

## **IBBY Palestine Librarian Testimonies May 2025**

### **12 May 2025**

Abla - Librarian of IBBY Beit Hanoun

Thank God we are fine. Last night was very difficult. The bombing was close and there were raids and strikes all night.

As for the oven, it is our neighbors' oven. We bake from it. Everyone bakes from whatever paper, firewood, or cloth they have. I actually learned how to bake from it and I meet my family's needs. We buy firewood, but it is very expensive. But thank God we feed our children bread. We hope the crossing opens before we are deprived of it or this genocide and famine end.

I will send some of the different activities we do during our day, even if they lack the simplest components. However, the human element is the most important and effective within them. The children feel very weak and their physical energy has become weaker than before, but we try to support them psychologically and relieve them through activities

### **13 May 2025**

My life under Israeli Genocide/ After 585 Days

Abla - Librarian of IBBY Beit Hanoun

I work with my children using whatever is in my memory and mental repertoire of stories, activities, and discussions about all topics related to them and the situation from all sides. I was fortunate to have this repertoire, thanks to my opportunity and experience working in library activities and training courses, which have had a long-term impact. All of these things have contributed to my ability to reduce stress and anxiety in my children and other children in the camp or in the displacement site. I spend as much time as possible with them, which may sometimes be interrupted by the sound of shelling, explosions, and fear. But our ability to absorb things and breathe properly has kept us psychologically safe, even if it is simple. The children release their emotions through drawing, dialogue, and talking about their psyches and their struggles.

Household matters, as I can say, which are without a home, take a great deal of effort from us, from lighting a fire, cooking, heating water for bathing, and carrying water for washing. Constant cleaning is a disease prevention and contemplating the situation from different angles has taken a lot of our energy, but we are waiting for a bright, shining day when our smile and laughter will return. Not as before, but perhaps it will return without a deep wound. Our faces have changed and our hands have turned black.

Our bodies have become weak and we have lost all energy. Pain has become constant in our bodies due to lack of food.

We are tired of the fear of waking up to the sound of an explosion, in which we lose a loved one. We are tired of the fear of a cell phone ringing with news of a loss.

We are tired of a life devoid of the most basic requirements for health, education, privacy, or consideration for feelings. We are tired of living in a place with people from different regions who are similar in their suffering but different in their thinking, behavior, and character.

We are tired of an atmosphere of illness without treatment. We are tired of our children being deprived of their right to healthy food, clothing, and a quiet, safe place.  
We are tired of an atmosphere of pressures that we wish would end and disappear. We are tired of all fear, injustice, oppression, and instability.  
We are tired of the years of our lives and the lives of our children being wasted without education or even a childhood.

Our situation in a camp that lacks all the necessities of life.  
The situation has become difficult, and every day we count the minutes and seconds until this suffering and genocide ends.  
Our situation in a camp awaits the dawn of a bright day that will bring news of a truce or the end of the war, so that we can breathe a sigh of relief and begin the life that God has given us and that many usurpers have deprived us of.  
Our children have become more resilient and more self-reliant.  
Our children love love, but they are deprived of it. They love peace and hate its opposites, but they are deprived of peace!