Update: Alaydi Family in Gaza—

"We cannot rebuild alone. We cannot carry this weight by ourselves. We need hands that reach back, hearts that refuse to look away…"

—Photographer/Videographer Salem Alaydi:
https://bit.ly/salem-alaydi



*Salem Alaydi, Rolla's nephew in Gaza- photographer, author

I am only 19, and yet I have learned to hold a camera like it is a lifeline.

Through my phone, through any lens I can find, I search for something that still breathes…something that still feels alive. A child's smile in the middle of rubble. A piece of sky untouched by smoke. A small moment where life insists on existing. Photography is not just a hobby for me. It is how I survive. It is how I remind myself that hope has not completely left us.

But the truth… the truth follows me everywhere.

Gaza has become a place where every street carries the weight of loss. Where homes are no longer homes, but broken walls and scattered memories. Where the air itself feels heavy… with dust, with grief, with the smell of death. It is not something you can escape. It is not something you can pause. The ugly reality is always there, surrounding us, chasing us, reminding us of everything we have lost.

Sometimes it feels like the whole place has turned into one vast graveyard.

And yet…we are still here.

We wake up every day choosing to live, even when life feels unbearable. We hold on to whatever fragments of hope we can find. We create moments of color in a world that has been stripped of it. We try, in the smallest ways, to bring joy back into spaces that have only known destruction.

But surviving is not the same as healing.We cannot rebuild alone. We cannot carry this weight by ourselves. We need hands that reach back, hearts that refuse to look away, people who understand that rebuilding Gaza is not just about concrete and walls…it is about restoring life, dignity, and the right to dream again.

We are still alive.

And we will continue to live.

But we need you to see us.

We need you to stand with us.

We need you to help us rebuild…so that one day, the pictures I take will no longer be about survival… but about life in its fullest, brightest form.

Overnight, Rolla's family was cut off from their main source of financial support, and are left not knowing how they will provide food and other life necessities for their children and themselves.

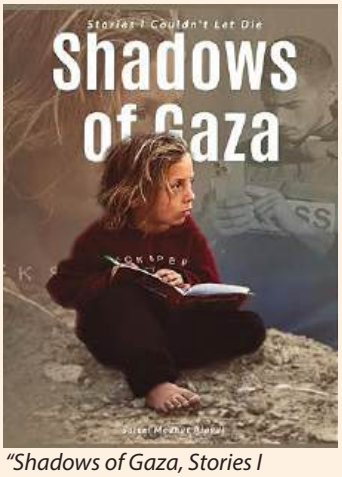
So we have opened up a NEW FUNDRAISER, on *Chuffed.org*, a crowdfunding platform for socially-conscious projects. (They even have an entire Palestine section.) Here's the link: bit.ly/hope-alive

~ If you have donated recently, please check your credit card for the return of funds from *GoFundMe* and re-donate the funds to the new *Chuffed* fundraiser, if possible. Much appreciated!

~ We hope you follow Rolla's family on the new fundraiser and share this new link with others.

THANK YOU again, for your support of my friend Rolla and her family trapped in Gaza.

With gratitude and determined hope, Dianne Monroe



"Shadows of Gaza, Stories I Couldn't Let Die" by Salem Alaydi
Available at: https://amzn.to/4fAvWbw