This is the translation of the Gaza Testimony of Amal Abu Dawood reported on February 6, 2024.

**AMAL ABU DAWOOD**

Hello. My name is Amal. I am 40 years old and I am the mother of three children. I work in Theatre Day Productions. This is the great place where every day you can learn something new. I began my work there in 2008. And truly I never think to leave this work.

Since then, and until 2020, I was living in a shared house with the family of my husband. We decided, in 2022, we were able to buy a house especially for me, for us, and for the children and so we bought a house in building in the Tel Al Hawwa neighborhood of Gaza city. And we were very busy… it took time and we were busy finishing the apartment, arranging it, and building everything inside, preparing it. It took about six months before we were able to move into this house on 20 of January, 2023 and I remember that date very well. Because, for me, that was the date of the beginning of a new life for me and for my children. (*She cries*)

We lived there approximately nine months before the day of October 7 happened. And I had to leave my house. It was very difficult in Gaza and I, for the first time in my life, lived such a thing in the city of Gaza. During the previous wars, the situation was a bit easier, those wars that are over while we were in Deir Al Balah. So we came and now I was back in the same place that I was in for 10 or 11 years, back to the house of the family of my husband.

So we were here and we couldn’t do anything about it. We couldn't bring anything with us but for some clothing for the children, some food, a can of gas. But as time passed, month after month, you have new needs, you need water, you need to drink, you need to bath the children, you need to do laundry. You have to gather wood, you have to make a fire, you have to cook. I started to make bread in the house. I would make the dough and make the bread for the children and I had no idea how to do this before. And ofcourse you get used to this because all of the other people are afraid for their children exactly the way I was afraid for my children. They also left their houses and they came to the area in the middle region of Gaza. And to the south. And the needs of the people get more and everybody started to do the same kind of things as the panic was building. The people are all in a bad situation. We were running to try to get gas. To try to get flour. We stood very many lines to get a bag of flour. We slept for two nights at the line at the gas station - my husband and I - to get gas. In the end, there was none left. The situation is hard. The situation is very very hard. The people come from everywhere. Beit Lahya, Beit Hanoun, Jabaliya. And everyone would stand at the same place. You can't imagine. The amount of pressure we were under, and how we were living. To have food for the children.

We, the team of Theatre Day Productions tried to do something. We couldn’t leave them without hearing their stories, without being next to them. We are part of these people and we can't leave the children and the women and the boys (*she cries)* and the men. I felt that we had to get together. We met in my house. And I felt like I was seeing all of my brothers and sisters again, that I am still a human being, I am still a person who can do something. All my life I worked, I’m that kind of person. I could be the person who I was. It was very nice to see them and we decided to do workshops in a center near here. And storytelling was with women and children and young men In the end, we had many many stories, terrible stories. We heard from the women and the children and you feel at least you are doing something. You are present. You are doing something. I am so happy talking to you. Thank you all of you. No one has asked me this question until now. Thank you.