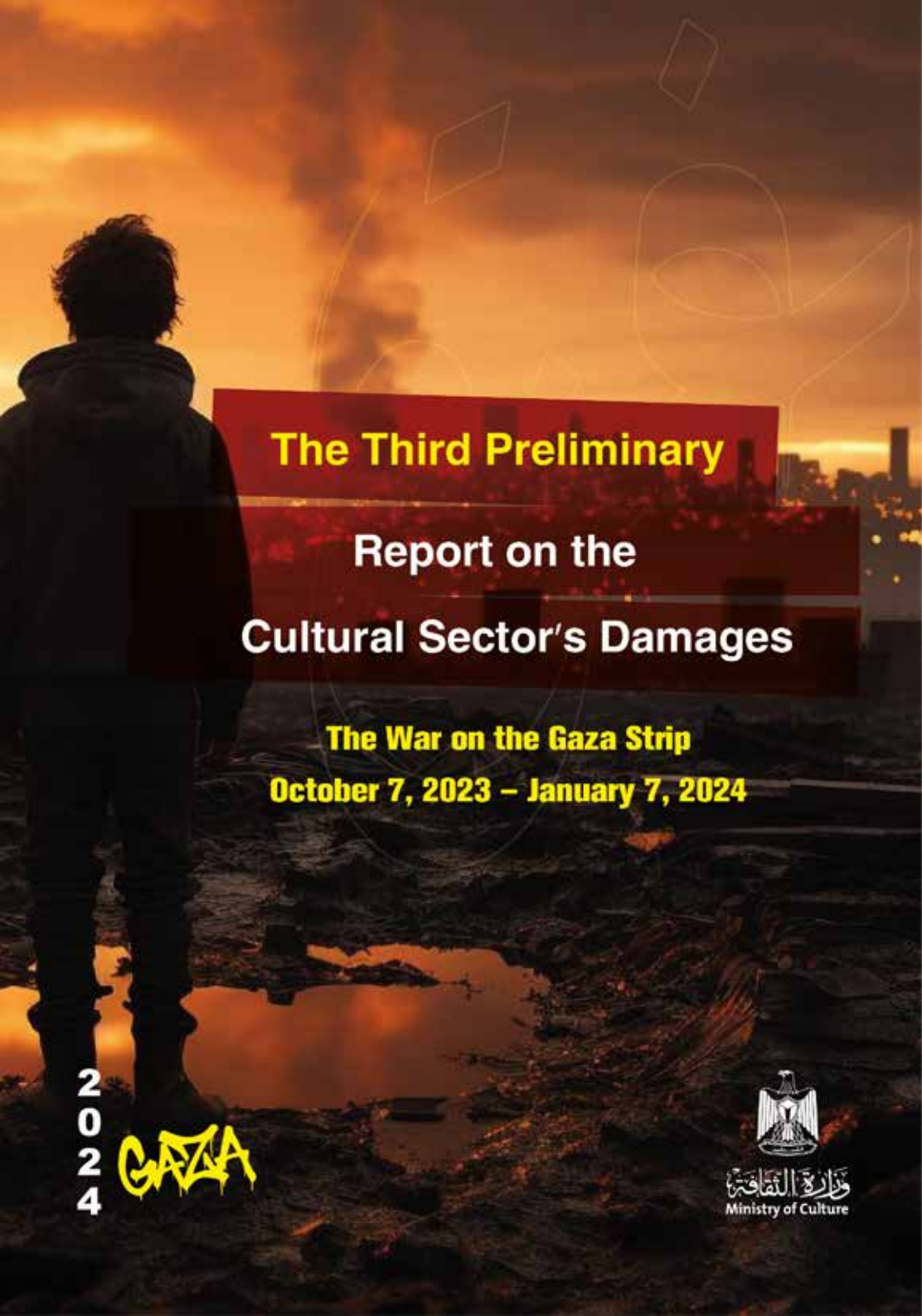


The Third Preliminary Report on the Cultural Sector's Damages

The War on the Gaza Strip

October 7, 2023 – January 7, 2024

2024 GAZA

وزارة الثقافة
Ministry of Culture

The Third Preliminary Report on the

Cultural Sector's Damages

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Introduction

The brutal war waged by the Israeli occupation against our people in the Gaza Strip has entered its fourth month with an escalating intensity. The number of martyrs has reached nearly 30,000, while the count of the wounded has reached 60,000. These are not just numbers; they are stories of eternity and resilience. While the bloody massacres against our people continue, our people persist in defending their eternal right to this land despite displacement, destruction, killing, and displacement. The tent is not the destiny of the Palestinian, and it will never replace their homes. Palestine will remain the most beautiful, glorious, purest, and holiest land, and we will not compromise on this.

The war waged by the occupation against our people affects humans, stones, trees, places, and time in a desperate attempt to erase our national identity and obliterate the collective memory of our people, destroying all evidence of their connection to the land.

The narrative and storytelling war conducted by the occupying state to target the existence of our people is a continuation of the Nakba crime that has not stopped for nearly seventy years. The occupation state's targeting of historical buildings, heritage sites, museums, mosques, historical churches, and cultural institutions such as centers, theaters, publishing houses, public libraries, bookstores, universities, schools, and artistic centers, as well as the assassination of poets, writers, artists, and historians, are all part of this barbaric war against our people. During their barbaric war on our people, the occupation's planes, warships, and tanks destroyed cities, towns, and refugee camps while indulging in killing innocents, destroying places, demolishing homes with their inhabitants, and looting the heritage and heritage of our people, all in the silence of the world and the inaction of some major powers. The silence of international organizations entrusted with protecting heritage sites according to international law in the face of the targeting of our material and non-material heritage is not just a betrayal of our Canaanite Arab civilization's achievements but also complicity in the destruction of an important part

of the world's memory. Through its Canaanite, Phoenician, Christian, and Islamic civilizations, our people have contributed significantly to enriching cultural awareness with important achievements that will remain distinctive marks in the progress of humanity. These institutions bear a historical responsibility in saving humanity's history and heritage from destruction and theft by the occupation state, which seizes museum collections and heritage sites, just as Zionist gangs and the occupation army have been doing since the beginning of the colonial settlement project in the country. Thieves steal what does not belong to them, and what the occupation state is doing with its attacks on our heritage in Gaza, as well as in Jerusalem, Nablus, Sebastia, Hebron, the Dead Sea region, and other places, along with its attacks on theaters, cultural centers, public squares, and memorials in various Palestinian cities, is a continuation of a crime that has not stopped. The silence of international organizations, especially the international community in general, has played a role in encouraging this war against Palestinian cultural heritage. During the war, we lost dozens of institutions, theaters, libraries, publishing houses, museums, historical buildings, sacred sites, art pieces, and heritage, especially ancient garments and heritage textiles. However, the land remains ours and will return to its glory and splendor when the invaders depart, whether they choose to do so willingly or not.

Gaza and the historical cities of Palestine have existed since the very beginning of recorded history, and perhaps they were the first points on the map to be marked with history. Despite all the Zionist brutality, they continue to be present and strong, contributing to shaping history and the cultural reality in Palestine and the region.

Despite the difficulty of revealing comprehensive and accurate facts about the losses suffered by the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, this report, prepared by the ministry's team, aims to shed light on the situation of cultural properties and tangible and intangible heritage in Gaza, where the cultural scene has been subjected to multiple and complex attacks with various consequences.

Palestinian culture is the genetic code of our national identity, the essence and foundation of our historical narrative, human rights, and political advocacy.

Dr. Atef Abu Saif

Minister of Culture

Summary

The Ministry of Culture releases its third report at the end of the third month of the war on the Gaza Strip. At the end of each month, it issues a report on targeting the cultural sector and its losses during this war. All aspects of Palestinian culture have been systematically destroyed during the genocide war waged by the occupation state against our people. The report highlights what the cultural sector has been subjected to after three months of this war, based on preliminary data collected and classified by the ministry's teams in Gaza and Ramallah. It should be emphasized that these data are preliminary because the war is ongoing, and the Israeli occupation army is besieging areas, preventing journalists from entering. Due to the dangerous situation, residents cannot access many of the places that have been targeted or those located near areas with Israeli tanks and patrols.

During the war, the enemy targeted all historical buildings, including churches, mosques, shrines, archaeological sites, cultural centers, public libraries, theaters, publishing houses, printing presses, museums, and public squares. The Israeli occupation also targeted landmarks in Palestinian cities, bombing public squares, memorials, gardens, and artistic murals. Artworks and memorials in public squares, especially in Gaza City, were targeted, as well as individual collections of artworks, garments, embroideries, and items from artists and personal libraries. A brutal war on both place and history.

The following table summarizes the types and extent of losses in the cultural sector during the first three months of the war:

Type of Damage	Number
Martyrs (writers, artists, cultural activists)	41
Cultural institutions and centers	24
Historical mosques and churches	10
Museums	12
Garments and embroidered items	2,100
Murals	27
Publishing houses and printing presses	8
Media and artistic production studios and companies	3
Public libraries	6
Religious shrines	3
Streets	1
Historical buildings	195
Heritage sites	9
Universities and colleges	19

A look at the cultural reality in the Gaza Strip (2022 statistics) before the war.

Before delving into the details of the damages, this section of the report sheds light on the cultural reality in the sector in the year preceding the war. The Gaza Strip witnessed significant cultural activity before the war, and by reviewing the cultural data from the year prior to the war, we can discern the extent of the significant activity Gaza was experiencing. In the sector, there were 76 registered cultural centers with the Ministry of Culture, alongside a group of other centers, organizations, and associations partially operating in the cultural sector, collaborating with the ministry and various entities. In Gaza, there were also three major theaters, along with limited performance venues. There were approximately 80 public libraries, either registered as public libraries or within the facilities of public, private, and non-profit institutions. Additionally, there were 15 publishing houses and bookstores in the sector. In 2022, around 220,000 individuals participated in cultural activities, as recorded by various associations, centers, and theaters, accounting for 12% of the Gaza Strip's total population at that time.

Cultural centers	Theaters	Participants in cultural activities annually	Public libraries	Publishing houses, distribution, and bookstores
76	3	220,000	80	15

The martyrdom of artists, writers, and cultural workers in the cultural sector

The Arab culture in Palestine lost prominent literary and artistic figures during this war who played a significant role in elevating and promoting national culture and Palestine's presence in literary and artistic forums. Over the past three months, forty-one artists, writers, and cultural activists were martyred in various attacks by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip. Many of them lost their families, libraries, studios, and numerous valuable artistic works and literary manuscripts were buried under the rubble. Among the martyrs were members of Palestinian Dabkeh dance groups. In addition, many artists and writers were injured, some losing limbs and parts of their bodies.

The Oud Player

Lubna Aliyan



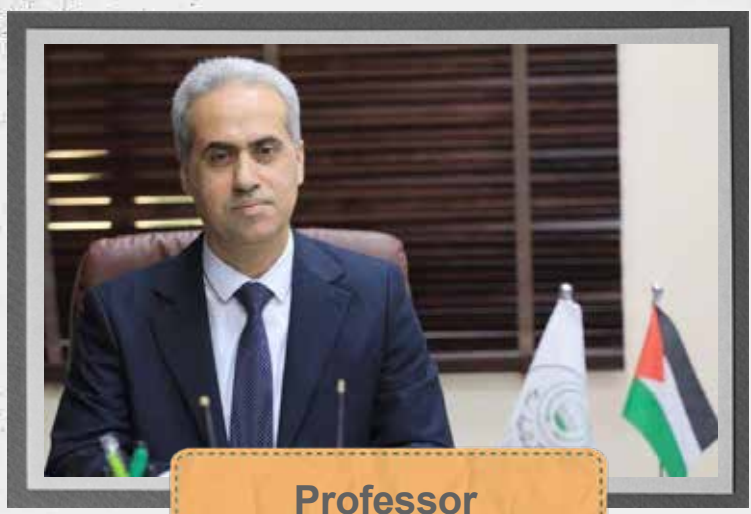
Lubna Mahmoud Aliyan (15 years old), an Oud player at the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music branch in Gaza, was martyred on November 21, along with more than fifty members of her family. Lubna was one of the outstanding students at the conservatory, singing and playing music for joy and life. She envisioned a future in music, representing her people and her country in Palestinian, Arab, and international orchestras.

Cultural and Journalistic Activist

Bilal Jadallah



Bilal Jadallah (45 years old), a journalist, the director of the Press House, and the head of the Cultural Salon, was martyred on November 19 while he was evacuating to the south to join his family in Khan Yunis, who had evacuated before him. The martyr Jadallah played a significant role in supporting journalists, training, and graduating professionals capable of conveying the truth and continuing this journey under the difficult, complex, and harsh conditions that the Gaza Strip constantly experiences. He also linked journalism with culture and heritage, activating its role in supporting intellectuals and creators. He founded the Cultural Salon to discuss cultural issues and initiatives.



Professor

Dr. Soufian Taih

Dr. Soufian Taih (52 years old), the president of the Islamic University, and his family were martyred in a massacre in the Faluja area in Jabalia, northern Gaza, on December 2. Professor Taih held a professorship in theoretical physics and applied mathematics. He was awarded the Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Young Arab Scientists and many other scientific awards. He made significant contributions in the field of studies and scientific research, published annually in prestigious scientific journals. In 2023, he was appointed as the holder of the UNESCO Chair in Physics and Astronomy in Palestine.



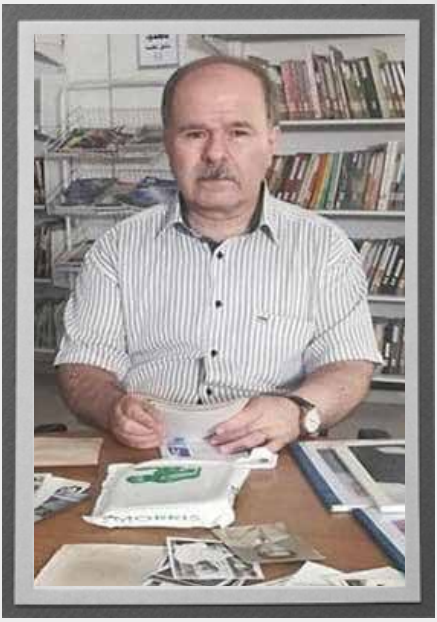
Writer and Journalist

Mustafa Al-Sawaf

Mustafa Hassani Mahmoud Al-Sawaf (68 years old), a writer and journalist, and several members of his family were martyred following the Israeli bombardment of his house in eastern Gaza in mid-November. Al-Sawaf was one of the most famous Palestinian journalists and analysts, with hundreds of writings and analyses on Palestinian political affairs. He presided over the editorial boards of several newspapers and was the first editor-in-chief of the first daily newspaper published in the Gaza Strip, which he also founded.

Photographer

Marwan Tarazi



Photographer Marwan Tarazi and several members of his family were martyred during the Israeli aggression on the Orthodox Church of St. Porphyrius in Gaza on October 20. He was known as the “visual historian of Gaza”. He preserved its history through the thousands of photographs he captured over decades, including the old photos of Gaza’s historical photographer “Kegham,” who continued his work in the city before and after the Nakba. He documented massacres in Khan Yunis and the Israeli army’s withdrawal from Gaza in 1956, which was the only rare photo at the time.

The creative

Tala Balousha

Member of the Asayel Watan



The creative Tala Mohamed Balousha (17 years old) and a member of the Asayel Watan Folk Dance Group, was martyred on October 22 along with her mother after her family was martyred during the bombardment, and many mourned her loss.

The writer

Abdullah Al-Aqad



The writer Abdullah Al-Aqad, along with his wife and children, was martyred in the shelling that targeted his home in Khan Yunis on October 16. His last post on his social media account was: “No more displacement from today, salute to the young people of the Shati camp and Al-Jalaa who came out by the thousands to pledge to stay in their neighborhoods no matter the cost.”

The visual artist

Thaer Al-Taweel



The visual artist Thaer Al-Taweel (43 years old) and the head of the Fine Arts Forum, along with his family, were martyred in an Israeli airstrike on November 23. One of his prominent works through the forum was a mural titled “For Jerusalem” and another mural called “Freedom’s Redemption” in solidarity with the prisoners in Israeli jails.

The writer

Abdul Karim Hashash



The writer and the custodian of Palestinian heritage, Abdul Karim Al-Hashash (76 years old), along with many of his family members, was martyred on October 23 in Rafah. Al-Hashash was known for his writings about Palestinian folklore and his research on Bedouin heritage, customs, and Arab proverbs. He also collected dozens of rare books about Palestine, its history, and heritage in his personal library.

The historian

Dr. Jihad Al-Masri



The historian Dr. Jihad Suleiman Al-Masri (60 years old) was martyred on October 17 due to his injuries from an Israeli airstrike on Khan Yunis, where he joined his wife and daughter. Al-Masri was a historian and university professor who significantly impacted many generations. He served as the director of Al-Quds Open University, Khan Yunis branch. He contributed to numerous research papers in Islamic history and Palestinian oral tradition, published in Arab and international journals.



The writer

Dr. Said Al-Dahshan

The writer Said Talal Al-Dahshan, along with his family, was martyred on October 11. Al-Dahshan was an expert in international law and had many publications and research papers related to the Palestinian issue.



The folk artist

Mahmoud Al-Juberi (Al-Nabtashi)

The renowned folk artist in Gaza, Mahmoud Al-Jabari, known as Al-Nabtashi, is believed to have been martyred in mid-October. He had a significant presence in organizing various national and social events.



The visual artist

Heba Ghazi Zaqqout

The visual artist and fine arts teacher, Heba Ghazi Ibrahim Zaqqout (39 years old), along with her son, were martyred on October 13. Just days before her martyrdom, she recorded a video showcasing her artworks and spoke about her dream of organizing an art exhibition to display her creativity. Her artwork often focused on themes of women, homeland, nature, and the strong bond between mothers and their children.



The writer and poet

Heba Abu Nada

The writer and poet Heba Kamal Saleh Abu Nada (24 years old) was martyred on October 20. She was a refugee from Beit Jirja, which was displaced and destroyed in 1948. She wrote short stories, novels, and poetry. Her last post on social media read, “In heaven, we are building a new city, doctors without patients or bloodshed, professors without overcrowding, new families without pain or sorrow, journalists capturing paradise, and poets writing eternal love—all from Gaza, all from here. In heaven, there is a new Gaza without siege, shaping itself now.”



The artist

Ali Abdullah Al-Nasman

The artist, media personality, and influencer Ali Abdullah Hassan Al-Nasman (38 years old) was martyred on October 13. He continued to appear in videos, discussing what was happening in the Gaza Strip until the very last moments. The martyr was also an actor who played various roles in Palestinian series.

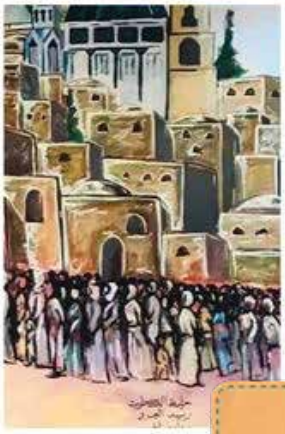


The poet

Omar Abu Shaweesh

The poet Omar Fares Abu Shaweesh (36 years old) was martyred on October 7 in the shelling of the Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza. He was a prominent social activist with various contributions to society, youth, culture, and intellectual fields. He co-founded several youth associations and organizations and received the Distinguished Arab Youth Award from the Arab Youth Council for Integrated Development, affiliated with the Arab League.





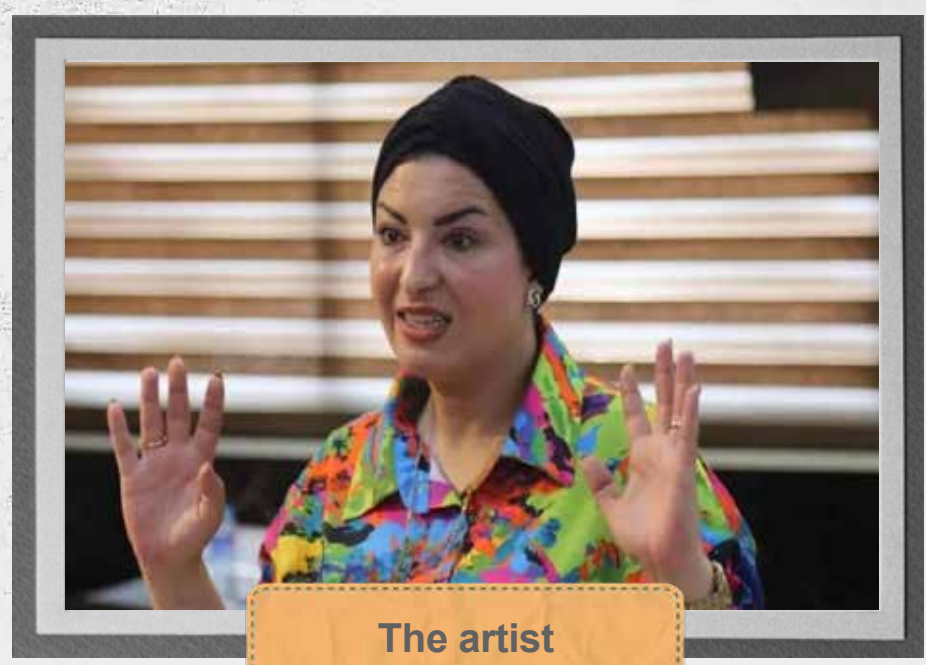




The artist

Halima Al-Kahlout

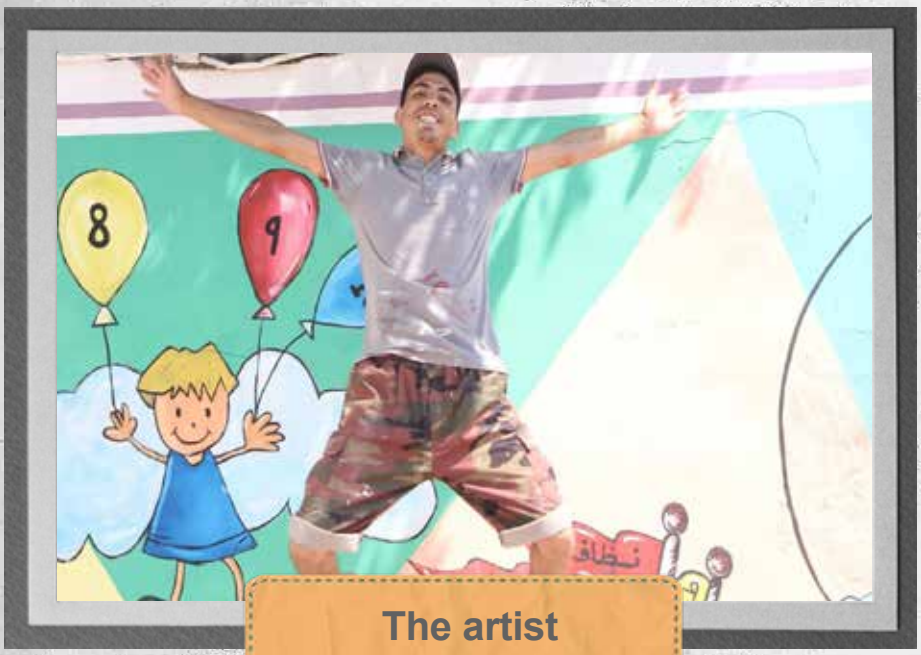
The artist Halima Abdul Karim Al-Kahlout (29 years old) was martyred on October 30. Her friends affectionately called her “The Fruit of Workshops” due to her constant cheerfulness and spontaneity. Her latest exhibition, titled “Fragments of the City,” was held last summer alongside other artists. She became a part of these fragments and pieces and was martyred.



The artist

Enas Al-Saqa

Enas Mohammed Al-Saqa (53 years old) was martyred on October 31, along with her daughters Sarah and Leen, and her son Ibrahim. She was a specialized artist in visual arts and theater and worked extensively in children's theater. She was one of the pioneers of theater in Gaza. Her last post on social media read, "Sometimes you look back to glimpse at your past and discover that you emerged alive from a massacre."



The artist

Mohammed Qureqa

The artist Mohammed Sami Qureqa (24 years old) was martyred on October 18. He was an artist and illustrator who attempted to blend technology with art and create illuminated daily life illustrations. His last social media post featured a famous video of children playing in the Al-Mashfa Al-Ahli Al-Mumadani Park in Gaza just one day before it was bombed by the Israeli occupation, resulting in a horrific massacre with 500 martyrs and dozens of wounded. Until his last moments, he tried, through his art, vitality, and energy, to dispel the anxiety and psychological pressure experienced by children and patients in the hospital.



The artist and writer

Yusuf Dawas

The young artist and writer Yusuf Dawas, a guitar player actively involved in the “We Are Not Numbers” initiative, documenting the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. He wrote in Arabic and English and created many videos discussing various topics, including his dream of traveling and exploring the world—a dream shared by many young people in Gaza, especially under the Israeli blockade, for over sixteen years.



The visual artist

Nesma Abu Sha’ira



The visual artist Nesma Abu Sha’ira (36 years old) was martyred on October 28. She was a lecturer and head of the Fine Arts Department at Al-Aqsa University. One of her most famous paintings depicted an olive tree with roots extending across the entire globe



The cultural activist

Iman Abu Saeed

Iman Khalid Abu Saeed, along with her children Joudi, Ziyad, and her husband Eyad, and 22 members of her family, were martyred in the Nuseirat refugee camp after being forced to evacuate their home in Tel al-Hawa. Iman was known for her cultural and empowerment work for children. Her latest project involved collecting seashells, cleaning them, and making decorative items for homes. She also documented the days of the blockade in the Gaza Strip through oral history at the Tamer Institute for Community Education.





The two children

Sham and Leila

from the Champions dance troupe

Sham Abu Ubaid (8 years old) and
Leila Abdel Fattah Al-Atresh (8 years old)
from the Champions Palestinian Folk Dance Group in Gaza were martyred.



The artist

Tareq Dabban

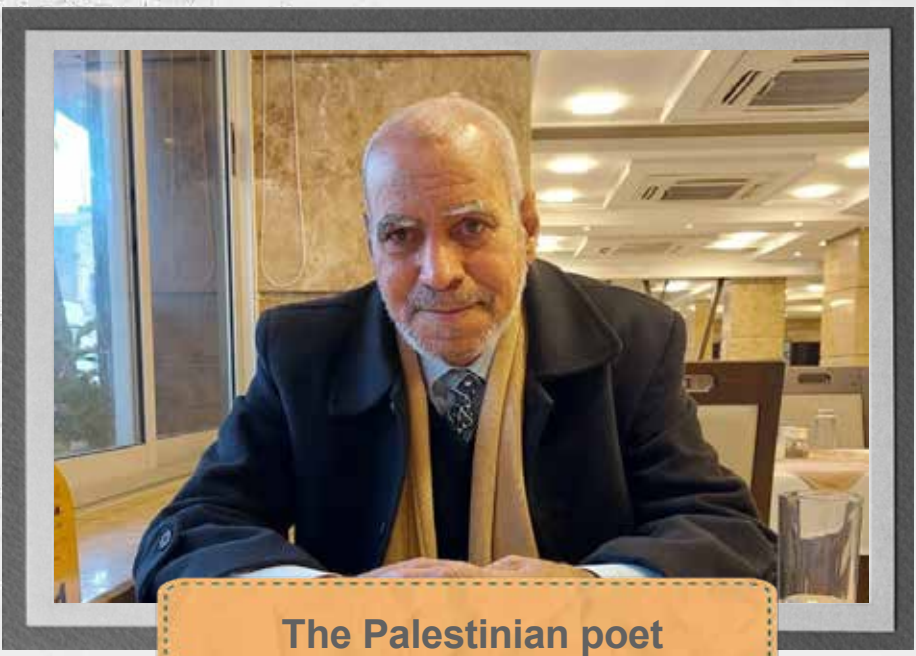
The artist Tareq Ahmed Dabban was martyred on November 4, and his wife and children were also martyred. His last post on his social media account read, “The father has been martyred, and the joy of the house has been extinguished. Where is your mournful voice, my father? And where is the smile of my mother who left the house with your departing soul? O Allah, have mercy on them.”



The calligrapher

Muhannad Al-Agha

The artist Muhannad Amin Al-Agha (30 years old) was martyred on October 12, along with his family and parents. He was a calligrapher specializing in the square and Diwani scripts.



The Palestinian poet

Shahdah Al-Buhbahani

The Palestinian poet and educational researcher Shahdah Al-Buhbahani (73 years old) passed away with his granddaughter in Gaza on November 6.



The poet

Noor Al-Din Hajjaj

The poet and writer Noor Al-Din Hajjaj was martyred on December 3. Hajjaj was an activist in the “Cultural Passion” initiative and the Cordoba Association and Days of Theater Foundation. His last post on his social media account read, “In Gaza, we watch every day an uncountable number of times. When we go to sleep exhausted, we still watch. When we have to leave the house or the rooftop, and with every sound of a rocket or a nearby explosion, we say nothing but ‘I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.’ And we know that it will be the last thing we utter in one of these times.”



The music teacher

Ilham Farah

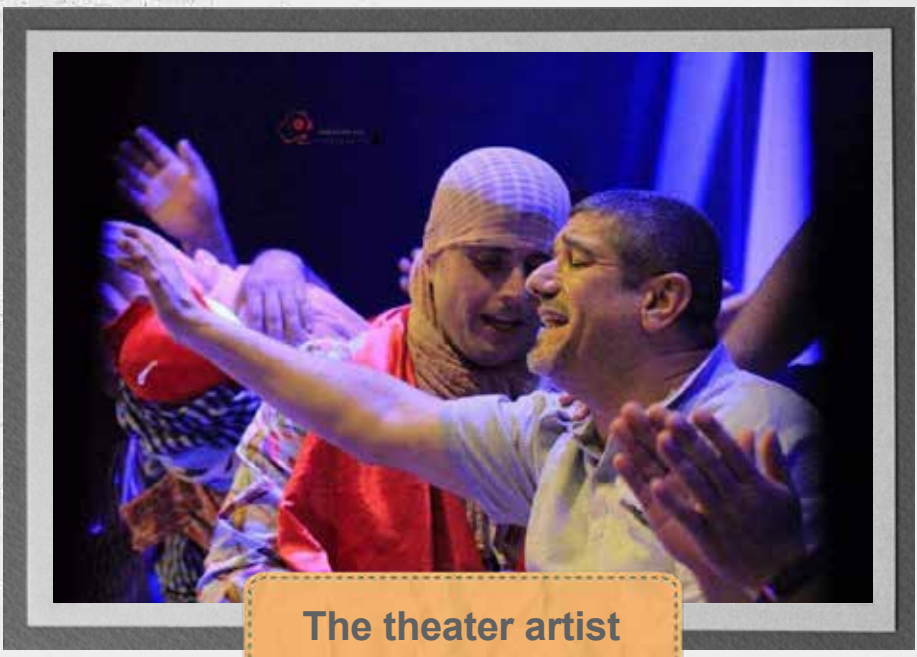
Music teacher Ilham Farah (84 years old) was martyred on November 13 due to injuries sustained when an Israeli sniper shot her just meters away from her home. She was the first music teacher in the educational system in Gaza, and her neighbors in Gaza City called her “The Lady of the Ever-Smiling Orange” in reference to her orange hair.



The journalist and director

Sameh Al-Nadi

The journalist and director Sameh Al-Nadi was martyred on October 18 because of the Israeli occupation’s bombing.



The theater artist

Mohammed Al-Salik

The theater artist Mohammed Al-Salik and his wife were martyred in an Israeli bombardment on the Al-Shuja'iya neighborhood in eastern Gaza.

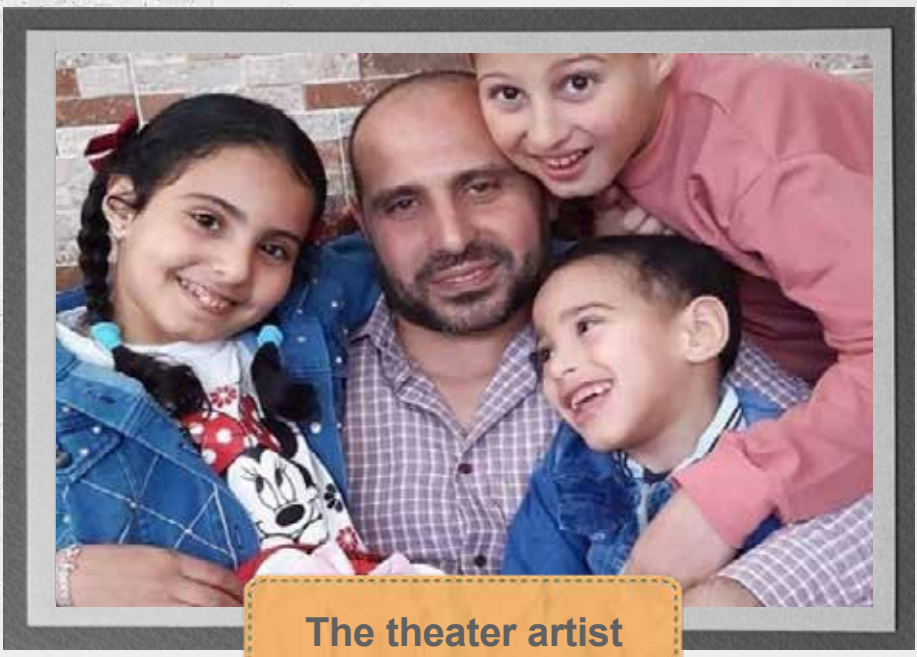
The artist had participated in numerous theatrical and dramatic works and was an active Seeds Theater Association for Culture and Arts member. Unfortunately, all his children were martyred during the 2014 war launched by the Israeli occupation on the Gaza Strip.



The artist

Ahed Abu Hamedeh

The artist Ahed Abu Hamedeh (24 years old) was martyred in the massacre in Al-Maghazi in the central Gaza Strip. Ahed was a creative artist, actor, and drama trainer working at the Days of Theater Foundation in Gaza.



The theater artist

Mohammed Zaqzouq Khattab

The theater artist Mohammed Zaqzouq Khattab and his family were martyred on December 17, in an Israeli warplane bombing of their house in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza. Mohammed survived the bombing and was rescued from the rubble, but he was subsequently killed by the occupation forces, as reported by eyewitnesses.



The percussionist

Akram Al-Ajla

In late November, the Palestinian artist and percussionist Akram Al-Ajla passed away. He had been waiting for necessary medical treatment at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza due to the blockade and suffocating aggression imposed by the occupation forces on the region, especially targeting the hospital. It is known that he was forcibly evacuated from the hospital, and medical staff and patients inside were targeted.



The storyteller, artist, and photographer

Ghazi Taleb

Ghazi Taleb, a storyteller, artist, and photographer, along with his family, was martyred on December 10 due to continuous shelling on the Gaza Strip. Talib was an activist, a theatrical artist, a storyteller, a scout leader, and an initiative-taker. He worked at the Watan Center for Culture and Arts and was a National Scout Media Committee member.



The artist and singer

Mohammed Abu Nagi

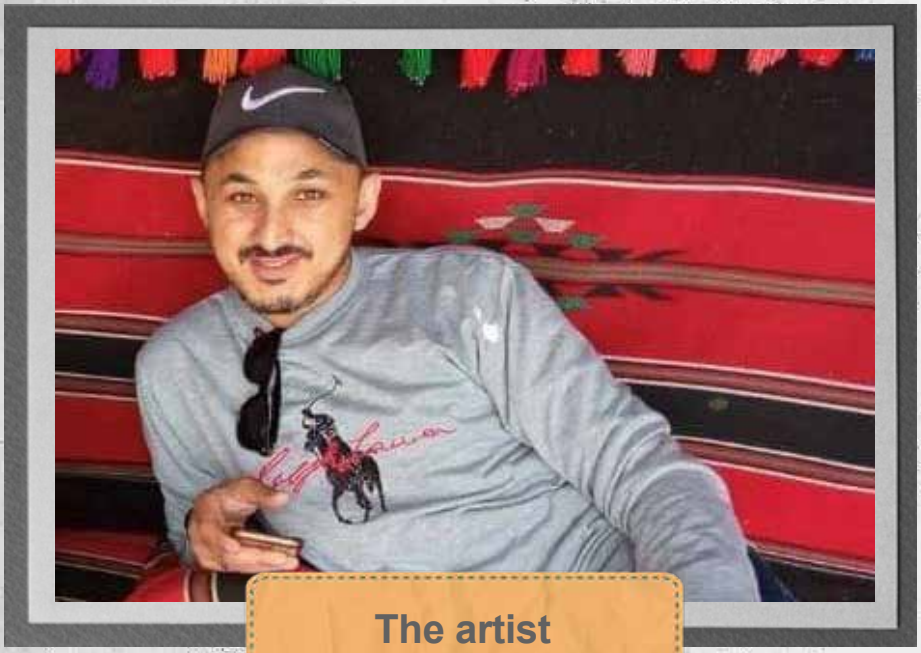
The artist and singer Mohammed Abu Nagi was martyred on December 9 in Jabalia, northern Gaza. Before his martyrdom, dozens of his family members had already been martyred. Among his last posts on his social media account was, “We are still alive... but we are not okay.”



The writer and poet

Rafat Al-Ara’eer

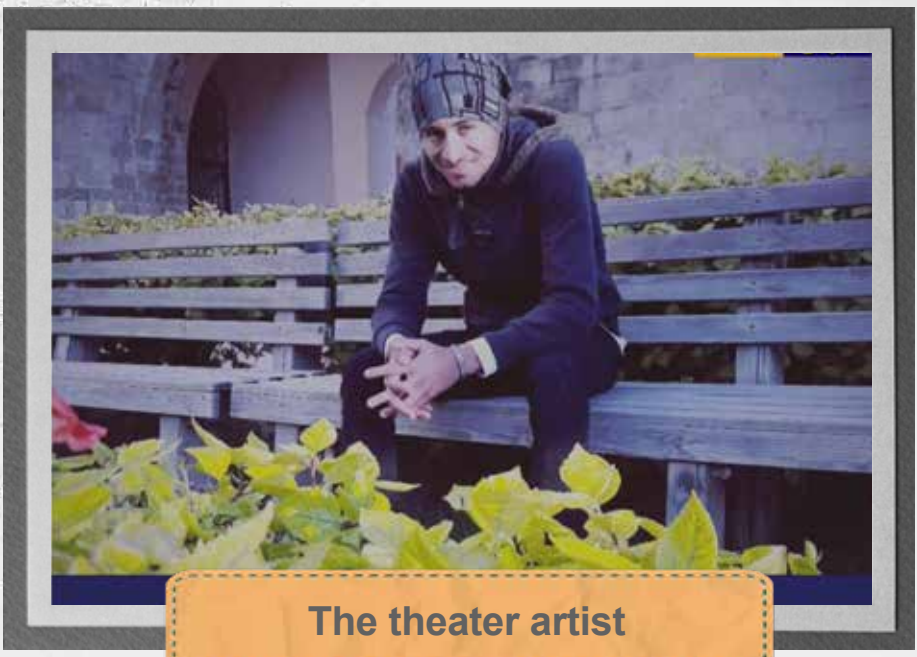
Dr. Rafat Al-Ara’eer, a writer, poet, and professor of English literature at the Islamic University in Gaza, was martyred on December 7. Al-Ara’eer was known for his writings about Gaza in English and his activism on social media to promote the Palestinian cause and the art of addressing the West. He was one of the founders of the “We Are Not Numbers” project, teaching children to write stories in English during the war in Gaza. He was also an editor of the book “Gaza Writes Back.”



The artist

Al-Harith Al-Barawi

The artist Al-Harith Al-Barawi, a diploma student at the Days of Theater Association for Drama Education in Gaza, was martyred on December 27. Witnesses reported that the occupation prevented ambulances from reaching him, leaving him to bleed until he was martyred.



The theater artist

Amro Marwan

The theater artist Amro Marwan and his family were martyred in an airstrike on Gaza on December 29. Marwan had participated in several dramatic works, including his leading role in the Palestinian series “Dawn Birth,” which tells the stories of the martyrs of the Al-Aqsa Intifada and was broadcast on local and Arab TV channels. He was also a drama trainer at the Hakawi (Stories) Association for Culture and Arts in Gaza.



The artist

Samer Abu Daqa

The photographer, art critic, and member of the Palestinian Artists' Union, Samer Abu Daqa, was martyred during an airstrike on the Farhana School in Khan Yunis on December 15th. He was wounded and left bleeding for more than five hours before his martyrdom.

Abu Daqa held a bachelor's degree in journalism and media from Al-Azhar University in Gaza. He began his career as a journalist at Al-Sha'ab newspaper, then moved to work at Al Jazeera channel in 2004. He was one of the founders of the channel's office in Gaza, where he worked as a photographer and technician for over twenty years. He held Belgian nationality and was a father of three sons and a daughter.



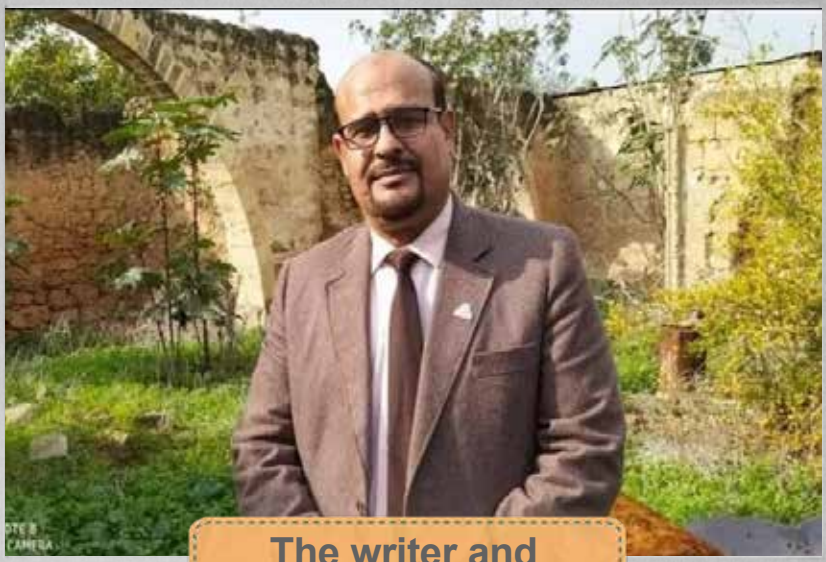
The poet

Salim Al-Naffar

The poet Salim Mustafa Al-Naffar, aged sixty, along with his wife and children, was martyred as a result of an Israeli airstrike on a residential building in the Al-Nasr neighborhood of Gaza City on December 7th.

Born in Gaza City, the martyr Al-Naffar lived in Syria and Lebanon. He received his primary and university education in Latakia, Syria, and studied Arabic literature at Tishreen University in Syria. There, he established the “Abu Salma” annual meeting for young creatives in 1986. He began writing poetry at an early age and was politically active within the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) until his return to Gaza with the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1994.

Al-Naffar worked as a director in the Palestinian Ministry of Culture and was an editorial writer in literary magazines such as “Nidal Al-Sha’b,” “Al-Zaytouna,” and “Al-Afak.” He was one of the founders of the “Cultural Creativity” group in Gaza, and his poem “Ya Ahbabi” was included in the Palestinian Ministry of Education’s curriculum. Al-Naffar published several poetry collections.



The writer and historian

Nasser Jarbu' (Al-Yafawi)

The writer and historian Nasser Isma'il Jarbu' (Al-Yafawi) was martyred, along with his son, during an airstrike on their home in Al-Maghazi Camp on January 7, 2024. Al-Yafawi had conducted studies and written extensively about modern Palestinian history, particularly focusing on the Nakba (catastrophe) and Palestinian resistance, as well as the right of return. He worked as a director in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and was a prominent cultural figure in Gaza over the past two decades. He served on the board of directors of the Jaffa Families Association and worked as the Secretary-General of the Arab Intellectuals Initiative.

Cultural Centers and Institutions

Many cultural centers and institutions in the Gaza Strip have been severely damaged or completely destroyed as a result of the airstrikes. So far, 24 cultural centers have been identified as being partially or completely destroyed.



The Arab Orthodox Cultural and Social Center



Israeli occupation aircraft targeted the building of this center located in the Tal al-Hawa area of Gaza City, causing it to collapse completely. The center included sports facilities, exhibition halls, and spaces for cultural and artistic activities.

Rashad Al-Shawwa Cultural Center

(Center, Theater, Library, and Printing Press)



This center, established in 1985 and located in the Al-Rimal neighborhood, was completely destroyed. It was the first cultural center in Palestine and was established in response to the Israeli occupation's policy of attacking Palestinian culture, erasing Palestinian heritage, and distorting Palestinian identity. It housed the largest theater in the country, with its main hall accommodating more than a thousand spectators, and the side halls could accommodate over two thousand. The building, located in the heart of Gaza City, housed the largest and oldest theater hall, the Tamari Sabbagh Library, and the Charity Commission's printing press, all of which suffered significant damage from the airstrikes.

Dar Al-Shabab for Culture and Development



This institution, located west of Jabalia refugee camp, was hit by airstrikes, and consists of three floors. Most of the third floor collapsed, and the other floors suffered significant damage.

General Union of Cultural Centers

The General Union of Cultural Centers, located west of Gaza City, suffered significant damage. It is one of the most important cultural organizations coordinating cultural activities and constantly supporting them. Established in 1997, it has over 67-member cultural institutions and more than 120 partner organizations.

The Al-Sanunu Foundation for Arts and Culture

This foundation is located on the southern street parallel to Al-Shifa Hospital in the Al-Rimal neighborhood, which was heavily targeted by Israeli airstrikes, causing extensive damage. The foundation is one of the largest music institutions in Palestine, housing hundreds of musical instruments and compositions, including works by students and professors of the institution. Many musical notations for songs and melodies by teachers and students have also been destroyed.

Our Children's Association for Development Center

Situated in the Al-Rimal neighborhood's Al-Ghafari Tower, this center cares for over 120 children and dozens of families. It organizes various cultural activities targeting children, women, and youth, particularly in theater, art exhibitions, and cinema.

Gaza Center for Culture and Arts

Located on Al-Rimal Street in Gaza City, this center has been working since its establishment in 2005 to preserve Palestinian identity and heritage. One of its notable events is the Red Carpet Film Festival, and it also houses an art gallery. The center focuses on visual and performing arts, as well as literary activities.

Milad Association for Youth Capacity Development

The association is located at the intersection of Al-Saftawi in northern Gaza. It is known for its mobile psychosocial support team that used to travel across Gaza's cities and refugee camps to support and enhance the psychological well-being of children. Additionally, the association is involved in activities aimed at developing the digital and economic capacities of youth and women.

Hakawi Association for Culture and Arts

Founded in 2013 by a group of artists and civil society activists, this association is important for its work in educational theater for children and its contributions to adult theater. It uses drama as a tool for education and culture.

Shababik Professionals

It is a permanent exhibition for artists in Gaza that hosts various art exhibitions representing different art schools. It is a gathering place for artists to work on new and contemporary creative works and is located in the Al-Rimal neighborhood. Some parts of Shababik Professionals were damaged, affecting many artworks and sculptures by participating artists

Palestinian Association for Development and Heritage Protection

This association promotes traditional and heritage crafts and organizes exhibitions to market and encourage them. The association manages the Palestinian Heritage Park "Al-Karmel" located in Beit Lahia, which serves as a place to display heritage tools and for entertainment.

Village of Arts and Crafts



Established in 1998 and managed by the Municipality of Gaza, this village is an artistic exhibition that embodies the authenticity of Palestinian heritage. It was designed in a traditional Islamic style and reflects the atmosphere of continuous Israeli siege and aggression on the city. The village is divided into rooms or houses for embroidery, woodworking, ancient copperwork, and stalls. In the middle of the village, there is a beautiful garden with palm trees and flowers. The entire village was heavily damaged, and the Israeli military used its facilities during its presence near Al-Azhar University. As a result, valuable cultural collections and artworks inside these facilities were destroyed.

Al-Wedad and Al-Wedad Community Rehabilitation Association





Located in the Tel Al-Hawa area of Gaza City, this association focuses its programs on family care, elderly care, maternal and childcare, as well as youth through the Youth Leaders program. It also has programs for scientific research and training. The association has a theater equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lighting and sound, with a seating capacity of more than three hundred people.

Al-Taqaa Gallery for Contemporary Visual Arts





Located on Omar al-Mukhtar Street in the heart of Gaza City, it is an initiative by young artists in Gaza to establish a permanent exhibition for visual arts, as well as a platform for education, training, cultural dialogue, and artistic expression. It serves as a place for discovering, nurturing, and promoting artistic talents. One of its prominent projects is the “Contemporary Arts Program,” which allows young artists to present their artistic projects, receive necessary training, and showcase their work. The destruction of the gallery resulted in the loss of dozens of valuable Palestinian artworks.

Kanaan Developmental Educational Institute

A community-based institution founded in 1997 with cultural and educational objectives featuring a rich community library. It is located in the Rimal neighborhood of Gaza City. Among its prominent programs are training, early childhood education, and psychological support.



Al-Asria Cultural Center in Jabalia Camp

This center includes a library, an exhibition hall, and seminar rooms, and it is affiliated with the Return Association.

Bathoor Theater in Nuseirat Camp

The theater facilities were partially damaged

General Union of Palestinian Artists Headquarters

The headquarters of the General Union of Palestinian Artists in Gaza City were damaged due to continuous Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip.

Center for Childhood Happiness

A cultural and educational center dedicated to children, featuring an amusement park, and affiliated with the Municipality of Gaza. The center has been working for years on developing the creative and artistic skills of children, enhancing their cognitive aspects, and preserving the mental health of the child and their environment.

Al-Bayader Association for Theater and Arts

Located in the area of Tel al-Hawa, it started as a theater group and was founded in 1994. Some of its notable plays include “The Clown,” “Abu Arab’s Play in Your Honor,” “Black and White,” and dozens of other theatrical works that enriched the theatrical scene in the Gaza Strip

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Christian Youth Association

Suffered significant damage to its building located on al-Jala’a Street in the city center of Gaza due to continuous Israeli airstrikes, causing substantial material damage.



Holst Theater

Partially damaged, this theater is located in the heart of the Tuffah neighborhood and is affiliated with the Municipality of Gaza. It includes a theater, seminar halls, and spaces for children.

The Gaza Theater Days Foundation

The Gaza Theater Days Foundation has been damaged due to continuous Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip. It is worth noting that the Gaza Theater Days Foundation won the Scenography Award for the play "Al-Ramadioun" at the conclusion of the National Palestinian Theater Festival in its third edition, organized by the Ministry of Culture last year.

The "Nawa" Foundation for Culture and Arts

The "Nawa" Foundation for Culture and Arts in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, suffered partial damage to its buildings due to artillery shells fired by the occupation forces. The Nawa Foundation works in various fields, including the preservation of national heritage, and collaborates with the ministry in preparing the national registry and compiling files related to its elements in Gaza.

The cultural center of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society

The cultural center of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, known as the "Hilal" Cultural Center, in the Tal al-Hawa neighborhood, also suffered extensive damage, especially to the theater and exhibition halls, during the Israeli army's invasion of the Al-Quds Hospital and the headquarters of the Red Crescent Society in the neighborhood. The center houses valuable art pieces from the society's collection and its late founder, Fathi Arafat.

Targeting public squares and monuments

The Israeli targeting included the destruction of memorial monuments in public squares, some of which were replaced with the Israeli flag in the middle of the square. For example, the Israeli army deliberately destroyed all the memorial monuments in public squares along Rashid Street, from the Sudanese Junction in northern Gaza to the Wadi Gaza Bridge, totaling 8 squares. Israeli vehicles were particularly malicious in defacing the cultural landmarks of the city. They targeted the Phoenix statue in the heart of Palestine Square in Gaza, which symbolizes the emblem of the city of Gaza. They also targeted the artistic sculpture “Al-Huruf” in the Tal al-Hawa area and destroyed the memorial monument for the Six Martyrs in the Jabalia Camp, among many others. In general, the count of demolished squares and memorial monuments that could be counted reached 32, with the most prominent artistically being:

The Unknown Soldier Memorial



Israeli forces bulldozed the Unknown Soldier Memorial and its associated garden, which is one of Gaza’s most prominent landmarks symbolizing the struggle of the Palestinian people. The memorial was first built in 1956 during the Egyptian administration of the Gaza Strip. It was previously destroyed by Israeli forces in 1967 and rebuilt by the Palestinian Authority in 2000.

The Phoenix Statue

In their attempt to distort the cultural landmarks of the city, the Israeli occupation targeted the Phoenix statue in the heart of Palestine Square in Gaza, which symbolizes the emblem of the city of Gaza. The statue was erected in 1998 when the Gaza Municipality launched a competition to design a statue that would separate the old town from the new town in Gaza. More than 21 engineering offices and young artists participated in the competition, and the statue was created by the sculptor Iyad al-Sabbah.

Destruction of Public Libraries

The Israeli bombardment targeted several public libraries, leading to the destruction of five major libraries:

The Culture and Noor Library

one of the oldest libraries in Gaza City, is in the Rimal neighborhood.

Diana Marie Sabbagh Library

, affiliated with the Rashad al-Shawa Cultural Center, which hosted cultural events and reading promotion campaigns. It contains approximately twenty thousand books.

Khan Yunis Library

affiliated with the municipality, suffered partial damage due to the bombing. It houses thousands of valuable books and serves as an important resource for the residents of the southern Gaza Strip.

The Main Public Library

part of the municipal buildings of Gaza City on Unity Street, housing hundreds of thousands of books. The bombing resulted in a significant fire and extensive damage to the building. The Palestinian culture lost valuable treasures, especially Palestinian books published before the Nakba (Catastrophe) and copies of Palestinian newspapers and magazines that were published in Jerusalem, Jaffa, and other cities before the Nakba.



The Al-Asria Center Library

in Jabalia Camp also suffered partial damage. This library serves as a cultural haven for the residents of Jabalia Camp and offers literary, scientific, religious, and general cultural books.

Jawaher Lal Nehru Library

(Al-Azhar University), which was partially damaged due to Israeli shelling targeting the university's facilities.

The Islamic University Library

located within the university premises, was also targeted by some projectiles.

Bombing of Publishing Houses, Printers, and Bookstores

Israeli forces have bombed and destroyed several publishing houses, printers, and bookstores. The destruction of eight publishing houses, printers, and bookstores has been documented so far. The most prominent of them include:

The Charity Authority Printers:

Located within the Rashad Al-Shawa Cultural Center in the Al-Rimal neighborhood, they are among the most important printers in Gaza.

The Permanent Al-Shorouq Bookstore

affiliated with Dar Al-Shorouq Publishing, is located behind Al-Azhar University.



Dar Al-Kalimah for Publishing

located in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, suffered partial damage.

Samir Mansour Bookstore

in Gaza houses hundreds of thousands of books. It is an important publishing house in Gaza with multiple exhibitions and sales points. It was damaged during the 2021 aggression but has since been rebuilt.



The famous Al-Yazji Bookstore

in Hala Al-Daraj is located on Al-Wahda Street in the Old City. It sustained significant damage due to shell targeting of the area. The bookstore and publishing house contains thousands of valuable books.

The Renaissance Bookstore

specializing in academic books.

Inaam Bookstore

for university books and supplies.

Lubbad Bookstore

with branches in Al-Rimal and Al-Nasr neighborhoods.

Destruction of Museums

Museums in the Gaza Strip have suffered significant damage during the ongoing war, with 12 museums being documented as affected. Some were completely destroyed, while others sustained partial damage. This has led to damage to historical artifacts and heritage items, including columns, jars, swords, coins, garments, tools, sharp instruments, and rare manuscripts. While the Israeli army conceals its operations, it is a well-known concern that many historical contents may be stolen, as Israel has done in the past. Therefore, there is a pressing need for international intervention to uncover the looting of artifacts and treasures carried out by the army in Gaza

The Rafah Museum

was destroyed by the Israeli occupation during its aggression on the Gaza Strip. It housed hundreds of items related to ancient Palestinian heritage, including clothing and old tools reflecting the culture of refugees in the region, particularly their clothing and livelihood tools from the past, collected by Mrs. Leila Shahin. The museum was inaugurated by the Minister of Culture, Dr. Atef Abu Saif, in 2022, and it featured 320 embroidered pieces, most of which came from Palestinian villages in the southern region, spanning from Jaffa to Beer Al-Sabe' and are considered rare.

The Al-Qarrara Cultural Museum

The Al-Qarrara Cultural Museum and its collections in Gaza. The bombing destroyed most of the museum's interior, the cracking of ceilings, the shattering of external glass windows of the heritage building, and the breaking of showcases displaying historical treasures. Numerous important historical artifacts and archaeological findings were damaged due to the bombardment.



The Khan Younis Museum

also came under attack and was destroyed. Located near the Barquq Castle in the city, the museum housed artifacts, archaeological findings, and household tools specific to the Khan Younis region, showcasing its historical and human history.

The Al-Aqad Museum

Founded during the mid-1990s under the Palestinian Authority, this private museum, curated by the archaeologist Walid Al-Aqad, is situated in Khan Younis. It contains hundreds of archaeological pieces, including long marble columns and stones dating back to ancient eras such as the Roman and Byzantine periods, and extends to modern artifacts from wars on Palestine, like cannons used in the 1956 war. It has a special section dedicated to Bedouin life and pre-Nakba Palestinian collectibles.

Deir al-Balah Museum

This museum, partially damaged, is home to various large archaeological pieces dating back to the Byzantine and Roman eras. It also contains heritage items discovered in the surrounding areas, particularly Tal al-Hirsha (or Tal “Rafish”), Tel Am Amer, and Tel al-Ajul. These items include pottery, jars, coins (both Roman and Islamic), tomb models, and mosaics.

Shahwan Museum

A museum featuring important personal collectibles.

Al-Mat’haf Museum

Located in the famous Mat’haf Hotel, it houses extremely rare archaeological pieces from various Phoenician, Roman, and Islamic periods. This museum, owned by businessman Joudat Al-Khudari, includes ancient Palestinian columns, coins, papers, manuscripts, swords, and jars from pre-Bronze, Bronze, modern Assyrian, modern Babylonian, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, and early Islamic periods.

Museum of Costumes (AlThawb)

Located on the second floor of the Museum Hotel, above the main museum on Gaza City's beach, it houses 230 costumes and ancient embroidery pieces from the southern regions of Palestine.

Basha Palace Museum

Many archaeological pieces and artifacts were destroyed when Basha Palace in the Daraj neighborhood was targeted. Large sections of the exhibition halls and the contents inside the museum were damaged.



Ibrahim Abu Shaar Museum of Bedouin Heritage

This museum, situated east of Rafah, was completely destroyed. It served as a heritage diwan and contained numerous artifacts related to the Bedouin population in the southern regions of Palestine.

Badia Museum in the Juhar al-Deek area, east of Gaza City

The contents and collectibles reflecting the depth and richness of Bedouin heritage in Palestine were damaged.

Central Archive

Housed in the historic building of Gaza Municipality, it was completely bombed. The headquarters contained over a century old documents, preserving the city's political, economic, social, and cultural memory.

Artistic Murals

This included the destruction of 27 murals in various locations throughout the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces targeted many artistic murals, subjecting them to tank and naval shellings, especially those created by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with a group of artists near the Gaza City beach during the celebration of National Culture Day two years ago. Some murals were also vandalized and defaced by soldiers, like the "Our Land" mural by artist Mohammed Al-Hajj, located on the wall of Carmel High School near Shifa Hospital, alongside other artistic murals near the Sea Cooperative on Sheikh Ajleen Beach.



Heritage Sites Damage

Israeli aircraft and tanks demolished many heritage sites that had been unearthed over the past decades. These sites span various historical periods, including Canaanite, Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic eras. They contain numerous historical artifacts that shed light on Gaza's rich history and its multiple civilizations throughout the ages. Israeli targeting specifically affected nine major heritage sites:

Anthedon Port

Notably, Anthedon Port, Gaza's ancient port located northwest of Gaza City, known as Al-Balakhiyah, was listed on the preliminary World Heritage List and the Islamic Heritage List.



Jabalia Byzantine Church

The Jabalia Byzantine Church is one of the most significant churches in the Levant, covering an area of 500 square meters. It is situated west of Jabalia City and dates back to 444 AD during the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius II. The church contains 16 ancient Greek inscriptions.

Byzantine Cemetery in Jabalia

This site represents one of the oldest Christian historical evidences and showcases the burial methods during the early Christian faith.

Tal Um Amer (Saint Hilarion Monastery)

This site, the first and most important archaeological monastery in Palestine, lies south of Gaza City on the road to Nusairat. It provides valuable insights into early Christian architecture and includes remnants of a marble sarcophagus believed to belong to Saint Hilarion.

Tal al-Sakan

Located south of Gaza City near Wadi Gaza, this site reveals an ancient, advanced city's administrative buildings, houses, walls, architectural facades, pottery, and coins.

Tal al-Muntar Historical Site

East of Gaza City, this site houses numerous important artifacts that reflect Gaza's evolution across different eras. It suffered partial damage due to Israeli tank shelling in the vicinity.

Al-Khader Sanctuary

Situated in the heart of Deir al-Balah, below which lie the remains of Saint Hilarion's Monastery (278 - 372 AD), the oldest surviving monastery in Palestine. It features Greek inscriptions, Corinthian capitals, and marble columns. A library and cultural center were established within the sanctuary to promote reading in the region. The sanctuary sustained partial damage from the shelling of surrounding areas.

Tal al-Ajoul

This site, located near Gaza's oldest mound and Wadi Gaza, south of the city, was damaged during military operations. It is believed to be the Canaanite city of Gaza and contains treasures such as jewelry, gold pieces, remnants of palaces, horse stables, a two-and-a-half-meter-wide wall, and jewelry found in the residents' graves, including earrings and rings, as well as a 500-foot-long tunnel.

Tal Rafah

also known as Tal Za'arab, is located on a high hill overlooking the Mediterranean Sea in the southwest of the Gaza Strip. It is considered one of the most important archaeological sites, dating back to the Greek era before Christ. The site has been affected by Israeli shelling in the adjacent areas of Rafah



Destruction of Historical Mosques and Churches.

Ten historical mosques, some dating back hundreds of years, were damaged due to Israeli airstrikes, along with a historical church suffering partial or complete damage. Here are some of the most prominent mosques that played important roles in the city's history and development and had significant architectural and cultural impact over the centuries, producing notable scholars and theologians.

The Grand Omari Mosque

Israeli warplanes targeted the historic Grand Omari Mosque located in the heart of Gaza City's old town, causing the destruction of its minaret, which dates back to 1400 years. It is the oldest and largest mosque in the Gaza Strip, covering an area of approximately 4,100 square meters with a building area of 1,800 square meters.



The Said Hashem Mosque

This mosque, located in the Daraj neighborhood, suffered partial damage. It is the historic mosque situated near the burial place of the great Prophet Hashem ibn Abd Manaf, who was buried in Gaza during the pre-Islamic Arabian summer journeys to the Levant. Gaza derived its historical Islamic name, "Ghazat Hashem," from him.

The Sheikh Abdullah Mosque

The Sheikh Abdullah Mosque in the Zaytoun neighborhood, built during the Mamluk era, had some parts of the mosque and its walls targeted by shelling.

The Church of Saint Porphyrius

The Church of Saint Porphyrius, the third oldest church in the world and one of the oldest Christian archaeological landmarks, is located in central Gaza. It dates back to the year 407 CE. The shelling resulted in the martyrdom of 18 Christians who were inside the church. The church is also located 230 meters from the Baptist Hospital, which was targeted and destroyed by Israeli warplanes in a massacre that claimed the lives of hundreds.

Ibn Othman Mosque

Ibn Othman Mosque, located in the Zaytoun neighborhood, also dates back to the Mamluk era.

Sheikh Sha'ban Mosque

known for its beautiful architecture, was targeted during the invasion of Gaza City.

The Katib Wilayet Mosque

, built during the rule of Sultan Al-Nasir Muhammad ibn Qalawun (709-741 AH), is a prime example of Islamic-Christian coexistence. Its minaret is adjacent to the Orthodox Roman Church. The mosque is located in the Zaytoun neighborhood of Gaza City.

The historical "Othman ibn Qushqar"

Mosque, situated in the old town in the Zaytoun neighborhood, was targeted and damaged by Israeli airstrikes. The mosque was built in 620 AH and, despite its small size, is one of the oldest mosques and historical landmarks in the Gaza Strip.

The Al-Zafr Damri Mosque

located in the old town, was established by the Mamluk prince Shihab al-Din Ahmed Azfir al-Zafr Damri in 762 AH on an area of 600 square meters. The mosque is also known as the Al-Qazdumri Mosque and contains the tomb of its founder.

The Omari Mosque

The Omari Mosque in Jabalia is the oldest mosque in the Jabalia town, believed to have been initially constructed in the 27th year after the Hijra when Islam reached the region. It has undergone multiple renovations while preserving its original minaret and some of its old facilities.

Cultural and Historical Sites

As a result of deliberate Israeli airstrikes on historical areas, several maqamat (shrines) were damaged in various locations in the Gaza Strip. Among the most prominent are the Maqam Khalil Al-Rahman in Abasan, the Maqam of Prophet Yusuf in Bani Suhaila, the Maqam of Al-Khidr in Deir al-Balah, and specific heritage paths, especially the Rifa'iyah path in the Daraj neighborhood.

Bombing of Historical Houses and Buildings

Dozens of ancient historical houses in the neighborhoods of Gaza City suffered damage from Israeli airstrikes, with significant portions of them collapsing. The estimated initial count of partially or fully damaged historical and archaeological houses and buildings is 195, including houses, forts, and palaces. Some of these houses and buildings had been inhabited and maintained for centuries, representing significant architectural landmarks in the old neighborhoods of Gaza City, including Daraj, Zaytoun, and Shuja'iyya. It is worth noting that the systematic bombing of the heart of Gaza City, particularly in the Daraj, Zaytoun, and Tuffah neighborhoods, resulted in catastrophic destruction of historical and archaeological houses in these areas, causing Gaza to lose many of its historical landmarks. Some historical houses in Jabalia town and Khan Yunis city also suffered damage. Many of these houses had been renovated in recent years and turned into active cultural and artistic centers in the heart of the city.

Here are some of the historic houses and buildings that were damaged due to the bombings:

Al-Saqqah House

Israeli aircraft completely destroyed the historical Al-Saqqah House in the Shuja'iyya neighborhood in eastern Gaza City. The house embodies the features of old Gaza, and it was fully renovated in 2014 to become a cultural center. It is one of the oldest houses in Gaza, dating back 400 years, with an area of 700 square meters. The Ministry of Culture organized many cultural events in the building in recent years.



Al-Kamaliyah School

This historical school building dates back to 1237 and is attributed to the Ayyubid king Al-Kamil. It continued to receive students until 1930. The school consists of two floors and covers an area of 573 square meters. Its façade features a pointed arch made of marble and follows Ayyubid and Mamluk architectural styles. The school was revitalized in recent years and transformed into a cultural center named "Al-Kamaliyah." The Ministry of Culture launched Palestinian Culture Day in 2021 from this school, attended by the Minister of Culture, Dr. Atef Abu Saif.

Tirzi House

The Israeli occupation also targeted the historical Tirzi family building located in the Rimal neighborhood in the city center. Significant portions of the house, built in the early 20th century in a modern Arab architectural style, were damaged.

Sepat Al-Ilmi Building

The Israeli occupation destroyed the Sepat Al-Ilmi building in Gaza on December 29. This building was constructed in 1806 and consists of three rooms, two courtyards, a kitchen, and two staircases leading to the second floor. It also houses the Sepat Al-Ilmi Cultural and Heritage Center. The building was renovated in 2009.



Historical Samra Bath

The Historical Samra Bath in the center of Gaza City was targeted and completely destroyed by Israeli airstrikes on December 30. It is the only remaining bathhouse in Gaza and is approximately a thousand years old. Covering an area of about 500 square meters, it serves as both a tourist attraction and a therapeutic facility. The Samaritans were the first to establish it, hence its name, Samra Bath.

Barquq Castle

Some parts of Barquq Castle, located in the heart of Khan Yunis, were damaged due to Israeli airstrikes. The castle was built in 1387 during the reign of Sultan Barquq, one of the Mamluk sultans and the founder of the Burji Mamluk dynasty. It served as a central stopover on the route between Damascus and Cairo, providing a safe haven for travelers from thieves and highwaymen. The castle consists of two floors and includes a prayer mosque. Over the centuries, parts of the castle were demolished, but the front façade remains.

Historical Pasha Palace

The Israeli occupation destroyed the historical Pasha Palace in the Daraj neighborhood, the historical center of Gaza City. Pasha Palace is a unique example of the remaining palaces in Gaza. Its structure dates back to the Mamluk era during the reign of Al-Zahir Baybars (1260-1277 CE). This is evidenced by the emblem of Al-Zahir Baybars at the main entrance, which consists of two facing lions. The palace served as the residence of the city's deputy during both the Mamluk and Ottoman eras and is now used as a museum.

Historical Al-Zawya Market

: This historical and archaeological market in Gaza, which dates back decades, has turned into ruins due to the bombings. The airstrikes completely destroyed the market. The market is considered a historical extension of the “Qaysariya” market, which dates back to prehistoric periods.





Historical Gaza Municipality Building

The historical Gaza Municipality building, located in Palestine Square in the Daraj neighborhood, was destroyed in the early 20th century architectural style. The building suffered significant damage, including fires and the destruction of many of its facilities, especially the Central Archives building.





Media and Art Production Companies

Media and art production companies in Gaza City also suffered damage during the conflict. The headquarters of many private companies operating in this field were destroyed. The destruction included the following:

1.Mashariq Company: Its new headquarters, which was opened in August of last year and located in the Tel al-Hawa area of Gaza City, was targeted and destroyed during the war.

2. Asayel Studios: These studios were also damaged as a result of the bombing.

3.Mix Way Studio: Among the studios that were also destroyed.

Personal Belongings

During the war, the personal artistic and literary belongings of artists, writers, and heritage enthusiasts were also affected. This included individual collections of artworks, private libraries of writers and their manuscripts, as well as artistic possessions such as clothing and embroidery.

Individual collections

Individual collections were extensively damaged, as confirmed by ministry teams who communicated with artists in the sector. Many of these artists lost most of their works, and due to the unavailability of necessary tools and resources, many of them had to cease creating new works. Most stores selling art supplies were either partially or completely destroyed.

Personal Libraries

Many authors reported the loss of their personal libraries in their homes, including the disappearance of manuscripts of their novels and collections of their poetry.

Artistic Possessions

Special artistic possessions such as paintings, sculptures, and artistic representations in both private homes and public institutions were also affected.

Collections of Clothing

Individuals and collectors had special collections of clothing, and approximately 1,450 garments and embroidered pieces were reported as damaged, including those that were destroyed in the museums in Rafah and Beit Lahia. In total, around 2,100 historical garments and embroidered pieces that date back to pre-Nakba times were lost due to damage, burning, and tearing.

Targeting of Universities and Colleges

As part of the systematic war on Palestinian culture and cultural institutions, the occupation targeted the campuses of Palestinian universities. The facilities of 19 universities and colleges in Gaza were partially or completely damaged. Some universities were directly targeted, resulting in the destruction of many facilities, such as classrooms, libraries, and laboratories. This affected major universities like Al-Azhar University, Islamic University, Al-Aqsa University, and Al-Quds Open University - Majinah Branch in Gaza City (Nasr neighborhood). Moreover, most government schools and UNRWA schools, as well as private schools, were damaged due to direct shelling by Israeli forces. Schools were bombed and destroyed, leading to the killing of displaced civilians, especially in northern Gaza and neighborhoods in western and northern Gaza City.

Targeting of Media and Journalism

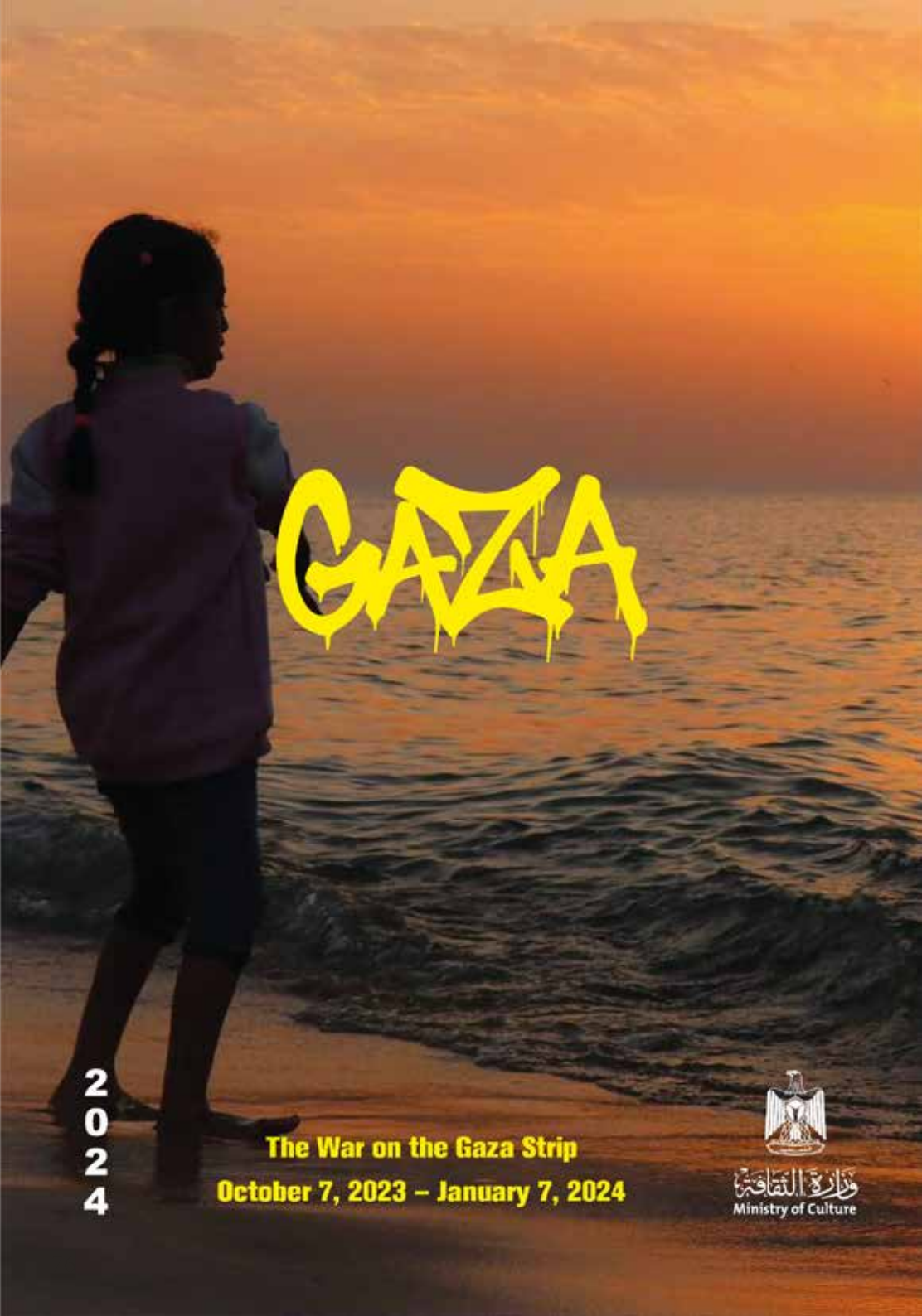
The occupation targeted journalists and media professionals to prevent them from reporting the truth. With the forced displacement of residents from the north to the south of Gaza, journalists were not allowed to move, even during the ceasefire periods. As of the preparation of this report, approximately 108 journalists, both male and female, have been killed since the start of the Israeli aggression on Gaza. Some of them tragically documented their final moments and the terrifying experiences they endured under bombardment. These brave journalists conveyed the truth and fulfilled their journalistic and humanitarian duties even in the harshest moments of cruelty. They left it to the world to receive these impactful human messages directly from under the bombardment.

Additionally, the airstrikes led to the destruction of several media institutions, including Mashareq Gaza Media Foundation, the headquarters of the Al-Mayadeen channel, and the bombing of Al-Jalaa Tower, which housed the offices of Al-Jazeera and the Associated Press (AP).

Conclusion:

The cultural sector in Gaza has endured significant losses during the past three months of war. The international community and heritage organizations now bear a serious responsibility to protect archaeological sites, museums, and historical buildings within the boundaries of their mandates and responsibilities, which they have not fulfilled to this day. The protection of cultural heritage in Palestine is part of their duties, and our significant loss in this regard is a loss for all of humanity.

The targeting of all cultural structures is part of the horrific war waged by the aggressors against our people for the past seventy-six years. Despite the severity of these losses, our people have the resilience to continue contributing. We have significant responsibilities to rebuild everything that has been destroyed by the occupation and to restore all sites, treasures, and artworks.


GAZA
2024
The War on the Gaza Strip
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