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The Jenin Refugee Camp Training Project.

In Jenin refugee Camp there are around 5000 children, between the ages of 3 and 17. While visiting the refugee camp we found that most of them are traumatized in different degrees. The symptoms of those children are: Anxiety, fears, nightmares, sleep disturbances, bedwetting, clinging to parents, undermining of parental authority, disturbed interpersonal relations and more.

In Jenin refugee camp there are practically no means to deal with those problems.

In mid 2006, we organized a meeting with educational, community and rehabilitation professionals in order to learn together the main issues and problems, and discuss what can be done to build up a comprehensive interventional therapeutic program. In that meeting there was an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation that allowed the participants to identify some of the main problems and necessities.

Later on we contacted the people from the Freedom Theater in Jenin that were more than willing to cooperate with a therapeutic project for the Jenin refugee children. The therapeutic project started to realize itself, in February 2007, when we got a full day of training for traumatized children from an expert, Ms. Nira Kaplansky. There were 11 participants, including Juliano Mer, the Freedom Theater director. Thanks to Ms. C. Romilly's generous donation we are able to continue this training project in the near future.

The guiding idea of this project is to create a professional therapeutic group that will train the Jenin staff so they will have the skills needed to deal with the traumatized children.

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