

# The New York Times

# Lives Ended in Gaza

Since the war started, more than 30,000 people have been killed during Israel's bombardment and invasion. Here are some of their stories.

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**They served cappuccinos,** repaired cars and acted onstage. They raised children and took care of older parents. They treated wounds, made pizza and put too much sugar in their tea. They loved living in Gaza or sought to leave it behind.

They represent a fraction of the more than 30,000 people the local authorities say have been killed in Gaza in four and a half months of war. Their stories offer a snapshot of the vast human loss — one in every 73 of Gaza's 2.2 million people.

More than two-thirds of the total deaths were women and children, the local authorities say. Often, they were killed with their families in Israeli airstrikes. Many thousands were fighters for Hamas, according to Israel, which says it is trying to eliminate the group that led the Oct. 7 attacks while limiting civilian casualties.

Hamas ruled Gaza and ran a covert military organization, the identity of its fighters unclear, even to other Gazans. Some residents supported it, some opposed it, everyone had to live with it. After decades of conflict, hatred of Israel was common, and many Gazans, including some of those below, cheered the fighters who attacked Israel.

Here are some of the people who have been killed in Gaza, as recalled by friends and relatives and documented in social media posts, news articles and other sources.

**Gaza is** a youthful place, with nearly half of the population under 18, according to [UNICEF](#). Gaza's health authorities say that more than 13,000 children have been killed in the war.



She and her twin sister had names that rhymed. She loved to adorn her outfits with colorful accessories and relished the attention she and her sister received from neighbors. She was killed in a strike on her family's building. Her sister, Marah, survived, as did their father and mother, who gave birth to a third daughter a few weeks later. They named her Farah. Farah Alkhatib, 12





The older sister loved Kinder chocolate, Pringles and strawberry juice. The younger loved to play with a plastic jeep embellished with a duck. Siwar and Selena al-Raiss, 3 years and 21 months



Her father bought her a violin, and she loved it, taking lessons at a [Palestinian music school](#). She dreamed of becoming a star. Lubna Elia, 14



He was close with his father and tagged along with his mother to the gym where she worked as a trainer. She called him “medallion,” because he was always hanging on his parents. He wanted to be a doctor, like his father. Yousef Abu Moussa, 6



She was a top student who liked to draw nature scenes, rollerblade and jump on her trampoline. During the war, she played teacher to her siblings and cousins to distract them. She was killed in a strike that destroyed her family’s home. Her sister, Leen, 8, died four days later, trapped in the rubble. Nada Abdulhadi, 10





She was the center of attention. Her mother, Maram, loved to dress her up for pictures. She was killed in October. Her mother was killed in a separate strike 11 days later. Youmna Shaqalih, 4 months

**Gaza's isolation** and its school system gave it an uncommon mix: an educated population with high poverty and unemployment rates. Many Gazans with strong credentials struggled to find suitable employment.



He studied engineering in Gaza and Spain before trying unsuccessfully to settle in Norway, where he worked in an Italian restaurant. Back in Gaza, with engineering jobs scarce, he opened an eatery, Italiano, that served pizza, calzones, salads and shawarma. It was so successful that in 2021 it moved into [a shiny new location](#), with dozens of employees, three floors and rooms for private events. He was killed with his parents and two brothers in a strike on the building. His wife and two children, 3 and 6, survived. Abdulrahman Abuamara, 39



In the two years before the war, she earned a university degree in software engineering, got married and became pregnant with her first child. She was killed alongside her husband before the baby was born. Ghadeer Mohammed Mansour, 24





The twins did not find work related to their university degrees in English literature, so they started a business importing clothes, shoes and accessories to resell from their family's apartment, often delivering orders themselves. They pumped iron at [Oxygen Gym](#) and posted their [workouts](#) on Instagram. Salah and Khaled Jadallah, 27



The twins' sister, killed in the same strike as her brothers and her father, worked as a medical laboratory analyst at Al-Awda Hospital in northern Gaza and at a private lab, which featured her smile in its advertisements to [encourage](#) patients to come in for tests. She cherished her financial independence and dreamed of earning a master's degree. Doaa Jadallah, 29





He did translation for [a human rights group](#) and worked for a [think tank](#) focused on improving Palestinians' lives. Shortly before the war, he received a scholarship for a master's degree in international relations in Australia. He hoped to become a diplomat. He was [killed alongside 20 family members](#) in a strike that destroyed his family's home. Mahmoud Alnaouq, 25



She worked in graphic design to help support her family while studying multimedia at a Gaza university. She hoped to teach there one day. Jannat Iyad Abu Zbeada, 21





He had a degree in business administration but took construction jobs he hated and helped his family fish off Gaza's Mediterranean coast. He loved soccer and supported F.C. Barcelona. His life's longest trip took about an hour, a drive to a friend's wedding elsewhere in Gaza. Rami Abu Reyaleh, 32



He tried to start a new life outside Gaza, spending time in Egypt, Turkey, Bolivia and Argentina and crossing the dangerous [Darién Gap](#) in Panama to reach the U.S.-Mexico border. He claimed political asylum, telling the U.S. authorities that he had been a member of Hamas's military wing for a few years before fleeing Gaza to escape the group. He was denied asylum and returned to Gaza before the war. He chipped in at his family's furniture business and considered getting married. "I wanted to get out, I swear to God, because I don't bet on Gaza," he wrote on Facebook as the war raged. "But unfortunately I couldn't get out and it was my shitty fate that I am living through a third war on this cursed land." Motaz Alhelou, 31

**Gaza has been** under a blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt since Hamas seized control in 2007. The blockade has shaped nearly every aspect of life, limiting the movement of goods in and out of the territory and making it difficult, if not impossible, for many Gazans to leave. In that period, there have also been several wars and deadly clashes with Israel.



She raised five children — four boys and a girl — who gave her 15 grandchildren. She was set to leave Gaza for the first time, to visit Turkey with her husband to see two of their adult sons and their families. She had packed several suitcases with traditional Palestinian foods: olive oil, a spice mix called za'atar and local greens used to make stew. But the war broke out three days before the trip. She never left. Faida AlKrunz, 60







His parents were displaced to Gaza from what became Israel in 1948. He never finished high school but worked to support his 12 siblings. His experience gave him an enduring faith in education for his five children, to make sure they had better lives. Later, he mediated family conflicts, often siding with his sons' wives over his sons. He was killed in October alongside his wife, Faida (above), and nine of their children and grandchildren. Saud AlKrunz, 61



He was a car mechanic who loved to tinker, including making the gate to his family's home automatic. He left Gaza only once, for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where his brother lived. He didn't know how to scan his passport at the airport. It was his first time on an airplane. "Everything was new to him," his brother said. Ahmed Abu Shaeera, 39





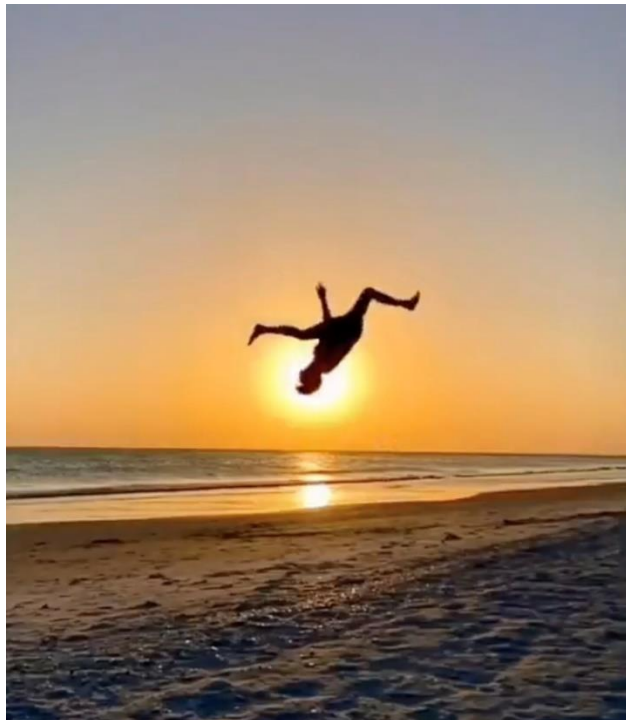
An Islamic scholar, he preached at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, a holy site cherished by Palestinians. He later served as the minister of religious affairs for the Palestinian Authority and remained committed to Jerusalem. “Palestine has no value without Jerusalem, which is the pearl of Palestine, and Jerusalem has no value without Al Aqsa,” he said. Youssef Salama, 69







She focused on mental health, a rare but much-needed specialty in Gaza, at the [Palestine Red Crescent Society](#). She worked with people who had been wounded and displaced by Israeli attacks on Gaza as well as with first responders. Hedaya Hamad, 43



Enchanted by online videos of parkour enthusiasts doing stunts in urban spaces around the world, he tried it himself on Gaza's beaches. After the 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict, he practiced on the rubble, leaping, landing and rolling on buildings brought down by Israeli airstrikes. "When Salah played, he felt free," recalled a friend from the [Free Gaza Circus Center](#), where he taught circus arts to children. Salah Abo Harbed, 23





Born into a refugee family and a member of Gaza's Greek Orthodox Christian minority, he lived through several wars but still believed that all humans, including the Israelis who occupied and imposed a blockade on Gaza, were created in God's image. He fondly recalled working as a bank accountant in Israel decades ago and thought it was still possible for the peoples of the Holy Land to live together. He died from an undiagnosed health crisis after clashes prevented him from reaching a hospital. Jeries Sayegh, 67

**Many residents** had differing views about what Gaza could be.



She broke barriers in Gaza’s socially conservative society as an actor, playwright and artist. She performed in plays in Gaza and elsewhere and starred in films, including “[Sara](#)” in 2014, which addressed the taboo topic of femicide. She taught theater and arts in Gaza and at the [ASHTAR](#) theater in Jerusalem. She moved to Egypt after the 2014 Gaza war but returned a few months before the current war. She was killed in her home with three of her five children. Inas Al-Saqqa, 53



While studying law, he hosted planning meetings and designed banners for protests under the slogan “We Want to Live,” which criticized Hamas’s governance of Gaza and called for better living conditions. But reflecting the complex views many Gazans hold toward Hamas, he lauded “the men of the resistance” on Oct. 7. “Officially, today is the greatest day in our generation’s entire life.” Sayel Al-Hinnawi, 22





He founded a [media production company](#) and worked as a filmmaker and photographer. He served as a camera assistant on Ai Weiwei's 2017 documentary "[Human Flow](#)" and liked to show Gaza in a positive light, especially with drone footage shot near the sea. He was on a pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia with his wife and baby daughter when the war broke out, and returned home to document the conflict, posting a video that called the Oct. 7 attackers "Palestinian freedom fighters." Roshdi al-Sarraj, 31





She made paintings in bold colors about Palestinian themes, showing mosques and churches side by side and the Old City of Jerusalem, which she was never able to visit. She had four sons, supported her family as an art teacher and was trying to put on her first exhibition. Heba Zagout, 38







For a decade and a half, he served coffee at [Mazaj](#), an upscale cafe in downtown Gaza City, helping it reopen swiftly after each conflict. “So we meet again,” he told returning customers. “We are all alive.” Ali al-Sharawi, 45

**Gaza** is a small place, about six times the size of Manhattan, with a higher population density than Chicago. People forged close ties with large, extended families and their neighbors, often depending on one another.



She was a jokester who took care of her siblings and mother, a widow, with whom she ran a business doing [traditional Palestinian embroidery](#). She had recently completed a pilgrimage to Mecca. Amneh al-Hana, 38



He was a fitness enthusiast who taught physical education at the [American International School in Gaza](#) and volunteered as the coach of the [Palestine Athletics Federation](#). He kept his athletes going despite poor facilities, often buying them training shoes with his own money. He called Oct. 7 “a bright morning for the Palestinians and the resounding fall of Israel” in a post on Facebook. Belal Abu Samaan, 38





He performed complicated operations on Gaza's war wounded while running Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah until his retirement. His wife, also a doctor, died of cancer, and he dealt with loneliness by hosting large meals to bring people into his home. Dr. Abdallah Shehada, 69



A member of Gaza's Greek Orthodox Christian minority, he studied aviation engineering in Egypt and worked for airlines in Libya and Uganda before returning to Gaza and managing an aid program for the United Nations. He lived near the sea and swam often when the weather was warm. He sheltered with other Christians in a church during the war and died after clashes prevented him from reaching a hospital after his gallbladder ruptured. Farajallah Tarazi, 80



She was a physical therapist who was working toward certification to teach yoga to other women. She dreamed of visiting Ireland. Heba Jourany, 29 (center)



He opened his first marble workshop in his garage and expanded his business to produce marble and granite countertops, sinks and stairs at a factory in Gaza City. He raised pigeons and goats. Osama Al-Haddad, 50





He worked in factories and on construction sites in Israel before the Gaza blockade and spoke fondly of that time, saying he wished the situation would improve so that he could go back. In the meantime, he loved to sit in the sun, smoke cigarettes and drink tea with so much sugar that it became a family joke. Riyadh Alkhatib, 58



The father of the child violinist, he worked for the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority, coordinating rare treatment outside Gaza for patients with serious illnesses. He told a friend, "There is something beautiful in Gaza despite everything that happens." Mahmoud Elia, 47

**Photos, memories, documents, photos and information about the dead were provided in interviews with relatives, friends and other associates. Those**

sources include Mohamed Shamiya (friend of Abdulrahman Abuamara), Khaled Abu Shaeera (brother of Ahmed Abu Shaeera), Asmaa Alkaisi (friend of Ali al-Sharawi and Mahmoud Elia), Beirut Hana (cousin of Amneh al-Hana), Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib (relative of Farah Alkhatib, nephew of Riyadh Alkhatib and nephew of Dr. Abdallah Shehada), Ali Jadallah (brother of Doaa, Salah and Khaled Jadallah), Khalid Balata (cousin of Dua, Salah and Khaled Jadallah), Tarek Masoud (friend of Salah and Khaled Jadallah), Mahmoud AlKrunz (son of Faida and Saud AlKrunz), Ruba Tarazi (daughter of Farajallah Tarazi), Ola Salama (friend of Ghadeer Mohammed Mansour and niece of Youssef Salama), Amal Khayal (teacher of Heba Jourany), Maysaa Ghazi (sister of Heba Zagout), Osama Al-Kahlout (colleague of Hedaya Hamad), Farah Sedo (daughter of Inas Al-Saqqa), Rawaa Iyad (sister of Jannat Iyad Abu Zbeada), Khalil Sayegh (son of Jeries Sayegh), Khitam Attaallah (aunt of Lubna Elia), Ahmed Alnaouq (brother of Mahmoud Alnaouq), Maha Hussaini (work supervisor of Mahmoud Alnaouq), Mahmoud Alhelou (brother of Motaz Alhelou), Ramsey Judah (lawyer of Motaz Alhelou), Said Shoaib (uncle of Nada Abdulhadi), Mohammed Al-Haddad (son of Osama Al-Haddad), Yazan Ahmed (friend of Rami Abu Reyaleh), Shrouq Aila (wife of Roshdi al-Sarraj), Mahmud al-Sarraj (brother of Roshdi al-Sarraj), Mohammad Khader (Gaza Circus member with Salah Abo Harbed), Mohammed Altooli (friend of Sayel Al-Hinnawi), Mohammad al-Raiss (father of Siwar and Selena al-Raiss), Madlian Shaqalih (aunt of Youmna Shaqalih) and Mohammed Abu Moussa (father of Yousef Abu Moussa).

**Additional photo source: Reuters (photo of Youssef Salama)**

**Additional reporting by Yousur Al-Hlou, Iyad Abuheweila, Adam Rasgon and Ameera Harouda. Produced by Sarah Eckinger, Gray Beltran and Rumsey Taylor.**