

Episode 51: Young Ambassadors for Peace - Parents Circle Families Forum

Guests: Sima & Mai - Young Ambassadors for Peace - Parents Circle Families Forum

Hosts: Alexandria, Mert & Efe

Bios: Sima and Mai are Young Ambassadors for Peace with the Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF), an organization of over 800 bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families who have each lost a close family member to the conflict. Mai lost his grandfather, Haim Perry, an artist and well-known peace activist from Kibbutz Nir Oz, who was abducted and killed during the attacks of October 7, as well as his cousin Daniel Darlington, who was killed at the Nova Festival. Sima lost her 14-year-old brother to the conflict, a loss that profoundly affected her family. Despite these immense personal tragedies, both Sima and Mai have chosen to dedicate themselves to reconciliation and dialogue. They are moral leaders, carrying their grief while actively promoting peace, understanding, and coexistence. Through the Young Ambassadors program, they bring this message to schools and communities in Israel, Palestine, and beyond.

In this final episode: We want to listen from the heart. The first and last words of this podcast belong to the innocent people who live and die in Israel and Palestine. We wanted to begin and end this series with the human reality of the conflict, so that as witnesses to the devastating violence since October 7, we never forget that real people live, grieve, and endure on both sides. Their stories, their losses, and their profound resilience have been the inspiration for this journey. The young olive tree on our podcast cover, growing in the middle of a desert, is a symbol for the hope young ambassadors for peace like Sima and Mai bring to Israel and Palestine, the wounded and „magical land between the river and the sea“ (Mai) that they both call home.

It is to them that we dedicate this podcast:

To Sima & Mai, to Udi Goren and Khalil Sayegh.

To the blessed memory of Tal Chaimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeris Sayegh, Haim Perry, Daniel Darlington, and Mahmoud.

To Tal's wife Ela, and their children Niv, Einav, Udi, and Lotan, who never had the chance to meet his father; to Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings; to Mai's and Sima's families; and to her mother Bushra.

Efe, Mert, and Alexandria speak with Mai and Sima about their personal paths from loss to becoming Young Ambassadors for Peace. They share how they discovered the Parents Circle, their first encounters with members of the “other side,” and the challenges and rewards of sharing their message across

communities. This final episode offers powerful insights into courage, compassion, and the difficult - but vital - choice to pursue a shared future, to choose justice and peace even in the face of profound grief.

Links:

Young Ambassadors for Peace: <https://parentscirclefriends.org/young-ambassadors-peace/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Parents Circle - Families Forum: <https://www.theparentscircle.org/en/homepage-en/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Parents Circle Friends Deutschland e.V.: <https://parentscirclefriends.de/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

American Friends of the Parents Circle: <https://parentscirclefriends.org/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Please also check out our first chapter on the human realities and her the stories of Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Michel Friedman and Alena Jabarine.

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, Jeries 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.