

Discourse for the inauguration of Inscire's project in Ramallah

31 octobre 2011



It is with an immense pleasure for us to be here in Ramallah with my partner Katia de Radiguès, today for the inauguration of this very symbolic pièce of art that I called

« **A City as a Tree for Human Rights** » :

Yes, it is a tree, but a very special tree based on the Map of Ramallah. You see at the center is the Lion's square Al-Manarah.

First I would like to thank the City of Ramallah and the Mayor Madame Janet Mikhael who trusted us to start this project with the participation of its citizens.

We also are grateful to the Belgian Development Council and the Belgian Consulate who made this project possible.

And it is with conviction and energy that both **Fatin Farath** and **Sally Abubakr** embarked with us on this project and helped us to create it in the course of this year.

I specially would like to thank all the students for their talent, their energy and their creativity as they took part in the project : they are the students of the International Art Academy Palestine and the Young women of the Palestine Technical School, and also the students of the Architecture Department of the Birzeit University.

They were all fabulous expressions of the Palestinian talents.

We loved working with them, we loved discovering their desire to be in synergy with us. We will never forget the beautiful moments we have spent with them at the Al-Mahattah Gallery which opened its doors to us with gentleness and solidarity.

And so do we for the Al-Qattan Foundation's hospitality who made the fantastic film you will see today. We thank Kifah, Khaled and Yousef for their excellent job in no time.

We worked all together at the **Al-Mahattah** Gallery to create our tree for Human Rights; Yes, it is a tree, and you can see in each of its leaves, that there is an image representing one of the 30 articles of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all painted by the students.

Together we created a unique tree similar to the beautiful almond trees described by **Mahmoud Darwich** to whom we also pay a tribute with this tree.

The Declaration of Human Rights is one of the most fundamental and beautiful text of all democratic societies; it was written in 1948 when Palestine should have been declared as a country. Our tree presents this idea in its essence.

Our tree with its *branches and leaves* grows in the earth of Palestine and its leaves talk and tell us the Human Rights, for all people .

When we were making the tree, while working with the students, one of them **Monther**, gave us this key that he had made himself and he told us : -“ **It is the key to Palestine , now Palestine is your country too**”.

We have found that gesture to be so right, so true, such a beautiful metaphor for your legal desire to have a home land.



We sincerely hope that this work of art will help you to achieve this goal.

It is our **modest stone** to the construction of Palestine as a country.

It is our **modest message** to all the United Nations to recognize Palestine as a country.

It is our Wall for Citizenship, our wall for Equality, our wall for Liberties, our wall for Justice and Solidarity, it is **our wall for Dignity**.

These 6 thematic are the specific values that the United Nations defends.

They believe in it,

So do you,

And so do we,

Choukrane

Françoise Schein

Katia de Radiguès