

WATCHING OUR ANNIHILATION

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Since I am a Palestinian from land taken in 1948, I live and work amongst Israelis. This is the reality that I was born into, an Israeli entity, government and state.

In light of the war, as a Palestinian with "Israeli citizenship" I cannot do anything.

Anyone calling for an end to the war is accused of supporting terrorism.

If I share on social media, I will be arrested.

If I march in protest, I will be arrested.

If I go to pray, I will be assaulted or arrested...

So I have become just a viewer, watching the news and images of the annihilation of my people.

As the lives of children, women and the elderly are taken, I have become ashamed and disgraced as a human being - feelings that come before being a Palestinian.

The Israeli occupation has annihilated an entire people. Not only shedding blood, but wiping out thought, laughter, safety and freedom. I cannot express my overwhelming anger, and the only reaction I am allowed to give is silence.

As I watch the desecration and violation of holy places, I remain silent to the point that I feel ashamed before the face of God our Creator.

As a Muslim from 48, I have become afraid of publishing Qur'anic verses calling for love and humanity and praying for our innocent martyrs.

Even if I want to go to Al-Aqsa Mosque, there is a checkpoint with occupation forces at the gates.

When I decided to become an actor I was interested in history, culture, politics... But inside 48, I do not feel patriotism or belonging to Palestine. How can I express myself when our freedom has so many limits? When I cannot use my Arabic language first?

So I chose The Freedom Theatre in Jenin Refugee Camp, and to live the life of a Palestinian who directly faces the violence of the occupation forces. An oppression that is not hidden. Where we are not divided. A pure real Palestinian feeling.

Because of The Freedom Theatre, I saw the apartheid wall for the first time and experienced the checkpoints. I saw the life and alleyways of Jenin camp - the tired walls, riddled with bullets.

I saw with my naked eyes everything the Israeli army does with all brutality and barbarism. It increased my belonging.

The repeated aggression on The Freedom Theatre by the occupation forces aims to disrupt art and entertainment, to erase our culture and take away a safe space for our skills and dreams.

I always feel anxious and afraid. But despite this, we will continue to nurture ourselves so that we can flourish in the gardens...Our civilization.

Oh world, do not extinguish the sunlight from our flowers, let them grow and grow.