



RIGHT NOW

September 2014

I just want to go back to school

By Alaq Al-Muwalli; IFMSA-Iraq

These words kept resonating in my head, as I was heading back home from my very first visit to the Displaced from Telafar, thinking about what an unfair world we are living in.

So unfair that it had a little girl stay up all night and pray for nothing but to go back to school, to undo what has happened, to unsee her school as it was falling to pieces after it has been bombed by IS, or ISIS, or The Breakers of Dreams, or the Destroyers of Humanity. However you would like to call them, really.

That was Ameena. A 13 year old girl who had to flee her small house in the villages of Telafar, along with the rest of her family and neighbours. She had to leave everything behind; her home, memories, books, clothes, toys, hopes, and dreams... heading to an unknown place, with a very bizarre and blurred understanding of what was happening. A while after she left, she

learned that her house -just like her school- had turned to wreckage.

It is extremely hard to believe that it has only been 4 months since it has all begun. Since all the brutal pictures, the very graphic videos, the endless and endless of terrified and confused updates from my friends on social media websites, since the news channels started faking almost everything, since over 1.8 million Iraqis had lost their homes, and since thousands have lost their lives,

since June 10th, 2014....the day when ISIS took over Mosul.

Mosul is the second largest city in Iraq, after Baghdad. It is a home to many historical monuments and churches and universities. Within its holy land lies many shrines for prophets. It is known for its massive diversity, and difference of languages as well! For a very long time, people from different religions, ethnicities and backgrounds have managed to live peacefully in it. Well, Not anymore. ►►



IFMSA-NL

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations - the Netherlands

“over 1.8 million Iraqis have lost their homes”

There used to be around 35,000 Christians living in Mosul. Today, there are none. ISIS has managed to use religion as an excuse to destroy an entire city, wipe away its history, and force its residents into Islam. They have killed and raped an endless number of women there, practiced FGM, changed all the school curriculum, terrorised everyone who stood against them and eventually took their lives.

Only yesterday, Baghdad was under attack by ISIS bombs. Everyone fears that they will be expanding so much to the point where they would reach Baghdad. “Nobody is safe” is what my mom keeps saying.

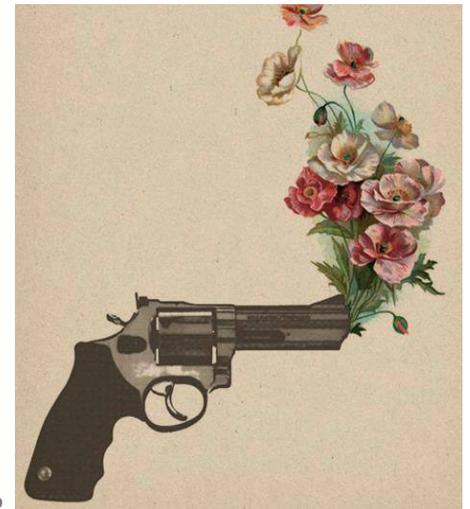
But despite all of this, all this ugliness, all the girls who took their own lives after or even

sometimes before ISIS men had raped them, despite the number of little children who died from hunger and dehydration when ISIS forces trapped them on the mountains with no food or water, despite the fact that almost 1.8-2 million Iraqis have lost their homes in the span of just 4 months, despite the fact that Iraq has lost millions of lives, and despite the fact that every inch of this land has been bleeding since 2003...despite all of this, my heart is still beating, and it's beating with hope and strength and love.

“my heart still believes that Iraq, and the whole world, will get to see the light once again”

Because of SCORP, I got a chance to meet many people whose determination and compassion was beyond imagination. They inspired me so much to keep

going. And because of this, because of all of us, my heart still believes that Iraq, and the whole world, will get to see the light once again. ■



Editorial message

The following article was submitted by IFMSA-Palestine upon our request. We wanted to present you two views upon the Palestinian-Israeli conflict so we asked both IFMSA-Palestine and FIMS-Israel to submit an article. Unfortunately we have not received a contribution from



IFMSA-NL

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations - the Netherlands



A message from IFMSA-Palestine

FIMS-Israel.

By Khaled Alali, IFMSA-Palestine

Some are trying helplessly to sell the propaganda that was being thrown 60 years ago, claiming that Palestine was a land without people, saying there was no Palestinian State prior to 1948. But that's the other face of the story which denies the history of a land on which our ancestors have lived on since the dawn of time. The land that has been described as Palestine in ancient scripts such as Herodotus Aristotle until after the Second World War as the British Mandate of Palestine. Saying there was no Palestine equals the denial of Jesus Christ's birth, who was born in Bethlehem, Palestine . A few points that will summarise it:

* Refugees: In 1948 around 1 million Palestinians became refugees all over the globe still longing to get back to their own lands. As they were promised. A major humanitarian issue, yet a basic one, we Palestinians demand for our refugees is the right of return. For the past 12 years the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank has been going on with the peaceful negotiations trying helplessly to have a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

* Settlements: Israeli civilian communities build on Palestinian land occupied by Israel in 1967.

Thousands of new settlement blocks are being built on the west bank under the financial support of the Israeli government and protection of the IDF (Israeli Defence Force).

Settlements by themselves are against all international law, against any peace agreements and every moral value.

These illegal settlements are not only being built on an occupied land that belongs to someone else; they're consuming the natural resources - Israeli settlers consume 6 times as much water as Palestinians living nearby- , restricting the freedom of movement and displacing the villages. What's even more immoral, is the fact that since the settlement freeze agreement of 2010, the construction of settlements wasn't interrupted and continues to expand up to this very moment.

Settlers started the settlement protection agency, by which they are allowed to carry weapons. They are repeatedly at-



IFMSA-NL

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations - the Netherlands

tacking villages, causing terror in the country side, causing crisis in several Palestinian villages. Not to mention that some villages were completely wiped out during the process, by both the hands of the government and settlers.

*Apartheid wall : a physical barrier enclosing the West Bank; separating the two populations in general and the Palestinian specifically.

In 1992 then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin proposed his idea "in order to minimise friction between the peoples".

By building this 700 km-long wall, towns were separated, villages were cut into half, houses were demolished, families were split into half living on one side of the wall, leaving the their relatives on the opposite side, not being allowed to visit the others without a permit.

Tens of Checkpoint are dispensed along the separation wall further restricting the Palestinians free movement.

Statistics:

- after 12 years of negotiations, Palestinian Authority has full control over 3% of the West Bank instead of 100%
- 90 palestinians from the west Bank were killed last year only by the Israeli army most of them were teenagers.
- During the 48 days massacre in Gaza 2143 Palestinian casualties, most of them civilians and many children among them. 450.000 people were forced to leave their houses. On the other hand, 64 Israeli soldiers and 3 Israeli civilians have died .

Ethically, morally and legally

this is not justifiable, it has nothing to do with the so-called 'self defence'. You just can't kill thousands, including children, for the sake of 'protection'.

We would like to take this opportunity

to express our sincere thanks for your concern in this matter. We, human beings to human beings, would like to call on your support, spread the message, take actions to help end this international issue.



This newsletter is made possible by:

Alaq Al-Muwalli

Khaled Alali

Esther Schwarz

pax48@ifmsa.org

Layout: Roos Kistemaker

Editing: Roos Kistemaker



SCORP

Human Rights & Peace



IFMSA-NL

International Federation of Medical
Students' Associations - the Netherlands