

Captions:

GAZA'S FISHERMEN

Photographic documentary by
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Photo 01 -

Gaza Port.

The mural highlights the injustice of the restricted fishing zone, which is barely three miles wide. The boxes containing only a few meager fish show how hard it is for fishermen to earn enough to feed their families.



Photo 02 -

Beach in northern Gaza.

Madeline Kullab and her brother.

Madeline used this small flat-bottomed boat when she started fishing. Since Hamas confiscated her motorboat, she uses it again whenever she cannot afford to rent another fisherman's boat. Her brother lends a hand.



Photo 03 -

Beach in northern Gaza.

Madeline Kullab, the only fisherwoman from Gaza, and her father. Madeline became a fisherwoman when her father injured himself and became unable to work. She brings in the sole source of income for the family. Her integration into the world of the other fishermen was not easy and she is harassed daily by Hamas, trying to make her abandon this job.



Photo 04 -

Northern Gaza.

Before going out to sea, Fadel inspects every detail of the net. The main tool of the fisherman, a net is expensive. The Israelis often confiscate or destroy them.



Photo 05 - **Northern Gaza.**

A few weeks ago, Fadel was arrested. His boat with all his equipment was confiscated by the Israeli navy. He lost almost 30 000\$ of equipment that he will probably never be able to buy again, and in doing so lost all of what he used to make a living. Now he has to rent the boat of other fishermen to work. So he watches the horizon carefully, keeping an eye on the Israeli navy boats.



Photo 06 - **Northern Gaza.**

For almost an hour, Fadel has been hauling the net out of the sea with his hands. The work is long and exhausting.



Photo 07 - **Northern Gaza.**

After three hours' fishing, barely 3kg of fish which will sell for 50 shekels – hardly enough to cover the cost of fuel.



Photo 08 - **Gaza, Beach Refugee Camp.**

In 2007 while he was fishing south of Gaza Strip, almost two miles from the coast near Rafah, Sami was shot at without warning by an Israeli boat. His own boat sank and he was hit in the hand and the arm. Despite his wounds he managed to swim to the coast, but it was too late to save his arm. After 36 hours in a Palestinian hospital he was taken to an Israeli one, where his arm was amputated. The army later apologized to him, telling him they thought he was smuggling weapons. Up to now, he has never received any sort of financial assistance. Any legal action has no hope of succeeding so he had to start working again, as best he can, with the one hand he has left.



Photo 09 - **Gaza Port.**

Because of the risks and of the fuel prices, some hopeless fishermen go no further than the waters of the port to cast their nets. In any case, the catch will still be miserable.



Photo 10 - **Gaza Port.**

Either due to lost hope or lack of funds, many fishermen have just abandoned their boats, whose paintwork fades slowly under the hot sun.....



Photo 11 - **Gaza Port.**

Since the maritime embargo, many fishermen had to abandon their trawlers and resort to small boats like these. The Israelis banned engines over 20hp, which poses problems of practicality and safety.



Photo 12 - **Gaza Port.**

Early in the morning this man is waiting for the arrival of fishing boats. In the background, the skyscrapers of Gaza's wealthy neighborhood, where prices have risen close to those in Paris. Right beside such opulence, fishermen are working for ridiculously small wages.



Photo 13 - **Outskirts of Beit Lahiya.**

Zaki shows the hospital and ministry reports on his wounds. He was shot by machine-gun fire in the arm while he was fishing two miles off the coast. Since then he is unable to work. His sons, fishermen too, take care of the whole family.



Photo 14 - **Outskirts of Beit Lahiya.**

Talal, one of Zaki's sons, comes back from the fishing with only this small bag of fish. He did not even try to sell them.



Photo 15 - **Off the coast of Gaza**

The work on a trawler is physically exhausting. Health and safety conditions are atrocious. At one moment the winch almost broke away. Sometimes, the heavy taut ropes snap, missing the men by inches.



Photo 16 - **Off Gaza's coast**

After almost an hour's fishing, there is not a lot in the net, and almost 80% of what is there are crabs too small for eating, which will be thrown back into the sea. It's the same story all night.



Photo 17 - **Off Gaza's coast**

After having sorted the fish, there is almost nothing left: only a few prawns, and after the last two trawls, a few small fish.



Photo 18 - **Outside Gaza Port.**

The vendor walks across piles of boxes, shouting the prices. Buyers rush towards him, assessing the quality of the fish and raising the bids in the blink of an eye. Negotiations are tough as there are not many fish available, certainly not enough to satisfy the demand.



Photo 19 - **Shifa Hospital, Gaza.**

Suffering from kidney disease, Mahmoud has to have dialysis at least every two days. When he was arrested by Israelis, it was very cold. He refused to take his clothes off and to jump into water so they shot him above his left knee. He stayed almost 12 hours without any medical care, nearly dying of blood poisoning for want of dialysis.



Photo 20 - **Beach Camp.**

This painting was made by Mahmoud's father in what is now the house's kitchen. Since he was injured, Mahmoud has had to stop building work on the house. It's too hot there in summer and too cold in winter.