



Issue 19

Photography by: Emad-El-Byed

unsplash.com/@emad_el_bayed



Editorial Note

Jennifer Sarkar

We are witnessing starvation, the bombing of hospitals, the burning of homes, and the distribution of humanitarian aid in the most inhumane ways. I have heard the name of Palestine since I was a child growing up in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Canadian news media only recently showing some short clips of devastation—lifeless bodies of children, with a warning sign of course—because we live in a place of privilege, where we can turn off the news and escape into a cat video. Palestinian people, especially the children, have no such luxury. They face starvation, the destruction of their homes, and the unimaginable horror of seeing their loved ones killed before their eyes.

This issue of BEATZ is dedicated to the Palestinian people, and especially to the children—children who lost their lives, their parents, their homes, gardens, land, cousins, siblings, teachers, uncles, aunts, grandparents, and friends. Children who continue to lose their childhood.

We hope and pray for a safe homeland, safe schools, safe hospitals, playgrounds, and markets—spaces where Palestinian children can live, laugh, and grow without fear. We pray for Free Palestine!

The title of my painting is “Taki’s War”. Here our people gathered to get food to survive. Some people get food and others, when their turn comes, the food has run out. Here lies the real pain! Can you imagine the tears of innocent children when they go to their mother and the bowl is empty.

Art and words from Aya Shaqalean. @Aya.shaqalean



Words & terms matter

Words matter, especially when it represents the suffering of people. Often times Western media use terms that continues to perpetuate hate, stereotypes, discriminations and humiliation towards marginalized communities and individual people. This spread is dedicated to common terms and words that have been used to explain the on-going genocide that have been taking place against the Palestinian people.

Colonialism

Colonialism refers to the practice or policy of a nation acquiring, occupying, and exploiting foreign territories or peoples, often through the establishment of settlements, military control, or economic dominance. It involves the subjugation of a people by a foreign power. *Source: Encyclopedia Britannica.*

Settlers

Settlers are individuals who move to a new land, often with the intent of establishing a permanent residence or community, typically in territories that are not their own, and frequently as part of a colonial or expansionist project. *Source: Oxford English Dictionary.*

War

War is a conflict, typically between nations or groups, involving armed forces and often characterized by violent confrontation, destruction, and loss of life. *Source: Oxford English Dictionary.*

Genocide

Genocide refers to the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group. It involves acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group. *Source: United Nations, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948).*

Occupation

Occupation in a political context refers to the control or governance of a territory by a foreign military force, often resulting in the subjugation and management of local populations without their consent. *Source: International Committee of the Red Cross, International Humanitarian Law.*

Palestine

Palestine is a geographical region in the Middle East, historically significant as the homeland of the Palestinian people. It has been the subject of conflict and contested by various powers, most notably Israel and Arab states. *Source: Encyclopedia Britannica.*

Palestinian

A Palestinian is a person who originates from the region of Palestine, encompassing both the people living in the Palestinian territories (West Bank, Gaza Strip) and those of Palestinian descent living in other regions, including refugees and their descendants. *Source: Oxford English Dictionary.*

Refugee

A refugee is someone who is forced to flee their home country due to war, violence, persecution, or natural disaster and who is unable to return because of a well-founded fear of harm. *Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).*

Terrorism

Terrorism refers to the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, particularly against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims. It aims to create fear, disrupt societies, or coerce governments or populations. *Source: U.S. Department of State.*

Zionism

Zionism is a political movement that began in the late 19th century, advocating for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. It has evolved over time but is primarily associated with the founding and support of the State of Israel. *Source: Oxford English Dictionary.*

Famine

Famine is an extreme shortage of food in a region, often leading to widespread hunger, malnutrition, and death. It typically results from factors like drought, war, poor governance, or economic collapse. *Source: Oxford English Dictionary.*

Starvation

Starvation is the severe deficiency of caloric intake and nutrients, leading to extreme malnutrition and, if untreated, death. It is a consequence of prolonged lack of food and is a major cause of suffering in famine situations. *Source: Oxford English Dictionary.*

The Balfour declaration

The Balfour Declaration was a statement issued by the British government in 1917, expressing support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish British mandate. *Source: The National Archives, The Balfour Declaration (1917).*



The child’s name is Fayeze Abo Ataya, the genocidal regime killed him on the 31th of May, 2024 as a result of malnutrition due to the siege, there are no basic needs available for the hungry children. Art and words from Aya Shaqalean.

NAKBA

1948-present

The following content is taken from Jewish Voice for Peace, Nakba fact sheet. Please follow this link to learn more <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/JVP-Nakba-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

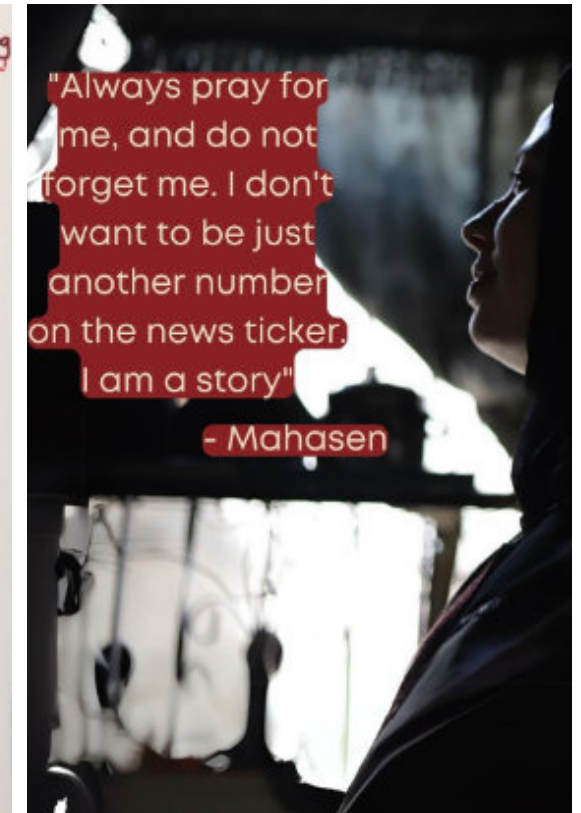
May 15, 1948 marked the end of the British Mandate (1922-1948) and the beginning of Israel as an independent Jewish State. Palestinian Muslim and Christian Arabs consider this day to be al-Nakba (pronounced an-Nakba), 'the Catastrophe', whereby they were dispossessed from their homes, lands, and livelihoods as a result of Israeli ethnic cleansing operations during the Arab-Israeli War between November 1947 and July 1949. In 2008 Palestinians commemorate 60 years of loss and dispossession while the Israeli state celebrates 60 years of independence and existence.

UN Partition Plan of 1947

In 1947, the United Nations Special Commission on Palestine (UNSCOP) recommended that Palestine be divided into two states, one Arab and one Jewish. The plan would have caused almost half of the Palestinian population-the indigenous majority on its own ancestral soil to be converted overnight into a minority under alien rule. The Zionist leadership agreed and the Arab League and Palestinians leadership did not.



Art by: XENA



Mahasen Al-Khateeb

Digital Illustrator. read Mahasen's story on page.20



Art by: 7 year old of her visiting Jerusalem
with her favourite animals.

Poem by 5 year old Palestine for Gaza

This fight started in 1948 till now can you
Imagine how many people have been killed?

Kids in Palestine wish for water and food but they
Understand that it is a test from Allah.

I want all the kids in Palestine to play like me
To laugh like me to have friends like me
But Israel keeps killing them.

We won't go to places like Walmart, Starbucks
And Pizza Hut because they support Israel.

I am sure Allah will take care of all the people in Palestine.

Allah created brave kids in Palestine
We will always stand for the Palestinians.

There are two teams, one are the Palestinians and
One is the Israelis and all of us are on the Palestine side.

Free free Palestine

Free free Gaza



Aya, along with her family has been displaced from her home.



Art by: Aya Shaqalean



Art by: Lamees

This one is for you.

The brave one
The little one
The one whose name I do not know.

The lost one
The pure one
The innocence I cannot hold.

But one thing I do know:
You already hold your ticket to Paradise.

Could you help me find mine?

Poem by: Zara Haque



Art by: Aya Shaqalean

Mahasen Al-Khateeb

Digital Illustrator, children stories, motion graphics, story board

Saturday, October 19, 2024, I was visiting my cousin and my niece. We drove back home late afternoon, my daughter had a bath and we went to bed. I woke up and received a message from my friend Karla and she said, “She has been killed now but maybe her art can make its way to BEATZ?” This is how I never imagine to look through another artists profile and artwork. I came to know about Mahasen and her work because of her death. She was murdered along with her family while I ate lunch with my family, drove home without fear and went to bed swiping the online world. I don’t have words to express what this fucking genocide tells about our current world. Pride, power, greed and hate seems to be the general norm. - Jennifer Sarkar

“Israel bombed the home of 32-year-old digital artist Mahasen Al-Khateeb in North Gaza on Saturday, killing her along with every remaining member of her family. Mahasen began her artist’s journey as a cartoonist and freelance designer, but for the past year, she captured millions around the world with her powerful works, preserving the faces and stories of Palestinians in Gaza that Israel is ruthlessly trying to erase.”

Mahasen’s Instagram account: [mahasen_ktheeb](#)

Source: The IMEU. Nonprofit. Giving access to untold stories, facts & expert sources on all things Palestine-politics, culture, art & activism.

Through her art, Mahasen **honored Palestinians killed by Israel**, capturing the daily pain and resilience of life in Gaza.





Mahasen's last painting of Shaaban Al-Dalu, the 19-year-old Palestinian software engineering student Israel burned to death in his hospital bed in an attack outside the Al Aqsa Hospital.

Source: The IMEU. Nonprofit. Giving access to untold stories, facts & expert sources on all things Palestine-politics, culture, art & activism.

“Back to School” they say,
With broken pencils and pages torn.
Laughter replaced by dust.
Dreams buried beneath the rubble.
A backpack holds his brother.
Rollerblades ride to heaven.
“Back to School” they say.
What school is there left to go back to?

Poem by: Zara Haque



Art by: Aya Shaqalean

The Palestinian shawl and the olive tree, the story of the symbols of the Palestinian struggle. The reason why the olive tree is considered a symbol of the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, other than its long life, is that it is one of the trees most exposed to attacks by the Israeli occupation forces for the purpose of settlement. Therefore, the occupation forces uproot and burn thousands of trees annually, and yet farmers plant olive trees, even though they become vulnerable to settlement and attacks. By the Israeli occupation forces.

Every inch of the land of Palestine carries a symbol of struggle, and every grain of sand was soaked in the blood of its people, and every fruit that fell from the olive tree told the story of a nation's struggle to return to its lands. There are many symbols that when we see them, we remember them and associate them with the struggle of the Palestinian people, and these symbols have connotations of steadfastness in the face of the Zionist enemy. And the Israeli occupation.

Written description and Art by: Aya Shaqalean





Photography by: Emad-El-Byed, Palestine