

Yara Jouda lives in Alnusierat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Her original hometown was Ashdod—now occupied. After the war of 1948 she's a student at Mamdouh Saidam High School. She says writing is my favorite hobby; it's a way to tell our true story to the world. Yara also loves reading novels, listening to music, dancing, and riding a bike. This is what she wrote for the Palestine Chronicle, an online Palestinian newspaper, on 20 December 2015. I am a girl from Gaza, 15 years old, maybe I'm not old enough, but I am mature enough to write in the name of dead Palestinian children who didn't have enough time to enjoy life. These kids dreamt of being doctors to treat people who suffer during military offensives. They wanted to fight against those who stole our land, destroyed our houses, and killed our families and friends, not to mention that they made us refugees. I have a little bit of a different dream. I have always dreamt of traveling around the world, not to enjoy or have fun, but to deliver the message of these kids. I believe that every person in the world should protect these children. I hope those who are reading this message—Muslims, Christians, Jewish, and everyone else—have enough humanity to do something about it, to take some responsibility. When I was 7 years old, I remember clearly that I always wanted to fight our enemy. I really hope that you won't judge me or my dream because that's the dream of every child in Gaza. I hope that my message reaches your hearts and makes you understand our situation in Gaza.