

## Bringing Youth from Misurata and Tawergha Together

The Peacebuilding Network, with support from PCI supported a local civil society organization “The Libyan Organization of Sustainable Development” to improve the peacebuilding capacity of 24 young people (12 females and 12 males) from Misurata and Tawergha.

In 2011, Tawergha was the site of intense fighting during the Libyan Civil War before it was captured by anti-Gaddafi forces in August 2011, when residents fled. Since then it has become a ghost town under the administrative jurisdiction of the city of Misurata, 40 kilometers away.

The Libyan Organisation of Sustainable Development bought the young people together and organised a three-day training in Tripoli on Positive Peace and Social Leadership; followed by a one-day training in Tawergha, focused on teamwork. Ahmed Baejo from Misurata and Ramadan Issa from Tawergha were both participants and both 26 years old. Ahmed has a diploma in Engineering Project Management and Ramadan has a diploma in Electronic Engineering. Since 2011, neither of them had met other people from across the conflict divide. Ahmed and Ramadan heard about the project through social media and friends. Once they were accepted, they were both apprehensive about attending.

Ahmed and Ramadan were able to put their differences aside and focused on building bridges, attending the workshop and training. During this time, Ahmed and Ramadan found they had some interests in common and became friends and subsequently formed a partnership. This involved setting up a project together called “Our Children Are Posterity And Peace Ambassadors” to support the children of Misurata and Tawergha. They have subsequently become peace ambassadors in their communities and they continue to work together on initiatives that seeks to reduce the violence between the two communities and its impact on children.

### What is the Peacebuilding Network?

The Peacebuilding Network known as the “Network” fosters networking and collaboration opportunities between peacebuilders from across the country, so that they can build relationships between different communities, learn from one another and deliver on initiatives that cover a broad range of areas including conflict prevention and management between tribal groups, transitional justice and countering hate speech and racism.



Ahmed and Ramadan celebrate their friendship and hope to bring their divided communities together