

# Le ferite aperte di Gaza City

ei [electronicintifada-net.translate.googleusercontent.com/content/open-wounds-gaza-city/50967](https://electronicintifada-net.translate.googleusercontent.com/content/open-wounds-gaza-city/50967)

25 settembre 2025

[Huda Skaik The Electronic Intifada](#) 25 settembre 2025



Sfollamento di massa dalla città di Gaza. (Ibrahim Nofal)

Riyad Nofal, un fotografo di Jabaliya, è stato sfollato 14 volte da quando, quasi due anni fa, è iniziata la guerra genocida di Israele contro Gaza.

Nonostante i continui sradicamenti, Riyad è rimasta per la maggior parte del tempo a Gaza City. La situazione è cambiata all'inizio di questo mese.

Dopo che l'esercito israeliano lanciò una massiccia invasione di terra, minacciando di [prendere il controllo](#) di Gaza City, Riyad fu costretto a trasferirsi a Deir al-Balah, nella parte centrale di Gaza.

Riyad, 69 anni, ha lavorato come fotografo per 43 anni e possedeva uno studio, 12 negozi e 14 appartamenti, tutti situati a Jabaliya, nel nord di Gaza.

Il 7 ottobre 2024, il figlio maggiore di Riyad, Omar, fu ucciso in un [massacro](#) a Jabaliya, lasciando nove figli. Da allora, Riyad si prende cura di loro.

Un altro figlio di Riyad, il fotoreporter Mohammad, fu ucciso insieme al suo famoso collega Anas Al-Sharif e ad altri cinque giornalisti quando Israele [prese di mira](#) la loro tenda vicino all'ospedale Al-Shifa il 10 agosto 2025.

Il 22 giugno 2025, la moglie di Riyad morì per le ferite riportate quando, pochi giorni prima, una scheggia israeliana le aveva trafitto la testa.

Per quasi due anni di genocidio israeliano, Riyad "si è rifiutato di abbandonare tutto" ciò che possedeva e di lasciare Gaza City.

"Ma alla fine", ha detto Riyad, "è andato tutto distrutto: ho perso mia moglie, i miei due figli e persino la salute".

Riyad non riesce a sopportare tutta questa perdita, sentendosi come se fosse "invecchiato di 10 anni in due anni di guerra".

"A volte desidero la morte", ha detto Riyad, "perché è più facile di questa vita".

## **Patria**

---

Per Riyad, Gaza City significa vita.

Se la guerra finirà, ha detto, vorrà tornare a Gaza City e piantare una tenda, anche se sulle macerie: solo lì si sentirà di nuovo vivo, circondato dal profumo delle persone che ama.

Montaser Terzi, un cristiano di 37 anni di Gaza City, condivide gli stessi sentimenti.

"Ogni volta che sento le parole 'occupazione di Gaza', mi sento scosso dentro", ha detto Terzi a The Electronic Intifada.

Per lui, essere sfollato dalla città, occupata direttamente da Israele, è una paura esistenziale.

"La mia vita è legata alla mia casa: alle voci di mia madre e di mio padre, alle riunioni di famiglia e al profumo del cibo durante le feste", ha detto Terzi.

Quando Israele [tentò](#) un'invasione di terra su Gaza nell'ottobre 2023, Terzi trovò [rifugio](#) nella chiesa cattolica latina quando i bombardamenti si avvicinarono troppo alla sua casa nel quartiere di al-Daraj.

"I cristiani hanno radici antiche in questa città", ha detto. "Non si tratta solo di vita e di morte, ma della nostra esistenza qui".

Ma questa volta Terzi, rifugiandosi nuovamente nella chiesa cattolica latina, teme che la comunità cristiana [perda](#) le sue chiese, i suoi ricordi e la sua presenza.

Despite the destruction, people always returned. But this time, Terzi said, people are afraid they won't be allowed back.

“Gaza is my homeland – I cannot imagine my life away from it,” Terzi said. “I believe we will return no matter what.”

## Collective memory

---

For 22 months of Israeli genocide, Ahmad Mortaja, 30, a child protection and psychosocial support coordinator from the Shujaiya neighborhood, has refused to leave Gaza City and relocate to southern parts of the Strip.

He lost his two houses in Shujaiya at the first months of the genocide. The first was the house he was raised in and the second was the one his father had built and they grew up in.

“Our existence has become meaningless – we own nothing in this city,” he said. “The war has devoured both our homes, not caring about us or the memories and belongings we carried inside.”

Though he has been displaced within Gaza City itself, each time Mortaja left, he said, he left a piece of himself behind.

Before he stopped counting, Mortaja had been displaced more than 15 times. Displaying dark humor, his friends joke that he deserves an award for being the most displaced.

Mortaja’s last displacement was on 1 June 2025.

“I’m displaced in the west of the city, in one of the high-rise towers, to which eyes have recently turned,” he said, referring to Israel’s campaign to [level](#) Gaza’s high-rise towers.

People in Gaza City are, Mortaja said, exhausted and move south driven by their fear.

Mortaja and his family – just like the majority in Gaza that feel helpless – [couldn’t find](#) a place for themselves to evacuate to in the south.

What shapes the people of Gaza City, Mortaja said, is their memory.

His greatest fear is losing his memory – and with it, losing the city itself, along with himself, his friends and his family.

“If I leave to the south,” he said, “I won’t be able to convince my memory to leave with me – it will surely flee through the city streets, beyond my reach.”

## Bittersweet love

---

Memory for Nadra al-Tibi is also what roots her in Gaza City.

Al-Tibi, 25, a freelance [correspondent](#) for China’s CGTN, left her house in Nasr neighborhood and is still displaced in Beach refugee camp in Gaza City, refusing to leave the city altogether.

“Every corner of the house holds a small memory: a laugh hanging in the corners, my mother’s prayers in the kitchen, my first steps in the hallway and the winter nights,” al-Tibi said. “It’s all these simple details that keep me rooted in this place.”

Al-Tibi – who was displaced at least six times inside Gaza City and then to southern Gaza for 400 days – felt like each displacement involved leaving pieces of her heart behind.

When a ceasefire was [announced](#) on 19 January 2025, and the road north [reopened](#) on 27 January, al-Tibi returned to Gaza City.

For al-Tibi, Gaza City is a mirror of her dreams, but it is also a mirror of her patience and hunger.

“Gaza is an open wound that teaches people the meaning of life and resistance and makes them believe that identity can grow even from beneath the rubble,” she said.

If Gaza City is lost, al-Tibi fears she will lose her sense of belonging – a sense that Gaza, despite its cruelty, is her home.

With every news story about a journalist [being targeted](#), al-Tibi remembers that she could be the next journalist to be targeted.

“This feeling never leaves me,” she said. “But instead of silencing me, it makes me cling to my language, my pen and my voice more.”

The invasion of Gaza City, al-Tibi said, is not only about stealing the land, about stealing street names, the voices of children in the alleys and memory itself.

Sara Awad, an English literature student, says she is losing her memory after leaving Gaza City.

“I feel like my memories are disappearing and parts of me are shrinking,” Awad said.

On 11 September, Awad, 21, left her house in Sheikh Radwan, a neighborhood in the northern part of Gaza City, where she lived for 20 years, and moved to a tent in al-Zawayda, central Gaza.

Awad thought Israel’s campaign to [invade](#) and take direct control of Gaza City was just a “psychological war,” never believing she would be forced out of her neighborhood or house.

“This is my home, my room, our kitchen, our living room, our stairs, our roof and our garden, where my grandfather used to plant crops before he died,” she said. “I feel like Israel is occupying me and killing me – not just my city.”

Awad’s grandfather, Rafeeq, was 73 when he succumbed to cancer on 21 October 2023 due to the lack of vital treatment.

Israel is trying to make people in Gaza hate living there by bombing the places they love and belong to – restaurants, cafes, schools, universities and mosques.

“I hear [on the news] about the blowing up of houses in Sheikh Radwan neighborhood,” Awad said, referring to Israel’s use of [explosive-laden robots](#) to obliterate houses.

Though Awad has been displaced three times since October 2023, this displacement, she said, is different and worse since there is no coming back to the house.

“We will return because the land is ours, but I have no hope that I will return and find my house,” Awad said.

In William Shakespeare’s tragedy *Hamlet*, the protagonist [declares](#): “I must be cruel only to be kind.” He meant that causing pain could at times serve a greater good.

Gaza and Hamlet are alike.

“Gaza is the mother who can be cruel to her children,” said Ahmad Mortaja. “Yet no matter what she does to them, her children continue to love her and remain attached to her.”

It is a phoenix, Mortaja said, always rising from the ashes, declaring that hope still lies beneath the rubble.

"Quando Gaza risorgerà", ha detto Mortaja, "dovremo rispolverarla e tornare a vivere".

Mahmoud Darwish, il celebre poeta palestinese, scrisse una volta: "Su questa terra abbiamo ciò che rende la vita degna di essere vissuta".

Mortaja ha affermato: "E chi merita la vita più di noi?"

*Huda Skaik è una studentessa di inglese e giornalista che vive a Gaza.*

---