

كتابةٌ عبرَ الإبادةِ

Passages Through Genocide

We collect, translate and publish texts from Palestinian writers confronting the genocide in Gaza, to lift up their words.

We urge you to share, print, publish and distribute these texts by all possible means, in support of Palestinian liberation.

Noor Aldeen Hajjaj

Noor Aldeen Hajjaj is a writer from al-Shuja'iyya, Gaza. His novel, *Wings That Do Not Fly*, was published in 2021, and in 2022 his first play, *The Grey Ones*, was performed on stage. He was killed in an Israeli massacre in al-Shuja'iyya on 2nd December 2023.

1st November 2023

(...)

This is why I'm writing now; it might be my last message that makes it out to the free world, flying with the doves of peace to tell them that we love life, or at least what life we have managed to live; in Gaza all paths before us are blocked, and instead we're just one tweet or breaking news story away from death.

Anyway, I'll begin.

My name is Noor Aldeen Hajjaj, I am a Palestinian writer, I am twenty-seven years old and I have many dreams.

I am not a number and I do not consent to my death being passing news, Say too, . that I love life, happiness, freedom, children's laughter, the sea, coffee, writing, Fairouz, everything that is joyful—though these things will all disappear in the space .of a moment

One of my dreams is for my books and my writings to travel the world, for my pen to have wings that no unstamped passport or visa rejection can hold back.

Another dream of mine is to have a small family, to have a little son who looks like me and tell him a bedtime story as I rock him in my arms.

My greatest dream is that my country will have peace, that children will smile more brightly than the sun, that we will plant flowers in every place a bomb once fell, that we will trace out our freedom on every wall that has been destroyed. That war will finally leave us alone, so we can for once live our lives.

Noor Aldeen Hajjaj

Gaza, Palestine, 28/10/23

Noor Aldeen Hajjaj was killed on the 2nd December 2023, when Israeli war planes bombed and destroyed fifty residential buildings in al-Shuja'iyya.

