

Episode 33: Alena Jabarine, Journalist and Author

Guest: Alena Jabarine, Journalist and Author

Hosts: Efe & Philip

Bio: Alena Jabarine, born in 1985 in Hamburg, is a German-Palestinian journalist, author, and Middle East expert. She studied Political Science in Hamburg and earned a Master's in International Relations in Barcelona. After a traineeship at NDR, she worked as a radio and TV reporter and contributed to NDR Info, STRG_F, Panorama 3, Monitor, StudioM, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Die Zeit, and Spotify Originals. She has received multiple awards, including the Kurt-Magnus-Preis (2016), MedienSpiegel (2016), Juliane-Bartel-Medienpreis (2018), and the Grimme Online Award (2021). From 2020–2022 she lived in Ramallah, reporting on everyday life and politics for the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. Since May 2024, she curates *Gaza Talks* at the Berliner Ensemble. In May 2025, her autobiographical book *Der letzte Himmel. Meine Suche nach Palästina* became a Spiegel bestseller, establishing her as one of the most prominent Palestinian voices in Germany today.

In this episode: Alena Jabarine shares her insights on the humanitarian and social situation in Gaza and the West Bank since October 7. She discusses how Palestinians in Israel, the West Bank, and Germany have experienced the aftermath of the attacks, the challenges faced by families, and the role of humanitarian organizations such as the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. She reflects on how pro-Palestinian advocacy and public perception intersect with freedom of expression, and what lessons society and schools can draw to support Palestinian communities in Germany.

Links:

Jabarine, Alena. *Der letzte Himmel: Meine Suche nach Palästina*. [The last sky: My Quest for Palestine] Ullstein Verlag, 2025. https://www.ullstein.de/werke/der-letzte-himmel/hardcover/9783550203145?utm_source=chatgpt.com (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

The Title of the Book is a reference to: Darwish, Mahmoud. “*The Earth Is Closing On Us*.” Translated by Abdullah al-Udhari, in *Victims of a Map: A Bilingual Anthology of Arabic Poetry*. Ed. Adonis, Samih al-Qasim, and Mahmoud Darwish. London: Saqi Books, 1984, pp. 12-13.

The Earth is closing on us

*The earth is closing on us, pushing us through the last
passage, and we tear off our limbs to pass through.
The earth is squeezing us. I wish we were its wheat so we
could die and live again. I wish the earth was our mother
So she'd be kind to us. I wish we were pictures on the rocks
for our dreams to carry
As mirrors. We saw the faces of those to be killed by the last
Of us in the last defense of the soul
We cried over their children's feast. We saw the faces of
those who will throw our children
Out of the window of this last space. Our star will hang
Up mirrors.
We should we go after the last frontiers? Where should the
Birds fly after the last sky?
Where should the plants sleep after the last breath of air?
We will write our names with scarlet steam,
We will cut off the hand of the song to be finished by our flesh.
We will die here, here in the last passage. Here and here our
Blood will plant its olive tree.*

– Mahmoud Darwish

Letter of Michael O'Flaherty, Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe, to the German Government criticizing Police violence: <https://rm.coe.int/letter-to-federal-minister-of-the-interior-germany-by-michael-o-flaher/1680b64870> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Please also check out our other episodes in the political debate chapter to explore multiple perspectives.

Dedication:

We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed and injured in Gaza and their grieving families and friends. To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima and Mai who shared their losses so powerfully with us. To their families: Tal's wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings, to Mai's and Sima's family, to her mother Bushra.

To the blessed memory of: Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeris Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.

Disclaimer:

In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, and expert perspectives. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.

Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the *Preis des Historischen Kollegs* in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.