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Special Issue

Palestinian Children under occupation

There shall be peace on earth

*by Cedar
Duaybis*

There shall be peace on earth but not until
All children daily eat their fill,
Go warmly clad against the winter wind,
And learn their lessons with a tranquil mind.
And thus released from hunger, fear and need,
Regardless of their color, race or creed,
Look upward smiling to the skies,
Their faith in life reflected in their eyes

United Nations Women's Guild

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Be Peace On
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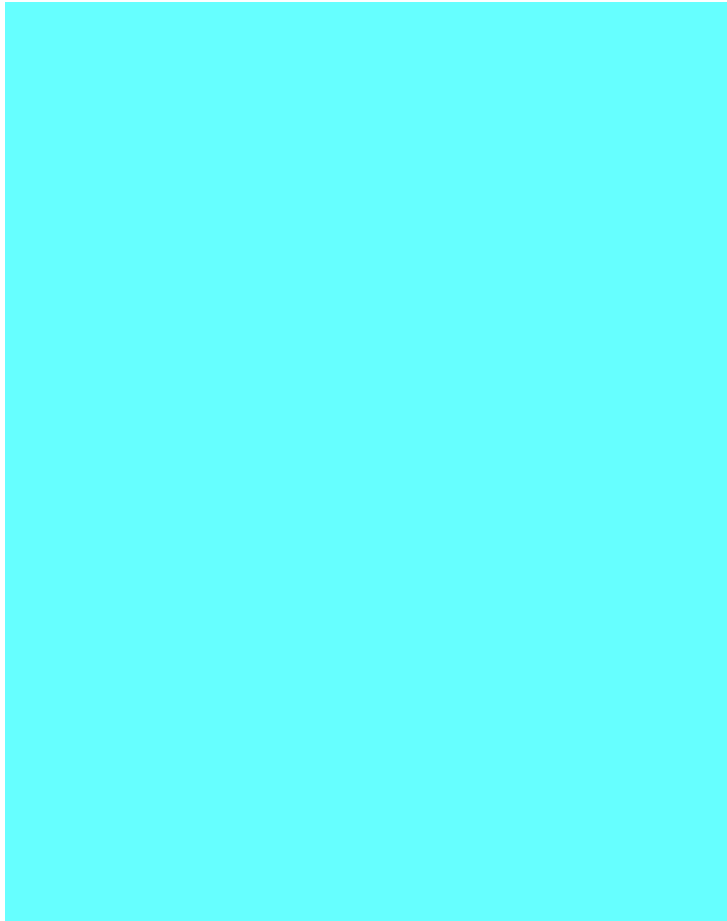
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We were all children at one time; and we all have our childhood memories - some that we cherish and others that we would rather forget. Palestinians who were children in 1948 are now grandmothers and grandfathers. They remember their towns and villages, their homes, their orange groves, their olive trees, and the streets where they played with their friends. They remember the terraced hills, the vineyards, and the fig trees, lovingly tended by their parents

comes with the simplicity of life. They were content in their heart and had peace in their soul, and they were thankful.

This was shattered by a nightmare that will not come to an end: the 1948 *Nakba* (or catastrophe) turned their lives upside down. Today, fifty-three years later, they are still trying to shake it off. The prayer on their lips is always: "May our children see better days." The miracle is that they never lost hope.

Palestinian children today know nothing but deprivation. They are deprived of everything that other children take for

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granted. They are deprived of their childhood and everything that goes with it. They have forgotten how to play or laugh. What they need most is tranquility of mind. What memories will they have of their childhood years?

Jesus was born under harsh conditions into a family whose life was ravished

and grandparents.

The picture is simple,
uncluttered, and
beautiful; but most of all,
they remember the
tranquility of mind that

by political
turmoil. He too
lived under
occupation and,
together with his
parents, became
a refugee in a
foreign country.
His life was
threatened by a
powerful and
evil ruler, and he
must have
known hunger,
thirst, and
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