

THE

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN

REVOLUTION'S

CREATIVE DESTRUCTION

PROMISE

THE FREEDOM THEATRE



Photo @ Gavin Connolly

OVERVIEW

'As our borders become harder to cross, our funding removed, and censorship of our voices continues, it is crucial that we find new ways to mobilise as Palestinian artists. The Revolution's Promise makes sure our voice is still heard internationally and put pressure on Isreal to stop the attacks on artists.'

- Ahmed Tobasi, The Freedom Theatre

The Revolution's Promise is a testimonial script, created from interviews with artists across Palestine. It celebrates cultural resistance and highlights the brutal attacks artists face for speaking out about Palestinian rights, including arrest, imprisonment, torture and murder.

We invite friends, activists, and artists worldwide to creatively collaborate and join in solidarity by organising an event, staging a performance, or reading a monologue in your local community.

Get involved and participate in a creative mass-mobilisation project that aims to build a global conversation about censorship of Palestinian culture and the role arts play in fighting for justice, equality and self-determination.

WWW.THEREVOLUTIONSPROMISE.COM

OBJECTIVES

CREATE AWARENESS

Highlight and create awareness of the obstacles and censorship Palestinian artists are facing.

CONNECT

Connect students, artists, activists, unions and anyone interested, to Palestinian arts and culture.

CONVERSATION

Begin a conversation with your local community, theatre, or university on the role of culture in fighting for change in Palestine and beyond.

CELEBRATE

Celebrate one of the world's most radical and exciting arts sectors and the people at its heart.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

Platform multiple readings / performances worldwide and build a global solidarity network.

STOP THE ATTACKS

A generation of artists are at risk, we hope by creating global conversation and worldwide solidarity will put pressure on Israel to stop the attacks.

JULIANO MER KHAMIS

& CULTURAL RESISTANCE

Commemorate Juliano Mer Khamis and his legacy of using culture as a form of resistance and the role this plays in the fight for justice, equality and Palestinian self-determination.

"My dream is that The Freedom Theatre will be the major force, cooperating with others in generating cultural resistance, carrying on it's shoulders universal values of freedom and justice."

- Juliano Mer Khamis

THE ARTISTS RESISTANCE PROGRAMME

We are keen that any profits made from performances (once costs have been deducted) are donated to The Artist Resistance Programme.

The fund will support Palestinian artists to lead workshops and trainings for Palestinian participants aiming to continue the legacy of Juliano Mer Khamis and his passion to educate young artists and build the next generation who fight for change using culture.

There is a particular focus on funding artists from low economic backgrounds, women, ex-prisoners and those who are facing complex obstacles.

GET INVOLVED

From staging a reading, performing a monologue or learning more about the situation, there are big and small ways to get involved with The Revolution's Promise.

For more info www.therevolutionspromise.com/get-involved

ORGANISE A READING

Organise a reading of the script in your local community, workplace, university or solidarity group. We have a step by step guide and resources to assist you.

READ A MONOLOGUE

Read a monologue (3 - 8 mins), at your school assembly, a meeting or at a rehearsal. It is a great way to give people a taste of the project and introduction to Palestine and the situation for artists.

INVITE US TO DO A WORKSHOP OR TALK

We are available to do practical workshops or more formal talks with your community, students, theatre or festival. The workshop can be tailored to the age of your group, interest and size. It can take place in person or online and can last an hour or be across a few days. If you are staging a reading we can also do a workshop to accompany your process.

INVITE US TO STAGE A READING WITH YOU

Invite us to your theatre, university, festival or local community to stage a reading with you. We will rehearse with your readers/performers to put on a public performance whilst creating an in-depth learning environment for your team. We can tailor the process to incorporate professional actors or people newer to being on stage.

DONATE

Donate to the Artists Resistance Programme which supports Palestinian artists to lead workshops and trainings for Palestinian participants.

JOIN BDS & CULTURAL BOYCOTT

Boycott Divestment & Sanctions is a vital non-violent, grassroots Palestinian movement that plays an essential role in the fight for justice.

ORGANISING A READING

The script for The Revolution's Promise is designed to be flexible and adaptable to suit your needs. It is designed to be performed as a reading by experienced actors or first-time performers (or a mixture of both!).

Below are steps to think about especially if you are new to planning events. If organising an event is too large a commitment, why not read a monologue, at your school assembly, a meeting or at rehearsal:

www.therevolutionspromise.com/script



SCRIPT

The script is roughly one hour in length. It is a mixture of monologues and scenes. It is currently in English, however, you are welcome to translate it. To read a copy of the script:

www.therevolutionspromise.com/script



VENUE

Theatres are a great space to hold your event, but it could also be a lecture room, school, community space or church hall.



PERFORMERS

There are 15 parts in total, and we estimate you will need a minimum of 7 readers.

If it is not possible to find readers who are Palestinian or have Palestinian heritage, we ask that the casting be inclusive and represent your community's diversity. Casting does not need to be gender-specific.



REHEARSAL

The script is designed to be presented as a reading or a performance. If your readers are experienced, and you aim to present a reading, we estimate that the rehearsal time could be as little as 3 hrs.



RESOURCES

We have collated extensive resources to help you further understand the topic, artists featured, and the situation in Palestine.

Please email us for PDFs, or they are available to read or download here: www.therevolutionspromise.com/resources



MARKETING

Once you have confirmed your date and venue, let us know how people can book tickets so we can help spread the word. We have a template press release, flyers, poster and social media posts that you are welcome to adapt:

www.therevolutionspromise.com/marketing



PROJECTIONS

If practically possible, we suggest you accompany your reading with projections. We have a collection of slides that go with the text available here:

www.therevolutionspromise.com/projections



DISCUSSIONS

If you are interested in having a local Palestinian artist or an activist speak after your event, let us know, and we can make suggestions. It is also possible for someone in Palestine to join via zoom. We ask you to consider paying the speaker a fee for their contribution.



GET IN CONTACT

Talk through what you are planning with us, or let us know how we can assist. Please use the email

info@artistsonthefrontline.com

VALUES & PRINCIPLES

BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS & THE CULTURAL BOYCOTT

BDS is a vital non-violent grassroots Palestinian movement that plays an essential role in the Palestinian community. It is often misunderstood internationally and we ask that you take the time to read about the movement and familiarise yourself with its aims, principles and FAQs:

www.bdsmovement.net/cultural-boycott#guidelinst

ETHICAL FUNDING

If you need to apply for funding to make your reading or performance happen we ask that you consider the ethics of where you apply and do not take funding from the Israeli government, embassies, or lobby groups in line with the cultural boycott.

NORMALISATION

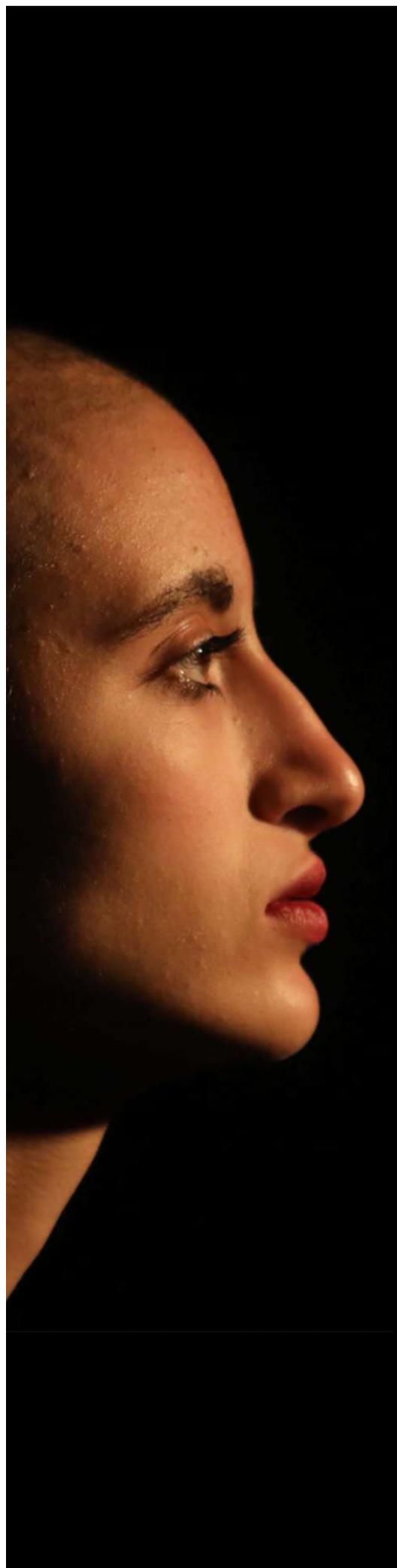
In the Palestinian context, normalisation refers to Israeli and Palestinian collaborations that create the impression that both are equal in their power, rights and role in 'the conflict'. It hides Israel's ongoing crimes, oppression and occupation of Palestinians and ignores the three basic rights of Palestinians three basic rights; ending the occupation, ending the Apartheid, and the right of return for refugees. For further reading: www.972mag.com/what-is-normalization/

ANTI-RACISM & ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Our work and this project are embedded in the fight against anti-racism and for equality and justice. We ask that all collaborators take this mission seriously, by not only standing in solidarity with Palestinians but by making sure that everything possible is done to stand up to racism and discrimination in your working dynamics. Including but not limited to islamophobia, antisemitism, homophobia, sexism and white supremacy.

INCLUSION

Access is a human right. We ask that you consider how your project can be assessable to deaf and disabled artists and audiences. Unlimited's Cards For Inclusion is a brilliant resource: <https://weareunlimited.org.uk/cards-for-inclusion/>



WHO

The Revolution's Promise is a mass-mobilisation project with many people around the world contributing to make it happen. It is set as a collaboration by The Freedom Theatre and Creative Destruction.

THE FREEDOM THEATRE



The Freedom Theatre is one of the worlds most exciting political theatres. Based in Jenin Refugee camp in Palestine it was co-founded by Zakaria Zubeidi leader of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade and actor and director Juliano Mer Khamis. The theatre was established at the end of the second intifada and is famous for its use of cultural resistance and using arts to fight for justice and a free Palestine.

The artistic and practical challenges have been immense, the building has been attacked by the Israeli Army, death threats have been sent and members of the theatre have been arrested, interrogated, imprisoned and psychologically tortured. On April 4th 2011 Juliano was murdered on the doorstep of the theatre.

www.thefreedomtheatre.org

ARTISTS ON THE FRONTLINE



A creative space and platform for radical artists working at the forefront of social and political change.

Whether through the latest digital technology, on the streets, or by inventing new prototypes, our work creatively responds to the multiple crises the world is facing.

The work is driven by local and international artists, communities, justice movements and change-makers.

Through exploring the intersection between arts, activism, politics and community organising, we are building a space where groundbreaking, revolutionary and censored conversations, ideas and stories can be told.

www.artistsonthefrontline.com

MAPS



PALESTINE SHRINKING EXPANDING ISRAEL

1918



UNDER OTTOMAN RULE, ZIONIST ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND BEGIN TO MAKE LAND PURCHASES THROUGHOUT PALESTINE FOR JEWISH SETTLEMENT.

1947



PRIVATISATION OF LAND UNDER THE BRITISH MANDATE ACCELERATES ITS TRANSFER AND SALE TO ZIONIST ORGANISATIONS, AND THE DISPLACEMENT OF PALESTINIAN INHABITANTS.

1960



FOLLOWING THE FORCED DISPLACEMENT (NAKBA) OF OVER 750,000 PALESTINIANS IN 1948, THE NEW STATE OF ISRAEL ENACTS LAWS TO CONFISCATE THE VAST MAJORITY OF PALESTINIAN LANDS.

2017



SINCE OCCUPYING THE WEST BANK AND GAZA IN 1967, ISRAEL HAS UNILATERALLY DECLARED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HECTARES OF SO CALLED STATE LAND FOR ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS.

SOURCES

Text: Ibrahim Abu-Hakm, 2001. Land Ownership in Palestine/Israel 1920-2000. BIRLA, 2011. Living Land: Population Transfer And The Mevav Project in The Negev. 17 June 2012. By Hersh and Fu Cronk. Israel Settlement Policy in The West Bank.

Maps adapted from: Mark Shugart, 2012. Atlas of the Conflicts Israel-Palestine. 17 June 2014. Map of the West Bank, Settlements and the Separation Barrier.

VISUALIZING PALESTINE

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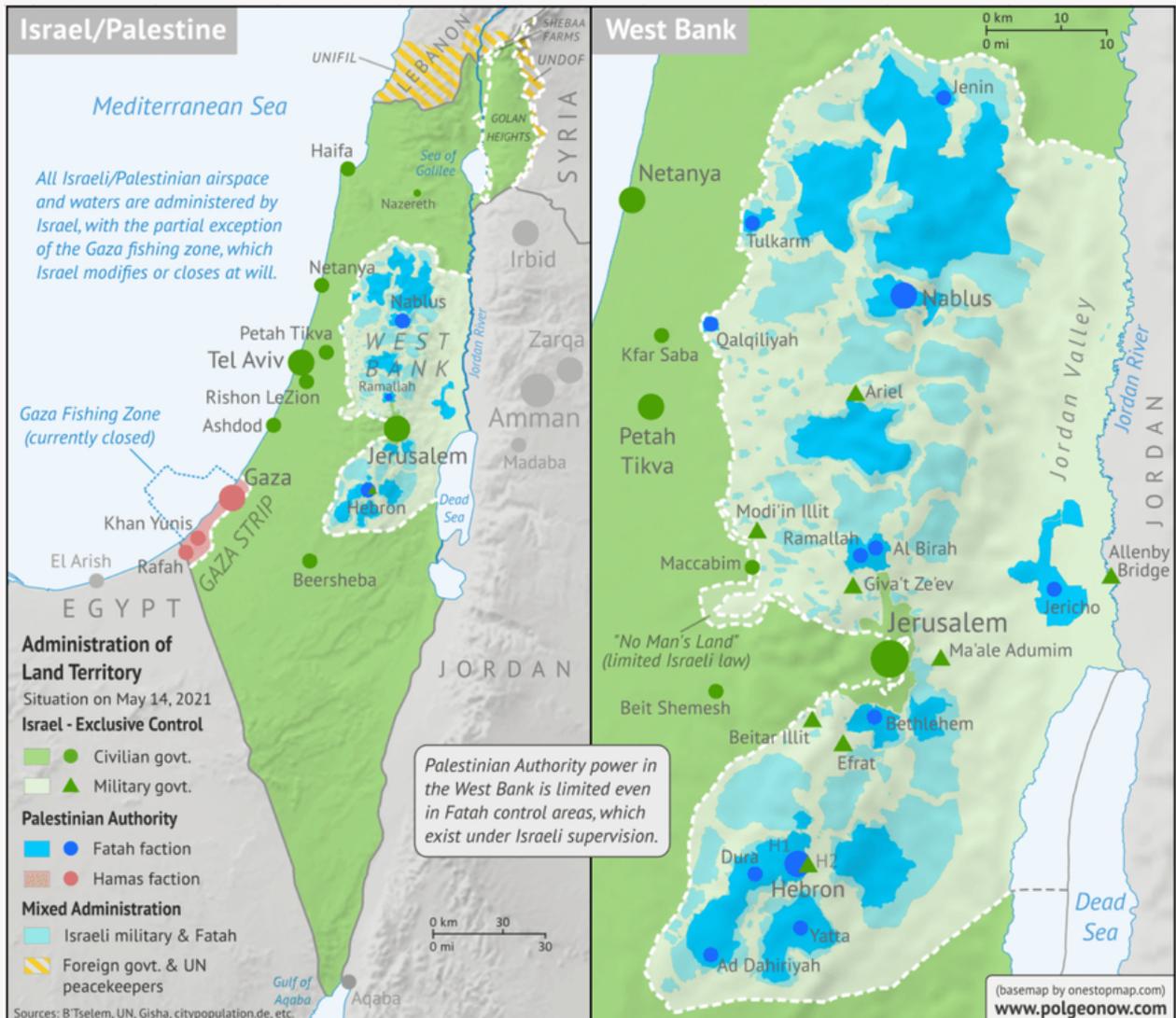


IMAGE FROM POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY NOW: www.polgeonow.com

ONGOING DISPLACEMENT

THE FORCED EXILE OF THE PALESTINIANS

1922

1922 LAND OWNERSHIP DISTRIBUTION

IN 1922, **750,000 PEOPLE** LIVED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE BRITISH MANDATE, INCLUDING **84,000 OF JEWISH FAITH.**

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1948

1948 LAND OWNERSHIP DISTRIBUTION

BETWEEN 1918 AND 1948 **480,000 JEWISH PEOPLE** SETTLED.

IN 1948, **750,000, OR OVER 50% OF THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION** ARE DISPLACED.

IN 1948, **750,000, OR OVER 50% OF THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION** ARE DISPLACED.

1967

1967 LAND OWNERSHIP DISTRIBUTION

BETWEEN 1948 AND 1967 **1.3 MILLION JEWISH PEOPLE** SETTLED.

IN THE 1967 WAR **440,000 PALESTINIANS** ARE DISPLACED. BY 1967 **1.1 MILLION PALESTINIANS** ARE LIVING IN EXILE.

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TODAY

2008 LAND OWNERSHIP DISTRIBUTION

BETWEEN 1967 AND 2008 **1.8 MILLION JEWISH PEOPLE** SETTLED.

AFTER 1967 **240,000 PALESTINIAN RESIDENCES** REVOKED. BY 2008 **5.3 MILLION PALESTINIANS** ARE LIVING IN EXILE.

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2008 POPULATION
PALESTINIAN **5,120,000**
JEWISH **5,610,000**

2008 POPULATION
PALESTINIAN **5,120,000**
JEWISH **5,610,000**

100,000 ISRAELI SETTLERS DISPLACED

100,000 PALESTINIANS IN EXILE

100,000 ISRAELI SETTLERS DISPLACED

100,000 ISRAELI SETTLERS DISPLACED

100,000 PALESTINIANS IN EXILE

100,000 ISRAELI SETTLERS DISPLACED

IMAGE FROM VISUALIZING PALESTINE: www.visualizingpalestine.org

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JERUSALEM

LIVING UNDER POLICIES OF COLONISATION IN JERUSALEM

In 1948, 80,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes in the areas of West Jerusalem. East Jerusalem was illegally annexed by Israel in 1967. Since 1967 **apartheid** prevails in the City where the Israeli occupying power has been enacting **discriminatory** policies and laws that suppress the growth of the Palestinian community to not exceed 40% of the population of Jerusalem. Israel is engaged in a process of **silent transfer** and colonization aiming to create a Jewish majority by illegal means.

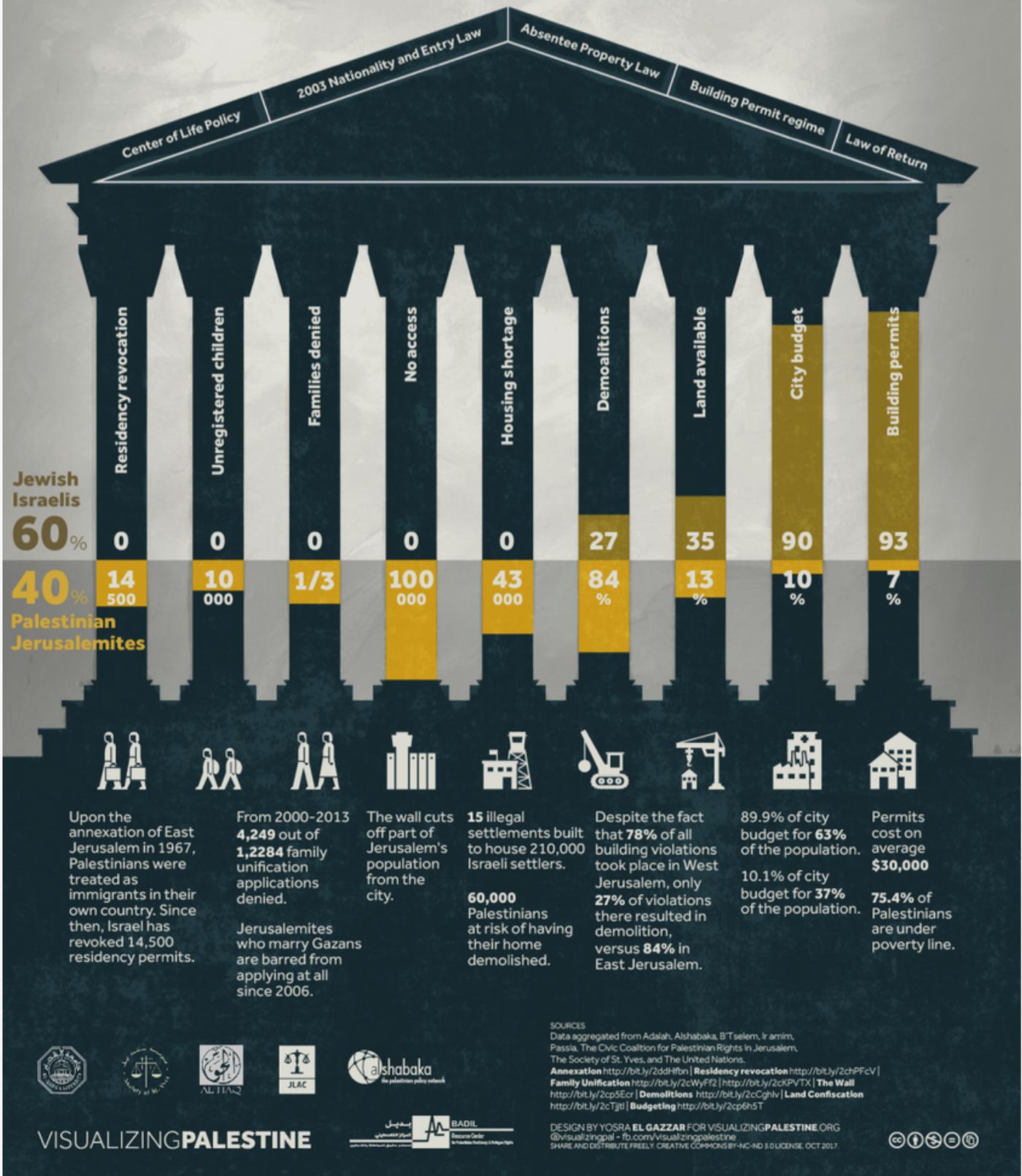


IMAGE FROM VISUALIZING PALESTINE: www.visualizingpalestine.org

TIMELINE

HISTORICAL EVENTS & EVENTS REFERENCED IN THE REVOLUTION'S PROMISE

1914 - 1918 - 1st World War

1917 - Balfour Declaration

1922 - Ottoman Empire officially ends

1920 - 1948 - British Mandate (legitimised by the league of nations 1922)

1929 - Arna Mer Khamis was born

1938 - Poet Nuh Ibrahim is murdered by the British

1939 - 1945 - Second World War

1948 - The Nakbe, where an estimated 750,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes

1951 - Arna Joins the communist party

1948 - 1953 - Jenin Refugee Camp was formed

1967 - Six-day war

1972 - Isreal murders writer Ghassan Kanafani

1973 - Isreal kills political leader, writer and poet Kamal Nasser in Lebanon

1987 - 1st Intifada begins

1987 - Naji al-Ali is murdered in London. Whilst it was never confirmed, it is suspected to be a Mossad assassination.

Late 80s - Arna goes to Jenin Refugee Camp and established Care & Learning and The Stone Theatre alongside local women.

1988 - Suhail Khoury (Edward Said National Conservatory of Music) is arrested and imprisoned for creating music tapes.

1993 - Discussions for the Oslo accords begin

1993 - The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music is founded

1995 - Founding of Yabous Cultural Centre

2000 - 2nd intifada begins

2001 - Yousef Swaitat suicide mission

1st April 2002 - Ten-day invasion of Jenin Refugee Camp

April 2002 - Omar Bakri films 'Jenin Jenin'

July 2005 - Founding of the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement

2006 - Founding of The Freedom Theatre In Jenin Refugee Camp

2006 - Ahmed Tobasi leaves prison and joins The Freedom Theatre

2007 - Israel and Egypt close the borders to Gaza, restricting movement for people in and out until this day. ordering 24 copies to be confiscated.

2008 - 2009 - Isreal launches Operation "Cast Lead" on Gaza.

4th April 2011 - Juliano Mer Khamis is murdered

Summer 2011 - Four members of The Freedom Theatre are arrested and imprisoned.

2012 - Nabil Al Raei, who became Artistic Director of the Freedom Theatre after Juliano's murder, is arrested and imprisoned

2013 - Mohammad Saba'aneh is arrested and imprisoned

April 2013 - Photographer Mohammad Al Azza is shot in the head.

July 2013 - Mohammed Al Azzah is arrested.

2014 - Isreal launches 'Operation Protective Edge' on Gaza

2015 - Poet Dareen Tatour is arrested and imprisonment

2016 - Loai Tafesh, dancer-choreographer and founder of Naqsh dance ensemble, is arrested and imprisonment

December 6, 2017 - President Trump formally recognises Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and states that the American embassy would be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

2018 - Land Day protests in Gaza begin demanding an end to the Israeli blockade and the right of return for refugees. Across 18 months, 168 Palestinians were murdered and thousands injured.

14th May 2018 - The US embassy is opened in Jerusalem on the 70th Gregorian anniversary of the creation of the modern State of Israel.

9th August 2018 - The Said al-Mishal Centre in Gaza is bombed

20th September 2018 - Dareen Tatour's imprisonment and house arrest ends.

July 2020 - Rania Elias (Yabous Cultural Center) and Suhail Khoury (Edward Said National Conservatory of Music) arrested and interrogated.

12th January 2021 - Mohammed Bakri continues to be taken to court for 'Jenin, Jenin'. He is ordered to pay damages to Israeli soldier Nissim Magnaji of 175,000 shekels (\$55,000) and 50,000 shekels of court expenses. The court also re-introduces a ban on the film in Israel and ordering 24 copies to be confiscated.

2nd February 2021 - Dancer and choreographer Atta Khattab is held in prison.

2021 - Palestinian cultural organisations lose the majority of their core funding after refusing the demands of international funders to depoliticise their work.

BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT & SANCTIONS

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) is a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality. BDS upholds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity.

Governments fail to hold Israel to account, while corporations and institutions across the world help Israel to oppress Palestinians. Because those in power refuse to act to stop this injustice, Palestinian civil society has called for a global citizens' response of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality.

BDS is now a vibrant global movement made up of unions, academic associations, churches and grassroots movements across the world. Since its launch in 2005, BDS is having a major impact and is effectively challenging international support for Israeli apartheid and settler-colonialism.

BOYCOTTS involve withdrawing support from Israel's apartheid regime, complicit Israeli sporting, cultural and academic institutions, and from all Israeli and international companies engaged in violations of Palestinian human rights.

DIVESTMENT campaigns urge banks, local councils, churches, pension funds and universities to withdraw investments from the State of Israel and all Israeli and international companies that sustain Israeli apartheid.

SANCTIONS campaigns pressure governments to fulfil their legal obligations to end Israeli apartheid, and not aid or assist its maintenance, by banning business with illegal Israeli settlements, ending military trade and free-trade agreements, as well as suspending Israel's membership in international forums such as UN bodies and FIFA.

FOUNDING

In 2005, Palestinian civil society organisations called for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) as a form of non-violent pressure on Israel.

The BDS movement was launched by 170 Palestinian unions, refugee networks, women's organisations, professional associations, popular resistance committees and other Palestinian civil society bodies.

Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, the Palestinian BDS call urges nonviolent pressure on Israel until it complies with international law by meeting three demands.

DEMANDS

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall
2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194

BDS is an inclusive, anti-racist human rights movement that is opposed on principle to all forms of discrimination, including antisemitism and Islamophobia.

CULTURAL BOYCOTT

An extract of an interview with BDS Co-founder Omar Barghout on the Cultural Boycott:

'BDS is a collective Palestinian voice, an absolute majority, asking democratic citizens worldwide to join us, in pressuring city councils, churches, trade unions, companies, and ultimately governments to stop its links of complicity with Israel.

The cultural boycott is a very important part because cultural institutions play a key role in whitewashing or what we call art-washing of Israeli Apartheid and occupation.

It calls for something much more profound than help, Do No Harm. If an international artist comes to Tel Aviv, they are lending their name to a system of apartheid and oppression. That is not art for the sake of art, music for the sake of music, that is complicity.

The cultural boycott targets complicity, not identity. Urging the cancellation of events, activities, agreements, or projects involving the Israeli State, its lobby groups or its cultural institutions. To reject funding and sponsorship from the Israeli government.

No one is calling for suppressing the rights of Israeli artists. If the UK invites an Israeli filmmaker to show her film, with no institutional connection to the state of Israel, the embassy, or lobby groups, there is absolutely nothing in the boycott to prevent this.

Actually, BDS explicitly calls on Israelis to join us. Israelis who abandoned colonial ideology, policies and dehumanization, who recognise our three basic rights under international law; ending the occupation, ending Apartheid, and the right of return for refugees.

Since there is nothing Jewish about occupation, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, the siege of Gaza, and all the crimes committed, then there is nothing inherently anti-Jewish in proposing that this is against humanity and campaigning to end it.

Of course, there is anti-semitism that really bugs our minds, and it is growing every day in the West. B.D.S. was very clear from the beginning that we oppose all forms of racism, including antisemitism. In fact, we don't see Palestine ever being liberated without an international movement for justice and equality winning the war for racial, indigenous, gender, economic and environmental justice, making this world better for everyone. In Ferguson, USA, after the first uprising when Michael Brown was killed, the Palestinians were one of the first to apply solidarity, because we understand oppression.

Since 2014 Israel started to consider B.D.S. a strategic threat. It is a fact that they have invested hundreds of millions of dollars to fight it. So they clearly do see the impact. It is extremely impressive how much the movement has grown in numbers.'

JOIN THE CULTURAL BOYCOTT

The guidelines and FAQ give essential details on the cultural boycott.

They can be found at: www.bdsmovement.net/cultural-boycott

Once you have read these join the cultural boycott and take action:

Bring artists and cultural workers together to discuss the cultural boycott:

Organising a speaker event, debate or a teach-in can be a great way to bring people together to discuss and learn about the cultural boycott. Use the script or monologues from The Revolution's Promise to get the conversation started.

Organise a statement of support from artists in your country or field:

Organising a statement of support for the cultural boycott from hundreds of artists in a particular country or genre/field is a long term and difficult process but can be a very effective way to spread the word about cultural boycott and bring new people on board. Contact us so we can share with you our related experiences and best practices.

Tell people about your support for the cultural boycott:

If you're an artist that supports the cultural boycott, tell the whole world! Share information about the cultural boycott through your social media channels and when you meet others at performances and exhibitions. Share with colleagues that you don't perform or exhibit your work in Israel. Share your public statement with us so we can help to publicize it.

Make sure your local cultural venue is "occupation free":

Mobilise appeals to convince your local cultural venue not to accept Israeli government or lobby funding or host events sponsored by Israel, its lobby or complicit institutions.

Join an international campaign against a big name artist:

PACBI sometimes launches international public campaigns that often convince famous artists not to perform in Tel Aviv, just as conscientious artists boycotted Sun City. Follow PACBI on social media and check back on this page for details of any ongoing public campaigns. Your help in such campaigns would be well appreciated.

Let your favourite artists know about the cultural boycott:

Whoever your favourite artists are, make sure they know about the fact that Palestinian artists are calling for a cultural boycott of Israel. Experience shows that polite, fact-based and logical letters, tweets and messages to artists work best to convince them to heed or endorse the cultural boycott as an effective way to support Palestinian rights.

FEATURED ARTISTS

The script of The Revolution's Promise is comprised of testimonies from Palestinian artists, as well as interview material available online. The interviews have been edited and juxtaposed together.

People were interviewed individually without knowing who else was being interviewed. Each person's perspective, thoughts and ideas are solely their own. Over 30 interviews were initially conducted with 15 voices represented in the final text. Below is a short biography of each person, in the order they appear in the script. Further links to their work are available at:

www.therevolutionspromise.co.uk/featured-artists



JULIANO MER KHAMIS **CO-FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** **THE FREEDOM THEATRE**

Born 1958 in Haifa to Israeli mother Arna Mer Khamis and a Palestinian father, Saliba Khamis. Juliano was an actor-director who made the documentary Arna's Children. He was co-founder and artistic director of The Freedom Theatre in Jenin Refugee Camp. Juliano was murdered on the 4th of April 2011 by an unknown masked man meters away from the theatre.



ARNA MER KHAMIS **ACTIVIST & TEACHER** **MOTHER OF JULIANO MER KHAMIS**

Born 1929 in Haifa, Arna was an Israeli Jewish pro-Palestinian human rights activist and teacher. Alongside local Palestinian women in Jenin Refugee Camp, she founded Care & Learning a teaching and art therapy program as well as establishing The Stone Theatre. In 1993, she was awarded the Right Livelihood Award.



AHMED TOBASI **CURRENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** **THE FREEDOM THEATRE**

Born in Jenin Refugee camp during the 1st Intifada, Tobasi's personal story is one that echoes both the armed and cultural struggle. During the 2nd Intifada, he joined the armed resistance, was shot and was imprisoned by Israel, as a political prisoner for four years. He is an actor, director and teacher and is the current Artistic Director at The Freedom Theatre.



YOUSEF SWAITAT
YOUNG ACTOR,
THE STONE THEATRE

Yousef was a young actor at The Stone Theatre in Jenin Refugee Camp. He performed in the Little Lantern and was 'the joker' of the group. After a life of living in the brutal conditions of the camp, he committed a suicide attack in Isreal in 2001.



MOHAMMED BAKRI
ACTOR & DIRECTOR
DIRECTOR OF JENIN JENIN

Born 1953 in Bi'ina a Palestinian village that is now in Isreal. Mohammed is a director and actor performing around the world in theatre, T.V. and film. In 2002 he made the award-winning documentary 'Jenin Jenin' days after the Israeli invasion of Jenin Refugee Camp. Since 2002 Israeli has repeatedly taken Bakri to court, most recently banning the film and fining him.



ZAKARIA ZUBEIDI
ARMED RESISTANCE FIGHTER
CO-FOUNDER OF THE FREEDOM THEATRE

Born 1976 in Jenin Refugee Camp, Zakaria is considered 'the symbol of the intifada'. He was a leader in the Al-Aqsa Brigade and co-founder of The Freedom Theatre. Both Isreal and the Palestinian Authority have imprisoned him multiple times throughout his life. Zakaria was arrested in 2019 and held in an Israeli maximum-security prison without charge. After two and a half years, along with five other political prisoners, he dug a tunnel using a spoon and escaped. After five days, he was retaken by the Israeli army. He remains imprisoned without charge to this day.



RANIA ELIAS
DIRECTOR & MANAGER
YABOUS CULTURAL CENTRE

Born 1971 in Bethlehem, Rania is a producer, arts manager, director of Yabous and of the Jerusalem Festival. Rania lives in Jerusalem on a family unification permit which she is under constant threat of losing due to her work at Yabous. Whilst there has always been Israeli aggression towards Yabous and its staff, this has intensified in the last few years, including Rania being arrested and interrogated, the centre raided and its documents & records confiscated.



MOHAMMAD AL AZZA
ARTIST & PHOTOGRAPHER
LAJEE CULTURAL CENTRE

A refugee from the village of Beit Jibreen who was born and lives in Aida Refugee Camp. He is a documentarian and photographer and directs the Arts & Media Unit of Lajee Center in Aida Refugee Camp. In 2013 he was targeted and shot in the head by Israeli soldiers, an attack he survived. Mohammad continues to photograph despite being arrested, continually interrogated and banned from movement in the West Bank.



MARIAM ABUKHALED
ACTING STUDENT
THE FREEDOM THEATRE

Born 1991 in Nazareth, Mariam was a student and actor at The Freedom Theatre under Juliano Mer Khamis. She performed in 'Alice In Wonderland' as the Red Queen, the final production Juliano directed before his murder. Miriam has performed around Palestine, Europe, and the US and since 2016, been an ensemble member at the Gorki Theatre in Berlin. She regularly speaks out about Palestinian and refugee rights, patriarchy and racism.



SUHAIL KHOURY
MUSICIAN & COMPOSER
GENERAL DIRECTOR OF
NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Born in 1963, Suhail grew up in Jerusalem. He plays multiple instruments, is a composer, General Director of the National Conservatory of Music and co-founder of Yabous. Suhail was arrested, imprisoned and tortured by Israel in 1988 for creating music tapes. He was arrested and investigated again in 2021.



DAREEN TATOOR
POET, WRITER &
PHOTOGRAPHER

Born 1982 in Reineh near Nazareth, Dareen always knew she was fascinated by words. In 2015 Dareen was arrested and imprisoned by Israel for putting her poem 'Resist My People Resist Them' on Facebook. Consequently, it was read more than 200,000 times before her trial. Dareen spent three years between prison and house arrest. She is currently living in Sweden after repeated threats to her life by Israelis.



LOAI TAFESH
DANCER & CHOREOGRAPHER
FOUNDER NAQSH DANCE ENSEMBLE

Born in Jenin, Loai spent three years in Israeli prison after participating in union work at his university. He went on to complete University and found the Naqsh dance ensemble. Loai was arrested and imprisoned again in 2016 for over a year, accused of political choreography.



MOHAMMED SABA'ANEH
CARTOONIST

A Palestinian born in Kuwait, Mohammed returned to Palestine, where he works as a painter and cartoonist. He was arrested and imprisoned in 2013. Inside his cell, he continued to draw, smuggling his work out of prison. Later this work was presented in an exhibition and published in the book Black & White.



ALI ABU YASEEN
ACTOR, WRITER & DIRECTOR,
CO-FOUNDER AL-MISHAL CULTURAL CENTRE

Born in Gaza and living in Shati refugee camp, Ali is an actor, writer, director and producer. He co-founded Al-Mishal Cultural Centre where he created productions for fourteen years until the theatre was specifically targeted and bombed in 2018.



OMAR BARGHOUTI
CO-FOUNDER
BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, SANCTIONS (BDS)

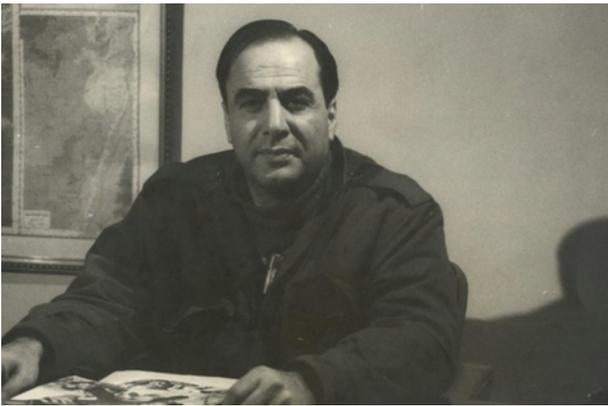
Omar grew up in Jordan, the son of Palestinian refugees. He returned to Palestine in 1993 with his partner, a Palestinian citizen in the state of Israel. Omar is an engineer by profession, artist by passion and student of Philosophy. He co-founded the BDS, which includes the Cultural Boycott, although stresses it is the collective work of many volunteers. His life and residency have been under threat since 2014, and he has faced multiple travel bans.

FURTHER ARTISTS SPOKEN ABOUT IN THE REVOLUTION'S PROMISE



NUH IBRAHIM **POET & REVOLUTIONARY**

Born in 1913, Nuh was called "the popular poet of the 1936 revolution". His poetry represented the beginning of the golden age of Palestinian folk poetry. Nuh was imprisoned by the British mandate who occupied Palestine. In 1936 they shot and murdered him at 25 years old.



KAMAL NASSER **POLITICAL LEADER, WRITER & POET**

Born 1925 in Gaza, Kamal was educated in Political Science in Birzet University and later studied law. He was a Palestinian political leader, writer, and poet. He produced al-Ba'ath newspaper from Ramallah and set up al-Jil al-Jadid (The New Era). Kamal was killed in West Beirut on the night of 1973 by Israeli special forces.



GHASSAN KANAFANI **CO-FOUNDER AL-MISHAL CULTURAL CENTRE**

Born in 1936 in Akka, Ghassan was an author and a leading member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He wrote many famous stories, including 'Men In The Sun' and 'Return For Haifa'. In 1972, at the age of 36, Ghassan was assassinated by Israel in Beirut when he turned on the ignition of his car, detonating a grenade which in turn detonated a 3-kilo plastic bomb. He was murdered, together with his 17 old niece, Lamees Najim.



NAJI AL ALI **CARTOONIST**

Born 1938, Naji is described as the greatest Palestinian cartoonist. He drew over 40,000 cartoons and is best known as the creator of the character Handala. Naji was murdered in London in 1987. Whilst it was never confirmed, it is suspected to be a Mossad assassination.



Talk through what you are planning with us, or let us know how we can assist.

info@artistsonthefrontline.com

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