

Mubarak Awad [mawad@american.edu] is currently an adjunct professor at American University, Washington, DC where he teaches methods and theories of nonviolence. His recent work focuses on the Middle East and the Arab Spring, primarily looking at the role of guns, civil society, democracy, and nonviolence. He is the founder and national president of the Youth Advocate Program, which provides alternative foster care and counseling to “at risk” youth and their families. He has also established several centers committed to nonviolence in different world regions, including the Nonviolence International program in Washington, DC in 1989, after being expelled from Palestine for helping with the creation of a nonviolent action campaign and the first intifada. He has worked for 30 years as an advocate for youth and started many programs that provide services for thousands of troubled and neglected young people across the United States. Dr. Awad’s vision, commitment and dedication is deeply rooted in the belief that the community is the best place for social betterment of troubled youth. By keeping children in their home environments and by supporting, training, and guiding the families of troubled children, he believes that the family can overcome its difficulties together rather than having a state, court, or foster family intervene. Through his advocacy work both nationally and globally, Dr. Awad has become a widely-known and well-respected herald of the rights of children. The publication of several books about child rights and nonviolence have afforded him the opportunity to speak at university conferences throughout the world, and his combined efforts have led to consultations with foreign delegates in the US. Dr. Awad’s views regarding peace and nonviolence, especially toward the Palestinian-Israeli conflict solution, have given him the distinction of appearing in all major televised news media as well as printed news media. He received his BA in social work and sociology, Bluffton University; his MS in education, St. Francis University; and his Ph.D in psychology, International Graduate School.