

Daybreak in Gaza

Stories of Palestinian Lives
and Culture

Edited by
Mahmoud Muna and Matthew Teller

With Juliette Touma and Jayyab Abusafia

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‘A love letter to Gaza. A heartbreaking testament to the beauty and courage of Palestinian people in the face of extraordinary brutality.’

Isabella Hammad

‘A most significant collection, one that frightens, awes and inspires, the timeliest of reminders of our common humanity and the irrepressible force of the written word.’

Philippe Sands

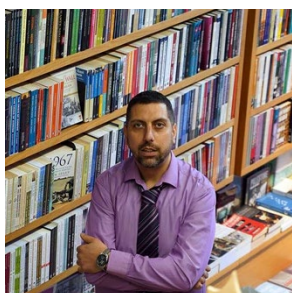
This was Gaza. A place of humanity and creativity, rich in culture and industry. A place now pulverised and devastated, its entire population displaced by a seemingly endless onslaught.

Today, as its heritage is being destroyed, Gaza’s survivors preserve their culture through literature, music, stories and memories. *Daybreak in Gaza: Stories of Palestinian Lives and Culture* is a record of that heritage, revealing an extraordinary place and people. Vignettes of artists, acrobats, doctors, students, shopkeepers and teachers across the generations offer stories of love, life, loss and survival. They display the wealth of Gaza’s cultural landscape and the breadth of its history.

This remarkable book humanises the people dismissed as mere statistics and portrays lives full of joy and meaning. *Daybreak in Gaza* stands as a mark of resistance to the destruction, and as a testament to the people of Gaza.

For further information, review copies and interview requests
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About the Editors



Mahmoud Muna is a writer, publisher and bookseller from Jerusalem, Palestine. He runs Jerusalem's celebrated Educational Bookshop and the Bookshop at the American Colony Hotel, both centres of the city's literary scene. Muna writes regularly on culture and politics, with bylines in the *London Review of Books* and *Jerusalem Quarterly*, among others. He recently published the first-ever Arabic edition of *Granta* magazine.



Matthew Teller is a UK-based author and broadcaster writing on place and culture, with a special focus on Palestine and the wider Middle East. His 2022 book *Nine Quarters of Jerusalem: A New Biography of the Old City* was a *Daily Telegraph* Book of the Year. Teller produces and presents documentaries for BBC Radio 4 and World Service, and reports for BBC Radio's 'From Our Own Correspondent'. His journalism is published by the BBC, *Guardian*, *Independent*, *Times* and *Financial Times*, among others. Teller is the author of *Quite Alone: Journalism from the Middle East 2008–2019* and several travel guides, including the *Rough Guide to Jordan*.

Juliette Touma is Director of Communications for UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Touma travels frequently to Gaza from UNRWA's headquarters in Amman, Jordan.

Jayyab Abusafia is a London-based journalist from Jabalia refugee camp in the north of Gaza. He was formerly Sky News Arabia's senior reporter in London and a senior news presenter at Alghad TV. He was a nominee for Index on Censorship's Freedom of Expression Awards.



Children (1990s) © Rula Halawani



The Shouting Fence: a man greets relatives across the no-man's-land between Rafah and Egypt, 1984
© J.C. Tordai



Scything wheat, Deir El-Balah, 1993 © J.C. Tordai

Praise for *Daybreak in Gaza*

‘Essential reading ... a roar of fury and a cry for compassion.’

Suad Amiry

‘This astonishing book opened my eyes to the brutality that is being visited upon Gaza, and to the humanity of those suffering it. I hope we can all learn something – about steadfastness, about dignity – from them. Please read it.’

Brian Eno

‘A necessary, profoundly moving collection. At once a lyrical overview of a rich cultural landscape, and a devastating indictment of genocide, and of culture’s destruction.’

China Miéville

‘Heartbreaking and inspiring. *Daybreak in Gaza* is a necessary, intelligent call to intellectual arms and proof that hope is still possible.’

Alberto Manguel

‘These authors’ lives have been utterly devastated, but we can preserve their vital voices. *Daybreak in Gaza* must be shared with the world.’

Fatima Bhutto