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16 Jan 2014

**To whom it may concern**

Dear Messers,

I am the General Director of Al-Harah Theater in Palestine. A non-governmental organization working in Palestine, the Middle East and Europe.

Matteo Lombardi has been cooperating with our theatre company since 2006, when I met him as a participant of a knowledge trip in Palestine organized by Luisa Morgantini and the European Parliament. In 2006, he also worked as international observer with the EU for the Palestinian elections. Al Harah Theatre Bethlehem has been cooperating with him and his organization many times since then.

In 2007, Matteo supported us to organize our show "Born in Bethlehem" in Milan and we met many time in Italy to discuss the implementation of other projects. In particular, we were a partner organization in the international workshop project co-financed by the EU through the youth in action programme "PEPATO" (Participation, Empowerment, Peace, Act, through Theatre of the Oppressed) in September 2009. Five of our actors could travel to Milan, where the workshop took place and where Matteo was one of the main trainers. His skills of TO (Theatre of the Oppressed) were really useful for them once they came back to Palestine to work here in Bethlehem (the workshop was about how to use TO in a nonviolent way to manage a conflict - the topic of the workshop was chosen through a detailed work on the need of the partner involved in the project).

Moreover, Matteo has been organizing and arranging a tour to Palestine for a 20/25-group of people every year since 2010. This is a project he started to work at during his experience in Casa per la Pace Milano, an Italian organization based in Milan, and which he has continued to support and develop after moving to Czech Republic. Basically, has been planning and developing a 15-days-holidays for a group of people interested in understanding the political situation of Israel and the Occupied Territories through multiple meetings with local NGOs, activists, politicians and youths. We are one of the organizations which were involved in the project: since 2010, we had the opportunity to meet the Italian group visiting Palestine and share our experience with the participants. I'm really glad about this opportunity which made it possible to us to meet and interact with dozens of European youths.

He is a reliable person, honest and full of energy and it's always been a pleasure to work with him. I really appreciate his working methods and approach. He is a well-organized person who enjoys sharing his idea about possible projects in a positive and constructive way in order to

develop a collective planning process. Matteo is a resourceful, creative and solution-oriented person, always sensitive to the needs of his collaborators: a team player who is a pleasure to work with. He is a true believer in the power of people to create change and his enthusiasm is contagious.

He is really good both as a TO trainer and in dealing with logistics.

I really appreciate his true and deep interest in our country, our situation and the work he is doing in order to support us.

Please, don't hesitate to contact me for any other details. I would be really happy to answer you in order to clarify my opinion about Matteo.

Best regards,

Yours Sincerely,



**Marina Barham**

**General Director**