

## **ACTIVITIES OF 2008**

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On **12/01/2008**, a U.S. delegation was received in coordination with the American Foundation **BIRTH RIGHT UNPLUGGED**. The delegation, then, was briefed on the general situation in the camp. After that they toured the camp and then visited Hebron and the northern cities of Palestine. They had a look at the impact of the "**Apartheid Wall**" on the situation of workers. Before that, Shiraa's Palestinian Circus made a special presentation for the guest delegation during a welcome ceremony in which the Art Department along with the Women's Department displayed models of their products such as embroidery and many other things of this nature.

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In the period between **15/01/2008** and **25/02/2008** a computer course on **MICROSOFT WORD and the INTERNET** was held for beginners on an average of **30** training hours. The number of the participants was 15 women.

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On **19/02/2008** and in coordination with the American foundation: "**The WAY OF JUSTICE**", a U.S. delegation from **Boston University** was received for two days during which the visiting delegation was briefed on the general circumstances, the impact of the "**Apartheid Wall**" and the Israeli exercises against our people, especially at the military checkpoints. Shiraa's Women's Department, after that, displayed samples of their products to the guest delegation.

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In the period between **28/02/2008** and **07/03/2008**, and in coordination with the **U.N. R.W.A**, an entertainment and amusement workshop was held for **15** children.

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On **28//02/2008**, Shiraa' participated in the conference held in the Palestinian Red Crescent Hall under direction of the NGOs Development Center. At the end of the closing session, Shiraa' signed a draft agreement on transparency and behavior on the part of NGOs.

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In the period from **03/03/2008** through **01/05/2008**, a computer course on **Power point program** and the **Internet** was held for **18** young men on an average of **30** training hours.

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On **08/03/2008**, Shiraa' has taken part in the Basket Ball Conference convened in the hall of **Ibda'** Association by **Ibda'** itself. The points at issue such as basket ball matches and the winning of the Ramallah team were discussed in the conference.

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**On 18/03/2008**, the Association took part in the activities of the strike called for by the Executive Board of the Popular Committees working in the Palestinian camps. The activities of the strike were carried out at the UNARWA center located in **Duhaisheh** camp. The participants protested against cutting down on the services rendered by **UNRWA** in the areas of Education, Health and rations in addition to the increasing rate of unemployment in the Palestinian camps.

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**On 21/03/2008**, Shiraa's affiliated children have prepared presents to be given to their mothers on Mother's Day.

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**On 24/03/2008** and on the occasion of Woman's and Mother's Day, Shiraa's Circus, in coordination with the German World Circus (**CABUWAZI**), has made a special presentation on the playground of Duhaisheh Boys' school attended by the Head of the camp, a large crowd of camp personalities, children, women, teachers of the Boys' school and a large number of association agents and representatives.

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In the evening of **24/03/2008**, Shiraa's Palestinian Circus made an opening presentation to "**Hakim Basket Ball Championship**" organized by "**AD-DUHA**" Children Center and played in **Abu-Amar Hall** for young men.

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**On 25/03/2008**, the German World Circus (**CABUWAZI**) held a training course for Shiraa's Palestinian Circus.

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On the occasion of Woman's and Mother's Day and in coordination with the **Peace Center** at Bethlehem, Shiraa' has organized a festival on **29/03/2008** in the Hall of The Peace Center. The activities included speech-delivery on the aforesaid two occasions in addition to art sections such as: acting **a Drama about" women's talks"** by **Al-Ayn Troupers**, dancing "**Dabkeh**" (Folk dancing) by **Irtas Heritage Troupe** and reciting poems on women generally and mothers in particular by the Palestinian poet **Mohammad Al-Aza** from Duhaisheh camp. The closing part of the festival was an exhibition of handicrafts such as: embroidery work, glassware, beads, wickerwork and gypseous work. Many other associations took part in this exhibition like: "**Our Genuine Heritage Association**" based at the town of Beit jala, **Marah Mu'ala Center**, **Al-Obaidiy Girls' Center**, **Beit Fajjar center**, **Bethlehem Center** and much more.

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**On 10/04/2008**, Shiraa' participated in "**Al-Khas**" (lettuce) Festival organized under the auspices of Youth and Sports Minister and Bethlehem governor. It's worth- mentioning that the above-stated festival is established yearly in coordination with **Irtas Center**.

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**On 28/04/2008**, a partial questionnaire-method field study has been conducted on the seventh grade students at Duhaisheh Boys' and Girls' schools. The study proved that there is a tremendous

weakness among students. Consequently, Shiraa' has identified the subjects in which students are particularly weak and then held intensive courses for the weak, marginalized and needy children.

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In the period from **01/05/2008 through 15/05/2008** and on the occasion of "**The First of May**", Shiraa' has held a workshop on **Professional Safety and First Aid** for **15** workers on an average of **30** training hours.

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From **05/05/2008 through 07/06/2008**, Shiraa' has held a computer course on **Photo Shop** program for **15** young men on an average of **30** training hour

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On **07/05/2008**, Shiraa' has participated in a **Cultural Evening** held in the Peace Center Hall by the **Cultural Creative Forum** on the anniversary of "**Annakbeh**" (The Disaster). Elite poets took part in the cultural evening like the poet **Amanallah Ayish**

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On **08/05/2008**, Commemorating "**Annakbeh**" (The Disaster), Shiraa' took part in a march entitled "**Generations of the Return**". The marchers, who started from the **Martyr's Memorial** in front of **Duhaisheh** camp and finished up in **Aida** camp, lifted mottos entitled "**Sixty Years Have Passed since Annakbeh**". Shiraa' Association has also participated in the inauguration of "**The Gate of Return**" model and the largest **key** model in the world according to **Geans' Record Encyclopedia**.

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ON **10/05/2008**, Shiraa' has participated in a symposium held in the hall of **Shepherd's Hotel** under the name "**Palestine 2008- Investment Conference is between Development Challenges and Political Status Quo**". The following personalities took part in the symposium: His Excellency the Minister of Palestinian Economy, Dr. Kamal Hasuna, Bethlehem governor, Mr. Salah Atta'mari (Member of the Palestinian Legislature), Chairman of the Local Committee of the Conference and the executive manager of the conference Mr. Husam Abu libdeh. The symposium discussed the economic dimension of the conference and how it will respond to the requirements of the Palestinian political and economic present state of affairs under the shadow of the Israeli Occupation, siege, high standards of living and unemployment .It is noteworthy that the conference will be held at Bethlehem from **21/05/2008** through **23/05/2008**.

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From **11/05/2008 to 18/05/2008** the Association has held intensive courses for the seventh grade students preparing for their Mid-Term Exams.

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Being so much interested in creating job opportunities for unemployed women, Shiraa' has managed to employ **10** women from **11/05/2008** through **25/05/2008** in an embroidery programme to create products ordered by the Japanese "**Peace Boat**" Association.

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On **15/05/2008** , Shiraa' has participated in a celebration held in **Al-Finiq** Hall by **Ibda'** Association to honor **47** persons who have performed the rites of the **Lesser Pilgrimage** to the House of Allah in Makkah.

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On **21/05/2008**, Shiraa' has taken part in a celebration held on the stage of **Ibda'** in Duhaisheh camp to honor **Ibda's** Women's Basketball Team for winning the excellent degree on the level of the Northern Districts. The celebration was attended by Agent of the Minister of Youth and Sports, Agents of UNRWA and Agents of Basketball Union.

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On **03/06/2008**, The Association received a pro-Palestinian delegation from the American Association "**Birth Right Unplugged**". The delegation was briefed on the situation in Bethlehem District in general and the situation of workers, the impact of the "**Apartheid Wall**" and unemployment in particular. After that Shiraa's Palestinian Circus made a special display in honor of the guest delegation. At the end, the visiting delegation had a look at the products of Women's Department.

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From **06/06/2008 through 25/06/2008**, Shiraa' held a computer course on **Microsoft Word program** and the **Internet** for beginners on an average of **30** training hours. The number of the participants was **15** children.

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On **07/06/2008**, The Association of Shiraa' has taken part in the open meeting held with the Head of the **Control Department Dr. Mahmood Abu Arrub**. The meeting, which was called by Fattah Members at the Palestinian legislative Council and was convened in the Peace Center, discussed the issue of controlling the work of the Palestinian National Authority when the Palestinian Legislative Council stops its activities.

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On **13/06/2008**, a pro-Palestinian Italian delegation was received by Shiraa'. The delegation was briefed on the status quo in general and the situation of the workers, the "**Apartheid Wall**", unemployment and the Israeli actions against our people in particular.

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On **13/06/2008**, the problem of the trainer **Abeer Jaber** has been solved and her past dues and remuneration have been obtained.

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From **16/06/2008 through 19/06/2008** sixty children from Shiraa' as well as Ibda' Association, **Jenin Theatre of Freedom** and **Jafa Club** based in **Balata camp** have taken part in the summer camp organized in cooperation with the American Association, **"Birth Right Unplugged"**. The camp was established on the land of **AL-JAMAL** Monastery. The activities focused on **"Annakbeh"** topic.

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On **18/06/2008**, Shiraa's Palestinian Circus has made a presentation entitled: **"WE ARE THE OWNERS OF THE RIGHT"** on the stage of **AL-JAMAL** Monastery.

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ON **22/06/2008** Shiraa' has received the American Professor **Golden Lafer** a specialist in Labor Culture at **OREGO University**. The professor has been briefed on the negative impact of the "Apartheid Wall", the situations of workers and unemployment.

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On **24/06/2008**, a delegation from the American Association: **"Birth Right Unplugged"** was received for two days during which the guest delegation was briefed on the situation of the workers and the hard circumstances faced by our people. Shiraa's Circus, after that, made a special display and the Women's Department exhibited samples of its products for the guest delegation such as embroidery and other things.

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From **29/06/2008 to 27/07/2008**, and in cooperation with the **American University of Brown**, Shiraa' has established a summer camp for drawing and painting entitled: **"I Want To Draw"**. Forty children of both sexes have taken part in this camp. The children were trained on wall drawing and painting by foreigner trainers. As a result, many wall paintings were made in Duhaisheh camp by those children who have also participated in short recreational picnics. At the end of the summer camp, an **Art Festival**, which included drawing exhibition, and a center for **Art & Drawing** entitled: **"Shiraa's Art School for Wall Drawing"** were also established.

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From **03/07/2008 through 10/08/2008**, a computer course on Design and Architecture of Electronic Pages for **10** young men was given on average of **30** training hours.

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On **10/07/2008**, Shiraa's children went on a recreational picnic to **Suleiman's Pools** positioned at Bethlehem.

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On **12/07/2008**, a pro-Palestinian American delegation has been received in coordination with the American Association of **"WAY of JUSTICE"**. The delegation then toured Duhaisheh camp to view with their own very eyes the conditions of the refugee camps, the situation of workers, unemployment and the actions against our people by the Israeli occupation.

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From **16/07/2008 through 30/08/2008** an Italian team of trainers has been received by Shiraa's one. The former team has trained the later on special skills related to climbing on cloth to a very high level.

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On **22/07/2008**, Shiraa's participants have gone for a picnic to **AZZAYTUNA RESORT** at the town of Beit Jala.

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On **27/07/2008** and under the supervision of the "**Diabetes Club**" related to Ibda' Association, Shiraa' took part in a celebration held to honor scavengers working in Duhaisheh camp.

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On **01/08/2008**, five young men from Shiraa' took part in a workshop held by **CARE CENTER** for two days.

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From **05/08/2008 through 10/09/2008**, a computer course was held on International Computer Driving License (L.C.D.L.) for young men on an average of **64** training hours.

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On **06/08/2008** , Shiraa' has participated in a celebration held in **AL-FINIQ Hall** under the supervision of **ZAKARIYA Association** to honor the students who have finished their high school (General Secondary Study).

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From **08/08/2008 to 11/08/2008** , in cooperation with **AL-HARA STAGE** , and under the direction of the Italian trainer **GEGE** and another producer, Shiraa' has participated in a 4-day workshop on **Melodrama** . The workshop focused on methods of developing a topic or a story into Melodrama, methods of writing the text of Melodrama, acting of Melodrama and scenery requirements.

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On **16/08/2008**, Shiraa' has taken part in the open meeting held in **AL-FINIQ HALL** by **UNRWA Mental Health Program**. The associations of the three refugee camps, (**Aida, Duhaisheh and Al-Azza**) based at Bethlehem, have also taken part in the meeting that discussed conditions of living inside the camps and the urgent needs and main problems of these camps. The meeting has also suggested setting up a collective future plan to solve the problems and satisfy the dire needs of the aforementioned camps through solidarity and joint work.

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From **16/08/2008 to 25/09/2008**, the Association held a computer course on **Microsoft Word Program & Internet** for **15** beginner-old workers on an average of **30** training hours.

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On **23/08/2008**, Shiraa' has participated in a meeting convened by **Duhaisheh Health Department**. It's worth mentioning that this Department is connected with other official bodies and departments mainly: Associations of Duhaisheh camp, UNRWA and Police, Health t, Civil Defense, Finance and Customs Departments.

Shiraa' has also taken part in **Ramadan** (the Fasting Month) campaign to get rid of spoiled commodities stored in shops. The campaign started from the onset till the end of the month.

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On **31/08/2008**, the Association of Shiraa' has participated in the open meeting convened by Ibda's Health Department. The meeting discussed a plan for developing the **Diabetes Club**.

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On **06/09/2008** , Shiraa' has signed a **Technical Aid Grant** presented by **NGOs Development Center** by virtue of "**Credibility & Transparency Agreement**" held at the city of Ramallah with the purpose of studying the situation of NGOs and suggesting methods to develop them.

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On **12/09/2008**, Shiraa' as well as Duhaisheh's other associations, UNRWA and the personalities of the camp have executed an agreement in Al-Finiq Hall concerning marriage costs in terms of dowries and accessories. The expenses of marriage, they agreed, should be consistent with the difficult economic conditions faced by our people.

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From **27/09/2008 to 13/10/2008**, Shiraa' has held a computer course on **Networking** for **15** young men on an average of **30** training hours.

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On **02/10/2008**, Shiraa' Circus has received American Circus supervisors: **DEEMSTAR RISING, VIVAN SANSUR & DEEMA DAIBBIS**. The supervisors debated with Shiraa' about the situation inside the camp, needs of children and joint work.

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From **20/10/2008** through **21/10/2008**, in coordination with the American Association of "**WAY of JUSTICE**", and under "**Health and Human Rights Project**", Shiraa' has received an American **delegation** of trade unionists, advocates and archbishops for two days. The delegations have been briefed about the situation of workers and refugees inside the camp and the Israeli curbing exercises against our people. After that, the guest delegation had a look at the products of Women's Department and then watched a film about Shiraa's activities and its Circus.

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On **29/10/2008**, Shiraa' has participated in a meeting held at Duhaisheh Boys' School to debate the situation of the school, educational process and appointment of members of the Board of Students' Guardians and follow up all cases agreed on with **UNRWA**.

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On **31/10/2008**, an Italian delegation from the **Italian Orthodox Church** headed by priest **Don Nandino Capovilla** was received by Shiraa' . The guest delegation hanged a painting that portrays "**Annakbeh**" (the disaster) in the Hall of Ibda' Association. After that the delegation were briefed on the situation inside the camp and the suffering by the refugees and the Palestinian people in general and the curbing actions against our people by the Israeli military in particular. Finally, the delegation explored different regions in the camp in the company of officials from Shiraa' Association.

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From **31/10/2008 to 05/12/2008** and in coordination with the Association of **YMCA** based in Jerusalem, Shiraa' has held a course on **Women's training program** for **15** children. The course dealt with occupational Counseling in terms of: job creation, job choice, job description, job specifications, job trends, job capacity, job ethics, jobs and specialization, current and future jobs and labor market.

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From **11/11/2008 to 12/11/2008** an Italian delegation from the Italian Association "**Servizio Civila Internazionale**" has been received. The delegation has been briefed on the situations of the refugees and workers, suffering of the Palestinian people, the Israeli actions against our people and unemployment. Finally, the delegation watched a film about Shiraa's activities and its Circus.

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From **13/11/2008 through 25/11/2008**, Shiraa' has held a course for **15** workers who work in stone factories which ran for an average of **30** training hours. The course dealt with job safety and First Aid.

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On **15/11/2008**, Shiraa' received a group of Italian clowns affiliated with the Italian Circus **Compagnin Dei Ciarlatani**. The guests were briefed on Shiraa's Circus in terms of its evolution and development. The guest clowns have also trained Shiraa's third-generation troupers on new skills.

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On **22/11/2008**, a group of Shiraa'-affiliated young men and women have participated in **AttA'Amul** training course held at the town of Beit Sahour by a foreigner training team.

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On **24/11/2008**, Shiraa's participants visited **Al-AROUB AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**. They had a look at the farms and were briefed on professional aspects of the college.

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On **26/11/2008**, the Association of Shiraa' has participated in a conference held by local and international politicians. The conference which has been attended by many local, international and Arab experts from Jordan and Egypt, discussed the peace process and its permanent settlement.



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From **25/12/2008 through 27/02/2008** and in coordination with the Association of **YMCA** Jerusalem -base, Shiraa' has held a course on **Women's training program** for **15** young women for an average of **6** training hours daily. The course dealt with occupational Counseling in terms of: job creation, job choice, job description, job specifications, job trends, job capacity, job ethics, jobs and specialization, current and future jobs and labor market.

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On **31/12/2008**, Shiraa' as well as a large number of Arabs and foreigners celebrated the new year and lit a lot of candles during the pro-Gaza activities performed in the square of the Church of Nativity.

