

A TURNING POINT IN A STUDENT'S LIFE IN THE PRISON CAMP OF GAZA / OCCUPIED PALESTINE

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Knowledge Sharing

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The Prison Camp of Gaza in Occupied Palestine is a 5 by 25 mile strip facing the Mediterranean from the west, the borders with Egypt from the south, and the territories of what was called State of Israel back in 1948 from the east and north. I call The Gaza Strip a prison camp because it has been under an Israeli blockade since 2006 where people cannot go out or in Gaza. More than 350 patients who were in bad need of medical treatment died because they could not go to Egypt to receive the necessary medical treatment they needed. Those patients are perceived as martyrs by the community in Gaza.

In the north of the Prison Camp of Prison Camp of Gaza, between the towns of Beit Lahia in the west and Beit Hanon in the east, just a few hundred meters away from the Israeli Occupation Forces Tanks along the borders, resides the Ahmed Al Shukeri Secondary Boys School. This school is different from other schools in the world. What makes it different is the fact that it is a place where besides English, Mathematics, and other school subjects, the students learn lessons about belongings, sharing and caring, sacrifice, challenge, and cooperation; they live a daily danger of losing their own lives. It is a school with no fence because the Israeli tanks destroyed its walls. The classrooms of this school have no windows as the windows were broken by the shower of bullets coming from the Israeli tanks some hundred meters

away from the school. Below is a story of two brothers in this school.

Once upon a time, there were two brothers who had a unique story to be remembered and shared. The two brothers were Nabeel, an Arabic name that means "Noble", who was 17 years old and his brother Husam, an Arabic name that means "The Sword", who was 16 years old. Nabeel was one of the best students who used to be the first to come to school and the last to leave it. He used to go early to help other cleaning staff clean the floors of the 26 classrooms. The reason why Nabeel was leaving the school late was usually discussing with the headmaster and some teachers some issues related to the performance of other students who are not doing well. He was highly self-motivated and self-confident. To him, the school was the place where he believes students must build their personalities and careers. However, Nabeel was missing his village near Jaffa and could not forget the fact that he is known as a refugee whose grandfather was kicked out of his land. Deep in his heart, there is wrath against the Israeli Occupation Forces that assassinated two of his cousins. He told many of his classmates that he once he saw his martyred cousins in his dream. One of those cousins ,as one of his classmates said, was calling Nabeel in his dream to join him in Paradise.

Husam was a year younger than Nabeel. However, he was a slow learner. He had no interest in studying at school and he