

The Second Preliminary

Report on the Cultural Sector Damage

War on Gaza Strip

October 7th - December 6th, 2023

2
0
2
3

GAZA



وزارة الثقافة
Ministry of Culture

The Second Preliminary Report on the Cultural Sector Damage

War on Gaza Strip, October 7th - December 6th, 2023

Introduction

The war against our people in Gaza continues, and their resilience persists despite the daily crimes committed by the occupation. This blind war spares nothing and disregards all human values, ethics, and international laws. The essence of this war is rooted in the attempt to eradicate and erase our people, to displace and expel them. Therefore, it targets everything in the Gaza Strip, devastating all aspects of life, from humans to buildings, trees, and water sources. During this genocidal war, all aspects of life are targeted without exception. As usual, the cultural life of the country is targeted as part of this relentless war against our people, which essentially aims to complete the Nakba plan that began in 1948. The grandson of the gang's soldier who bombed the Red Cinema in Jaffa seventy-five years ago destroyed the Rashad Al-Shawwa Center in Gaza, and the same mentality that targeted the National Museum in Jerusalem during the Nakba days later targeted the Qarara Museum and the "Museum" afterward. The war on culture has always been at the heart of the aggressors' war on our people, as the real war is a war on the narrative to steal the land and its rich treasures of knowledge, history, and civilization, along with the stories it holds.

Our people, who gifted the world with the first alphabet in history and shaped its meanings and means of communication, have witnessed the rise of religions and the enlightenment of humanity from the radiance of their ethics. They will undoubtedly continue to contribute to human civilization, restoring joy and hope, elevating through singing, music, poetry, novels, stories, and tales rooted in the ever-evolving consciousness, culture, and thought of the land of the first stories.

Dr. Atef Abu Saif

Gaza

Summary

The Israeli occupation's unprecedented bombardment, which targeted all aspects of history and the present in the Gaza Strip, including historical buildings, mosques, churches, cultural institutions, and museums that carry the history, heritage, and authenticity of the place, bears witness to the Palestinian people's right to existence. It also bears witness to attempts to obliterate it. This war has affected artists, intellectuals, and writers who have lost family members and loved ones. Like more than half of Gaza's population, they were forced to flee from north to south, leaving behind their homes, possessions, and memories. They left behind their libraries, literary legacies, rituals, musical instruments, and tools that constitute the foundation of their work and livelihood. They lost their livelihoods and temporarily lost the compass of their future, which has become unknown under this fierce aggression on the Gaza Strip. Among them are musicians who have lost their ability to listen and artists who have lost their hands and limbs. Nevertheless, some continue to create melodies for songs depicting the displaced's suffering in Gaza. Gaza has always given us hope amidst the wars waged by the Israeli occupation over the past years, targeting even children. The Israeli bombardment did not differentiate between safe civilian homes, educational and cultural buildings, healthcare facilities, and humanitarian services. It even deprived the Gaza Strip of medicines, food, water, and fuel, all of which are essential for sustaining life. All of this is the bitter result of a suffocating blockade lasting more than sixteen years.

Despite the difficulty of obtaining comprehensive and precise information about the losses suffered by the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, this report attempts to provide an overview of what we have been able to access. The cultural scene in the region has been subjected to multi-layered attacks. We have lost many creative individuals in various fields, including children and adults. Twenty-eight people, including four children, were known to have been martyred. Many others were injured, including artist Amer Abu As'ad from the "Nashama Al-Badia" group, who lost his son during this aggression. The poet Musab Abu Tuha was also injured, abducted by the Israeli forces, subjected to beatings, and had his passports, family, and credit cards confiscated.

"The Cultural Sector Two Months After the War on the Gaza Strip"

Martyrs of the Cultural Sector	Bombing Publishing Houses and Libraries	Partial or Complete Damage to Cultural Centers	Bombing, Destruction, and Damage to Historical Buildings (Churches, Mosques, Museums, and Archaeological Sites)	Destruction and Damage to Media and Art Production Studios and Companies
Twenty-eight, including four children	Nine	"All of them, twenty-one of which were identified as centers."	Twenty	Three
<p>In addition to destroying most parts of the old town of Gaza City, including dozens of historical buildings.</p>				

What also confirms the Israeli occupation's targeting of Palestinian culture and heritage is the statement made by the so-called Israeli Minister of Heritage, Amichai Eliyahu, who called for the bombing of Gaza with a nuclear bomb. This was considered by the Minister of Culture, Dr. Atef Abu Saif, as a reflection of the nature of this occupation and the terrorist Israeli government's call for the extermination and complete displacement of the Palestinian people, as they are currently doing in the Gaza Strip. This is in addition to the war being waged by the occupation army and settlers in the West Bank against the Palestinians, wherever they may be. It is worth noting that Minister Abu Saif has been trapped in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war, like many others who were not allowed to leave, and he has lost many relatives due to the bombing.

**A look at the cultural reality in the Gaza Strip
(2022 statistics) before the war.”**

Cultural centers	Theaters	Participants in cultural activities annually	Public libraries	Publishing houses, distribution, and bookstores
Seventy-Six	Three	Two Hundred and Twenty thousand	Eighty	fifteen

The Living Martyrs in the Cultural Sector



Student of violin
(musical instrument)

Lubna Alian

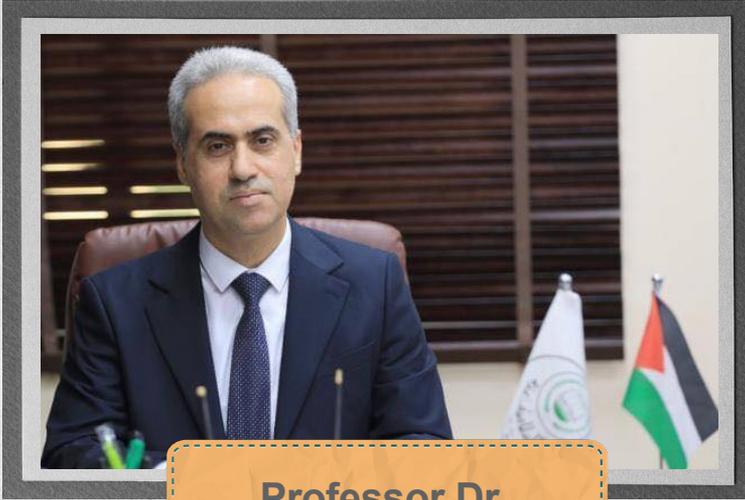
Lubna Mahmoud Alian (15 years old), a violin student at the Edward Said National conservatory of Music in Gaza, was martyred on November 21, along with more than fifty members of her family. Lubna was one of the outstanding students at the institute, singing and playing music for joy and life. She saw music as her future, a means to represent her people and her country in Palestinian, Arab, and international orchestras.



Journalist

Bilal Jadallah

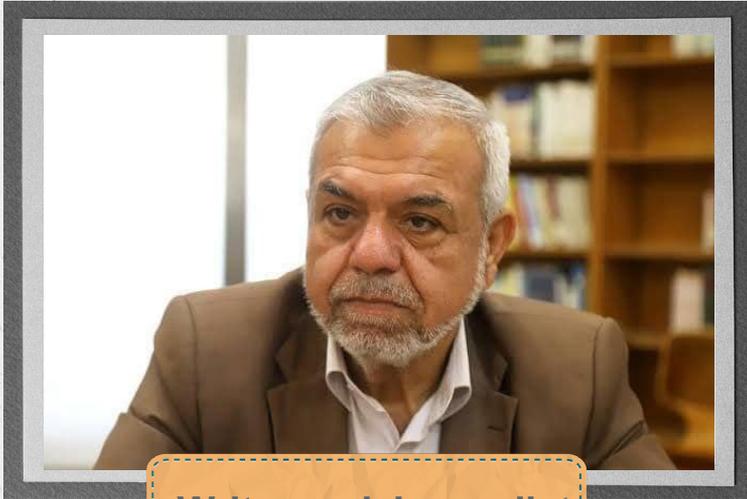
Journalist Bilal Jadallah (45 years old), the director of the Press House and the head of the cultural salon, was martyred on November 19 while he was evacuating to the south to join his family in Khan Yunis, who had evacuated before him. The martyr Jadallah played a significant role in hosting journalists and training and graduating professionals capable of conveying the truth and continuing this journey under the difficult, complex, and harsh conditions that the Gaza Strip constantly faces. He also connected journalism with culture and heritage, activating its role in supporting intellectuals and creatives. He established the cultural salon for discussing cultural issues and initiatives.



Professor Dr.

Sufian Taieh

Dr. Sufian Taieh (52 years old), the president of the Islamic University, along with his family, was martyred in the massacre in the Faluja area in Jabalia, northern Gaza, on December 2. Professor Taieh holds a professorship in theoretical physics and applied mathematics. He has received the Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Young Arab Scientists and many other scientific awards. He has made significant contributions to scientific studies and research annually published in prestigious scientific journals. In 2023, he was appointed holder of the UNESCO Chair in Physics and Astrophysics and Space Science in Palestine.



Writer and Journalist

Mustafa Al-Sawwaf

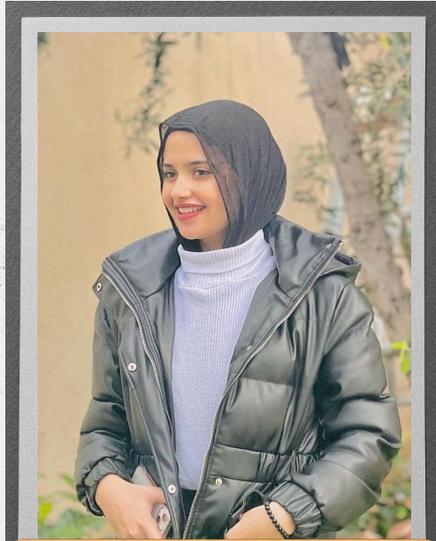
Writer and journalist Mustafa Hassan Mahmoud Al-Sawwaf (68 years old) and several members of his family were martyred due to the Israeli occupation's shelling of his home in eastern Gaza in mid-November. Al-Sawwaf is one of the most prominent Palestinian journalists and analysts, with hundreds of writings and analyses on Palestinian political affairs. He served as the editor-in-chief of several newspapers and was the first editor-in-chief of the first daily newspaper published in the Gaza Strip, which he also founded.



Photographer

Marwan Tarazi

Photographer Marwan Tarazi, along with several members of his family, was martyred during the Israeli aggression on the Orthodox Church of Porphyrius in Gaza on October 20. He was known as the “visual historian of Gaza.” He had preserved its history through thousands of photographs taken over decades, including the old photographs of the historic Gaza photographer “Kegham.” Marwan Tarazi continued his work in the city before and after the Nakba, capturing images of the Khan Yunis massacres and the Israeli army’s withdrawal in 1956, which were the only rare images at the time.



Creative Talent

Tala Balousha

Asayel Watan Group

Creative talent Tala Mohammad Balousha (17 years old), a member of the Asayel Watan folk dance group, was martyred on October 22, along with her mother, after her family was martyred during the shelling. Tala was mourned by many.



Writer

Abdullah Al-Aqad

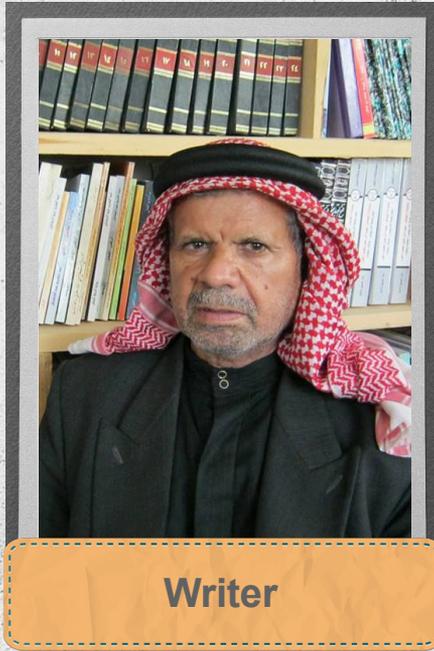
Writer Abdullah Al-Aqad, with his wife and children were martyred on October 16 by the bombardment of his house in KhanYounis city. His latest post on social media was: “after today there won’t be any immigration, all respect to the people of Al-Shate’ Refugee camp and Al-Jala’ neighborhood who demonstrated stressing they are staying at their homes to the end”.



Artist

Tha'er Al-Taweel

The visual artist Tha'er Al-Taweel (43 years old) and the head of the Visual Arts Forum, along with his family, were martyred in the Israeli bombardment on November 23. One of his prominent works released through the forum was a mural titled "For Jerusalem" and another mural titled "Freedom Seizure" in solidarity with the prisoners in the occupation's jails.



Abdul Karim Hashash

The writer and Palestinian heritage advocate Abdul Karim Al-Hashash (76 years old), along with many of his family members, was martyred on October 23 in the city of Rafah. Al-Hashash was known for his writings on Palestinian folk heritage and his research on Bedouin heritage, customs, and Arab proverbs. He also collected dozens of rare books about Palestine, its history, and its heritage in his library.



Historian Dr.

Jihad Al-Masri

Dr. Jihad Suleiman Al-Masri (60 years old) passed away on October 17, succumbing to his injuries from the Israeli shelling of Khan Yunis. He was on his way to join his wife and daughter. Al-Masri was a historian and university professor whose contributions spanned generations. He served as the director of Al-Quds Open University's Khan Yunis branch. He had numerous research publications in Islamic history and Palestinian oral traditions in Arab and international journals.



Writer Dr.

Said Al-Dahshan

The writer, Said Talal Al-Dahshan, and his family were martyred on October 11. Al-Dahshan was an expert in international law and had authored many works and research specialized in Palestinian affairs.



Mahmoud Al-Jubairi (Al-Nabtashi)

The renowned folk artist Mahmoud Al-Jubairi, known as Al-Nabtashi, from Gaza, was martyred. It is presumed that he was martyred in mid-October. He had a significant presence in various national and social events.”



Visual Artist

Heba Zaqout

The visual artist and fine arts teacher, Heba Ghazi Ibrahim Zaqout (39 years old), and her son were martyred on October 13th. Just days before her martyrdom, she recorded a video showcasing her paintings and spoke about her works and her dream of organizing an art exhibition to display her creativity. Her work often depicted women, the homeland, nature, and the bond between mothers and their children. She has now departed, along with her son...



Writer and Poet

Heba Abu Nada

The writer and poet, Heba Kamal Saleh Abu Nada (24 years old), was martyred on October 20th. She was a refugee from the displaced and destroyed village of Beit Jirja in 1948. She wrote stories, novels, and poetry. Her last post on social media read, 'We, up here, are building another city, doctors without patients or blood, professors without crowds... New families without pain or sorrow, journalists capturing paradise, and poets writing eternal love, all from Gaza. A new Gaza without a siege in paradise is forming now.'



Artist

Ali Nasman

The artist, media personality, and influencer Ali Abdullah Hassan Nasman (38 years old) was martyred on October 13th. He continued to document and appear in video clips discussing what was happening in Gaza under bombardment until the very last moments. The martyr was also an actor who played various roles in Palestinian TV series.



Poet

Omar Abu Shaweesh

The poet Omar Faris Abu Shaweesh (36 years old) was martyred on October 7th during the shelling of the Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza. He was a prominent community activist and made various contributions in social, youth, cultural, and intellectual spheres. He co-founded several youth associations and organizations and received the Outstanding Arab Youth Award from the Arab Youth Council for Integrated Development, affiliated with the Arab League.



Artist

Halima Al-Kahlout

The artist Halima Abdul Karim Al-Kahlout (29 years old) was martyred on October 30th. She was known among her friends as the 'Fruit of the Workshops' due to her perpetual playfulness and spontaneity. Her last exhibition, titled 'Fragments of the City,' took place last summer, where she showcased her art. Now, she has become a part of these fragments and has departed.



Artist

Inas Al-Saqa

Inas Mohammed Al-Saqa (53 years old) was martyred on October 31st, along with her daughters Sara and Leen and her son Ibrahim. She was an artist specializing in visual arts and theatre. She worked extensively in children's theatre and was among the first artists in the theatre scene in Gaza. Her last post on social media read, 'Sometimes you look back to get a glimpse of your past... and you discover that you emerged alive from a massacre...'



Mohammed Qaryeqa

The artist Mohammed Sami Qaryeqa (24 years old) was martyred on October 18th. He was an artist and painter who attempted to integrate technology with art and illustrated scenes from daily life. His last post on social media featured a famous video of children playing in the garden of the Baptist Hospital in Gaza just one day before it was bombed by the Israeli occupation, resulting in a horrific massacre with 500 martyrs and dozens of wounded. Up until the last moments, he tried to alleviate the anxiety and psychological stress experienced by children and patients in the hospital through his art.



Artist and Writer

Yusuf Dawas

The young artist and writer Yusuf Dawas, who was also a guitarist and active participant in the 'We Are Not Numbers' initiative documenting the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, was martyred. He wrote in both Arabic and English and produced several videos discussing various topics, including his dream of traveling and exploring the world, a dream that many young people in Gaza Harbor, especially given the more than sixteen years of the blockade imposed on them by the Israeli occupation.



Artist

Nesma Abu Sha'ira



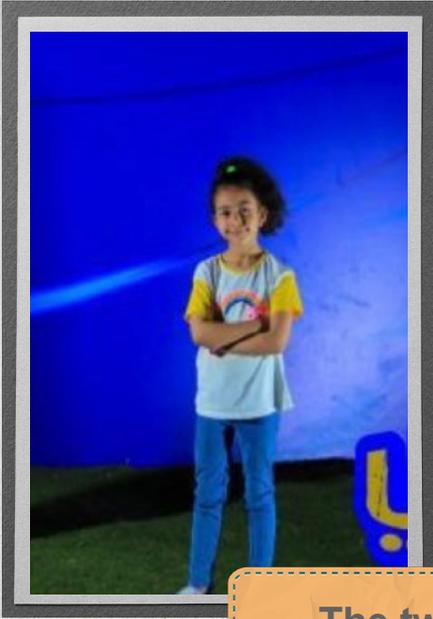
The visual artist Nesma Abu Sha'ira (36 years old) was martyred on October 28th. She was a lecturer and head of the Fine Arts Department at Al-Aqsa University. One of her most famous paintings depicted the olive tree, whose roots reach worldwide.



Community Activist

Iman Abu Saeed

Iman Khalid Abu Saeed, along with her children Joudi and Ziyad and her husband Eyad, were martyred. They were forced to leave their home in Tal al-Hawa. Iman was a symbol of cultural work and empowerment for children. One of her recent projects involved collecting seashells from the beach, cleaning them, and creating decorative items for homes. She also documented the days of the blockade in Gaza through oral history at the Tamer Institute for Community Education.



The two girls

Sham and Leila

from the Champions Dabke Group

Sham Abu Obeid (8 years old) and Leila Abdel Fattah Al-Atarsh (8 years old), members of the Palestinian dabke group 'Champions,' were martyred in Gaza.



Artist

Tareq Dabban

The artist Tareq Ahmed Dabban was martyred on November 4th, along with his wife and children. His last post on his social media account read, 'The father has been martyred, and joy has died. Where is your mournful voice, my father? And where is the smile of my mother that left the house with your soul... May God have mercy on them.'



Calligrapher

Mohannad Al-Agha

The artist Mohannad Amin Al-Agha (30 years old) was martyred on October 12th. He was a calligrapher, and one of his specialties was square Kufic calligraphy and Diwani script.



The Palestinian poet

Shahdah Al-Buhbahan

The Palestinian poet and educational researcher Shahdah Al-Buhbahan (73 years old), along with his granddaughter, was martyred in Gaza on November 6.



The poet

Nour al-Din Hajjaj

The poet and writer Nour al-Din Hajjaj was martyred on December 3. Hajjaj actively participated in the “Cultural Passion” initiative, the Cordoba Association, and the Days of Theater Foundation.

One of the last things he wrote on his social media account was: “In Gaza, we witness an uncountable number of events every day. When we retire to sleep, exhausted, we witness. When we are forced to leave our homes or rooftops, with every sound of a rocket or a nearby explosion, we only say, ‘I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.’ And we know that one of these times will be the last thing we utter.”

Cultural Institutions Operating in the Gaza Strip



اتحاد المراكز
الثقافية

جمعية
أبناؤنا للتنمية

المركز الثقافي
الأرثوذكسي

مطابع
الهيئة الخيرية

مكتبة الشروق

جمعية
حكاوي للمسرح

متحف القرارة

جمعية ميلاد

مكتبة
سمير منصور

مكتبة ألبد

مركز رشاد
الشوا الثقافي

مكتبة
ديانا تماري

Israeli forces bombed and destroyed nine publishing houses and libraries.



Israeli forces bombed and destroyed nine publishing houses and libraries. They targeted and destroyed the Al-Shorouq Al-Daem Library and Exhibition, the Samir Mansour Library in Gaza, the Enaim Library, the Al-Nahda Library, and the Lubbud Library. It's worth noting that the Samir Mansour Library had previously been targeted during the Israeli aggression in 2021. Additionally, the Al-Nur Cultural Center's library, one of the oldest libraries in Gaza located in the Rimal neighborhood, was also bombed. The Israeli forces also targeted Diana Mari Sabagh's library, part of the Rashad Al-Shawa Cultural Center, known for its cultural events and reading promotion campaigns, containing around twenty thousand books.



Furthermore, Israeli aircraft bombed the main public library, which is part of the Gaza City Municipality buildings located on Unity Street, housing hundreds of thousands of books. The bombing resulted in the building catching fire and suffering significant damage. The Central Archives headquarters, located in the historic building of the Gaza City Municipality, were also targeted. This building contained documents dating back over a hundred years related to municipal work in the city. Gaza City is the largest city in the Gaza Strip and is situated 78 kilometers away from Jerusalem.

Destruction of the Arab Orthodox Cultural and Social Center



The Israeli occupation forces' aircraft bombed the building of the center located in the Tal al-Hawa area in Gaza City, which consisted of two floors, causing it to collapse completely. It should be noted that the building contained sports facilities and exhibition halls for organizing cultural and artistic activities.

The destruction of the Rashad Al-Shawa Cultural Center (Center, Theater, Library, and Printing Press)



The center was completely bombed and destroyed. It was founded in 1985 in the Rimal neighborhood, one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in Gaza City. It is considered the first cultural center in Palestine, established in response to the Israeli occupation's policy of targeting culture, erasing Palestinian heritage, and distorting the country's identity. The building, situated in the heart of Gaza, contains the most significant and oldest theater hall, Tamari Sabagh Library, and the printing presses of the charitable organization, all of which suffered considerable damage and destruction from the bombing.

The Dar Al-Shabab Cultural and Development Authority was damaged.



The institution located west of the Jabalia Palestinian refugee camp was heavily shelled, consisting of three floors. Most of the third floor collapsed, and the others were significantly damaged.

The General Union of Cultural Centers was affected.

The General Union, located west of Gaza City, suffered significant damage. It is considered one of the most essential pillars of organized cultural work and a constant supporter. Established in 1997, it includes more than 67 cultural institutions in its membership and over 120 partner institutions.

The destruction of the Sununu Foundation for Arts and Culture occurred.

The institution is located on the southern street parallel to Al-Shifa Hospital in the Al-Rimal neighborhood, which was heavily targeted by the Israeli bombardment and wiped-out large parts of it. The institution is considered one of the largest music institutions in Palestine, containing hundreds of musical instruments and compositions, including works by students and professors.

Destruction of “Our Children Society for Development”

Center The institution is in Al-Ghafri Tower in the Al-Rimal neighborhood, providing care for over 120 children and dozens of families. It organizes various cultural activities targeting children, women, and youth, especially in theater, art exhibitions, and cinema.

Destruction of Gaza Center for Culture and Arts

The center is located on Al-Rimal Street in Gaza City and has been dedicated since its establishment in 2005 to preserving Palestinian identity and heritage. Among its notable events is the Red-Carpet Film Festival, an art gallery for visual arts focusing on visual and performing arts and literary activities.

Destruction of “Milad Association for Youth Development”

The association is located at the intersection of Safatawi in the north of Gaza. It is known for its mobile psychological support team that used to traverse the Gaza Strip, including its cities and refugee camps, to support and enhance the mental health of children. Additionally, it conducted activities to develop young people and women by improving their digital and economic skills.

Destruction of “Hakawi” Association for Culture and Arts

The association was founded in 2013 through the initiative of a group of artists and civil society activists. It is one of the significant associations established for educational theater for children and has also contributed to adult theater. Drama has been used as a tool for education and culture.

Destruction of the Palestinian Association for Development and Heritage Protection

The association promotes traditional and heritage crafts and organizes exhibitions for marketing and encouragement. The association oversees the Palestinian Heritage Garden “Al-Karmel” in Beit Lahia, which serves as a place to display heritage tools and for entertainment.

Shababik Professionals

It is a permanent exhibition for artists in Gaza, hosting various art exhibitions from all art schools. It serves as a gathering place for artists to create new contemporary works of art.

Village of Arts and Crafts



Established in 1998, this village is part of Gaza Municipality. It is an artistic exhibition that embodies the authenticity of Palestinian heritage, designed in a traditional Islamic style. It reflects the ongoing siege and aggression by the Israeli occupation of the city. The village is divided into rooms or houses for embroidery, woodworking, and antique brassware, with a beautiful garden of palm trees and roses.

“Widad Theater” and Widad Association for Community Development



The association is in the Tel al-Hawa area of Gaza City, focusing on family care, elderly care, mother and childcare, and youth through the Youth Leaders program and dedicating a program for scientific research and training. The association also has a well-equipped theater with state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems that accommodate more than three hundred people.

“Rafida Suhail’s Artist Studio”

“Es’ad Childhood Center”

A cultural and educational center dedicated to children, featuring an amusement park affiliated with Gaza Municipality. The center has worked for years on developing children’s creative and artistic skills, enhancing their cognitive aspects, and maintaining the psychological well-being of children and their environment.

“Bayader Theater and Arts Association”

Located in the Tel al-Hawa, it started as a theater group and was founded in 1994. Some of its notable plays include “The Clown,” “Abu Arab in Your Lane,” “Black and White,” and dozens of theatrical works that enriched the theater scene in the region

“Ittiqa’ Gallery for Contemporary Visual Arts”



Located on Omar Al-Mukhtar Street in the heart of Gaza City, it is an initiative by young artists in Gaza to establish a permanent exhibition for visual arts. It serves as a place for education, training, cultural and artistic dialogue, and a platform for discovering, nurturing, and encouraging creative talents. One of its prominent projects is the “Contemporary Arts Program,” which allows young artists to present their artistic projects, receive necessary training, and launch their works.

“Kana’an Educational Development Institute”



Established in 1997, a community institution with cultural and educational objectives, it houses a rich community library in the Al-Rimal neighborhood of Gaza City. Its notable programs include training, early childhood education, and psychological support.

Significant damage to media and artistic production companies

such as Mashariq Company, in its new headquarters, which was opened in August last year and is in the Tel al-Hawa area of Gaza City, which was previously bombed and destroyed. Other affected studios include Asayel Studios and Mix and Match Studios.

**Museums and
Historical
Buildings**

Destruction of Eight Museums

Israeli occupation aircraft bombed the Rafah Museum, which was destroyed during its aggression on the Gaza Strip. The museum housed hundreds of artifacts related to ancient Palestinian heritage, including clothing and antique tools reflecting the culture of Bedouins, farmers, and city dwellers. It also showcased significant Palestinian heritage costumes collected by Mrs. Suheila Shahin.



Israeli occupation airstrikes also targeted and destroyed the Cultural Kararah Museum (established in 1958) and its collection in the Gaza Strip. The bombings caused severe interior damage to the museum, including ceiling cracks, shattered glass windows of the heritage building, and the destruction of display cabinets containing archaeological artifacts.

The Khan Yunis Museum was also bombed and destroyed, along with the damage to the Akkad Museum, Shahwan Museum, and Khudari Museum. Ibrahim Abu Sha'ar Heritage Diwan, located east of Rafah, was destroyed, including its extensive collection of Bedouin heritage.

Destruction of the Church of Saint Porphyrius



The Church of Saint Porphyrius is the third oldest church in the world and one of the most senior Christian archaeological sites, located in the center of Gaza. It dates back to 407 AD, and the air-strikes resulted in the martyrdom of 18 Christians who were inside the church. The church is situated just 230 meters away from the Al-Muqadassi Hospital, which was also targeted and destroyed by Israeli occupation aircraft in a massacre that claimed the lives of hundreds.

Damage to the Sayyid Hashim Mosque

This mosque is the burial place of the grandfather of the Prophet Muhammad; peace be upon him. The Sheikh Abdullah Mosque, built during the Mamluk era, also sustained damage.

- Images Before the Bombing



The bombing of the Katib Waliyah Mosque

The Katib Waliyah Mosque, built during Sultan Al-Nasir Muhammad bin Qalawun (709-741 AH), is an example of Islamic-Christian coexistence, with its minaret adjacent to the Orthodox Christian Church. The mosque is in the Zaytoun neighborhood of Gaza City.

- Images Before the Bombing



Bombing of the Historic Al-Zawiya Market

An ancient historical market in Gaza, decades old, is now reduced to rubble. The bombing resulted in its destruction. The market represented a historical extension of the “Al-Qaysariyya” market, which dates back many decades.

- Images Before and After the Bombing



The bombing of the Grand Omari Mosque

Israeli occupation aircraft targeted the historic Grand Omari Mosque in the heart of Gaza City’s Old Town. The mosque’s minaret, dating back 1400 years, was destroyed. It is the oldest and largest mosque in the Gaza Strip, covering an area of approximately 4100 square meters, with a building area of 1800 square meters.



- Images After the Bombing

Bombing of the “Al-Suqqa” House and “Tirzi” House

Israeli occupation aircraft bombed and destroyed the historic “Al-Suqqa” House in the Shuja’iya neighborhood in eastern Gaza City. The house represented the ancient features of Gaza and was renovated in 2014 to become a cultural center. It is one of the oldest houses, dating back 400 years, with an area of 700 square meters. The occupation forces also targeted and damaged the historic Tirzi family building located in the Rimal neighborhood in the city.



• Al-Suqqa” House

Bombing of Qal’at Burquq (Burquq Castle)

One of the Mamluk sultans established it more than 600 years ago to protect traders and secure the road. Inscribed on the castle’s gate is the date of its origin, which dates back to 1387 CE.

- Images Before the Bombing



Bombing of Tell Rafah Archaeological Site

Also known as Tell Zara'b, it is located on a high hill overlooking the Mediterranean Sea southwest of the Gaza Strip. It is considered one of the most important archaeological sites dating back to the Greek period before Christ.

- Images Before the Bombing



Bombing of Historic Gaza Municipality Building

Israeli aircraft bombed the municipality building, causing significant destruction and fires inside. This also included the central archive building, leading to the execution of thousands of historical documents dating back over 100 years.

- Images Before and After the Bombing



Destruction of Anthedon

Old Gaza Port and the Listed World Heritage and Islamic Heritage Site

- Images After the Bombing



Destruction of the “Unknown Soldier” Monument

The monument symbolizes the struggle of the Palestinian people. It was built in 1956 during the Egyptian administration of the Gaza Strip and represents the joint struggle of the two peoples. It was previously destroyed by Israeli forces in 1967 but was later rebuilt by the Palestinian Authority in 2000.

- Images Before and After the Bombing



Targeting of Scientific Institutions

As part of the systematic war on Palestinian culture and cultural institutions, Israeli forces targeted Palestinian universities, especially Al-Azhar University, which is the third oldest university in the world, founded in 1920. Its library and the libraries of the Islamic University and Al-Quds Open University in Gaza City were also damaged.

Targeting of “Eye of Truth” Media

The Israeli occupation targeted journalists and media professionals to prevent them from reporting the truth. Journalists were not allowed to move even during ceasefire periods. As of the date of this report, more than 73 journalists and two missing, who were working with local, Arab, and international institutions, have been killed. They recorded their last moments and the terrifying experiences they lived through under the bombing. They conveyed the truth and fulfilled their journalistic and humanitarian duties even in the most challenging and harsh moments, leaving the world with its role in receiving these powerful humanitarian messages directly from under the bombardment. Israeli forces also arrested more than 29 journalists.

Additionally, the bombing destroyed several media institutions, such as the Mashareq Gaza Media Foundation, the Al-Jazeera Channel headquarters, and the Al-Jazeera Tower, which houses the Associated Press office.



GAZZA

**2
0
2
3**

War on Gaza Strip
October 7th - December 6th, 2023



وزارة الثقافة
Ministry of Culture