

# The International School of Peace

## 140 teens from around the world study together.

By INNA EIZENBERG

Eastern Mediterranean International School (EMIS) opened its doors two years ago at Hakfar Hayarok (Ramat HaSharon).

It's an international high school for 11th–12<sup>th</sup> grades. The program focuses on peace, initiative and environment in the Middle East, and studies are in English.

This year, there are 140 students from 40 countries studying at EMIS, of which 20% are Israelis and 80% are from around the world.

The 140 teens in school now are from Yemen, Morocco, Egypt, Bosnia, Thailand, France, Afghanistan, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Russia, South America, Macedonia and South Sudan.

Many of those teens came from countries which have no diplomatic relations with Israel, and would have had little chance of schooling back home because their families couldn't pay for it.

Here are some of the amazing stories of the students in EMIS:

**Mohammed** travelled to Israel all the way from Sanaa (Yemen), because he believes in peace. He said, "I believe that to bring peace to our area we must tear down the stigmas, know and learn about all the different people living here, and accept one another. I, too, come from a country with violence, and I know there is no room for violence between us." For two years Mohammed has not seen his family.

"It is too difficult to go to Yemen and to come back to Israel," he said.

When the wave of terrorism began in Israel at the beginning of the school year, Mohammed, together with his friend, the student Martina from Albania, organized a march for peace. They led the march with songs and candles.

**Naka** has a special story. She comes from South Sudan, but Israel is no stranger to her. Naka was born in Egypt. Her parents were refugees who had run from South Sudan to Egypt, met there, fell in love, married and had Naka and her brother. After the birth of her brother, Naka's parents divorced and she, her mother, brother and an uncle had to run away from Egypt because of the violent riots. They came to Israel through Sinai as refugees. Naka was nine years old at the time. Naka and her family lived in Nahariya, where her mother worked and Naka felt Israeli. Hebrew was her language, and she was even going to go to the army when it's time. Six years later, in 2006, when the war in South Sudan ended, Naka was forced to go back home with her family. As soon as she could, she came back as a student of EMIS. At the end of two years, she will go back to Sudan.

"I am interested in business, and would like to help my country when I am back there," Naka said.

**John** came all the way to Israel from Afghanistan. He is happy at EMIS because "classes start at 8 a.m. and there is so much to learn, that studies continue till after midnight."

**Jose** is from Quito, Ecuador. His family is poor, and in his home country he had no chance of finishing school. He was given a scholarship from money donated to the school by charities around the world. Jose writes poetry, and wants to study international business.

This is the atmosphere of the International School, which teaches tolerance between nations and people.



(PR)

### Dictionary

Mediterranean	מִדְיֶטֶרְנִיָּאן	ים תיכוני
Initiative	אינישיטיב	יוזמה
Environment	אֶנְבִּירֹמֶנט	סביבה
Middle East	מִיֶּדְל אִיסט	המזרח התיכון
Relations	רִילַיִשֵּׁנ	יחסים
Yemen	יֶמֶן	תימן
Tear	טֶר	להוריד
Accept	אָקסֶפֶט	לקבל
Violence	וִיֹלֶנס	אלימות
Wave	וֵיב	גל
Organized	אורגניזד	ארגן
March	מָרְץ	צעדה
Refugees	רֶפּוּגִ'יז	פליטים
Divorced	דִּיבּוֹרֶסט	התגרשו
Uncle	אֶנְקֵל	דוד
Riots	רִיֹּטס	מהומות
Language	לִנגוּאג'	שפה
Scholarship	סְקוֹלָרְשִׁיפ	מלגה
Donated	דוֹנֵיטֵד	נתרם
Charities	צ'רִיטיז	ארגוני צדקה
Poetry	פּוֹאֶטְרִי	שירה
Tolerance	טוֹלֶרַנס	סובלנות
Nations	נִישֵׁנ	אומות

