



WEST BANK: WAR OVER OLIVES AND OLIVE OIL OF PEACE

The olive tree is a symbol of peace ... but perhaps not always. This is sadly the case of the Olive War by now fought on a daily basis in the West Bank (Palestine) since October 10, the date set for the harvest to begin. Palestinian olive growers against Israelis and vice versa, especially where the groves are adjacent to each other. Clashes and trees set on fire. An atmosphere of hostility breaking into violence over a handful of olives.

Palestine produces about 20,000 tonnes of olive oil per year, although the crop this year is likely to settle at 15,000 tonnes in the wake of hot weather and drought. Israel produces 12,000 tons of olive oil on average, yet this harvest will probably come to less than 10,000.

The economy of these lands is also based on olives and olive oil and, thankfully, there are not only battles but also projects that bring people together. This is the case of Olive Oil Without Borders, sponsored by the Near East Foundation (NEF). It involves 34 agricultural communities in Israel and the West Bank involved in olive-growing to produce a single olive oil as the outcome of work by two peoples. Since extra virgin olive oil was born to unite, not to divide.

[Source: Teatro Naturale for Sol&Agrifood]

Image's Link: <https://i.imgur.com/tO3gtRt.jpg>

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