

LEAVING GAZA WITH A WHITE FLAG

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Have you seen Rami Abu Jamous's film of his family leaving Gaza with white flags made of bath towels? In the streets he walks with his camera on. He sees a neighbour ahead also trying to leave. It's Abu Achmed and his boy on the sidewalk, also with a white flag.

Rami calls out *Abu Achmed!* Abu Achmed is crying. His son lies on cement, turned on his face, long and full of colours like a bull in the sand after a ritual.

On the pavement Abu Achmed is rolling and crying. Rami films. All are in prayer.

Abu Achmed cries in Arabic *kan yanbaghi lana 'an nabqaa fi almanzi* ناك لزنم لا يف يقبن نأ انل يغبنې which means *we should have stayed home*. He cries a hundred times. Suddenly they shout *yatanafas* سفنتي he breathes! Abu Achmed lifts up his son to carry him away. Another strong man comes to help. Running in the streets, he holds the boy upon his arms.

Then a reporter says in English *the son of Abu Achmed did not live*.

Finally his name is said. *Achmed Al Atbash*.

A reporter says, *CNN has drone coordinates of the family as they fled. It shows how they went from their flat, and the brief minutes it took to go around corners under the evacuation.*

They did not have guns, only a broomstick and towel, and a plastic sack.

Rami films. A man on the road says *Gaza est tombé* in French. It means the city has fallen.

