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Remember Them: Palestine Scholars Murdered in the Gaza Genocide



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2026

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Cover Art: Fatima Ali Abu Owdah, *How Alone You Were* (2025)

Poetry in cover art excerpted from Mahmoud Darwish's epic poem "Madīḥ al-z̤zil al-'ālī" ("In Praise of the High Shadow"):

Son of more than my father  
How alone you were  
The wheat is bitter  
In the fields of others  
And the water tastes of salt  
The clouds are steel  
And this star can scar  
And you have to live and be alive  
And in exchange for an olive  
Have to give your skin  
How alone you were

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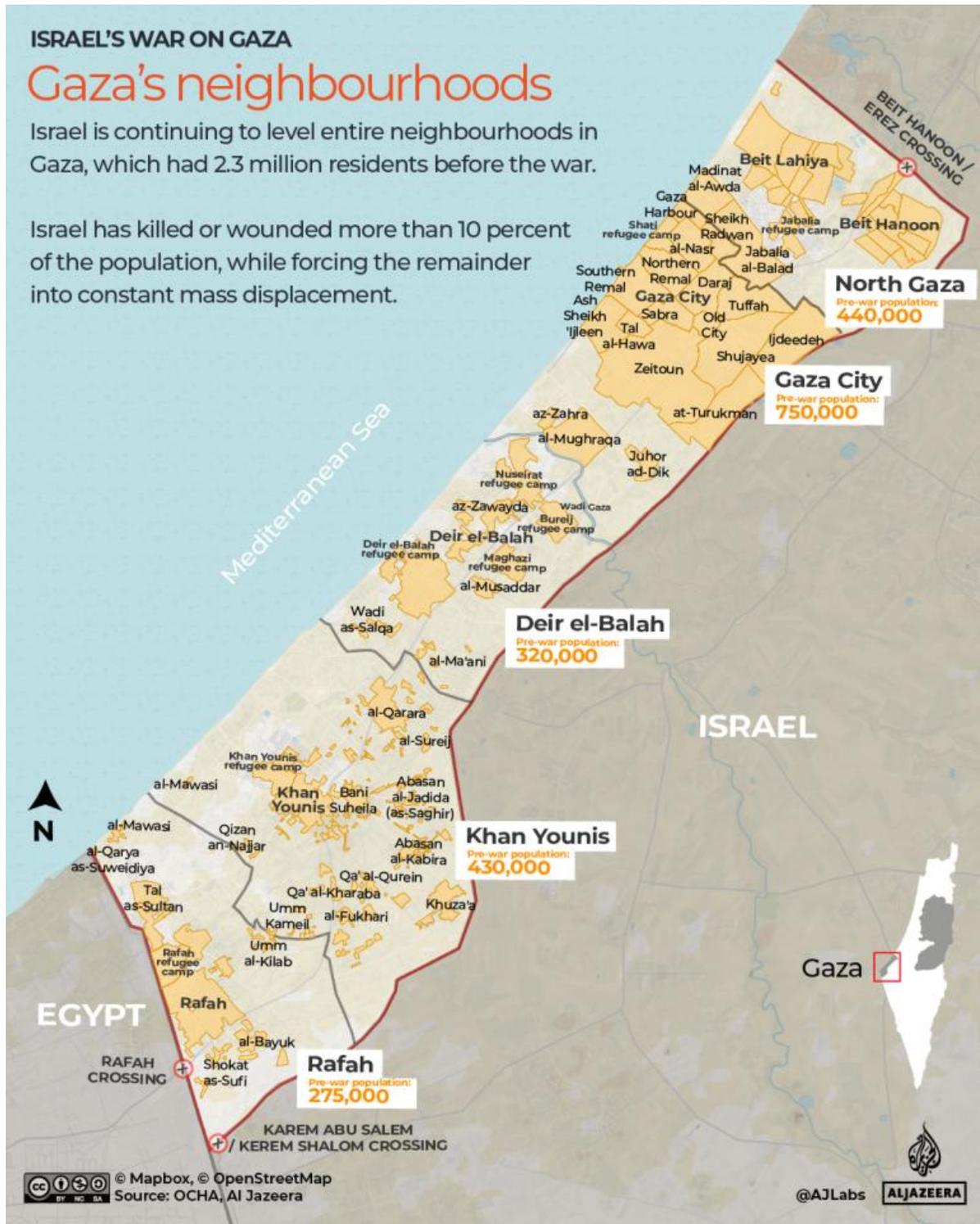
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# ISRAEL'S WAR ON GAZA

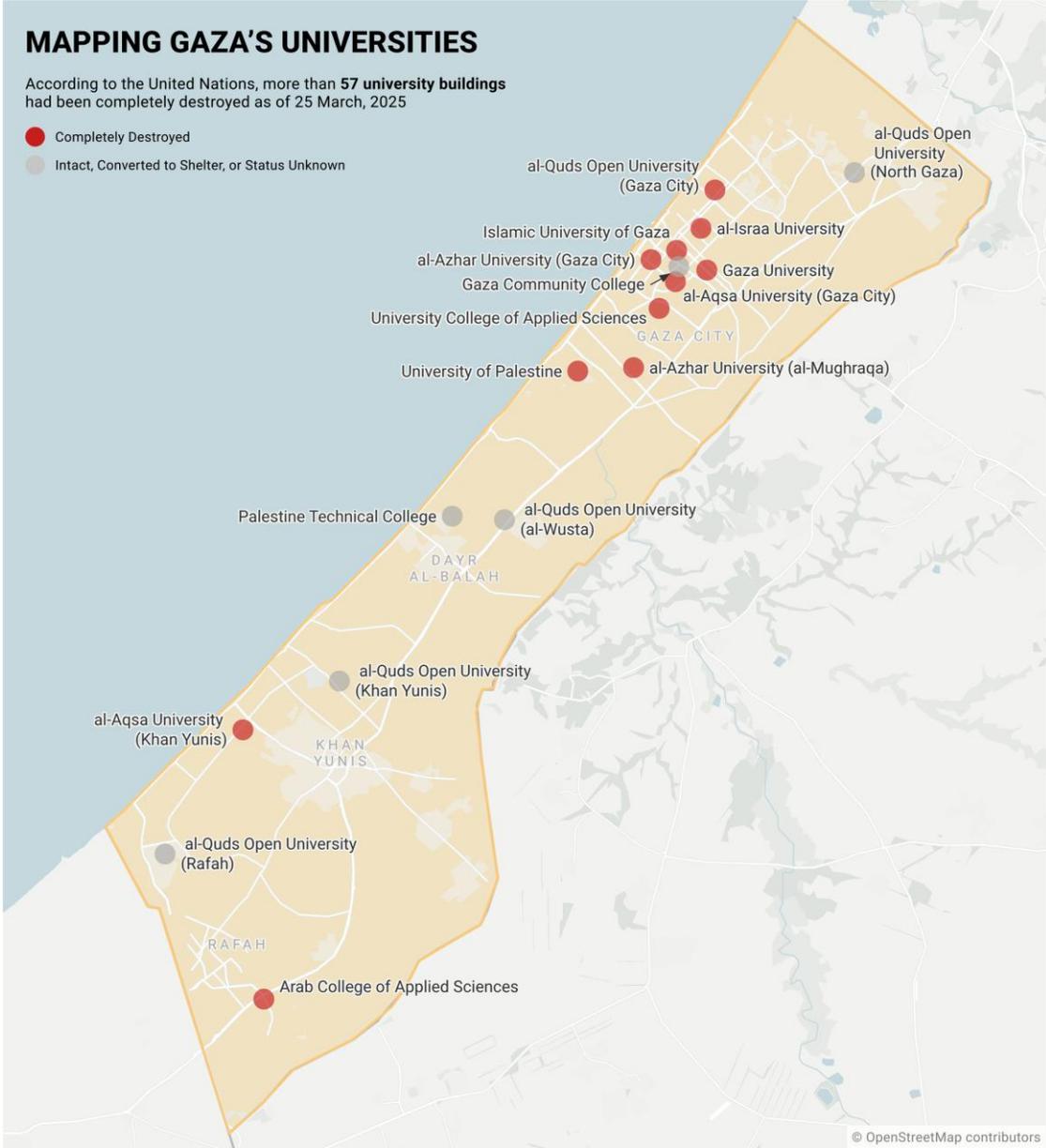
## Gaza's neighbourhoods

Israel is continuing to level entire neighbourhoods in Gaza, which had 2.3 million residents before the war.

Israel has killed or wounded more than 10 percent of the population, while forcing the remainder into constant mass displacement.



© Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap  
Source: OCHA, Al Jazeera



University Name	Date Founded	Campus	No. of Students	Date Destroyed
Islamic University of Gaza	1978	Gaza City	17,000	11 October 2023
Gaza Community College	1989	Gaza City	600	
al-Azhar University	1991	Gaza City	17,000	6 November 2023
	1978	al-Mughraqa		7 December 2023
al-Aqsa University	1978	Khan Yunis	22,000	4 February 2024
		Gaza City		6 February 2024
al-Quds Open University	1992	Gaza City	3,500	15 November 2023
	1999	Khan Yunis	1,362	
	2000	Rafah	2,050	
	2001	North Gaza	4,300	
	2015	al-Wusta	1,662	
Palestine Technical College	1996	Dayr al-Balah	2,187	
Arab College of Applied Sciences	1999	Rafah	986	Late May 2024
Gaza University	2007	Gaza City	1,704	4 December 2023
University College of Applied Sciences	2007	Gaza City	5,675	3 August 2024
University of Palestine	2008	Gaza City	6,043	1 April 2024
al-Israa University	2016	Gaza City	3,075	17 January 2024

Map by [Sam Rabiya](#) • Data from [United Nations Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#).

## INTRODUCTION

Israel's genocide in Gaza, the crime of crimes that obligates states to intervene, has taken the lives of large numbers of Palestinian scholars. Many were accomplished academics with long histories of achievement: Sufyan Tayeh was a renowned physicist and president of the Islamic University in Gaza. He held a doctorate in theoretical physics and applied mathematics and, in recognition of his research contributions, had been appointed holder of the UNESCO Chair for Physical, Astrophysical, and Space Sciences in Palestine in March 2023. Others were well embarked on promising academic careers: Khaled al-Ramlawi, a professor of engineering at the Islamic University, received his doctorate in 2021 in Türkiye, and had chosen to bring his expertise in water management back to Gaza. And some were just getting their start in the academy: Rola Abdul Jawad held an appointment in the Department of Computer Engineering at Gaza University and offered courses in multimedia studies at several other universities in Gaza as she continued to develop her own career as a graphic designer. She was killed at age 29.

This archive is produced by a group of academics to honor and commemorate these lives and those of the many other teachers and researchers in higher education murdered in Gaza during the genocide perpetrated by Israel and its patrons, especially the United States. They were members of the global intellectual community, and we are all impoverished by the loss of their contributions that would have enriched the worlds of the humanities and sciences. The liquidation of these colleagues squandered the many years of higher education and training they embodied, often acquired with great personal and collective effort. The death of so many of our colleagues is a massive blow to higher education in Palestine: they were the teachers of the rising generation who were to take their places as the writers, theologians, social scientists, engineers, and doctors who would help to weave the social fabric and develop the world of knowledge in Palestine. We record their lives in a spirit of grief for their loss and admiration for their accomplishments and to demand that their killers face accountability for their crimes.

We are not alone in this mission. A number of organizations have recorded and lamented the murder of colleagues in their respective fields. The Committee to Protect Journalists, Pen International, Doctors Without Borders, and National Nurses United are among those that have called attention to targeted killings of their fellow professionals. A handful of academic

organizations and societies have similarly called out the murder of scholars, including the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies and the Middle East Studies Association. Yet, many other major academic associations, learned societies, and scholarly journals in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, especially those in the United States, have remained silent. This is more than regrettable. Justice, intellectual integrity and human solidarity all should impel them to voice their protest.

We have been humbled and moved by the stories of our slain colleagues. Many of them, educated abroad, made the conscious choice to return to Gaza despite the daunting challenges of the long blockade imposed by Israel since 2007. They taught large numbers of students, and they managed to continue their academic research in a context of isolation, shortages of basic supplies, regular power outages, and episodes of deadly military bombardment over many years. They helped to build Gaza's institutions of higher education as teachers, researchers, and administrators with single-minded dedication, and as a result Gaza has one of the top percentages of higher degree holders in the world. They had rich family lives and many of them died alongside their parents, their siblings, and their children. Their surviving relatives, colleagues, and former students miss them and mourn them deeply, as reflected in the many memorial tributes they have posted. These brief biographies are a modest attempt to convey a sense of what their families, their communities, Palestine, and all of us have lost.

The genocide in Gaza has been characterized, in part, as "[scholasticide](#)," in reference to the [systematic attack on education](#) in which Israel has destroyed educational infrastructure, including Gaza's 12 universities and their affiliated colleges as well as seven other institutions of higher education – 19 institutions in all. More than 57 university buildings, including classrooms, labs, libraries, and museums, had been flattened as of 25 March 2025, some of them by aerial bombardment and others by controlled demolitions after they had been in use by the Israeli military as barracks, storage facilities, or interrogation centers.

On 17 January 2024, for example, after occupying the campus of al-Israa University since early November of 2023, [Israeli military forces detonated](#) hundreds of landmines inside the university, destroying the last standing university in Gaza. Al-Israa's graduate and undergraduate colleges, training hospital, science labs, media training studios, mosque, and national museum containing 3,000 rare artefacts were all obliterated. Israeli soldiers involved in these acts of destruction filmed themselves dancing and joking in celebration of

their hideous deed. The liquidation of faculty members and the destruction of the universities cannot be understood separately from Israel's colonial settler quest to erase the Palestinian presence in the country.



Some 87,000 students have suffered a near total disruption of their studies for the duration of the genocide, and more than 1200 have been killed. Upwards of 200 academic staff have perished, many in targeted attacks. Many more were injured and virtually every faculty member and student has been displaced, often multiple times. We note that these numbers will no doubt increase substantially when more people are recovered from under the rubble and the many who died from the dearth of medicines and medical treatment can be recorded.

In the face of this campaign of ruination, university administrators, faculty, and staff in Gaza have made heroic efforts to revive and sustain teaching and research, to carry on the work of the many colleagues they have lost. In May of 2024, the three major non-profit universities in Gaza – the Islamic University, al-Azhar University, and al-Aqsa University - joined forces to establish the [Emergency Committee of Universities in Gaza](#). The aim of the Committee is to facilitate the operations of the universities, promote the resumption of on-line teaching, and foster international contacts and partnerships. All three universities have been teaching online since the summer of 2024, in spite of the extensive damage to the infrastructure, intermittent internet access, and the repeated displacement of students and faculty. We aspire to respond to calls for cooperation in the project of rebuilding higher education in Gaza as part of our commemorative mission.

## Construction of the Archive

In profiling our colleagues, we have limited ourselves to those with a clear affiliation to one of Gaza's institutions of higher education and a record of activity as scholars. In the tradition of the Arab biographers of old, we have fashioned a *tabaqa*, a distinct class or category of people, to memorialize in a biographical dictionary of sorts. Many of Gaza's writers and thinkers, engineers, doctors, journalists and others did not fit into this category, especially if they were independent scholars or worked in institutions outside of higher education. Their lives, and indeed the lives of every child, woman, and man killed in the genocide, are every bit as precious. We trust that, over time, the lives of all who perished in this time and place of genocide will be properly recorded and memorialized.

Many groups and organizations have been collecting the names of scholars killed in Gaza, and we have relied on the lists of academics we accessed from a variety of places, among them the Palestinian Ministry of Education, the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, Remembering Palestine Academics, and Scholars against the War on Palestine. We tried to research each name based on online sources including university websites, social media posts, scholars' own personal websites, well-known academic websites like Academia.edu, Google Scholar and Dar al-Mandumah (a database for Arabic scholarly output), as well as those of journals. We also consulted Palestinian and other Arab media outlets and organizations that provide biographical information, such as [Genocide in Gaza](#) and the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#).

English-language online sources do not employ consistent systems of transliteration from Arabic: we list each colleague with the spelling of the name that occurs most often. We provide, in parentheses in the first line of the biography, variations in spelling or transliterations according to the International Journal of Middle East Studies style sheet. Other names mentioned in the biographies – those of family members, friends, colleagues of the deceased – are spelled in the version found in English online or transliterated from the Arabic. Some of the online material proved to be quite ephemeral, as Facebook pages or Instagram and X posts might disappear from one search to the next. Our dependence on the internet explains in part the variation in length and detail of the biographies; the online presence of some scholars was more robust than others. We have also tried, as much as possible, to verify our information by directing inquiries to surviving Gazan colleagues. Overall, our work has depended greatly on the labors of Gaza scholars, their students, and

university leaders who have been defying erasure through their recording of the lives and deaths of Gazan intellectuals. The translations from the Arabic sources are our own.

We see this archive as very much a work in progress. We plan to continue to add biographies as more information becomes available, and we invite others to contribute with corrections as well as additional names and information.

Rana Dajani, Professor, The Hashemite University

Sharif S. Elmusa, Professor Emeritus, The American University in Cairo

Mona El-Ghobashy, Clinical Associate Professor, New York University

Miriam R. Lowi, Professor Emerita, The College of New Jersey

Judith E. Tucker, Professor Emerita, Georgetown University

Photo credit: [al-Jazeera](#)

## **Nahed Izzat Abdel Latif** ناهض عزات عبد اللطيف



Nahed Abdel Latif (Nāhiḍ ‘Abd al-Laṭīf), age 51, was a lecturer in the Department of Medical Technology in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at al-Aqsa University in Gaza where he was a highly praised teacher. He also worked as a medical laboratory scientist at al-Shifa’ Hospital.

He was born in Gaza on 15 March 1972. He received his MA degree in Medical Technology from the Islamic University in 2011, and subsequently taught at al-Aqsa University where he also served as chair and vice-chair of the Department of Medical Technology.

Mr. Abdel Latif taught a wide range of material: he covered bacterial cell structure, immunology, parasitology, and virology among other topics. His students mourned him greatly. He was described by former student Dalia Nader as “one of the best, kindest, favourite and most compassionate doctors who taught me at university. You cannot imagine how generous, kind, and gentle this person is....He was like a father of the female students... My heart is tired of losing the people that we love. They were never numbers, nor will they be. Doctor Nahed will never be a number, neither he nor his

family.” Another student, Rahaf Abed, paid tribute to Mr. Nahed Abdel Latif: “A good teacher and father of scholarly stature and a cheerful character.... We have never known you to be anything but kind, generous and honest.” He was widely known as a charming man who always had a smile on his face, someone who was universally loved.



(Mr. Abdel Latif with his wife and children)

On 26 October 2023, Israeli warplanes bombed the homes of the Abdel Latif and the Abu Hasira families on al-Nafaq Street in central Gaza City, killing Mr. Abdel Latif, his wife Umm Muhammad al-Zard, and their children: daughters Nadia, Nada, Noura and Rasha and son Muhammad. Mr. Abdel Latif’s brother was also killed along with his wife and children.

Photo credits: [X](#)

## Rola Fadl Abdul Jawad رولا فضل عبد الجواد



Rola Abdul Jawad (Rulā ‘Abd al-Jawād), age 29, had held an appointment in the Department of Computer Engineering at Gaza University and offered courses in multimedia studies at several other universities in Gaza. She was also continuing to develop her career as a graphic designer in the international freelance market.

Ms. Abdul Jawad received her B.A. in Computer Engineering, after which she took a position as a lecturer at Gaza University. She continued her own training at the Women’s Affairs Center in Gaza, where she focused on graphic design and subsequently built a career as a freelance designer. She was a strong advocate for female employment and encouraged other young women to enter the international freelance market because it offered opportunities for a well remunerated and flexible work life.



Her close friend Rama Khalil Ayash remembered Ms. Abdul Jawad as someone “with a beautiful smile and eyes filled with the love of life.” She was ambitious and lived her personal mantra of “you will be what you desire one day.” She had elegant tastes and loved to shop and get new manicures. She very much wanted to travel, but like many young people of her age she had never been able to leave Gaza. Her natural ebullience dimmed during the Israeli attacks, and in her final post she wrote: “Those who survived are the ones who died.”

Ms. Abdul Jawad was killed, along with her sister, on 25 November 2023 in Gaza City by an Israeli bombardment.

Photo credits: Gigaza; X

## Ahmad Hamdi Abo Absa أحمد حمدي أبو عيسى



Dr. Ahmad Abo Absa (Aḥmad Abū ‘Absā) was a renowned Palestinian engineer, educator, and researcher whose career was marked by academic distinction, deep commitment to his students, and groundbreaking work in signal processing and software engineering. Born on 1 April, 1983, in Gaza City, he completed his early education with honors and later enrolled at the Islamic University of Gaza, where he earned his BS in Communication and Control Engineering in 2005.

He went on to pursue advanced degrees in computer and communication sciences, earning an MS in Computer Science from the University of Northern Virginia in 2007 and a second MS in Communication Engineering from the Islamic University of Gaza in 2012. In 2018, he obtained his Ph.D. in Signal Processing Engineering from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) in Saudi Arabia. His [published doctoral dissertation](#), *Self-Learning Techniques for Arabic Speech Segmentation and Recognition*, made substantial contributions to the growing field of Arabic speech technologies.

Dr. Abo Absa’s research interests included speech recognition, image processing, biomedical engineering, and machine learning. His work was widely [published](#), including articles in [IEEE Access](#) and the *Arabian Journal for Science and Engineering*,

where he co-authored [papers](#) on emotion recognition systems, ensemble-based classifiers, and optimization algorithms for communication systems.

He held numerous academic roles at the University of Palestine in Gaza, where he served as a lecturer, Head of the Software Engineering Department, and later, Dean of the College of Media and Internet Technology. He was a core contributor to the university's iBridge Project, which aimed to align academic programs with labor market demands and support international software export initiatives.

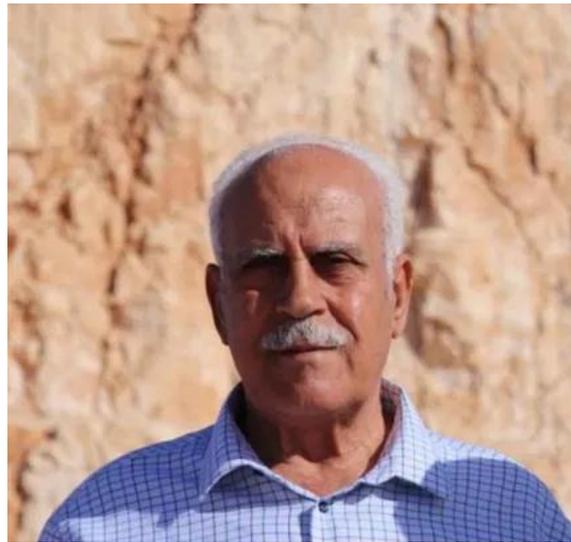
Known as a gifted educator, Dr. Abo Absa taught a diverse set of subjects, including digital media, discrete mathematics, image processing, systems analysis, and operations research. Students admired him for his clarity, rigor, and sincere mentorship.

On 12 December 2023, Dr. Ahmad Hamdi Abo Absa was killed at the age of 40 by an Israeli tank missile shortly after his release from detention, which had lasted two days. His death marked a deep loss to the Palestinian academic and research communities.

Dr. Abo Absa is survived by his family and a lasting legacy of scholarship and dedication to education. His influence endures through his students, his scientific contributions, and the institutions he helped shape under challenging circumstances.

Photo credit: [IPS](#)

## Mohammed Ali Abu Amara محمد علي أبو عمارة



Mohammed Abu Amara (Muḥammad Abū ‘Amāra), age 79, was a scholar-jurist who had served as Dean of the Faculty of Law at al-Azhar University in Gaza, officiated as a judge in Palestinian courts, and wrote two books and a number of articles focused on his field of expertise, contemporary administrative law in Palestine.

During the time Dr. Abu Amara was dean, the Faculty of Law expanded and integrated more practical training into its curriculum. Dr. Abu Amara underscored the importance of this development on the occasion of the first mock criminal court held at the university in 2006, an event attended by university administrators, faculty, a delegation of members of the judiciary, and many law students, male and female. In his opening welcome, [Dr. Abu Amara remarked](#) that, "We are embarking on a practical, applied activity that will move us from the theoretical to the practical in a mock criminal trial similar to the criminal trials that take place in the corridors of the judiciary and the halls of the courts. This represents a distinct qualitative shift in the formation of our progeny, the judges of the future."

Dr. Abu Amara was also an active scholar who published a [book-length work](#) in 1993 on administrative law in Palestine: *Administrative Law: The Scope of Public Administration in Palestine and the Gaza Strip*. This was followed by his [three-part study](#) in 1998, *Administrative Justice in Palestine and the Gaza Strip*. In addition, he authored a number of [academic articles](#) on topics that ranged from the disciplinary

liability of public employees in Palestine to the concept of the administrative contract in the era of the Palestinian Authority.

Dr. Abu Amara was killed on 5 November 2023, along with several family members, when Israeli aircraft bombed without warning the building in Gaza City where they had taken refuge.

Photo credit: [Gigaza](#)

## Azmi Khalil Salim Abu Daqqah عزمي خليل سالم أبو دقة



Dr. Azmi Abu Daqqah (‘Azmi Abū Daqqah) was a lecturer and head of the Center for Environmental and Chemical Analysis at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG). He was also chair of the Board of Directors of al-Birr Charitable Society.

Dr Abu Daqqah obtained his PhD from IUG in Microbiology. He worked in the darkest of circumstances and risked his life many times to feed the hungry and meet their needs. He did not hesitate to do charitable work even during Israel’s 2023 aggression, as he managed several camps that housed hundreds of displaced people. In his farewell to his son who was killed he said: “We are not the exception among people. We push our sons to the front lines.”

Dr Azmi was killed on the morning of Saturday 18 May 2024 when his car was struck by a bomb or shelling in the southern Muhrrarat area between Khan Yunis and western Rafah.



Photo credits: Facebook; X

## Mahmoud Khalil Abu-Duff محمود خليل أبو دف



Mahmoud Abu-Duff (Maḥmūd Abū Duff), age 62, was a teacher and administrator dedicated to improving the educational experience of Palestinian children. He was a Professor of Education and former Dean of the College of Education at the Islamic University of Gaza, as well as Chief Editor of the *Journal of Education and Psychological Studies* published by the university.

Dr. Abu-Duff received his BA in Education (Arabic Language) from the Islamic University in Gaza in 1985. He was awarded an MA in Fundamentals of Education from the University of Omdurman, Sudan, in 1989. He earned his PhD in Education from the same university in 1993.

Dr. Abu Duff was an active researcher, who attended conferences and published papers in the field of education, focusing on Islamic education and teacher training. In addition to a number of academic articles published in Palestine, Egypt, and Jordan, he authored a book, *Introduction to Islamic Education*, which was published by Afaq Printing and Publishing House, Gaza, in 2002. He also edited *An Introduction to Islamic Education: The Manifestation of Negative Change in Contemporary Muslim Reality According to the Prophet's sunnah, and How to Address it in Light of Islamic Education*, published by the School of Education, the Islamic University of Gaza in 2004.

When Dr. Abu-Duff served as chair for the conference on “The Palestinian Child between the Challenges of Reality and Future Aspirations” in 2005, [he welcomed the participants](#) by speaking to the necessity of providing a quality education for Palestinian children that can guide them toward a brighter future. He shared his vision for the College of Education as one of contributing to the education of a Palestinian individual based on faith, knowledge, and the skills capable of keeping pace with development, facing challenges, and participating effectively in building their society.

Dr. Abu-Duff [was killed](#) alongside his wife, Dr. Khitam al-Wasifi, when their home in al-Zaytun, Gaza City was hit by an Israeli missile strike on 1 December 2023.

Photo credit: [Gigaza](#)

## Fadil Khaled Hussein Abu Hein **فضل خالد حسين أبو هين**



Fadil Abu Hein (Faḍl Abū Hayn) was a professor, researcher and psychologist at al-Aqsa University for more than 20 years. He was a beloved teacher and a prolific scholar with a distinguished career as a psychologist-practitioner. He was an expert in treating trauma and the mental health effects of exposure to violent conflict and war, and he worked hard to de-stigmatize mental health treatment in Gaza.

Dr. Abu Hein grew up in Gaza City where he lived in al-Shuja`iyya neighborhood. He earned both his master's and doctorate degrees from the Department of Clinical Psychology at Ain Shams University, Cairo. When he returned to Palestine, he took up a teaching position in the Psychology Department at al-Aqsa University in Khan Yunis. For some years he also served as department head. He had a parallel career as psychotherapist and professional trainer-supervisor through work he conducted at the Center for Psychological Counseling and Human Development and as director of the Community Training Center for Crisis Management, both in Gaza. And he shared his expertise in multiple ways and with diverse audiences: he routinely attended academic conferences and professional meetings in Europe and elsewhere, and spoke on popular Palestinian talk shows to respond to questions about psychological challenges.

He had his own, [personal experience](#) with violence. In 2003, he was arrested by Israeli forces during a military incursion in al-Shuja`iyya that resulted in 13 Palestinians being killed, among them his three brothers. His family home was later razed to the ground by the Israeli military.

Fadil Abu Hein has numerous [publications](#), most of which appear in al-Aqsa University's *Journal of the Humanities*. His early publications, beginning with his [1985 master's thesis](#), describe mental health symptoms of segments of the Palestinian population in Gaza. Later publications address scientific studies he undertook and their findings regarding the effects of specific forms of violence. For example, a [2001 article](#) discusses the psychological effects on Palestinian children of house demolitions carried out by Israel; a [2006 article](#) treats the psychological effects of captivity and torture and their impact on coping strategies of Gazans released from Israeli prisons. Another [set of publications identifies](#) a particular 'episode' in the long trajectory of conflict and violence – the al-Aqsa Intifada (2000-2005) – and considers psychological variables and effects. For example, two articles published in 2001 investigate the choice among Palestinian youth to participate in the Intifada and its relationship to their [sense of self-esteem](#).

During and following the Israelis' [three-week military offensive](#) from 27 December 2008 to 18 January 2009, Fadil Abu Hein and his colleagues interviewed 950 families, among them 2,180 children, across Gaza, and found that a majority of children displayed signs of trauma. Once a ceasefire took hold, teams from his center went into areas most affected by the onslaught to provide children with emergency counselling. Of this violent episode, Abu Hein insisted at that time -- more than 15 years before the present, ongoing genocide -- that it had inflicted more severe trauma than previous conflicts in Gaza because civilians did not have a "safe zone". In an [interview in 2022](#) he indicated that "[I]t is difficult to provide psychological treatment because Gaza lives in a changing reality..."

Fadil Abu Hein was killed by a sniper on 23 January 2024. He was in Khan Yunis when Israeli forces [besieged the city](#). He was 66 years old.

Learning of his death, colleagues and students shared [moving tributes](#), among them: "...[My heart breaks](#) for the life he has endured, the dignity he displayed and his unnecessary death.... a huge loss to the people of Gaza."

Photo credit: [Gigaza](#)

## Salem `Abdullah Abu Mukhdah **سالم عبدالله أبو مخدة**



Salem Abu Mukhdah (Sālim Abū Makhadda), age 52, was an active scholar of Islamic law who published broadly on issues of Islamic legal doctrine and practice relevant to contemporary times. He served as an educator for many years, first as a teacher in Gazan schools and later as an associate professor, lecturer, department head, and vice-dean at the Islamic University in Gaza. He was a scholar-teacher who made significant contributions to his field as a researcher, instructor, and administrator.

Dr. Abu Mukhdah was born in the Gaza Strip in 1971 and completed his primary and secondary education in Gazan schools. He received a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Shari`a in 1995, a general diploma in education from the Faculty of Education in 1997, and a master's degree in 2006 from the Faculty of Shari`a and Law in the field of Shari`a Jurisprudence, all from the Islamic University in Gaza. [He earned his doctoral degree](#) in 2012 from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities in the field of Comparative Jurisprudence from Janan University in Lebanon, with a thesis entitled, *Rulings on Dealing with the Enemy in Islamic fiqh: a Palestinian Case Study*.

Dr. Abu Mukhdah worked as a teacher for the Palestinian Ministry of Education from 1998 to 2008. [After completing](#) his MA degree, he became a lecturer at the Faculty of Shari`a and Law at the Islamic University in Gaza in 2007. Once he completed his doctoral degree, he was tapped to become Deputy Dean of the College of Shari`a and Law for Scientific Research and Postgraduate Studies at the Islamic University from

2012-2013, and head of the Department of Islamic Shari`a at the Faculty of Shari`a and Law from 2013-2015 and again in 2018. He was also a member of the Fatwa Committee at the Islamic University from 2015 to the time of his death.



(Dr. Abu Mukhdah, second from left)

Dr. Abu Mukhdah was [author and co-author](#) of some 40 academic articles and posters on issues arising in contemporary Islamic legal doctrine and practice related to family relations, religious ritual, education, and business arrangements. Among them: "The extent of the judge's authority in consensual and judicial khul`" [female-initiated divorce], published in the *Journal of Islamic Sciences*, Faculty of Islamic Sciences, Iraqi University, in 2019, and "Divorce of the Psychiatric Patient in Islamic Jurisprudence," published in the *Journal of Research and Sharia Studies in the Arab Republic of Egypt*, in 2017.

Dr. Abu Mukhdah was killed along with his entire family by an Israeli airstrike that came without warning on his home in Dayr al-Balah on 18 October 2023.

Photo credits: [IPS](#); [Facebook](#)

## **Nasser Ibrahim Ahmed Abu El-Noor** ناصر إبراهيم أحمد أبو النور



Dr. Nasser Abu El-Noor (Nāṣir Abū al-Nūr) was a distinguished Palestinian nurse, academic, and health policy expert whose life was dedicated to the advancement of nursing education and the improvement of health care systems in Gaza and beyond. Dr. Nasser served as Professor and Dean of the School of Nursing at the Islamic University of Gaza, where he was a central figure in developing clinical education and health research for over two decades.

Born in the al-Geneina neighborhood of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 22 May 1964, Dr. Abu El-Noor attended local schools in Rafah before pursuing his passion for health care. He earned his bachelor's degree in nursing from al-Quds University College of Nursing in 1996. Driven by a commitment to both practice and policy, he pursued further studies abroad, receiving his Master of Arts in Nursing Administration from Marquette University in 1998 and his PhD in Health Care Policy from the University of Akron in 2010.

His early career began as a general nurse at the Arab National Hospital in Gaza, where he worked from 1990 to 1997, eventually becoming a senior nurse. In 1996, he joined the Islamic University of Gaza as a clinical lecturer in the Faculty of Nursing. Over the years, he rose through academic and administrative ranks, serving in multiple

leadership roles including Head of the Clinical Practice Department (2010–2011), Chairman of the Quality Improvement Committee (2011–2012), and Chairman of the Planning Committee (2012–2014), before ultimately becoming Dean of the School of Nursing.

Dr. Abu El-Noor was a prolific scholar, having authored and co-authored over 70 academic articles in English focusing on health care policy, nursing practice, post-traumatic stress disorder, and end-of-life care, areas of profound relevance in conflict-affected regions like Gaza. His work reflected a deep commitment to addressing the psychological and systemic challenges faced by patients and health care providers under siege and occupation. He was the editor of the *Journal of Health Care and Prevention*.

Dr. Nasser Abu El-Noor was killed on 21 February 2024, along with his wife, five children, and granddaughter, when an Israeli airstrike targeted their home in the al-Geneina neighborhood of Rafah.

Dr. Abu El-Noor is remembered not only for his academic and professional achievements, but for his steadfast dedication to his students, his community, and to the human right to health and dignity under even the most difficult circumstances.

Photo credit: X

## Somaya Kamal Abu Oun سمية كمال ابو عون



Somaya Abu Oun (Sumayya Abū ‘Awn) was a teaching assistant in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Palestine. According to her Curriculum Vitae on the University’s website, she taught General Physics Laboratory A and B. She had a BS in physics from the College of Science, the Islamic University of Gaza.

She was 33 years old and married to Basel Alhaj (see his bio in this archive), when they were both killed with many other relatives, after the Israeli air force struck their house in the Nusayrat Refugee Camp in Dayr al-Balah Governorate on 20 November 2023. They left behind their third-grade daughter, Jana, and a barely two-year-old son, `Abd al-Rahman. A post on the account gaza\_shaheed on X dedicated to those who were killed by the Israeli army memorializes her with the following words: “[Somaya] was known for her kindness and her love of learning. She was a perfectionist and worked hard at whatever task she chose. Thanks to her character and her dedication, she became a good example for many to follow.”

Photo credit: X

## Wael Ibrahim Salim Abu Quffah وائل إبراهيم سالم أبو قففة



Wāel Abu Quffah (Wāel Abū Quffah) was one among at least 189 journalists and media workers killed by the Israeli military in Gaza. He worked as a sound editor at the educational Quran Karim Broadcast-Voice of the Islamic University of Gaza. His name appears on many of its programs. The Broadcast's graduates come mainly from specializations in journalism and media (Faculty of Literature) and proselytizing and media (Faculty of Fundamentals of Religion), after receiving training in program preparation and presentation, broadcast engineering, and sound editing.

According to a message from his daughter to the account [gaza\\_shaheed](#) on Instagram, Abu Quffah received an MA in Digital Media from the Islamic University of Gaza and was in his third year working toward his PhD. And, she adds, prior to his graduate studies, he had done three years of academic work at the University of Mostghanem in Algeria.

An Israeli strike on the family house in the Nusayrat Refugee Camp in Dayr al-Balah Governorate, on 22 November 2024, took the lives of Wael and his thirteen-year-old son

Emad ( `Imad). Israel did not allow foreign journalists to enter Gaza to cover its invasion of the Strip, which made it easier to target Palestinian journalists.

The Palestinian Media Forum mourned their member's murder in a statement that acknowledged Abu Quffah's dedication in airing the suffering of the Palestinian people, and pledged to continue this mission. The Forum reminded the hard-of-hearing international community to act to put an end to the unprecedented Israeli slaughter of Palestinian journalists, which undermines their right and ability to perform the professional duties accorded to them by international law and humanitarian conventions.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) in New York, reported that its preliminary investigations indicated that 189 journalists and media workers in Gaza were killed by Israel as of 8 October 2025. And it pointed out that Israel has killed more Palestinian journalists than were killed worldwide in the period 2020-22. In a statement regarding the slaughter of Palestinian journalists, the CPJ called "on the international community to hold Israel to account for its unlawful attacks on journalists; ensure international media is given immediate, independent access to Gaza; and open humanitarian corridors for journalists."

In the above-cited message by his daughter, she included this personal note about him: "My father was very caring toward his daughters, generous with those he loved, and forthcoming with those who called on him." And one of `Emad's sisters posted this note on the account @gaza\_shaheed, on X, "My brother `Emad was liked by everybody, and he liked children... and he tried to respond to anyone who approached him. `Emad departed from this world, but not from our hearts."



(Wāel's thirteen-year-old son `Emad)

Photo credits: [Facebook](#); [X](#)

## Ismail Jamal Abusaada إسماعيل جمال أبو سعدة



Ismail Abusaada (Isma‘il Abū Sa‘adah) was a scholar and academic administrator with interests in promoting business and entrepreneurship among Gaza’s young people, in spite of the Israeli blockade. He was on the international faculty of the International American University and served as its Gaza academic coordinator.

Abusaada was born in the United Arab Emirates, where he received his secondary education. His family returned to Gaza, where he completed a BA and MBA in Business Administration, both from the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG). His master’s thesis was a case study of a new entrant in Gaza’s dense higher education infrastructure, the University College of Applied Sciences.

During this time, he was also active in the NGO space, serving as an advisor to a large humanitarian organization and the CEO of the Youth Media Center. In 2015, the Center along with other NGOs held a one-day conference at the Commodore Hotel in Gaza City, featuring several prominent Gaza journalists who were able to transcend the territory’s isolation and develop broader name recognition and professional success.

Abusaada then traveled to Malaysia to work on a PhD in business administration at the International Islamic University of Malaysia. His 2022 dissertation uses political economist Sara Roy’s framework of “de-development” to diagnose how Gaza’s Israeli-

engineered debility affects the local private sector, and develops a model of business sustainability in the face of this uncommon economic reality.

A spin-off article, “The Challenge for Business Owners in the Gaza Strip,” argues, “The literature assumes that periods of instability are followed by periods of stability. Furthermore, the literature on instability never considers the unique case of one country with absolute military control trying to “de-develop” another country. Thus, the authors propose that a new term be coined, namely “prolonged instability.”

Dr. Abusaada returned to Gaza to teach business students enrolled with the Los Angeles-based International American University. Of the thesis defense of several Palestinian MBA students, he posted on his LinkedIn, “It’s fascinating when you see your students reaching their final destination and delivering excellent presentations for their thesis [sic]. Also, you feel proud with other students when you examine their thesis and find a lot of effort and outstanding achievement.”

On 5 December 2023, Dr. Abusaada was killed in an Israeli strike (some sources indicate it was sniper fire). A friend remembered him on X, “I don’t know anyone who met you and didn’t love you. May God have mercy on you, O pure of heart and virtuous qualities.”

The *al-Jazeera* correspondent Tamer Almisḥal, who had attended the 2015 journalism conference, paid tribute on X, “May God have mercy on you, the creative martyr and energetic son of Gaza, Dr. Ismail Abusaada.”

Photo Credit: X

## Nesma 'Adil Abu Sha'ira نسمة عادل أبو شعيرة



Nesma Abu Sha'ira (Nasma Abu Sha'ira) was an artist and lecturer in the Department of Fine Arts and Graphic Design at al-Aqsa University. In February 2023, eight months before her untimely death, she was appointed Assistant Head of her department.

Nesma Abu Sha'ira was born on 26 April 1987 and lived in Gaza City. She earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees – in Fine Arts and Architecture, and in Clinical Nutrition – both from al-Aqsa University in 2011. In 2018, she completed a master's degree from the College of Education at Islamic University of Gaza, with a specialization in General Curricula and Teaching Methods. Her [MA thesis](#) addressed the question whether developing artistic design skills benefits significantly from training in improving students' visual intelligence. Nesma Abu Sha'ira conducted a controlled experiment between two groups of female students in the Faculty of Fine Arts at al-Aqsa University. She concluded that those who had followed coursework with systematic training in both perceiving and manipulating visual details had demonstrably more sophisticated design skills than those who had not.

As an artist, Nesma Abu Sha‘ira especially enjoyed creating [character sketches](#) of mystical creatures and characters from books. However, her [Instagram account](#) was her gallery, where she exhibited the range of her artistry and creative production. At the time of her death, she was engaged in a few different projects; she was creating illustrations for a children’s book, as well as a [new series of artworks](#) “documenting Palestine” in her own way. Abu Sha‘ira was a recognized artist: in 2011, for example, she won third place in the first Gaza Contemporary Art Festival.

As a teacher and pedagogue, Professor Abu Sha‘ira was very proud, especially of her female students, in whom she saw “a [bright future](#).” She routinely posted her [students’ artwork](#) on Instagram, especially their storyboards which she considered a compelling medium for sharing the Palestinian story. She was loved by her students who, in their [tributes](#), spoke of her in glowing terms:

“I never imagined that one day I would share my sorrow and exhausted feelings, and experiences that will never be lost from my memory, like the departure of my teacher, for example.”

“My beloved teacher, Nesma Abu Sha‘ira, or as we always called her, ‘Miss Nesma’ – the one with the tender heart and the gentle, kind influence. My former teacher at the College of Fine Arts excelled in her field and always aimed to do her very best. I used to consider her my role model and I regarded her as my favorite artist.”

“Our last encounter was during the discussion of my graduation project.... I will never forget the sparkle in her eyes and her pride in her student at that moment.”

“It breaks my heart, truly, to lose you. We will never have another teacher like you!”

“It's difficult for me to say that she was and remains in the past, but God is my witness that she is always in my heart and prayers.”

Nesma Abu Sha‘ira was killed with her daughter, Habeeba (Habība), on 28 October 2023 when an Israeli airstrike hit her home in Gaza City. She was 36 years old.



Photo credits: [Our Gaza](#); [Untold Palestine](#)

## Khalil Abu Yahia خليل يحيى خليل البطش



Khalil Abu Yahia (Khalīl Abū Yahyā), aka Khalil al-Baṭsh, 27, was a scholar, activist, and an organic intellectual. He dedicated his truncated life to cognitive liberation from colonial mental models and from Zionism’s epistemological erasure of Palestinians.

Abu Yahia worked as a public school English teacher and a freelance English translator. In September 2023, he was appointed a lecturer in the English Department of the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG).

He began engaging with postcolonial English literature at al-Aqsa University, where he earned a BA in 2018. It was there that he fell in love with the writings of Edward Said, Frantz Fanon, and Ghassan Kanafani, as he chronicled on his [Instagram page](#). College was also where he became an activist with the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, which he advocated until his last days.

His mentor was Dr. Haidar Eid, professor of postcolonial literature, with whom he would develop a close collaboration. They worked on an oral history project interviewing 21 Nakba survivors in Gaza. They also produced a short film titled “Returning to Zarnouqa,” recalling the village from which Eid’s parents were expelled in 1948.

Eid and Abu Yahia were active in Gaza’s Great March of Return (GMR) protests, the huge weekly gatherings that lasted for nearly two years (2018-2019). The protests called for an end to Israel’s ruinous blockade on Gaza and asserted Palestinians’ inalienable right of return to the homes from which they were expelled in 1948.



The only time Abu Yahia left Gaza was in 2019, when he traveled to East Jerusalem for spinal cord cancer surgery. Availing himself of the rare opportunity to see the rest of Palestine, he made a pilgrimage to Ghassan Kanafani’s house in `Akka (Acre). Standing in front of the home, Abu Yahia wrote, “I hope to live for the day when my friends and I from Gaza can visit Ghassan’s house without Erez or occupation or colonialism (to hell and the dustbin of history).”

By this point, Abu Yahia was working toward his master’s degree in linguistics and translation at IUG. He also honed other kinds of research-based writing, including a deeply reported feature story with two Israeli coauthors on how Israel’s blockade undermined Gaza’s potential to build climate resilience.

In 2022, he earned his MA from IUG with a thesis titled *Decolonizing The Nation through Translation: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Anti-Colonial Palestinian Narrative*. The thesis shows how Palestinian translators leave an intentional mark in their works, reconstructing rather than merely transmitting texts to put forward a vibrant Palestinian counter-narrative.

Ten days into Israel's 2023 assault, Abu Yahia told an interviewer: "I fear that I will die without achieving my dreams. I want to complete my PhD. I want to rebuild my family's house." And he reiterated his commitment to BDS: "When every government boycotts this colonial system, it will be isolated. And that's how it will end."

On 29 October 2023, Khalil Abu Yahia was killed by an Israeli airstrike on his in-laws' home in al-Zawayda in central Gaza, along with his wife Tasneem Thabet and their two baby daughters, Elaf (2) and Retal (1). At least 17 other family members also perished.

Tributes poured in from all over the world, remembering a luminous mind cut down in its prime. Dutch university students named their protest encampment in Abu Yahia's honor. A student at the University of Bologna dedicated his thesis to him. And editors of *Jewish Currents* eulogized Abu Yahia's "unfettered imagination."

Photo Credits: Chuffed; Instagram

**`Abd al-Salam Uthman Abu Zayidah** عبد السلام عثمان أبو زائدة



Abd al-Salam Abu Zayidah (‘Abd al-Salām Abū Zāyida) was a mathematician who played an important role in higher education over the years as an academic administrator, teacher, and research scholar at al-Aqsa University in Gaza.

Dr. Abu Zayidah earned his BA in 1988, his MA in 1992, and his PhD in 2002, all in the field of mathematics with a specialty in geometry. He taught as a Professor in the Department of Mathematics at al-Aqsa University. He was a respected and seasoned academic administrator who was repeatedly tapped to play important administrative roles at al-Aqsa. He served as Dean of Continuing Education from September 2005 to September 2008, and as Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences from November 2010 to September 2012 and again from September 2017 to December 2019. He was appointed Dean of Graduate Studies in November 2021, a position he held up to the time of his death. He also served on the Board of the University Teachers Society - Palestine.

Dr. Abu Zayidah published a number of mathematical papers in academic journals, including papers in geometry on the properties of  $D_{n,k}$  and  $D_{5,2}$  and the size of

blocking sets, upon occasion in collaboration with his colleague Muhammad al-Atrash from the Islamic University in Gaza.

The Israeli Airforce bombed a house adjacent to the Abu Zayidah family home in Jabalya Refugee Camp without prior warning on 12 December 2024, killing Dr. Abu Zayidah, age 59, and his wife, Miriam Mahmoud Abu Zayidah.

Photo credit: [Facebook](#)

## Muhammad Mahmud Yousif Abu-Zur محمد محمود يوسف أبو زور



Muhammad Abu-Zur (Muḥammad Abū Zawr) was a professor of Hadith and the Fundamentals of Islam at the Islamic University. He earned his master's degree from the University of Jordan in 1993. His [thesis](#), entitled, *Al-Qushayri's Approach in the Book Laṭā'if al-Ishārāt (The Subtleties of Signs)* provides an analysis of the method of interpretation of the Qur'an – referred to as allegorical interpretation -- adopted by Abū al-Qāsim 'Abd al-Karīm al-Qushayrī (d. 465H/1072CE), a pivotal figure in the development of Sufism.

Professor Abu-Zur was killed, along with many members of his family, on 6 December 2023 (or 7 or 8 December) when the Israeli military launched an attack on al-Zaytun neighborhood in the southern portion of Gaza City and his house was bombed. During that attack, at least 55 people were killed and dozens were injured. Muhammad Abu-Zur was 64 years old. He was married and had several children.

Photo credits: [Gigaza](#)

## Mohammed Yahya Ahmad Suleiman Adwan محمد يحيى احمد سليمان العدوان



Dr. Mohammed Adwan (Muḥammad al-‘Udwān) was a trailblazing Palestinian physician, gastroenterologist, and humanitarian who served the people of Gaza with unwavering dedication for nearly five decades. He was born on 22 June 1951 and remained committed to the healing profession throughout his lifetime.

Dr. Adwan was a pioneer in the field of internal medicine and gastroenterology in the Gaza Strip. He was the first physician to introduce [endoscopy to Gaza](#), a groundbreaking medical advancement that transformed the diagnostic and treatment landscape of gastrointestinal diseases in the region. For over 40 years, he worked selflessly in Gaza’s strained health care system, treating countless patients under the shadow of siege, war, and occupation.

Despite suffering from chronic heart disease, Dr. Adwan continued to serve patients until his last day. During the 2023 war on Gaza, he was forced to evacuate on foot from his home due to heavy bombardment. While evacuating southward on 13 November 2023, he was shot in the head by an Israeli sniper. He was 72 years old. His children carried his body on foot for more than 20 kilometers across a devastated landscape, toward the south of the Gaza Strip.



Dr. Adwan's life was marked not only by his medical legacy but also by personal sacrifice. He was the father of two martyrs, and yet remained resilient in his service to humanity. His values and spirit of healing live on through his children. Three of his sons became doctors, including Dr. Mustafa Adwan, a respected lecturer in anatomy in London. Mustafa's wife is also a physician, continuing the family tradition of medical service.

Colleagues and patients alike remember Dr. Adwan as a gentle, brilliant, and profoundly dedicated physician who practiced medicine not just as a career, but as a moral calling. His decades of innovation, mentorship, and compassion will not be forgotten.

Photo Credit: X

## Nida' 'Azzu Isma'il 'Affanah نداء عزو إسماعيل عفانة



Nida' 'Affanah (Nidā' 'Afāna) was from Dayr al-Balah Governorate in the central Gaza Strip. She grew up and lived with her family in al-Maghazi Refugee Camp. In her professional life she was both a pedagogue and a practitioner: she taught General Biology at the University of Palestine and worked as an educational supervisor at Islamic University.

Professor 'Affanah completed a master's degree in Education at Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) in 2013. Her thesis focused on and evaluated different strategies for teaching the sciences to high school girls in Gaza. Seven years later — in 2020, she earned a doctorate in Education from the Department of Curriculum and Teaching Methods in the Faculty of Education at IUG. Her areas of expertise were evaluation and measurement. Building upon and moving beyond her earlier research, she defended a thesis entitled: *The Effectiveness of a Proposed Educational Program in Science based on De Bono's Theory for Developing Lateral Thinking Skills, Self-Regulation of Learning, and Creative Problem Solving among Eighth Grade Female Students in Gaza*.

Just one year after receiving her doctorate, an article Professor 'Affanah had co-authored and that was based on her thesis was published in the *Journal of the Islamic University for Educational and Psychological Studies* (2021).

Nida' 'Affanah was killed in the early afternoon on 2 November 2023 when, without prior notice, an Israeli airstrike hit the 'Affanah family home in al-Maghazi Refugee Camp. (It is worth noting that between 17 October and 24 December 2023, the camp was targeted and hit by Israeli forces on at least five separate occasions.) Thirteen members of her family were killed, including five young children. Both her parents, three brothers and her three-year-old daughter were killed in the strike, as well as four nieces and nephews and a sister-in-law. Her husband, 'Ali Hisham Said al-Quraynawi (Qirināwi), a university lecturer and PhD holder, was killed in an Israeli airstrike 10 days earlier (see bio in this archive).

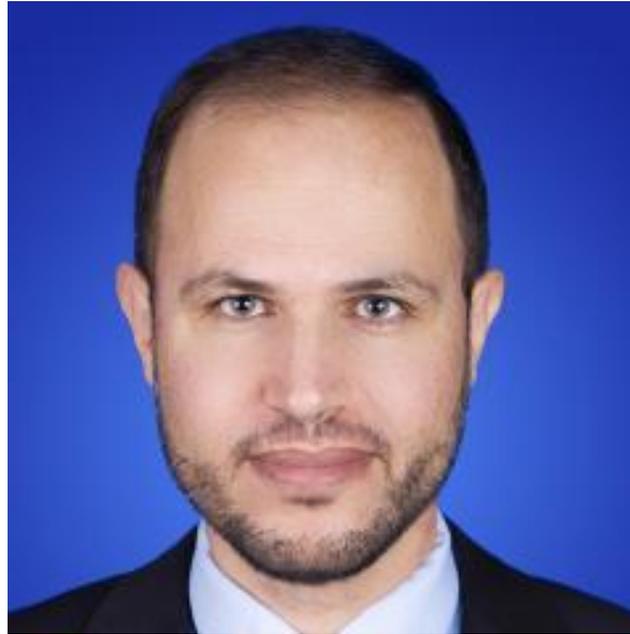
Nida' 'Affanah was 34 years old. She was a scholar and a professor. She was also a mother, a daughter, a sister, an aunt and a wife.



(Nida' 'Affanah, left, and colleague Samar al-'Abadla)

Photo credits: [IPS](#); [elagha.net](#)

## Refaat Alareer رفعت العرعر



Refaat Alareer (Rif'at al-'Ar'ir) taught literature and creative writing at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG). He earned a PhD in English Literature at the Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2017 with a dissertation on the English metaphysical poet, John Donne. He graduated ten years earlier with an MA from University College London, after having completed his BA in English in 2001 from the Islamic University of Gaza.

Alareer was a prominent writer, poet and activist. He co-edited, *Gaza Unsilenced*, which includes commentary, testimonials, and poems that spoke to the Israeli onslaught on Gaza in 2014. That onslaught lasted 51 days and left more than 2,200 people dead, and proved to be a miniscule model of the current prototype. In his two essays in the said anthology, Alareer documents the death of his brother, Hamada, who was an actor and played the role of Karkour, a mischievous chicken, on a Gaza TV station, coupled with the destruction of their extended family's house.

In the second essay, he explains that his philosophy of teaching literature is to humanize the Other, and he uses the example of introducing the late Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai to his students. He also reminds the reader of the destruction by Israeli missiles of two buildings at his university, including the one with the offices of the English Department.

Alareer's posthumous, *If I Must Die: Poetry and Prose*, which contains a selection of his wide-ranging poems and essays, was published by OR Books on the first anniversary of his death.

Alongside teaching and writing, he was an activist and co-founder of the organization, We Are Not Numbers. The organization matched experienced authors with young writers in Gaza, and promoted the power of storytelling as a means of resistance. Before his death, Alareer appeared on Democracy Now, the BBC and ABC News.

Born in Gaza City on 23 September 1979, Alareer was killed on 6 December 2023 in an Israeli airstrike on his family house. (He had previously received death threats online and by phone from Israeli accounts.) The air raid also took the lives of other members of his family— his brother and sister and her three children. He was survived by his wife and their six children.

Of Alareer's much-cited poem, "If I must Die," written to his daughter Shymaa in 2011, the British newspaper *The Guardian* wrote, "its seemingly simple verses vibrate, stretched taut between tragedy, tenderness and resolve." In it he says to his daughter:

If I must die,  
you must live  
to tell my story  
.....  
If I must die  
let it bring hope  
let it be a tale



(Alareer in the early days of the Israeli invasion)

Photo credits: [Ar.wikipedia](#); [Electronicintifada](#)

## Basel Alhaj باسل الحاج



Basel Alhaj (Basil al-Ḥāj) was both an academic and a computer software and information technology (IT) specialist working with government when he was killed together with many members of his family in an Israeli air raid in November 2023. He served as a Teaching Assistant, first at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) for one semester and, starting in 2019, at al-Aqsa University. He received an MSc in IT from the IUG in 2019 and a BSc in Computer Science from al-Aqsa University in 2015.

On his [LinkedIn](#) page where he elaborates on his education and various aspects of his work, he cites a conference paper, “Predicting User Entries by Using Data Mining Algorithms,” he co-authored with Ashraf al-Maghari and published in the online [IEEE Xplore](#), 2017. And on his [Facebook](#) page, he cites another paper co-authored with his advisor, Professor Iyad al-Agha, “Exploiting Wikipedia to Measure the Semantic Relatedness between Arabic Terms,” which appeared in the *Journal of the Islamic University School of Engineering*.

Alhaj’s work with the government included programming and archiving and electronic systems for the Ministers' Council, and developing financial and administrative systems for several government divisions. He was a member of Gaza Data Science Team, and

was awarded the prize for a big data competition organized by UCAS Technology Incubator in 2018. The UCAS Technology Incubator is a Gaza-based “innovation hub based in the Gaza Strip, dedicated to... nurturing new entrepreneurs, creative types, and startups (for more information on UCAS, see also the biography of Mohammad Saleh Hassouna in this collection).

His cousin with the same name, a well-known online roaming chef, movingly narrates in Arabic the killing of Alhaj with ten other family members, bringing the family death toll to thirteen. They lost their lives, he says, with one rocket that hit their house. He underlines the fact that Basel did not bear arms and there were no tunnels under his home, alluding to the Israeli bogus claims about the presence of tunnels for the resistance under hospitals and schools etc. “We were naïve,” he laments and then adds that his cousin, Basel, was a young man and had a wife and children, and held hopes for them all. But it was his destiny to die in Gaza, which he refused to forsake.

Alhaj was married to Somaya Kamal Abu Oun (see her bio in this archive). He had posted a picture of their daughter Jana, then in second grade, celebrating her prize for excelling in the English language, and an announcement of the birth of their son, `Abd al-Rahman on October 1, 2021.



(Alhaj attending a friend’s memorial in 2021)

Photo credits: [Facebook](#) (both photos)

**Majd Abdullatif Alhaj** **مجد عبد اللطيف الحاج**

Majd Alhaj (al-Hāj) was a Teaching Assistant in Computer Software Development, College of Information Technology at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG), and from 2018 onward an online IT Product Manager for the company Salasa-Your Growth Partner in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He graduated from IUG in Software Development, and described himself as interested in reading and photography, swimming, and a variety of IT topics.

He was killed on 21 November 2023 at the age of 32 in a harrowing airstrike on his family home in the al-Nusayrat Refugee Camp in Dayr al-Balah Governorate that annihilated 48 people. Twenty-three of the dead were from his own family, among them his wife, Amani Hussein, and their 11-months old daughter, Sara. They left behind a nine-year old son, Abdullatif, and a barely two-months-old daughter, Ayah. The circumstances of their death are relayed in an anguished podcast, *Shahid* (“Witness”), on YouTube by Majd’s father, Dr. Abdullatif, selected parts of it are transcribed and translated below.

Dr. Abdullatif, who was responsible for the primary care and psychological health in the hospital sector in the Ministry of Health, describes in the first half of the podcast how the devastation visited by the Israeli attacks on the hospitals was beginning to critically compromise their ability to offer adequate care to the steady stream of people brought in with severe and varied injuries that needed immediate and specialized treatment. Then he tells how being in the middle of the dead and injured, he couldn't but worry about his own children and grandchildren, for he had concluded that no one was safe in Gaza.

The dreaded call came at five o'clock in the morning informing him he must rush to another hospital because his own home was hit. And now, just as he had received hundreds of injured people at the hospitals, he had to face the murder of members of his own family, 23 of them, among the 48 killed in the strike. The house, he says, was leveled by a missile equipped with the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) smart guidance system, made by Boeing, ending the lives of all but a few of the people who were sheltering in it. The missile pulverized the structure to the point where, adds Dr. Abdullatif, it took nine days to unearth the bodies of some family members from under the debris— torn bodies, decaying corpses— while some of the buried could not be found months later. They all had been asleep.

Haltingly, with his voice breaking, and unable to control the flow of his tears, he speaks of the unbearable scene of his dead son, Majd, and his wife Amani, and between them their 11-months-old daughter, Sara, holding onto her father's body. Sara's sister, Ayah, only two weeks of age, had a bad head injury, with bleeding in the brain. Their brother, Abdullatif, named after his grandfather, was badly wounded and suffered a broken pelvis. Grieving deeply, the doctor recalls how before the tragedy befell his family, he waited for the war to end, to go back home and find little Sara, hug her, and hold her in his lap—the child he had a special fondness for.



(Majd, his daughter, Sara, father, Abdullatif and other family members)

Photo credits: Facebook (for both photos)

## Hamam Mahmoud Hassan Alloh همام محمود حسن اللوح



Hamam Alloh (Hammām al-Lawḥ), age 36, was the only physician specializing in nephrology in Gaza. Educated abroad, he returned to Gaza where he taught at the Faculties of Medicine of the Islamic University and al-Azhar University and worked as a clinician at al-Shifa' Hospital and the Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital. As Israeli attacks on the hospitals intensified, he refused to leave his patients and was killed by an Israeli airstrike next to al-Shifa'.

Dr. Alloh was born in Gaza on 26 April 1987. He received his primary and secondary education in Gaza schools. He traveled to Yemen to attend the Sana'a University Faculty of Medicine, obtaining his MD degree with honors in 2011. Subsequently, he specialized in internal medicine and nephrology in Jordan with a medical scholarship from the Qatar Red Crescent Medical Scholarship Program, and placed first in the Arab, Jordanian, and Palestinian board exams in his specialty. In 2018, he was appointed as a nephrologist at the Jordan Hospital, and in 2021 he returned to Gaza where his specialty was sorely needed. He continued to teach and treat patients with kidney disease and hypertension.

Dr. Alloh's friend, Dr. Hazem Madi, who worked with him during his training in Amman and later as a colleague in Gaza, said: "He would explain all the details to the patients, listen to their pain and answer their questions. He was a brilliant doctor, familiar with scientific studies and resources, and spent most of his nights in the hospital." Dr. Mohammed Al-Hajj, who specializes in internal medicine, talked with *al-Arabi al-Jadid* about Dr. Alloh: "I met him during my residency in Jordan and he was older than me, he embraced me and my colleagues from Gaza and became like a big brother. From a scientific point of view, he was with us step by step during my residency and we would consult him about any issue. He always supported us and constantly checked on our needs and problems."

When American journalist Amy Goodman asked Dr. Alloh on *Democracy Now!* why he was not leaving the hospital for a safer place in the south, he replied: "If I leave, who will take care of my patients? They are not animals, but they have the right to receive proper health care. Do you think I went to medical school and studied 14 years to think only about my life and not about my patients?" He also spoke with great distress about how he had to triage dialysis patients in the face of dwindling resources. On 26 October 2023 he gave an extended interview to Maya Rosen of *Jewish Currents*: "I always wanted to progress in my field—to learn more, to teach more. In Gaza, I haven't been able to do that. I hope to raise my kids to be ambitious—not to think about war, missiles, rockets. Every day, I see a fear in their eyes that I can't do much about. It's very painful. If you have kids, you know how horrible it is not to be able to comfort them, to ensure they are alright, to make them hope for anything beyond living one more day."



(Dr. Alloh and his two children)

On 12 November 2023, Israeli Air Force strikes targeted his wife's family home next to al-Shifa' Hospital, where he had gone to rest after a long day's work. He was killed along with his father, father-in-law Khalil al-Nakhal (see bio in this archive), and brother-in-law. He left behind his pregnant wife and two children, ages four and five.

Photo credits: Frontline Defenders; Democracy Now!

## Hasan ‘Ata Abdallah AlRadee حسن عطا عبد الله الرضيع



Hasan AlRadee (al-Rad‘ī), 35, was a prolific leftist political economist who wrote in several registers—academic papers, policy proposals, and an acerbic running commentary on the Palestinian economy, pitched to a lay audience.

AlRadee was born and lived in Bayt Lahya. He received a master’s degree in economics from al-Azhar University in 2015, for a thesis on the effects of the global financial crisis on Israeli financial markets. Five years later, he earned a PhD from the Holy Qur’an and Ta’seel al-‘Ulum University in Wad Madani, Sudan, for a dissertation on economic crisis in Palestine and its effects on income distribution. He was a lecturer at Israa University and an independent scholar.

In spring 2021, AlRadee had an abortive stint in electoral politics, running as a candidate for the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) on the slate of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). DFLP and 35 other contending groups included many young people such as AlRadee on their lists, reflecting the thirst to renovate political institutions after a 15-year period of no elections.

The elections did not take place. President Mahmoud Abbas indefinitely postponed the poll, citing Israel's refusal to allow East Jerusalemites to vote. DFLP, Hamas, and PFLP opposed Abbas's action.

AlRadee's academic essays center on development economics, making a case for it as an urgent and viable alternative to hegemonic neoliberal models. One paper critiques what he characterizes the "parasitic, rentier" character of the Muslim Brothers' economic thought and practice. Another plumbs the postwar economic experience of Rwanda as a model to reorient Palestine's economy. And a third chronicles the near-extinction of Gaza's furniture industry after Israel's 2007 imposition of the blockade; at its height, the industry employed 11,000 workers in 770 workshops.

AlRadee also penned numerous online pieces that offer a 360-degree view of the engineered debilitation of Gaza's economy. In lacerating prose and a style he characterized as satirical (*sakhir*), AlRadee castigated the Israeli siege that reduced Gazans to paupers surviving on foreign handouts. He did not absolve the PA for its corrupt cronyism nor the Hamas government for profiting from the tunnel economy.

He termed this complex of dysfunction "Gazan disease": "If Dutch disease is a boom in the government sector and a decline in the agricultural and industrial sectors, Gazan disease is the disappearance of agriculture and industry and all the elements of development economics."

The cure to the disease is a keynote that runs through all of AlRadee's writings: restoring Palestinian political cohesion. In a 2020 concept paper that led to an expanded project for an edited volume, AlRadee envisioned a grassroots initiative, "the Palestinian Army of Reconciliation," to overcome the vendettas and polarization between families loyal to Fatah and to Hamas, still smoldering after the armed clashes between the two factions in Gaza in 2007.

On 4 November 2023, AlRadee was killed in an Israeli strike on his home in Bayt Lahya. He is survived by his wife, artist Fayza Yousef, and their triplet daughters, whom he called his "princesses." Now living in Egypt, Yousef frequently posts memories and messages to her departed partner. Read one missive: "May God have mercy on you, my soulmate, and make you among the blessed in His Heaven."

Photo Credit: Instagram

## Maisara Azmi Ibrahim AlRayyes **ميسرة عزمي إبراهيم الرئيس**



Maisara AlRayyes (al-Rayyis), 28, was a physician of exceptional promise. In his foreshortened life, he made tangible contributions to his two fields of expertise: emergency medicine and women’s and children’s health. “He absolutely was destined to be a leader in the field,” said Kim Jonas, Senior Lecturer in Reproductive Physiology at King’s College London (KCL).

Born in 1995, Dr. AlRayyes graduated with honors from Gaza’s al-Azhar University medical school in 2018. At the same time, he worked as a project coordinator for the Palestine Children’s Relief Fund (PCRF), leading the training of medical students as lifesaving first aid instructors.

This coincided with Gaza’s weekly demonstrations of the Great March of Return, when Israeli snipers deliberately shot scores of unarmed demonstrators with live ammunition. Dr. AlRayyes “was among the volunteers at the tents to provide health services, despite the fact that the medics at these tents were also often injured,” said Bahzad Alakhras, a psychiatrist at Gaza Community Mental Health Program.

In 2019, Dr. AlRayyes won the prestigious UK Chevening Scholarship and headed to London to pursue an MSc in women and children’s health at KCL. During his time there, he met fellow Chevening scholar Laura Hayek, who was studying for a human rights degree. They became engaged in 2022.

MSc in hand, he could have joined the emigration train of doctors leaving Gaza. Instead, Dr. AlRayyes returned to work with Médecins du Monde, an international humanitarian organization.



(AlRayyes with Dr. Mads Gilbert)

His research and clinical work offer a sobering picture of a society subjected to unremitting state violence. One study, coauthored with the Norwegian emergency physician Dr. Mads Gilbert and others, describes an innovative method they dubbed “a chain of survival” for preparing communities to handle emergencies.

Another study assesses the emergency preparedness of 16 Primary Health Care Centers in Gaza, finding that the percentage of prepared nurses was significantly higher than doctors. Only 29% of emergency drugs were available at the centers.

Three weeks into Israel’s 2023 bombardment of Gaza, Dr. AlRayyes sent a handful of haunting text messages to a friend:

Every moment I’m living with my family

as we’re talking or laughing I imagine the last moments of people

who were alive moments before they were bombed  
all those who were martyred were like us  
sitting at home talking and laughing  
to be honest the past few days my feelings of fear  
have heightened  
I imagine myself under the rubble  
and I feel fear that I'd be still alive

On 5 November 2023, Israeli strikes demolished the home of the AlRayyes family in Gaza City, killing Dr. AlRayyes, his parents, two sisters, and their three children. His two brothers Muhammad and Muayyad dug desperately to try and retrieve the bodies. Another Israeli strike then killed the brothers and a volunteer.

Dr. Osaid Alser mourned his peer: “We have lost a fantastic doctor who could have changed the whole situation for children’s and women’s health in Gaza.” Dr. Mads Gilbert remembered Dr. AlRayyes as “My very close friend, brilliant medical student, then colleague, my inspiration—my beloved brother Maysara.”

In 2024, King’s College London announced the Dr. Maisara AlRayyes Scholarship to support one Palestinian student for a one-year Postgraduate Master’s Degree in health.

At the announcement event, Dr. AlRayyes’s fiancé Laura said, “We never forget our martyrs. We never forget our beloved ones. We’re made of our memories with them. We’re made of them. Just like Palestine, which is made of us.”

Photo Credits: X; X

## Waleed Mohammad Hassan al-Amoudi وليد محمد حسن العامودي



Waleed al-Amoudi (Walīd al-‘Āmūdī), 65, was a scholar of the Qur’an as a text and a guide to life; a theology professor; the head of a federation of Gaza charities; the imam of al-Masjid al-Gharbi in al-Shatti Refugee Camp; and a past member of the politburo of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Dr. al-Amoudi was born in 1958 in al-Shatti Camp to a family expelled from Yafa (Jaffa) in 1948. In 1982, he received a bachelor’s degree in Fundamentals of Religion from Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh, and six years later earned a master’s from Sharia College at the University of Jordan. His thesis is an exegesis (*tafsir*) of the Qur’an’s Surat Fatir, “to reveal the intersection of faith and science, and highlight the mind’s standing in the Islamic conception.”

He began working as a teacher at UNRWA schools, and in 1997 earned a PhD in Qur’anic Exegesis from the University of the Holy Qur’an and Islamic Sciences in Omdurman, Sudan. His dissertation argued for the superiority of the Qur’an’s methods of exposition of doctrine, compared to the methods of Muslim philosophers and speculative theologians (*mutakallimun*). It was later published as a book.

Also in 1997, Dr. al-Amoudi was appointed to the Department of Qur'anic Exegesis at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG), and elected to the first politburo of the Islamic Resistance Movement. Later in the 2000s, he also became Dean of the Libraries at IUG. He taught courses on Qur'anic Studies, Exegesis, and Special Topics. Some of his course lectures are audio-taped.

His other published work consists of articles on Qur'anic studies, including analysis of specific suras and a paper on Ibn Taymiyya's approach to revelation.

For over a decade, Dr. al-Amoudi chaired the Federation of Gaza Charities, catering to orphans, poor families, and building reconstruction. In 2013, the charity sector was hit by the dual impact of the Israeli blockade and the swift closing of the Rafah crossing by the new Egyptian military government, barring entry to solidarity delegations bringing food and Eid donations. "Gaza charities have not received any funds to buy Udhiya for distribution to the strip's poor and needy, while the plans for clothing have also come to a halt," he told a reporter at the time.

For over 20 years, Dr. al-Amoudi supervised scores of Master's and PhD theses on an astonishing range of Qur'anic studies, such as the conception of friendship in the Qur'an; the meanings of abandonment (*hajr*); the connection between calligraphy and exegesis; and ways of confronting the siege in light of the Qur'an. The acknowledgments section of some theses express gratitude in terms that transcend the dutiful and formulaic. "He carried with me the burdens of research, and spared no effort in offering me moral and academic support. He is the best mentor," wrote one. Another recounted, "He guided me step by step, taught me optimism and moving forward, graced me with his deep learning and his kind heart. His guidance will forever be a lantern lighting my future path."

Dr. al-Amoudi was killed on 10 November 2023 in Gaza City in an Israeli air strike, along with his son-in-law, `Ali `Adnan Abu `Auda. One of his sons, Abdallah, a scholar of Hadith, had been killed days earlier on 5 November 2023.

Photo Credit: Gigaza

## Sherif Rizq Darwish Al-Asali شريف رزق درويش العسلي



Sherif Al-Asali (Sharīf al-‘Asalī) was a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Education, the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG). He received his PhD and MA in Education from IUG. His MA thesis (2010) — listed on the website Mandumah which archives authors and Arabic publications in the Humanities and Social Sciences in addition to Conferences— is titled, *The Phenomenon of Exaggerated Religious Display Among Students at the Palestinian Universities: Causes and Treatment According to Islamic Teachings*. He was also an active member of his university’s Teachers Union.

Al-Asali was killed with 30 members of his family when the Israeli army shelled their home in al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza City without prior warning on 7 December 2023. He was 58 years old at the time of his murder. He was beloved by his students who also considered him one of the most effective teachers.

Photo credit: X

## Mohammad `Atif Dabbour Assa`ad محمد عاطف دبور أسعد



Mohammad (Muḥammad) Assa`ad (on some websites his last name is Dabbour) was both an academic and a highly-trained physician. He served as a lecturer in pathology and head of the Department of Pre-clinical medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of the Islamic University of Gaza. He was the first and perhaps the only oncological pathology specialist in Gaza. At the same time, Assa`ad practiced as consultant pathologist at the al-Shifa' Hospital that was later ravaged during an all-out attack by the Israeli army in March 2024.

Assa`ad received his first medical degree from al-Azhar University in Gaza City in 2006. He completed his residency in anatomic pathology at the University of Jordan in Amman in 2013. He then pursued specialized training through a fellowship in oncologic pathology and hematopathology at the King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) in Amman, Jordan. He returned to Gaza in 2015, and while teaching and practicing, he received the certificates of both the Jordanian and Arab Board of Health Specializations (ABHS).

An energetic researcher, Assa`ad attended international conferences on pathology, including one in Cairo (2023) and another in Amman, Jordan (2018). And he organized the first conference in Gaza on the current state of cancer treatment in the Strip, which was to be followed by a second one, but his plans were derailed by Israeli fire.

Assa`ad was also a pioneering practitioner. He established the first laboratory in Gaza for analyzing biopsies, work that had to be done outside the country prior to his initiative. In June 2022, he returned to Amman for a one-month training program in flow cytometry at KHCC, with the aim of establishing and overseeing a laboratory for flow cytometry in Gaza. He had done clinical cancer research at the American University in Beirut with the Palestinian-British physician Ghassan Abu Sitta, who wrote a manual on medicine in war and survived an Israeli bombardment of Gaza's Baptist Hospital. Later on, Assa`ad was awarded the 2023, two-year CREEW fellowship from the Global Health Institute and the Naef K. Basile Cancer Institute at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon.

This possibility, like others, was aborted when Israeli troops fired on Assa`ad's car on 13 October 2023 while on his way south with his family and thousands of others, after an evacuation order by the invading army. Born 13 February 1982, he was only 41 years old when he was murdered. The bullets that killed him also ended the lives of both his father and his son `Ātif, a 16-year-old gifted athlete who dreamed of becoming an international soccer player. The last words Assa`ad posted to the "outside world," were: "We are doing well, you too, God willing?"

Abdelghani Tbakhi, now a professor at McMaster University in Canada, had served as a professor and chair at KHCC during the time Dr. Assa`ad (whom he refers to as Dr. Dabbour) was a fellow there. In the Cancer Letter, based in Washington D.C., Dr. Tbakhi mourned the loss of Dr. Assa`ad, remembering him as an "extraordinary soul" and an "exceptionally kind and dedicated individual" whose "life was tragically cut short during his unwavering commitment to this vital mission of caring for cancer patients and advancing cancer practice in Gaza."



(Mohammad's son, `Ātif)

Photo credits: X (for both photos)

## **Ibrahim Hamed Hussein Al-Astal** إبراهيم حامد حسين الأسطل



Ibrahim al-Astal (Ibrāhīm al-Aṣṭal) was a Palestinian educational theorist, professor, and academic leader whose work left an indelible mark on the field of teacher education in Palestine. Over the course of his distinguished career, al-Astal championed the development of curriculum and mathematics instruction, and played a pivotal role in shaping educational strategies in Gaza and beyond.

Born on 20 January 1961, al-Astal earned his bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education in 1984 from King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia. He later obtained a master's degree from the University of Khartoum in 1988 and completed a PhD in Curriculum and Mathematics Teaching Methods in 1996 under a joint supervision program with universities in the United Arab Emirates. Following his doctorate, he began his academic career at al-Ain University and Ajman University in the UAE, where he served in multiple leadership roles, including Head of the Department of Educational Sciences and [Deputy Dean](#).

In 2009, al-Astal returned to Gaza, joining the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) as a professor in the Faculty of Education. His trajectory at IUG was marked by steady advancement: he served as Head of the Curriculum and Teaching Methods Department from 2011 to 2013, Vice Dean from 2013 to 2015, Dean of the South Branch from 2015 to 2017, and [Dean of the Faculty of Education](#) from September 2019 until his death in 2023.

Al-Astal's academic work focused primarily on teacher preparation, educational quality, and mathematics pedagogy. He was Editor-in-Chief of the IUG *Journal of Educational and Psychological Studies*, and contributed extensively to research on effective teaching strategies. His 2005 book, *The Teaching Profession: The Roles of Teachers in the School of the Future*, co-authored with Faryal Younis Al-Khalidi, examined the evolving responsibilities of teachers in a changing [educational landscape](#).

Beyond his scholarly output, al-Astal coordinated and advised several major international educational projects. These included the "Improving the Quality of Technology Education Teacher Preparation Programs" (2010), funded by the International Development Association and the EU, and the "Teacher Education Improvement Program (TEIP)" (2011–2019), supported by the World Bank and the Palestinian Ministry of Education. He also served on [steering committees](#) for teacher development programs led by institutions such as University College London and the University of South-Eastern Norway.

On 23 October 2023, al-Astal, his wife, daughters, and many members of his extended family were [killed](#) in an Israeli airstrike on their home in Khan Younis during the 2023 war on Gaza . Reports indicate that over 87 members of the al-Astal family perished in the strike.

Dr. Ibrahim al-Astal's legacy endures through the thousands of students he mentored, the research he conducted, and the educational reforms he helped implement. He is remembered not only as a professor and theorist, but as a symbol of academic perseverance under siege. His commitment to learning, even amidst conflict, is a lasting testament to the power of education in shaping resilience and hope.

Photo Credit: [Wikipedia](#)

## Sireen Mohammed Yusuf Al Attar سيرين محمد يوسف العطار



(Dr. Al Attar (right) and medical school peer Sana Najjar, at the Quds University Medical School Library)

Sireen Al Attar (Sirīn al-‘Aṭṭār), 39, dedicated her life to promoting the well-being of mothers and infants, working in a health sector severely strained by Israel’s blockade, with chronic shortages of essential medical supplies and inadequate physical infrastructure.

Dr. Al Attar was one of a cadre of specialists trained abroad to uplift the quality and quantity of health care in Gaza. In 2021, a senior health official described this concerted governmental effort as a “health renaissance.” A Reuters report found that between 2006 and 2022, the number of general practitioners more than doubled to 1,913, as did specialists, to 1,565.

In 2008, Dr. Al Attar graduated from the medical school of al-Quds University with top marks, and won Gaza’s only scholarship for specialty training in obstetrics and gynecology in Amman, Jordan. In April 2010, after difficulties securing a permit to travel, she finally made it to Jordan, less than 24 hours before giving birth to her first daughter, Reema. She returned six years later to work for the Gaza Health Ministry, joining a project to lower maternal mortality rates. She was also on the teaching staff of the medical schools at the Islamic University of Gaza and al-Azhar University.

Dr. Al Attar worked to improve hospital practices to lower infant mortality rates, in part by addressing the extremely stressful work environment of under-resourced, overworked hospital staff. A *Lancet* article she coauthored with colleagues reported the significant effects of clinical coaching for hospital staff.

Eventually, Dr. Al Attar chafed at the Ministry's bureaucracy and public hospitals' inadequate communication with pregnant women. In 2019, she established her own practice, the Yafa (Jaffa) Clinic for Obstetrics and Infertility in al-Burayj, and produced a public outreach video for expectant mothers on how to distinguish between true and false labor.

In 2020, Dr. Al Attar began working for UNRWA, where she was one of just three obstetric specialists across the agency's 22 health centers. Of her prodigious capacity for work, Dr. Al Attar's medical school classmate and UNRWA colleague Sana Najjar recalled, "She said, 'Hell with the protocol, hell with the schedule, refer to me any case,'" staying late to see up to 50 patients daily, double her assignment. She also worked to bring doctors from abroad to help with training. One of these, Dr. Deborah Harrington, a British obstetrician, said, "Sireen was making the care of women better. And she had gotten other people on board."

When Israel's assault began, Dr. Al Attar left her home in Gaza City to stay at her parents' home in al-Burayj, hoping it would be safer. On 11 October 2023, Israel bombed the house. Dr. Al Attar was killed, along with one daughter. A cupboard fell on her eldest, Reema, 13, but she survived, along with her severely injured 6-year-old sister.

Speaking to a reporter, Reema explained how her mother viewed her work as a duty, with no expectation of reward. "That was one of the lessons I heard her mention lots of times. I want Allah to give my reward."

Dr. Al Attar's UNRWA colleagues also paid tribute to her work ethic: "She was renowned for her generosity, deep love for her work and the care and affection she extended to her patients, offering unwavering support to them."

In 2025, al-Istiqlal Hospital in Jordan announced the Sireen Al Attar Fellowship to train five doctors from Gaza in various specialties.

Photo Credit: *Reuters*

## Rāmiz Ahmad Al-‘Āyidī رَامِز أَحْمَد عَبْدَ اللَّهِ الْعَايِدِي



Dr. Rāmiz al-‘Āyidī was a Palestinian lawyer, academic, and author whose life was defined by a deep commitment to justice, education, and the advancement of his community. Born in Palestine in 1972, he grew up witnessing the struggles of his people and dedicated his career to studying the law not only as a profession but as a tool for social change and human dignity.

A highly respected legal scholar, Dr. al-‘Āyidī was a professor of law at al-Umma Open University, where he mentored students and emphasized the importance of ethical responsibility in the practice of law. His intellectual contributions extended far beyond the classroom. He was the author of *The General Theory of Crime, and Characteristics of the Arab Political System and the Causes of Change* (2012), published by the [Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies](#). Through his writings, he explored the structures of law, governance, and society, providing critical insights into the dynamics of crime, justice, and political transformation in the Arab world.

Dr. al-‘Āyidī was not only an academic but also an active voice in public education. He delivered lectures and workshops on pressing social issues, including the dangers of drugs and their impact on Palestinian society, often working in cooperation with local institutions and the Palestinian police to raise awareness among young people. His

ability to bridge scholarship with community engagement made him a trusted figure in both intellectual and civic circles.



Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. al-Āyidī was a devoted family man. He lived with his wife, Shaima Khaled al-Āyidī, an UNRWA school principal, in the al-Qarara area of Khan Yunis. Together they raised three children—Sama, Salah, and Ahmed—instilling in them the values of education, resilience, and love for their homeland.

On 17 March, 2024, after weeks of siege and destruction in their neighborhood, Dr. al-Āyidī was killed when Israeli forces bombarded the area. While his wife, children, and relatives fled to safety, he chose to remain behind, refusing to abandon his home and determined to safeguard what little remained of his family’s life in Khan Yunis. His death was a devastating loss, not only for his wife and children but also for his students, colleagues, and the wider Palestinian intellectual and legal community.

Photo credits: [Gigaza](#); [Facebook](#)

## Amin al-Bahtiti أمين البحيطي



Amin al-Bahtiti (Amīn al-Baḥṭīṭī), aka Ameen el-Bahtety, was a 24-year-old dentist with his life ahead of him. He graduated from al-Azhar University in Gaza in Dental Sciences in 2021 and then served as an assistant lecturer in dentistry at the university. He also was a practicing dentist and dreamed about opening his own dental clinic in Gaza.

Dr. al-Bahtiti was well known for his good humor, his smiles, and his infectious laughter. One of his students [reported](#) that his favorite classes had been taught by al-Bahtiti, who was invariably helpful to him. In addition to teaching at al-Azhar, he had his own [YouTube channel](#) where he taught others how to sculpt teeth in wax to create models for diagnostic planning and treatment. Dr. al-Bahtiti was known for his beautiful voice: he was a [Qur'an reciter](#) and a *hafiz*, one who has memorized the entire text.



Dr. al-Bahtiti lived in al-Shuja`iyya neighborhood in eastern Gaza City, once home to 100,000 Palestinians. After the death of his father, some 16 years ago, he was left as the sole surviving son to help support his mother and his nine sisters. Al-Bahiti left his home on the morning of 5 November 2023, to find food for his family and he never returned. He was killed by an Israeli airstrike, and his body was found several days later in the debris of a destroyed building.

Photo credit: X

## Muhammed Hassan Rabah Bakheet محمد حسن رباح بخيت



Muhammed Bakheet (Muḥammad Bakhīt) began teaching at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) as a lecturer in 1984, and was promoted to full professorship in 2015. He spent his entire academic career at IUG, where he also held many administrative posts, including Dean of the College of Fundamentals of Religion, Chair of the Doctrine Division and Supervisor of Graduate Studies. Bakheet completed his PhD in 1997 in Islamic Doctrine at the University of the Holy Quran in Sudan. In Sudan also is where he had received an MA in Islamic Doctrine in 1988, from Um Durman Islamic University, five years after a BA in Fundamentals of Religion in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Bakheet supervised a fair number of theses and dissertations and was a discussant for many others. In 2012, the IUG was the first university in Gaza to offer a doctorate, and which happened to be in Islamic doctrine, Dr. Bakheet's specialization. Much of the record of his academic career— his education, positions held at the university, scholarship, and professional organization he joined— can be found on the Arabic-language platform, *al-minassah al-`iqdiyya*, where his name is listed as Mohammad Mohsin Mahdi, but is corrected in his accompanying curriculum vita. The record shows

an accomplished scholar who authored many books, with one refereed volume titled, *Past and Present Sects in Islamic History* that went through four printings. Besides his books, he published numerous articles in Arabic, ten of which were refereed, including “The Influence of Hermeneutics on the Formation of Islamic Sects” and “A Critical Study in the Abyssinian Doctrine.”

Bakheet was also an active professional, and served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Islamic Studies*, issued by IUG itself. He was a member of several professional associations including *Ahlusunna* (House and Companions of the Prophet Society) and a founding member of Palestine Scholars League.

Bakheet’s home in Gaza City was destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in the early days of the Israeli invasion on 2 November 2023, and he and his entire family were slain as a result. He was 64 years old at the time of his death. One of his students, Nour Alhila, posted a note of appreciation on X that said, “May God bless him, I took several courses with him; he was the finest of teachers and of the highest moral standards.”

Photo credit: Instagram

## **Naim Salman Mohammed Baroud** نعيم سلمان محمد بارود



Naim Baroud (Na‘īm Bārūd) was an active scholar and professor of Geography at the Islamic University of Gaza. He also served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 21 August 2021 until 18 March 2022. He was married and had several children.

An engaged researcher, Professor Baroud has several publications on various topics in the discipline of Geography. Indeed, references to as many as 19 [articles](#) appear on a faculty list of publications on the Faculty of Arts pages of the Islamic University website. Most notable about his research and writing is the commitment to environmental protection in the Palestinian territories, with articles treating subjects such as waste and wastewater management, the use of pesticides and their impact on environmental and human health, the relationship between economic conditions and the incidence of disease in Gaza.

Two co-authored publications with a colleague from the Islamic University of Gaza, employing their shared expertise in Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing Procedures (RS), are noteworthy for their important policy implications relative to environmental sustainability. The [earlier article](#) (2014), “Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Technology to Evaluate the

Morpho-Environmental Characteristics of the [Red Sea-Dead Sea Canal Project](#),” documents the hydrological and morphological changes to the Dead Sea region over time and demonstrates that, on the basis of those changes, the building of a channel to connect the Dead Sea and the Red Sea would have catastrophic environmental consequences.

The [more recent study](#) (2021), entitled “Applying environmental sustainability standards to reduce changes to the coastline of the Gaza Strip using RS-GIS,” tracks the environmental degradation of the Gaza coast across several governorates and proposes methods to limit negative effects. It was published in the *Journal of Humanitarian Research* of the Islamic University of Gaza.

In addition to his academic pursuits, Naim Baroud was a member of the Board of Directors of the al Quds International Foundation, a philanthropic organization created in Lebanon in 2011 to support projects in the Palestinian territories.

Naim Baroud was killed on 25 October 2023 in al-Shatti Refugee Camp where he lived in Gaza City Governorate. Five members of his family were killed with him when the Israeli airforce bombed his home without prior warning. He was 61 years old.

Photo credit: [IPS](#)

## Jehad Al-Baz جهاد الباز



Jehad Al-Baz (Jihād al-Bāz) was a prominent professor of Arabic language and literature at Gaza University, a writer, and a public advocate of literature. He was selected as the literary consultant of the Palestinian Chapter of the International Union of Arab Writers and Poets in 2021. Al-Baz received his PhD from the University of Ain Shams, Cairo, in Rhetoric and Literary Criticism. He obtained his MA in Literary Studies from the University of al-Fatih in Libya, with a thesis titled, *‘Abdullah al-Quwayri and the Art of the Short Story*. The website, [Ancient and Rare Pictures of Libya](#), posted this information after he was killed, with a note of appreciation for his work and his love of Libya.

Al-Baz was highly engaged in promoting literature, including poetry in its classical Arabic *qasida* form, with its metered lines and monorhyme, at both the local and national levels. His many books include, *Abbasid Literature*, *Common Mistakes in Our Arabic Language*, and *A Smile That Won't Die*. He left a [detailed Facebook](#) page of his activities and his occasional thoughts and quotes from others. Among the numerous symposia, lectures, and conferences he participated in individually or with others are





Photo credits: Facebook; Facebook

## **Adnan Ahmad Atieh Al-Bursh** عدنان أحمد البرش



Dr. Adnan al-Bursh (‘Adnān al-Bursh) was a celebrated Palestinian orthopedic surgeon, head of the orthopedics department at al-Shifa Medical Complex, and medical advisor to the Palestinian Football Association.

Dr. al-Bursh was more than a physician; he was a symbol of resilience, integrity, and devotion to the Palestinian people, and dedicated his life to alleviating their suffering.

Born in Jabalya in northern Gaza on 17 September 1974, al-Bursh grew up during a period marked by the Israeli occupation and the First Intifada. His early life was shaped by violence and deprivation, but also determination. As a teenager, he sustained a fractured thigh bone during clashes with Israeli forces, an injury that kept him bedridden for three months. The experience profoundly influenced his choice of career: what began as a youthful ambition to study law and politics transformed into a calling for medicine. He would later return to political studies, but orthopedics became his professional and moral vocation.

Al-Bursh completed his secondary education at Halima al-Saadiya school in Gaza before traveling abroad for higher education. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Iași in Romania, later specializing in orthopedic and joint surgery. He earned the Jordanian Board in orthopedics, completed a fellowship in complex fractures

at King's College London, and joined the Palestinian Medical Board Committee. His expertise and skill made him one of the most accomplished surgeons in Palestine, admired for his technical excellence and for the compassion with which he treated his patients. At the same time, he pursued a master's degree in political science at al-Azhar University in Gaza, reflecting his enduring interest in justice, governance, and the struggle of his people.

By 2010, al-Bursh had become head of the orthopedics department at al-Shifa Hospital Complex. He trained younger doctors, performed intricate surgeries, and managed some of Gaza's most critical cases. He was described by colleagues as a "safety valve" for orthopedic care across the territory.

His commitment extended beyond the hospital. Dr. al-Bursh taught at the Islamic University of Gaza Faculty of Medicine, ran a private clinic, and worked with the Palestinian Football Association, serving athletes as both a physician and mentor. Despite opportunities to remain abroad, al-Bursh always returned to Gaza, explaining that "life is holy for us, we have another view on life." His refusal to abandon his homeland reflected his conviction that every day of survival in Gaza was a blessing worth sharing with his community.

Outside of medicine, al-Bursh was a man of wide interests and simple pleasures. He loved swimming in the Mediterranean, often before dawn prayers, and was an avid photographer, documenting daily life with his camera. He enjoyed reading history, politics, and literature, and nurtured fruit trees in his garden. Above all, he was devoted to his family: his wife Yasmin and their children, Yazan, Yamen, and Tamim. Colleagues and relatives alike remembered him as gentle, generous, and cheerful, a man who never turned away a patient in need even when they could not afford care.

After the start of the genocide in October 2023, Al-Bursh moved into al-Shifa Hospital, often sleeping in the staff quarters, unwilling to leave patients unattended amid mass casualties. His medical service became inseparable from his resistance. When Israeli forces besieged al-Shifa, he relocated to other hospitals under attack, including the Indonesian Hospital and al-Awda Hospital, where he continued performing surgeries even under bombardment. A video circulated in November 2023 showed him soaked in blood from his own injuries while still operating on a patient during an airstrike.



His refusal to abandon Gaza's hospitals placed him in direct danger. On 18 December 2023, Israeli forces raided al-Awda Hospital. Witnesses reported that male staff were ordered into the courtyard in their underwear, among them Dr. al-Bursh, who was then arrested. He was transferred first to the notorious Sde Teiman detention camp, where former detainees later recounted that he had been beaten, left unable to stand, and likely suffered broken ribs. In April 2024, he was moved to Ofer Prison near Jerusalem. There, only days after his arrival, he died under circumstances widely believed to involve torture and mistreatment. His body remains withheld by Israeli authorities, a continued source of anguish for his family.

His death provoked condemnation from Palestinian institutions, human rights organizations, and United Nations officials. The Palestinian Prisoners' Affairs Commission described it as part of a systematic targeting of doctors in Gaza. Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, described him as “a stellar surgeon, the embodiment of Palestinian ethics. Likely raped to death.” Tlaleng Mofokeng, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, declared herself horrified, emphasizing that he died because he sought to protect the rights to life and health of his patients. For many Palestinians, al-Bursh's death symbolized the broader assault on Gaza's healthcare system: by May 2024, nearly 500 medical workers had been killed.

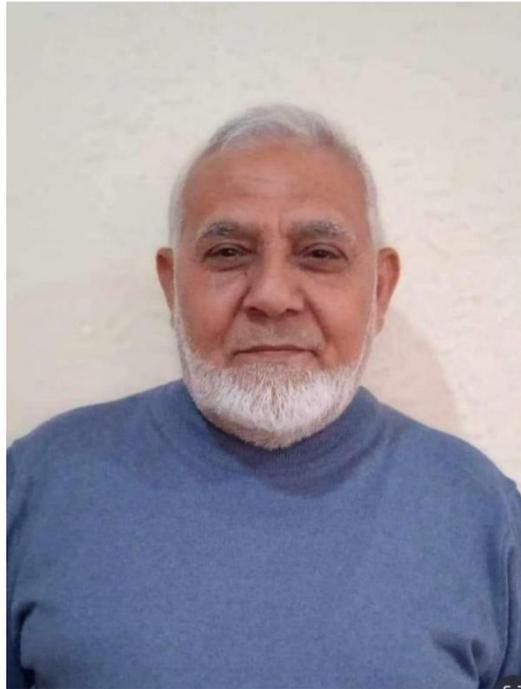
Yet Dr. al-Bursh's legacy is not defined solely by the brutality of his final months, but also by decades of healing and teaching. Former patients recalled his kindness and his refusal to take money from the poor. Relatives remembered his laughter, his swimming

rituals, and his insistence on spending time with his children despite the demands of his profession. His nephew, who swam with him every morning before the war, called him an “athletic, gentle, and first-rate scholar.” His colleagues mourned not only the loss of a surgeon but of a mentor who had built Gaza’s orthopedic services into a lifeline for countless families.

In the words he once lived by: those who do not climb mountains remain in holes. Dr. Adnan al-Bursh spent his life climbing—and in doing so, lifted others with him.

Photo credits: [Skynews](#)

## Amin Muhammad Ali Dabour أمين محمد علي دبور



Amin Dabour (Amīn Dabbūr) was a political scientist and beloved instructor, teaching his signature survey course, Palestinian Studies, to generations of students in the Department of Economics and Political Science at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG). Students appreciated his lucid lecturing style and grounded approach to the material.

In an [online chat](#) thread about the course in 2010, prompted by one student’s query on what would be on the final exam, another wrote, “Ustadh Amin—there’s no one like him at the university. So good-humored, and such brilliant political thought.”

Dabour earned a master’s degree in International Studies from Birzeit University in 1999 with a [thesis titled](#) *Palestinian Refugees and the Search for a Permanent Solution*. A historical study of Palestinian refugees and their legal and national rights to repatriation or compensation, the thesis was also keen to address Palestinian negotiators involved in the Oslo process.

Dabour argued against rushing into an arrangement that would abandon the Right of Return or compensation. Noting that Oslo had run its course, he recommended a redirection of energies to building up Palestinian institutions and self-renovation, the better to improve the Palestinian negotiating position.

Among his publications, two that are oft-cited are *Dirasat fil Tanmiya al-Siyasiyya* (Studies in Political Development, Islamic University of Gaza, 2011) and *Nudhum Siyasiyya Muqarna* (Comparative Political Systems, Islamic University of Gaza, 2012).



Dabour's course, POLS 3320 Palestinian Studies, covered the full sweep of Palestine's political history, from pre-modern times to the 2008-09 assault on Gaza. It encompassed the 1948 war and Nakba; the roots of Palestinian resistance and its multiple factions; the first and second Intifadas; the Oslo process; and the Palestinian and Israeli political systems. His videotaped lectures show a dynamic instructor bantering with his students, and narrating copious amounts of information in an engaging, even riveting style, with hardly a pause in delivery or the aid of lecture notes.

On 3 January 2024, Amin Dabour passed away, though accounts differ as to cause, with some indicating a heart attack and others an Israeli strike. On learning of his death, one former student recalled, "He overwhelmed us with his great humility and spirit that was close to students and distant from the formalities and hierarchies of academia. Ustadh Amin's wide experiences were reflected in his teaching style. I credit him with lifting us out of the idealist political thought we were immersed in during our first years and taking us into the real world of politics, with its cool realism and wrenching contradictions. May Allah have mercy on him and accept him among the righteous."

Roger Heacock, history professor at Birzeit University and a member of Dabour's master's thesis committee, remembered, "He was among my very favorite students in

the MA program, with his fine mind, his truly Gazan sense of humor in joy and adversity. I'm so sorry to hear of his death, which I deeply mourn.”

Photo Credits: IPS; IUG

## Saeed Talal al-Dahshan سعيد طلال الدهشان



Saeed al-Dahshan (Sa'īd al-Dahshān) was an expert in international law who placed his faith in the international legal system as key to the achievement of Palestinian rights and liberation. He was a public intellectual who taught at the Islamic University, authored a number of books and articles addressing strategies for attaining Palestinian human rights and self-determination through the international legal system, and maintained an active presence at academic conferences and workshops.

Dr. al-Dahshan was born on 17 March 1972 in Gaza City. He completed his primary and secondary education in schools there and obtained his high school diploma in 1990. He graduated with an MA degree in human rights from Janan University in Lebanon in 2012, and a PhD in human rights from the same university in 2016. He earned a second doctorate in international law from the University of Islamic Sciences (USIM) in Malaysia in 2019. Dr. al-Dahshan worked as a librarian at the Holst Cultural Center in Gaza City from 1998 to 2002, as a lecturer at the Community College of Professional Sciences at the Islamic University of Gaza from 2002 to 2007, and as Director General at the Office of the Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2006 to 2009.

He was a prolific writer, author of many books and articles in his field, including a book entitled *How to Sue Israel: International Suits Against Israel and Its Leaders Over Their Crimes Against Palestinians* (Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies and Consultations,

2018). In the course of 335 pages, this work in Arabic provided a judicial roadmap for Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and international parties to prosecute Israel and its leaders for their crimes against Palestinians and included practical examples of prosecutions and case studies drawn from elsewhere. His other studies and articles covered topics such as the legal implications of recognizing Palestine as a state, legal obstacles to the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and the impact that Palestine's membership in the ICC had on Israeli attacks on Gaza. He also contributed to local and international newspapers and magazines, and participated in televised interventions, seminars, and dialogues related to international law and the Palestinian issue.



(Book by al-Dahshan: *How to Sue Israel*)

On the morning of Monday, 11 October 2023, Israeli planes bombed the al-Dahshan family house located in the al-Sabra neighborhood of Gaza City. Dr. al-Dahshan, age 51, his wife Maha Ahmad Saleh, age 41, his son Talal Saeed, age 22, and his mother Hooriyah Ibrahim Muhammad al-Dahshan, age 73, were killed in the airstrike along with some ten other close family members. Dr. al-Dahshan's friend, Mohammed Makram Balawi, [mourning him](#), was moved to remark that the system of international law in which Dr. al-Dahshan had put so much hope and trust had ultimately failed him and his family.

Photo credits: [IPS](#); [eng.alzaytouna](#)

## Ahmad Salah Rasheed al-Dalou أحمد صلاح رشيد الدلو



Ahmad (Aḥmad) al-Dalou was a scholar, professor, and university administrator from Gaza City. Born on 7 April 1971, he spent about 25 years living outside Palestine to pursue his education and a career in academia. He studied in Sudan, earning a medical degree in Clinical Pharmacology from the University of Khartoum in 1998. Following that, he was a professor of clinical pharmacology at al-Ribat National University in Sudan and then at Taif University in Saudi Arabia. He returned to Palestine in 2019 to serve as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Palestine in Gaza – a position he held until October 2022.

Despite the many demands on deans, Ahmad al-Dalou remained active as a scholar and pedagogue. He participated in a variety of international conferences and contributed to workshops in the master’s program in Pharmacology at his university on critical topics such as the evaluation of therapeutic drug monitoring among epileptic children in the Gaza Strip. Also while dean, he was instrumental in the planning and operation of a medical training center, “[Hi-Med Training Center](#)” that opened in Gaza City in spring/summer 2023. Just a few months later – on 10 October 2023 -- it was bombed by Israeli forces. During the brief period when “Hi-Med” actually functioned as a training center, Ahmad al-Dalou was actively involved. Among his various engagements,

he taught short courses there on various topics. For example, he co-led a much-appreciated course on the art of writing a scientific article. And it is worth noting that his [Facebook page](#) is full of praise for his students and celebrations of their successes.

Ahmad al-Dalou died on 19 October 2023 (or 13 October). He was killed with about 40 family members in a targeted Israeli bombing – a direct attack on his home in Gaza City. He was 52 years old and married.

Photo credit: [IPS](#)

**Wiesam Ali Essa** وسام علي عيسى

Wiesam Essa (Wisām ‘Īsā) was a professor in the Department of Geography at al-Aqsa University – Khan Yunis campus - from 2005, with a partial appointment in the Department of Computer Science, as well. He was a consummate researcher with expertise in geo-informatics and remote sensing, and their application to geo-environmental issues in Palestine.

Professor Essa was born in Gaza on 20 February 1975 and completed his primary and secondary education in Rafah. In 1997 (or 1998), he graduated from the Islamic University of Gaza with a BS in Environment and Earth Science. Over the next 13 years, he pursued [specialized studies and graduate degrees](#) outside Gaza. While he began an MS degree in Remote Sensing and GIS at Ben Gurion University (BGU) in 1999, he could not complete it because of Israel’s closure of the Gaza Strip. However, he earned a master’s in Land Degradation and Conservation in 2004 from the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation at University of Twente in the Netherlands. Four years later, while holding a formal teaching position in Gaza, he entered a PhD program in Belgium, in the Department of Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering at

Vrije Universiteit Brussel and [earned his doctorate](#) in 2012 with a thesis entitled, *Thermal Subpixel Estimation in Urban Areas with Spaceborne Sensing*. Several [articles based on his dissertation research](#) were published in refereed journals (e.g., 2013, 2017).

Professor Essa built his career at al-Aqsa University. For three years (2015-18), he was Managing Director of its Geospatial Data Center for Education, Research and Development, at the same time as he taught in the Geography Department. A prolific scholar, as evidenced by his [many publications](#), he was also committed to training younger Palestinians and encouraging the growth of a scientific community at home.

Professor Essa enjoyed collaborative relationships with scholars and institutions abroad. He was a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Geography at University of Manchester (6/2019-3/2021), with funding from the UK-based [Council for At-Risk Academics](#) (CARA). There, he conducted research and taught in the MSc program in Geographical Information Science. Among his research foci was a satellite remote sensing-based analysis of water usage in Palestine. Partially funded by a grant from the (British) Royal Geographical Society, this study resulted in a co-authored conference paper in 2020 and a co-authored [article in 2022](#). Another co-authored article on a [related topic](#) was published in 2023.

Wiesam Essa was killed during the first week of January 2024 when his apartment block in Khan Yunis was bombed by Israeli air strikes. (One site says he was killed on 14 December 2023.) His wife was injured but survived, as did their four children. Dr. Essa was 48 years old. One month before his death, CARA and the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF) secured an academic placement for him in the UK, but it proved impossible for him to leave Gaza.

[Obituaries](#) attest to his many qualities: He “is fondly remembered by colleagues in Geography ...as a regular and cheerful presence in the Department, contributing enthusiastically to the Mapping, Culture and GIS research group. He was especially keen to develop collaborations to further his research in Palestine” ([University of Manchester](#)). “Wiesam was an extraordinary academic who was committed to improving conditions in the Gaza Strip, a dedicated father and spouse, and a kind man.” ([CARA-IIEE/SRF](#))



(Dr. Essa with his wife and daughter, Shahd, who ranked first in Palestine in the university qualifying exams in the sciences (2023))

Photo credits: [Gigaza](#); [University of Manchester](#); [Nabd.com](#)

## Omar Saleh Omar Farwana عمر صالح عمر فروانة



Dr. Omar Farwana (‘Omar Farwāna) was a prominent Palestinian gynecologist, educator, and humanitarian known for his lifelong contributions to medicine, public health, and education in Gaza. He served as an assistant professor and later as Dean of the Faculty of Human Medicine at the Islamic University of Gaza, where he played a central role in developing the medical curriculum and mentoring future generations of Palestinian physicians.

Born on 7 February 1956, in the al-Sabra neighborhood of Gaza City, Dr. Farwana attended al-Imam al-Shafi`i School for his primary education and completed his preparatory and secondary schooling at al-Zaytun and Palestine Schools. In 1974, he enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine at Cairo University, where he graduated with honors in 1982.

Driven by a commitment to further his expertise and serve his community, Dr. Farwana pursued postgraduate studies in physiology at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. He later continued his specialization in andrology and infertility in Australia.

Upon returning to Gaza, he not only served as a medical educator but also remained actively involved in charitable health initiatives, notably as a board member of the Friends of the Patient Charitable Society.

As well as being an active researcher, his work centered on evidence-based health care in Palestine.

Dr. Farwana's dedication to humanitarian service extended beyond the classroom and clinic. On 17 December 1992, he was among the hundreds of Palestinians deported by Israeli authorities to Marj al-Zohour in southern Lebanon. There, he assumed leadership of the medical committee and operated the camp's clinic, providing vital medical care under difficult conditions. Reports describe the clinic as operating "around the clock," performing surgeries and delivering medical care not only to deportees but also to local residents in the surrounding area.



Dr. Farwana came from a family with a deep cultural and intellectual legacy. His father, Saleh Omar Farawneh (1936–2013), was a noted Palestinian poet, best known for his poetry collection Palestinian Vocabulary, published in two volumes (2004 and 2011), which captured the struggles and resilience of the Palestinian people.

On 15 October 2023, Dr. Omar Farwana, along with his wife, children, and grandchildren, was killed in an Israeli airstrike that targeted his home in the Tal al-Hawa neighborhood of southwestern Gaza City.

Dr. Farwana is remembered as a compassionate physician, dedicated teacher, and community leader. His legacy endures in the many students he mentored, the patients he healed, and the humanitarian principles he upheld throughout his life.

Photo credits: [Palestinians are not numbers](#)

## Saeed Muhammad al-Abd al-Fayoumi سعيد محمد العبد الفيومي



Saeed al-Fayoumi (Sa'īd al-Fayūmī) was a distinguished professor of Literature and Criticism at the al-Quds Open University (AQOU) in Gaza and a prolific scholar with an impressive curriculum vitae. He was born on 8 November 1953; his family was from al-Na'ani, a village near 'Aqir in Palestine. He was married, had seven children, and lived in al-Nusayrat Refugee Camp, Dayr al-Balah Governorate.

Saeed al-Fayoumi earned several degrees – all in Egypt: BA in Arabic Language from Alexandria University (1976); Higher Diploma in Islamic Studies from the Institute of Islamic Studies, Cairo University (1988); MA and PhD in Arabic Literature and Criticism from the Faculty of Arts, Minya University (1994 and 1997 respectively).

He taught school in Libya (1976-79) and Saudi Arabia (1980-97) before embarking on a university career in Gaza, initially as lecturer at al-Aqsa University (1997-99). In 2000, he joined the faculty at al-Quds Open University, eventually earning the title of Professor.

In addition to teaching, he supervised numerous master's and doctoral theses, and extended invaluable service to the university community through his various engagements and initiatives. Among them, he developed a Comparative Literature specialization, and chaired the scientific committee for an academic conference on "[Transformations](#) in the Contemporary Narrative Discourse in Palestine" (November 2017). He was, as well, an esteemed member of the General Federation of Palestinian Writers and Scholars and other scholarly associations.

Dr. al-Fayoumi's [publication record](#) during his 24 years at al-Quds Open University is outstanding – not simply for its length (18 articles), but especially its breadth. He wrote about pre-Islamic poetry, examining the importance of place and color (2007 and 2015 respectively) and of anxiety in the [poetry of Antara](#) (2003). He has articles on poetry of the first centuries of Islam, including one on imagery in the poetry of [Imam al-Shafi'i](#) (2006) and another on structure in Abu Nuwas' poetry (2012). And he has numerous studies of contemporary themes and [stylistics](#) in Palestinian literature as portrayed in the works of poets and novelists such as ' [Abd al-Rahim Omar](#), Emile [Habibi](#), Fadwa Touqan, Ghassan [Kanafani](#), and Mahmoud [Darwish](#). His [last publication](#) (2021) is a co-authored semiotic analysis of 'Abdallah Tayeh's 1996 novel, *Faces in Hot Water*.

Saeed al-Fayoumi was killed on 16 July 2025 in an Israeli missile strike in al-Nusayrat Refugee Camp. He had just left the mosque following *dhuhr* (noon) prayers and was visiting a grieving close friend to offer condolences on the death of a loved one. A missile struck the home, and many were killed or injured. He was 71 years old.

On his [Facebook page](#), his son, Ibrahim Said eulogized his father and noted that when people were leaving al-Nusayrat in search of safety elsewhere in Gaza, his father refused to leave, insisting that it was better to be a martyr in his home than outside. On the Facebook page of [his daughter](#), Umm Ahmad al-'Urayshi, she shared tender moments with her father on [Instagram reel](#). Friends and colleagues posted moving testimonials about what an honorable man he was and the many contributions he made to Palestinian society.

Photo credit: [Gigaza](#)

## Yahya Ahmed Ramadan Ghaban يحيى احمد رمضان غبن



Yahya Ghaban lived in Gaza City. He was married to Najwa Warsh Agha and they had three children. He was an Assistant Professor of Literature and Criticism in the Department of Arabic Language Arts at al-Azhar University.

Yahya Ghaban earned his master's degree in 2011 from the Islamic University of Gaza with a thesis entitled, *Artistic Imagery in the Poetry of the Islamic Conquests during the Era of the Rightly Guided Caliphs*. Also from the Islamic University, he was awarded the PhD with Honors in Arabic literature in 2017. His dissertation, a semiotic critical analysis, is entitled, *The Significance of Color in the Poetry of War and Sedition in al-Andalus*.

To honor him on the anniversary of receipt of his doctorate, Yahya Ghaban's wife posted a heartfelt video of him on Facebook accompanied by these words: "My beloved husband: How grateful I am for every accomplishment you surprise us with... Proud to belong to you....." [*Zawji al-habib.... Kam ash 'ur b 'ilimtinān ba 'ad kul injāz tubāghituna bihi. Fakhura b 'ilintimā' ilayk.*]

For a scholar who was not quite mid-career, Dr. Ghaban had a promising publication record. In addition to his dissertation, he published several studies of literary analysis and criticism. They covered a range of topics spanning poetry praising the Prophet in

the Mamluk era to the historical and literary construction of a contemporary Palestinian novel. An article on the aesthetics of phonetic structure in a collection of poetry was published posthumously in the *Arab Journal of the Humanities* (Kuwait University, 2024).

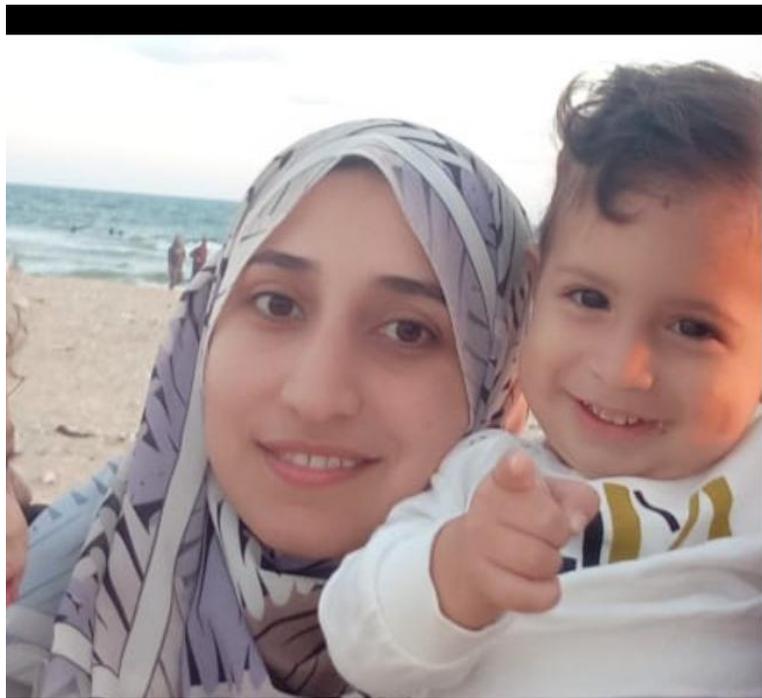
Yahya Ghaban was committed to teaching and to his students. He posted many of his lectures on YouTube so that students could readily consult them. Complete with slides, diagrams and other visual materials, the videos include detailed lectures on different aspects of Arabic literature, among them the art of the novel, poetry through the ages, critical readings of great works of literature, as well as children's literature and theatre arts through the ages. It is evident from these videos that Professor Ghaban was a master of his subject matter. Upon learning of his death, his colleagues at al-Azhar University wrote the following: "He was a man of gentle demeanor, calm and well-mannered, known for his good style and distinguished speech. He was a great teacher and, like a father to his students, he never denied them assistance or kindness."

Yahya Ghaban died from injuries he sustained during an Israeli bombing in Dayr al-Balah. Some sources cite 3 November 2023 as the date of death, while others cite 11 November or 13 November. He was 37 years old.

Photo credit: IPS

## **Suleiman Taha ‘Abd al-Ghafour** سليمان طه عبد الغفور

Suleiman ‘Abd al-Ghafour (Sulaimān ‘Abd al-Ghafūr), 65, was a lecturer in the Palestine College of Science and Technology. He held a master’s degree. He was killed in a house that he was displaced to in West al-Satar in Khan Yunis from al-Qarara on 7 December 2023. He was killed along with his wife Iman and daughters Islam 33, Huda 20, Hala 14 and Ibtihal Suleiman ‘Abdel Ghafour (28) and her children Majdi Hamada ‘Abdel Ghafour (3) and 1-year-old Suleiman Hamada ‘Abdel Ghafour. Others who perished included 40 members of his extended family, in what was called the [‘Abd al-Ghafour massacre](#).



Suleiman ‘Abd al-Ghafour’s daughter, Ibtihal, with one of her sons

Photo credit: [Gigaza](#)

## Ismail Muhammad Ahmad Al-Ghamry إسماعيل محمد أحمد الغمري



Ismail (Ismā'īl) al-Ghamry was a promising pedagogue who had just started a career in studying and teaching the Arabic language. He was a lecturer in the Curricula and Teaching Methods Department at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG). In 2017, the Department inaugurated a doctoral program, becoming the only one in Gaza to grant PhDs in Pedagogy.

Born in 1992 in al-Maghazi, Dr. al-Ghamry received his BA in Arabic from al-Aqsa University in 2013, followed five years later by an MA from the Faculty of Education at IUG. In 2021, he earned a PhD from the University of the Holy Qur'an and Islamic Sciences in Omdurman, Sudan.

His MA thesis sought to test whether flipped classrooms had a positive effect on high school students' prosody skills. The research was motivated by the problem of classroom crowding, where teachers cannot cater to individual students, necessitating more active learning options as an alternative to passive rote transmission. A report on education from Gaza's Al Mezan Center for Human Rights indicated that the number of students

per classroom averaged 41.20 at UNRWA schools, 39.56 at governmental schools, and 21.65 at private schools.

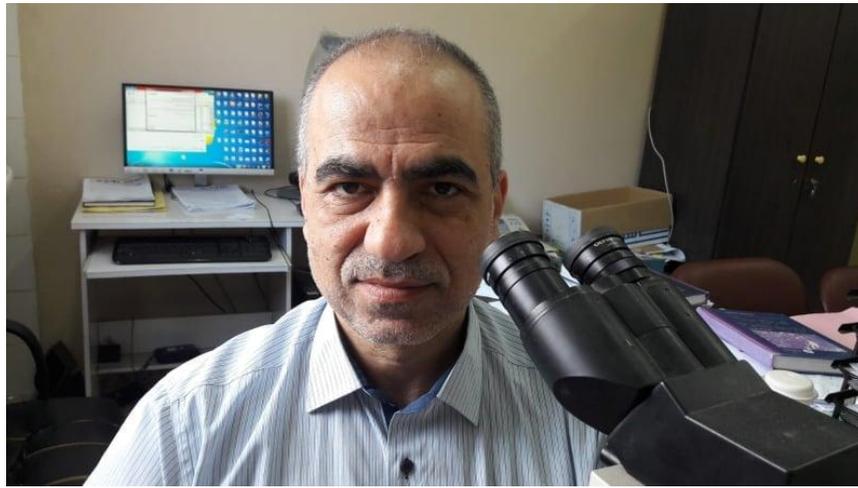
Based on a sample of 60 11<sup>th</sup> graders at al-Shuhada' school, a boys' public school in al-Maghazi, the thesis found a significant effect on students' rhetorical skills, compared to a control group, but an average effect on developing prosody skills.

Two days after turning 32 years old, Dr. al-Ghamry was killed by an Israeli airstrike on 3 January 2024. His sister mourned him in a poignant tribute on Instagram as a fount of affection for all that he treasured.

In the dedicatory pages of his Master's thesis, Dr. al-Ghamry expressed his love for the Prophet Muhammad, for his family, and for Palestine. "To a homeland for whom we have journeyed all the phases of life, as refugees, as the displaced, as prisoners, as a people under siege. In spite of everything, we broke our chains and penned what we desired, and soared higher and higher."

Photo credit: Facebook

## Hossam Ahmed Abdel Mo`ti Hamada حسام أحمد عبد المعطي حمادة



Hossam Hamada (Ḥusām Ḥamāda), 55, was the most senior of Gaza's five pathologists. As the head of the Pathology Department at al-Shifa Hospital, he worked to build pathology care almost from scratch, an important part of cancer care. In 2019, cancer was the second-leading cause of death in Palestine, after heart disease.

Dr. Hamada received his medical degree from Ankara University's Faculty of Medicine in 1996, and six years later completed his specialty at the Pathology Department of Hacettepe University in Ankara, Türkiye. Upon returning to Gaza, he was on the teaching staff at the Islamic University and al-Azhar University, and in 2010, was appointed Chair of the Pathology Department at Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital Complex.

The department was established in 1991, and expanded in the aughts to include two wings: cytology and histology. In 2021, Dr. Hamada indicated that the lab had analyzed 5,238 samples in that year.

Dr. Hamada did not only run the lab, he devoted time to educating the public about his work. In a 2015 interview, he explained the foundational role of pathologists in healthcare, from examining the behavior of viruses and bacteria to guiding doctors on disease treatment. He underlined the importance of building an infrastructure for scientific research, especially the building and protecting of a pathology sample archive.

At the first conference dedicated to cancer in Gaza, held at the Islamic University in 2022, he laid out the mechanisms of cancer treatment at the molecular level. And in a

brief promo video, he thanked the UK-based Medical Aid for Palestinians for a new automated immunostainer that would help increase the speed and accuracy of cancer testing.

During the genocide, Dr. Hamada tended to the wounded in his neighborhood of Tal al-Hawa until first responders could arrive. On 21 January, 2024, an Israeli sniper struck Dr. Hamada. Rescuers made frantic efforts to reach him, but were unable to do so before 23 January. He bled to his death on the pavement. “His body was carried on a piece of wood to Shifa hospital where he spent 25 years of his life dedicated to his community,” reported his colleague Dr. Orhan Alimoğlu.

A Turkish surgeon who made several trips to Gaza before 2023, Dr. Alimoğlu recalled, “Apart from his professional life, [Dr. Hamada] was deeply fond of painting and reading. He expressed himself with these works and had the opportunity to console himself with them against the difficulties of life in Gaza.”

Dr. Hamada’s niece Aseel, a third-year medical student, said, “He wouldn’t want to be anywhere else but Gaza, even in its darkest times. If he were alive, he would still choose Gaza, again and again.”

With the murder of Dr. Hamada and another pathologist, Dr. Mohammed Dabbour Assa`ad (see bio in this archive), and the retirement of two others, only one pathologist remains, Dr. Aziza Alkinn at the European Hospital in Khan Younis.

“It takes five years of medical school, three-four years of internal medicine, and then another four-five years as a pathologist. So that is the number of years if we start today training a new generation of pathologists,” pointed out Palestinian-British surgeon Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta at a 2025 public event.

Photo credit: Gigaza

## Mohammed Ibrahim 'Attia Hammad محمد ابراهيم عطية حماد



Mohammed Hammad (Muḥammad Hammād) was a lecturer in Business in the Department of Business Management at al-Aqsa University in Gaza. He was a full-time member of the department from July 2009 until the time of his death – a total of 15 years and 8 months. He was married to Hanān Fū'ād; they had three children.

Professor Hammad received his Master's of Business Administration (MBA) from Near East University in Nicosia, Cyprus and had a special interest in entrepreneurship. With a colleague from al-Israa University in Gaza, he co-authored an article published in English in the *Indian Journal of Management and Applied Science* in 2020. In it, they describe a study they conducted of 100 Palestinian non-governmental organizations to evaluate, through the lens of Business Continuity Management, their preparedness in responding to an unexpected crisis – in this case, the Corona Virus Pandemic – that could impede their operations and hence their efficacy.

According to an interview Professor Hammad gave to the magazine Youm 7 in December 2023 – just a few days before his death, he had planned to continue his doctoral studies in Malaysia once the war on Gaza ended. In fact, his profile on his

[Facebook page](#) suggests that he had been working towards a PhD from the USIM University in Malaysia. He had completed his coursework and his dissertation but was unable to leave Gaza for his defense. Nonetheless, an English translation of his dissertation – *Entrepreneurial Characteristics and Job Performance in Palestine* – was [published posthumously](#) in 2025 and delivered to his family.

In that same interview to *Youm 7*, Mohammed Hammad insisted upon his refusal to be displaced from his home, recalling with bitterness the forced displacement his father had endured in 1948. He called for international support for the Palestinians of Gaza who, as he described, were enduring very harsh conditions. And he spoke of his grief – referring to the killing of six of his sister’s children and grandchildren whose home had been struck by Israeli shelling. His description of his search through the rubble following the attack is heart-rending:

“I was sad when I saw the floors of the house piled up on top of each other and I didn't know if [those inside] were saved or martyred. I shouted to others to help us and sat on the rubble hoping to find something... I eventually found one thing: a single shoe of the beautiful child Mohammed. I cried bitterly because having found his shoe, I understood that he had been martyred and was no longer present.”

He ended the interview with these words: “We need urgent intervention to save us immediately.”

Mohammed Hammad was killed on 24 December 2023 along with his [eldest son, Mohannad](#) in an Israeli raid on his home in al-Jalaa’ neighborhood, Khan Yunis. On the first anniversary of their deaths, his wife wrote the following on her [husband’s Facebook page](#):

“Days go by so quickly, it has been a year since I lost my heart... and I still do not believe or understand what happened to me. I have lost the most precious and most beautiful gifts of the Most Merciful – my husband [Mohammed Hammad](#) and my eldest son Muhannad Hammad. I continue to search for them in the features and behaviors of my (living) children....”



Photo credits: [Youm 7](#); [Facebook](#)

## Rahaf Muhammad Handiq رھف محمد حنيدق



Rahaf Handiq (Rahaf Ḥunaydiq) was a teacher and scholar who worked as a lecturer in the Faculty of Theology at the Islamic University of Gaza and acted as an educational supervisor at Akka Secondary School. She was a pillar of the Khan Yunis community: she served as a religion teacher and premarital counselor at several mosques in Gaza and was an active member of Fatah and a number of civic groups, including the UNRWA Women’s Center for Cultural and Sports Activities, the Palestinian Elders Assembly, the Women’s Affairs Committee, and the Academic Campaign against the Israeli Occupation.

Dr. Handiq was born on 29 April 1973, in the Yarmouk Camp in Syria. Her father was an officer in the Palestine Liberation Army, the military wing of the PLO. She completed her primary and preparatory education at UNRWA schools in the camp and then obtained her high school diploma from Yarmouk High School. She went on to earn a university degree in civil engineering in Syria in 1994.

Her family made the decision to return to Palestine sometime after the signing of the Oslo Accords and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. Once in Gaza, Dr. Handiq changed course and turned to the study of religion at the Islamic University

where she completed a BA in the Fundamentals of Religion, an MA in Contemporary Doctrines and Legal Schools (2016), and a PhD in the Fundamentals of Contemporary Doctrine (2022). She published several academic [articles](#) in the *Islamic University Journal of Islamic Studies*, including “Atheism and Crime in the Modern Age” (2023), and “Al-kursi and al-`arsh [Qur’anic verses] between the Sunnis and Twelver Shi’ites (2018).” She also wrote [opinion pieces](#) for the *Anbaa Express* website that addressed issues of Israeli religious extremism, the conditions in Israeli prisons, and the status of Arab women.

Dr. Handiq wrote movingly about the many privations and human losses in Gaza during the time she lived through the Israeli assault. A month prior to her death, she wrote her [last post](#) on her Facebook page: “Whenever I cry or become weak, they ask me not to cry, but I am tired and exhausted, and I want to cry... Oh God, I want to cry... even crying is forbidden for us.”

Dr. Handiq and her family were displaced from Khan Yunis to a “safe zone” in Rafah. At dawn on 10 February 2024, Israeli occupation forces bombed her home there, killing Dr. Handiq, her husband Muhammad Abu al-Sa`id, a teacher, and two of their sons, Ussama and Ahmad.

Photo credit: [ourgaza](#)

## Adham Ahmed Khaled Hassouna ادهم احمد خالد حسونة



Adham Hassouna (Ḥassūna) was a freelance journalist, a lecturer in media studies at several universities in the Gaza Strip, and an assistant professor of radio and television at al-Israa University in al-Zahra', Gaza City. He also worked for some time as a director at Palestine TV.

Adham Hassouna was born on 12 September 1982 in al-Shuja`iyya neighborhood in the eastern part of Gaza City and lived most of his life there. For his post-secondary education, he studied abroad. He went first to Egypt where he received his BA degree in Media and Communication Arts from the October 6 University (Giza), followed by his MA degree, in 2012, from the Institute of Arab Research and Studies (Cairo). His [thesis](#) was entitled, *The Role of Palestinian Local Radio Stations in Addressing Internal Issues and the Public's Relationship with them: an Analytical Field Study*. He then went to Sudan where he completed his doctorate in Media Studies.

With advanced degrees in hand, Adham Hassouna embarked upon a promising career that combined scholarship with teaching and journalism. In terms of research, he had a broad interest in the relationship between media and society and, specifically, in the effects of media in its various forms, origins and content, on university students in Gaza. A [first publication](#), a paper that he had originally prepared for a workshop on "Culture Broadcast via Arab Satellite Channels," came out in 2015. Some years later, Professor Hassouna participated in a study that resulted in a [co-authored publication](#) to which he contributed. Entitled, "The Impact of Exposure to Indian TV serials and Public Opinion

regarding the Values Presented Therein: Field Study with a Sample of University Students in Gaza,” the article was published in the *Journal of the Humanities* (Israa University, 2021).

Adham Hassouna died on 1 December 2023. He was killed, along with several family members, including his brother, Dr. Majid Hassouna, when Israeli bombing in al-Shuja`iyya neighborhood targeted his home. He was 41 years old and married.

As evident from the moving [tributes to him](#), Adham Hassouna was a beloved friend, colleague and teacher:

“My love, my brother, and my colleague, my study and professional colleague... my companion in exile, and my pen and book companion, whom I leaned on whenever my branch bent and bowed.”

“You poured out your experience and knowledge on us. You were the best lecturer.”

Photo credit: [IPS](#)

## Mohammad Saleh Ahmad Hassouna محمد صالح أحمد حسونة



Mohammad Hassouna (Muḥammad Hassūna) was a lecturer at the University College of Applied Sciences in Gaza (UCAS), Gaza City Governorate. He joined UCAS after his graduation with an MSc in Information Science and Multimedia Systems in 2015 from Malaysia National University. Besides teaching, he was a dynamic researcher and promoter of university-business collaboration to qualify students for work in the technology sector.

Professor Hassouna was also a member of a team of researchers in the joint Norwegian-Palestinian Project E-Pal (Equip Palestine with E-Learning). The project is a six-year collaborative initiative (2021-26) between UCAS, Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU) in Hebron, the LINK Centre for Learning, Innovation and Academic Development at the University of Oslo (UiO), and the Oslo Metropolitan University (OMU) Centre for the Study of Professions. Shortly after his murder on 17 December 2023 at the age of 45, the team memorialized him with the following words (excerpted with minor editing for clarity):

“We lost our dear colleague and project member, Mohammed Hassouna, who was brutally killed in an Israeli air strike in Gaza together with his wife and his oldest son. Hassouna was the Director of the UCAS Incubator, which supports entrepreneurs with creative and ambitious ideas by providing them with administrative, technical and financial support. He worked hard to assist these startups to become successful businesses. Moreover, Hassouna had a deep engagement in technology-enhanced teaching in higher education and was continuously looking for new ways to use digital technologies to support students’ learning. During the Covid pandemic, he introduced several innovative teaching and learning approaches to support the conversion to online learning for UCAS staff and students.”

“Together with several colleagues at UCAS and the Islamic University of Gaza, he worked on a research and development project in our digital simulations group. They were developing and testing a digital tool to provide students with opportunities for more authentic English language learning, particularly within the domain of oral communication skills.”

“[His co-workers] remember him as a profoundly kind man, who went out of his way to support friends and colleagues both at work and in the local community. With the brutal murder of Hassouna, we have lost both a valued project member and a human being who was a great resource for his society.”

“Hassouna and his wife leave behind three children, who have now been orphaned due to the ongoing genocide perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces. May Hassouna, his wife, and his son rest in peace. May his homeland soon be liberated.”



Launch of the first incubator phase for enhancing the capabilities of female lawyers, sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)—*Insaf* (“Equity”) initiative, December 2022. Hassouna, then the head of UCAS technology incubator, is in front row, third from right

Photo credits: Gigaza; UCAS

## Taysir Kamil Ibrahim تيسير كامل إبراهيم



Taysir Ibrahim (Taysīr Ibrāhīm) was a professor of Islamic jurisprudence and its early history, and Dean of the Shari`a and Law Faculty at the Islamic University in Gaza. His life combined scholarship with community service: he was an active Muslim cleric who served as a preacher and as an arbitrator of disputes.

Dr. Ibrahim was born in Gaza on 23 August 1973. He received his bachelor's degree in Islamic law from the Islamic University in Gaza in 1995, his master's degree in jurisprudence from the same university, and later his doctorate in jurisprudence from the International Islamic University in Malaysia in 2012. He had also received a general education diploma from the Islamic University in Gaza, and a special education diploma from al-Aqsa University.

Dr. Ibrahim taught as a lecturer at the Faculty of Islamic Propagation at the Islamic University, as well as at the College of Companions and the Rabat College in Gaza. He headed the Department of Islamic Shari`a at the Islamic University of Gaza between 2012 and 2013. He was also the coordinator of the Faculty of Shari`a and Law at the university's southern branch between 2007 and 2009 and again between 2013 and 2016. He was the Deputy Dean of the Islamic University's southern branch from 2016 to

2017, and Dean of the Faculty of Shari`a and Law at the Islamic University from 2021 until the time of his death.



An active scholar, Dr. Ibrahim authored and co-authored some fifteen peer-reviewed papers in the field of Islamic law on topics ranging from Islamic legal reasoning to Islamic legal perspectives on war and worship. He taught courses on the principles of Islamic jurisprudence as well as specialized topics such as human rights, transactions, and theories of interest in Islamic law. He was also a public educator who often appeared on media programs on Islamic law and participated in curriculum development for Palestinian schools.

As a practicing jurist and cleric, Dr. Ibrahim served as Chief Justice for the Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine and frequently preached in mosques in Gaza. He also acted as the Shari`a arbitrator for alternative dispute resolution for the Palestine Scholars' Association.

Dr. Ibrahim, age 50, was killed, along with his entire family, in an Israeli airstrike on al-Nusayrat Refugee Camp in central Gaza on 17 October 2023.

Photo credits: IPS; Nabd

## Wesam Jadallah (Abu Musa) (ابو موسى) وسام جاد الله



Wesam Jadallah (Wisām Jādallāh), aka Abu Musa, age 43, was a signal figure in sports in Gaza. He was a gifted volleyball player who turned to coaching and teaching after injuries sidelined him. He taught as a professor of Physical Education at al-Aqsa University and served as coach of the Palestinian national youth volleyball team.

Dr. Jadallah was born in 1980 and raised in the Jabalya Refugee Camp north of Gaza City. He held a PhD in Physical Education, having studied in Egypt and subsequently served on the Faculty of Physical Education at al-Aqsa University.

He started playing volleyball as a boy in local schools and on public courts, honing his skills until he joined the al-Sadaqa Club team. As a player, he was key to al-Sadaqa's wins in many Arab championships, including league, cup, and super cup events. After he sustained injuries, he retired from playing to coach several teams, most notably al-Sadaqa, Shabab, Jabalya Services, and al-Shuja`iyya Union, many of which teams won local championships under his tutelage. He then became the coach of the Palestinian national youth volleyball team and the technical director of the Volleyball Federation.



(Dr. Jadallah, third from left)

Despite his star status as an athlete and coach, Dr. Jadallah remained a humble man, a “kind and gentle Captain,” who stayed close to his roots in Jabalya. [Muhammad al-Rantisi](#) wrote in *al-Ayyam* that countless players, coaches, and members of the Federation family and the wider sports community flooded digital platforms, expressing their profound sadness about his death. As al-Rantisi remarked: “Since sports competitions are a space where Palestinian youth come together in love and friendship, and where values, principles, and tolerant concepts flourish, the hardest thing for friends and loved ones to bear is the pain of separation when they lose their loved ones and colleagues.”

Dr. Jadallah was killed on 12 December 2023 when the Israeli Air Force bombed his home in the Jabalya Refugee Camp.

Photo credits: [X](#); [Shehabnews](#)

## Hazem Hamdi Mahmoud al-Jamali **حازم حمدي محمود الجمالي**



Hazem al-Jamali (Ḥāzīm al-Jamālī) was a scholar of administrative law and a recently-appointed chair of the Department of Public Law at Gaza University’s Faculty of Law.

He was born in 1969 to a family expelled from Bir al-Sab`a (Beersheba) during the Nakba. At age 14, he joined al-Shabiba, the Fatah youth wing. During the first Intifada, he was arrested multiple times and held in “administrative detention” in the then newly-opened Ansar 3 prison in the Naqab (Negev) desert.

With the creation of the Palestinian National Authority in 1994, Dr. al-Jamali joined the police force and moved through its ranks to the General Investigations Department. At the same time, he pursued studies in law, obtaining a law degree from Gaza’s al-Azhar University in 2001 and a diploma in legal studies in Egypt in 2006. He went on to do graduate work, earning a doctorate in administrative law from Cairo University in 2015.

Dr. al-Jamali’s scholarship was at the intersection of public law and civil service law. In 2017, he published (with co-author Hani Abdel Rahman Ghanem) *The Public Servant in Palestinian Civil Service Law and the Jurisprudence of the High Court of Justice* (in Arabic, Bisan Publishers), one of the first sustained book-length treatments of the subject. His working papers and articles covered a broader range of subjects, including the Palestinian right of return; academic freedom in Palestinian higher education institutions; good governance in the Palestinian political system; and the rights of the disabled in Palestinian law.

Dr. al-Jamali's students valued his efforts to make the recondite subject matter less forbidding. His January 2023 final exam in the first-year course Administrative Law (LWPR 3324) garnered media attention for the last prompt on the exam sheet, which read: "To improve your marks, write a question that you wish was on the exam and answer it."

A glimpse into Dr. al-Jamali's ethos as a teacher is in this headnote that he penned on the final examination sheet:

Our dear students, instructors of the future: rest assured that this examination is not meant as a crippling challenge or an attempt at fault-finding. We are confident that it is well within your capacities. Now is the time to harvest. Do not hesitate, and do not let fear overcome your determination to excel. If you have done well throughout the course, stay strong so you can continue your success. If you have not, this is your chance to become stronger and also continue your success. Rest assured: success knows no failure.

A torrent of appreciative online comments ensued. "Wow the best I've seen and read. How lucky his students are...." "Where we are, they like to get exam questions from Mars to discourage the student, both at schools and universities." "May his like be multiplied." "Truth: Dr. Hazem is among the best academics. I'll never forget his smile, his nontraditional teaching style that brings out the student's personality. You have all my appreciation and respect."

An Israeli assault on north Gaza residential buildings on 11 December 2023 killed Dr. al-Jamali, along with his wife.

Photo Credit: X

**Ashraf Yahya Eljedi** اشرف يحيى الجدي

Ashraf Eljedi (al-Jadi) was the Dean of the School of Nursing that was established in 1985 at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) and, according to a Facebook post by the Palestinian Nursing Association, was promoted to the position of professor of Public Health in October 2020. He received his doctorate in Public Health from the University of Bielefeld, in the eponymous city in northwestern Germany in 2005. His dissertation, *Diabetes Mellitus and Quality of Life of the Palestinian Diabetic Refugees in the Refugee Camps in Gaza Strip*, signaled his future research interests: health-related quality of life, refugee health, chronic diseases, infection control and prevention, and Diabetes Mellitus.

Google Scholar lists about twenty-five authored articles by Eljedi, some single-authored and others jointly with one or more colleagues. He was also an active scientist and served as an Editorial Board member of the international, open-access *Journal of Nursing and Patient Health Care (JNPHC)*. According to the *JNPHC* website, he was awarded the certificate of reviewer by Wiley's *Nursing Open* for reviewing four manuscripts in 2020. He is also reported as having recited the entire Quran in one session.

Eljedi was killed along with at least 17 other Palestinians, among them an 11-months-old baby, when the al-Shuhada' school at which they were sheltering in the al-Nusayrat Refugee Camp (Dayr al-Balah Governorate) was targeted by an Israeli airstrike on 24 October 2024. He had six children at the time of his murder.

Ziyad Abu-Tu`aima, a former student , posted, “May God have mercy on the beloved Dr. Ashraf al-Jedi. I was honored to have him as the supervisor of my MA thesis, and I learned a great deal from him. He influenced me enormously and he was a role model of learning, moral conduct, religiosity, and humility.” His son, Hamza, told the correspondent of the Palestine Information Center, “I mourn my father, I do not need to enumerate his scientific accomplishments for these are numerous, and his heart was full of the Quran as a book of guidance and a source to hold in memory.”



(Dr. Eljedi, right, and Dr. Yusuf al-Jeesh, left, from the Faculty of Nursing at IUG on a visit to Hertfordshire University-London, Faculty of Health Sciences)

Photo credits: JNPHC; IUG website

## Youssef Shahda al-Kahlout يوسف شحدة الكحلوت



Youssef Al-Kahlout (Yūsuf al-Kahlūt), 63, was a professor in the Faculty of Arts at the Islamic University of Gaza and a former chair of its Arabic Department. He supervised numerous graduate theses and taught a signature lecture course on Islamic and Ummayyad literature.

Dr. Al-Kahlout penned a corpus of research on the imbrication of poetry with its social contexts. He was particularly concerned with how Islamic ethics and aesthetics infused poetry in a range of historical epochs, including the Islamic conquest of the Levant, the Nakba, and the Second Palestinian Intifada.

Born in 1961 to a family from a village near ‘Asqalan, Dr. Al-Kahlout received a PhD from the University of the Holy Qur’an and Islamic Sciences in Omdurman, Sudan. His dissertation, revised into a 770-page book, is an exhaustive study of Islamic poetics in al-Andalus during the taifa kings period (1009-1091). The thesis pivots on a paradox: how did the poetry of this period, “infused with the light of Islam,” innovate and flourish despite a political context of intense fragmentation and unremitting wars between petty kings?

Dr. Al-Kahlout writes, “In light of the importance of poetry’s ethical dimension, I wanted to study it during this period to bring out its role as a guide to public life, and a correction to the course of life.”

How poetry reflects and refracts its political context is also center stage in *Muqarabat Naqdiyya fi Shi’r al-Muqawama* (*Critical Approaches to the Poetry of Resistance*). This book analyzes new themes in the poetry of the Second Intifada, relative to earlier waves of resistance poetry, noticing increasingly raw descriptions of the devastations wrought by Israeli violence on Palestinians’ bodies and social fabric. *Muqarabat* examines additional dimensions, offering an exegesis of how Jerusalem appears in the poems; how they portray the Oslo peace process; and manifestations of intertextuality with the Qur’an, Hadith, folklore, history, and Arabic poetry.

Another book is a full-length study of the Nakba-era poet and noted linguist Muhammad al-‘Adnani (1903-1981), a contemporary of Ibrahim Tuqan, but far less known and unjustly overlooked, argued Dr. Kahlout.

Shortly after 5 am on 10 August 2024, Dr. Al-Kahlout was performing dawn prayers with dozens of other worshippers at the al-Tabi`in school-turned-shelter in Gaza City, where he was living with his family and hundreds of other displaced families. The Israeli military dropped three bombs on the school, decimating the bodies of many worshippers; 90 were killed and over 70 could not be identified due to disfigurement. The spokesman for Gaza’s civil defense said, “Medical teams stand helpless before this horrific scene.”

“Dr. Youssef was an angel on earth, a respected academic and intellectual who we have now lost,” said a former student who was also sheltering at al-Tabi`in and who lost her father in the attack.

Photo Credit: Filasteen Online

## Rafat Hasan Abdel Rahman Lubbad رَأْفَت حَسَن عِبْد الرَّحْمَن لُبْد



Rafat Lubbad (Ra'fat Labad) was a 52-year-old physician of uncommon energy and dedication, and a key figure in the development of Gaza's health infrastructure. "He was a titan of internal medicine," recalled Canadian emergency physician Tarek Loubani, "A visionary who patiently corrected me in matters of medicine in the ER & strategy outside of it."

Dr. Lubbad was on the Faculty of Medicine at the Islamic University of Gaza, served as the Head of Internal Medicine at al-Shifa Hospital complex as well as the Indonesian Hospital.

Born in September 1971, Dr. Lubbad completed his medical education at al-Arab Medical University in Benghazi, Libya (now the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Benghazi). He worked at Althoura Hospital in Albaida City before moving back to Gaza, where he became a key node in the collective effort to build up the health sector in the face of its strangulation by Israel's blockade, imposed since 2007.

In 2018, he became Director of the Qatari-funded Shaykh Hamad Hospital, a 100-bed facility that was Gaza's only prosthetics and rehabilitation hospital. The hospital was part of an expansion in Gaza's health sector, funded from abroad. A Reuters

investigation found that by 2022, Gaza had 3,412 hospital beds, almost a 70% increase from 2009.

Israel attacked Hamad Hospital in its assault of May 2021.



Dr. Lubbad opened Hamad hospital's doors to medical students from al-Azhar University for clinical teaching, arguing that it was not only the students who would benefit. "The medical staff will develop their skills as well, for in teaching students, doctors review their information and stay up-to-date on trends in research."

Dr. Lubbad maintained this balance between teaching and research in his own practice. In Libya and Gaza, he co-authored clinical studies on infection risk among health care providers, the growing problem of resistance to antibiotics, and took part in a special issue of *The Lancet* featuring research from Occupied Palestine.

Like all medical leaders in Gaza, Dr. Lubbad was compelled to navigate its highly fragmented health sector. According to a study by sociologist Mona Jebril, the sector was a "field of unregulated power relations" with severe coordination vacuums between its multiple parties—two Palestinian Ministries of Health in Gaza and the West Bank; UNRWA; foreign donors and NGOs; and Israel.

To wit, Dr. Lubbad devoted time to meeting municipal government officials; conducting public outreach during the early days of the Covid pandemic; concluding agreements with Health Ministry officials; and hosting visiting foreign doctors.

On 18 November 2023, three consecutive missiles struck the Lubbad family home in al-Shaykh Radwan, killing Dr. Lubbad, his brother, and several of their children. Israel blocked ambulances from reaching the area. Dr. Lubbad's body was retrieved and buried seven months after his killing.

A former student grieved Dr. Lubbad's death, as did cardiologist Muhammad Siyab Panhwar, who wrote: "Not only was he an excellent doctor, he was also a program director involved in medical education. What that means is that he was involved in training the next generation of doctors in Gaza. His loss alone is a terrible tragedy, but it is compounded by the fact that an entire generation of doctors may not get trained. Please honor his memory and remember his name."

Photo Credits: X; *Dunya al-Watan*

## Du`a Ahmad Mahdi دعاء أحمد مهدي



Du`a Mahdi (Du`aa' Mahdī) was a scholar at the beginning of her career who pursued her academic goals with incredible determination, completing and defending her doctoral dissertation during many dark days in the Israeli assault on Gaza.

Dr. Mahdi earned her BA degree in Qur'anic Readings, her MA degree in Qur'anic Interpretation and Islamic Sciences, and her PhD in Qur'anic Interpretation and Islamic Sciences, all from the Islamic University. Her doctoral dissertation, entitled *Qur'anic Guidance in Enhancing Psychological Stability - A Descriptive Study*, was awarded a mark of distinction on the occasion of her defense on 16 December 2024, and her examiners recommended the study for publication. While working on her doctorate, she held a position at the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs in Gaza.

In reflecting on this achievement on [her Facebook page](#), a few days after her defense, Dr. Mahdi mused, "I was never interested in titles, but I have always loved this one, because it was my mother and father's dream since I was little. This degree, which I earned during the hardest days of my life, and this dissertation, which I pulled out from under the rubble of my house, may God grant it a bright future and may it have an impact on

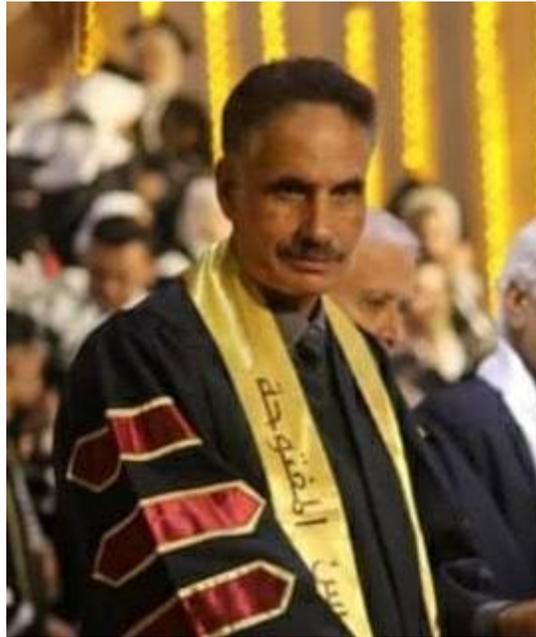
my life and after my death. Praise be to God, may His praise be endless.” She also thanked her husband, who had been her “secret soldier,” supporting her goals and being her family after her parents and siblings had been forced south by Israeli attacks and she and her husband remained alone in the north of Gaza.

Her friend, Aya Hassouna, described her as “the patient, pious, and pure woman who remained steadfast in northern Gaza despite hunger, siege, longing for her family, and the possibility of leaving for the south.”

The Israeli military killed Dr. Mahdi, her husband, and their unborn child, by bombing their home in northern Gaza on 4 January 2025. Her death came a year and a day after the death of her first child, a baby girl who she carried to full term only to lose her on 3 January 2024, as in Dr. Mahdi’s own words: “Your little heart had no choice but to choose death over life.”

Photo credit: [Facebook](#)

## Jihad Suleiman Salem al-Masri جهاد سليمان المصري



Jihad al-Masri (Jihād al-Masrī) was a historian, scholar, writer and, at the time of his death, the director of al-Quds Open University's Khan Yunis branch. He was born in Rafah on 1 January 1963.

After high school in Rafah, Jihad al-Masri spent much of the 1980s and 1990s outside Palestine to pursue his education and begin his career. He completed his bachelor's degree in History from Yarmouk University in Jordan in 1987 and then spent six years in Libya (1988-94) teaching in the Ministry of Education's teachers' institutes. He then returned to Jordan and taught at private schools (1994-98) and UNRWA schools (1998-2000). While teaching, he pursued graduate studies, earning a master's degree in Islamic History from Al al-Bayt University in Mafrāq in 1999 with a thesis entitled, *Education in the Levant in the Ayyubid Period*.

Professor al-Masri returned to Palestine in 2000 and spent one year as a lecturer at al-Azhar, Islamic and al-Aqsa universities in Gaza, before joining al-Quds Open University in Rafah. After one year as lecturer (2001-02), he began a long tenure in university administration from 2003. He was academic and administrative assistant to the director of al-Quds Open University in Rafah until 2022 when he was promoted to the position of director of the university's Khan Yunis branch. (It is worth noting that for several years he also headed the university's Oral History Center.)

Despite his numerous administrative responsibilities, Professor al-Masri continued to have an [active scholarly life](#). He wrote books and published articles in Arabic and gave talks at academic conferences on topics in Islamic history, modern and contemporary Palestinian history. He demonstrated a special interest in women's history and conducting oral histories. Among his [numerous publications](#) is his book: *The Symbolism of the Keys of Return in Palestinian Refugee Women's Literature and Its Reflection in the Works of Palestinian Creatives*, published in 2011 by the [BADIL](#) Resource Centre for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights and awarded a prize from the Center for the quality of its research. Among his many [conference papers](#), "Why Gaza Palestinians Select Belgium as Asylum Destination," presented in Brussels in 2019, highlights his use of oral history as an effective research method.

In the early hours of 17 October 2023, four members of the al-Masri family were killed and three others were injured by Israeli aerial bombardment in Khan Yunis. Jihad al-Masri was severely wounded in the attack and succumbed to his injuries in hospital twelve days later – on 29 October. He was 60 years old. His wife, one of their daughters and a grandson were killed in that attack; another daughter and two grandsons were severely injured. The killed and injured represented three generations of the al-Masri family.

In an obituary posted on Facebook, al-Quds Open University paid tribute to Jihad al-Masri, a "scholar and educator." Another obituary penned by the literary community described him as "a historian and university professor whose contributions spanned generations." By his family and friends Jihad al-Masri was referred to lovingly as "Abu Hussam."

Photo credits: [IPS](#)

## Osama Atiya Ahmed al-Muzaini أسامة عطية احمد المزيني



Osama (Usāma) al-Muzaini, 57, was a scholar of psychology, a member of the politburo of the Islamic Resistance Movement, and a minister of education from 2011-2014. After he left government, he became an assistant professor of psychology at the Islamic University of Gaza, where he founded an academic center at “the important intersection of the goals of Islam and the goals of psychology.”

As a scholar, activist, and public official, al-Muzaini engaged concretely with the material and psychosocial impacts of Israel’s unrelenting assaults on Gazan society.

Born in 1966 in al-Shuja`iyya neighborhood east of Gaza City, al-Muzaini recounted how he came to meet Shaykh Ahmed Yassin, founder of the Islamic Complex (*al-Mujamma al-Islami*), a large network of kindergartens, health clinics, and sports clubs established in 1973. He would later marry one of Yassin’s daughters, Mariam.

Al-Muzaini majored in psychology at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG), and was elected chair of the student council in 1987. At that point in the mid-1980s, student union elections were a four-cornered struggle between Fatah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad,

the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and the Muslim Brothers movement that al-Muzaini belonged to and later evolved into Hamas.

He pursued graduate work in psychology, earning an MA from IUG in 2001. In 2005, he received a PhD in a joint program between Ain Shams University in Cairo and al-Aqsa University in Gaza.

From 2006 to 2014, al-Muzaini played a prominent role in politics. He was the Palestinian point-person for the protracted negotiations to exchange Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier captured by several Palestinian factions in June 2006, with hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

In 2011, he was appointed Minister of Education and Higher Education in the aftermath of Israel's catastrophic 22-day assault on Gaza. Along with Israel's blockade imposed in 2007, the 2009 assault worked like a vise on the education system. Schools and roads were destroyed. Prohibitions on the import of cement, paper, and glue meant that schools were rebuilt exceedingly slowly and lacked essential supplies. Overcrowding was the acute reality, with up to 50 students in some classrooms. The overwhelming majority of UNRWA and government-run schools operated on double shifts.

To secure funds for building schools, Minister al-Muzaini met with a stream of foreign donors and local notables. One notable event was a ribbon-cutting for six new libraries in schools, sponsored by the prominent female parliamentarian and scion of Gaza's Shawwa family, Rawia al-Shawwa.

Al-Muzaini also capitalized on the regime changes sweeping the region in 2011, traveling to Tunisia to meet the postrevolutionary Education Minister and facilitate exchange opportunities for Gaza students, despite Israel's blockade.

In 2014, al-Muzaini left government and began an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department of the Faculty of Education at IUG. He supervised scores of Master's theses on the psychosocial conditions of both relatively privileged and marginalized subgroups in Gaza, including university students, battered women, and female prisoners. His own research focused on one such marginalized cohort: women widowed by Israel's 2008-2009 attack and the distinct kinds of suffering they experienced.



In 2016, he founded The Islamic Foundation of Psychology Center (*Markaz al-Ta'sil al-Islami l-ilm al-Nafs*), conceived in its mission statement as “ a step on the path to establishing an Islamic school of psychology and social sciences.”

On the evening of 16 October 2023, an Israeli airstrike killed al-Muzaini and his two sons in their home.

Photo credits: *al-Maseera*; X

## Muhammad Suleiman al-Nabahin محمد سليمان النباهين



Muhammad al-Nabahin (Muḥammad al-Nabāhīn) was a 43-year-old professor of Business Administration. He lived with his large, extended family in al-Burayj Refugee Camp, in the northeast of Dayr al-Balah Governorate. He had studied at the University of Palestine and began his career teaching at al-Quds Open University in 2001.

As a scholar and pedagogue Professor al-Nabahin was especially interested in Management, Entrepreneurship, and Business Ethics. Moreover, his [Facebook postings](#) are replete with brief but thoughtful insights regarding effective managerial styles, the qualities of successful leadership and productive work environments. Embedded in these postings is gentle advice to his colleagues, students and friends —future employers, managers, employees.

Professor al-Nabahin died in the early morning hours of Thursday, 12 October 2023. Shortly after midnight an [Israeli airstrike](#) on the four-story residential building where he lived — in block 9 of al-Burayj Refugee Camp — killed at least 26 individuals belonging to three different families: the Abu Madin, Abu Huwaisil, and al-Nabahin. As many as twenty of the deceased were from the al-Nabahin family. Among them, Muhammad Suleiman was killed with his 37-year-old wife, Asma' Mousa al-Nabahin, their three daughters -- Jamila Muhammad, 16-year-old Raghad Muhammad and 12-year-old Rula Suleiman -- and their 4-year-old son Ayoub Suleiman.

Abu Suleiman, as he was affectionately called, was remembered by his colleagues and friends as “the friendly brother, fun and polite friend and colleague.” “You were always loved in your work and in your home.”

Photo credit: [Facebook](#)

**Khalil Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nakhal خليل إبراهيم أحمد النخال**

Khalil al-Nakhal (Khalīl al-Nakhāl), 67, was the consultant anesthesiologist and head of anesthesiology at al-Shifa Hospital Complex. A consultant physician is one of the most senior doctors in a hospital. S/he is a specialist in a particular field, trains junior doctors and hospital staff to ensure high performance, and publishes research findings.

Dr. al-Nakhal performed all these roles. His career predates and tracks the methodical capacity-building of Gaza's health infrastructure, an enormous effort described in a June 2024 *Reuters* [investigation](#). The initiative was acutely needed in light of the blockade imposed on Gaza by Israel in 2007, and the severe restrictions on movement that prevented many patients from traveling outside Gaza to receive timely care.

In 2010, Dr. al-Nakhal was part of a team of doctors who performed two surgeries that had never before been conducted in Gaza. One was on a patient with severe stab wounds to the heart and lung, and the other on a patient with a shattered hand and wrist.

In 2012, he coauthored a note in *The Lancet* reporting findings on the frequency of nosocomial infections in patients admitted to al-Shifa's ICU, the largest in Gaza.

At dawn on 12 November 2023, Dr. al-Nakhal was killed by an Israeli airstrike on his home in Gaza City. Murdered along with him was his son, Ahmad Khalil Ibrahim al-Nakhal, his son-in-law, Dr. Hammam Alloah (al-Lawh), the only kidney disease and

transplant specialist in Gaza (see his bio in this archive), and Dr. Hammam's father, Mahmoud Hassan Mostafa al-Louh. Six other family members were injured.

Ambulances could not reach the home, due to the Israeli military's blocking of all access to the neighborhood, as it oversaw the forcible evacuation of the nearby al-Shifa Hospital.

Photo credit: Facebook

## **Siddiq Tawfiq Mohamad Nassar** صديق توفيق محمد نصار



Siddiq Nassar (Şiddîq Naşşār) was an assistant professor of Finance in the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences at the Islamic University of Gaza. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration from the Islamic University of Gaza in 1999 and 2005 respectively. As for his doctorate, he earned it from Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey, where he was a student from August 2012 until February 2018. His fields of specialization were Accounting and Finance. Within these fields, his research interests included behavior management, decision-making, information exchange and public relations. He was fluent in Arabic, English and Turkish, and published his scholarship in both Arabic and English.

Siddiq Nassar was an active researcher with two field sites, Palestine and Turkey, and an impressive [publication record](#). In fact, he had three journal publications in a single year while a doctoral candidate (2/2016, 3/2016, 4/2016) and at least one journal publication per year from 2018 and the award of his PhD.

His scholarship demonstrates a preoccupation with the various factors – specifically, structures and arrangements – that affect the performance of businesses and institutions. He had two single-authored publications (2018, 2019) having to do with the effect of intellectual capital on business performance in Turkey, and four co-authored publications (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023) about the effects of different capacities and strategies on corporate performance in Gaza. He was, indeed, a scholar of great promise.

Siddiq Nassar was killed on 4 January 2024 in Dayr al-Balah Governorate, south of Gaza City, as a result of Israeli shelling. He was 47 years old.

Photo credit: [IPS](#)

**Nidal Mohammed Awad Ibrahim Qadoura** نضال محمد عوض ابراهيم قدورة



Nidal Qadoura (Niḍāl Qaddūra) was a professor of Genetics and Molecular Biology in the Department of Medical Sciences at al-Aqsa University. He was 45 years old, had been married for 22 years – since 30 October 2001 -- and had several children. He lived with his family in Jabalya Refugee Camp in the North Gaza Governorate. Jabalya, with more than 100,000 residents, was one of the largest refugee camps in Palestine.

Professor Qadoura studied at the Islamic University in Gaza and earned his master's degree in 2018. His master's thesis is entitled, *Circulating miRNAs as Biomarkers of Type II Diabetes Mellitus among Patients in Gaza Strip*. To honor his father on this milestone, his eldest son, Ahmad, posted the following on Facebook on 22 September 2018, and included a photo of them together:

From heart to heart ❤️

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to my dear father Nidal Qadoura  
On the occasion of receiving his master's degree...

Many thanks to everyone who shared in this success with us ❤️

I ask God to grant all of us such success.



Professor Qadoura was greatly respected and appreciated by his colleagues and students who spoke of his warmth and kindness. One student wrote the following about him: “He taught me more than simply a university subject. He was ethical and well-mannered, knowledgeable and cultured.”

Nidal Qadoura died on 20 November 2023 when the apartment block where he lived with his entire family in Jabalya Refugee Camp was hit by an Israeli airstrike. This was just weeks before the first (12/2023-1/2024) of four major Israeli ground offensives that, by the end of May 2025, had all but obliterated the camp. Abu Ahmad, as he was affectionately called, was killed with his children and more than 50 members of his extended family. Together, they represented three generations of the Qadoura family.

Photo credits: Gigaza; X; Facebook

## Ahmad Mahmoud Mohamad al-Qara احمد محمود محمد القرا



Ahmad al-Qara (Aḥmad al-Qarra) was a photographer, photojournalist and lecturer in multimedia at al-Aqsa University. He was, as well, the university photographer, responsible for documenting university events, including graduation ceremonies, with his craft.

Ahmad al-Qara was born in 1988 in Khuza‘a, a town just 500 meters from the 1949 Armistice Demarcation Line, in Khan Yunis Governorate. He attended both elementary and high school in Khuza‘a. He earned a bachelor’s degree (in Information Technology from the College of Science and Technology, according to some sources, or in Public Relations from al-Aqsa University according to other sources). In 2020 he completed a master’s degree in Journalism (or, according to one source, in Journalism and Media) from the Islamic University. His thesis was entitled *Media Discourse of the Izz Ad-Din Al-Qassam Brigades and its Role vis-a-vis the Israeli Occupation: A Case Study*. He began working at al-Aqsa University in 2017.

Ahmad al-Qara was killed on Friday morning, 10 November 2023 (one source says 10 October) when Israeli forces bombed the entrance to Khuza‘a where he happened to be at that time. He was 36 years old.

In the many testimonials delivered following news of his death, Ahmad al-Qara is said to have been “beloved by everyone and always smiling” with a “dream of becoming a famous journalist and conveying Palestine’s voice to the world.” According to his

colleagues, he was known for “his extreme loyalty and dedication to his work.” Indeed, “he was the face and pride of al-Aqsa University... He was an inspiration.” His students were particularly effusive in their praise, referring to him as a “noble teacher, advisor, and always there for us. We only witnessed his kindness, beautiful smile, and good character.” He was described as being like “a father and a brother to the students, always helping anyone who approached him to learn technical skills in photography and journalism. He gave hope to everyone who sought his guidance.”

His brother, Zakaria al-Qara, mourned him with heartfelt words on Facebook: “In every encounter we had during the war.... your smile never left your face. You always inspired me to be like you and encouraged me to bring out the best in myself. You were kind-hearted, well-mannered and known for your morals and ethics. You have now joined our brother Abdullah.”

Photo credit: [X](#)

**علي هشام سعيد القريناوي** 'Ali Hisham Said al-Qirinawi



'Ali al-Qirinawi (al-Qirināwī) was a lecturer and researcher at Gaza Community College. He received an MA from the Faculty of Commerce at the Islamic University of Gaza in 2015. The title of his thesis was, *The Factors Affecting the Control of the Monetary Authority on the Exchange Companies*.

Al-Qirinawi was killed very early in the Israeli war on Gaza while visiting his relatives, the al-Na`ouq family in their home in Dayr al-Balah. On Tuesday, 22 October 2023, the family home was hit by an Israeli airstrike and 21 members of the extended al-N`aouq family, including 14 children and three women, were killed, as were about 30 others. He was 33 years old, married and a father.

His wife, the academic Nida' 'Affanah, was killed 10 days later, on 2 November 2023, with their 3-year-old daughter and other family members. (for more details, see her own biography in this archive).

Photo credit: Gigaza

## Yasser H. M. Radwan ياسر رضوان



Yasser Radwan (Yāsir Raḍwān) was an assistant professor of education technology at the Palestine Technical College (PTC) in Dayr al-Balah. PTC was founded in 1993 and offers a two-year post-secondary school associate degree as well as a BSc in Technical Education. Per his curriculum vita, Radwan did his undergraduate work in Gaza, and his MA in technical education at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt. He supervised graduate student theses and refereed articles. And, as befits a faculty member of a practical-oriented college, he had many hands-on areas of expertise. These included graphic design using Photoshop, Corel Draw, Adobe XD, Office programs and preparation of presentations of various types. He also designed logos, business cards and brochures, and engaged in the design and modification of the visual identity of companies and institutions.

Professor Radwan, who was born on 22 January 1978, was killed on 19 December 2023 with his wife and their three daughters and two sons. Their third son, Yusuf (aka Youssef), was studying in Cairo at the time. Radwan’s mother was also among those who were murdered. Their lives were ended in an airstrike in the place they were sheltering in Dayr al-Balah, an area designated as “safe” by the Israeli army. A neighbor of the family posted an old family picture and the following homage to the children in English:

“These children grew up before our eyes, always playful and mischievous. If we opened the window of our room, we would find them at their window, playfully teasing us

despite their extreme shyness. They were the people who separated our house from theirs, just a wall apart!

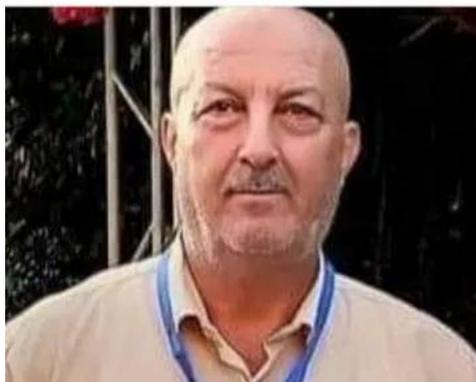
The pictures are old. Yusuf, the eldest child, is no longer a child but a young man studying at the university. And now, suddenly, he has become a responsible adult, taking care of himself on his own.”

And a former student of Professor Radwan posted this comment on the [PTC page](#), “May God bless you our dear professor, how eagerly we awaited your lectures and your way of delivering the lessons, not just the subject matter, but also your being an example to emulate in our relations and with other people.”



Photo credits: [Linkedin](#); [X](#)

## Nahed Thabit Salman al-Rafati ناهض ثابت سلمان الرفاتي



Nahed [al-Rafati](#) (Nahiḍ al-Rafātī) was a Hebrew language instructor in the Department of Arabic, Faculty of the Human Sciences at al-Azhar University in Gaza City, and served as an Assistant to the Chair of the department from 2001 onward. Al-Azhar University, established in 1991, offers undergraduate degrees in more than seventy academic specializations, Masters in 26, and PhDs in Chemistry and Water Technology. Al-Rafati's education included a diploma from the Institute of Research and Arabic Language in Cairo, 2005, a BA in the Social Sciences from the Open University in Jerusalem, 1999; and a two-year diploma at the Teachers' College in Gaza, 1983.

He completed many Hebrew-language courses as part of the Continuing Education program at his university; these were preceded by advanced courses between 1982 and 1987 at the School of Hebrew Language in Gaza. In 2012, al-Rafati was appointed as a member of a committee in the Palestine Ministry of Higher Education in charge of preparation of the Hebrew curriculum for grades nine and ten.

Al-Rafati's life was ended on 25 October 2023, together with his wife's, Um Thabit. It was the third week of Israel's invasion of Gaza that began with airstrikes on the seventh of that month. Born 10 June 1961 in Gaza City, he was 62 years old at the time of his death that was caused by an airstrike on his family home in Gaza City. It is unclear from the available information what the raid did to other members of the family. A post on X by an anonymous person reads: "Nahed al-Rafati was like a father for his students, kind and good-hearted, and generous with his counsel."



(Al-Rafati and his wife, Um Thabit)

Photo credits: Gigaza; X

## Khaled Saeed al-Ramlawi خالد سعيد الرملوي



Khaled al-Ramlawi (Khālīd al-Ramlāwī), age 41, was a professor of engineering at the Islamic University and specialized in hydrology and water resources. He had recently received (2021) his PhD from the College of Engineering, Dokuz Eylül University in Izmir, Türkiye, and had chosen to bring his expertise in water management back to Gaza.

Dr. al-Ramlawi had been well on his way to a successful career and obtaining citizenship in Türkiye when he decided to return to Gaza with his wife Bisan and five children in 2022. He had his own lab at Dokuz Eylül University and had co-published several academic papers that explored new methods for estimating rainfall, as well as [a study](#) of the Gaza coastal aquifer entitled, “Investigation of the Influence of Excess Pumping on Groundwater Salinity in the Gaza Coastal Aquifer (Palestine) Using Three Predicted Future Scenarios,” *Water* (August 2020, 12/8). [He told friends](#) that he chose to go back to Gaza to teach students there and to live close to his parents, remarking that all the jobs and nationalities of the earth were not equal to a single night of *samar* (an evening of extended social conversation) shared with them.



After Israeli attacks began in October 2023, Dr. al-Ramlawi, his wife, and his children sought shelter with other family members in the apartment complex, Burj al-Taj in al-Rimal, Gaza City. [On 25 October](#) multiple Israeli planes dropped some 20 major bombs on the complex without warning, destroying ten residential buildings and killing over 129 people, including his three-year-old daughter Alina and 18 other members of his family, his mother and father among them. Dr. al-Ramlawi and his daughter Sama, age 15, were trapped under the rubble for five hours until they were rescued, and he was left with a serious leg injury that required surgery without anesthesia. His wife and his surviving children fled to Rafah where he planned to join them as soon as he had recovered sufficiently to travel. He was killed a few weeks later, on 18 December 2023 (date also given as 7 or 12 December), by an Israeli bomb attack on the house of relatives where he was sheltering.

[In his final Facebook post](#) on 29 November 2023, he wrote of his great losses – his daughter, parents, siblings, and nieces and nephews - and asked: “How will we ever be able to live normally after such an affliction? Oh God, reward us for this affliction and replace it with something better. Pray for our wellbeing.”

Photo credits: [X](#)

## Ali Taysir al-Rantisi علي تيسير الرنتيسي



Ali al-Rantisi ('Ali al-Rantīsī), age 27, was a full-time teaching assistant in the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Systems at the Islamic University. He had been recruited to his teaching position as a young scholar and teacher of enormous promise, and his adult life as a university teacher and married man had just recently begun.

Mr. Rantisi was born on 1 January 1997 in Gaza City. He was educated in primary and secondary Gaza schools, and then at the Islamic University in Gaza, from where he graduated with a BA (2019) and an MA (2020) in Geography and Geographic Information Systems. He then became a full-time teacher at the university.

Mr. Rantisi was also known as a *hafiz* (a person who has memorized the entire Qur'an). He married his wife, Shahed Omar, in 2021.



(Mr. Rantisi and his mother at his graduation)

Israeli aircraft targeted his house in the al-Zaytun neighborhood in Gaza City on 11 October 2023, without prior warning. The bombing killed Mr. Rantisi along with his mother, Nadia Tafesh.

Photo credits: [Gigaza](#); [X](#)

## Yusuf Juma'a Abd al-Hadi Salameh يوسف جمعة عبد الهادي سلامة



Yusuf Salameh (Yūsuf Salāma) was a renowned scholar and teacher, *ʿalim*, preacher and administrator. He contributed enormously to religious education and religious life and institutions in Palestine.

He was born on 16 December 1954 in al-Maghazi Refugee Camp in Dayr al-Balah Governorate in central Gaza. His parents were originally from Bayt Tima, a village 21 kilometers northeast of Gaza. His post-secondary education began at the Teachers Institute in Gaza where he graduated in 1974 with a diploma that allowed him to begin a career as a school teacher. He eventually enrolled in al-Azhar University; he earned a bachelor's degree in the Fundamentals of Islam (*Usūl al-Dīn*) and then a license in *Shari'a* (Islamic law). Interested in more specialized studies, he completed a master's degree in Islamic endowments (*awqāf*), and a doctorate with a thesis on social solidarity in Islamic endowments in Palestine.

From 1984 to 1994, Dr. Salameh combined teaching with administrative work at al-Azhar University and al-Azhar Religious Institute in Gaza. While teaching mostly graduate students in the Islamic sciences, he held various positions: Director of Public Relations (1984-90), Secretary of the Academic Council of al-Azhar Institute (1990-92), Director of Preaching and Counseling (1992-1993).

Having both scholarly and administrative expertise, Dr. Salameh joined the government of Palestine in 1994 and worked in the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs. He spent two years as Assistant Deputy Minister (1994-96) and another two as

Undersecretary of the Ministry (1996-98), before becoming Acting Minister (1998-2005) and finally, Minister (2005-06).

Dr. Salameh played several important roles in religious life in Palestine – as preacher of al-Aqsa Mosque, the first elected vice president of the Supreme Islamic Authority in Jerusalem, and member of the Supreme Fatwa Council in Palestine. In Gaza, he was active in Dar al-Birr Charitable Society and the Grand Maghazi Mosque.

At the same time, he remained deeply engaged with the academy. He was, for example, an advisory member of the Faculty of Quran and Islamic Studies at al-Quds University and a member – and former vice president -- of the Board of Trustees of al-Azhar University. Furthermore, he was a prolific scholar with a [publishing record](#) that spanned 35 years on topics related primarily to rights and duties, rituals, practices and rulings in Islam. His scholarship also included studies on Islamic Palestine and the religious dimension of the status of Palestine. And to share his knowledge with the broader community, he penned a weekly column on religious topics in al-Quds newspaper. Moreover, Dr. Salameh was outspoken about his profound concern regarding Israeli efforts to erase the Arab identity of Jerusalem by, among other things, restricting Palestinian residence and demolishing Palestinian homes and buildings in the city.

Yusuf Salameh died on 31 December 2023. Over the course of several days that month, al-Maghazi Refugee Camp, where he lived with his family, was subjected to near continuous bombardment. His home was hit and he was killed. His wife and daughters were injured; his wife died of her injuries shortly thereafter. Dr. Salameh was 69 years old.

Photo credit: [IPS](#)

## Abdel Nasser Mustafa Salim al-Saqqa عبد الناصر مصطفى سليم السقا



Abdel Nasser al-Saqqa (‘Abd al-Nāṣir al-Saqqā) was a professor of Geography at al-Aqsa University. He had a long and full career there – teaching for almost 28 years and serving as Head of the Department of Geography (2005-06) with multiple two-year terms as Assistant Head.

Abdel Nasser al-Saqqa was born in Khan Yunis in the southern portion of the Gaza Strip on 31 May 1964. He went abroad for his university studies. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Geography in 1990 from Garyounis University (name changed in 2011 to University of Benghazi) in Libya, and his master’s – also in Geography – in 1996 from the University of Jordan in Amman. Sometime later, he began doctoral studies in Egypt.

Professor al-Saqqa began his career at al-Aqsa University in the 1996-97 academic year. He taught a variety of courses in the Department of Geography, among them, Geography of Palestine, Economic Geography, Human Geography, Geography of Settlement, and Geography of Africa. He supervised numerous student research projects and was active in designing curricula and syllabi. He was a valued member of his department, known for his collegiality and generosity. And he was a much-appreciated teacher whose students, in their tributes to him, highlighted his exceptional teaching skills, as well as his rectitude and kindness:

One student wrote: "He was a wonderful, knowledgeable teacher, always advising and responsive whenever we had difficulties. In truth, we never witnessed anything from him except good treatment, a pleasant smile, and fine manners."

Another student wrote: "Dr. Abdel Nasser al-Saqqa was my favorite professor at al-Aqsa University. He was a professor of geography and specialized in the land of Palestine. I took his classes from 2014 to 2018. He was generous and kind to his students."

This same student added the following: "His four children and wife lived abroad in Belgium, to have a better life amid Israel's continuing siege on Gaza. But Dr. Abdel Nasser – also known as Abu Mustafa – stayed in Gaza out of his dedication to his students and to continue his work as a professor. He spoke often of his children and how he looked forward to visiting them.... .. In his last post on Facebook, he wrote of the pain he felt in the constant communications blackouts, how he had gone for days upon days without being able to speak to his children. 'Maybe better days will bring us together', he wrote...."

Abdel Nasser al-Saqqa was killed on Sunday, 7 January 2024 when Israeli airstrikes targeted his home during an intense bombing campaign in Khan Yunis. He was 59 years old, a father, a husband and a beloved professor.



Photo credits: [Facebook](#); [Gigaza](#); [Reddit](#)

**Muhammad Eid Shabir** محمد عيد شبير

Dr. Muhammad Shabir (Muḥammad Shabīr) was a Palestinian academic, microbiologist, and political figure who played a significant role in Palestinian higher education and national politics. He was best known for his tenure as President of the Islamic University of Gaza from 1990 to 2005 and for his brief designation in 2006 as Prime Minister-in-waiting during efforts to form a Palestinian national unity government.

Born in Khan Yunis on 28 March 1946, Shabir pursued higher education in the United States, earning his Ph.D. in microbiology from Marshall University. Upon his return to Gaza, he became a leading figure in academia, specializing in microbiology, virology, and immunology. His scholarly contributions included research papers and public lectures in the biomedical sciences. One of his better-known works was titled *The Miracle of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus*, in which he explored the scientific and ethical complexities of HIV/AIDS.

As President of the Islamic University of Gaza, Shabir led the institution through a period of growth, academic expansion, and increasing international engagement, despite the growing blockade and regional instability. He was known for his balanced relationships across political factions, including Fatah and Hamas, and was considered a politically moderate and unifying figure.

In November 2006, Shabir was nominated by consensus of both Hamas and Fatah to lead a unity government as Prime Minister, a role that would have made him a key transitional leader during one of the most politically fragile periods in Palestinian governance. Although the unity government ultimately collapsed and Shabir did not assume the office, his nomination reflected the broad respect he commanded across the Palestinian political spectrum.

Shabir maintained close relationships with senior political leaders, including the late Yasser Arafat, whom he regularly visited in both Gaza and the West Bank. Outside of politics, he was a family man with six children. His wife, Rehab Mohammad Shabir, served as deputy minister of women's affairs in the Palestinian government.

On 12 November 2023, during the Gaza genocide, Dr. Muhammad Eid Shabir was critically wounded in an Israeli airstrike on his family home in Gaza City. Although he initially survived the blast, he was later shot and killed by an Israeli sniper. He was 77 years old. The airstrike killed five members of his family, including his wife Rehab, their daughter-in-law Najat Ayoub Alhelo, and their infant grandson Muhammad Malik Shabir.

Dr. Shabir is remembered for his scientific contributions, educational leadership, political moderation, and his unwavering commitment to the Palestinian people through education and dialogue.

Photo credit: [Al-Jazeera](#)

## Bassam Mohammed Omar Shaheen **بسام محمد عمر شاهين**



Born in 1964, Dr. Bassam Shaheen (Shāhīn) held a PhD in nursing from the University of Al-Butana in Sudan in 2021. He worked as a vice-dean for graduate studies at al-Azhar University in Gaza, and published research on cancer prevention. The findings provided a comprehensive overview and useful recommendations to create the national cancer control plan.

After surviving two direct strikes on where he was staying with his family in the Muhandiseen and Salhi towers in Gaza City, during which he sustained moderate injuries, Dr. Bassam was killed alongside his family in a strike on Dayr al-Balah on 11 November 2023.

Photo credit: Shireen website

## Anwar Sa`di Habib Shaldan أنور سعدي حبيب شلدان



Anwar Shaldan (Shaldān), 49, worked as an education supervisor at the Gaza Ministry of Education and Higher Education to promote the teaching and learning of science across all grade levels, from first grade to high school. He was part of a dedicated science committee within the Ministry that worked to integrate scientific inquiry into school curricula and kindle the interest of teachers and students alike in scientific thinking.

Shaldan studied physics and chemistry at al-Quds Open University, and in 2001 earned a Master's degree from al-Azhar University. His thesis examined the impact of hands-on science activities on Gazan fifth graders' cognitive development. He also worked on changing how students were taught science, teaching courses in science pedagogy to education students at the University of Palestine.

Repeated Israeli assaults on Gaza, combined with the blockade, took a heavy toll on the education sector, as explored in a conference at the Islamic University of Gaza that Shaldan participated in after the 51-day Israeli assault of 2014. Overcrowded classrooms, absenteeism, increasing dropout rates, and the lack of computer and science labs impinged on both students' capacities to learn and teachers' skills and motivation. Extreme restrictions on movement prevented professional development through mutual exchange between Gazan teachers and their peers in the West Bank, to say nothing of travel abroad.

Concerning Shaldan's specific subject, studies showed a deficit in science education relative to other subjects. A World Bank "Quick Note" reported that less than 15% of Palestinian university graduates majored in sciences or engineering; education, the social sciences, business, and law claimed the lion's share of university students.

In 2015, the Gaza branch of the Education Ministry launched a yearslong initiative to build a culture of scientific research in high schools. Anwar Shaldan was heavily involved in this project, becoming a member of a dedicated science committee in the ministry. They organized teacher training workshops that emphasized learning by doing over traditional pedagogy based on transmission. As a study of Gaza's education sector pointed out, "self-motivated and engaging teachers require qualified, competent, and trained teacher educators and supervisors."

In 2020 remarks honoring a high school teacher in al-Shuja`iyya for her creative blending of arts and science education, Shaldan said, "Teaching science is not only about recall and rote memorization, but should be integrated into experiential contexts, to increase students' love and enthusiasm for science subjects. This is the highest goal of teaching science."



(Shaldan, center back row, recognizing high-achieving science students at al-Burayj Girls' High School)

The committee also worked to motivate students, making onsite visits to high schools and science fairs to judge students' science projects and presentations. Elementary schools were not left out. Shaldan conducted classroom observations in primary schools, including a second-grade girls' class in al-Zaytun. The day's lesson was a reading and performance of the evocative children's tale *'Awdat al-Ta'ir* (Return of the Bird), penned by Gazan poet Muin Bseiso (1926-1984).

Master teacher Anwar Shaldan was killed in the Israeli genocide on 13 May 2024 in al-Zaytun.

Photo credits: Facebook ([here](#) and [here](#))

## Jamila Abdallah Taha al-Shanti جميلة عبد الله طه الشنطي



Jamila al-Shanti (Jamīla al-Shanṭī) was a teacher, university lecturer, and one of the most prominent politicians in Gaza. She held posts as a parliamentarian, government minister, and the first and only woman member elected to the politburo of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Dr. al-Shanti was born in Jabalya Refugee Camp in 1955 or 1957 to a family from a village near Majdal. She was educated in UNRWA schools, then traveled to Cairo for university, where she earned a BA in English Language and Literature from Ain Shams University in 1980.

At Ain Shams Dr. al-Shanti joined the Society of Muslim Brothers (*Jam`at al-Ikhwān al-Muslimūn*), finding it a congenial milieu for what she described as her conservative upbringing. After graduation, she moved to Saudi Arabia to teach English for 10 years to support her five younger siblings. Upon returning to Gaza in 1990, she joined the Faculty of Education at the Islamic University of Gaza as a lecturer, where she earned an MA in 1998 and a PhD in Education Management in 2013.

In 2006, Dr. al-Shanti came to prominence when she was one of six women elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) on the Hamas slate. At number three, Dr. al-Shanti was the highest-placed woman; Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was first.

Journalist Paola Caridi observed that Dr. al-Shanti was among “the small platoon of women deputies who arrived in Parliament, allowing women to carve out for themselves a role that the more conservative sectors of Hamas would not have wanted.”

In a 2008 article in *al-Bayan*, Dr. al-Shanti described a de facto gender equality forged in the fire of Israeli occupation, which “has observed no sanctity for women, nor revered their motherhood, and so they confront the occupation forces head-on, trading fire with fire and blood with blood.”

Dr. al-Shanti was alluding to a protest by hundreds of Islamist women that she led in 2006, to free fighters besieged in a mosque during an Israeli attack on Bayt Hanun, a harrowing episode that she recalled in *The Guardian*.

A few days later, Israeli warplanes destroyed Dr. al-Shanti’s house, killing her sister-in-law Nahla, a widow raising eight children.

In 2013, Dr. al-Shanti was appointed Minister of Women’s Affairs in the Hamas administration. She focused on female unemployment and proportional representation of women in leadership positions. Reflecting on the experience, she said that being a minister brought her into contact with a far wider range of women in Gaza and taught her the rigors of administrative work.

In early 2021, Hamas conducted its regular internal elections among members in Gaza, the West Bank, and those incarcerated across 22 Israeli prisons. The results netted a nearly 30% leadership turnover, and Dr. al-Shanti became the first woman ever elected to the 19-member politburo.

Asked by an *al-Jazeera* anchor why it had taken Hamas so long to include women in its peak leadership council, Dr. al-Shanti said that Hamas leaders sought to protect female members from Israeli assassination. But after the 2014 Israeli assault on Gaza, “women were targeted regardless of where they were,” so there was no longer a credible rationale for shielding them.

On 18 October 2023, Dr. al-Shanti was killed in an Israeli airstrike on her home, becoming the fourth Hamas politburo member to be killed at that point.

The Palestinian Legislative Council paid tribute to Dr. al-Shanti, “who lived a life brimming with exertion and sacrifice to uplift the Palestinian cause. We will continue on

her path and the path of all our righteous martyrs, until the occupation of our lands is defeated.”

Photo credit: [Ali Jadallah/Anadolu Agency](#)

**Mu' min Ahmed Dhiyab Shwaideh مؤمن أحمد ذياب شويدح**



Mu' min Shwaideh (Shwaydah) was a lecturer in the Faculty of Sharia and Law, and supervisor of Graduate Studies at the Islamic University in Gaza.

Professor Shwaideh appears to have earned two master's degrees: the first, in Comparative *Fiqh* (Islamic Jurisprudence), from the Putra Malaysia University in the state of Selangor (Malaysia) in 2006 and the second, in General Law, from the Faculty of Shari'a and Law at the Islamic University-Gaza in 2019. His 2006 thesis addressed inheritance and succession in Islamic law and was entitled, *The Impact of Modern Communication Methods on the Inheritance of the Missing in Islamic Jurisprudence*. With his specialization in comparative *fiqh*, he was one of very few young scholars in Gaza to obtain a professorship in this domain. Moreover, this expertise qualified him to join the prestigious Fatwa Council of the Islamic University.

His second thesis (November 2019), in General Law, was entitled, *A Legal Discussion Applying the Principles of the Islamic Shari'a as a Chief Source for Palestinian*

*Legislation - an Applied Analytical Study of Penal Legislation*. Photos of his defense and a video of the conferring of his degree can be viewed on his Facebook page [here](#) and [here](#). In addition to the two theses, which were published by the Islamic University in Gaza, Professor Shwaideh published an article that treated his longstanding concern with how Islamic law would adjudicate particular novel practices in contemporary society. Entitled, "Profit from the Sale and Marketing of Advertising Services by Websites in Light of Islamic Law," it appeared in the *Journal of Sharia and Islamic Studies* (Kuwait University, 2018).

Professor Shwaideh was an active scholar who sought opportunities to continue to learn and broaden his knowledge about legal matters. As an example, according to his colleagues, he chose to take part in a training course on international humanitarian law. The course was open to academics and judges from the Middle East and North Africa and beyond, and held in Beirut in March 2012. At that time, he was Assistant Vice Dean of the Faculty of Shari‘a and Law at the Islamic University of Gaza.

Alongside his teaching, scholarship and administrative work at the university, Mu‘min Shwaideh was involved with the al-Quds Society for Islamic Research and Studies and a member of the League of Islamic Scholars of Palestine.

Mu‘min Shwaideh died on 23 November 2023 (some sources say 18 November) when his home in Dayr al-Balah was bombed by Israeli forces. He was 39 years old. He was killed along with his brother, academic Mustafa Shwaideh, and other members of his family. The youngest relative who died with him -- Ya'la Mu‘min Ahmed Shwaideh -- was only one year old and carried his name.

Photo credit: [IPS](#)

## Marwan Umar Rabi` al-Sultan مروان عمر ربيع السلطان



Marwan al-Sultan (Marwān al-Sultān), 49, was one of only two cardiologists in northern Gaza, where he directed the Indonesian Hospital in Bayt Lahya. Despite repeated attacks by the Israeli military, Dr. al-Sultan refused to leave northern Gaza, and became a prominent chronicler of Israel's deliberate destruction of the health sector.

Al-Sultan earned his bachelor of medicine in 2001 from Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences in Pakistan. In 2009, he secured a scholarship with the Qatari Red Cross and traveled to Jordan, where he worked at the Islamic Hospital in Amman for the next ten years. In 2012, he received certification from the Jordanian Board as an internist, and in 2019 earned the Arab Board certificate in cardiology.

During this time, he served as one of the data collectors for a nationwide study of arrhythmia in Jordan, compared to the condition's manifestation in neighboring Syria.

Dr. al-Sultan returned to Gaza in 2019, at a time when the health sector was experiencing a brain drain. According to the Ministry of Health, 55 doctors resigned in 2019 alone, citing low pay and other problematic working conditions.

Dr. al-Sultan became a consultant in internal medicine and interventional cardiology at al-Shifa Hospital. He also joined the Medical School Faculty at the Islamic University of Gaza.



Dr. al-Sultan (second row, fourth from left) among IUG Medical School Faculty (7 October 2022)

In November 2023, Dr. al-Sultan became the Director of the Indonesian Hospital after the Israeli military attacked the facility and arrested its director, Dr. Ahmed al-Kahlout. Indonesian was a 110-bed hospital established in 2016 with funding from Indonesian medical students. It was attacked on the very first day of Israel's assault, on 7 October 2023.

Even as he and his family were displaced from their home in Jabalya, Dr. al-Sultan was unwavering in his commitment to Indonesian. When it was attacked again multiple times and saw structural damage at least twice, Dr. al-Sultan oversaw its reconstruction, issuing numerous appeals through international media. In one such instance, he sat at his desk in a darkened office, describing Israeli attacks on the hospital's wards.

In May 2025, at the start of a five-day Israeli attack that culminated in striking the hospital's backup generators, Dr. al-Sultan gave a haunting description of the scene: "The smell of blood fills the hallways, our teams are exhausted, there is a shortage of everything, a shortage of everything except death."

Amidst the genocide, Dr. al-Sultan continued training medical students. In late June, he supervised the Arab Board exam in cardiology, held via video conference across Arab countries.

On the afternoon of 2 July 2025, Dr. al-Sultan was taking a break with his family in a rented apartment in the Tal al-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City. Between 2 pm and 2:30 pm, an Israeli airstrike targeted the apartment, killing Dr. al-Sultan, his wife, daughter, sister, son-in-law, and several other family members. He is survived by a daughter, Lubna, and a 20-year-old-son, Ahmed, a medical student.

Dr. al-Sultan was the 70<sup>th</sup> health care worker killed in a 50-day period, and among 1,581 killed from 7 October 2023 to 16 July 2025.

Weeks before his killing, he had told several colleagues of dreams he had been having of his own father. Dr. Munir al-Bursh, director of the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza, recalled “Dr. Marwan had mentioned a vision he had, where his martyred father appeared to him in a dream, embraced him, took him with him, and gave him a bouquet of flowers.”

Photo credits: Facebook; Dropsite News

## Sufyan Abdul Rahman `Uthman Tayeh سفیان عبد الرحمن عثمان تايه



Born on 20 August 1971, in Jabalya Refugee Camp in northern Gaza, Sufyan Tayeh (Sufyān Tāyih) rose from challenging circumstances to become one of the leading scientists in Palestine. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Garyounis University in Libya in 1993. Upon returning to Gaza, he joined the Islamic University as a teaching assistant, completing his master's degree in 1998. He earned a PhD in theoretical physics from Ain Shams University, Egypt, in 2007.

Dr. Tayeh was a leading researcher in physics and applied mathematics. He was the winner of the Palestine Islamic Bank Award for Scientific Research for the years 2019 and 2020, recipient of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Young Arab Scientists, and the Islamic University Award for Scientific Research for the year 2021.

Tayeh's research interests included optical waveguides, optical waveguide sensing, ellipsometry, dye-sensitized solar cells and Organic Light Emitting Devices (OLEDs). With over 285 scientific publications, Dr. Tayeh's work spanned diverse fields, including optical sensing, nanotechnology, and renewable energy. He was appointed professor of the UNESCO Chair for Physical, Astrophysical, and Space Sciences in Palestine, and was

recognized among the top 2% of researchers worldwide in a study by Elsevier and Stanford University.

Despite his scholarly stature, what endeared Dr. Tayeh most to his students was his approachability and unwavering dedication. He often asked during lectures, “Who couldn’t register?” and quietly assisted students who could not afford tuition. He saw science as a collaborative pursuit and encouraged his students to support one another, fostering a spirit of shared learning even in the midst of adversity.

His former student, Maryam Abdullah Abu Taylakh, recalls how his kindness shaped her path:

“I couldn’t travel to pursue my master’s degree due to the difficult conditions at the Rafah crossing, and financial constraints also hindered my studies. When Dr. Tayeh learned about my situation, he personally reached out and encouraged me to prepare for my studies. He devised a financial plan that allowed me to pay the fees in instalments, enabling me to complete my master’s degree at the Islamic University of Gaza under his direct supervision.”



(Dr. Tayeh, right, at a presentation by physics department colleague Dr. Khitam al-Wasifi)

Colleagues and students describe him as a man of profound humility. When congratulated on others' scientific achievements, he would respond, "The credit is from God," never seeking personal recognition. His wife and daughters—also graduates in scientific fields—shared his commitment to education and academic excellence. His children; Osama, a doctor; Aseel, a dentist; Israa, a medical student; Abdul Rahman, a high school student; and Lana, a fifth grader, were part of a family devoted to knowledge and service.

Dr. Tayeh was appointed president of the Islamic University of Gaza in July 2023, and led the institution with transparency and compassion amid immense hardship. Even during the war, he published seven scientific papers, exemplifying his unyielding commitment to research and progress.

On 2 December 2023, Professor Tayeh was killed alongside his wife and five children in an Israeli airstrike. His death marked not only the loss of a family but the silencing of a distinguished voice in Palestinian academia and science. He is remembered by his students and colleagues as a humble mentor, a rigorous scientist, and a compassionate leader.

Photo credits: Al-Fanar Media

## Tareq Adel Muhammad Thabet طارق عادل محمد ثابت



Tareq Thabet (Ṭāriq Thābit), age 38, from Dayr al-Balah, was the manager of the UCAS Technology Incubator at the University College of Applied Sciences in Gaza for over ten years up to the time of his death. He dedicated himself to the promotion of small businesses and the training of aspiring entrepreneurs in Gaza by providing administrative, technical, and financial support. He nurtured projects and startups that focused on agribusiness, technology transfer, youth and female job creation, and knowledge creation.

Mr. Thabet earned his BA (Computer Engineering) in 2008, and his MBA in 2016, both from the Islamic University in Gaza. In 2009, he was awarded second place in the MIT Arab Business Plan Competition in Palestine. He started work at the UCAS Incubator in 2014 and helped develop the Incubator by tripling the number of applicants, designing and developing incubation, acceleration and networking models that suited the Palestinian environment, and reinforcing startup companies. Over time, he supervised more than 150 entrepreneurial projects and startups that grew to employ hundreds of people. In 2013, [he founded](#) *Mobaderoon for Entrepreneurship Magazine*, the first specialized printed magazine in Palestine. He also served as a juror for the Munir Al-Kaloti Award, “For a Better Tomorrow We Innovate,” an initiative of the Palestinian Welfare Association (*Taawon*).



(Tareq Thabet presenting the Munir al-Kaloti award)

As a Hubert Humphrey Fellow, part of the U.S. Fulbright Program, Mr. Thabet was resident at Michigan State University from 2021-2022, where he built on his extensive experience in the nonprofit sector and entrepreneurship by taking courses in finance and marketing, networking extensively with his local counterparts, and speaking to local community groups and youth. [He is remembered](#) as a “motivated, kind, and loyal” person who contributed to the local community by collaborating with the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, promoting entrepreneurship in the Lansing region. His overarching goal was to take new knowledge, relationships and experience back with him to Gaza to improve the local economy.

Mr. Thabet was killed on 29 October 2023, when his apartment in Dayr al-Balah was bombed by the Israeli military, and 16 members of his family, including his wife, his children, and his parents, died alongside him.

Photo credits: The [State News](#); [LinkedIn](#)

**Khitam Yusif Dib al-Wasifi** ختام يوسف ديب الوصيفي



Khitam al-Wasifi (Khitām al-Waṣīfi) was a physicist with a remarkable record of research achievements and service to higher education in science. At the time of her death, Dr. al-Wasifi was an Associate Professor of Biophysics, former Head of the Physics Department, and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science at the Islamic University of Gaza.

Dr. al-Wasifi was born on 6 April 1966, in Gaza City. After finishing high school in Gaza, she enrolled in the Faculty of Science at the Islamic University where she came to major in physics. She graduated first in her class in 1994 and began to teach on an hourly basis at the university. In 1998, she matriculated in the Islamic University's newly opened MA program in physics, specializing in optoelectronics, and attained her MA in 2002. Subsequently, she searched for a way to study for her PhD and eventually was able to join the PhD program in Biophysics at Sudan University of Science and Technology. She received her doctorate in 2010.

Dr. al-Wasifi was a prolific scientist who authored and co-authored over 60 published research papers in the fields of magnetoelectricity and optoelectronics on subjects such as the effect of mobile radiation on life tissues, nonlinear optics, numerical simulation techniques and computational physics, electromagnetic waves, and applications of left-

handed materials. Her most recent article was published posthumously in January 2024: “Transverse electric guided modes in metal-LHM-ferrite slab waveguide structures,” with co-authors Sufyan Taya (killed by Israel, see bio in this archive) and Mustafa R. al-Massri, *Optica Applicata* 54(1). She also published two books through a German institute on the impact of the mobile phone on the living cells of humans and plants. Dr. al-Wasifi also participated in a number of local and international academic conferences.



Dr. al-Wasifi was awarded the 2022 prize for Palestinian Women’s Intellectual Achievement from the Ministry of Palestinian Women’s Affairs. Female colleagues have testified to the fact that Dr. al-Wasifi led the way for other women in Gaza to pursue careers in physics. She was known by colleagues and friends alike as the “Shaykha of Physicists” in tribute to her illustrious career.

She played a leadership role in politics as well. She was nominated for the Palestinian legislative elections in 2021, which were scheduled for 22 May 2021 but then postponed indefinitely. She also served as the Secretary of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

In an interview, she was asked about challenges she faced in her career: “One of the most important difficulties was gaining social approval for a woman going abroad to study by herself especially if she had a household and children. And also the financial problems. I decided to face these problems by continuing my scientific journey, bearing

the burdens of it by taking my kids with me and excelling in my studies. More importantly I didn't let myself get distracted by problems or disagreements that I faced. I always remembered that humans cannot do anything unless they are tested and they rely on their faith and God.”

Dr. al-Wasifi, age 57, and her husband, Mahmoud Abu Duff, Professor of Education at the Islamic University (see bio in this archive), lived in al-Zaytun, Gaza City with their seven children. They were killed together when their home in Gaza City was hit by an Israeli missile strike on 1 December 2023.

Photo credits: [science.iugaza](https://www.science.iugaza.edu); [Facebook](#)

## Shaher Yusuf Abdallah Yaghi **شاهر يوسف عبد الله ياغي**



Shaher Yaghi (Shāhir Yāghī), age 59, was a renowned psychologist in Gaza, lecturer in rehabilitation and psychology at the University College of Applied Sciences in Gaza and al-Quds University, and coordinator for the School Quality Assurance Unit for UNRWA. He specialized in inclusive education for children with disabilities, and the treatment of psychological trauma in children. He devoted his life to the development of practices that could help educate and heal the children of Gaza who had suffered traumatic psychological and physical injuries.

[Dr. Yaghi earned a BA degree](#) in Social Rehabilitation from the University of Calgary (Canada) in 1994, an MA in Disability Studies from Flinders University in Australia, and an MA in Psychology from the Islamic University in Gaza in 2006. He completed his PhD in Psychology in 2019 at the Institute of Arab Research and Studies, Education Division, in Egypt.

Dr. Yaghi was a clinician as well as an educator. Over the years of his career in Gaza, he worked in the Gaza Community Mental Health Program as a psychologist/mental health specialist within the Trauma Project, and as Director of the Humanitarian Projects Department at the Palestinian National Authority's Civil Service Bureau, assigned to work at the Fata Center for Humanitarian Communication. He also was the founder and had been head of Community Rehabilitation Services at al-Wafa Medical Rehabilitation and Specialized Surgery Hospital. In addition, he served as a trainer for many local and

international institutions in the fields of psychological support, inclusive education, and rehabilitation. At the time of his death, he was working with the [Center for Mind-Body Healing \(CMBH\)](#) in Gaza in a program for trauma healing.



(Dr. Yaghi, third from left, with CMBH team)

Dr. Yaghi authored and co-authored [academic articles](#) in Arabic and English on trauma and rehabilitation, including fifteen articles published in English in the final six years of his life. He also wrote two manuals in Arabic on teaching and learning for students with special needs and a guide to implementing inclusive education in UNRWA schools. A recently published article, “Teachers’ Training Needs to Respond to Psychological Needs of Students with Disability in Line with Inclusive Education,” appeared in June of 2023 in the *Arid International Journal of Educational and Psychological Sciences*. A final co-authored article, “Agency, Life Satisfaction, Hope, Potentially Traumatic Events, Trauma Symptoms, and Psychological Signs. A Two Waves Study with a Sample of

Palestinian Children Living in Different Geographical Areas,” was published posthumously in *Children and Youth Services Review* in January 2025.

Dr. Yaghi was killed along with his wife, his children, and some 20 other family members, including his daughter Sumaia who also worked as a psychologist at CMBH, on 10 December 2023. Israeli aircraft bombed the house where they had sought refuge in the Jabalya Refugee Camp without prior warning.

Photo credits: [Gigaza](#); [cmbm](#)

## Salahuddin Muhammad Awad Zanoun صلاح الدين محمد عواد زنون



Dr. Salahuddin Zanoun (Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn Zanūn) was a Professor of Medical Sciences at the Arab College of Applied Sciences.

At dawn on 15 October 2023, Dr. Zanoun, aged 59, was killed along with seven of his relatives when Israeli occupation forces bombed his home in al-Geneina, Rafah. Among the victims were his wife, Etemad Miqdad (Umm Ahmed), 53; his sons, Dr. Ahmed, 27, Saif al-Din, 25, and Ihab; his daughter, Karima, who was initially reported to have survived but was later confirmed killed; and his nephew, Muhammad Musa Zanoun, 32. The attack destroyed their home and wiped out nearly an entire family, symbolizing the immense human cost and suffering endured by civilians in Gaza.

Photo credit: Zanoun Family Facebook

## Said Anwar al-Zebda سعيد انور الزبدة



Dr. Said al-Zebda (Sa'īd al-Zibda) was a distinguished Palestinian electrical and computer engineer, academic, and university leader. Born in al-Zaytun neighborhood of Gaza City, he spent most of his life in the Gaza Strip, where he raised his family and dedicated his career to advancing applied sciences and technology. He served as President of the University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS) from 2021.

After completing his undergraduate studies in telecommunications engineering, Dr. al-Zebda earned both his master's degree (2007) and PhD (2011) in electronic communications and computer engineering from the University of Nottingham. Upon returning to Gaza, he joined UCAS, where he served in multiple leadership roles for over 18 years. These included Director of Development Programs, Head of the UCAS Technology Incubator, and Assistant to the College President for Developmental Affairs. His academic output included around ten peer-reviewed publications in the field of electronic engineering. Dr. al-Zebda was known for fostering innovation and empowering young entrepreneurs through his work at the incubator.

On 31 December 2023, Dr. al-Zebda was killed along with his wife Ikram Ghanem and children Az-Zein, Intisar and Samia, when an Israeli airstrike targeted their home in al-

Zaytun neighborhood. His death was mourned by Palestinian academic institutions across the region.

Dr. Said al-Zebda will be remembered as a visionary scholar and devoted educator who worked tirelessly to strengthen Palestine's technological and academic capacity under the most difficult conditions. His legacy continues in the institutions he helped shape and the students and professionals he mentored. His personal [Facebook profile](#) remains a place where colleagues, students, and friends have shared tributes in his memory.

Photo credit: [X](#)