

Just as the school kids on the front cover wrote the names of their dead schoolmates on a piece of paper so they would not forget them, some contributing poets to the book (including an Irish Poetry-Slam Winner) wrote short poems for named Palestinians killed by Israeli colonizing forces. Why? So that their Palestinian names will forever be remembered.

The anthology has verse in English, Irish and Spanish, by thirty poets, with Canadian First Nations and verse in Arabic and quotations from Palestinian poets. The book is a tribute to the bravery of Palestinians resistant in the face of impossible odds as in the back-cover photo. In the words of poet Tamim Al Bargouti writing a poem on fourteen-year-old Faris Adeh, who died facing a tank, "I didn't write anything. I just read it off his feet" (p.111).

The Dublin launch will include music and readings of lists of those killed in the Great March of Return and Gaza Bombings. The book comes with artwork by Mohammad Sabaaneh on the plight of Palestinian women and the fate of kids. The book marker has a quote from contemporary poet, Dareen Tatour. The present State of Israel is appealing her acquittal at the Supreme Court for her poem "Resist, My People, Resist Them" . . .

*I don't like you, death*

*But I'm not afraid of you*

*And I know that my body is your bed*

*And my spirit is your bed cover*

*I know that your banks are narrow for me*

*I don't love you, death*

*But I'm not afraid of you.*

These lines from Samih al-Qasim's "I don't like you death" (p. 117) sum up the raw courage of the teenager on the back cover of *Turangalîla-Palestine*, an anthology of Protest Poems assembled by editors and midland poets John Ennis (Coralstown) and Offaly-based David Mallaghan. . .

At a recent Limerick School of Music launch of the book, Leaving Cert student Jack Lynch played his music for the victim and recited that poem in his honour. Both front and back

covers come courtesy of exiled Palestinian Hamzi El Alami, whose ancestors defended Jerusalem against the crusading butchers of the day.

Greágoir Ó Dúill's "Seal ag na Crosáidí" compares western interventions then and now. The editors would be happy if the Stop Israel featured on the top of the front cover resulted in one death less among Palestinians from colonising forces whose policy of "incremental genocide" (historian Ilan Pappé's phrase) continues yearly.

The Gazan school kids on the front cover wrote the names of their murdered school mates on pieces of paper so they would not forget them; poets in the anthology wrote their poems in solidarity with named casualties, mostly young, so that their names will be remembered forever. In time, their executioners in the lofty sniper towers of today may face their own Nuremburg.

Ireland suffered the Tans for a few years; Palestinians have suffered their equivalent since 1948, the year of the Nakbah, or catastrophe. The book critiques why all this is happening with the tacit connivance of most western governments.

The Mullingar event (6.30pm, Tuesday November 12) is on the publisher's home patch after launches in Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny, Waterford, Limerick and Tullamore, with further evenings planned for Galway, the North-West and Ulster. Mullingar comes courtesy of Cailín Gallagher in Mullingar Library, Westmeath County Buildings.

The title? Turanga is a Sanskrit word suggesting time the eternal at our backs and to come, lila as in event, say, the launch of the book in Mullingar for a special people, the Palestinians. . .

*[\(Paul Hughes The Westmeath Examiner\)](#)*

In her address at the launch, author Ruth Illingworth noted that it was important that the names of those killed should be remembered, that in naming the Palestinian dead, their humanity was being restored to them in response to the way they had been dehumanised by their killers.

The act of naming and remembering was similar to the recently published book by Joe Duffy, 'Children Of The Troubles', in which the child victims of the Northern Ireland Troubles are remembered and written into history, having been largely forgotten about by all but their families. "So it is in Palestine too," said Ruth.

She also spoke about some of those named in Turangalila-Palestine, in particular, the young nurse, Razan Al-Najjar, shot as she looked after wounded demonstrators, and five-year-old Inas Shawket, deliberately run over by settlers in their car.

She also mentioned the teenage boys killed while protesting at the Gaza Israel border – "lads who should have been in school with all their lives in front of them" – and quoted Sheelagh Murnaghan's statement that "discrimination is something to be angry about". Ruth concluded her remarks by remembering all those named in the book and "all the other Palestinians killed since 1948 "in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. . .

The book features verse from Ireland, England, Spain, Germany, Canadian First Nations and an Algerian High School student, Bouras Brahim, in Arabic and English. Art work is by Mohammad Sabaaneh, fruits of his own incarceration.