

Synopsis :

## Lea and Sudkiya

Photographies by, Tomer APPELBAUM / baubau

2005 / 2007 – West Bank

Lea Mosenson, a 31 year-old Israeli woman, Layla to her friends, has been living for the past two years in the home of Sudkiya Awad, a Palestinian mother of 15 children, in Budrus a Hamas village in the West Bank. The friendship between the two women began with the construction of the separation wall, which crossed the Awad family's olive groves. When she met Sudkiya, Lea was part of the House for Peace, founded by a group of international and Israeli leftwing activists against the separation wall. Sudkiya and her husband asked for their help when they lost all of their land, because they were not able to provide any deeds to prove the ownership. When the village mayor, a Hamas representative, ordered the *House for Peace's* closure, because men and women shared the same living space, the Awad family had no more resources to survive. Following this set-back, Layla and other Israeli volunteers organized "work-shops for peace" about bio-intensive agriculture, and Palestinian cooking. They collect funds from the work-shop participants to help the Awad family to live. The Israeli volunteers respect local traditions, ensuring they are dressed modestly, and holding separate work-shops for men and women.

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