

Rana Samih Ghabbash in class 7

One day I woke up very frightened to the horrible sound of military vehicles next to my house. I hurried to the window to see what was happening. I saw something that caused me so much pain. I saw these huge vehicles and bulldozers uprooting the trees of the small church near our house.

I was pained. Every tree that was pulled out resembled an organ of my body, it was as if my organs were being pulled out. I shouted and the whole house shook. So my mother woke up frightened and she said “What’s wrong with you, my daughter?”

I said to her “Look, there, look, they are uprooting the trees that we used to play under”. We used to go there and the priest used to meet us. I used to hang my swing on one of the trees and relax. Now it is gone.

Everything caused my father to stop his work so things are different from before. My father doesn’t bring me clothes or food. He quarrels with my mum every day. He says to her “I need to work. I need some money to feed my children”. When I ask him to bring me something from the shop, he says the shopkeeper doesn’t want to sell us anything.

We sold everything in our house and nothing is left. This is my childhood. It has gone; it has been destroyed. Ach ach and a thousand achs. (ach= sound of pain)

Why is it that every child in the world can enjoy their childhood while mine has been destroyed? I would like to repeat :

I want my childhood back.
I want my childhood back.
I want my childhood back.

Mohammad Hayil Ayyad age 10

The Apartheid Separating Wall

We think that we will have our Palestinian state on the minimum of historical Palestine which is occupied in the war of 1967 which is representing less than 20% of Palestine.

But with the absolute supporting from America, Israel decided to build this Wall in West Bank lands. This Wall which is come across the West Bank killed the dream of the independent state. And separated the Palestinian families and make it impossible for the students to go to their schools on the other side of the Wall.

Families' homes and some areas are divided by the Wall that make its difficult for families to reach each other. The farmers also are prevented from reaching their farms. Many olive trees have been damaged. These trees we consider as a holy tree. These are social and environmental points.

But about the psychology of the children, the dreams of the children, we haven't got much space to play.

This thing must be considered by the states who are friends for us because we have no future with this Wall and we ask the free world to make pressure to get rid of this cancerous snake from our life, from our land, because its continuation will destroy our life in this holy land.

Salaam Yusuf Salah

The apartheid Wall

The Wall is the name going on all people's tongues in the world and makes the people who want peace to come here to demonstrate against it. What is the Wall? It is the cancer which is eating the Palestinian land from the north to the south and from the east to the west. It is hurting and cutting the West Bank and separating people from each other and separating the patients from the hospital and the students from their schools. Nobody can accept it. It is the nightmare which we see in our dreams as children before the old people. And it is also making it hotter in the summer and colder in the winter. The snake which the American president felt astonished about and also Condoleeza Rice. It is not protecting the Israelis as they allege but they want to make a siege around the Palestinian people and prevent them from reaching their holy places.

*At the sound of the prayer my heart woke up
Tomorrow we will return to Al Aqsa
And to the Jerusalem the lover of the god of the heaven*

All the people know about the Wall but who will stand with us to get rid of the killer snake which has killed the economy, trade, agriculture, trees, is confiscating the land? I think there is no medicine for this unless there is a just American administration. They can stop it and we the Palestinian people call the good people to stand with us to get rid of the occupation and the Wall.

*If the people seek a free life,
the faith must respond,
the night must be gone,
the chain must be broken
and those who are not looking for the good life,
the free life, will finish*

by Abdul Qassim al-Shabi

Omar Arar aged 12

The separating apartheid Wall

My name is Omar. I am a Palestinian child. I was born in Jerusalem the holy city. My mother told me that people were free to move in all the country in those days. Palestine was one park. Although we are living in some Jerusalem suburb which is called the West Bank, my mother used to go shopping from Ramallah, Bethlehem whenever she wanted and she used to visit different places in Jerusalem and we used to move freely for treatment, for teaching. Travel from Jerusalem to Ramallah takes 20 minutes.

When I was born, my father was an actor. He had many friends and he used to take us to many places to visit his friends. But they were poor. My mother said that I got sick in those days in Jerusalem. Our home was small and cold but we were lucky because there was not shooting there or missiles, unlike what happened in the West Bank.

After the Wall our country became like a prison, our parents are not working and their presence in Jerusalem is considered a crime. Now I can't go to swim. I can't go to see the museum, or to the theatre. Now there are 700 checkpoints in Palestine and when we look at the Wall, it looks very terrifying.

The Wall hides the Al Aqsa from our eyes but not from our hearts.

After the Wall, life changed. Many people left the country. Many businesses closed and until now they are going on building the Wall and they are bringing more strangers to our country who are living in our country and moving freely for their work, for their schools.

Now with all these troubles, our love for Palestine will not be less. The old people tell the new generation how it was a good life in this country. There are photos, there are movies and there are memories and they are not finished.