

The Red Minaret

Memoirs of

Ibrahim Ghushah

(Ex-Spokesman of Hamas)



Al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies & Consultations

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(Ex-spokesman of Hamas)

English Version

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
List of Abbreviations	7
Introduction	9
<i>Chapter One: Childhood Memories from Birth to 1948</i>	
My Childhood Environment	13
Childhood Memories	18
Memories from the Palestine War	20
The Relationship with Christians	23
Jerusalem's Markets	24
The Relationship with Jews	24
Education	25
Economic Life	26
<i>Chapter Two: The 1948 War and Its Aftermath, to 1954</i>	
Memories of the 1948 War	29
The Move to Jericho	30
Return to Jerusalem	33
Affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood	34
The Emergence of Hizb ut-Tahrir	35
The Assassination of King 'Abdullah	38
Some of the Brotherhood Movement's Activities	39
<i>Chapter Three: The Fifties</i>	
Memories of Jerusalem	47
Al-Menshiyyah Incident	49
The Matriculation Exam and Moving to Egypt to Study	51
Together with the Palestinian and Jordanian Brothers in Egypt	53
The Brothers and the Beginnings of the Palestine Liberation Movement (Fatah)	59
The Stance vis-à-vis the Tripartite Aggression of 1956	62
Conditions in Jordan	64
Evaluating Nasser's Era	66
Other Activities	70

Chapter Four: The Sixties

Work in the East Ghor Canal	75
Syria's Secession from the Union with Egypt	78
Work in the Kuwait Municipality	79
The Establishment of the PLO and Its Relationship with Fatah	80
Hani Bsiso	82

Chapter Five: The Late Sixties and Early Seventies

Working in Jordan on Khalid Ibn al-Walid Dam	87
The 1967 War	89
Work Inside the Brotherhood and the Corrective Movement	94
Al-Karamah Battle	96
The Events of September 1970	98

Chapter Six: The Seventies

The Return to Jordan and the King Talal Dam Project	105
The October 1973 War	109
Work in the Jordan Engineers Association	110
Developments in Lebanon	115
Iran's Islamic Revolution	117

Chapter Seven: The Eighties

Engagement in the Private Sector	131
Tourism	131
The Activities of the MB Movement in Jordan	135
The 1987 <i>Intifadah</i>	139
Dedication to the Palestine Apparatus	141

Chapter Eight: The Period 1990–1991

Hamas and its Relationship with Fatah and the PLO	145
The Iraqi Occupation of Kuwait and Its Repercussions	148
Conditions in Jordan and the Role of the MB Movement	155
Appointment as the Official Spokesman of Hamas	158
Dialogue with the PFLP and DFLP	159
The National Islamic Conference	159
Second Encounter Between Hamas and Fatah	160
Tehran's Conference to Support the <i>Intifadah</i>	162
The Meeting of the Ten Palestinian Factions	163

Chapter Nine: The Period 1992–1993

Membership of the Preparatory Committee of the IAF	169
Skirmishes with Fatah in GS	170
The Events of Marj al-Zuhur	171
Meeting with ‘Arafat and the Relationship with Fatah	172
The Khartoum Dialogue with Fatah, 1993	175
Rules Governing Hamas’ Status in Jordan	176
Launching of Hamas’ External Contacts	176
Oslo Accords	179
The Palestinian Ten-Faction Coalition	180

Chapter Ten: The Period 1994–1996

Forms of opposition to Oslo	185
The Revenge Operations Against the Ibrahimi Mosque Massacre and Their Repercussions	187
The Departure of Musa Abu Marzuq and ‘Imad al-‘Alami from Jordan	191
Fatah-Hamas Negotiations	194
The Killing of Yahya ‘Ayyash and Its Repercussions	195
Turkey’s Visit	199

Chapter Eleven: The Period 1997–1998

The Major Events of 1997	203
Friction with the Intelligence Department	203
Assassination Attempt on Khalid Mish‘al	205
Developments in Jordan During 1998	221
Sheikh Ahmad Yasin’s Tour	226

Chapter Twelve: Detention in Jordan and Expulsion to Qatar, 1999

Arrest of a Number of Hamas Leaders in Jordan	231
Deportation to Qatar	240

Chapter Thirteen: The Period 2000–2001

Developments in the Relationship with Damascus	247
Visit to Algeria	248
Resuming Relations with Jordan	248
Tehran Visit	249
A Saudi Invitation to Perform ‘Umrah	250
Rearrangement Within Hamas	250

Some Major Events in 2000	251
Developments in 2001	252
Return to Jordan	255
The Events of 11/9/2001	263
Documents	269
Index	277



List of Abbreviations

DFLP	Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine
GID	General Intelligence Department
GS	Gaza Strip
IAF	Islamic Action Front
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
MB	Muslim Brotherhood
PA	Palestinian Authority
PFLP	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PFLP-GC	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command
PIJ	Palestine Islamic Jihad
PLC	Palestinian Legislative Council
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PNC	Palestinian National Council
PSS	Preventive Security Service
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WB	West Bank



Introduction

Praise be to *Allah* Who has granted me help in writing these memoirs at 70 years of age; an age that *Allah* has bestowed on me, and during which I have lived in contentment under His protection. I thank Him for His infinite blessings; foremost among them, those of belief and of the Holy Qur'an. During those years, I have walked in the steps of the Honored Messenger who likened the period of a lifetime to a man who sought shade under a tree, then got up and went on his way. I ask *Allah* that, on the Day of Resurrection, He will give me shelter under His shade on the Day when there will be no shade but His.

First of all, I dedicate this book to the martyrs who met their death fighting in *Allah's* way, in defense of the land of the Isra' and Mi'raj (Prophet Muhammad's journey by night and ascension to the heavens). And I ask *Allah* Most High to let me follow their path; He is the All-hearing, ready to answer prayers.

I also dedicate this book to my brothers in the Call to Islam and in the Movement; with whom I have worked and whom I have loved for *Allah's* sake; as we worked together to offer a successful Islamic model that would realize the hope of the *Ummah* (Muslim Nation) to liberate dear Palestine and establish a divine and fair system for all of humanity. In such a system, humanity will breathe freedom, social justice and respect of man, having uprooted oppression, corruption and repression.

Furthermore, I dedicate this book to my small family. To my dear wife who stood by me and supported me whenever I was exposed to danger, expulsion, prison or house arrest. And to my dear sons and daughters who also endured hardship with me. May *Allah* reward them all for that, in this life and in the Hereafter.

I thank the dear brothers who encouraged me to publish these memoirs and worked on their production. Among them dear Brother ('A.) who worked with me in all seriousness and determination during four continuous months, and Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz, and all those who helped prepare and publish them. I ask *Allah* to reward them for all that they had done.

Within its folds, this book carries only factual events that I have lived through, ever since I opened my eyes to this world in our old house in al-Sa'diyyah neighborhood in Jerusalem, adjacent to the "Red Minaret." This minaret was the highest structure that I could see when I was a youngster, playing with other children in the neighborhood, and when I became a student at elementary and secondary levels. I later left Jerusalem and headed to Cairo where, over a period



of six years, I studied engineering, developing a passion which became the profession that I have practiced over the course of 30 years in Jordan. There, I dedicated myself to the building of the East Ghor Canal (now known as the King ‘Abdullah Canal), Khalid Ibn al-Walid Dam and King Talal Dam, Jordan’s greatest project. I also had my private work, designing structures, buildings, factories, mosques and schools with proficiency, integrity and dedication. Then in Kuwait, I devoted myself to working in its municipality and in Kuwait’s towers, as well as other projects.

As a member of the Jordan Engineers Association, I pride myself on having worked with dear brothers on establishing a serious and clean syndicate working system, securing benefits for all, which are now granted to tens of thousands of engineers. In the Syndicate’s halls and corridors, I learned team work, honest competition and freedom of work and expression, which I hope will soon flow in the veins of dear Jordan and in the other Arab and Muslim countries.

I worked in various regions of Jordan, in particular, in its middle and north. So I got to know its mountains and valleys, walking them with my feet, and washing my face with the waters of the Zarqa and Yarmouk Rivers, when their waters were clean and sparkling; before the curse of pollution got to them. In Jordan, I was subjected to oppression from some people, for no reason except that I loved both Jordan and Palestine, and I hated oppression and the ugly Israeli occupation of the blessed land. It is this land where I wish to pray in its *al-Aqsa* Mosque once more before I die. This is the land that I left 40 years ago, and have not seen since. I pray that one day it will be liberated, and one of my children or grandchildren will enter it and realize my final wish, *Insha’Allah* (God Willing).

May *Allah* grant success to this endeavor.

Ibrahim Ghusheh

This Book

This book is not merely the autobiography of Mr. Ibrahim Ghushah, it is also a living testimony of the Palestinian and Jordanian Muslim Brothers' experience over a fifty years span.

Ibrahim Ghushah was the official spokesman for Hamas during the period 1991–1999. His memoirs provide rich material and information published for the first time. These are the memoirs of a man who was present during the political decision-making of the Hamas Movement, especially in the first twelve years following its inception.

Ghushah's memoirs are characterized by their clarity and candor. They bring to light many of Hamas' stands and viewpoints regarding a number of issues, which could be considered points of controversy among researchers, in particular during the period leading to *al-Aqsa Intifadah*.

Without a doubt, this book is indispensable for all those interested in Palestine studies and the contemporary history of the Palestinian issue.

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