

Ancestors of Palestinian Liberation is a collaboration of
Anemoia Projects and Palestine Advocacy Project

In the face of immense, long-term adversity and
ongoing colonization, Palestinian courage,
brilliance, and creation persist:

For more information on this project:
PalestineAdvocacyProject.org/Ancestors

Or contact us at:
outreach@palestineadvocacyproject.org

Fadwa Tuqan
The Poet of Love and Pain

Ghassan Kanafani
The Fearless Writer of
Resistance and Truth

Naji Al Ali
The Timeless
Palestinian Conscience

Mahmoud Darwish
The Poet of
Palestinian Identity

Rim Banna
The Voice of Palestine

Edward W. Said
The Voice of
Palestinian Self-Narration

Razan Al Najjar
The Angel of Mercy



أسلاف التحرير الفلسطيني
**ANCESTORS OF
PALESTINIAN
LIBERATION**

***Ancestors of Palestinian Liberation* is a project aiming to uplift, learn from and celebrate the lives and work of Ancestors that have shaped the diverse and resilient fabric of Palestinian culture — past, present, and forthcoming.**

In light of western attempts at historical erasure, this project serves as a tool to bring Palestinian names, faces, and histories into everyday spaces.

Let us learn from the stories and voices of these Ancestors to further deepen our understanding of Palestinian contributions to our world today.

Ancestors features seven Palestinian social, cultural, and political icons: one individual for each of the decades that has passed since the *Nakba* (Catastrophe) of 1948. Each figure's biography briefly describes their connection to the *Nakba*, their life's work, and their enduring legacy. The project also provides a glossary of relevant terms and a list of resources for further learning towards a more holistic picture of the depth of their work.

For more information on this freely-accessible project, including how to print these images, further learning resource and how you can share these stories within your community, visit:

www.PalestineAdvocacyProject.org/Ancestors



MAHMOUD DARWISH

THE POET OF PALESTINIAN IDENTITY
(1941 - 2008)

*"I have learned and dismantled
all the words in order to draw from them
a single word: Home."*

Excerpt from *I Belong There*, 1986

A cornerstone of Arabic literature, Mahmoud Darwish was a deeply beloved poet, author, and cultural icon. Expelled from his village of Al-Birweh in 1947, he soon returned to find that it had been destroyed, two Israeli settlements standing in its place. Over the course of his life, he lived as an exile in seven countries, as a refugee in his own homeland, and as a prisoner behind Israeli bars for resisting the colonization of his land through pen and paper. "Sometimes they arrest you while you are committing a dream," he wrote. [1] No stranger to Israel's silencing tactics, Darwish was even placed under house arrest when Palestinian demonstrators turned his poem *Identity Card* into a protest song.

Darwish's over 30 books of poetry speak of love, of exile and longing for homeland, of Palestinian resistance, and of the joy and pain of the common human experience. His writing has on multiple occasions sent Israeli society and politicians into uproar. "The Israelis do not want to teach students that there is a love story between an Arab poet and this land," Darwish said. "I just wish they'd read me to enjoy my poetry, not as a representative of the enemy." [2]

In 1996, Israel granted him permission to live in the Palestinian city of Ramallah. He passed away in 2008. A kind, polite man with a sharp wit and sense of humor, a humanist and poetic tour-de-force, Darwish will forever be remembered as the Palestinian National Poet.

Highlighted quote: Poem *I Belong There* from *Unfortunately It Was Paradise*, Mahmoud Darwish, 2003
[1]: *Journal of an Ordinary Grief*, Mahmoud Darwish, 1973
[2]: *A Love Story Between an Arab Poet and His Land. An Interview With Mahmoud Darwish*, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 2002
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