

# SCIL GAZETTE

CHARACTER IS DESTINY

January, 2025 | Rajab-1446

## Foreword

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Assalamoakeikum. We hope the second edition of our SCIL Gazette finds you well inshaAllah! The purpose of this edition is twofold - first, to inform and explain different conflicts around the Muslim world. Being aware of all such conflicts is necessary in order to understand our role in the Muslim ummah. Second, as we have completed our first term and enthusiastically begun our second term, we would like to take this opportunity to update you all and reflect on some of the fantastic events that have taken place at different branches of SCIL over the past few months.

Happy reading!

## Notes from SCIL English Literary Societies

The Literary Society is a place where students with a love for literature come together to explore and express their creativity. Our goal is to deepen the understanding of language and its ability to inspire and connect people. Through thought-provoking discussions, creative writing challenges, and collaborative activities, we aim to nurture not only a love for literature but also a sense of community. This year, we're excited to participate in our school's major competition, with writing as a key category. It's a great chance for students to share their ideas and creativity with others. The Literary Society remains a vital part of our school, bringing together students who share a passion for words and stories.

**Maira Binth Shahid, XI Yellow**  
President Literary Society  
Defence branch

My name is Affan Malik, and I have the privilege of serving as the President of the Literary Society. I believe that my primary responsibility is to make English as a subject more engaging and appealing to younger students.

Many students often perceive English as merely an exercise in crafting long, fictional narratives. However, what they may not realize is that such activities significantly enhance their creativity and expand their vocabulary—skills that are invaluable both in the near and distant future. In today's world, one of the most important assets a student can possess is a vivid imagination and a creative mind, as these qualities pave the way for success and innovation.

**Affan Malik, IX Red**  
President Literary Society  
Defence branch

The SCIL literary society incorporates young talents in writing and poetry, encouraging students to share their creativity and hone their skills. Revolving around the theme of hope and optimism, creative writing competitions were held throughout the grade levels and medals were awarded to the best ones. Mini sagas were written by our young storytellers and displayed around the branch. Moreover, we welcome any articles to be published in the Baseerat.

The SCIL Gazette is an opportunity to receive insight into the various competitions and activities that have taken place in the many branches of SCIL as well as upcoming events. It allows us to connect and retell our most memorable days as students of SCIL.

**Huda Noor Rashid, A levels**  
English Literary Society  
SCIL Senior Girls Branch

As president of the English literary society, I am thrilled and elated to know that the immense

importance of language is engraved into the hearts of many students at SCIL. Our primary goal is to nurture students to develop their interest in literary where we breathe the richness of language. Recently, the literary society has worked on events such as the SCIL Faith Olympiad where we celebrated the creativity of language with regards to religion. Let us work together to sow the seeds of richness and creativity for it to grow into a tremendous tree where it can be watered by the future leaders of SCIL.

**Saleh Sharif**  
Grade XI

## CAMPUS CHRONICLES

We are already halfway through the school year alhamdulillah! Let's recap some of the milestone events that took place at SCIL or that our students participated in outside SCIL. As part of our community outreach and activism program, we conducted a successful Tarbiyah summer camp as well as a swimming camp for both boys and girls that resulted in our first Swimming Gala. Students also actively partook in a Unite for Palestine internship that aimed to create awareness about the history, discourse, and current worldwide campaigns supporting the Palestinian cause. Students created informative videos, published brochures and conducted surveys as part of this internship, which then translated into a year long program for the senior classes.

For the professional development of our teaching faculty as well as participants from other educational institutes, SCIL organized the Second Annual Teachers Conference featuring eminent Islamic and academic scholars discussing the role of positivity in education from religious, technological, societal and psychological points of view.

One of the highlights of this term was the SCIL Faith Olympiad held at Defence branch where more than 300 delegates participated from all over Lahore. A highly acclaimed event spanning three age categories, it was a weekend of articulate public speaking, critical thought, introspection, poetry recitation and a quiz competition. Aitchison College won best delegation among boys and SCIL Senior Girls Branch won best delegation among girls.

Another notable event was the 2025 LUMS Religious Festival where teams from Defence branch, Senior Boys Branch and Senior Girls Branch participated in high numbers and performed exceptionally well among college students in all categories including qiraat, MUN, calligraphy, content creation, quiz etc. Defence branch won best delegation mashaAllah.

In the spirit of promoting a healthy lifestyle, we arranged sports days for all students where students and parents alike participated enthusiastically. An All Girls Inter-School Sports Fest was also held with eight sports categories. It was the event of its kind to be held in Lahore and was very well received among various schools. In all events and activities, the enthusiasm displayed by our young students was tremendous, creating an unforgettable atmosphere of energy and camaraderie.



## SCIL FAITH OLYMPIAD 2025



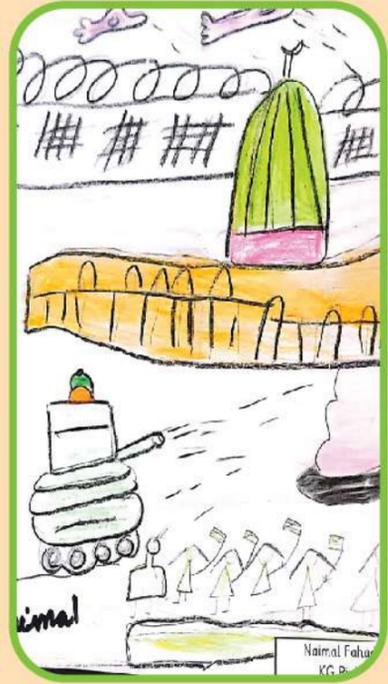
# SCIL PRESCHOOL GULBERG



Fajar Assad Malik  
KG Yellow



Mustafrah Waseem  
KG Pink



Naimal Faha  
KG Blue



M. Rayan Rashid  
KG Peach



Hafsa Bilal  
KG Red

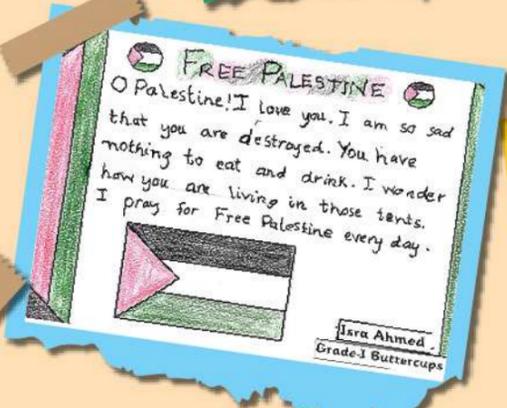
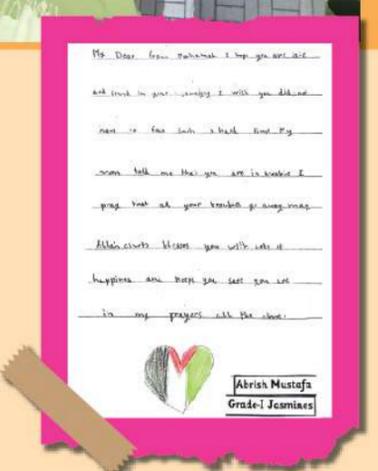
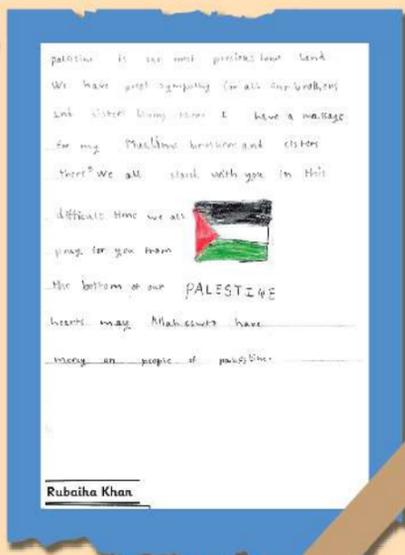
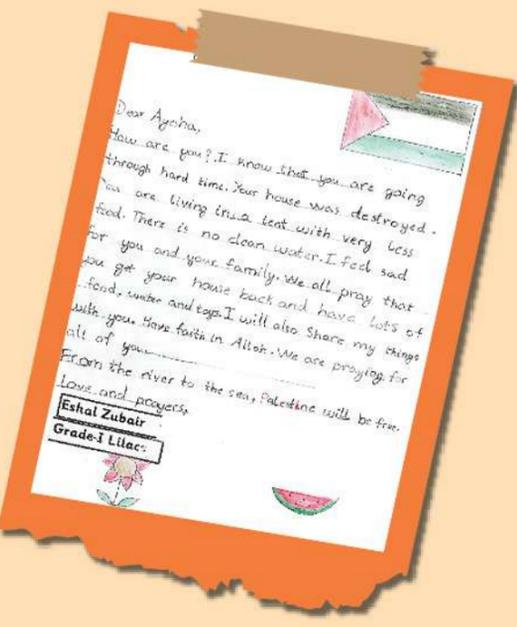


Hubbah Shahid  
KG Peach

## SCIL Preschool Winter Gala & SCIL Preschool Sunnah Day



## GRADE 1





# JUNIOR BOYS BRANCH

## My Role for Somali Brothers and Sisters

The Somalia conflict started in the 1990s when the government fall apart. This led to fighting between different groups, causing great suffering. Many people in Somalia face hunger, poverty, and violence, especially women and children. To help our Somali brothers and sisters, we can support efforts to bring peace, provide food and medicine, and tell others about their struggles. Together, we can bring hope and a better future for Somalia.

made by:  
Muhammad Abdullah Tahir  
Class 1 Green



## Somalia Conflict

Somalia on the world map



Somalian flag



Somalia is a country on the continent of Africa. It is near the ocean, so it has beautiful beaches. The people of Somalia love music, dancing, and storytelling. Many children go to school and help their families.

Somalia has faced problems like broken homes and not enough food. Many people are helping Somalia become a better place.

The people of Somalia are working hard to make their country happy and safe again. They want to make schools, homes, and parks.

## The Somali Conflict

Somalia is a country that needs our help. There's been a big fight and many people don't have homes or food. They are very sad and need our kindness.

We can help by sending food, clothes, and toys. We can also pray for them to be happy again. We should always be kind to those who need our help. Somalia will be happy again with our love and kindness. Thank-you

Abdur Rehman 1-Yellow



Causes of conflict

1. Collapse of government
2. Clan rivalries
3. Extremist groups (Al-Shabaab)

4. Foreign interventions by US, Ethiopia, and Kenya

Humanitarian impact:

1. Displacement
2. Famine and food insecurity
3. Human rights abuses

How can I help?

1. Donate to UNHCR, ICRC and Somali NGOs
2. Spread awareness
3. Support refugee re-settlement
4. Demand policy change
5. Provide emotional support

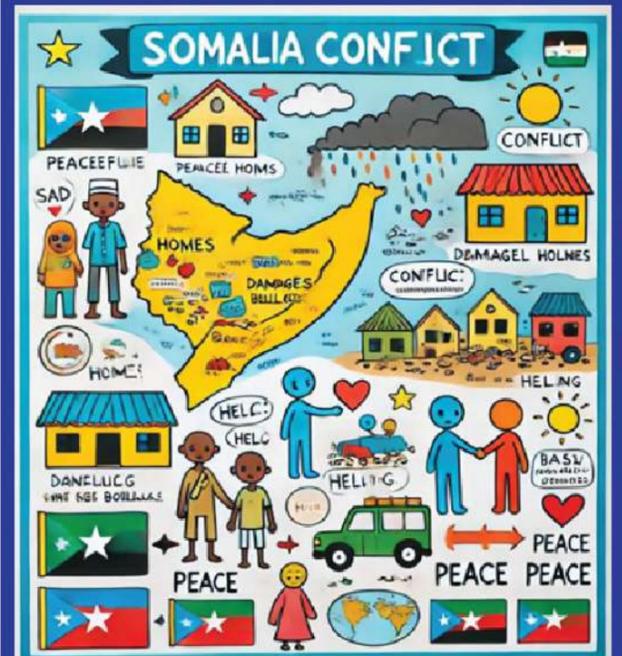
M. Humayl Khan 1 Yellow

## Problems in Somalia and My Role

Somalia is a country with many problems. People do not have enough food, water, or schools. Many families are impoverished, and life is difficult for them.

**My Role:**

I can pray for them and give them food, clothes, or money through charities. I can also tell others to help. This way, we can make life better for our Somali brothers and sisters.



## My Role for Somali Brothers and Sisters

The Somalia conflict, which began in the early 1990s, has caused severe challenges for its people, including famine, displacement, and violence. As global citizens, we have a responsibility to help the Somali brothers and sisters by supporting humanitarian efforts, promoting peace, and raising awareness about their struggles. By donating to charities, supporting peacebuilding initiatives, and educating others about the crisis, we can contribute to the healing process. It is crucial that we stand together in solidarity with those affected by the conflict.



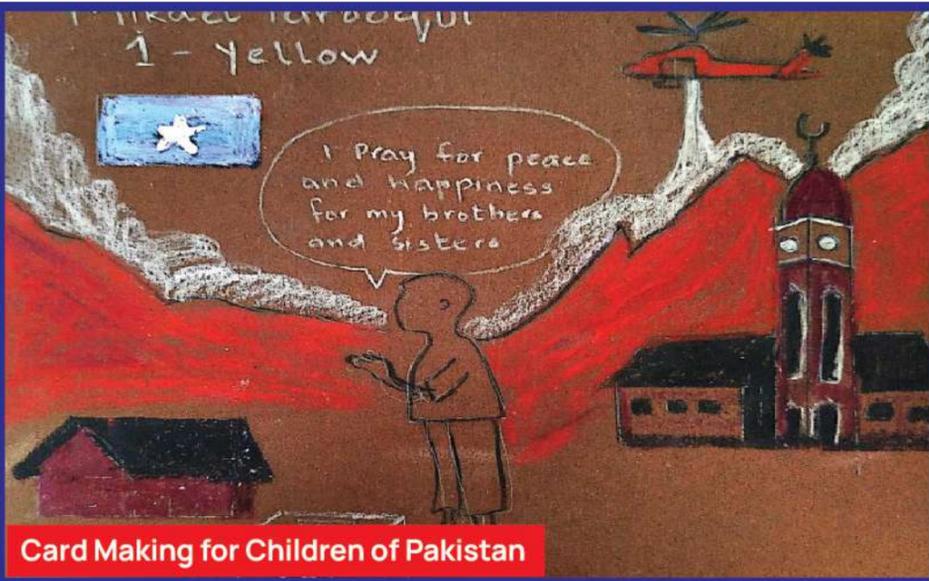
Safari Park



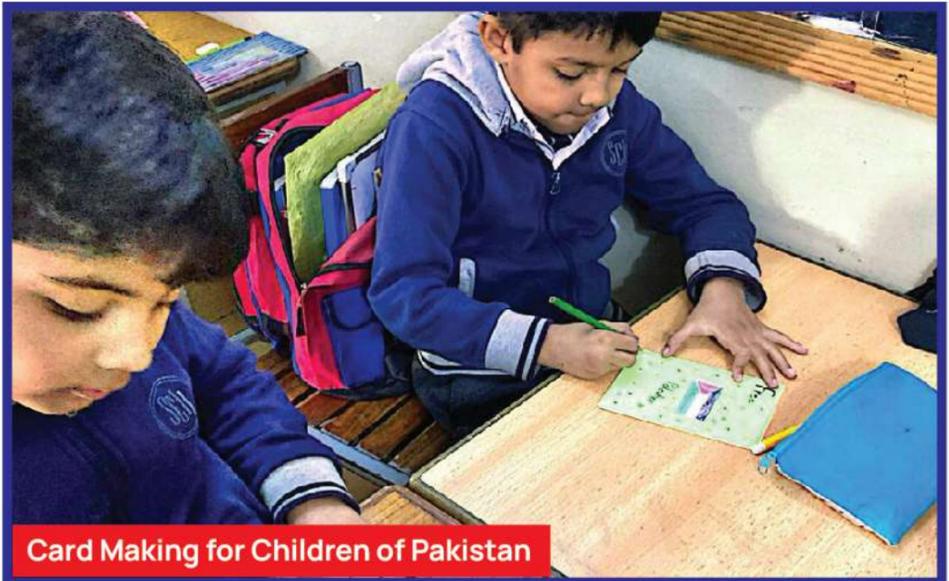
Healthy Food Week



Qiraat Competition



Card Making for Children of Pakistan



Card Making for Children of Pakistan



I Hope Pakistan

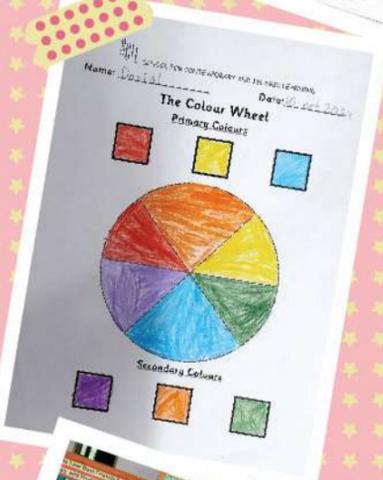
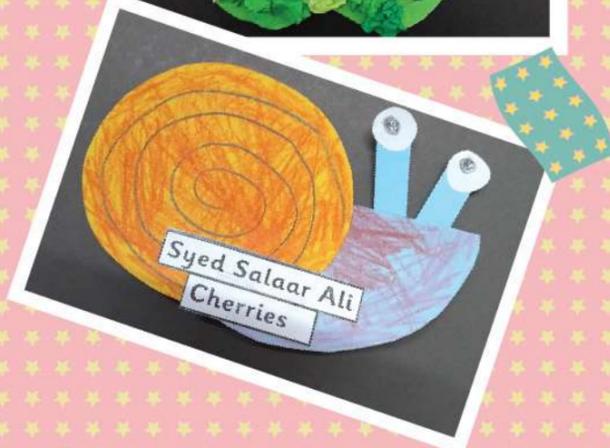
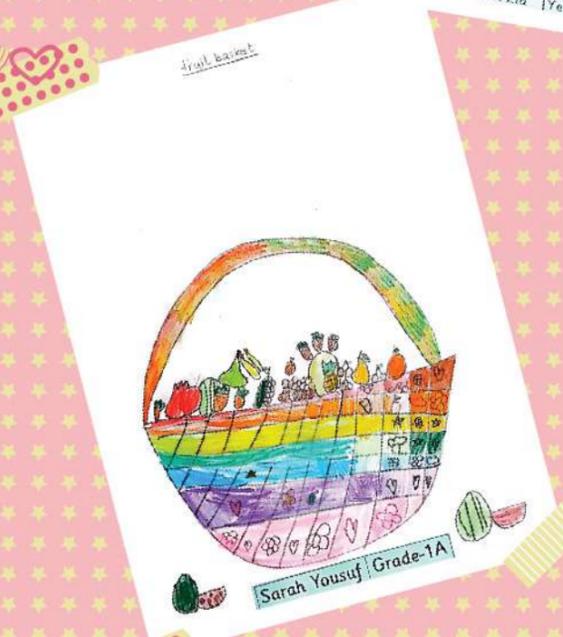
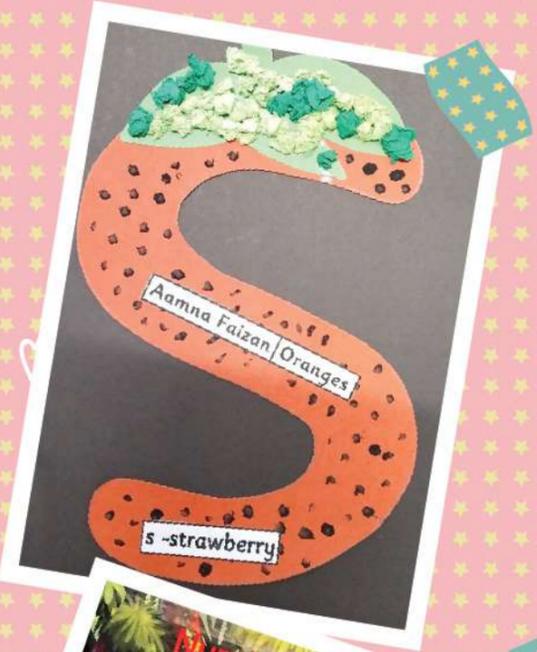


Somalia Conflic



CANTT DOLPHINS VS SCIL JBB

# VALENCIA ARTWORK



# SENIOR GIRLS BRANCH

## The First Nakba

7th of October 2023... the beginning of the so-called "Israel-Hamas" war. But have the Palestinians suffered just for a year or so?

### What was the first Nakba?

"Nakba" is an Arabic term meaning catastrophe or disaster. This marks the greatest tragedy of Palestinian history, when their land was confiscated, towns were demolished, and civilians were brutally murdered, dating back to the middle of the 20th century. Surprisingly, this term was first used by Israeli forces in the leaflets thrown in July 1948 asking the Palestinians to evacuate the village or face the Nakba- catastrophe.

The destruction caused by Zionists in this heart-wrenching event is as follows:

- 750,000 Palestinians expelled from their homes
- 78% of historic Palestine captured
- 22% remaining land was divided into the West Bank and Gaza
- Between 1947 and 1949, 530 villages were destroyed
- 15,000 Palestinians were killed in a series of massive atrocities

### When did it start?

This apartheid, mass slaughter and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians is now more than 76 years old!

It began in the 1900s when Palestinian lives, homes and rights were trampled over to meet the agendas of Zionist Settlers. These aims resulted in the creation of a settler colony in 1948, now recognised as "the state of Israel".

### Palestinian refugees - the right to return

Will the displaced civilians ever be allowed back home? This is the question most Palestinian refugees are unable to answer, their plight being the longest unresolved refugee problem in the world

Several organisations are working to provide relief funds in the refugee camps. The number of refugees is spread in different areas:

- 2.3 million in Jordan
- 1.5 million in Gaza
- 870,000 in the occupied West Bank
- 570,000 in Syria

- 480,000 in Lebanon

According to international law, refugees have the right to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced. Many Palestinians still dream of returning to their homes. Sahar Al Ali was 7 years old and getting ready for school the day the Israeli army attacked her village in 1948. Her family fled from one Palestinian village to another until they had no choice but to take refuge in Jordan.

"All the children were walking to Jordan

This triggered the first war between Israel and Arabs.

The unrest continued until a truce was made in January 1949 between Israel and the Arab countries. The boundaries drawn in this truce were time and time again crossed by Israeli forces as it continued to annex Palestine, and its military interventions shape the lives of Palestinians to date.

### Political Agendas

Zionists use the biblical concept of the Holy Land being promised to the Jews as a shield to cover their misconduct. However,

the facts conflict with these claims and prove this weak stance as null and void.

In the 1880s, the community of Palestinian Jews, known as the Yishuv, amounted to three percent of the total population. In contrast to the Zionist Jews who would arrive in Palestine later, the original Yishuv did not aspire to build a modern Jewish state in Palestine.

Before Palestine came under British mandate, they promised "establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" vowing to give away a country that was not theirs to give. They

did so to protect their interests in the region, i.e. gaining the support of Jews in the US and securing control over Palestine after WW1.

The statement of US President Joe Biden reflects their aims and ambitions:

"Were there not an Israel, the United States of America would have to invent an Israel to protect her interest in the region. The United States would have to go out and invent an Israel."

### Religious motives and claiming the right to the Holy Land

Jews consider themselves as the heirs who have inherited the Holy Land of Palestine. Whereas history shows us that this land was given by Allah to those who submitted, the "Muslims" of every nation. From Adam AS to Prophet Muhammad SAW every prophet had a connection to this land. Then, at last, The Seal of Prophets, Prophet Muhammad SAW, was given charge of the land, and now its responsibility came upon the Muslims.

Jews also plan to demolish Al Aqsa Mosque, which is sacred to all three religions, i.e. Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The Jews are preparing for the



MAP OF PALESTINIAN VILLAGES DESTROYED BY ISRAEL DURING 1947- 49

and the adults gave us candy and almonds to stop us from crying the Israeli army attacked us and took our candy"

Amna Shaqdihi was 16 during the catastrophe.

"I'd leave the house behind here and go back to my village and live in a tent. I'd love it. Every day before I sleep, I think about it and cry. I feel a pain in my heart."

## What led to Al Nakba?

There were several factors, including political, ideological and religious reasons, that finally led to the Nakba.

### Zionist Ideologies

The roots of the Nakba stem from Zionism, an extreme political ideology demanding a separate nation for Jews. The idea was not only to build a homeland but to illegally seize Palestinian land.

As soon as the British mandate of Palestine expired, on 14th May 1948, Zionist forces declared the establishment of the State of Israel with the help of the British government.

coming of Dajjal which is confirmed by the prophecies of Prophet PBUH as a major sign of the Day of Qayamah. The following narration is being quoted for a deeper insight to the series of events that will take place.

respond to him. He will then give command to the sky and it will send its rain upon the earth and he will then send his command to the earth and it will grow vegetation. Then in the evening their pasturing animals will

send insects which will attack their (Ya'juj and Ma'juj people) neck until they all will perish like a single person. Prophet, 'Isa and his companions will then come down and they will not find in the earth as much space as a single span which would not be filled with their corpses and their stench. Prophet 'Isa and his companions will then again beseech Allah, Who will send birds whose necks will be like those of Bactrian camels, and they will carry them and throw them where Allah will desire.



**An-Nawwas bin Sam'an (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:**

One morning the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) made a mention of Dajjal, and he described him to be insignificant and at the same time described him so significant that we thought he was on the date-palm trees (i.e., nearby). When we went to him (the Prophet (ﷺ)) in the evening, he perceived the sign of fear on our faces. He said, "What is the matter with you?" We said: "O Messenger of Allah, you talked about Dajjal this morning raising your voice and lowering it until we thought he was hiding in the palm-trees grove: He said: "Something other than Dajjal make worry about you. If he appears while I am with you, I will defend you against him. But if he appears after I die, then everyone of you is his own defender. Allah is the One Who remains after me to guide every Muslim.

Dajjal will be a young man with very curly hair with one eye protruding (with which he cannot see). I compare (his appearance) to that of Al-'Uzza bin Qatan. He who amongst you survives to see him, should recite over him the opening Ayat of Surat Al-Kahf (i.e., Surat 18: Verses 1-8). He will appear on the way between Syria and Iraq and will spread mischief right and left. O slaves of Allah! Remain adhered to the truth." We asked: "O Messenger of Allah! How long will he stay on the earth?" He said, "For forty days. One day will be like a year, one day like a month, one day like a week and the rest of the days will be like your days." We said: "O Messenger of Allah! Will one day's Salat (prayer) suffice for the Salat of that day which will be equal to one year?" Thereupon he said, "No, but you must make an estimate of time and then offer Salat." We said: "O Messenger of Allah! How quickly will he walk upon the earth?"

Thereupon he said, "Like cloud driven by the wind (i.e., very quickly). He will come to the people and call them to his obedience and they will affirm their faith in him and

leave them, in barren lands and without any goods and chattels! He would then walk through the waste land and say to it: 'Bring forth your treasures', and the treasures will come out and follow him like swarms of bees. He will then call a person brimming with youth and strike him with the sword and cut him into two pieces and make these pieces lie at a distance, which is generally between the archer and his target. He will then call that young man and he will come forward, laughing, with his face gleaming out of joy; and it will be at this very time that Allah will send 'Isa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary) who will descend at the white minaret in the eastern side of Damascus, wearing two garments lightly dyed and placing his hands on the wings of two angels. When he will lower his head, there would fall drops of water from his head, and when he will raise it up, drops like pearls would scatter from it. Every disbeliever who will find his (i.e., 'Isa's) smell will die and his smell will reach as far as he will be able to see. He will then search for Dajjal until he will catch hold of him at the gate of Ludd (village near Jerusalem), and will kill him.

Then the people, whom Allah will have protected, will come to 'Isa son of Maryam, and he will wipe their faces and will inform them of their ranks in Jannah, and it will be under such conditions that Allah will reveal to 'Isa these words: 'I have brought forth from amongst my slaves such people against whom none will be able to fight, so take these people safely to the mountain.' And then Allah will send Ya'juj and Ma'juj (Gog and Magog people) and they will sworn down from every slope. The first of them will pass the Lake Tabariyah (near the Dead Sea in Palestine) and drink all its water. And when the last of them will pass, he will say: 'There was once water there.' Prophet 'Isa (ﷺ) and his companions will then be so much hard-pressed that the head of an ox will be dearer to them than one hundred dinar, and 'Isa along with his companions, will make supplication to Allah, Who will

come to them with their humps very high and their rudders full of milk and their flanks stretched. He will then come to another people and invite them, but they will reject him and he will

Then Allah will send down rain which will spare no house in the city or in the countryside. It would wash away the earth until it appears like a mirror. Then the earth will be told to bring forth its fruit and restore its blessings; and as a result of this, there will grow such a big pomegranate that a group of people will eat from it and seek shelter under its skin. Milk will be so blessed that the milk of one she-camel will suffice for a large company and the cow will give so much milk, that it will suffice for a whole tribe. The sheep will give so much milk that the whole family will be able to drink out of that, and at that time Allah will send a pleasant wind which will soothe people even under their armpits, and will take the life of every Muslim and true believer, and only the wicked will survive. They will commit adultery in public like asses and the Resurrection Day will be held."

**Riyad as-Salihin 1808  
Book 18, Hadis 1**

**Is the Nakba Over?**

While the Zionist project fulfilled its dream of creating "a Jewish homeland" in Palestine in 1948, the process of ethnic cleansing and displacement of Palestinians never stopped.

The current situation in Palestine is equally is not worse, with more than 40,000 deaths and above 80,000 injured since October 7th. This ongoing genocide is being referred to as the second Nakba...

Let's raise our hands and pray for our Palestinian brothers and sisters asking Allah to elevate their suffering and provide them relief in these times of distress.

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# The Second Nakba: A Historical and Contemporary Analysis

The Second Nakba refers to the continued displacement and suffering of Palestinians, which many argue constitutes a continuation of the original Nakba (catastrophe) of 1948. The term "Nakba" denotes the mass exodus of Palestinians during the establishment of the state of Israel, when over 700,000 Palestinians were displaced. The "Second Nakba" captures the ongoing cycles of forced evictions, military operations, and systemic policies that have displaced Palestinians in the decades since 1948, especially in regions such as the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

under Israeli



## Key Drivers of the Second Nakba

### 1. Forced Evictions and Demolitions

In East Jerusalem and the West Bank, forced evictions and home demolitions have been a persistent issue. Israel's judiciary has often ruled in favor of settlers in property disputes, leading to the displacement of Palestinian families. Notable cases, such as those in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem, have garnered international attention. Between 2006 and 2023, over 14,000 Palestinian homes and structures were demolished in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, displacing tens of thousands of individuals.

### 2. Expansion of Settlements

Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, deemed illegal under international law, have steadily expanded since 1967. These settlements now house over 700,000 Israelis. Their construction often comes at the expense of Palestinian communities, leading to land confiscation, restricted access to resources, and the fragmentation of Palestinian territories. This has rendered the establishment of a viable Palestinian state increasingly unlikely.

### 3. Military Operations in Gaza

The Gaza Strip has faced a series of devastating military operations since 2008, including Operation Cast Lead (2008-2009),

Operation Protective Edge (2014), and more recently, the conflict in 2021.

These operations have resulted in thousands of deaths and widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure. Additionally, Gaza has been under an Israeli blockade since 2007, severely restricting the movement of people and goods, leading to what the United Nations has described as a humanitarian crisis.

### 4. Displacement in Area C

Under the Oslo Accords, the West Bank was divided into Areas A, B, and C. Area C, comprising 60% of the West Bank, remains under full Israeli control. In this area, Palestinians face severe restrictions on building and development. Many communities are at constant risk of displacement, as Israel frequently issues demolition orders for structures built without permits—permits that are nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain.

### Human Impact

The ongoing displacement and oppression have had devastating effects on Palestinians. Beyond the physical loss of homes and land, the Second Nakba has contributed to significant psychological and social challenges. Generations of Palestinians have grown up as refugees, many living in camps with limited access to education, healthcare, and employment. The restrictions on movement, such as those imposed by checkpoints and the separation wall, further isolate Palestinian communities and impede economic development.

Moreover, the blockade on Gaza has resulted in severe poverty and unemployment, with over 80% of the population reliant on humanitarian aid. The lack of access to clean water, electricity, and medical care has created conditions unfit for human life, prompting some observers to

### Palestinians face eviction from properties in Sheikh Jarrah



describe Gaza as the world's largest open-air prison.

### The Path Forward

Addressing the Second Nakba requires a multifaceted approach that prioritizes justice, accountability, and the protection of human rights. Key steps include:

1. Ending Settlement Expansion: A halt to settlement construction and the dismantling of illegal settlements are essential for preserving the possibility of a two-state solution.
2. International Intervention: The international community must move beyond statements of condemnation and take concrete actions, such as imposing sanctions or conditioning aid to Israel, to pressure compliance with international law.
3. Humanitarian Assistance: Immediate relief efforts are necessary to address the dire conditions in Gaza and refugee camps.
4. Negotiated Peace: A just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict requires addressing core issues, including the right of return for refugees, the status of Jerusalem, and the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state.

### Conclusion

The Second Nakba underscores the enduring legacy of displacement and oppression faced by Palestinians. While the original Nakba of 1948 marked a defining moment in Palestinian history, its impacts have been compounded by decades of occupation, settlement expansion, and systemic policies of dispossession. As the world grapples with issues of justice and human rights, the plight of the Palestinians remains a pressing concern. Addressing the Second Nakba is not only a matter of historical accountability but also a moral imperative to ensure a just and peaceful future for all people in the region.

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# Syria: A Tale of Resilience Amidst Chaos By Hamda Leghari (XI-A)



Over the past century, Syria has navigated a complex and often tumultuous trajectory, shaped by colonial subjugation, political upheaval, and armed conflict. From its establishment under the French Mandate following World War I to the consolidation of authoritarian rule under the Assad regime, Syria's history is a mosaic of resistance, resilience, and profound transformation. Each phase, marked by struggles for sovereignty and survival, reflects the enduring spirit of a nation that continues to grapple with the consequences of its historical and geopolitical challenges and the profound human cost of conflict.

## **From Post-WWI Mandate to Assad's Regime**

From 1919 to 1999, Syria underwent significant transformations. After World War I, Syria was placed under the French Mandate following the 1920 San Remo Conference. This period saw widespread resistance, culminating in the Great Syrian Revolt of 1925-1927.

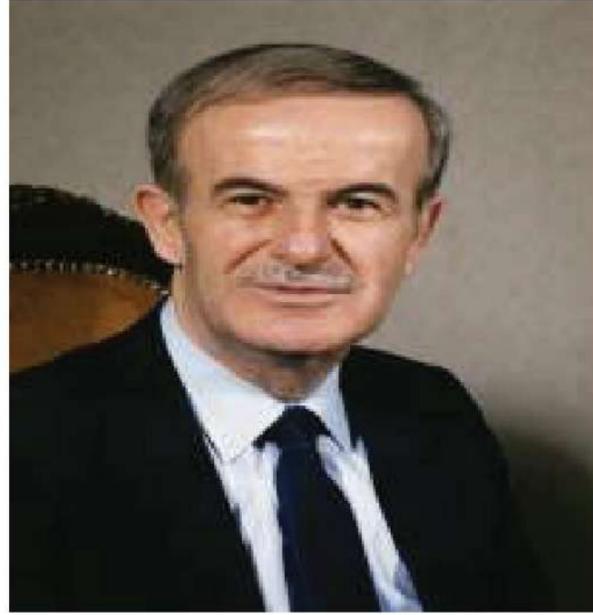
Syria achieved independence in 1946 but faced political instability marked by coups and external conflicts, including the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the Suez Crisis in 1956.

The Ba'ath Party seized power in 1963, advocating Arab nationalism and socialism. In 1970, Hafez al-Assad rose to power, establishing an authoritarian regime. His rule, marked by economic modernization and strict control, was punctuated by key events such as Syria's involvement in the 1973 Yom Kippur War and the brutal suppression of the 1982 Hama uprising. By 1999, Assad had consolidated power, setting the stage for his son Bashar's succession.

A genuine local perspective on Syria's turbulent period from the French Mandate to the rise of Hafez al-Assad reflects deep historical and personal significance. In interviews conducted with older Syrians, many recount the resistance against French control, highlighting the sacrifices of figures like Sultan al-Atrash during the Great Syrian Revolt (1925-1927). One elderly Damascene remarked:

*"We were not simply fighting a foreign power; we were fighting for our dignity. Under the French, our cities were divided,*

*our leaders silenced. But through all of this, we held onto hope, even when independence came, and coups followed. By the time*



*Assad took control, it felt like a new era—one of stability, yes, but also control and fear."*

Such sentiments capture the dual nature of Syria's 20th-century journey: fierce resistance, national pride, and the complexities of political transformation under authoritarian rule.

The Early 2000s: Transition and False Hopes When Bashar al-Assad succeeded his father, Hafez al-Assad, in 2000, Syrians harbored cautious optimism. Promises of modernization and limited reforms kindled hope for a brighter future. However, political repression and corruption remained deeply entrenched.

Economic liberalization policies benefited a narrow elite, exacerbating inequality and unemployment. "We thought things might improve, but the old chains of fear stayed in place," reflected a Syrian activist.

During this period, dissent was suppressed with heavy-handed tactics, ensuring that the regime maintained its grip on power. The seeds of discontent continued to grow, particularly among youth disillusioned by limited opportunities and oppressive governance.

The Arab Spring and Descent into Civil War The Arab Spring of 2011 reached Syria, sparking a wave of protests demanding democratic reforms and the end of Assad's authoritarian rule. Initially peaceful, these protests were met with violent crackdowns by the regime, which escalated the unrest into a full-blown civil war by mid-2011.

The conflict soon evolved into a multifaceted war involving various factions:

- **The Assad Regime:** bolstered by military and financial support from Russia and Iran.
- **Opposition Groups:** including the Free Syrian Army, which sought to overthrow Assad.
- **Extremist Organizations:** such as ISIS and Jabhat al-Nusra, who exploited the chaos to

gain territory.

*"We began with dreams of freedom, only to find ourselves trapped in a nightmare of war,"*

*lamented a protester turned refugee.*



## **A Humanitarian Catastrophe**

The Syrian civil war has unleashed one of the most severe humanitarian crises in modern history. By 2024:

- Over 14 million Syrians require humanitarian aid.
- Nearly 7 million refugees have fled to neighboring countries and beyond, while another 6.8 million remain internally displaced.
- Economic losses have surpassed \$442 billion, devastating critical infrastructure, including healthcare, education, and housing.

Cities like Aleppo, Homs, and Raqqa have borne the brunt of the destruction. Aleppo, once a thriving economic and cultural hub, was reduced to rubble during the prolonged siege.

*"Aleppo was our pride,"* said a displaced resident, *"but now it stands as a monument to our suffering."*

## **The Rise and Fall of ISIS**

In 2014, ISIS emerged as a formidable force, seizing vast swathes of Syria and Iraq. The group established a brutal regime, targeting minorities and enforcing draconian laws. The U.S.-led coalition, in partnership with Syrian Kurdish forces, managed to dismantle ISIS's territorial control by 2019. However, the group's remnants continue to pose security threats in both Syria and the region.

*"Even after ISIS was driven out, the fear they instilled still lingers,"* recounted a survivor from Raqqa, highlighting the psychological scars left behind.

## **Foreign Powers and Proxy Warfare**

The Syrian conflict became a proxy war, drawing in global and regional powers with competing interests:

- **Russia and Iran:** played pivotal roles in propping up the Assad regime, providing military and logistical support.
- **Turkey:** intervened to curb Kurdish ambitions and secure its border regions.
- **The United States and Gulf States:** supported various opposition groups, though their goals often diverged.

Despite international efforts, including multiple rounds of UN-led peace talks in



Geneva, a lasting political solution remains elusive. Assad's strengthened position, bolstered by Russian and Iranian backing, has allowed him to resist meaningful concessions. Meanwhile, the opposition remains fragmented, further complicating the prospects for peace.

**The Cost of Prolonged Conflict**

The war's toll extends beyond physical destruction. Syria's economy is in shambles, with sanctions, corruption, and a lack of basic services having pushed millions into poverty. The Syrian pound's collapse has deepened destitution, with basic necessities out of reach for many families. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic and a massive earthquake in February of 2023 devastated Syria's northwest, particularly the rebel-held areas. This exacerbated the already dire humanitarian situation. International aid was hampered by geopolitical disputes, leaving millions vulnerable.

**The Unyielding Spirit of the Syrian People**

Despite the overwhelming challenges, the Syrian people have shown remarkable resilience. In both regime-controlled and opposition-held territories, communities strive to rebuild their lives. "We have lost so much, but we plant seeds of hope every day," said a teacher in Homs, "because our children deserve a future brighter than our past." Local initiatives have emerged to restore schools, provide healthcare, and support livelihoods, even in the most difficult circumstances.

**Looking Ahead: Challenges and Oppor-**

**tunities**

The road to recovery for Syria remains fraught with challenges:

- **Political Stalemate:** Without a comprehensive peace agreement, the conflict's root causes will persist.
- **Reconstruction Needs:** Rebuilding Syria's infrastructure will require significant international investment.
- **Reconciliation and Justice:** Addressing war crimes and fostering reconciliation are crucial for long-term stability.

The international community has a critical role to play in supporting Syrians through humanitarian aid, diplomatic efforts, and reconstruction initiatives. The resilience of the Syrian people provides a glimmer of hope amidst the darkness. "Our land has suffered, but our spirit endures," said an elder from Daraa, expressing a sentiment shared by many.

**Conclusion: A Nation's Call for Peace**

Syria's modern history is a testament to its people's unyielding spirit in the face of adversity.

From the hopeful transition in 2000 to the devastation of civil war, Syrians have endured unimaginable suffering. Yet, they continue to dream of peace and a brighter future. The international community must prioritize the welfare of the Syrian people, ensuring that their resilience is met with meaningful support and solidarity. Syria's narrative is one of survival amid relentless challenges.

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**EVENTS**

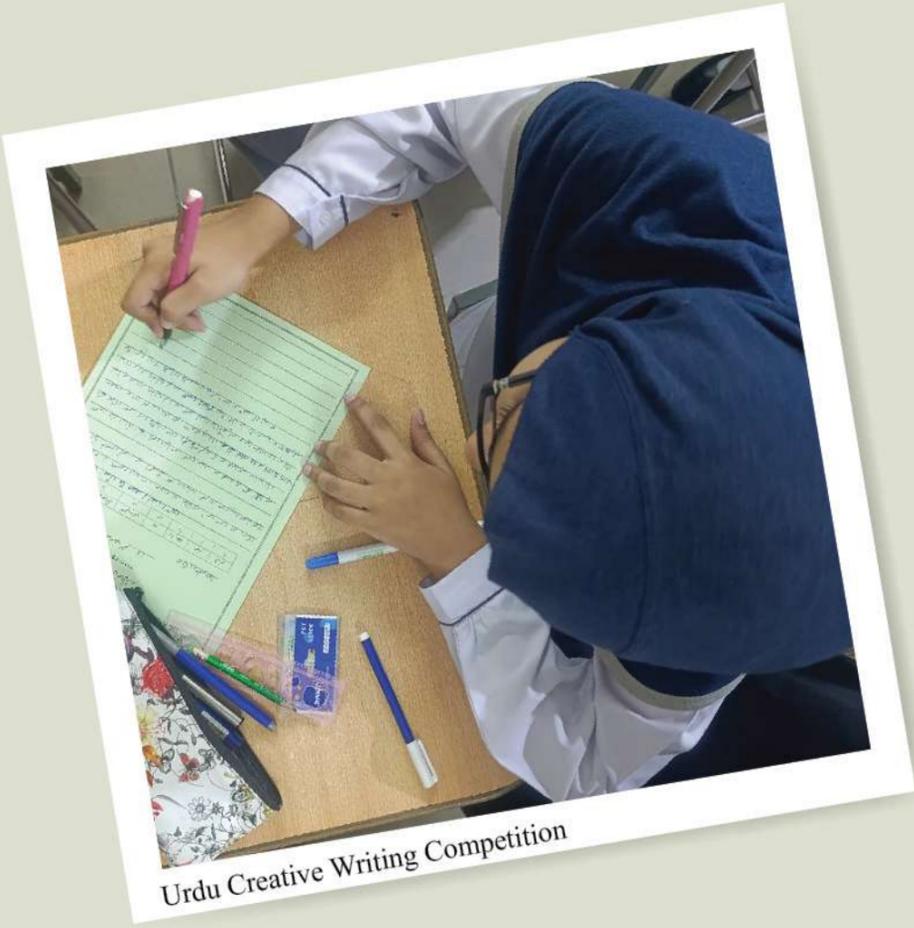


Visit to Lahore Fort



Creativity, Imagination and Inventiveness in Outdoor Learning Hifz Field trip to Safari Zoo





Urdu Creative Writing Competition



Archery club



Visit of outgoing batches to the MET office Lahore



Mapping Contest



Welcoming the new batch of hifz students



Trip to Safari Park



Bathing and Shrouding workshop

# SENIOR BOYS BRANCH

## Discourse in the media and portrayal of Palestinians and Muslims



On 7th October, 2023, a heart shattering incident engulfed the earth, dividing the world into two. Many believe that this was the date when Hamas attacked Israel resulting in a war. However this actually goes way back ... back to 1948. Israel had illegally occupied the state of Palestine and such circumstances of conflict have prevailed ever since.

It is evident how misleading western media is when it comes to Palestines, and Muslims in general. "Extremism", "Terrorists", "Violence" and "Conflict" are some of the words associated with Muslims in the west. An extensive amount of reports show how Muslims and Islam are reported negatively in western media. They deceitfully promote the wrong interpretation of the word 'Jihad' further linking it with terrorism. Moreover, Muslim women are portrayed as victims and Muslim men as oppressors. They consider Hijab an oppression to women, ignoring the satisfaction it provides to Muslims by fulfilling an ethical duty.

Now the world is almost completely devoid of humanity, and the west just proves that. They support Israel using Islamophobic remarks. Furthermore, Israel's genocide, cruelty and unjust bombings have been justified under the word 'self-defence', despite the fact that there is an international law stating that Israel cannot claim self-defence from a territory it occupies.

Western media is just a way to look down on Muslims. One article states: "In one instance in April 2024 at the University of California, Los Angeles, pro-Israel supporters including several far-right activists and white nationalists, launched a late night attack on the peaceful

pro-Palestine encampment on campus, including violently assaulting protesters with sticks and weapons, shooting fireworks at the encampment, and using pepper spray, all the while police officers stood by and did nothing for hours. Over 30 individuals were injured. When law enforcement responded, it only arrested the pro-Palestine student protesters and faculty."



## Bangladesh

### **Historical Context :**

For centuries, the area which is now known as Bangladesh was a part of the Indian subcontinent. In 1947, when partition took place, it came to be known as East Pakistan. But soon Pakistan was to be split into two countries as well. Bangladesh was finally formed in December 1971. This separation was due to many reasons : namely political, economical and social as well.

### **Current status :**

A few months ago, in July, some demonstrations began in Dhaka led by students furious at the government's statement of the job quota scheme which had been cancelled in 2018.

Protests intensified when Sheikh Hasina, the prime Minister, called the protestors "Razakars". Some protestors lost their lives. Then on July 21st, the Supreme Court cancelled the Quota scheme. However, protests continued with a new demand of justice, calling for Hasina to step down. On a Sunday, Hasina called the protestors "terrorists". This came as the biggest challenge to her rule.

"A dictator has fallen," political analyst Mubashar Hassan told al Jazeera. "This is an incredible moment. This is like a second independence for Bangladesh," he said. Hasina reportedly escaped to India. This came as a celebration for Bangladesh.

### **Some Famous Figures:**

Name - Field - Achievement

Muhammad Yunus - Microfinance - Nobel Peace Prize 2006

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman - Politics Founding Father of Bangladesh

Shakib Al Hasan - Sports (Cricket) - ICC No. 1 All-rounder in ODIs

Khaleda Zia Politics First Female Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Sheikh Hasina - Politics - Current Prime Minister of Bangladesh

### **Timeline :**

1971 - Awami League proclaims independence of the province as Bangladesh.

Pakistan is defeated in brief war, with Indian assistance.

1972 - League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman becomes prime minister and begins a programme of nationalising key industries.

1974 - Severe floods devastate much of the grain crop, leading to an estimated 28,000 deaths.

1975 - Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is assassinated in a military coup in August. Martial law is imposed.

1977 - General Ziaur Rahman becomes president.

1981 - President Ziaur Rahman is assassinated in abortive coup.

1982 - General Hussain Muhammad Ershad seizes power.

1983 - Limited political activity is permitted.

1986 - President Ershad lifts martial law and reinstates the constitution.

1987 - State of emergency declared after opposition demonstrations and strikes.

1988 - Islam becomes state religion. Floods leave tens of millions homeless.

1990 - President Ershad steps down following mass protests.

1991 - Begum Khaleda Zia, widow of President Ziaur Rahman, becomes prime minister, shifts power away from presidency.

1996 - Awami League returns to power under with Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

1998 - Two-thirds of the country devastated by the worst floods ever. Fifteen former army officers sentenced to death for involvement in assassination of President Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

2001 October - Khaleda Zia's Nationalist Party takes power in coalition government.

2002 March - Government introduces law making acid attacks punishable by death amid public anger over escalating violence against women.

2004 May - Parliament amends constitution to reserve 45 seats for female MPs.

2007 April - Sheikh Hasina is charged with murder and Begum Khaleda Zia is placed under virtual house arrest in

clampdown by caretaker government after a year of violent political unrest.

2008 December - General elections: Awami League captures more than 250 of 300 seats in parliament. Sheikh Hasina is sworn in as prime minister in January.

2009 February - Around 74 people, mainly army officers, are killed in a mutiny in Dhaka by border guards unhappy with pay and conditions. Police arrest some 700 guards. A further 1,000 guards are detained in May.

2013 April - Sheikh Hasina vetoes Islamist bill to outlaw criticism of Islam.

2013 May - European retailers promise to sign an accord to improve safety conditions in factories after a garment factory building

collapsed in April, killing more than 1,100 people.

Jamaat-e-Islami trials

2013 July - Ghulam Azam, leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, is convicted of war crimes committed during the 1971 war of independence. Several other Jamaat leaders are convicted in the following years.

2015 May - Bangladesh bans Islamist militant group Ansarullah Bangla Team, which claims responsibility for killing and assaulting several pro-secular public figures.

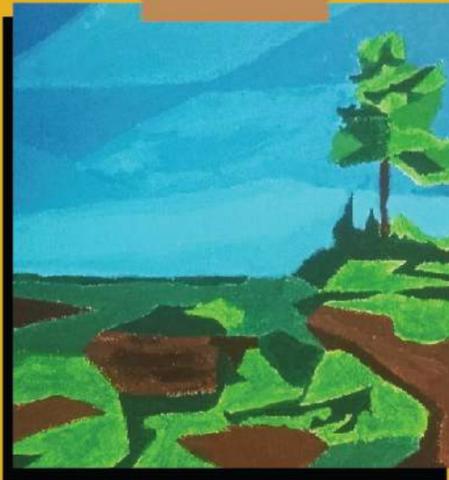
2016 July - The Islamic State group claims an attack on a cafe in Dhaka's diplomatic quarter in which 20 hostages, including 18 foreigners, are killed, but the government

rejects the claim saying the militant group Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen was responsible.

2017 October - The number of Rohingya Muslims who fled military action in Myanmar's Rakhine state and sought refuge in Bangladesh is estimated at one million.

2018 February - Opposition leader Khaleda Zia is sentenced to five years in prison for corruption, disqualifying her from contesting the elections later in the year.

2018 December - Governing Awami League wins landslide victory in parliamentary election, but the campaign was marred by reports of violence, intimidation, and vote-rigging. At least 17 people died in clashes between Awami League and opposition supporters.



Scil- Swimming Gala



Intercooler football and Futsal Tournament



Election Campaign, Students' Council



Interschool- football Tournament



Dawah- Thon at Al, Ala International Islamic School



O'Level, Kallar Kahar Trip



O'Level, Hiran Minar Park

# MODEL TOWN BRANCH

## BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions)



Demolished buildings, burned off trees, rubble, debris, empty playgrounds and broken dreams is all that remains of the once lush, lively land of the Gaza Strip. Children there are daily subjected to the horrors of wars we choose to ignore, raising our own kids away from this harsh reality in blissful ignorance. On 7 October 2023, the conflict began when Hamas retaliated against the ruthless Israeli occupation. However, this conflict is over 70 years old, the root of the issue being the illegal occupation of the state by Israel. The small act of resilience by Hamas was merely a pretext for the Israelis to wage a year of war, misery, dehumanization, and humiliation for the innocent civilians of Palestine.

It is indeed painful to watch the senseless slaughter of countless innocent souls, our own Muslim brothers and sisters from afar, unable to go and fight, but there is a way to express our solidarity with the people of Palestine from our homes, and raise our voices against this ruthless war: BDS.

**Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions, (BDS)**, decentralized Palestinian-led movement of nonviolent resistance to Israel's treatment of Palestinians. The movement advocates punitive measures against the state of Israel, including boycotts, divestments, and economic sanctions. BDS initiatives demand an end to Israel's occupation of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights, the granting of full equality to Palestinian citizens of Israel, and the respect and promotion of a right of return for Palestinian refugees. The BDS movement was officially launched in 2005 by a coalition of more than 170 Palestinian unions professional associations, refugee networks, women's associations, and other bodies of Palestinian civil society, which together called on organizations and individuals to "impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era." An Israeli government report that leaked in 2015 and estimated that BDS may cost the Israeli economy \$1.4 billion per year. BDS organizes campaigns for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel. Boycotts are facilitated by urging the public to avoid purchasing goods made by Israeli companies, divestment by urging banks, pension funds, international companies, etc. to stop doing business in Israel, and sanctions by pressur-

ing governments to end military trade and free-trade agreements with Israel and to suspend Israel's membership in international forums. The BDS movement gained great popularity

As a nation that heavily relies on its economy, Israel can be significantly impacted through the strategic implementation of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement. Supporting this movement is an

Consumer boycott targets:	Divestment and exclusion targets:
Pressure targets:	Organic boycott targets:

after October 7, as companies funding Israel army like McDonalds, Unilever, Zara's, and Puma began suffering huge setbacks; awareness spread quickly as more and more began boycotting. Several global companies have pulled out their operations from Israel. In April 2024, Samsung Next announced shutting down its operations in Tel Aviv and in June, tech giant Intel stopped construction of a \$25 billion factory in Israel. 46 thousand Israeli businesses have shut down since the start of the genocide. UK's largest pension fund dumped over a 100 million dollars in Israeli stocks and KLP, Norway's largest pension fund has divested 69 million dollars from Caterpillar for human right violations against Palestinians.

approach to exert economic pressure on Israel and it's allies, aiming to compel compliance with international laws and respect for Palestinian rights. Ultimately, the BDS movement aspires to forge a better future for Palestinians by ensuring that their fundamental rights are respected and upheld. The movement endeavors to lay the groundwork for a peaceful and equitable resolution to the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, fostering hope for a brighter and a more just future.

By: **Faariya Rahman, Asma Safder**



### Responsibility of the Muslim Ummah in Regards to Palestine

Palestine holds deep spiritual importance for Muslims as the home of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam. Protecting this sacred land is a religious duty. Some key steps that the Ummah MUST take include the following:

**Upholding Justice and Opposing Oppression**  
 Islam mandates standing against injustice. The Quran states:  
*"And what is [the matter] with you that you fight not in the cause of Allah and for the oppressed among men, women, and children..."* (Quran 4:75).

This verse demands a profound call to action for Muslims. It states the importance of standing against oppression and injustice, particularly when innocent lives are at stake. It calls believers to engage in jihad.

"Jihad" refers not only to physical struggle but also a broad spectrum of efforts to establish justice and alleviate the suffering of the oppressed, such as advocacy, education, and humanitarian efforts. Lack of action is unacceptable. The Ummah is commanded to act with sincerity, courage, and compassion. While direct physical engagement may not be feasible for most, the essence of this jihad lies in collective action for:

- A Unified Forum To Stand For Palestine
- Raising Awareness
- Educating Future Generations About The Values Of Justice And Compassion
- Providing Financial Aid
- Advocating For Justice In Political Arenas

**Promoting Unity, Awareness and Education**

Unity is vital to strengthen efforts for Palestine. Sectarian divisions weaken the Ummah, while a united stance amplifies its influence. Raising global awareness through media and educational platforms can amplify the call for justice. Educating future generations about Palestine ensures sustained advocacy for justice and peace.

**Humanitarian and Political Efforts**

The oppressed described in the earlier verse—men, women, and children—are a reminder that the duty to defend the down-trodden transcends national, ethnic, or personal interests. For Palestine, this verse resonates deeply, as it calls Muslims to actively support those facing systemic oppression, displacement, and violence.

Providing humanitarian aid to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian families is essential. Financial support through zakat and donations can help rebuild homes and provide medical assistance. Equally important is political advocacy—Muslims must lobby their governments and international bodies to ensure just policies and resolutions.

In conclusion, the Muslim Ummah's responsibility toward Palestine is rooted in faith, justice, and compassion. Through unity and collective efforts, the Ummah can alleviate suffering, uphold human dignity, and work toward lasting peace and justice for Palestinians. In this way, the Ummah can fulfill the divine mandate to fight for the oppressed and work towards lasting peace and dignity for all.




# DEFENCE BRANCH

## Palestine

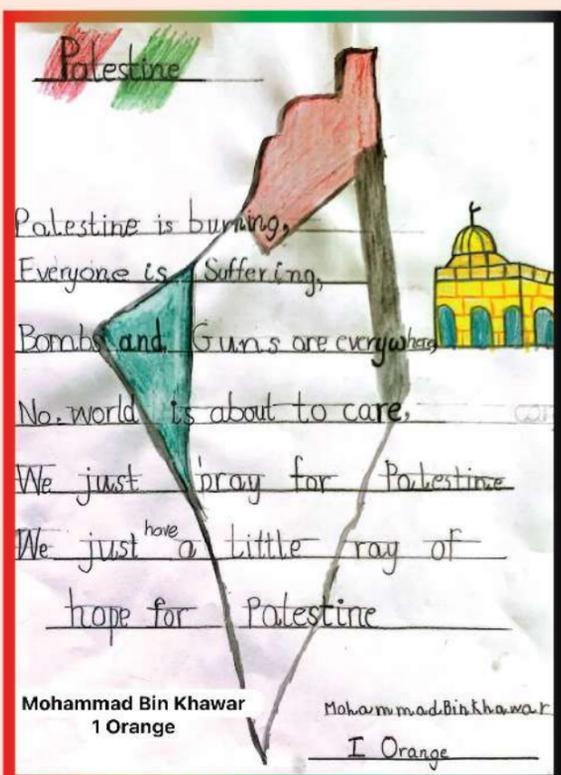
Palestine, a land so dear,  
We stand with you and hold you near,  
We wish for peace, for love and play,  
In Palestine every single day.  
**Abdul Munim I-Blue**

No water to drink,  
No food to eat,  
No shelter to sleep,  
In a sad street.  
Palestinian children need our care,  
Let's help them, show we truly care!  
**Muhammad Musa I-Orange**

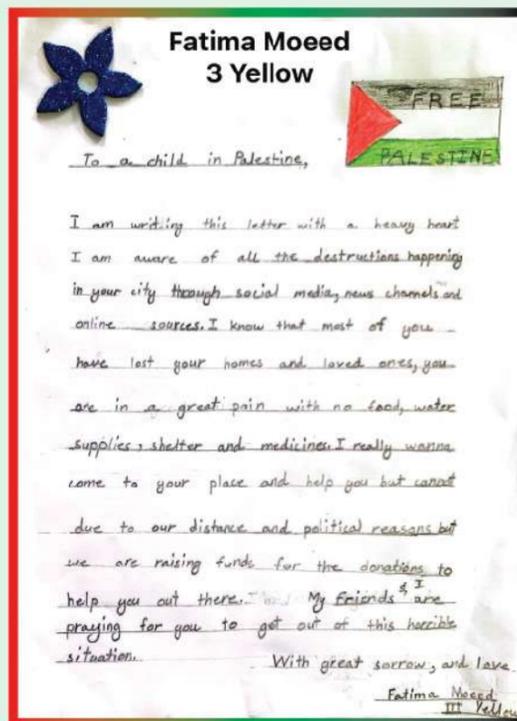
**P** prayers for the innocent people  
**A** Allah will ease your pain  
**L** love for the little babies  
**E** encouragement for the brave soldiers  
**S** solidarity with the lovely people  
**T** test of Allah will end soon  
**I** InshaAllah you will succeed  
**N** no matter what the Jews plan  
**E** ending will be in your favour  
**Fatima Rizwan II-Green**

## Let Gaza Live

In Gaza's shadows, families cry  
For every five, two must die  
Three still strive, but struggles deep  
A land where dreams no longer sleep  
From earth to sky, the voices are  
Begging peace, to end the war  
Let Gaza heal, let Gaza give  
A simple plea let Gaza live  
**By Muhammad Hashir II-Orange**  
Zohar e Palestine, a flower so rare,



Grows in the hearts of children who care  
Its petals are strong, its scent is sweet  
A symbol of hope, that can't retreat  
Qamr e Palestine, a moon so bright,  
Shines on the children with a gentle light  
In the streets of Gaza it shines with pride...  
A dream of freedom, a future so bright,  
Guides the children forward, with a loving  
light  
Their smiles are a treasure  
Their hearts are so pure  
A reflection of the beauty that Palestine  
ensures  
**Muhammad Keyaan II-Red**



## I wish...

I wish I could give you hugs today  
And help your troubles go away  
I pray for peace to come so soon,  
And bring back sunshine, stars and moon  
I hope you laugh and smile again  
And play outside with your friends again  
You are so strong and brave  
The world is better because of you there  
One day, O Palestine,  
We will jump and jump up high  
With all our victory might and joy  
And share our dreams under the sun  
Until that day, I will pray for you  
And send all my love to you  
**Muhammad Haris Umer III-Red**

## Child Poverty i Libya

Libya, a country located in North Africa, has been plagued by political instability. These challenges have had a bad impact on the country's population, especially

children. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), nearly 30% of children in Libya live below the poverty line. Many children in Libya can't afford their basic necessities like food, clean water, shelter, education and healthcare.

The main causes of this poverty include reduced ability to work. The uprising also resulted in the loss or injury of many parents hindering their capacities to fulfill their work responsibilities. 1,142 civilians died and over 1,000 were injured due to the revolt leaving the children orphaned. Disruption of education during the war is also a leading factor contributing to child poverty.

The most harmful effect of child poverty is on the health and well-being of children. Only 14% of children receive the minimum diet. The negative effect of malnutrition includes reduced brain development, a weakened immune system, and visual impairment.

Monthly provisions of food and support can help this situation. Education stands as a key to breaking the cycle of child poverty in Libya. It can alleviate poverty on the social level. Education enhances employment opportunities, improving economic growth and innovation.

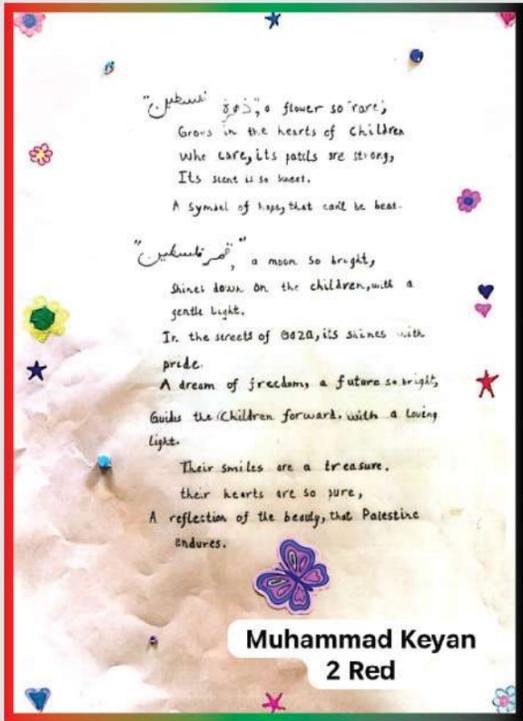
**Abeeha Shahid-IV Yellow**

## The Unbreakable Spirit: Aya's Story

Aya was just 10 years old when everything she knew was torn apart. She was a bright student, her heart filled with dreams of becoming an engineer, building homes to protect the people she loved. But when the violence of the 2011 Libyan conflict reached her home in Benghazi, those dreams were shattered.

One night, the sound of gunfire echoed through the streets, and Aya's world changed forever. Her family was forced to leave their home, their school, and their memories behind, running for their lives as bombs rained down on the city. They found refuge in a crowded camp, where fear and uncertainty ruled every day.

Yet, even in the face of all this, Aya refused to give up. In the camp, she met Fatima, a volunteer teacher who somehow managed to bring



light to the darkness. Fatima set up a small makeshift classroom under a tent, and Aya's love for learning was reignited. With each lesson, Aya's hope grew stronger. She dreamed of returning to a peaceful Libya, rebuilding what had been lost, one home, one school, and one playground at a time.

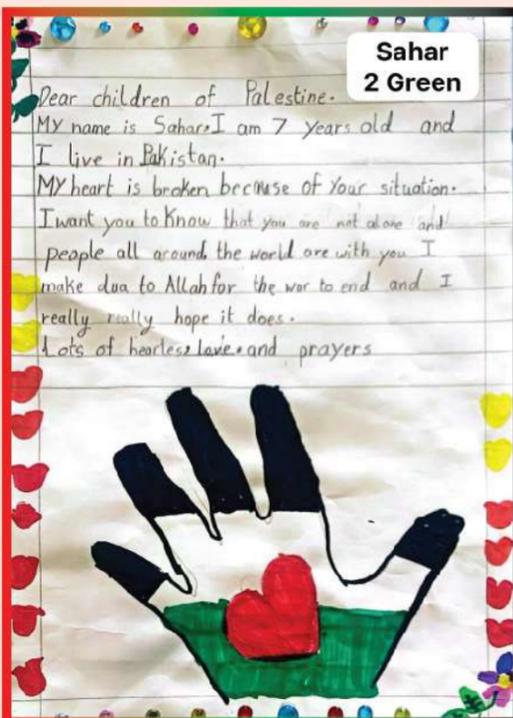
Aya's story is not just a story of war; it's a story of survival, of resilience, and of the unbreakable spirit of children whose futures were stolen by conflict. It is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, hope can still shine through.

## A Glimmer of Hope

Despite the overwhelming pain, there were glimmers of hope. Aya's story is one of resilience, of courage in the face of overwhelming odds. In the refugee camp, Fatima's small classroom became a symbol of defiance. For every child like Aya who refused to give up on their dreams, there was a teacher like Fatima, standing firm in the face of destruction.

Libya's road to recovery will be long and fraught with challenges, but stories like Aya's remind us that even in the darkest times, hope can still rise from the ashes.

It is a reminder that the spirit of the Libyan people—especially the children—cannot be broken. They will rebuild, they will dream, and they will rise again.



In the end, it's not just about rebuilding schools and homes. It's about rebuilding hearts, nurturing the dreams of those like Aya, and giving them a future that war tried to take away.

Muhammad Bin Usman V-Red

## Brief History of Libyan Conflict:

Libya is a country which is now ridden in economic and political crisis. It all began in September 29, 1911. Italy invaded Libya displacing thousands of people. In a Bedouin tribe, a boy called Muammar Gaddafi was born. He was soon to play a crucial role in Libya's history. In 1951 Libya through the allied forces became independent from Italy and Gaddafi rose to power. He was a socialist who reigned over Libya for over 30 years but in 2011 protests rose as people were unsatisfied with the housing crisis and that Gaddafi was not fulfilling the promises he made to the people when he rose to power.

The protest intensified fast and by February 15, 2011, it became a full-fledged civil war. The rebellion gave itself the name "The National Transitional Council (NTC)." The NTC attacked and captured most of east Libya, but the forces of Gaddafi retaliated and took back the land the NTC was forced into a corner. The NTC desperately went to the UN council and applied for a no-fly zone. The UN votes were in favour so the no-fly zone was established.

The Gaddafi forces were overthrown and Libya gained independence in 2011 from Gaddafi but after this happened Libya didn't have a leader their economy went down, and they faced political challenges now Libya is a is an unstable country with a weak economy. The current president is "Mohamed Al Menfi"

Ibrahim Farooq VIII-Red

## The 2011 Libyan Conflict: A Nation Torn Apart

The 2011 Libyan conflict was more than just a political struggle. It was a catastrophe that shattered the lives of millions and plunged the country into chaos. What began as peaceful protests against the long-standing regime of Muammar Gaddafi quickly spiraled into a full-blown civil war. The country was torn apart as people fought for freedom, but the cost was unbearable.

As violence spread across Libya, families like Aya's were forced to flee their homes, leaving behind everything they had ever known. Entire neighborhoods were destroyed, and the country's infrastructure collapsed. In a desperate attempt to crush the rebellion, Gaddafi's forces unleashed brutal attacks on civilians, turning entire cities into war zones. The international community intervened, but the damage was

already done.

By October 2011, Gaddafi was dead, but his fall did not bring peace. Instead, it left a power vacuum that allowed militias and rival factions to battle for control, plunging Libya into further instability and violence. The war continued, leaving the country in pieces, its people scattered and broken.

The Devastating Impact on Women, Children, and Education

In the midst of this chaos, it was the women and children of Libya who suffered most.

Children like Aya were forced to grow up too fast, their childhoods stolen by the war. Schools were bombed, libraries destroyed, and playgrounds abandoned. Children were forced to flee with their families, seeking safety in overcrowded refugee camps where the horrors of war followed them. Education, once a source of hope and opportunity, became a distant memory for many. Thousands of children were denied their right to learn, and the future of an entire generation was left hanging by a thread.

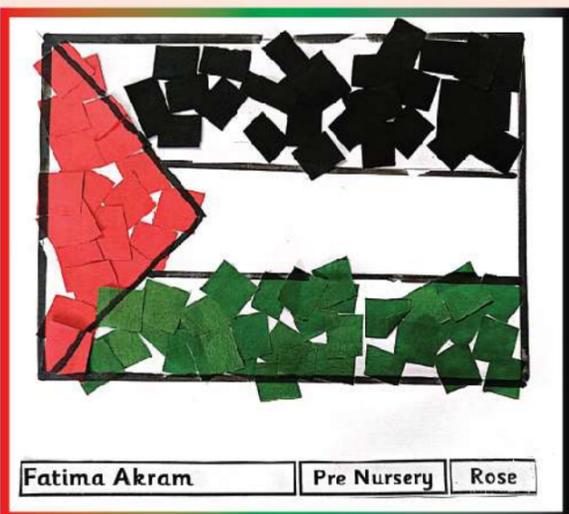
Women bore an unimaginable burden. As the war tore families apart, many women found themselves suddenly responsible for the survival of their children and loved ones. With their husbands and fathers either killed, missing, or fighting on the frontlines, they had to step into roles they were never prepared for. They became the sole providers, the protectors, the caretakers. But in this broken world, they also faced unimaginable horrors, from sexual violence to the constant fear of losing everything.

Education was one of the hardest hit areas. Schools were destroyed, teachers were displaced, and the very foundation of Libya's future was left in ruins. Children who once dreamed of becoming doctors, teachers, and engineers, like Aya, had their futures stolen from them. In many parts of the country, classrooms were replaced by makeshift refugee camps, and lessons became a luxury few could afford. The scars of the war left deep marks on the minds of children, some of whom would never return to the classrooms they once loved.

## Lost Childhood

Asif 20 year old boy who lived in Afghanistan and face many hardships. Asif now lives peacefully in America but that wasn't the case many years ago. Today we will uncover his Lost Childhood.

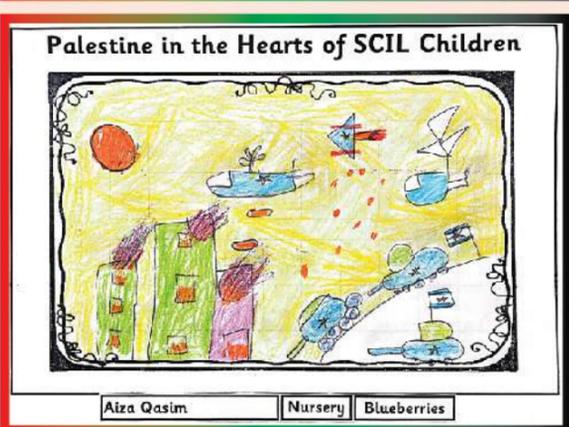
While Asif was just a child he lost his father who was in the army during the war with Taiwan in 1987. Her mother could barely afford to feed Asif and his three brothers and many times they didn't eat for two days straight. Three years later they lost their mother during the civil war in 1990. Times were very hard and they started to live on streets once a day they would eat and that was barely. At last their youngest brother gave up and died. It hit as hard as a rock. At the time he was only eight. His older brother got a job and things improved.



Fatima Akram | Pre Nursery | Rose



Zainab Ali | Pre Nursery | Sunflower



Aiza Qasim | Nursery | Blueberries

They got a house and he started to go to school. He did well but his brother didn't and lost his job. He started to come home late and it was discovered his brother was

taking drugs and he died. Asif was left all alone in a cruel world.

Luckily, he got accepted at university in America and now lives peacefully there. He is a real genius and says thanks to his brother for his success.

Haroon Hamid VIII-Red

## Afghanistan's Silent Suffering

Afghanistan has faced a severe humanitarian crisis, combined with decades of conflict, political instability, and natural disasters. Millions of Afghans live in conditions of extreme poverty, displacement, and insecurity.

The refugee crisis is one of the most serious issues. According to statistics, over 6 million Afghans are displaced globally, with more than 3.4 million internally displaced due to ongoing violence, natural disasters, and the worsening security situation. Neighboring countries like Pakistan and Iran are forced to host large numbers of Afghan refugees, which has placed an immense strain on regional resources and infrastructure. Many displaced families are forced to live in overcrowded camps, which lack necessities such as clean water, healthcare, and education.

Poverty is another critical aspect of the crisis as over 90% of Afghanistan's population lives below the poverty line, and many depend on humanitarian aid for survival. The economic collapse following the Taliban's return to power in 2021, combined with international sanctions and the freezing of foreign aid, has left families unable to afford food, medicine, or shelter.

Displacement further makes these challenges worse as conflict and environmental disasters, such as droughts and floods have forced families to abandon their homes and livelihoods which has led to overcrowding in urban areas and an increase in competition for limited resources, which has ended up worsening societal tensions and intensifying the humanitarian crisis.

Immediate and planned out international efforts are important to address these challenges along with increased humanitarian aid, long-term development programs, and measures to ensure regional stability are necessary to reduce the suffering of Afghans. As Nelson Mandela, once said:

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

Without these efforts, the crisis will continue to worsen, escalating the mess for millions of people.

Abdullah Mohammad IX-Red

## The Afghanistan Quagmire

Afghanistan's complicated web of conflict, corruption and instability demands a nuanced understanding and a collective response. The Afghanistan crisis is a complex multifaceted issue with various root causes. Afghanistan has faced decades of conflicts, continuous warfare and subsequent civil wars including the US-led invasion which has disrupted stability. International intervention has significantly contributed to Afghanistan crisis encouragement inclusive dialogue and Regional Corporation. Many countries have even contributed in providing humanitarian aid to locals involved in wars.

Even with all international help, humanitarian crisis is a dire situation exacerbated by economic instability. The Taliban have restricted women from working. The unemployment rate has increased and yearly droughts have brought extreme food insecurity. In this crisis, millions of people are being affected and are in need of assistance.

Along with the humanitarian crisis, the education system has been severely impacted. Many schools have closed cutting off access to education completely. There is lack of resources, insufficient funding, and educational materials. Looking at the long term impact, this will exacerbate Afghanistan skills gap and hinder economic growth and development. This can be a threat for people as uneducated youth is more vulnerable to radicalization.

While so much going on, from wars to insecurity and to humanitarian crisis, a question still remains, "Can peace be achieved in the conflict ridden countries?" Achieving peace can be challenging but not impossible. Economic development is a necessity; we should promote economic equality and reduce poverty. Diplomatic engagement and technical assistance should be encouraged. Through this Afghanistan can have sustained international support.

Amidst all the hustle, Afghans have received great help from Pakistanis. Pakistan shares a porous 2430km border with Afghanistan. Pakistan being a neighboring country hosted millions of Afghan refugees during Soviet and Taliban regimes. Pakistan provided food shelter and medical assistance to Afghan refugees. Pakistan also assisted in rebuilding infrastructure, moreover helped Afghans push USA out of Afghanistan.

Even in the hardest times, faith can give so much strength to people in war zones. No matter how tough things get, they should trust Allah and make lots of Dua for comfort and protection. Reading the Quran can help them stay patient and strong. As Muslims, we all need to come together to support them emotionally and let them know they're not alone. We should keep trusting Allah (SWT) and always remember the struggles our Muslim brothers and sisters are going through, doing whatever we can to help.

Amna Amir IX-Yellow

## Our Smiles have Faded

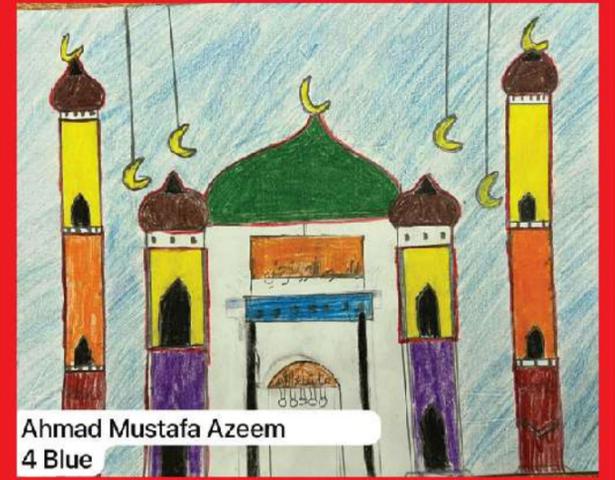
Our smiles have faded  
And the word looks away  
Our bodies too weak to even cry  
And the world looks away  
We feel the hunger spear our hearts  
And the world looks away.  
You think that's fine, so  
Go ahead and give a try  
For once just try to live a life

Of an orphan child just sitting alive  
A widowed woman without a home  
And a mother like Layla sitting alone  
Those people see  
Their parents die, their children killed  
You think their hearts would ever be filled?  
How many more lives before the world  
could hear  
That Afghanistan is filled with tears?  
Wafa Abbas IX-Yellow

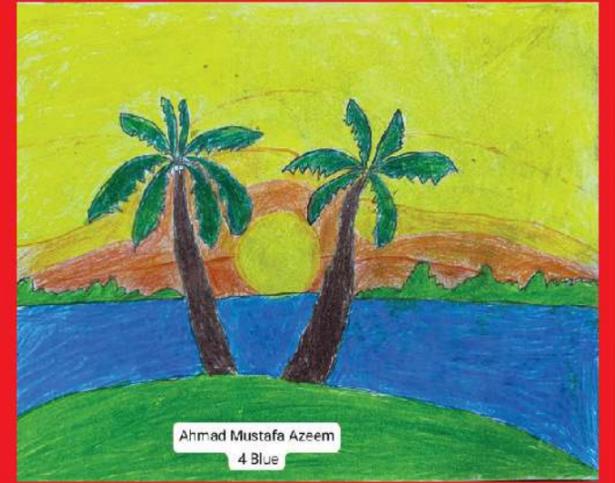
## Of Human Animals

They are torn to pieces, bloody bits  
Limbs shorn apart  
Up to their knees  
In blood, red blood  
Blood flowing from their bodies  
Their own, and those of their beloved  
Call it an open-air prison if you wish  
An enclave, a territory, whatever you want  
But it is a slaughterhouse  
Where slaughtered are the hapless  
The hapless and innocent who have yet  
To even comprehend their existence  
Yet they are a threat severe enough  
To armored cowards who flee from rocks  
Yet their resolve is still firm  
Their honor intact  
Can the same be said for the beasts  
Do their resolves and honor remain intact?  
No! Not in a hundred centuries could Israel  
Be accused of having honor and morality  
Israel, they call themselves  
Isn't real, others call them  
Call the beasts what you wish  
It is not relevant

Rocks in the hands of boys  
That they warrant evisceration by bullet  
Such a strange slaughterhouse is this  
Where beasts butcher men  
No, not men—human animals  
Who must be dealt with accordingly  
Such strange human animals are these  
Who wade in blood  
Who walk among corpses  
Stumbling over the bodies of their children  
With twisted limbs  
And broken minds  
Shattered bones  
And weary souls  
But I know that the day approaches  
Approaches fast  
The day the beasts will wish  
That they were never real  
The day when the collective conscience  
Wakens with a thirst for vengeance  
That day  
We will have the blood we are owed  
Then all will see  
Who proves to be the human animal  
Abdullah Masud Khan XI-Red



Ahmad Mustafa Azeem  
4 Blue



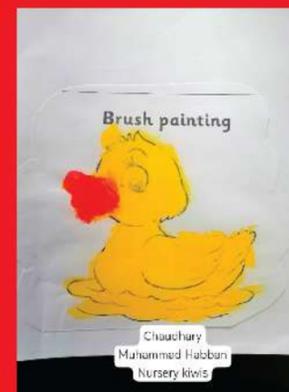
Ahmad Mustafa Azeem  
4 Blue



Ayla Adil  
II Purple



Muhammed Dawood  
II Orange

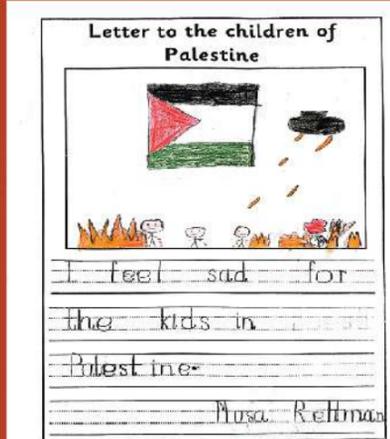


Brush painting

Chauchary  
Muhammed Habban  
Nursery Kiwis

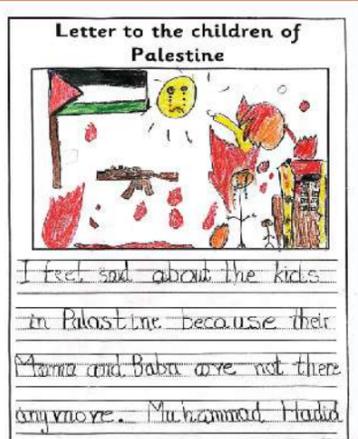


Zoha hassan  
Nursery blueberries



I feel sad for  
the kids in  
Palestine.

Musa Rehman  
II Purple



I feel sad about the kids  
in Palestine because their  
Mama and Baba are not there  
any more. Muhammad Hadid

K.G. Cherries

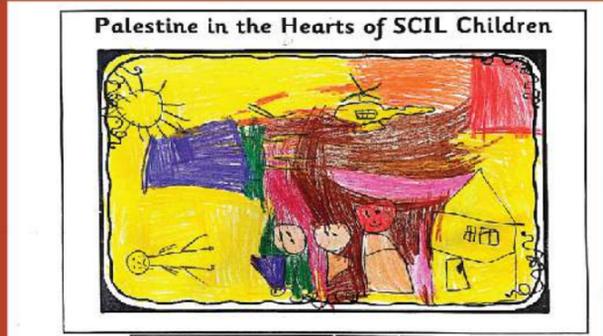


We are friends with the people  
of Palestine. We pray for  
their peace. You will be  
free one day! In Sha Allah

Muhammed Habban  
K.G. Blue



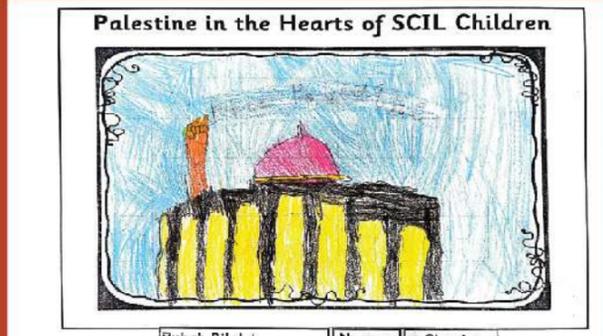
Dua Hamid  
Nursery Kiwis



Aleazay Awais  
Nursery Oranges



Wamiq Malik  
Nursery Oranges



Rubab Bilal  
Nursery Cherries



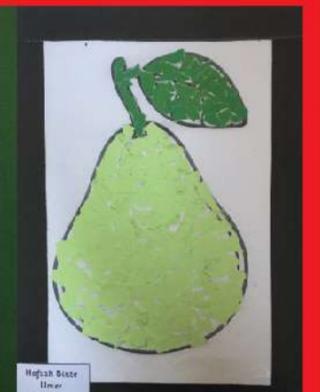
Aysha Arif  
I Yellow



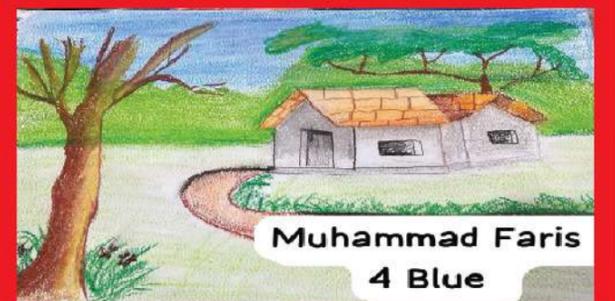
Muhammad Mujtaba  
I Orange



Rahim Ovais  
II Red



Hafsa Saeed  
II Green



Muhammad Faris  
4 Blue