

ISSUE 1  
APRIL '17

# RITSONA KINGDOM

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# JOURNAL

produced by youth ritsona

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# ritsona kingdom journal

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1. Respect Each Other
2. Respect Each Other's Thoughts, Artwork, & Ideas
3. Encourage One Another & Use Supportive Language
4. No Put Downs
5. Welcome Everyone Regardless of Gender, Religion, & Background

# RULES OF ENGAGEMENT



- ★ Respect: each other, others art work, Ideas.  
الأهتمام، بعضكم، أهتمام من الآخرين والأفكار
- ★ Encourage one another & use Supportive Language.  
تشجيع الآخرين وأستخدام اللهجة المناسبة
- ★ No put downs.  
لا تستهزأ بالآخرين
- ★ Welcome everyone regardless of gender, religion or background.  
مرحبا بكم وأعدا مسهلنا للجميع، عدم التفرقة بالدين
- ★ Respect all materials and ask before taking them from the space.  
أهتمام الأدوات والأستئذان قبل أخذها من مكانها



# BEHIND THE YOUTH RITSONA

In the coldest months of winter, the tree of hope began to blossom. The canvas known in camp as the I Am You library was an idea I had to engage with youth at Ritsona and create an art piece to that would bring together the community and brighten the camp with a dose of colour. Little did I know, this project would be the very beginning of what is now called Youth Ritsona, a program designed to facilitate creativity and encourage and support the amazing youth of Ritsona.

Since opening our doors, we have invited professional artists to conduct workshops in architecture, jewelry design, charcoal portraits, graffiti, photography, and guitar to name a few. Using their words, images and insight The Ritsona Kingdom Journal is a space where the youth can showcase their creativity and express their point of views. Every day their kindness and raw talent leave us in awe; how fortunate we are to be a part of their journey.

Daphne Morgen – Lighthouse Youth Engagement Officer

## Tree of Hope

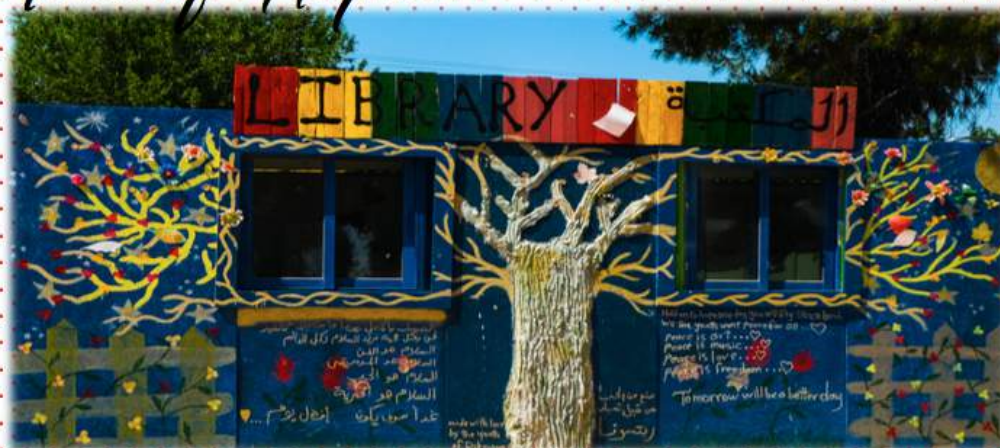


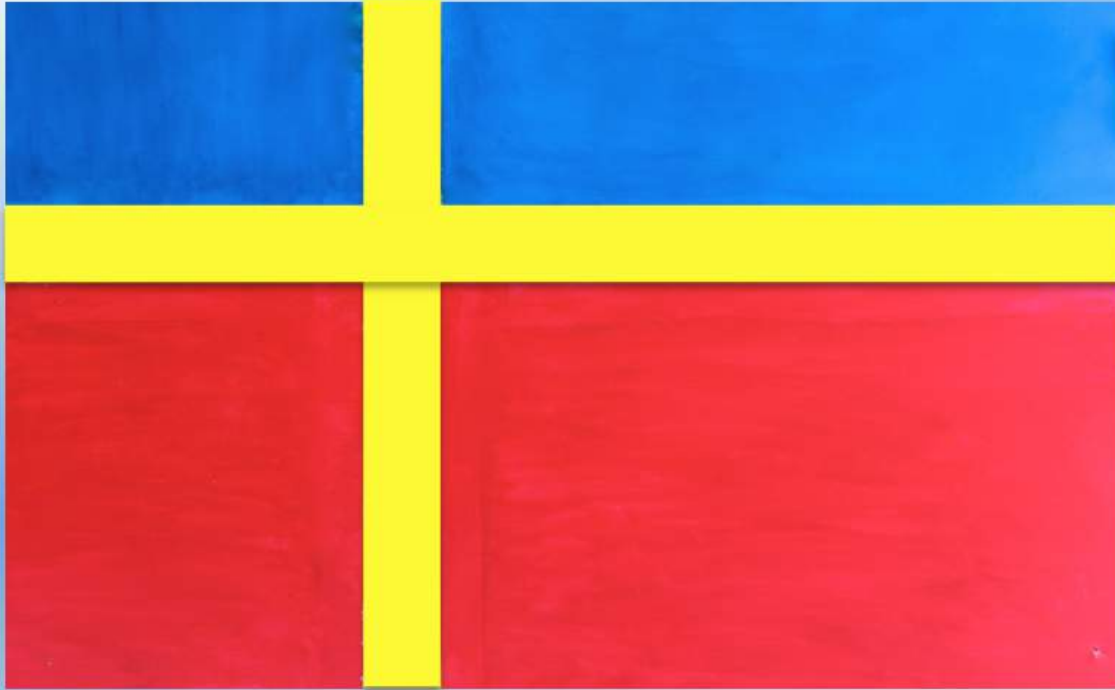
Photo by Farhad Hemê

### Disclaimer

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of *Lighthouse Relief* or *I Am You*, and are individual opinions of the Youth Ritsona.



# THE MAKING OF A NATION: THE RITSONA FLAG



Red: Indicates the Turkish territory, and the yellow line in the middle of the red represents refugees who want to go to Europe, via Turkey.

Blue: Indicates the Greek territory, and the yellow line in the middle of the blue represents stranded refugees in Greece.

Yellow: Indicates the refugees... the long yellow line between blue and red represents the refugees who sank in the Aegean between Turkey and Greece.



Daphne Morgen and Hannah Brumbaum showing support at the first Ritsona United Football match.

**The Flag of Ritsona Kingdom was created by Bassam Omar, also known as the King of Ritsona!**





# workshops









**RITSONA UNITED FC**  
**BY BASSAM OMAR**

FOOTBALL IS THE FIRST POPULAR SPORT IN THE WORLD. IT FASCINATES THE MINDS OF MORE THAN ONE BILLION FOLLOWERS IN THE WORLD -SO IT IS CALLED THE "CHARMING ROUND."

IT IS THE MOST WIDESPREAD SPORT DESPITE THE CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD... BECAUSE OF THE GREAT PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL EFFECTS ON INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY.

THE THING THAT DISTINGUISHES FOOTBALL IS THAT IT'S A COLLECTIVE GAME, NOT AN INDIVIDUAL GAME! THE REASON FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE NAME, "RITSONA UNITED," IS BECAUSE FOOTBALL IS A COLLECTIVE GAME. THIS IS THE REASON I CHOSE THIS NAME FOR OUR TEAM.

I AM QUITE SURE THIS NAME WILL AFFECT THE PLAYERS VERY POSITIVELY. IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT YOUR NATIONALITY, RACE, OR RELIGION, BECAUSE I NEVER CARE ABOUT THESE THINGS.

WE ARE ALL HUMAN BEINGS!!!

RITSONA UNITED REPRESENTS ALL THE REFUGEES IN RITSONA REFUGEE CAMP. I CAN'T EXPRESS HOW HAPPY I AM.

WHEN I FOUNDED THIS TEAM, I TOLD MYSELF THAT THE TEAM NEEDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELP THE REFUGEE IN RITSONA REFUGEE CAMP! SO, I CONTACTED MY SPANISH FRIENDS, WHO WORK FOR THE "ASOCIACIÓN AMIGOS DE RITSONA," AND I ASKED THEM TO HELP THE TEAM AND THEY DID NOT HESITATE TO DO SO. THEY BOUGHT ALL THE SUPPLIES FOR THE TEAM. TO THEM ALL THE THANKS AND GRATITUDE FOR THIS ASSISTANCE WHICH I WILL NEVER FORGET.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DURING THE LONG WAIT IN THIS CAMP-- A WAIT WHICH WE DON'T KNOW WHEN IT WILL END-I DECIDED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS WAIT TO INCREASE MY TALENT IN FOOTBALL, AND NEVER GIVE UP...

MY DREAM IS TO PLAY WITH ANY TEAM IN EUROPE, AND I KNOW THAT THIS IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, BUT I WILL NOT LOSE HOPE BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN HOPE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

MANY EXAMPLES IN LIFE GIVE US LESSONS, ALL OF WHICH INTERFERES WITH THE NEED TO UNITE AND BE ALWAYS ONE HAND, BECAUSE THE UNION IS THE BASIS OF EVOLUTION OF LIFE, AND DISPERSION IS ONLY ONE OF THE CAUSES OF FAILURE AND DESTRUCTION.

THE UNION IS THE BASIS OF VICTORY, SUCCESS, AND ACHEIVMENT OF GOALS, IN WHICH STRENGTH INCREASES.  
GO RITSONA UNITED!





# SPORTS...

**18.04.17**

**Team Ritsona United 4  
Drosia 6**



**"IT'S TRUE WE LOST, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, WE WON!" BASSAM OMAR**



Photo by Beth Trifilo

## **TEAM RITSONA PLAYERS**

**ABU-FAROUQ, AHMED, ABUFARIS, FAHED, KOUTEIBAH, MUHAMMED, GEORGE, BASSAM  
BARRAN, AHMED, TAHA, FARHAD, MICHAEL  
MANAGER: MUSSTAF A MUSSTAF A**



**RITSONA UNITED!**



# Somewhere In The World

By Musstafa Musstafa

An empty place surrounded by trees, a sad place. This is the place that we arrived to and its name is Ritsona. On the day that we arrived, we didn't know what had happened or what would happen. It was a place full with empty tents, but without life. The tents were just waiting for people to live in them. Even the trees were sad. The only thing that we could feel was the harsh cold. There was no sound at first- just the eyes of people watching this empty place and wondering, "What we will do here?". Then you could hear the voices of people talking between themselves, "What is this place we have arrived to, what did we get?" and the voices of children crying, scared of the dark night.

Everyone made something from nothing in order to have work to do. Everyone has a hobby. During the day, children play freely and do not know what they are waiting for. Young people do not live in their childhood, instead they are looking for a place to rest, a better life, for their future. Men sit and think about what to do for their children today and in the future. Here they can do nothing for them, only collect wood to make a fire and keep their children warm.

At night time we sit, meditate and contemplate under the moon. We see only clouds, rain and the smoke of fire. We hear the children crying. The moon gifts us with light during the night and the trees with wood to keep us warm. But we have forgotten how to feel, we no longer feel fear or even the cold.

In this camp there are many people who were confused by each others' customs, traditions and nationalities. We are from different communities and of different faiths.

We spend our time with each other - this place was our only hope to live. We have lived with each other with smiles and strength. We have given hope to each other and have gained respect for all religions.

Now, after one year, those days are gone. This place, Ritsona, has become our homeland for a part of our life. After one year, this place is full and has changed. It has become a happier place. The people who live in this place give it life. They have changed the trees from sad to smiling and now the birds who fill them sing. Now when people visit us, they say, "There are people here - they are human. They have pain and are suffering, but still they smile". The visitors leave and then they return.

Everything in this camp has become a story. We made the dirt speak of our suffering. The tents have become a tale. Love is a novel.

It is impossible to forget our pain and sorrows from Syria and the war. But now we have the new pain and sorrow of waiting for our future. The waiting has become like a knife that causes suffering and the pain is real. Here we are waiting for someone to say to us, "Come and share our place with us. This world is not just for one person, it is for all people".



# PHOTO JOURNALISM



Farhad Hemê on the job



THE OPTIMISTIC GECKO

Picture by Farhad Hemê



Picture by Mustafa Mustafa

RESIDENTS STAY INFORMED AT  
THE MESSAGE TREE OF RITSONA

ART THAT CHANGES THE WORLD



Picture by Farhad Hemê



Musstafa writing for the magazine



# SMILES DRAWN ON OUR FACES

BY YAZAN

War in Syria has been going on for 6 years now, it all started with peaceful demonstrations and strikes demanding Bashar Al-Asad to step down, but he chose to use bullets, tanks and even warplanes to take peaceful protestors down. All of this drove people to use weapons against this regime and a savage war started there leading to death and destruction all over the country.

My aunt died in this war, I lost many friends and family members and under these circumstances, I had to leave Syria with my family. Myself and my family, just like many other Syrians who flee the war, are now depending solely on aids provided by organizations and are living in refugee camps, camps who have extremely bad conditions some can call it inhumane.

I personally was cut off from education two years ago and many kids are left with no schools or any sort of education which worries the parents, those parents who are just thinking about the future of their children.

There is nothing like the destruction that happened in Syria, especially that in my hometown "Aleppo", the city that has been classified as the most destructed city worldwide after World War II and Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I can't describe the emotions I have and no words can describe the feelings when talking about a country which was peaceful and prosper one day, when talking about dreams we wanted to achieve and hopes we had for our future. And now, we look around not aware of where to start and what future is hiding for us. We live in constant anxiety and fear the unknown. As I look into my young brother's eyes longing to a toy and asking about the time he will be able to go back to school, I think about my future, will I be forever stuck in a refugee camp waiting in a queue for food, clothes and hygiene products?

War has destroyed our dreams and left our hopes hanging in a loop of agony and sadness. But our determination to live steady-fastened us to hold on to any opportunity to learn and develop ourselves. Despite the cruelty of war we know this is not the end. I insist on succeeding in a country I don't know, a country that is not mine, a country whose people are kind and generous. Those people who have stood beside us and were the reason for many smiles drawn on our faces, those people who pushed me to look for a life full of happiness and success.

Syria is now torn apart because of war and millions of Syrians are now displaced, hundreds of thousands of children have no education, poverty is everywhere and nightmares are haunting disturbed people every night. Children have become more and more aggressive due to the circumstances they have been through, and that by itself is extremely worrying for me.

War cannot be described in just one word like poverty, sadness, displacement, death, fear or hopelessness. Although one word of these is enough to make the world a dark place to live in, what of all the words were combined in one place?! I am extremely grateful that I have not lost any of my close family members and I am determined to change the reality and wipe away all the effects of war, to provide the world with love and peace which the world itself could not provide



# SMILES DRAWN ON OUR FACES

BY YAZAN... CONTINUED

منذ ست سنوات والحرب في سوريا لازالت مستمرة، كانت البداية مظاهرات سلمية ضد الحكم تطالب برحيل بشار الأسد، إلا أنه استعمل الرصاص والذبابات بل وحتى الطائرات ضد المتظاهرين، مما دفع الناس إلى حمل السلاح ضده، وكثرة القتل والدمار الذي حل هناك، اضطررتُ أنا و عائلتي إلى المغادرة خارج سوريا، حتى أن خالتي قد ماتت نتيجة هذه الحرب فقدنا الكثير من الأقارب والأصدقاء، بعض الناس فقدت ممتلكاتها وأصبحت لا تملك أي مال، تعيش على المساعدات وفي مخيمات اللجوء في ظروف قاسية وسينة، وأحياناً غير إنسانية، انقطعت عن التعليم لمدة سنتين والكثير الكثير من الأطفال والياقين أصبحوا بلا مدارس وبلا تعليم، والأهالي أصبحوا قلقين وخائفين على مستقبل أولادهم. الدمار الذي حل في سوريا كبير جداً، وخاصة في مدينتي حلب، حيث انها صنفت كأكثر مدينة تعرضت للدمار في العالم بعد الحرب العالمية الثانية بعد هيروشيما ناغازاكي.

لا أعرف كيف أصف شعوري أو أتحدث عن بلد كان هادئاً مسالماً، وعن أحلام كنا نبغي تحقيقها، والأن ننظر حولنا ولا نأندري من أين سنبدأ أو ماذا سيحل بنا غداً.

نعيش القلق والخوف من المجهول، أنظر إلى أخي الصغير، وهو يشاق إلى لعبة، ويسألنا كل يوم متى سأذهب إلى المدرسة.

أنا نفسي في بعض الأحيان أفكر ماذا سأفعل في المستقبل، هل سأبقى عالماً في مخيمات اللجوء أنتظر دور الطعام وتوزيع الملابس والمنظفات!!!... وهكذا تمضي الحياة.

الحرب دمرت الكثير من أحلامنا، وعلقت أملنا في دائرة من الألم والحزن، ولكن إصرارنا على الحياة يدفعنا إلى التمسك بأي فرصة للتعليم وتطوير الذات.

رغم قساوة الحرب إلا أنها ليست النهائية. أدرك ذلك وأصمم على النجاح أكثر فأكثر في بلاد غريبة علي، لكن الغالبية من أهلها طيبون يقفون بجانبنا، الكثير من الأصدقاء الذي التقيت بهم كانوا السبب في رسم البسمة على وجهي ودفعي إلى الأمل... من جديد والرغبة في حياة ملؤها النجاح.

البلد الآن تمزق بسبب الحرب، وملايين الناس أصبحت خارج بيوتها، ومئات آلاف الأطفال بلا تعليم، الفقر أصبح في كل مكان، الخوف والاضطرابات النفسية والأحلام المزعجة ترافق الجميع تقريباً، معظم الأطفال أصبحوا أكثر شراسة وعدوانية، انظر إليهم بعين القلق عليهم والحزن لما أصابهم نتيجة الظروف التي مروا بها.

(الحرب لا يمكن تلخيصها بكلمات مثل الفقر الحزن التشرد الموت فقدان الأمل والخوف من كل شيء)

وإن كانت كل كلمة منها لوحدها كافية لجعل العالم مكاناً بشعاً، فكيف إذا اجتمعت كل هذه المآسي في مكان واحد... أشكر الله كثيراً أنني لم أفقد أحد من عائلتي المصغرة.. نحن مصممون على المضي قدماً لمحو آثار الحرب عن أنفسنا في بلد آمن، نحن أكثر الناس إحساساً بالآخرين،





# ***RESIDENT ARTISTS***



***Name:*** Saman Hassani

***From:*** Kurdistan, Iran

***Favorite type of art:***  
Paint and Drawing

***Why do you do art?:***  
“I have magic in my hands. I learn quickly and like to create things”



***Name:*** Dilgin

***From:*** Aleppo, Syria

***Favorite type of art:***  
Music and Paint

***Why do you do art?:***  
“Art is in my blood. I cannot leave it alone.”



***Name:*** Othman Othman

***From:*** Damascus, Syria

***Favorite type of art:***  
Pencil and Paint

***Why do you do art?:***  
“I am a painter. This is my hobby, my interest”



## GET TO KNOW: *Amina*

by Malak Othman

امينة فتاة في الثامنة عشر من العمر  
هبطت على شواطئ اليونان بعد خوض مغامرة البحث عن الأمان ،،  
بعد وصولها الى بر الأمان كغيرها من الناجين ،التقطت أول شهقة حياة وكانت ولدت من  
جديد ،،  
ابتسمت في وجه القدر وفي وجه المحيط شاكرة الرب على إنقاذ حياتهم وشاكية عن مدينة  
الأموات في عمق المحيط ،  
ولكن هل هذه هي النهاية لهذه الرحلة ،،،  
لا ،، انها فقط البداية  
لقد تم إعانة امينة مع باقي الناجين الى مخيم للاجئين ،  
عند وصولها الى المخيم ،، حسنا الوضع اكثر من سيئ ،البرد ،عدم توافر المساعدات  
الإنسانية الكافية ،  
ولكن امينة لاتزال تتمسك بشعلة أمل في أعماق قلبها وربما هذا مايمنعها عن الانهيار فهي  
تؤمن بالغد الأفضل ،،  
ولكن استيقظت امينة من حلم الأمل بعد بضعة أشهر مرت وكانت سنين ،  
استيقظت على حقيقة ان التضحية بروحهم لم تكن كافية للحصول على الأمان ،  
لقد ايقنت امينة انها لاتزال تبحث عن الأمان وهي في الأراضي الأوربية ،،كل هذه الوعود  
بالامن والأمان ،الديمقراطية والإنسانية لم تكن سوى أكاذيب ،  
امينة لا تزال هنا مرت عليها سنة وهي لاتزال تبحث عن هذا الشعور بالأمان الذي تركت  
وطنها للحصول عليه ،، انها تعلم انها سوف تستمر بالبحث ،،  
ولكن الى متى ،،،



Amina is an 18 year old girl plunged into the shores of Greek territory after embarking on the adventure of seeking a life away from blood and seeking a more secure future.

After Amina's arrival in safety, like all the other survivors, she had a safe life bng life that was born again. She smiled in the face of fate. She smiled in the face of the ocean, thanking the lord for saving her and lamenting for those who have died deep in the ocean.

But is this the end of this tragic journey? No... this is just the beginning!

Amina was assisted with the rest of the survivors to a refugee camp... well the situation is more than bad cold and lack of adequate humanitarian aid.

But Amina holds onto hope in the depth of her heart. And perhaps this prevents her from collapsing.

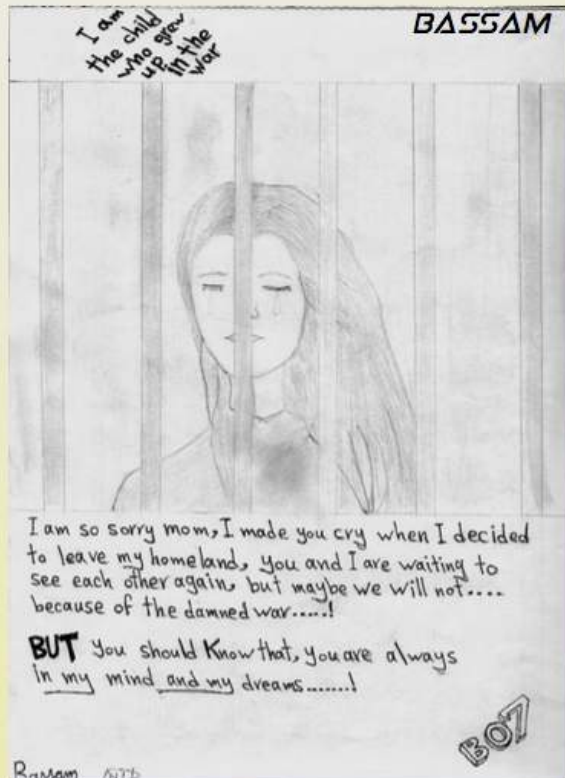
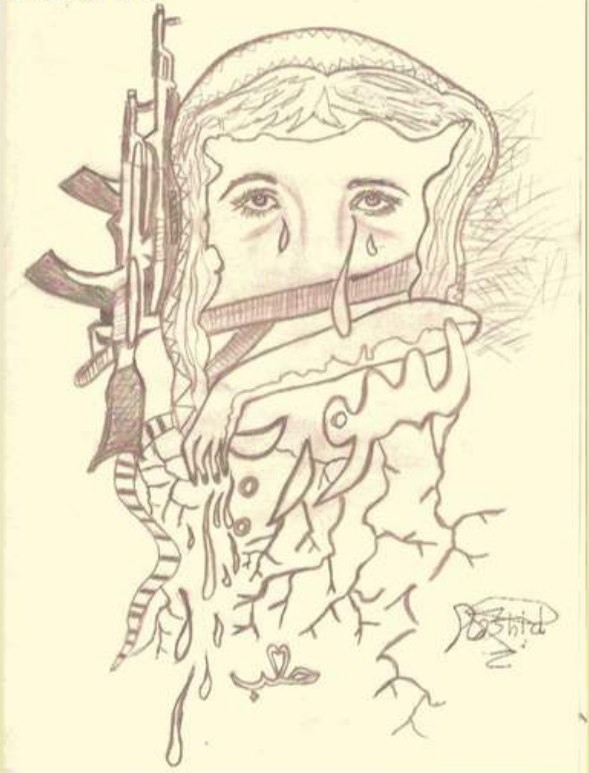
But she awoke from the dream of hope after a few months passed and it was years and not months. She woke up to this fact. The fact that sacrificing her spirit was not enough to reach safety. She is still looking for safety in this European land of security, the promise of security, democracy, and humanity was all a lie.

Amina is still here in Greece and it is a year that she is still looking for this feeling of safety, that she left her land to find. And she knows she will continue to search, but for how long??!



# ART...

RASHID



FARHAD



MICHAEL



**KASSEM**



Our hearts  
become like a  
little child---  
suffering and  
not speaking

Kassem

*And  
Poetry*



**BARAN**

war!!!

There was no war in our country  
Then I realized it was over for me.  
But I did not have the feeling  
that it was really over.

I had the feeling of a boy  
who thinks of what  
is happening at a certain  
hour at the schoolhouse from  
which he has played truant

BOZ

**BASSAM**



**MALAK**





# FASHION

BY AMINA RASHID

HERE AT RITSONA, THE IDEA IS TO MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING.



WE TRY TO MAKE THINGS  
BEAUTIFUL. WE ARE MAKING  
FASHION FROM WOOL AND FROM  
PLASTIC THREADS AND BEADS.



COLLECT ANYTHING AND CREATE!







# DIY

with noure

## do it yourself!

1.



2.



3.



تطريز هو جميل جدا لوحة جميله جدا بحيث يكون الإبداع الحقيقي للشخص والتفنن في إبراز موهبة ولمساته الخاصة على القماش وفن تحويل قطعه قماش عاديه الى لوحة جميلة جدا .  
تطريز يدوي لزهرة سهلة جدا

١ نقوم برسم الدائرة بحجم صغير ويمكن أخذ مكان النقاط التي نحتاجها دون اللجوء الى رسم الدائرة يجب أن يكون لدينا ٨ نقاط على شكل دائرة ويجب أن تكون نفس المسافة بين كل نقطة ونقطة

٢ نقوم بتطريز بتلات بلخيطة كل نقطة تبدو البتلات بهذا الشكل

٣ وبعدها نقوم بغرز الابرة في المركز الدائري والوصول بين البتلات والمركز!



It speaks for  
itself, it doesn't  
need a title!



## Michael's Comix



# BEWARE OF ARTISTS

THEY MIX WITH ALL  
CLASSES OF SOCIETY  
AND ARE THEREFORE  
THE MOST DANGEROUS



# *La Comida...*

*by Malak Othman*

## Ingredients:

2 cups of lukewarm water  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon of sugar  
1 pinch of salt  
2 cups of flour  
1 teaspoon of corn starch  
3 liters of milk  
½ lemon  
1 teaspoon rose water  
1 teaspoon of sugar



- Mix the water, baking powder, 1 teaspoon of sugar, and salt together.
- Mix the flour and the corn starch together.
- Mix the liquid and the flour mixtures together, and then let it sit for 30 minutes, until it begins to bubble and ferment.
- Boil the milk. After it boils add the lemon juice and continue to boil until it becomes like cheese, about 10 minutes. Then pour the cheese into a cloth bag until the filling dries. Mix the cheese with the sugar and rose water.
- Place the dough in a non-stick pan with a cup in the form of small circles until one side is brown.



- Take the cheese stuffing and put it in the center of the dough. Close the circle with the stuffing inside.





Photo by Baran

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youth ritsona mottos...

