

free Gaza!

In solidarity with the people of Gaza

Friday 2/01/08

Tuesday night by the sea

“Last night was a hectic scramble to get to our Jabalia house soon after dark; the further into the night, the greater the danger. On Sunday night, other commitments had delayed us, and then over the phone the family said any car on the road late would for sure be hit and they couldn't bear any more loss, even new friends like us. So we arrived at about 6 yesterday evening, and F told us they hadn't spent more than brief moments up from the basement that day, since heavy bombing had begun at 5am.

“The night was manageable; an Apache helicopter seemed perched above the house for a lot of it, but that meant it was firing rockets away from us. Nearer to morning we had some hours of it being the other way round and the explosions being pretty loud. During the night, the Islamic University was bombed for a second time, and the port continued to receive attacks - as did pretty much all Gaza.

“In the morning we went to document some of the attacks of the preceding 48 hours about which F had told us. Fairly soon after we'd left, we heard the “whoosh” of a rocket (gives you long enough to worry but not long enough to get away), heard the impact and saw smoke rise, from the direction of the house we'd just left. E phoned F and found it had fallen beside the one from Saturday night, everyone was alright but upset and scared.”

Taken from the blog of a human rights activist in Gaza. Read more at:

www.talestotell.wordpress.com

Israeli Navy rams Gaza-bound aid boat



The captain of a boat carrying medical supplies and peace activists to the Gaza Strip has told how his vessel was rammed by an Israeli gunboat.

Denis Healey, 53, a marine engineer from Portsmouth managed to guide the Dignity to a Lebanese port after the collision, which left it badly damaged.

Two Israeli gunboats had shadowed the 20-metre yacht in the early hours 'shining powerful search-lights at us, blinding us,' Healey said, before one of them rammed it without warning.

On board were 15 passengers and crew, among them four Britons, including Dr David Halpin, an orthopaedic surgeon who had volunteered his help to Gazan hospitals and clinics.

Free Gaza made history in 2008 by getting two boats to Gaza through Israel's sea blockade

More info at: freegaza.org/

From the Kabariti girls in Gaza

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I've been asked to send some messages to a couple of the worldwide rallies on Saturday (yay!), and decided that I would much prefer to let Palestinians speak for themselves, especially some of the 50% of Gaza's population who are under 18 years old. (If you can only remember one statistic, that's the one you want.) I slept last night in a sea of blankets with the Kabariti girls, and thank goodness, there were less attacks on the port than the night before and they could get a little sleep. They have provided me with very neatly written messages to you, which I promised would be on this page before their bedtime. So here you go:

From **Suzanne**, 15 (in English):
"The life in Gaza is very difficult. Actually we can't describe everything. We can't sleep, we can't go to school and study. We feel a lot of feelings, sometimes we feel afraid and worry because the planes and the ships, they hit 24 hours. Sometimes we feel bored because there is no electricity during the day, and in the night, it is coming just four hours and when it comes we are watching the news on TV. And we see kids and women who are injured and dead. So we live in the siege and war."

From **Fatma**, 13 (in English):
"It was the hardest week in our life. In the first day we were in school, having the final exam of the first term, then the explosions started,

Taken from the Tales to Tell
blog, read more at:
talestotell.wordpress.com

many students were killed and injured, and the others surely lost a relative or a neighbour. There is no electricity, no food, no bread. What can we do - it's the Israelis! All the people in the world celebrated the new year, we also celebrate but in a different way."

From **Sara**, 11 (in Arabic, translated by Habeeb, 18):

"Gaza is living in a siege, like a big jail: no water, no electric power. People feel afraid, don't sleep at night, and every day more people are killed. Until now, more than 400 are killed and more than 2000 injured. And students had their final first term exams, so Israel hit the Ministry of Education, and a lot of ministries. Every day people are asking when will it end, and they are waiting for more activist ships like the Dignity."

From **Darween**, 8 (in English):

"I am a Palestinian kid
I won't leave my country
so I will have lots of advantages
because I won't leave my country
and I hear a sound of rockets
so I won't leave my country."