

WLT Kids: Focus on the Middle East

Editorial note: In the biographical note to Taghreed Najjar's "Who Hid the Eid Lamb?" (*WLT Kids*, January–April 2005, 75–77), we inadvertently left out important information about her: namely, that she is Palestinian. In her response below, the author lists some websites that give a different view of issues in the Middle East.

HAD MY STORY BEEN PUBLISHED ON ITS OWN without the juxtaposition of the Israeli-Arab background (see "Middle East Focus: Jordan & Israel," 73–74), I would not have made such a fuss about my Palestinian roots. It is not easy to be a Palestinian. No matter where you are in the world, you cannot run away from it. It is like a big open wound. Every single day we see how most of the Western media ignores our suffering and misrepresents our case. It got so bad that in one poll in the UK, young people thought that the Palestinians were occupying Israel and not the other way around. Recently, seven Palestinian children from the same family were killed by Israeli gunfire in one day. Their tragic deaths made mere ripples in the world media. Imagine the headlines had the seven been Israeli children. I was so excited about your magazine because I thought this would

be a way for children in the West to get to know us through our literature.

The following links will provide deeper insight into Palestine and the ongoing conflict there:

www.orientaltunes.com/listening_page7.html (a website called Oriental Tunes, which includes an audio link to Simon Shaheen, a well-known Palestinian American musician)

www.americantaskforce.org/101.htm (Palestine-Israel 101: a slide show that shows the historical background and a possible solution)

www.chris-on-the-bike.de/eappi_uprootingoo.htm (Christoph Gocke's account of the uprooting of olive trees in Jayyous)

books.guardian.co.uk (article by Rachel Cooke in the London *Observer* of January 16, 2005, about Suad Amiry, who recently wrote a book about life in Ramallah called *My Mother-in-Law and Sharon*)

Taghreed A. Najjar
Amman, Jordan