One Book, Many Communities
2026 Resource Guide



Perfect Victims and the Politics of Appeal
by Mohammed el-Kurd

The “One Book, Many Communities” campaign by Librarians and Archivists with Palestine aims to introduce readers to the richness of Palestinian literature and create a broader awareness and understanding of Palestinian history and the struggle for self-determination.

Explore the recommended books, articles, and videos below for more about Palestinian youth, journalism, and Israeli imprisonment of Palestinians.

Note: While some of these works are created for younger readers/viewers, most are more appropriate for adult audiences. Keep this in mind when choosing media for your group.

Land Acknowledgements and Alternatives

- **Beyond Land Acknowledgement: A guide from the Native Governance Center**

Native Governance Center held an event on moving beyond land acknowledgment on August 25, 2021.This guide is based on content contributed during our event; we are grateful to our presenters for sharing their wisdom with us.

- **Land Reparations & Indigenous Solidarity Toolkit**

There is no blueprint for how to work towards land rematriation and land returns to Indigenous people. Every region, location, and tribe has its own story of colonization and its own current landscape of Indigenous-led organizing. This brief guide is a compilation of educational resources, case studies of rematriation, as well as some initial questions to consider when planning a land return.

Brief Biography of Mohammed el-Kurd

Mohammed el-Kurd is an award-winning poet, writer, journalist, and organizer from Jerusalem, occupied Palestine, and co-founder of the #SaveSheikhJarrah movement. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Brooklyn College CUNY and a BFA in Writing from the Savannah College of Art and Design. el-Kurd has received the Arab America Civil Council's Truth in Media Award (2022), the Calgary Peace Prize (2023), and his work has been shortlisted for the One World Media Print Award (2022) and the Forward Prize for Best First Collection (2022). He was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2021 by TIME Magazine. Outside of his numerous contributions through his journalism and poetry, el-Kurd has two published titles, *Perfect Victims and the Politics of Appeal* (2025) and *RIFQA* (2021), which have both been translated into various languages.

Articles and Videos About Mohammed el-Kurd and Sheikh Jarrah

- **Just Vision, *My Neighborhood*** March 2013, 25:51

Mohammed El Kurd is a Palestinian boy growing up in the neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah in the heart of East Jerusalem. When Mohammed turns 11, his family is forced to give up part of their home to Israeli settlers, who are leading a campaign of court-sanctioned evictions to guarantee Jewish control of the area. *My Neighbourhood* follows Mohammed as he comes of age in the midst of unrelenting tension and remarkable cooperation in his backyard. Highlighting Mohammed's own reactions to the highly volatile situation, reflections from family members and other evicted residents, accounts of Israeli protesters and interviews with Israeli settlers, the film chronicles the resolve of a neighbourhood and the support it receives from the most unexpected of places. Includes discussion guide.

- **Mohammed Alatar, *Jerusalem The East Side Story*** December 9 2017 56:41

The film documents Palestinian everyday life under Israeli occupation in East Jerusalem. It uncovers Israel's policy of judaizing the city in order to gain Jewish majority by driving out Palestinian people from the city. The documentary includes interviews with Palestinian as well as Israeli political leaders, political analysts and human right activists.

- **The al-Kurd family – fighting to save their home in Sheikh Jarrah**

Al Jazeera, June 7 2021

- **How Israel is leveraging legal tools and development plans to seize Palestinian neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah**

Arab News, Nov 25 2025

- **Backed by North American Dollars, A Yeshiva Could Push Palestinians Out of Sheikh Jarrah**

Jewish Currents May 19, 2026

- **Spotlight on Sheikh Jarrah**

A series of articles, photo essays, and analysis, from *+972 Magazine's,*covering 2010-2012

Speeches and Video Interviews with Mohammed el-Kurd

- **How to Answer the Stupidest Questions About Palestinians** from *The Nation* July 1 2025

El Kurd reflects on the many insipid, insulting and dehumanizing queries he receives.

- **Inside the Narrative War: Mohammed el-Kurd's "Plea Against Pleas"** Tracy Jawad, in *The Public Source*, reviews *Perfect Victims*, and gives an overview of El-Kurd's life and career. March 28 2025
- **"We Deserve Our Land Back"**

Mohammed el-Kurd 's UN speech, Nov 30, 2021, 10:35 minutes

- **Mohammed el-Kurd's Speech on Gaza**

The Palestine Festival of Literature, Feb 26, 2024 18:40 minutes

- **"In Bad Faith" with Mohammed el-Kurd and Morgan Bassichis**

Mondoweiss, Jul 10, 2024, 21 minutes

When a Palestinian is brought onto Western media to talk about what's happening in Palestine, it's seldom in good faith. This video satirizes the hostile and bad-faith questions that Palestinians confront during mainstream media interviews. Irreverence in the face of dehumanization can flip the script and transform the way audiences engage with Palestine. Exposing the pernicious subtext of bad faith questions—or even merely ridiculing them—can disarm them.

- **This House Believes Israel is an Apartheid State Responsible for Genocide**
  Mohammed el-Kurd, Dec 5, 2024 11:25 minutes

The Oxford Union is the world's most prestigious debating society, with an unparalleled reputation for bringing international guests and speakers to Oxford. Since 1823, the Union has been promoting debate and discussion not just in Oxford University, but across the globe.

- **"Dehumanisation of Palestinians is so normalised,"**

Mark Lamont Hill interview with Mohammed el-Kurd for "UpFront," *Al Jazeera English* February 7 2025, 24:51 minutes

"Death is so quotidian that journalists report it as though they're reporting the weather" wrote Palestinian poet and author Mohammed el-Kurd amid Israel's war on Gaza. And with a ceasefire in place, the fate of Palestinians remains uncertain. So what role does the Western gaze play in perpetuating a narrative that dehumanizes Palestinians and how does it shape our understanding of their struggle for justice and liberation? This week on UpFront, Marc Lamont Hill discusses with author and poet Mohammed el-Kurd the resistance and dehumanisation of Palestinians.

- **Writer Mohammed El-Kurd on "Perfect Victims" & Israel's Criminalization of Thought**

Democracy Now interview with Amy Goodman on scholasticide Feb 11th 2025. 14:57 minutes

- **Mohammed el-Kurd: how do we get beyond Palestinian 'perfect victims'?**

"The Take "by *Al Jazeera* English Feb 14 2025 14 minutes. El-Kurd discusses his poetry book *Rifqua* about his grandmother, and how he felt the need to "sand the edges" off her to "humanize" her; about the spinelessness of media, the acceptance of ethnic cleansing, and how he was exploited as a child activist by those who refused to listen to adults.

- **Abby Martin interviews Mohammed el-Kurd on the Politics of Appeal**

The Empire Files, Feb 20, 2025 39 minutes

Adult Programming and Discussions

- **The Palestine Bookshelf**

Historically organized booklist from a volunteer organization educating the public about Palestine and issues related to its history and the current situation.

- **Books for Palestine**

From Palestinian publisher Interlink Books, keeps an active list of over one hundred and fifty books for adults, teens and children, published by Palestinians or about Palestine that have been vetted for accuracy. Includes fiction, cookbooks, memoirs, history, poetry, and graphic novels.

- **Palestine Book Awards**

Since 2012, awards books in categories such as Academic, Translation, Memoir, Oral History and CreativeThe complete annotated list of award winners and nominees contains over five hundred books.

- **Haymarket Press free e-books on Palestine**
- **Our History of Popular Resistance**

Reading List from the Palestine Youth Movement

- **Free Palestine Reading list**

From Pluto Press

- **Solidarity with Palestine: Free Resources and Further Reading**

From Verso Books

- **Palestine in a Nutshell**

An education series dedicated to providing a succinct overview of the daily oppression, dehumanization, and denationalization that Palestinians experience. Episodes range from history, politics, current events, and concepts. From American Muslims for Palestine

- **Librarians for Ceasefire**

Collaboration between four librarians guided by a vision of freedom, justice, and dignity for all people, and to address misinformation about Palestine. Currently contains 3 booklists:

    - Palestinian Reads for Kids and Teens
    - Palestinian Memoirs and Personal Narratives
    - Understanding Palestine

Teen and Youth programs

- **Children's and Young Adult Books on Palestine**

from Books on Palestine, an organization of publishing industry workers supporting Palestine

- **Diverse BookFinder/Palestine**

Excellent tool for identifying teen and children’s books by or about Palestinians

- **Teach Palestine**

Wonderful site with lists of books, videos, curriculum guides and numerous resources on how to teach Palestine to children and teens

- **Teaching about Palestine | Center for Contemporary Arab Studies | Georgetown University**

CCAS offers teacher workshops and videos on Palestinian history and culture, —past and present—within broader regional and global contexts.

- **Zinn Education Project: Teaching About the Violence in Palestine and Israel**

The Zinn Education Project promotes and supports the teaching of people's history in classrooms across the United States of America, introducing students to a more accurate, complex, and engaging understanding of history than is found in traditional textbooks and curricula.