STORIES OF THE GENOCIDE

Ismael Abu Hatab, photojournalist

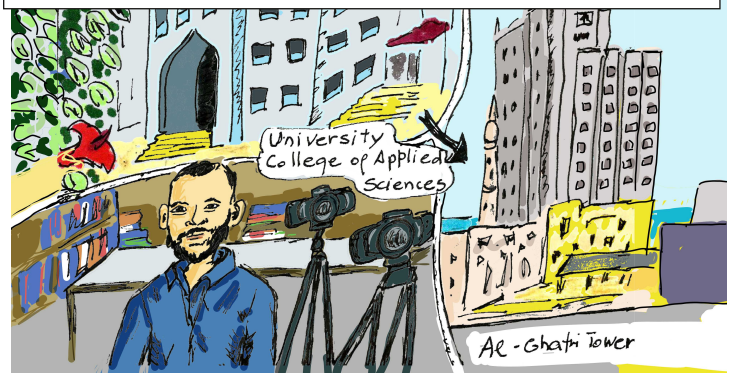
Drawing by Dolores Collado





Ismael Abu Hatab was born in 1993 and grew up in Gaza City; he was a 36-year-old photojournalist and filmmaker. He began at a very young age photographing daily life and scenes of the conflicts with Israel; in 2008. His Instagram account, @ismaelabuhatab, had 96,000 followers.

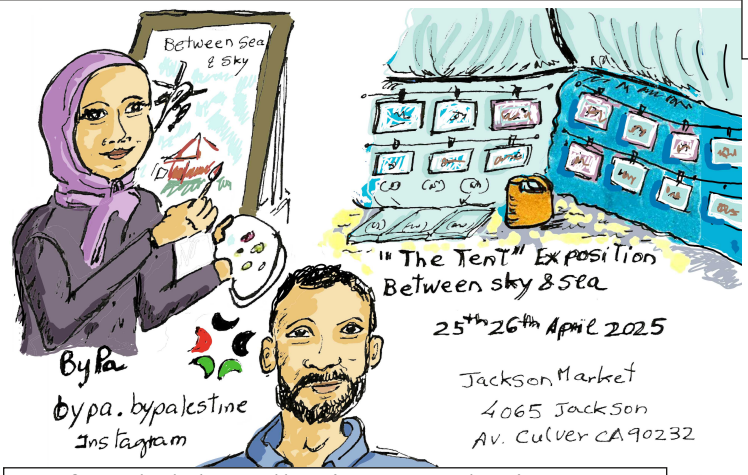
His family lived in Gaza City. His parents, his two sisters, and his younger brother Ahmed—who worked with him in Gaza—continued to collaborate with him from Germany. His brother-in-law was martyred in November 2023, leaving him to care for his widowed sister and nephews.

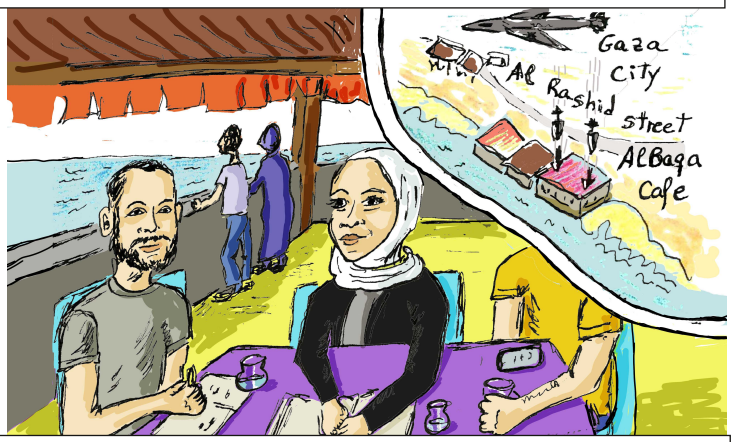




He studied at the University of Applied Sciences in Gaza City. He started his own company and worked in the 16-story Al Ghafri Tower, home to many media offices.

The Al Ghafri Tower was bombed by Israel on November 2, 2023. While Ismael was in the PMG offices, he was wounded in the leg. He was unable to walk for nearly a year and lost his business and his equipment. On September 15, 2025, Israel bombed the Al-Ghafri Tower, reducing it to rubble.





He founded the collective By Palestine (ByPa), a platform for amplifying Palestinian voices, where he collaborated with the artist Frans Al-Salmi. Among his projects was the staging, in April 2025 in Los Angeles, CA, of a documentary exhibition set in a store.

On June 30, 2025, Ismael and Frans were at the Al Baqa café, a gathering and workspace for journalists and artists, thanks to its internet connection, as well as a venue for family celebrations. Israel bombed the café with two successive strikes, reducing it to rubble and killing more than 70 people, including Ismael and Frans.