

# ENCORE!

The Oregon Daily Emerald's Entertainment Guide

## Festival to celebrate women of Palestine

By Daralyn Trappe  
Encore Contributor

In an effort to recognize the contributions women have made to the Palestinian struggle, the Arab Student Organization and the International Student Association are presenting "A Palestine Festival - The Role of Women in the Uprising" Sunday at 7 p.m. in the EMU Main Dining Room.

The festival will celebrate Palestinian culture in general, but will focus on the particular concerns women have faced both before and during the intifada, the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

The evening's events include a dinner of traditional Palestinian food (including tabbouleh salad and makulbah, a chicken and rice dish), traditional folk

dancing, music from a band made up of member's of the General Union of Palestinian Students and a native Palestinian woman, Hanadi Loubani, as the keynote speaker.

Loubani is a Graduate Teaching Fellow at Portland State University, where she teaches a course on women and Palestine. Both Loubani and event organizer Amy Fann emphasized that the evening is meant to be a peaceful, educational celebration rather than a heated political rally.

"The festival is purposely meant to be non-confrontational," said Fann, a University graduate who is married to a native Palestinian and spent time there in 1988.

"Hanadi will speak on the specific experience of women during the occupation and their role in the uprising and in soci-



Photo by Sean Poston

Elham Elbarghouty, a graduate student in business administration, and her sister Tahany, a senior in business, will take part in this Sunday's festival of Palestinian culture

ety," Fann said. "But we want to make it a positive atmosphere, celebrating Palestinians and we invite everybody on the campus and in the community to come and break bread with us."

"I am hoping for more consciousness on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," Loubani said. "I want to give the message that we're not anti-Jewish, but anti-oppression."

The role women have played has been largely overlooked by the media, Fann said, and there is a need to focus on the work they have done and continue to

do. "Palestinian women have taken on more roles in their society through their participation in the resistance movement," she said. "They are doing things outside the home now. They teach everything in the schools, they form social unions, have their own political agendas and are out there protesting with the men."

"They confront Israeli soldiers as much as any man, even more than men," Fann said. "Fortunately, the Israeli soldiers are a little less likely to beat a woman than a man.

(Women) know that, so they're a little more likely to go up to a soldier and tell him what's what."

ASO member and native Palestinian Fouad Elgharabli said the high number of Palestinian men who have been killed, wounded or exiled in the uprising has "increased the responsibility of women."

"I see women more involved in the struggle against Israel now than at any other time before," he said.

Elgharabli also sees a change in attitudes among young wom-

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