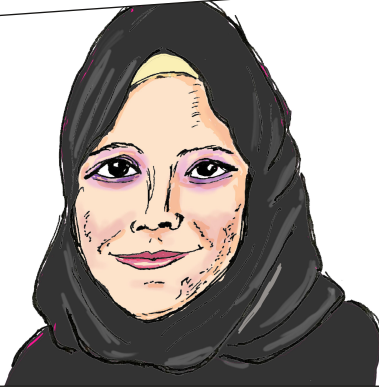
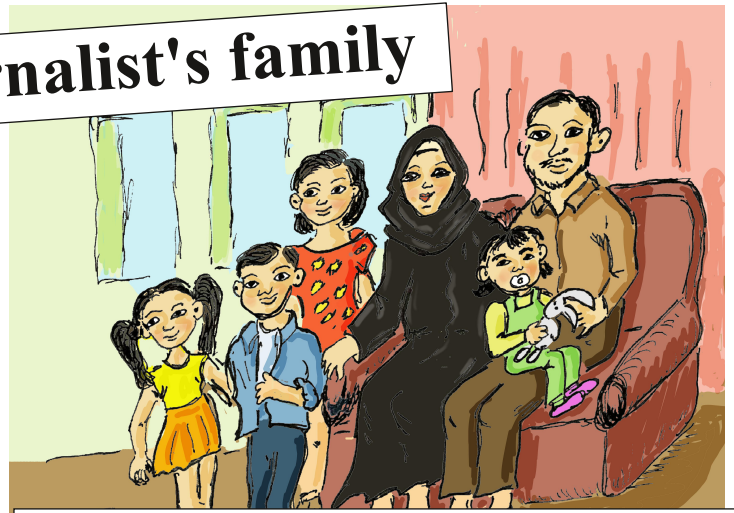


Islam and children, journalist's family



Islam Mahmoud Al Sharaf, 35, was married to Youssef Al Sharaf, 37. Youssef was a journalist for the Shebab Agency (@ShebabAgency). They lived in Gaza City with their four children.



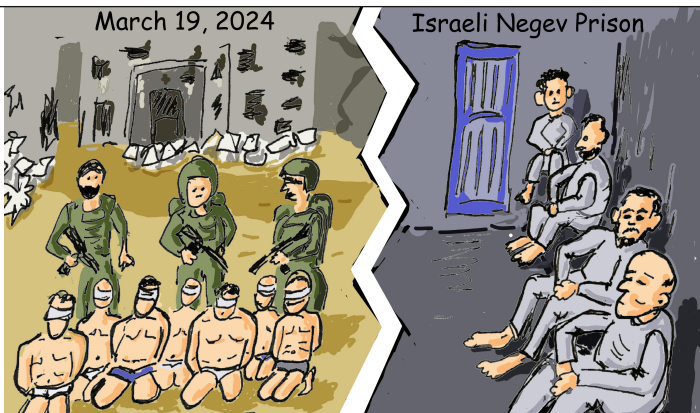
They had three daughters, Malak, 11, Yasmin, 6, who was a karate champion, Nour, 3, and a son, Malik, 10. They lived in the Yarmouk Square area, in a building where Youssef's family, his parents, his brothers, and his uncles and their families also lived.



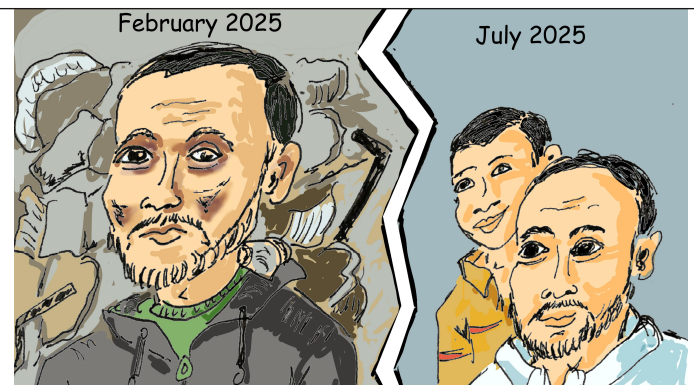
On October 25, 2023, Israel bombed Yarmouk Square, launching more than 30 anti-bunker missiles and completely destroying eight residential buildings in the square. Islam and her four children were killed, and their bodies were left under the rubble, unable to be rescued.



Youssef was not in the building, but in addition to his wife and children, he lost 37 members of his family, among the more than 114 people killed, from up to nine families. Youssef had to move to a tent near Al Shifa Hospital, along with hundreds of other displaced families.



On March 19, 2024, he was captured by Israel during the siege and attack on Al-Shifa Hospital. After stripping him naked, they interrogated and beat him, found out he was a journalist, and transferred him from one prison to another until they took him to Ketzot prison in the Negev desert, where he suffered abuse, malnutrition, illness, and torture for 10 months.



In February 2025, he was released in a hostage exchange and reported the torture he had suffered in Israeli prison to doctors and journalists. In July, he took charge of Mohammad, an orphaned boy the same age as his late son, who had also lost his entire family.

Drawing by Dolores Collado