



US Palestinian Community Network + www.palestineconference.org + conference@palestineconference.org

PRESS RELEASE: US Palestinian Community to Convene Popular Conference

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CHICAGO, IL — On Friday, October 29, 2010, thousands of Palestinians from across the U.S. will gather in Chicago for the opening of the Second Popular Palestinian Conference. The conference, organized by the U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN), will feature cultural events and performances, community town-hall meetings, discussions and strategy sessions, and major addresses by prominent speakers, including parliamentarian Haneen Zoabi and legendary Lebanese musician Marcel Khalife.

Monadel Herzallah, USPCN coordinating committee member, said that "the purpose of this conference is to empower our community, unify our voices, and affirm our rights as Palestinians, particularly the right of return. The conference's theme, 'One People, One Land, One Destiny,' reflects our commitment as Palestinians in the United States to take an active role in protecting our national rights and building our cause."

This conference follows upon the first Popular Palestinian Conference organized by USPCN in Chicago on August 8-10, 2008, drawing over 1000 members of the Palestinian community. "Active Palestinians and Arabs from coast to coast are preparing for this conference," said **Raia Hamad**, of the conference's outreach committee. "The USPCN is a space for individuals and organizations to come together, link our efforts, and build our work on behalf of Palestine. We are actively engaged in making this upcoming conference a major success in building institutions and strengthening coordination," said Hamad.

On July 23-24, 2010, USPCN held its 8th national planning meeting at the Arab American Action Network (AAAN) in Chicago, bringing together committees from across the country to develop multiple aspects of conference preparation. USPCN was formed in 2006; its points of unity focus on self-determination and equality for the Palestinian people, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the end of Zionist colonization in Palestine. USPCN chapters and affiliated organizations exist in cities and Palestinian population centers throughout the U.S.

Further information about the Second Popular Palestinian Conference and USPCN is available at the USPCN website: www.palestineconference.org.

WHAT: Second Popular Palestinian Conference

WHEN: October 29 at 5:00pm - October 31 at 6:00pm

WHERE: Westin Chicago Northwest - 400 Park Boulevard, Itasca, IL

WHO: U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN)