

For the first time, a collection of French and Palestinian artists performs in solidarity with the Palestinian people

April 2003, the first collection of franco-palestinian music created in solidarity with the Palestinian people and his culture. Participating artists include Noir Desir, Manu Chao, Sergent Garcia, Aicha Redouane, Zebda and other groups of French musicians and singers from diverse backgrounds, with different styles, some singing in Arabic. Popular Palestinian artists perform alongside them : Sabreen, Rim Banna, Adel Salameh, DAM, Issa Boulos, etc. This double CD is a collective effort to support Palestinian people and musicians; proceeds will be used to help projects for cultural exchange with Palestine, in particular to benefit children and those living in refugee camps.

Palestinian people continue to live with all the strength of their will, though imprisoned and banished from their own land. Going to school, to the university, to work; feeding a family; playing "outdoors"; visiting friends; celebrating a birth, a marriage or a funeral ... these acts have become, under the inhuman conditions of the occupation, acts of resistance. The repression is intense and the violence relentless. Social life is on hold. Mohamed, who lives with his family in Deir El Balah, a refugee camp on the Gaza Strip, told us, "We don't sing for weddings any more, you cannot be merry when one of neighbours is inevitably in mourning, or family members have been wounded or a home destroyed," in July 2001 when Baobab was on tour in the occupied territories. One year later, Iyad, a musician from Jenin, on the West Bank, who was working on the franco-palestinian co-production "dans l'quartier", with the French reggae group said, "I play in order not to die." To die in the rubble of war waged against an entire people; disappear beneath the forces of obscurantism for whom popular music is a threat because popular music is out in the streets, because music is about meeting people and exchanging ideas and cultures. When Mahmoud Darwish, Palestinian poet, declares, "no, roses are not only the symbol of martyrs", because he also wants to speak of love, only love, and cries : "Leave our earth / our firm earth, our sea / our wheat, our salt, our wound / from all things, leave / from remembrance of memory / oh you who pass among the passing words". It is no contradiction, it is a country, living and resisting. Resisting, living, creating, playing, on land occupied and seized: Abdel Moneim Oudwan in Gaza, Iyad Steiti and Azza in Jenin, Sabreen in Jerusalem, DAM in Lod, Rim Banna in Nazareth, NWR in Akko – or in exile – Adel Salameh in France, Issa Boulos in the USA. All together on this double CD, a collective effort in solidarity with the Palestinian people because... "roses are not only the symbol of martyrs".