

"I blame the Palestinians' friends and cheerleaders in the Middle East and in the West.."

Contributed by Samir el-Youssef
Sunday, 18 November 2012
Last Updated Sunday, 18 November 2012

via Franck Salameh

(From Samir el-Youssef's talk at Boston College, Thursday Nov. 15, 2012; "The Levant; A Zone of Conflict or Culture?")
"I was born and received my education in the Rashidiyyé refugee camp in Southern Lebanon; a stone's throw from the ancient Phoenician harbor of Tyre. As children we became quite versed in the literature of resistance and violence and victimhood and resentment. Yet, not once did our UNRWA schools deem it fitting to take us on a ten-minute drive to Tyre; to teach us that at a mere ten minutes from the indigence and rage and hostility we were fed as children, there once stood one of the greatest, most pacifist, most benevolent builders of civilization. The blame for this does not fall entirely on the Palestinians: I blame the Palestinians' friends and cheerleaders in the Middle East and in the West; a strange breed of moralists still eager to fight Israel to the last Palestinian! Sixty years of war and resistance and rejectionism and resentment is sixty years too long! It's time we taught our children something else; and it's time our cheerleaders cheered for peace!".