



Biography Miriam Toukan

Date of Birth: 6th of July 1982



Miriam Toukan (Arabic: **مريم طوقان**, Hebrew: **מִרְיָם טוֹקָאן**), singer, song writer and a Lawyer (Born July 6) in I'billin village in the Galilee to a teacher Waseim Toukan and his wife Mokhlisah Zeidan who are a Melkite Greek Catholic couple from I'billin. Miriam Toukan was the first Arab participant of KokhavNolad, an Israeli song contest styled after American Idol, and the first to sing in Arabic on the show in a prime time.

In the course of her participation in the show, Miriam Toukan was praised for her clear tones and unique vocal qualities, including her ability to sing the quarter tones required for Arabic music. She often combined motifs from Arabic music in songs that were considered staples of mainstream, Jewish, western-styled Israeli music, creating powerful and unconventional new renditions. Her performance of Bialik's poem to Arik Einstein's melody, "Hachnisini Tachat Knafech", gained special praise and admiration from judges and audiences alike.

Being the first Arabic participant, MiriamToukan received a large amount of media attention compared to other contestants. When she was so close to reach the finals, several articles were written on this topic, a central question being whether the show, which is a symbol of Israeli consensus, could afford to have an Arabic singer as its winner.

MiriamToukan, who with her very long, striking black hair and wide smile, soon became a favorite among judges, contestants and audience,.

Miriam has loved music and Sports since her childhood, and was active in school activities and Festivals. She danced Ballet for 6 years and joined the Shotokan Karate School in her village, she trained for 7 years and earned the brown belt in Karate and won in many contests.

But her Greatest love was the singing, her vocal abilities attracted the attention of her family and her uncle Shadi who is her first fan especially when she performed the 80's hit song " Suzanna I'm crazy loving you " in the Arabic version when she was just 4 years old.

At the age 12 Miriam became the solo performer for her church choir, she's still a member of the choir till those days.

Two years later when she was 14, she joined the Alkarawan choir there she started to perform internationally, in Finland, Estonia, Czech republic, Jordan and other countries.

In 2003 Miriam's first hit " Maqhana " which was written by the famous poet Samih al Qasem and composed by the musician NabihAwad, was released after her successful participation in the Aravision Festival for the local Arabic song.

Singing for tolerance is nothing new for Miriam who in 2004 was chosen to take a part in an international musical project sponsored by the European Union called "Youth". Young musicians from the countries with conflicts met in Germany for 3 weeks to work on an international album called Peace.

In 2007 Miriam's music career started officially, after KokhavNolad, After Star born, in the year 2007 Miriam took a part in the Holon annual Festival and won the first place with the song " Od holekhet " which was written especially for her, for this event by a very famous poet Shimrit Or and nachumheiman one of the greatest Israeli folk songs composers.

Miriam was invited twice by the president Shimon Peres to perform in the president's residence in Jerusalem.

Miriam first album "Christmas Eve" was released in December 2008 and was produced by the violinist Moen Daniel.

Miriam was signed as Teta making music artist in 2011 and released her 3 singles. The first single " Sodcha " produced by Doron Plascow take the second place in the annual dance parade.

Miriam also collaborated with a wide range of world and local famous musicians and artists like Gheorghe Zamfir the Romanian master of the Pan flute, Alon Olearchick, David D'or, Ahuva Ozeri, Gali Atari, Judith Ravitz, Avner Gadasi, Vered Klepter and others.

In July 2011 Miriam established a band called Déjà vu which includes 7 talented young musicians and her. They had performed in Haifa in an event honored for the Tunisian International singer Dhafer Youssef.

Today Toukan is also a lawyer she obtained her LL.B. from HaifaUniversity.

And interested in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and human rights, in these days she's going through training through the association for civil rights (ACRI) and the ICRC.

Miriam is identified with the agenda of dialogue and co-existence, raising a call for Awareness and appreciation for human and civil rights which must be promoted widely and early on and among all sectors of Israeli society to have human solidarity love and respect everywhere here and in the whole world. She believes that a public more aware of the complex fields of civil liberties and human rights is better equipped to stand up for its rights, and more prepared to respect the rights of others.

In 2011 Miriam was chosen to be a member in the "Mador " of Ministry of culture

And a member in Moving In Peace organization, which deals with various social problems in Israel, such as the mutual relation between Jews and Arabs, poverty, and intercultural relations between the different ethnic groups.

Miriam is also a member in E.L.C. association (English Language Center), a group of young academics working with children from neglected Arab villages to improve their English.

Miriam is working on her first Hebrew\Arabic Album, which is supposed to be released in 2013.