



Dear R4T Colleagues and Friends,

This is the most frustrating part. As Palestine slips from the news, as the language of increasing and compounding catastrophe runs out, and attention turns elsewhere. Almost three weeks ago the UN noted that Palestine's civil order had collapsed. There seems no language to talk productively about the kind of crisis we are in today. This is what Rights for Time and its project partners have—well before the start of this destruction—been working on: How can we change the shape of, the understanding of, crisis and therefore its response.

Our aim is, that in some future, there is no October 7, because aid and humanitarian assistance had supported Palestinian communities long ago, when needs for safety, for protection, were articulated.

In line with the wisdom of our partners around the need for documentation, and the findings of our network projects around the need for a new language, we share the present newsletter.



In this heartfelt poem, one of our project partners encapsulates the enduring spirit and hardships of Palestinians, reflecting on their resilience and unspoken sacrifices.

I saw a picture, O Father, of a man carrying his four children in the war.

It magnified your resilience in Palestine: the land of war and survival.

You carried eight, O Father,
without a groan.

...

Whenever I saw the life line
An etch across the palm of my hand

I said with a laugh:

We are a people who live long.
Yes, my father lived a hundred years.

...

My friend said:

It suits you to be the daughter of a man who lived a hundred years.

...

I don't know, O Father,
what to say to the child who died before living only one week in this world.

They recorded his name on the death certificate
before they recorded his name on the birth certificate.

I know that your departure was hastened
a hundred years are not enough for the Palestinian.

But what do I say to this child?

If you were here,
I would ask you to share your life with him,
and you would agree,
for you were generous.

The morsel in your mouth is not for you,
so you gave him thirty years, and kept seventy for yourself.

Or you shared your life with him equally;
fifty for him. Fifty for you!

...

Perhaps he was my father,
and you were the infant who they recorded his name on the death certificate
before they recorded his name on the birth certificate,
a child born in 1948, who died before living.

Below, we include updates on our project partners in Palestine, particularly in Gaza. This documents the devastation, the impact, and the personal losses that such violence perpetrates.

Because we believe our partners possess the wisdom, the language, and the power to innovate a language of the future, we share here reflections, actions, and worldsapes that may give direction to action in the days and weeks ahead.

Finally, we share news of actions taken here in the UK, by network members, to amplify work from across the network and demand change.

Updates, and Dreaming the Language of Safety

PTC

The [Palestine Trauma Center](#) is providing mental health hotline services, focusing on emergency help to families with young children, providing advice and tools for parents and children so that valid emotional responses to catastrophe can be mobilised into community building and support. The centre continues to mobilise its community networks to distribute blankets and sanitary supplies to the most vulnerable. Funds supporting this work come from two UK-based charities.

**Hotline Services to support children and their families.
Distributing food, water, blankets and cleaning items.**



All this is being offered as center staff face devastating personal losses. The home of the center's accountant was destroyed last week.

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Niveen Alejla
Accountant in
PTC

The home of Jabir Thabet, co-Coordinator of PTC's Days/Friday of Joy initiative (which provides psychosocial support for children and tools for speaking about mental health) was destroyed this week. We reported on week one that the home of Saeed, the e-Learning specialist, was destroyed. We learned this week that 18 members of his extended family were killed in their homes. The neighbourhood of Firas Miqdad, who works as a clown for the Fridays of Joy initiative, including his home, were destroyed this week.

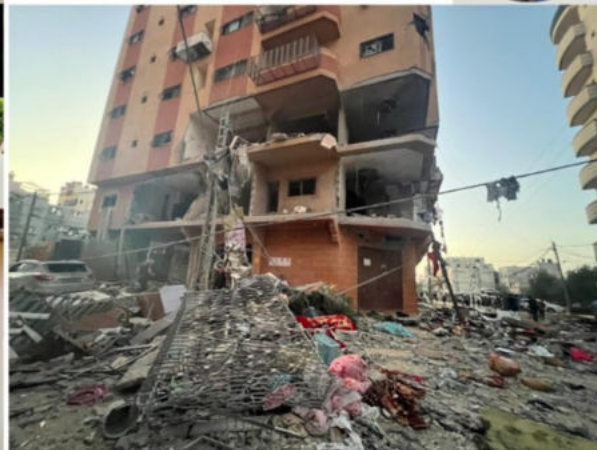
Before



Now

Jabir Thabet

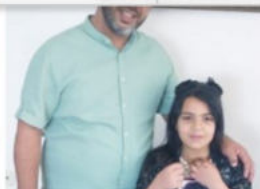
Team Co-ordinator for Days of Joy



We shared in our last update that Fidda, who also works on the Fridays of Joy initiative, lost his wife and daughter, and was in critical care. We learned this week that he also lost his son. He remains in critical condition in the Nusseriat hospital, which like all medical facilities in Gaza has extremely limited access to food and fuel.



Fidda's Apartment was attacked and destroyed on 23/10/2023. Fidda lost his wife, daughter and his son. He is in a critical condition in the intensive care unit!



Fedaa Al-leddawi Storyteller for Days of Joy in PTC (Gaza)



We have also learned that the premises of PTC were further damaged in bombardments last week.



The images show the PTC before and after the war

Tamer

The staff at our partner [the Tamer institute](#) have continued to work with the community in their Gaza office, despite the heavy losses that they have experienced. Most of the staff were displaced when we reported last, and continue to be so. They have, however, resumed some programming as and where they are able.

The team shared their work, which speaks powerfully to our message: that in this horrific violence there exists a language of and for safety. It is this language that we focus on, that we hope to amplify.

The team worked with children to draw houses, and in the process of drawing to talk about home, and safety. Like the exercise of Eman and gathering seashells, which we shared last week with news that she was killed with her children two weeks ago, this also provided a chance to connect, to make something beautiful, and to vent anger and frustration about the current situation.

كان البيت جميل...لولا الحرب.
Home was beautiful, if not for the war.



Ahlam Bsharat

The children's author who works with the Tamer institute on our funded project on the experience of children in Jerusalem who have been arrested or detained by the Israeli military, has been reflecting intensely over this period. She shared, well before October, some of the work of the children that she visited and their families.

In a context where children have so much to say, and often want to cultivate their voices to express what they are experiencing, Ahlam and the Tamer institute were surprised at how closed and unable to express themselves the children they were working with for this project were.

One of the boy's mothers, who was eager for him to participate, ended up doing a short workshop with Ahlam, where she expressed her deep wishes for a safe home and a safe life for her child. He was detained for 20 days, and then put on house arrest. She saw him closed down, without voice or able to express his feelings about the arrest, or what happened when he was in military custody. Awaiting trial, the 12 year old had been under house arrest for more than 12 months.

As part of the workshop, his mother drew this image of a house: the house she wished her son would live in.



While the picture is serene, it was what this boy's mother said during the making of this house that invests it with the symbolism that we hold on to moving forward:

"The house is in our neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah, with all of our friends and neighbours, it has space enough for everyone, and it is not a place of confinement for my son."

Ahlam wrote, the day she first visited the house:

"My eyes closed, perhaps that will help, so I don't see the truth! Every journey to Jerusalem hurts a new area inside me. Today in Sheikh Jarrah, a picture reveals the house of one of the child prisoners in Jerusalem. In reality, even his home is a prison. The withered pyramid-shaped tree, the dog Katusha that died from the pain of separation."

متى سأعود إلى البيت؟ When Will I Return Home?



Wisdom from our Partners

It is within this context of harm, harm so great that is it being ignored, that a poem, shared by our project partner Azadi Kenya, which works on documenting and raising awareness about human trafficking, speaks powerfully.

MY HEART BEAT

*Ooh yes, I've always wanted to give up many times,
But again I'm still standing here, still fighting my silent battles for better days ahead,
And though my legs may tremble and my soul gets tired, I keep trudging forward,
through the fire and through muddy seasons, until I find my inner peace to rest,
Within a heart that is resilient to be nothing less than a beautiful heart.*

- RM



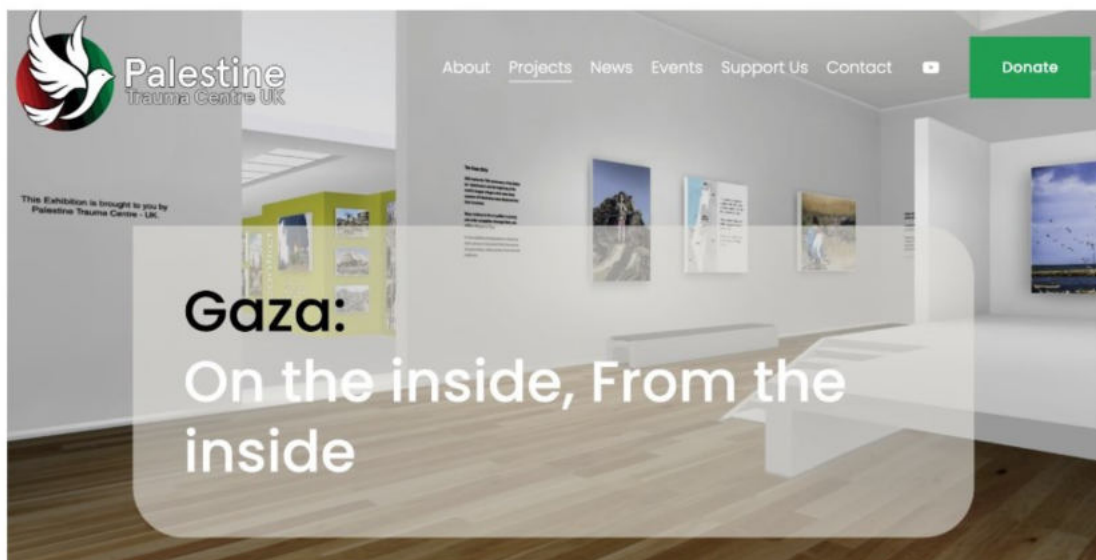
Action in the UK

We have all written to our MPs. Those who were able have joined the landmark protest in London and across the UK. We have spoken to officials at our universities, and remain in touch with our funder. We want a ceasefire, and we want a long-term solution that is not the status quo. We want to be able to work with our partners to help achieve it.



Our members protesting in London, at the largest demonstration in the country's history.

[Link to our network's statment calling for an end of military action](#)



for the 75th commemoration of the Nakba, this spring. The exhibit was released early, and speaks powerfully to the long-times of harm that the people of Gaza have endured.

<https://www.palestina-traumacentre.uk/projects/gaza-on-the-inside>

Nora Parr spoke at a fundraiser for Gaza, sharing part of her recently released book Novel Palestine. Proceeds went to Medical Aid for Palestine.



Photo courtesy of Haidar Dewachi

Rana Dajani was on a panel at Falling walls conference in Berlin for women breakthrough awards about science diplomacy and talked about science diplomacy starts with supporting fellow scientists in Gaza and West bank. She quoted a scientists from gaza on what is happening in Gaza.

"I work on Social entrepreneurship finding solutions for local problems. I am doing my PhD in innovation to achieve the SDGs. If I was anywhere in the world I would have maybe become a CEO, a Nobel Prize winner, a President.

Living in a concentration camp where there is a huge shortage of water, food, electricity is not because of mismanagement or climate change as many think because 32 km away in an Israeli settlement with people from US, UK and Poland there is water, food and electricity. The reason is the Israeli occupation of Gaza.

My family lived in the village of Dras 32 km away for hundreds of years but were expelled by force in 1948 to Gaza. Gaza where every couple of years Israel bombs and controls basic human needs to subdue us. We even made peaceful marches for no violent resistance but they killed my neighbour who was a nurse, and my other neighbour who

Quote by a lecturer from the Islamic university of Gaza that has been totally razed to the ground.



The Open Panel on "The Relevance of International Collaboration and Female Leadership in Science Diplomacy" constituted Geraldine Rauch, [Technische Universität Berlin](#); [Rana Dajani](#), [Hashemite University](#) & [SASTA: Society for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Arab World](#). (SASTA); [Kathryn Boyd](#), [British Embassy Berlin](#); [Dr. Effrosyni Chelioti](#), [Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft](#) and moderator, Justine Nzweundji. The panel engaged in a thought-provoking discussion that underscored the vital role of international collaboration and female leadership in advancing scientific diplomacy.

LEARN MORE ABOUT RIGHTS4TIME'S PROJECTS

As we conclude this edition of our newsletter, we want to reiterate the awe we hold for our partners, and their commitment to their communities. Their strength redoubles our own efforts to ensure their visions and voices reach those who need to hear them. It is the privilege of the network to bring together so many powerful people and organizations, and we hope that in sharing your collective work, we can speak in a louder voice and effect on a wider scale the change that partners create in their communities. The challenges faced in Palestine are not just local issues but are a reflection of global concerns that demand our collective attention and action.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission of transforming the language and understanding of crisis. We extend our deepest gratitude to our project partners, contributors, and supporters for their unwavering dedication and courage in these trying times.



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