

An Exclusive Interview with a Former Member of Hamas's Interior Ministry, Gaza

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Summary:

The war in Gaza has devastated the lives of all Gazans, including those who are victims of Hamas and strongly oppose the group. Hundreds of people have demonstrated in Gaza's streets against Hamas's brutal rule, while reports have documented the torture and execution of those who resisted. Some protesters were reportedly shot on camera, and people accused of stealing aid for their families were also targeted after Hamas seized aid trucks and diverted supplies to its fighters rather than Gaza's civilians.

During the war, several groups in Gaza not only opposed Hamas but also collaborated with the IDF in an effort to remove it from the Strip. Hamas branded these groups as traitors and publicly executed many captured members. Not all Gazans should be equated with Hamas; many may oppose Israel while also rejecting Hamas. Many people in Gaza continue to cooperate with Israeli intelligence, providing valuable information about the locations of Hamas members who participated in the October 7 attacks.

Some former employees of Hamas run ministries later came to realise the group as ruthless, distanced themselves from it, and opposed it whenever possible. I was contacted by one such person and decided to interview him to show that Hamas's opponents should not automatically be labelled traitors, and that international media and audiences should take their stories and experiences seriously. Below is a detailed, exclusive interview with a man from Gaza who says he endured severe torture by Hamas and lost sight in one eye. He served as a security officer with Hamas's Interior Ministry at the Rafah border before becoming a teacher with the Ministry of Education. He now lives in a tent in the Al-Mawasi camp.

Before conducting the interview, I contacted him to verify his identity, assess whether his account was based on firsthand experience, and determine its relevance. After questioning him carefully and cross-checking his claims and information, I concluded that he was credible and decided to proceed with the interview.

We discussed life in Gaza before Hamas took power in 2005, including the periods under the PLO and Israeli administration. We also covered Gaza's education system, recruitment practices, the indoctrination of children, and their use as human shields. He spoke about Hamas's October 7 attacks, life after Israel's military response, and the international media's limited understanding of events, which he said often led outlets to repeat Hamas's claims. He also disclosed striking details about Hamas casualties, including women who died in combat against the IDF. He also addressed claims that Hamas stole aid, allegations that Israel committed genocide, and the prospects for peace with Israel.

Because he does not speak English, he translated his answers from Arabic before sending them to me. The translation may contain errors, but I have corrected them as carefully as possible.

The interview was conducted over three consecutive days.

Interview Starts

Q: What's Your Name?

A: Seif Al - Ridwan

Q: Where are you from?

A: Rafah (Gaza)

Q: Where do you currently live?

A: Al Mawasi Camp (in a tent)

Q: What year were you born?

A: 1989

Q: Can I see your pictures?

A: Yes, sure. (He sent me two photos)

Q: How many children do you have?

A: Three children but one has a serious medical condition. (he showed me his pictures)

Q: Can I see his medical record?

A: Yes, of course. (He sent me hospital letters about his condition.)

Q: Was he sick before the war?

A: He was born a year before the war, and his illness was discovered during the war.

Q: What job did you have before the war?

A: I was a teacher.

Q: What did you teach in school?

A: I was teaching primary education, specialising in basic education. I taught students from first grade to fifth grade. I taught the four core subjects: Arabic, arithmetic, science, and mathematics in grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Q: What was the education system when you were studying in school and college?

A: During my studies, I went through three different education administrations, and each period of study was different. For example, I lived through the period of Israeli administration of education in Gaza, the period of Arafat's administration and the Palestinian Authority, and the period of Hamas's administration of education. Which period should I talk about?

Q: What was the curriculum difference in all three periods?

A: There was a very big difference. For example, let's begin with the period of Israeli rule and its control over education in Gaza. Only the ***Egyptian curriculum*** was taught under Israeli rule.

Unfortunately, the problem lay in the weakness of the teaching staff at that time due to a lack of teaching experience, but the Egyptian curriculum was somewhat moderate. During the Palestinian Authority period, a Palestinian curriculum was introduced, which was good, but unfortunately, ***it incited students to believe that Acre and Jaffa were part of Palestine***. The Authority began providing good teaching staff and schools, but it introduced civilian national education. It was somewhat good, but not the best. Regarding education under Hamas, much of the Palestinian Authority's curriculum was removed, and many lessons were added that ***incite jihad and the right of return to historical Palestine***. Additionally, the [Futuwwa program](#) was introduced to provide military training in schools.

Q: Do you believe that Hamas use hateful educational curriculum in Gaza schools and colleges as well as universities to spread Jihadization?

A: The schools and colleges of Gaza are under the control of the Ministry of Education which runs by Hamas. Hamas had only one university in Gaza, the Islamic University; the others were not affiliated with it. There is a student work system and Hamas has a student wing known as Islamic Writing, which is a student framework for Hamas in universities and colleges.

Q: What is Futuwwa program and how would you define it?

A: It is a program through which one of Hamas's trained members is assigned to each school, and in military uniform, he attends the school and *gives military lessons and activities* to the students. The grades of the subject matter are monitored. Where no one can succeed without passing it.

Q: How old were the students who underwent this training in schools?

A: The program runs for a full year and begins at age 16 to 18. In all schools and all grades belonging to this age group. The student learns about different types of *firearms, marksmanship, and explosives*, and practices these skills practically.

Q: What was Hamas's aim to teach military training to students at Gaza Schools?

A: The goal was to teach the entire population how to bear arms and handle them so that, in the event of an occupation of Gaza, any citizen of Gaza would be able to handle weapons without needing training, because if Gaza were to be occupied, they would have the freedom to train. Any creation of an armed population capable of using weapons in the darkest of circumstances. Until the occupation of Gaza, a Gazan might wake up and decide to kill an Israeli. He wouldn't need training; he would do it easily.

Q: I have seen videos of summer camps where very young children, not 16-year-olds, wore military uniforms, trained with dummy guns, and used knives to slit the throats of dolls labelled as Jews. Can you explain this?

A: This was a different from the Futuwwa program. These were summer camps. In all countries of the world, camps are used during holidays so that students can learn, have fun, and play, except in Gaza. The terrorist organisations and factions in Gaza are running these camps to teach children *how to kill and fight* and how to become resilient as you grow up.

Q: Was Futuwwa program applied to all Gaza's schools?

A: Yes, this applies to *all schools of Gaza* without exception.

Q: Even in UNRWA Schools?

A: Because the Futuwwa training program was for people aged 16 to 18. UNRWA schools only teach primary and elementary levels. As for secondary schools, UNRWA does not have any. The Futuwwa program takes place in secondary schools. All students in Gaza enrolled in the Futuwwa program because it is mandatory in secondary school, and secondary schools in Gaza are controlled by Hamas. UNRWA schools do not have the Futuwwa program but only teach the primary and elementary levels.

Q: Does it mean that all young students in entire Gaza went through Hamas military training?

A: *Yes*, those who do not attend the Futuwwa program fail the exam as it is mandatory to all students in Gaza.

Q: Do you believe, UNRWA employees were appointed by Hamas?

A: Yes, *most UNRWA employees belonged to Hamas*. The reason for this is that the Palestinian Authority and Fatah used to appoint people based on security vetting, so their chances of getting government jobs were slim, and that's why they turned to UNRWA.

Q: Did you have any job before being a teacher?

A: Yes, I worked with interior ministry at Rafah crossing.

Q: What was your role of job at Rafah crossing?

A: I worked as a security officer to protect the crossing from theft. The border crossing was a commercial crossing and a crossing for goods, and sometimes goods would be stored at the crossing, and thieves would steal them or prevent anyone from damaging the crossing's assets.

Q: But the interior ministry was under Hamas!

A: Yes, all institution in Gaza run by Hamas.

Q: Did you know that more than 25 tunnels ran beneath the Rafah crossing and that Hamas used them to smuggle money and weapons?

A: You are mistaken and confusing the **Rafah crossing with the Egyptian-Palestinian border**; there is a vast difference. The Rafah crossing is a crossing between Gaza and Egypt, open to individuals and trucks. There was Egyptian oversight of all incoming traffic, and there are no tunnels beneath it. Incidentally, it is part of the border strip between Egypt and Gaza. The border strip with Egypt and Gaza is approximately 17 km. The crossing is located 1 km out of 17 km. As for the border strip between Egypt and Gaza, **there is a tunnel in every inch of it**. Do not confuse the Rafah land crossing with the border strip with Egypt.

Q: Have you ever been in Tunnel in your life?

A: There were trade tunnels on the border with Egypt and Gaza. People used to move through them and transport goods, but I never went inside them. I only saw them; they were openly present on the border, and goods came out of them. But I never entered it.

Q: Many young people died while digging Hamas tunnels. How did their families react?

A: There are three types of tunnels in Gaza:

- 1- *Defensive tunnels built by Hamas inside Gaza to fight the Israeli army should it attempt to occupy Gaza.*
- 2- *Offensive tunnels built inside Israel to carry out attacks.*
- 3- *Cross-border tunnels built by merchants to smuggle goods.*

The tunnels that crossed the border with Egypt were commercial tunnels, and those who worked in them were merchants and labourers for wages. The tunnels inside Gaza and inside Israel were operated by Hamas members, were unknown to others and were kept highly secret. Those Hamas members who died inside Hamas's offensive or defensive tunnels were called **martyrs and celebrated** because they had chosen this path and joined Hamas for that reason. However, those who died in the commercial tunnels across the border with Egypt were treated differently. The merchant used to pay their families approximately \$40,000 as compensation for the loss of family members.

Q: So, you previously worked for Hamas?

A: As I said, all institutions were run by Hamas because Hamas was a government in Gaza therefore, we must work in those institutions.

Q: Why did you support Hamas?

A: It showed us sweet dreams before 2006 election.

Q: Why do people continue to support Hamas despite knowing it is not sincere with them?

A: Since childhood, I and all of Gaza have been **affected through Hamas education**. Hamas has controlled Gaza for 25 years and controls the entire education. (he meant, indoctrination)

Q: Why did people of Gaza choose Hamas in election not Fatah?

A: Because Fatah failed to provide security and safety for the people, corruption began to eat away at it in recent years, and the people wanted security and safety. Hamas raised the slogan of change and reform, and the people believed it. But after she was elected, **people saw no real change or reform**; Hamas only succeeded in providing security and safety. Every society wants security and safety because these are essential for life.

Q: Who was better for people of Gaza? Arafat, Hamas or Israel?

A: But frankly, they all have advantages and disadvantages; the worst is Hamas, the least bad is Israel, and the least bad of them all is Arafat.

Q: Was Gaza peaceful under Israel controls or Peaceful under Hamas control?

A: I will be honest with you, under Israeli control and **during Israel's presence in Gaza, life was good in terms of the economy, work**, and everything else, except for security, due to the army's constant clashes with Palestinian organisations and vice versa. During Hamas rule, everything collapsed, but it succeeded in providing security and safety for the people of Gaza. The reason for its success was Israel's withdrawal from Gaza at that time and later they imposed force upon the people of Gaza.

Q: What change Yasser Arafat brought in Gaza after Oslo accords?

A: It was a very big change; schools were modernised, roads and buildings were constructed, and communications and other services were available. Unfortunately, due to the uprising (Second Intifada), Arafat lost control. Other organisations and clans in Gaza have become complicit in the security breakdown. This has deprived any society of something essential: security.

Q: How do you consider Yasser Arafat a hero or corrupt leader?

A: Yasser Arafat was not a hero, and **if he were, he would have accepted the peace offers with Israel**. As far as I know, he was not corrupt, but all those who worked under him were corrupt. Our problem in Gaza and Palestinian Authority (PA) is that throughout history we have not found a leader who accepts the proposed peace plans with Israel.

Q: How did Jews living in settlements in Gaza (before 2005) treat Gazans?

A: In general, the Jews treated us well, they treated everyone with kindness, especially the Jews living in Israel.

Q: Did you ever visit Israel in your life?

A: When I was a child, Israel controlled Gaza, and freedom of movement was available. My father worked in Israel, and **my father's Jewish supervisor at the glass factory would come to Gaza to attend our weddings and funerals**. It was a beautiful life. We and the Jews treated each other with such respect that **they would come to our celebrations to give gifts**, and we would share in their celebrations.

Q: Where in Israel?

A: I went to Israel once to have an umbilical hernia operation in Tel Aviv and I was sitting in a car, still a child, looking at Tel Aviv from the car window and admiring it, saying how beautiful it is.

Q: Was your father happy working in Israel?

A: Not only my father, but all the workers were happy, and all the people of Gaza now wish that the days of working in Israel would return.

Q: When did you understand that Hamas are bad guys?

A: As we grew older, we began to understand things better. But I'll be honest with you. There are many in Gaza who support peace with Israel and hate Hamas. But there's a problem: no one can say

this significantly because of Hamas's rule. Anyone who does it is considered a traitor, accused of treason, and executed. This is the truth.

Q: Did people begin opposing Hamas and supporting peace with Israel only after the war, when Hamas had caused them to lose everything? Is that correct? (I challenged him.)

A: You are mistaken. The population of Gaza is 2 million, and those who support Hamas are 500,000, including their children and women. This wasn't specifically a factor in convincing the hesitant, but Hamas, even before the war, represented only 30% of Gaza.

Q: 30% is too low, what are you talking about? (I asked out of curiosity.)

A: I'll tell you, after the war, the percentage has now dropped to less than 15%.

Q: According to your claim, 1.5m people do not support Hamas, who do they support then?

A: The rest of the people support peace, security, and economic recovery and are not concerned with politics.

Q: Why are their voices not visible enough?

A: They are oppressed and ruled by force by the 30%. Unfortunately, the world only hears about Hamas and Hamas media, and *those who control the media in Gaza are Hamas*. No one listens to the people of Gaza.

Q: Consider this: Hamas held Israeli hostages within Gaza's communities, and Israeli authorities offered substantial rewards for information about their whereabouts. Yet no residents provided information that led to the hostage's recovery. Doesn't this suggest support for Hamas rather than Israel? (I asked this to challenge his claim that only 30% of Gazans supported Hamas.)

A: Let me tell you something else. Do you think the people of Gaza knew where the hostages were? Even the Israeli army, with all its strength and intelligence, couldn't find out their exact location. The only ones who knew the hostages' location were Hamas members, especially during Hamas's operations.

Q: But the hostages were moved through areas populated by Hamas supporters. (I challenged his answer again.)

A: When the hostages were moving around, they were in civilian clothes, and *Hamas members were also in civilian clothes*, surrounding them naturally and without attracting attention. As a citizen, I see two people walking in the street *disguised in civilian clothes*; how am I supposed to know if they are hostages? They were walking among the people who support Hamas, not among those who weren't Hamas. Unfortunately, *they were moving around in the areas belonging to Hamas*, which numbers 500,000.

Q: Do Hamas fighters wear civilian clothing in combat, then portray those killed as civilians?

A: Yes, *Hamas members fight in civilian clothes*, but unfortunately, many real civilians were killed in Gaza during the operations, which is called collateral damage and Hamas used this to incite a desire for revenge and recruit these people.

Q: The problem is that the world no longer trusts Gazans because Gazans have repeatedly lied on camera. Am I correct?

A: Unfortunately, the world hears *Hamas media talking about resistance, jihad, and killing Jews*. And no one listens to the suffering people of Gaza. Even the Israelis have lost trust because of Hamas's deception, although they (Israelis) bear some guilt for having trusted a terrorist organisation.

Q: If anyone from Gaza talks against Hamas, most Muslims in the west consider them as traitors. Am I correct?

A: That's exactly what happened to me, unfortunately. Even my child has no one to donate to his medical condition. *All those who donated to his campaign are Jews.* We collected 800 out of the 5000 euros *donated by 22 Jews.*

Q: Israel provides free aid to the people of Gaza. Where does this aid go? You should have received everything free.

A: There is a problem: the number of trucks is insufficient and not enough for everyone. 250 trucks enter daily, 100 of which are aid trucks. But the scale of the destruction and the need is immense.

Q: Do you believe Hamas stole most of the aid trucks before they reached the people of Gaza?

A: No, the aid wasn't stolen. It was *stolen by Abu Shabab's militias* who looted it and sold it many times its value. Hamas only imposed taxes on merchants.

Q: Many videos appeared to show Hamas controlling aid trucks and diverting them to areas under its control.

A: You don't understand what's happening on the ground; you're just watching the videos without understanding the context behind. These armed men belong to tribal security committees that provide security for goods for merchants due to the lack of security or police during the war. Each merchant hired several gunmen who, upon the trucks leaving the Israeli crossing and entering Hamas-controlled areas, would stop them and divert them to the merchant's warehouses to secure the goods.

Q: What's the percentage of Gaza's residential areas that are fully or partially damaged by Israeli bombardment?

A: 80% of Gaza's buildings are fully or partially destroyed, and 20 remaining.

Q: Is Electricity and internet working properly in Gaza?

A: Electricity is generated from solar energy, and by the way, it's rare.

Q: Of the 75,000 people killed in the Gaza war, how many do you think were members of Hamas or other jihadi groups, and how many were civilians?

A: Nearly 30,000 Hamas members were killed. In addition to 10,000 civilians, including children and women, Hamas was visible.

Q: But Hamas had recruited 15k new people during the war. More manpower!

A: This is not the case with someone who got his father killed by Israeli bombs; he was a young man whom Hamas tried to incite a thirst for revenge in and deceived. If things were to stabilise, these people would come to their senses, but they were recruited by the factor of revenge.

Q: Hamas built tunnels throughout Gaza, beneath mosques, schools, hospitals, and residential buildings. If Gazans knew about them, why did they not act? Was it because they feared Hamas?

A: Part of it is true and part of it is false. No one knows where Hamas's tunnels are located except Hamas members; even Israel and its intelligence services don't know the locations of all Hamas tunnels. And even if the residents knew, they couldn't do anything because Hamas would kill them.

Q: Before the war, about 30 jihadist groups operated in Gaza. Members of 10 of these groups reportedly entered Israel alongside Hamas on October 7, along with 3,000 Gazan civilians. Is that correct?

A: That's true, but all the other organisations couldn't muster 10,000 fighters, while Hamas had 50,000.

Q: If Gazans want to remove Hamas, why have they not done so, despite the hundreds killed while opposing it?

A: You claim to follow the people of Gaza, but didn't you see the demonstrations that took place months ago against Hamas and how they were suppressed? Don't say that the people of Gaza don't want to overthrow Hamas, but rather say, they want to suppress Hamas. People don't have support and media coverage. Ultimately, when others see someone criticizing Hamas on a post, they are executed and lose their reputation in prison. They will decide to leave for the sake of their children and stay away from politics because no one stands with them, everyone is against them, and the easiest thing is to be accused of treason. I was tortured in a basement for 5 days under one of the universities. I lost sight because of medical negligence. I personally know more than 200 opponents of Hamas, they were detainees and tortured by Hamas. No one saved them. Why would they lose their lives against Hamas when no one save them?

Q: Do you believe that Hamas used civilian infrastructure for their rocket launching hubs? Or keep arms under hospitals?

A: To be honest, yes, they used hospitals as command centres and built tunnels under some hospitals for their leaders to hide in, but I don't think they were used to store weapons or launch missiles. Because there are tunnels and other locations used to launch missiles away from people, and because people don't know about them, like farms or wooded areas.

Q: How many Female fighters and members were in Hamas?

A: The women's action apparatus consists of 20,000 women with different roles, 5,000 of whom perform military roles, while the rest have a religious role far from military operations but were working in Hamas advocacy?

Q: How many female Hamas fighters were killed in the war?

A: Nearly 5,000 were killed

Q: Are you saying that all 5,000 women serving in Hamas military roles were killed during the war?

A: Yes, military, paramilitary, or logistical support.

Q: Did they fight alongside male combatants?

A: Most of them were killed while performing logistical and support roles for the fighters, holding hostages, or carrying out assassinations.

Q: What do you mean by "assassinations"?

A: The Israeli army assassinated them and bombed them.

Q: What was the minimum age of Gaza people joining and fighting for Hamas in war?

A: Hamas recruited and used people of all ages, young, old, and children and this is proven. During the war, Hamas recruited 15,000 fighters and succeeded in doing so, even though the people of Gaza hate Hamas. Do you want to know why? Because when someone's father or brother is killed in a war, his instinct for revenge is activated. Hamas is using this as a pretext to recruit more people. Therefore, Israel must minimise the collateral damage of its operations so that Hamas would not use these people out of revenge. But I am hopeful and certain that when the war ends, these people will realise their mistakes and the desire for revenge will fade away. They will come to their senses.

Q: Do you think, Hamas built more than thousand Mosques in Gaza to radicalise the people of Gaza?

A: Yes, and more than that, they used mosques to recruit and indoctrinate young people, and they also used religious figures to justify their actions in the name of religion.

Q: Do you believe Imams in Gaza mosques are appointed by Hamas?

A: Yes, even the imams of the mosques from the era of the Palestinian Authority, most of them were replaced by Hamas Imams.

Q: Do you believe, Hamas used mosques as training centres to indoctrinate the people of Gaza?

A: Yes, but not all mosques. In the period before the war, families in Gaza started operating their own mosques. They refused to register it with the Hamas-affiliated Ministry of Religious Endowments so that Hamas will not control it. Each family would build a mosque in their village and collect the imam's salary from their own funds so that the Ministry of Religious Endowments would not control it. Even the electricity was paid for by families at the mosque. Hamas used to say, *"Whoever registers the mosque with the Waqf, we will appoint the imam, the prayer mat, and the caretaker, and we will take care of the water and electricity."* Despite this, the families refuse so that Hamas does not take control of the mosque. On the level of my family, a mosque was built in our neighbourhood, but it wasn't registered with the endowment's authority.

Q: Have you seen Imams of Gaza mosques live in cozy life while people are suffering in hunger?

A: Yes, the most recent example was last Friday, (23.10.2026). An imam came to deliver the Friday sermon, urging people to be patient and saying, *"Be patient with living in tents, the sun setting, the lack of money and wealth, and all of it will be for you in Paradise."* After the sermon, he left the mosque and got into his modern car. The air-conditioned car was parked there for him, and I said to myself, *"Why can't you be patient like us? Why are we poor while you drive a modern, air-conditioned car?"*

Q: Do you condemn Hamas attacks on Oct 7?

A: Yes, and I'd say even more than that, I wish I could have stopped Hamas doing so.

Q: Are you sorry for Jews murdered and rapped by Hams on Oct 7?

Yes, I feel sorry for the Jewish civilians who were killed and suffered on October 7th, and I also feel deep sorrow for the civilians from Gaza who were killed after October 7th. I also offer my apologies to every civilian killed in this war on both sides, which was started by Hamas.

Q: How did you feel when you heard that Hamas has entered in Gaza, murdered Israelis and brought hundreds of hostages inside Gaza?

A: It was a Saturday, and in my city, there was a market on Saturdays. I was drinking tea with breakfast and getting ready to go to the market when the rockets started to launch. I remained confused for an hour; no one knew what was happening. I checked the media, but no one knew. One time they said they assassinated the guest, another time they said they assassinated Sinwar, and that's why the rockets were being launched. No one knew. After an hour, the outlines of the story began to become clear.

Q: Have you seen people celebrating Hamas attacks on Oct 7?

A: Yes, I saw that on Hamas-affiliated and close media outlets, but the question is, does the world know who these civilians were, who were seen celebrating or beating prisoners? Of course not. Does the world know that Hamas has supporters, children, and women among its members, numbering approximately 500,000 out of 2 million Gazans, or about 30%? Those whom the world saw in civilian clothes surrounding the family or celebrating are Hamas supporters among the 500,000. Unfortunately, the Gaza was destroyed by the actions of 500,000 people, and the remaining 1.5 million have suffered widely. Instead, the remaining 1.5 million were considered terrorists and falsely accused of celebrating, when in reality, these were the 500,000 Hamas supporters who were celebrating.

Q: Did you realise that Israel will destroy everything in Gaza after what Hamas did?

A: I expected that because the incident was huge, and whoever made the decision was crazy. When the enormity of the attacks became clear an hour after it happened on October 7th, I felt fear and panic. I knew Gaza was gone.

Q: Why did you not leave Gaza via Rafah crossing when the war began?

A: Would you believe me if I told you I didn't have the money? Sisi's regime was imposing a \$5,000 fee on each person to leave for Egypt. I have three children and my wife needs \$25,000. Where am I supposed to get it from? I can't even raise \$5,000 for my child's treatment. Now, after 3 years, the amount has increased to \$10,000.

Q: Do you believe that Hamas members have left Gaza through Rafah Crossing?

A: Yes. I know of many Hamas members and leaders who have left Gaza. Some posed as refugees and entered European countries, including the UK, where they now live comfortably. Meanwhile, ordinary people like us, who are not affiliated with any organisation and lack money, remain in tents, facing hunger and unable to afford medicine for our children, while Hamas members live safely in the UK.

Q: Did you lose family members or relatives in the war?

A: Yes, I lost my home and my car, and I was displaced to Al-Mawasi in Gaza. I live in poverty, and I lost 12 members of my family, including my uncle and his sons. Their house was bombed, and they all died. Despite that, he advocated peace.

Q: Was any member of your family who got killed by Israeli bombs affiliated with Hamas?

A: Yes, one of my cousins was active in Hamas, but he didn't die. He was injured and went to Egypt for treatment after paying \$5,000 to the Sisi regime. After causing the death of his younger siblings, his father, and his mother, he sold what remained of his possessions, travelled, got married there, and had children. When I remember my good cousins and uncle, I grieve the comfort of their son's reckless thoughts. How many times did I advise him to stay away from this path, the path of terrorism, but he didn't listen? And unfortunately, he sacrificed his family while he's been enjoying himself in Egypt for two and a half years. He has no conscience. I don't know how these people think, how they eat, drink, and enjoy life, and they were the reason for the demise of their sisters, children, and women, and their presence among them.

Q: Why did you not join any anti Hamas group? There were many whom Israel supported during the war.

A: In short, all five militias supported by Israel are a collection of thieves, bandits, drug dealers. These militias are more deadly to people of Gaza than Hamas. I compare them to Assad's militias in Syria. Their treatment of the population is unjust: rape, murder, theft, looting. Their history is not honourable. Do you want me to bring militias to my people like Assad's militias in order to eliminate Hamas? Our only hope is a technocratic government and a peace council.

Q: Israel demands that Hamas disarm, but Hamas refuses. How could a technocratic government and peace council achieve this?

Hamas controls 30% of Gaza, while Israel controls 70%. Hamas is much weaker than before and uses its influence in ministries and government institutions to grant special privileges to some and buy loyalties. When a technocratic government and a peace council take control of, say, the Ministry of Education, Hamas representatives will be expelled, and education in Gaza will no longer incite violence. This will stop Hamas's recruitment and extremism. When a technocratic government and a peace council take control of the Ministry of Religious Endowments and conduct security checks on

imams and sheikhs, it will close another door on extremism. When a technocratic government and a peace council control the Ministry of the Interior and its employees undergo security vetting, Hamas will be unable to kill, drag, and imprison its opponents, in addition to intimidating the people.

Q: But they cannot disarm Hamas. Can they?

A: Believe me, the tribes now possess more weapons than Hamas in Gaza after a fierce war, but what's most important is eradicating extremism. Disarmament is very easy. The most important thing is to dismantle their extremism and their control over the people; then the whole world will know that they are a minority in Gaza. Hamas agreed to disarm and has no other option. Let me tell you something, a Hamas member told me, so you understand that what matters is not the weapon. He told me that in 2003, Hamas only had three weapons in the city of Rafah, and they lent them to each other. Years passed, and those three weapons became thousands. The important thing is the idea, not the weapons. Anyone who possesses terrorist ideology, even if they surrender their weapons, will acquire others through different means if they so desire. Therefore, let us overcome them and fight extremism and ideology, not weapons. The clans in Gaza possess a lot of weapons, but they are not used for terrorism. Why? Because there is no Jihadist and Terrorist ideology there. Therefore, focus on the ideology and dry up its sources.

Q: Gaza runs by Sheikhs and Clans, do they all support Hamas?

A: That's not how it works. The clans and tribes have Sheikhs, but they don't govern Gaza, nor do they control Hamas. However, they fear and respect Hamas. Furthermore, Hamas has been bribing some tribal leaders by imposing taxes, granting them positions of power, and facilitating their trade or transactions. Therefore, we have repeatedly stated that the control of the technocratic government and the Peace Council over Gaza will deprive it of many benefits.

Q: Do you believe, that IDF is involved in genocide of the people of Gaza?

A: Believe me, many, many mistakes were made, thousands of civilians were killed, and the people of Gaza were starved for five months, from April 2025 to September 2025. Everything in Gaza was destroyed. This happened, and I witnessed it firsthand. Even during those four months, I couldn't find bread. After the ceasefire, things improved, but ***I don't think we can call it genocide; it's more like collateral damage*** and the suffering of civilians.

Q: Why western Muslims support Hamas but not people like you who hate Hamas?

A: I challenge western Muslims to live in Gaza for just one month under Hamas rule. Hamas also considered us traitors, and they are an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is an international terrorist organisation. It's easy for them to accuse you of treason for a social media post in which I called for an end to the war. Hamas arrested and tortured me.

Q: Are you pleased that Israel has eliminated most of Hamas's civilian and military leadership?

A: I'm not alone; people across Gaza are glad to see Hamas weakened except Hamas members.

Q: Do you want peace with Israel and live side by side with Israelis?

A: Yes, this is achievable, but unfortunately, the presence of Jewish extremists in power and Hamas in Gaza hinders this. However, I am optimistic about the future.

Q: Do you believe, Israel has a right to exist?

A: Yes, I believe that both Palestinians and Israelis have the right to exist in their respective lands. Or at least a developed form of self-rule for the Palestinians, if not a state.

Q: What is your last message to Israelis?

A: I know what you suffered on October 7th was painful, and the suffering of most of the people of Gaza was immense. But you only hear and see Hamas members, their wives, and their children on the media because Hamas controls the media. I urge you to embrace peace and consider living together as neighbors, as people of Abraham. Please help us bring the technocratic committee and the peace council into Gaza so that we can expel Hamas. We wish you well. You consider all of us in Gaza evil, and that's not true. Don't replace Hamas's rule with militias like Assad's. Finally, the people of Gaza love you. My child is suffering because of what happened to you and him as a result of the war Hamas waged. Finally, I hope you can help find a developed country to treat my child.

Note: These are his personal views based on his knowledge and experience; I neither fully agree with nor reject his claims.

END OF INTERVIEW