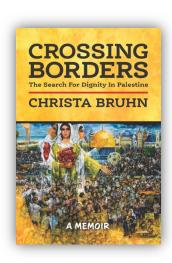
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Mother of Three Palestinians Offers Insider Perspective on Prospects for Peace in Israel and Palestine

After more than three decades of personal and professional engagement with the people of Palestine, Christa Bruhn invites those interested in peace to see the contested space of Israel and Palestine through the lens of dignity.

[FITCHBURG, WISCONSIN, MAY 2023] In her debut memoir *Crossing Borders: The Search for Dignity in Palestine*, Christa's journey of curiosity beginning in Jerusalem and Gaza while studying abroad in her father's homeland of Germany at the tail end of the Cold War. Christa's experiences open up a world of joy and heartache that transforms into a lifetime pursuit to make a difference in a land two peoples call home.



Through Christa's unique perspective as an American and mother of three Palestinians, we become familiar with both current and historic challenges Palestinians face living in the shadow of the State of Israel. Christa poses thought-provoking questions that are a test to us all as we collectively grapple with how to come together in a place that is increasingly divided in the mind and on the ground.

"I walk across the still-invisible line, where the Wall will soon cut the town of Al-Ram off from Jerusalem. There, on the other side I find a flatbed with prefabricated segments in full view, like a toy truck with blocks on it, awaiting a child to put the pieces in place, set the sections neatly next to each other so his mother can praise him for aligning them just right. But these are no blocks, and this is no child's play.

I am baffled at how Palestinians are walking around, going on with their day, as if nothing is happening, and yet their lives are being redefined one slab of concrete at a time. The Wall creates sides, borders, more restrictions on access, more confiscation of land. My stomach turns as I witness this crude vision of security become reality. One people's security, another's confinement. Gaza is already an outdoor prison. Now, the isolation of the West Bank behind concrete walls and electric fences is taking shape in front of me. Like in Berlin."

—excerpt from *Crossing Borders* 



Christa Bruhn is an American author, photographer, and culinary artist with a lifelong passion for peace and justice. She is the daughter of a German immigrant raised under Nazi Germany and the mother of three Palestinian Americans. She holds degrees in International Studies (BA), Middle Eastern & North African Studies (MA), and Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis (PhD). She has published academic work on Palestine, peace education, and diversity and led and participated in roundtables on the future of Palestine and Israel. She splits her time between Madison, Wisconsin, and the farming village of Jalameh, Palestine.

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