



Defying Crisis Time Network Updates

Dear R4T Colleagues and Friends,

Amidst the utter devastation of our projects and partners in Palestine, we must once again defy 'crisis' time. As researchers and grassroots organizers, we have eyes on multiple temporal frameworks: the very long present of devastation, the long history of catastrophe that it layers on to, and the urgency of amplifying visions of the future that can accommodate all of these times.

The work of many of our Palestine partners has been stopped, and we working to find ways to make sure that work can be completed, and to change as necessary. The conditions that made one project necessary are no longer the conditions we face. Rights for Time is proud to be able to hold the space for these shifts. The future we imagine must now hold a great deal more loss.



Before offering a brief network update, and news from our partners in Palestine, we share a poem from Raghed Furawna, one of the children who took an autobiographical writing workshop with Ahlam Bsharat and the Tamer Institute last year.

**But how can we die,
when we are searching for the secret of life?
Perhaps it is the search itself that leads us to death, for
We draw in our dreams
In our imagination
A geography that fits our own agendas**

Raghed was killed with her grandfather in the early weeks of the bombardment. May we all have the power and strength to realise the world she imagined.

Network Updates

Many of our commissioned projects have now come to a close, but behind the scenes the work remains very much alive as the work delivered, in progress, and on hold is discussed with our advisory board and our co-Investigators. We are looking at the themes, the common threads, and the lessons learned and preparing for next steps. The network legacy, we hope, will continue to advance the causes of rights for time.

Everyone can expect to hear from their mentors early in the new year. Formally this is an end of project discussion though for some I know it won't quite be finished. This will be a chance to check in and share some early findings, ask some questions that we hope might fill in some gaps in analysis, and feed into plans for the project legacy. A few weeks after these are all done you will also be invited to a focus group to collectively discuss findings and next steps.

Further down the line there will be a Rights for Time Summit and other chances to share and discuss findings and to develop project legacy, but more on all that in due course.

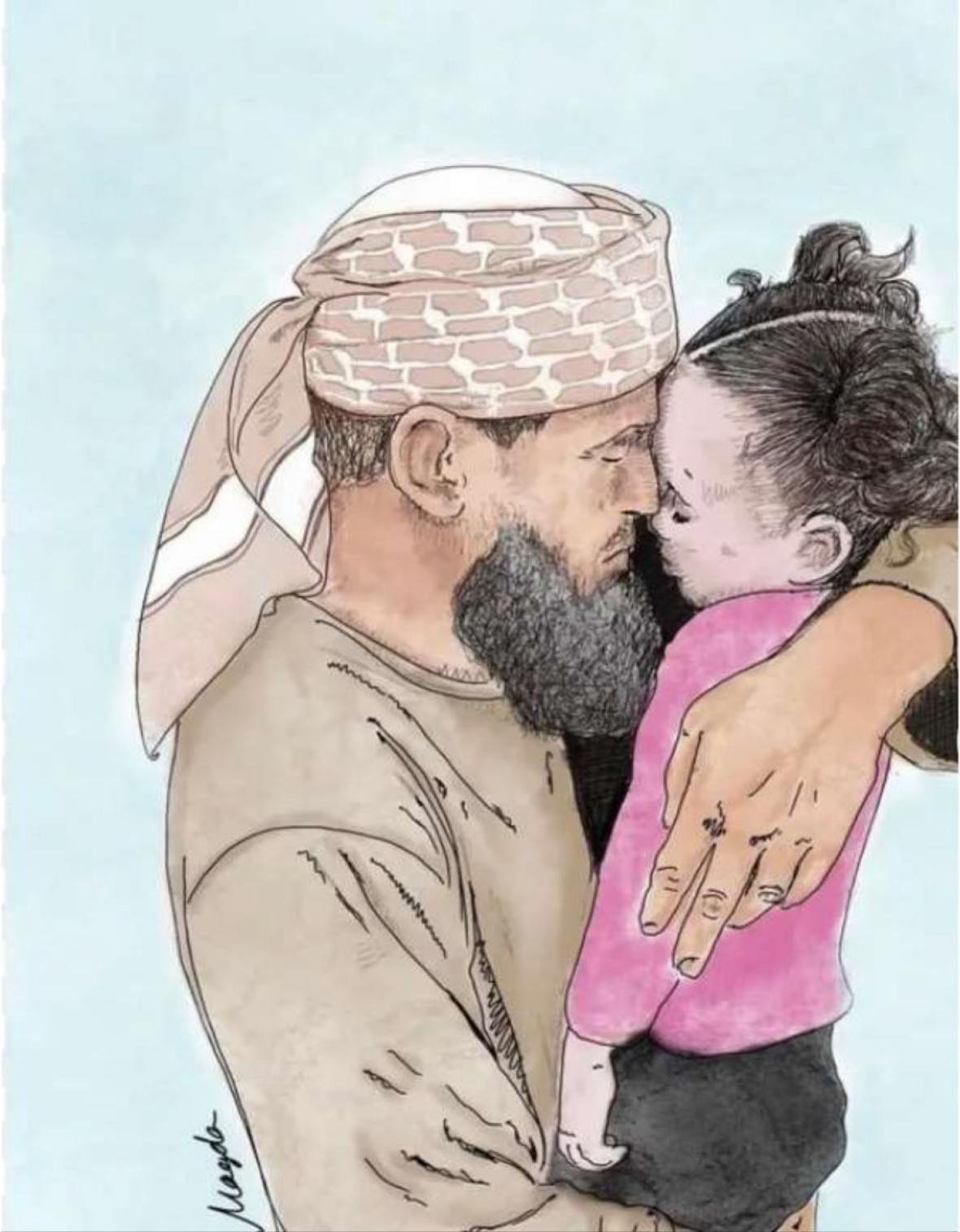
Palestine Trauma Center



[Palestine Trauma Center](#)

During the brief ceasefire two weeks ago, PTC staff who were able, gathered children for the first Friday of Joy in months. The activities were a chance for children and families to gather outside of their homes, to publicly address the fear they have, and would continue to endure, and crucially, to smile and relax for a short moment.

While some of the more intensive therapy programs that the center offers cannot be delivered at this time, staff have managed in many cases to set up small workshops and support programs that address the needs of their immediate communities. Staff in the north and south of the Strip have focused on helping meet material needs of residence, purchasing and distributing blankets while they are available on the market. In other locations, staff have been able to run at least partial Focusing programmes. Focusing, or Tarkiz, is the program that PTC and Rights for Time are studying. The adaptation and its success are a landmark program for the center, and provide tools for both personal and community connection as both grapple in different ways with horrific experiences.



Last but not least, we wanted to share with you the story of Sheikh Khaled, a friend of the Palestine Trauma Center and its founder Mohammad. Sheikh Khaled was sleeping in his family home when the building was bombed and he lost his beloved granddaughter Reem. In a video which went viral afterward, he is bidding Reem farewell, kissing her eyes and caressing her head with his beard. "You are the soul of my soul," he tells her. His love and tenderness shone across the world, returning the difficulty of the conflict to the uniquely human ways in which it is experienced.

In the weeks since then, Sheikh Khaled has returned again to the Palestine Trauma Center for workshops, taking a proactive role in building morale and offering guidance and resilience to those in Gaza and beyond. Speaking after a PTC workshop, Khaled had this to say:



'I wanted to deeply thank PTC for its great workshop which allowed us to externalise our feelings after witnessing our kids being filled with fear and horror during the day and the night - when they hear the strikes, they gather together out of fear that the halls may collapse - during the workshop, we saw them experience joy again, even if briefly... we saw them experience a kind of happiness, they laughed -- it's been three weeks and they haven't laughed. I thank the center on behalf of our family and the kids for what you have provided... as the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, the best of actions are those which create joy in the heart'

Tamer Institute

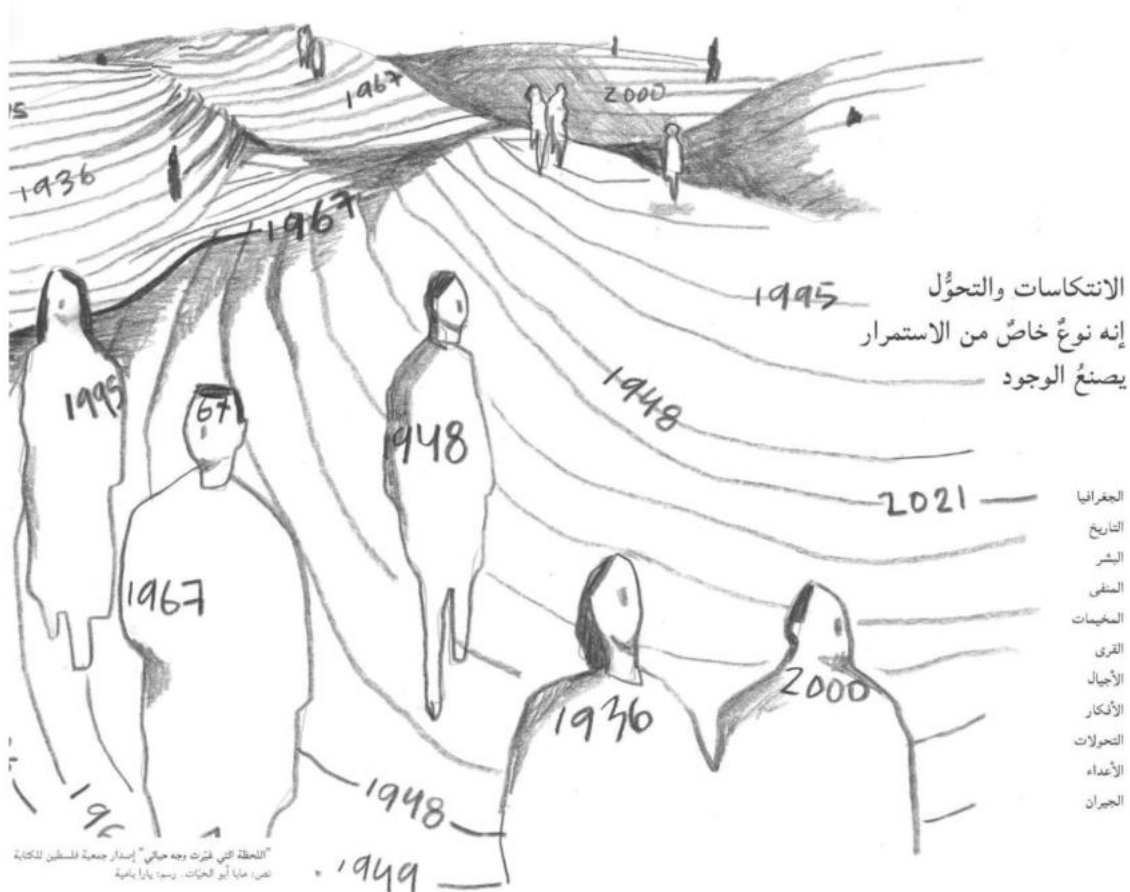


[Tamer Institute](#)

In the past few days, the Tamer Institute has been able to host activities with children in Gaza. In their words: "A moment of joy seized from the unrelenting grip of bombardment... This unyielding innocent and precious joy affords us a sense of hope. This hope is not

optimism. It is perseverance. It is our unwavering persistence; in our commitment to safeguard the sacred rights of Palestinian children – their right to play, express themselves, and enjoy the freedom to move and engage with the world. This enduring pursuit remains our foremost mission.”

Palestine Writing Workshop



Palestine Writing Workshop

The second book composed by the Palestine Writing Workshop has been prepared and excerpts will be published soon. We will keep you posted. The PWW collects stories on Palestinian experience of ongoing trauma. We share with you now a translation from a recent update:

As I worked to compile these stories, Layan was arrested again.

There's a phrase that circulates among detainees in Palestine. I've heard it many times before in my work. "The first arrest is different." The phrase is explained. This first arrest is filled with mystery, discovery, fear, and many other mixed emotions. The second arrest, however, is perhaps the one worth remarking on. This arrest, people say, is repulsive, filled with the monotony of a repetition, the forced reliving of scenes you've long tried to erase from your life. It's gruesome, and carries the stench of prison.

The day before her arrest I had sent Layan a message: 'Hi Layan. I'm writing something literary about people who've gone through difficult experiences. There is a

particular question I wanted to ask you, if you can answer: How do you understand time before, during, and after arrest? How did you perceive time, interact with it, before, during, and after? What was your way of understanding the hour, day, and year?

I have not, yet, received a reply from Layan. I cannot write her story here. Because you cannot tell the story of someone who does not want to write.



Action in the UK

In the UK, we continue to take action. We have been writing to MPs throughout the past period and have deepened our engagement with the University of Birmingham administration, urging them to speak boldly about what is going on in Palestine given that the university is funding projects which are directly and severely affected.

We are also pushing for emergency funding to support our partners in Palestine on multiple fronts. This week we received good news that a first round of funding was secured and we are working on matching these funds from other sources.

The marches in the UK - which have been among the biggest marches in UK history - continue to be strong - there is a palpable movement to raise awareness and demand ceasefire among a broad and diverse coalition of groups.

With solidarity and hope 🌐🌍⏳,

The Rights for Time Team