



TWiP's Importance for the Diaspora Community



By Marcelo Marzouka

Not so long ago, music was recorded, shared, and listened to on cassettes. (For the younger readers, cassettes were small rectangular boxes that contained a magnetic tape on which sound could be recorded and played.) And up until the 2000s, in a world without the immediateness of internet, the only possible way for Palestinians who lived 13,000 kilometers from Palestine to listen to new Arabic music was when someone would travel back to Palestine and return with loads of new cassettes, which would bring us the new artists and albums that were popular in the Arab countries.

I clearly remember the excitement when any of my cousins or relatives would arrive from one of these travels, and the family would gather to listen to the stories of that journey and about what had changed and what was still the same with life in Palestine. Sometimes they would even bring some gifts or letters from *al-balad*. Along with that, the youth would be eager to discover the newest musical trends and artists that were being listened to in Palestine. The novelty would last for some months or years, just until another family member or friend would return from their own travels.

On my first trip to Palestine in the late 2000s I had the opportunity to experience a glimpse of daily life there. During those months, I not only got to see the streets and buildings that I had heard about so often from my grandparents, uncles, and aunts, I was also able to meet family and make friends from whom I have learned so much. I also had the opportunity to see how Palestinians embrace and celebrate life despite the colonization and occupation of a military superpower. All this allowed me to directly experience the Palestinian reality and narrative in a truly enriching way that continues to find an echo in my own sense of identity, my perspectives, and my decisions even today.

It was on this trip that I first read an issue of *This Week in Palestine*. I was highly impressed with the breadth of topics it covered and with the talented people who contributed to presenting and promoting the richness of Palestine without ignoring its particular social and political context. So, when I returned to Chile, I brought with me



Testimonies

Why support *TWiP*?

Let the readers tell you.

..... following the publication of [our] article in the April issue of *TWiP*, we have been contacted and contracted by a major consultancy company This certainly demonstrates the influence of *TWiP*, and we thought you would be pleased to know this! I'm sure this has already happened in the past with other professionals as well.

This person prefers to remain anonymous

TWiP Celebrates **300** Issues



not only loads of new Arabic music in several CDs (technology had already done its thing with cassettes), but also quite a few issues of *TWiP*.

For more than 25 years, *TWiP* has continuously generated content on Palestine, promoting the Palestinian narrative and identity, not through direct politics but through focusing on Palestinian culture and highlighting everything that is beautiful in Palestine, thus encouraging people to visit. And for the diaspora communities who depend on others' eyes and journeys to see Palestine, *TWiP* is a powerful window for staying in touch not only with the Palestinian narrative that comes from the homeland but also with our own Palestinian identity and memory, through which we ultimately contribute to the national cause.

Marcelo Marzouka is a Palestinian-Chilean lawyer and sociologist. His professional work focuses on impact investment contracts and international auditing and due diligence processes. He is a senior partner at Invest Palestine, a university lecturer on Arab studies, and a former member of the board of the Palestinian Community in Chile.

SCAN
TO SHARE



Testimonies

I'm writing to express an interest in volunteering with *This Week in Palestine*. I'm interested in pursuing a career in publishing and writing, and I want to accrue more experience in writing and editing in these fields. I'm particularly drawn to *This Week in Palestine* for its celebration of Palestinian life, history, and culture. From an international perspective, I value *TWiP*'s uplifting of Palestinian culture beyond the political sphere that much of the media in the UK confines it to, and I am keen to learn more and educate myself as much as possible.

*Benedict Mulcare
Oxford, United Kingdom*

TWiP speaks beyond the message conveyed by the individual published articles. It is a Palestinian beacon.

*Antoine Nesnas
Al-Quds, Palestine*