



Christian Aid/Tabitha Ross



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If you do not already support **Commitment for Life** or would like to find out more: visit www.cforl.org.uk call Linda Mead on 01702 315981 email lmeadcforl@gmail.com

Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Your donations are vital to EAPPI's essential work in IOPT. Please support Commitment for Life and give the gift of hope to people who desperately need it.

Commitment for Life is a network of United Reformed churches committed to praying, giving and campaigning for change.

www.cforl.co.uk

Commitment for Life
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- 75 per cent of the money we raise goes to Christian Aid, divided equally among our four partner countries.
- 10 per cent goes to the World Development Movement to support their campaigns.
- 15 per cent is used for advocacy, grant-giving and administering the scheme.



Stand in the queue with Rasheed

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Matthew 5:9

commitment for life

It is 6am and Rasheed Mohammed's hands grip the metal bars at the main checkpoint between Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Like the 2,000 other Palestinian workers coming through this morning, his short commute to work is now far longer and far more difficult. It takes him through these bars; past Israeli soldiers with rifles; through two ID checks; and a metal detector.



Necessity forces Rasheed and thousands like him to endure this daily. They must get to work. They must feed their families. The checkpoint is their only means of getting to their jobs since Israel erected the separation barrier in this area. The International Court of Justice has stated that the route of the barrier is illegal: while Israel has the right and the duty to protect her citizens, this barrier is in many areas built on Palestinian land and – as here between Bethlehem and East Jerusalem – cuts off Palestinians from work, healthcare and education.

Rasheed explains he is lucky compared to some: 'I come about six because I have to be at work for nine. [Many other] people come at two and sleep on cardboard to be near the front when the checkpoint opens at five. People who work on farms have to be here really early – because so many people want work, it's very easy for employers to find other people if you are late.'

Seemingly out of place among the workers and the soldiers is a young Swedish woman – Ana Akerland – standing by the bars. Thanks to the work of Commitment for Life partner EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel), volunteer peacemakers such as Ana can be here, supporting people like Rasheed.

Accompaniers such as Ana are stationed throughout the West Bank – monitoring checkpoints, walking children to their schools and taking part in peaceful demonstrations.

Ana explains: 'We're here to monitor the situation and human rights abuses. Sometimes that fact means that soldiers don't play with people, and treat them better. When things do happen we try to do something. We also count the number of people going through to report to the UN.'



£16.90
could buy a high-visibility jacket for an accompanier such as Ana, to identify her as a human rights monitor.

£1,619
could cover the cost of a volunteer like Ana to spend a month in the West Bank.

Commitment for Life is committed to seeing justice for all people in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Through our partners we support work that alleviates the suffering of the most vulnerable communities affected by the ongoing conflict, build peace and speak out for a legal and fair resolution.

'The observers come most days... I think the soldiers are better when they are here.'

– Rasheed Mohammed

We can't all volunteer as accompaniers. But we can all be peacemakers. 'Stand in the queue' with Rasheed:

- give generously to the essential work of EAPPI, through your support for **Commitment for Life** (don't forget **Gift Aid**)
- continue to pray and campaign for a just and fair peace in IOPT
- and if you do wish to find out more about becoming an accompanier, check out www.quaker.org.uk/eappi