



Health Care Denied



Dear Barby,

When you hear stories about Gaza, you usually don't hear directly from Palestinians who live there about what life is like under Israel's blockade. News stories often focus on violence in the form of rockets and attacks. Rarely do you hear the voices of Gaza's residents.

But hearing from people is key to understanding the reality of Gaza, people like Rana Joudeh who talked to AFSC about how the blockade has impacted her family's health care.

"One of my children was born with hepatitis. For two years, she required special treatment and a special type of milk that is not available in Gaza. I tried to bring this milk for her from the West Bank or from Israel. Sometimes I succeeded, but usually we were not able to get the milk for her. When I succeeded I bought a large amount of milk and stored it for her.

When she was two, she died as if she was telling me 'I am going now to rest and I leave you in an unbearable suffering.'

One year later, my husband was diagnosed with fibrosis of the liver. ... Doctors decided a liver transplant was the only option, if not he would die."

You can read the rest of Rana's story at www.gazaunlocked.org, the website for AFSC's new campaign "Gaza Unlocked."

We know from experience that many people in the U.S. know very little about the everyday realities faced by Palestinians in Gaza, which is a major obstacle in working for the political change needed to end the blockade.

Last month, we launched [Gaza Unlocked](#) to tell stories like Rana's that highlight the human impact of Israel's decade-long blockade of Gaza.

We invite you to visit the campaign site and read the stories. Share one that resonates with you on social media using the hashtag #gazaunlocked. You can also email the story to at least 10 friends.

Sharing stories from Gaza and raising awareness about the impacts of the blockade is an important step that we can all take toward bringing change.

Take action today to help us unlock Gaza.

In Peace,



Mike Merryman-Lotze

P.S. AFSC is currently hosting a speaking tour on Gaza featuring photojournalist Anne Paq or the Activestills photo collective and journalist Ala Qandil. You can [learn more about the tour on AFSC's website](#) and on Monday, April 10th at 3:00 pm ET, join Anne, Ala, and me on [AFSC's Facebook page](#) for a Facebook live discussion of their work.

Take a look at Gaza Unlocked

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