

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 specializing in international cooperation. For more than 15 years, he has led workshops on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict alongside Israeli colleagues and works as an interreligious and intercultural trainer in Jewish-Muslim and Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. He has regularly moderated sessions of the Jewish-Muslim Forum, a joint initiative of the Ernst-Ludwig-Ehrlich-Studienwerk and Avicenna Studienwerk, at the Jewish Museum Berlin.

Born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, Ibrahim grew up in Germany. In 2015, he received the Flechtheim Prize for Democracy and Human Rights, together with Shemi Shabat, in recognition of their work in dialogue and public civic education.

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 Beeri.

Together, Sapir and Mohamed create 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.