

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 101

*or: Why I Refused to
Serve with the Israeli Defence
Forces in the Occupied Territories*

A public lecture by
Amir Locker-Biletzki

7:30 pm

Tuesday, April 6

Alumni Hall, New Academic Building, University of
King's College, 6350 Coburg Road, Halifax

Israel has found itself recently under international condemnation for expelling Palestinians from and building homes for Jews in Arab East Jerusalem, for cloning the passports of foreign nationals, for new rounds of killing in Gaza and the West Bank, and for evading and avoiding serious peace talks with the Palestinians. Many commentators predict a third intifada is brewing.

Amir Locker-Biletzki is a Jewish citizen of Israel who is completing a PhD in Israeli History at the University of Guelph. Having served his compulsory three-year service in the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) and several annual reserve stints thereafter, he rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant in an armoured unit. In 2002, he and 550 other Israeli Reserve Combat officers and soldiers announced that they were not willing to serve any longer in the occupied Palestinian territories, declaring:

- * We hereby declare that we shall not continue to fight this War of the Settlements.
- * We shall not continue to fight beyond the 1967 borders in order to dominate, expel, starve and humiliate an entire people.
- * We hereby declare that we shall continue serving in the Israel Defense Forces in any mission that serves Israel's defense [but]
- * The missions of occupation and oppression do not serve this purpose – and we shall take no part in them.

Locker-Biletzki was jailed twice for his refusal.

In Halifax, he will set the historical context for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and explain what Canadians can do to help achieve a just peace in the Holy Land.

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Arabs and Jews for a Just Peace (forjustpeace.org)**

For more information halifax@ijvcanada.org or call (902) 240-2782