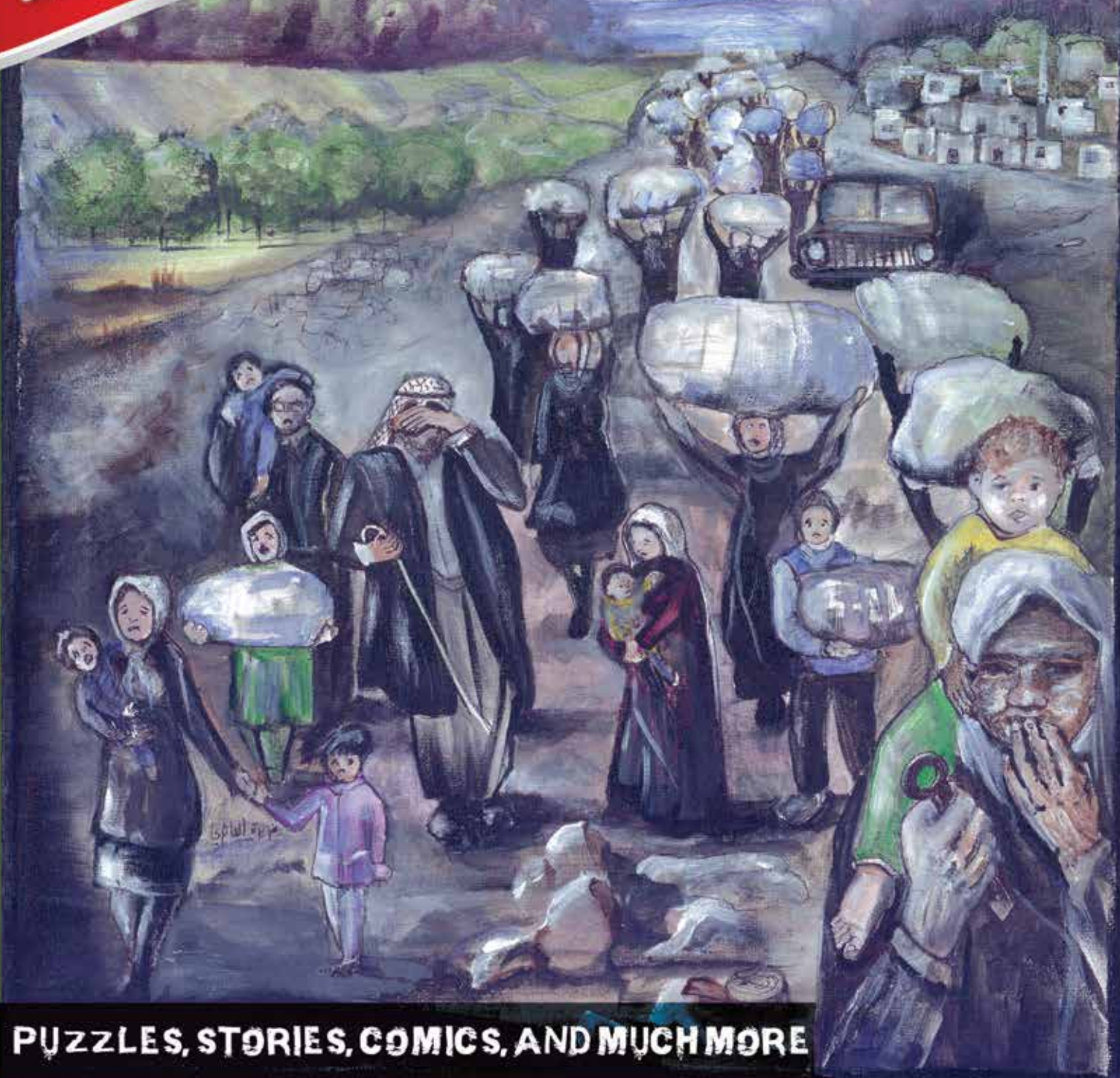


4  
ISSUE  
REFUGEES



I Love Palestine



PUZZLES, STORIES, COMICS, AND MUCH MORE





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### Dear Parents and Educators,

Although it is focused on the history and occupation of Palestine, "I Love Palestine" recognizes that in order for the context of Palestine to be relevant and comprehensible to American children, it must be related to their world; speaking to them in a language they understand. Additionally, we want the readers of "I Love Palestine" to recognize how events around the world are related and how issues on one side of our planet can directly impact people on the other side. In every publication of our magazine, we try to take a central current event and tie all of the strings of past, present, future, near, and far to show our readers the respective relationships that exist and educate them on multiple fronts. "I Love Palestine" is a publication worthy of dinner and family discussion. The layers of meaning addressed in the magazine are appealing to diverse audiences as well as all age groups. We hope that this issue enlightens all members of your family and is the basis and stimulant of many meaningful discussions.

In light of the events taking place in the Muslim world and the mixed media attention it has received, we have decided to dedicate this issue to the hundreds and thousands of displaced refugees worldwide. Regardless of a refugee's trials and tribulations are magnified and described, we can never actually do justice to their plight. We pray that Allah (swt) ease their path and grant them the safety, security, and stability that every human deserves.

Peace and blessings,  
The "I Love Palestine Team"



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**A Product of  
AMP-Chicago Education Committee**





# Never Forgotten

For the woman whose eyes you may see  
residue of a tear, but seldom a sight of fear.  
For her shining crystals of pure sadness.

For the man with  
the confined body, but the free mind.  
For his dreams of freedom.

For the children massacred playing ball  
on the sands of the shore.  
For the everlasting echoes of their laughter.  
For the moans of their mother's agony.

For the millions of refugees displaced.  
For Aylan whose body washed up from the capsized boat.  
For the ocean's lap harnessing the lifeless bodies.  
For the struggle of those who sought a better life.

For the uprooted olive tree that holds the memories of fading generations.  
For a holy land, once known for peace, now ravaged by war.

For the tongue that only speaks the language of resistance.  
For a blood stained history. For a world silently watching.  
For a time when all humanity has been lost.  
For the screams that fall on deaf ears.



Story Time

## ***In the Footsteps of a Child Refugee***

Beesan was one of the younger children in her family, but she had one of the oldest souls. For a nine year old, she had an unusual personality; she had wisdom. The simplest things in the world intrigued her. The markings on a single tree inspired her to do the unthinkable. She expressed herself through her paintings. Painting was her therapy, her escape from the world and its endless problems. Having such a hobby wasn't easy, though. Living under occupation made it hard for Beesan and her family to get any sort of supplies from outside their small town. She had just a single paint brush and four tiny bottles of paint that her Uncle Hussam bought for her from Jerusalem. Beesan kept the paint brush with her wherever she went. She always hoped she'd use her special brush to paint something on The Wall. Beesan dreamed of the day she'd leave her mark on that Wall; the day, she'd share her thoughts with the world and leave an everlasting impression.

Like she did every week for five days, Beesan walked to school, Madrasat Il-Huriya, it was called. She skipped passed the convenient store and waved at its owner like she did every morning smiling from ear to ear. She walked into a classroom that was more than half empty. There were whispers being exchanged between her peers.

### **"DID YOU HEAR ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO AMEERAH YESTERDAY?"**

"Her family received the paper leaflet from the Israeli forces warning them to evacuate their homes within a thirty minute period. They were being forced to flee their home in order to avoid being incinerated with their home."

Although Beesan knew that this had occurred to numerous families, this was her childhood friend and was more than she could bare. She sunk in deep in her chair and quickly scooped the tear that streamed down her left cheek. It seemed to her like such sad news was delivered daily. She was losing friends and her town was constantly being attacked. After school, Beesan walked home slowly, hanging her head low, and thinking about all the precious memories she shared with her friend, Ameerah and praying that her family would never have to face a similar feat. She wasn't sure how she would react.


She came home to a very empty house. Her family's belongings were packed and her family members rushed around the house frantically.

"Yallah, yallah ya Beesan. Get your stuff together and hurry. We're leaving," her mother told her.

### **"WHAT? WHERE? MAMA, WHAT'S GOING ON?"**

"THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN. YOUR FATHER IS WAITING WITH THE CAR OUTSIDE."



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a paintbrush and a wire. The hand is dark-skinned and appears to be gripping the wire tightly. The paintbrush is yellow and has some paint on its tip. The background is blurred, showing what looks like a crowd of people and some structures.

**When she walked outside, she found her father standing there;**

the dreadful leaflet in hand. They had received our warning and were being pushed out of their home. Beesan's fear was coming to life like an uncontrollable monster. She held on to her paintbrush tightly.

In minutes, Beesan and her seven family members squeezed into their beat up BMW; her father pushed on the gas pedal so hard, all the passengers were jolted forward.

### **THEIR FINAL DESTINATION WAS THE EGYPTIAN BORDER.**

Beesan's father heard that Rafah, the town he called home, was going to be destroyed soon, so he thought the only way to protect his family was to relocate to Egypt. About a mile away from the gate into Egypt, the bustling crowd waiting to get through the gate was visible.

Beesan was nervous, but she did as her parents asked. They parked the car on the side of the road and began to walk towards the gate. Beesan's father looked back at the car he was leaving behind. He remembered how excited he was when he brought it home; his eyes watered.

Beesan's family reached the gate, but they lost each other in the crowd. She held on to her mother's arm tightly as they fought to get to the front of the crowd. People surrounded them in every direction and all Beesan could think of was the whereabouts of her father and siblings. Three and a half hours later, after showing the correct paperwork, Beesan and her mom were in Egypt. They were immediately directed to a refugee camp named Salloum. They waited days for the rest of their family to come past the gate and join them in the camp. Days turned into weeks and there was still no sign of them. Eventually, Beesan lost hope.

Life in Salloum Camp was unpleasant. The Egyptian government denied Palestinian refugees residency and the right to free education. Beesan and her mother's lives had changed dramatically and forever. Beesan no longer had a huge family to shower her with their love and affection; her mother was the only person left. She never skipped to Madrasat Il-Huriya; she didn't attend school at all while she was in Egypt. She never had the money to buy paint and use her paintbrush again. They never made Maklooba again because they had none of the ingredients. Beesan and her mother had to adapt to a whole new lifestyle. A life that meant no air conditioning on hot days. A life in which sleeping hungry was normal. A life in which the only thing that gets them to the next day is a single shred of hope that one day things will go back to the way they once were and

**"THE PEOPLE THEY LOST  
WILL SOMEHOW COME BACK"**





# Defining the Refugee Experience

**Refugees are people who have been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.**

They migrate from their home countries to a country that will offer them protection. It can be interpreted as an action weakness, but in contrast, it is the climax to the oppression they suffer. Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) suffered this kind of oppression from Quraysh in Mecca. He and his Muslim followers were segregated and harassed because of their belief in the message of Islam. They fought back, and tried to live in the harsh conditions, but it was not safe anymore. Therefore, they were propelled to migrate to Madinah.

This has occurred repetitively in history and in current events. For example, in 1948 and 1967, Palestinians migrated to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and from southern Palestine to northern Palestine.

Living conditions were difficult for every Palestinian refugee, but some got it easier than others. Refugees who were displaced to Jordan were offered a greater advantage than those in Lebanon and Syria. In Jordan, Palestinians were offered full citizenships, giving them the advantage to living a secure life just like any other Jordanian resident. Unfortunately, many suffered poverty and Gazans were not granted citizenship.

Originally, Palestinian refugees in Syria were offered many of the rights of Syrian citizens but were still a vulnerable population. Currently, with the conflict in Syria, conditions worsened for both Palestinians and Syrians, forcing them to flee to Jordan and Lebanon, where their situation continued to deteriorate with the increase of displaced peoples.



Similarly, Mohammad (pbuh) struggled to find a secure home for the Muslims. After being segregated and harassed by Quraysh, they sought the protection of many tribes and were only welcomed by the people of Madinah, also known as Al-Ansar, meaning supporters. Not only were they welcomed, but they were celebrated. They were offered food, shelter, jobs, and created a brotherhood between the Meccan emigrants (Muhajireen) and the Ansar. The Muslims built a mosque, settled in Madinah and lived a secure lifestyle. After years of hardship, they regained strength and were able to return to their homeland, Mecca, victorious.



Be proactive! Do it now. Yes you are far but you can still be a brother or a sister and extend a helping hand to a refugee. In the midst of winter many refugees do not have the necessary basic provisions. Many charity organizations are working to create winter kits to help refugee families get through rough winters. Sometimes all they need is a hand to help compile, organize, and pack kits. Every effort counts. Do your part and find a way to support those in need.

### Think and Discuss:

- Will the Palestinian refugees ever have supporters or ansar who will aid them in the return to Palestine victorious?
- Will the Syrian refugees ever have the supporters who will aid them in the return to Syrian?
- Do we need another Prophet (pbuh) to uphold the right of return?
- Or will humanity prevail?

### KEY WORDS AND CONCEPTS

- Refugee
- Poverty
- Infrastructure
- Ansar and Muhajareen



Bourj el-Barajneh is a Palestinian refugee camp located near Beirut, Lebanon. It was formed in 1948 to accommodate the Palestinians that were forced out of their homes and into exile by the Israeli military. The Palestinians in Burj el-Barajneh are originally from Galilee in Northern Palestine.

This camp is the most overpopulated camp around Beirut. The living conditions are poor, the camp has narrow streets, old or barely any sewage system, no running water, and the camp often floods in times of inclement weather conditions. Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon do not have the freedom to work in any field they desire, there are strict rules and laws that dictate what jobs a refugee can and cannot do. However, despite these obstacles Palestinian refugees in Lebanon continue to persevere.

An example of this perseverance is the women of Burj el-Barajneh. It started with a movement named "Soufra" which translates to "dining table". Basically this was a catering service run by the women in the camp and organized by local NGOs. They sold full meals at the camps, at the famous Souk el Tayeb market and they even catered food for some high profile events. Soufra has catered for some UNRWA events, Swiss Embassy, the American University of Beirut, and the Economic and Social Commission for West and South Asia. Within two years Soufra was a full catering business. Eventually, in an effort to expand their services and with the help of donors, the women in this camp were able to raise enough money to purchase a food truck where they would sell authentic Palestinian cuisine. This is the first female only run food truck in the region; it is a means of empowering their lives and encouraging the thousands of refugees in the camps.







Besan explains how Ein el Helwa was created.

She describes how each home in the camp is too crowded.



Besan says the homes are poorly made and have no running electricity.



She also says that the roads are not made well.



She also mentions how the homes are too close to each other.



Lastly, she describes the types of jobs people have.

Besan is our cousin right?

Amal look! Besan sent us a letter from Ein El Helwa!

Yes.



# SALAM'S DIARY

Dear Diary,

My cousin Besan was born and raised in Ein el-Hilwah. Ein el-Hilwah is a refugee camp that was established in 1948 by the International Committee of the Red Cross. It housed refugees from the northern Palestinian villages of Amqa, Saffourieh, Shaab, Taitaba, Manshieh, al-Simireh, al-Nahr, al-Sofsaf, Hitten, Ras al-Ahmar, al-Tiereh and Tarshiha. Initially housing was the typical refugee tents, but in 1952 the concrete shelters replaced the tents. Ein el-Hilwah translates to "sweet water spring".

It is the largest and most crowded camp in Lebanon. It is located southeast of the Lebanese city of Saïda. Ein el-Hilwah's population was 70,000 but recently reached over 120,000 with the influx of Palestinian refugees from Syria after 2011. My uncle, Besan's father has been in between jobs for most of his life this is because most of the people that live in the camps do not have permanent jobs. The jobs also include but are not limited to construction site workers, cleaners, clothe factories, or textile mills. The camp is so overpopulated that camp officials refer to the living situation as people living "on top of one another". Besan and her family have been living in a "house" most of her life, but they are actually simple shelters that are very close to each other and they have metal roofing so it makes for cold winters. Every year without fail someone from my family gets a really bad cold as a result of no heating and bad roofing in their shelter-like-home. These problems are made worse by limited access to health care. As a result day to day life in the camp is the most difficult it has ever been; living conditions are crowded, unemployment is at an all-time high, many youth are out of school (the drop-out rate is extremely high), as a result all these issues breed rampant violence.

I pray for the safety and well being of my cousin Besan and her family and everyone in the camp.

Salam



# THINK TANK

## IMPRINT OF WAR

THE IMPRINT OF WAR IS ONE THAT ECHOES IN WAR RIDDEN COUNTRIES UNTIL THE END OF TIME. THE IMPACT IS SO DEEPLY ROOTED IT CAN NEVER BE ERASED.

Rarely do historians, news reporters, and common people analyze the other impacts that war has and collect data to determine how disastrous those effects are.

### IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF WAR

Initially war creates refugees. People are forced to leave their lands and homes in order to spare their lives. In some cases victims of war are forced to live such poor lives and are deprived of the basics of human life that they are better off living in different countries where they have more opportunities. Since the onset of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict there have been hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled to neighboring countries as well as to a number of alternate countries around the world. Clusters of Palestinian communities were born internationally as a result of the occupation.

These communities carry their Palestinian roots with pride and have the hope to return to their homelands someday.



The numbers and statistics prove that there is not enough of an effort made amongst mankind to resolve issues without shedding blood as there should be.

Often times war is measured by the number of human casualties; the more deaths that occur as a result of the war, the more horrible of a war.

War changes lands, it changes cultures and mindsets, it changes politics and most importantly, war changes people. Although, we have plentiful historic examples of the horrific impacts of war on all of the abovementioned factors, war is often the solution to many problems within countries and amongst countries who cannot resolve matters with each other.

THE NUMBER OF CIVIL AND INTERNATIONAL WARS CURRENTLY BEING WAGED ARE TOO MANY TO BE LISTED.







## WARS LONG TERM EFFECTS

The psychological and emotional impacts of war on the soldiers and victims of war are many. The term shell shock was coined after World War I. Many of the soldiers returning from battle were diagnosed with this syndrome. It was initially thought to be caused due to soldiers being close to shells as they exploded; however, people who were not as close to shelling but faced the direct impacts of war showed similar symptoms to those of shell shocked soldiers.

The impacts of war on children are much more severe. Besides the fact that their innocence is ripped from them and they are forced to face death and destruction, war systematically destroys any possibility of security or happiness for these children. Children in Gaza who are ten years old have lived through eight operations. Statistics show that 80% of Palestinian children suffer from **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**, increased level of violence, sleeping problems, overwhelming feelings of fear and anxiety, inability to concentrate, and decreasing hope in the future.

Continuous fighting and constant exposure to destruction and violence destroy the chance of any enjoyment of human rights

especially those of physical and mental health, education, and family life. The amount of loss these children must face is beyond understanding for anyone who is not in their shoes.

## IMPACTS OF WAR ON LAND

*War has always negatively impacted lands where it is fought.*

In the current day civil war in Syria, historical artifacts and buildings have been completely destroyed and can never be reconstructed. In the Gulf War, oil spills as a result of the war, destroyed bodies of water killing sea life and contaminating the water.

One of the most famous examples of war's impact on land is that of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing detonated on Japan in 1945 by the United States.

A sample bomb named Fat Man was thrown in Alamogordo, New Mexico. Until today, this land is barren. Japanese people paid a huge price for this experiment. Medical side effects such birth defects and high levels of cancer are still felt today. There are even genetic disorders in wildlife thought to be another result of the bombing. For years after the bomb was detonated on Japan, fish caught from the sea could not be consumed because they were radioactive.

In Palestine, despite the international law outlined during the Geneva Convention forbidding the use of chemicals on civilians and in civilian areas, white phosphorous was used on densely populated Gaza by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). White phosphorous can completely destroy manmade structures, plants, and can kill any living thing that comes in contact with it by cutting off oxygen and severely burning surfaces it touches. White phosphorous is known to cause severe damage to internal organs when inhaled. Dense Inert Metal Explosive, known as DIME, are also used in Palestine by the IDF. These bombs contain chemicals in them known to cause extreme damage to natural surroundings as well as cancer in human victims.

*The latest example of chemical warfare was in Syria in 2013 where Sarin has no color and no odor. The people being attacked do not even know that they are under attack. The effects of Sarin on the body are so horrible that often death becomes a blessing. Until today, the international world has not held anyone accountable for this crime.*





# IRONIES ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL VIEWS ON THE WAR IN PALESTINE

Hiroshima was considered one of America's gravest mistakes. Since then, many measures have been taken to limit and eliminate the development of nuclear weaponry by other countries. In every war historically, aggressors and historians mourn human loss as well as acknowledge the negative impacts of war on the environment and the human victims. International laws have been put into place to protect civilians in times of war. Time and time again, these laws have been ignored and broken by Israel and there have been no consequences.



## THINK ABOUT IT

- What are some ways you can raise awareness on some of these issues?
- Research the Geneva conventions and review facts about Israel's last three operations on Gaza. What laws were broken?



## KEYWORDS

- Refugees
- Civilians
- Geneva Convention
- Hiroshima/Nagasaki
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Nuclear Warfare



# The Key



*For most people, a key symbolizes a tool that unlocks what someone has kept sacred and off-limits. It is a tool that is highly regarded and kept safe so that no intruder can unlock and steal what is closest to their hearts. Depending on what the key can unlock, it will either strengthen or weaken its regard and significance.*

A key's significance to the Palestinian people does not just unlock a door, a car or a jewelry box. It unlocks the treasures to their history, and symbolizes the Palestinian refugee's right to return home. Their right to reenter Palestine in the same condition that they had left it prior to 1948 in order to resume their lifestyles. With this key, the Palestinian people can unlock the doors to the homes that they were expelled from and sleep in the comfort of their ancestor's beds. They can spend the mornings walking around in the cabal streets of Yaffa, visiting their uncle's shops and enjoying the cool ocean breeze.

At night they can invite their beloved friends and family sit down, socialize, and reminisce about their fond memories under their hundred year old olive tree; the same olive tree that their grandparents and ancestors spent nights under. This key unlocks more than a door or a box of jewelry filled with materialistic items. It unlocks their only link to the history they left behind and the culture that they crave to rejoice in. Whether a Palestinian has this key in their hand, in their minds or etched in their heart, it gives them closure and peace of mind that this key is their right to return home.

Every Palestinian refugee whether they are in Lebanon, America, Brazil, or anywhere else in the world holds this physical key close to their hearts in the hopes of returning home and unlocking all prizes they had lost for so long. As each generation passes and the Palestinian people have not symbolically used this key to reenter their stolen homes, their attachment to the promises this key holds strengthens and their determination to regain what is theirs grows. All refugees live with some symbolism of hope to return home. For the Palestinian people, that symbol is this key. This key is a part of who they are. It defines them wherever they continue to wander and through all the hardships they face. As long as they remember to have this key in their hearts,

they know that  
they have the right  
to return back home  
to palestine



# *Walking in the Streets of...*

Tabariyah also known as Tiberias is a city located in the northeast of Palestine, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.

It is 682 feet below sea level. It is one of the most important cities because it borders the only freshwater lake in the region. Tabariyah is known as the City of Water. Tabariyah was one of the most religiously diverse cities in Palestine, as Palestinian Muslims, Christians and Jews lived together in harmony and peace. There were a little over 6000 Arabs living in Tabariyah at the time (Christian and Muslims).

*Tabariyah  
is known as  
the City of Water*



An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Tabariyah, with a large, dark, circular object, possibly a coin or a seal, in the top right corner. The town is built on a hillside overlooking the sea. The title "...Tabariyah" is written in large white letters across the middle of the image.

# ...Tabariyah

*On April 18th 1948*

On April 18th, 1948 the Arab Palestinian inhabitants were forced out of their homes by the Zionist forces called the Haganah which later developed into the modern day I"D"F. The Haganah forces occupied and invaded Tabariyah.

They began to fire at the cities inhabitants, this caused fear and panic. The British military was still the authority at the time and they claimed that they could not protect the Palestinians of Tabariyah. Haganah set up blockades all around the city except for the border that leads to Nazareth and Syria.

Soon after the Palestinians were forced out of their homes and forced to seek refuge in the neighboring villages and in Syria, the Haganah destroyed most of the Palestinians homes in hopes that the Palestinians would not seek to return. Many of the old Muslim centers such as the mosques are closed, some have iron bars across their windows and the present day inhabitants throw their trash near and around the old mosques and centers. Tabariyah unlike other Palestinian villages that were ethnically cleansed and depopulated during the Nakba, was destroyed in a way to completely erase the presence of Palestinian Christian and Muslims.



# Naji Al-Ali and the HANDALA

legacy of

**Naji Al-Ali was a Palestinian refugee,**

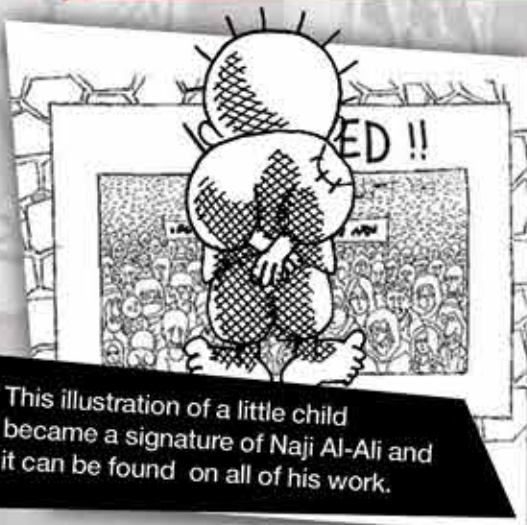
an artist, a journalist, and a cartoonist. He is one of the Arab world's greatest cartoonists, known for his outspokenness, honesty and humanity. Some called him the "Palestinian Malcolm X." Al-Ali was born in 1937 in the northern Palestinian village of Al-Shajara (the Tree), located between Tiberias and Nazareth, which is currently an Israeli settlement called "Mosha Ilaniya". Al-Shajara was one of the 531 villages destroyed in what is known as the "Nakba," or catastrophe. The Nakba is the devastation of Palestine that led to the creation of the Israeli state: the Palestinians lost more than half of their land, massacres took place and 750,000 refugees were created. Naji Al-Ali was 10 years old when he and his family were expelled from their homes

Naji Al-Ali's gift for drawing was discovered by the Palestinian poet Ghassan Kanafani in the late 1950s.

and became victims of the Nakba in 1948. He and his family were forced to leave to Ein Hilwa refugee camp in the southern Lebanon city of Saida (Sidon). Later, he moved to Beirut where he lived in a tent in the Shatila refugee camp.



**Naji Al-Ali grew up to become the most popular cartoonist in the Arab world.**



This illustration of a little child became a signature of Naji Al-Ali and it can be found on all of his work.

He analyzed the relationships between the governments of the United States, Israel and the Arab regimes and how they affected the Palestinians. He held many jobs with different newspapers as a cartoonist throughout his career. He moved to various places like Kuwait and back to Beirut then to London where he died. The most popular Naji al-Ali's cartoons is 'Handala', the bare-footed little boy. Handala is a character that symbolizes Naji Al-Ali's childhood. He is a child that is not beautiful or spoiled, nor well-fed. He is pictured barefoot, like many children in refugee camps. His hands behind his back are symbolic of the rejection of all the injustices happening to the Palestinian people. 'Handala' turned his back to the world and did not grow up waiting for his return to Palestine.



*Naji al-Ali said about 'Handala':*

"The young, barefoot 'Handala' was a symbol of my childhood. He was the age I was when I had left Palestine and, in a sense, I am still that age today and I feel that I can recall and sense every bush, every stone, every house and every tree I passed when I was a child in Palestine. The character of 'Handala' was a sort of icon that protected my soul from falling whenever I felt sluggish or I was ignoring my duty. That child was like a splash of fresh water on my forehead, bringing me to attention and keeping me from error and loss. He was the arrow of the compass, pointing steadily towards Palestine. Not just Palestine in geographical terms, but Palestine in its humanitarian sense—the symbol of a just cause, whether it is located in Egypt, Vietnam or South Africa."

—Naji al-Ali, in conversation with Radwa Ashour



Naji al-Ali is one of the most influential commentators on Palestine.

## His work influenced all kinds of people

who used to wait impatiently every morning to see his drawings on the last page of many Arab dailies. He is loved for his defense of the ordinary people, and for his criticism of repression and injustice. Ironically, strict censorship in the Arab world helped him to achieve his remarkable success. His cartoons exposed the brutality of the Israeli army and many problems in the Arab world, which earned him many powerful enemies.

Al-Ali was hated for his political opinions and his illustrations and cartoons that were very critical of the people in power. Frequently detained by police and frequently censored, Al-Ali was expelled from Kuwait in 1985. He moved to London where he continued to work at Al-Qabas newspaper. He received many death threats throughout his career until finally, on July 22, 1987, in London, Naji Al-Ali was assassinated as he walked towards the offices of the newspaper (al-Qabas). He died in the hospital on August 29th, 1987. His murderer has never been caught. His death marked the end of an era, he was killed as the first Intifada in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was beginning.

Throughout history, artists have faced the threat of violence when their work offended the people in power. The late Palestinian cartoonist Naji Al-Ali produced 40,000 cartoons that affected and criticized many people in the Middle East and, unfortunately, he paid the ultimate price for his expression- his life.

### CONTEST: Let Handala Tell the Story

Analyze the pictures of Najel Al-Ali's work. Throughout his pieces, he uses symbolism to magnify the plight of Palestinian and the inhumanity permeating the conflict. Najel Al-Ali was executed because his voice was so powerful.

Create a new image for Handala that can make a strong statement about current events in Palestine or in the world today.

Relate the image to one of the themes in any of the articles in this issue. Mail your entries to AMP Chicago and have your pictures published in our next issue. Make sure that your voice is strong and your message is clear.



### KEY WORDS

- Refugee
- Regime
- Expelled
- Censorship
- Intifada



# Palestinian Musakhan Recipe

## INGREDIENTS

To make 2 medium loaves (4 servings):

- 1 kg of peeled and chopped onions
- 2 cups of olive oil
- 2 tablespoons of Sumac
- 1/4 teaspoon of cardamom
- 1/4 teaspoon of black pepper
- Salt
- 1 chicken cut into 4 pieces
- 1/4 teaspoon of cardamom
- 1/4 teaspoon of black pepper
- 2 loaves taboon bread
- 1 tablespoon of sumac

### FOR THE DECORATION

- Nuts for topping  
(pine nuts or almonds are the most commonly used ones)

## 1. THE ONIONS

- Place the onions in a pot and add enough olive oil to drench the onions completely.
- Cook the onions over low heat stirring occasionally until the onions are luminous but still hold their shape and have some texture. You don't want them to get mushy (this will take 20- 30 minutes).
- Once the onions are done, place them in a colander to drain off the olive oil.  
*Don't throw the oil away just yet.*
- After all the oil has been drained off, sprinkle the onions with sumac, cardamom and black pepper and toss them till they are completely coated with sumac.

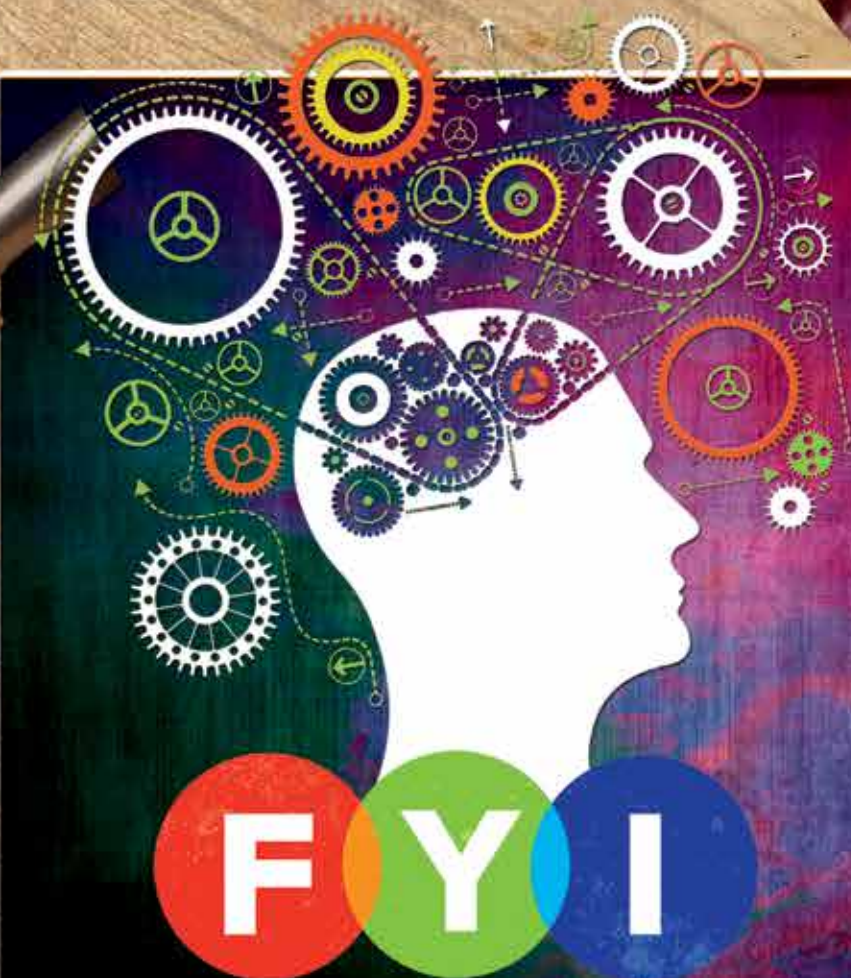
## 2. THE CHICKEN

- Season the chicken on both sides with 1/4 teaspoon of cardamom, 1/4 teaspoon of black pepper and a pinch of salt.
- Sear the chicken pieces until they are golden brown and then add them to the onions as they are cooking.



### 3. Assembling the Musakhan

- Place the loaf in the oven for 2-3 minutes to crisp it slightly in order to prevent it from going soggy when you top it with the onions.
- Brush the bread with some of the olive oil you strained from cooking the onions and top it with onions and chicken.
- Place in the oven for 10 minutes
- Take out of the oven and top with nuts, sprinkle with the sumac and Enjoy!



• Musakhan is one of the most popular and traditional Palestinian recipes. It is usually prepared during the olive oil pressing season to celebrate freshly pressed oil, but you can see it on the menu all year round in family gatherings and parties. Musakhan is all about fresh, simple ingredients allowed to shine. It is among the easiest Palestinian dishes that do not include many ingredients; therefore, it is very common among Palestinian refugee camps because it is easy and affordable.

• Sumac is one of the main ingredients in Musakhan, it is a spice that comes from the berries of the rhus shrubs. The berries are dried and then ground to give a purplish deep red powder that is sour and slightly fruity.

• Taboon Bread is another key ingredient. It is a traditional bread that is usually baked in a very hot oven lined with small round smooth stones. The stones give the bread its dimpled appearance. If you cannot find taboon bread, you can replace it with any flat bread you like. Just make sure it is not too thin because it needs to withstand holding the onions and chicken coated with olive oil.

**F Y I**  
FOR YOUR INFORMATION



# HIDDEN PICTURES

In this big picture find the: Whistle, Paper Fan, Camel, Banana, Kuffiyeh, Old Key, Taboon, School Books, Lentil Soup, and AMP Logo.







Whistle



Paper Fan



Camel

Banana



Kuffiyeh



Old Key



Taboon



School Books

Lentil Soup



AMP AMP Logo

# did YOU know?

By the end of 2014 the number of people assisted or protected by UNHCR had reached a record high of 46.7 million people.

In 2014, 51% of refugees were under 18 years old. This is the highest figure for child refugees in more than a decade.

About 38.2 million people were forcibly uprooted people and displaced within their own country and are known as internally displaced people (IDPs).

Nearly one-third of the registered Palestine refugees, more than 1.5 million individuals, live in 58 recognized Palestine refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Palestine refugees are defined as "persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 occupation."



# When The Sea Is Safer Than The Land...



In both Quranic and Biblical citations, Prophet Nuh (PBUH) was ordered by God to build an ark and fill it with males and females of the most glorious animals at that time. But it was not so he could marvel at their beauty. It was because a storm was brewing, literally. Prophet Nuh (PBUH) was warned of a flood that would encapsulate the land, cleansing it of the evil people, who laughed at and disobeyed God's commands.

Prophet Nuh (PBUH) prayed to God,

***"O My Lord! I have called to my people by night and by day, but my call only increases their flight...They have thrust their fingers into their ears"***

(Quran 71:5-9).

The disbelievers would cover their heads and ears out of ignorance, refusing to listen to him. Therefore, Prophet Nuh (PBUH) had to leave with the believers and seek refuge on a handmade ark, because at this point, the sea was safer than the land.

History often repeats itself, and we see Prophet Nuh's (PBUH) example in the Syrian refugee crisis today. Syria is a country North East of Palestine. Currently, there is a civil war raging in the country, with civilians usually caught in the middle of it all. The civilians are forced to flee in order to escape the bombs and bullets that invade their lives, retreating to old, creaky boats, rowing them by hand in search of a safe haven.

The refugees are intercepted by border patrols. Sometimes, they make it safely to land. Other times, there is not such a happy ending, and entire families are drowned in their search for safety, hope, and freedom. But this news does not dishearten other Syrians wishing to escape, because to them, the raging sea is safer than the war torn land.

The idea here is that the international world cannot comprehend what kinds of conditions make parents responsible for the livelihood and well-being of their children have to be undergoing to attempt escape on makeshift boats that are clearly unsafe! What they do not understand is the horrific exposure and danger that these families are faced with on land.

People do not leave their homes, loved ones, and all that is familiar to them for no reason. They only leave when they have no choice. It is to that regard that refugees are born and...

***...desperate means  
call for  
desperate measures***



# “Who Said What?”

- A. “It would be my greatest sadness to see the Zionists do to Palestinian Arabs much of what Nazis did to Jews”
- B. “We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians”
- C. “We need to flatten entire neighborhoods in Gaza. Flatten all of Gaza. The Americans didn’t stop with Hiroshima, the Japanese weren’t surrendering fast enough, so they hit Nagasaki, too”
- D. “Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France belongs to the French. It is wrong and inhumane to impose the Jews on the Arabs”
- E. “They are all enemy combatants, and their blood shall be on our hands. They have to die and their houses should be demolished”
- F. “If I’m elected, there will be no Palestinian state”
- G. “Just as the Israeli people have the right to live in the historic homeland of the Jewish people, the Palestinian people deserve the right to self-determination. Palestinian children have hopes and dreams for their future and deserve to live with the dignity that can only come with a state of their own.”

- 1. Ayelet Shaked (appointed Israel’s Justice Minister)
- 2. Barack Obama (44th President of the United States)
- 3. Benjamin Netanyahu (Prime Minister of Israel)
- 4. Mahatma Gandhi (preeminent leader of the Indian independence movement)
- 5. Albert Einstein (German-born theoretical physicist and genius)
- 6. Gilad Sharon (Ariel Sharon’s son)
- 7. Nelson Mandela (Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999)

Answers A 5 B 7 C 6 D 4 E 1 F 3 G 2

## Crossword Puzzle

### Across

- 1. Military conflict in which nuclear weaponry is used
- 2. The practice of officially examining books, movies, etc

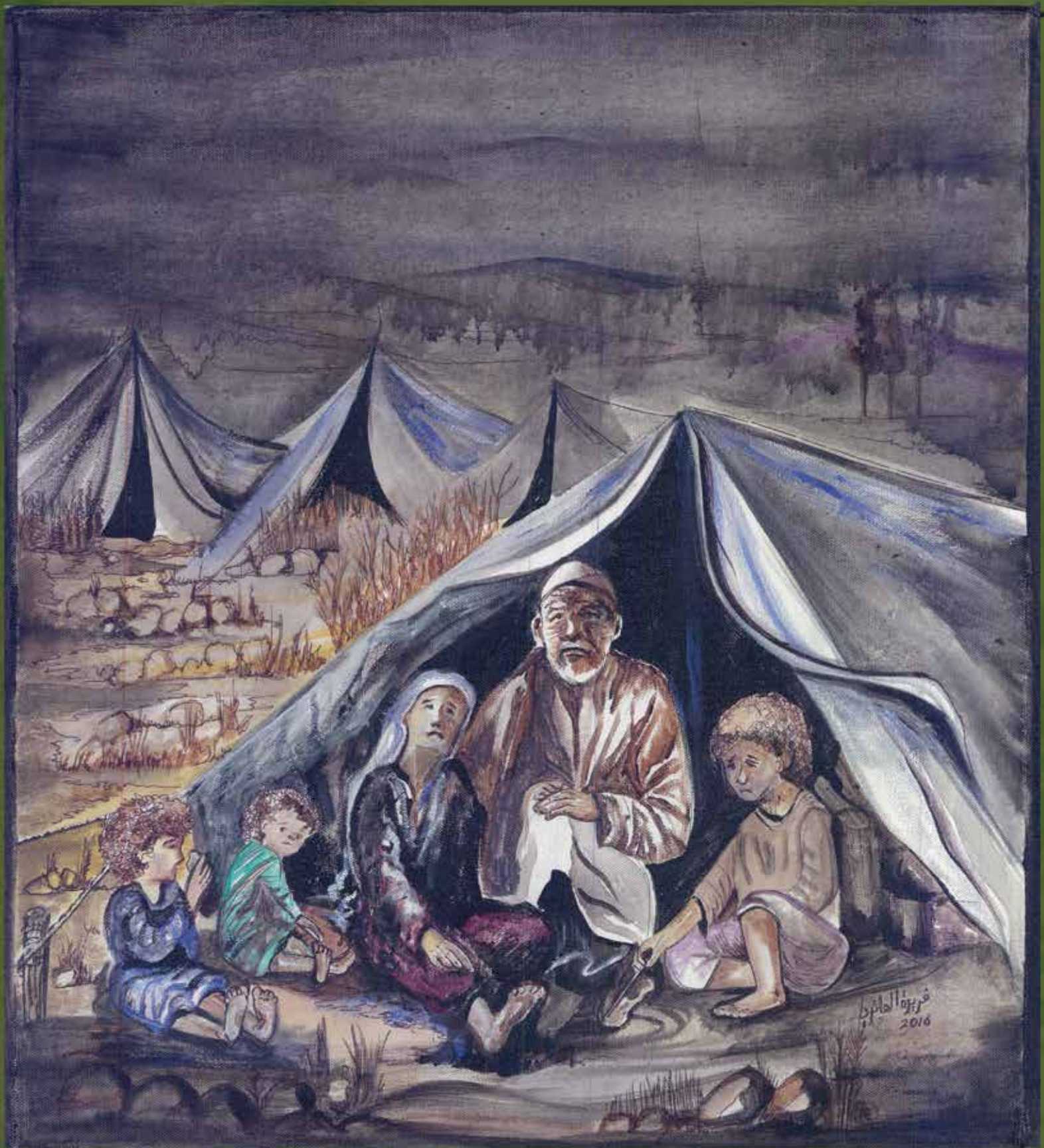
### Down

- 1. Person forced to leave, displaced
- 2. Extremely poor, destitute
- 3. Facilities, basic organizational structures
- 4. Person not armed
- 5. Authoritarian government
- 6. Arabic word that means shake off and translates to uprising



Across 1. nuclear warfare 2. censorship  
Down 1. refugee 2. poverty  
3. infrastructure 4. civilian  
5. regime 6. intifada





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