the conflict and how they began working in educational programs at schools, scholarship foundations, and other (educational) institutions. The conversation covers their workshops, typical reactions from students and teachers, challenges and surprising moments in their work, and how educational efforts have evolved since October 7. They reflect on the role of antisemitism and racism in schools,

the importance of historical-political perspectives, and appropriate frameworks for teaching about the conflict. Finally, Mohamed and Sapir share their hopes and long-term visions for the region and offer insights for democracy and human rights education in schools.

Links:

Kontakt: NahostImDialog@gmx.de

Mohamed Ibrahim: <https://www.jmberlin.de/interview-tandemfuehrungen-ausstellung-jerusalem> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025) / <https://taz.de/Nahostkonflikt-und-Holocaust-an-Schulen/!5033577/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Sapir Huberman: https://www.linkedin.com/in/sapir-huberman-711b904?original_referer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Egoogle%2Ecom%2F&originalSubdomain=il (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

<https://zkm.de/de/sapir-hubermann> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Dedication:

We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed and injured in Gaza and their grieving families and friends. To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima and Mai who shared their losses so powerfully with us. To their families: Tal's wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings, to Mai's and Sima's family, to her mother Bushra.

To the blessed memory of: Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeris Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.

Disclaimer:

In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, and expert perspectives. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.

Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the *Preis des Historischen Kollegs* in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.