

I Shall Not Hate; A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity. Izzeldin Abuelaish

What a week to consider a Palestinian 's memoir of life on the Gaza Strip! The day before the discussion President Trump revealed his mid-East Peace Plan. Opinions on the future of the plan and the region dominated the news cycle.

The heartbreaking story of Doctor Abuelaish's childhood and adult life in Gaza was sincerely appreciated by the readers. It revealed a perspective of the Palestinian Israeli situation that is not widely known in the U.S. Even the Jewish readers who found parts of the book difficult to absorb acknowledged that it contributed to their understanding of the challenges of finding a satisfactory resolution. That we could all agree on!

Dr. Abuelaish's resilience and faith were recognized and respected as he endured daily humiliating experiences from the border guards as he crossed into Israel to work. He joins the ranks of other individuals we have met through books who endure unimaginable hardships few of the readers know. Could we be so brave and forgiving?

Dr. Abuelaish became a well respected OB-GYN who treated Israeli women, delivered their babies and helped them overcome fertility issues. He believes his work proves that Arab and Jews can co-exist. When an Israeli shelling kills his 3 daughters and a niece, a daughter who survives the shelling is successfully treated at an Israeli hospital. Israeli military officers arrange immediate transport and crossing of the patients into Israel to treat the horrific wounds done by other Israeli soldiers.

The discussion focused in the merits of the book as we are not mid-east historians, scholar or diplomats. There was consensus that the governments may not always reflect the needs and interests of its citizens. A concluding observation from a reader-was that white men from outside were dictating the direction and life of the citizens of the area..."just as they (attempt) to control women!!"

Lynn Cordy