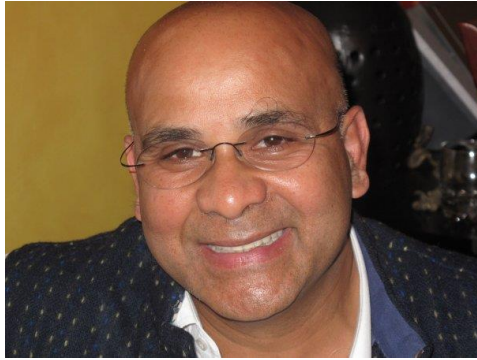




Majdi and Rahul issued a joint statement on Gaza in the aftermath of an Israeli attack. A copy of this statement is Rahul's submission to the celebration of Majdi's life.



 **TEESRI DUNIYA THEATRE**
presents
THE LAST 15 SECONDS
Created by The MT Space
Directed by **Majdi Bou-Matar**




He spent his life promoting Islam to the West
and was killed by an Islamic extremist

Featuring : Trevor Copp, Anne-Marie Donovan,
Nada Humsi, Pam Patel, Alan K. Sapp

In 2005 Syrian-American filmmaker Mustapha Akka and his daughter were killed in terrorist attacks in Amman, Jordan. Using movement, dance, video and text, *The Last 15 Seconds* imagines a dialogue between the victim and the suicide bomber.

May 26 - 29, 2010 8:30 pm each evening
May 26 - 2:00 pm student matinee
room MB 7.265 (7th floor Molson Building)
corner Guy and de Maisonneuve, Concordia University
co-sponsored by
the Canadian Association for Theatre Research

Tickets: 514-848-0238 or email info@teesriduniya.com
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Waging War is not a Right.

Rahul Varma, Playwright, Artistic Director, Teesri Duniya Theatre
Majdi Bou-Matar, Artistic Director, MT Space

July 24, 2014

As artists committed to social justice, respect for human life and world peace, and in a persistent opposition to war, violence and destruction, we oppose the war in Gaza and invite dialogue for achieving a just peace for all.

Israel, the world's fourth largest military power, has unleashed military aggression against the occupied Palestinian people, particularly those in besieged Gaza, one of the most deprived and overcrowded territories. The Israeli military aggression has caused scores of deaths, injuries, and destruction of homes, hospitals and civilian infrastructure.

This is the 3rd full-scale armed onslaught by Israel in five years. Anyone older than six years has already lived through their third military assault by Israel.

According to UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of July 24, 755 Gaza civilians, including 170 children and 87 women, have been killed. A total of 3994 Gaza citizens have been injured, of which 1500 are children. Unknown numbers are still buried under the rubble, and the death toll is mounting. On the Israeli side, 37 soldiers and three civilians have been killed. As we write this document, more lives are being lost, hospitals bombed, and homes destroyed by this military aggression. Ordinary people on both sides are psychologically traumatized and living in fear.

Over 60,000 Gaza civilians were ordered to leave their homes who had nowhere to go as Gaza has been under Israeli blockade since 2006 and under constant air and ground attack. Since the start of this war, 140,000 people have been displaced to UN shelters. Gaza has become the world's largest open-air prison.

Renowned philosopher Noam Chomsky has described the situation as follows:

"Israel uses sophisticated attack jets and naval vessels to bomb densely-crowded refugee camps, schools, apartment blocks, mosques and slums to attack a population that has no air force, no air-defence, no navy, no heavy weapon, no artillery units, not mechanized armour, no command in control, no army and calls it a war. It is no war; it is murder."

We, the undersigned, denounce the military onslaught on civilians in Gaza under the guise of punishing terrorists. Innocent people, including women and children, are being killed. We denounce US support to Israel as the biggest arms supplier sanctioning Israel's military aggression and the maintenance of occupation, colonization and systematic denial of Palestinian rights.

We denounce all governments engaged in arms trade with Israel.

We join Nobel laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Adolfo Peres Esquivel, Jody Williams, Mairead Maguire, Rigoberta Menchú and Betty Williams, Noam Chomsky, Roger Waters from Pink Floyd, playwright Caryl Churchill, US rapper Boots Riley, João Antonio Felicio, the president of the International Trade Union Confederation, and Zwelinzima Vavi, the general secretary of the Confederation of South African Trade Unions who have called for the imposition of military embargo on Israel.

We denounce the perversity of Israeli propaganda using terms like “right to exist or self-defence” designed to create a campaign of collective punishment executed in the form of the militarized massacre of innocent Palestinians. We deplore Israel’s erroneous use of the word “anti-Semitism” to suppress any debate about its actions.

We denounce the Harper government that has unthinkingly supported Israel’s military assault against Gaza, whose border, coastal waters, resources, airspace and power supply are still under illegal Israeli control despite removing settlements and bases.

We denounce the willful blindness of mainstream media that perpetuates the impression that conflict starts with Palestinian resistance and not with the illegal occupation since 1948.

We reject the claim that Israel is defending itself against terrorist attacks outside its borders. We believe Israel’s claim of self-defence is illegitimate because it has no right to self-defence in territories it has illegally occupied for 48 years. We believe Israel must leave the occupied land permanently.

Palestinians of Gaza are an occupied people. Most of the 1.8 million Palestinians enduring continuous bombardment in Gaza are themselves refugees or their descendants, who were driven out when Israel was established. These people have the right to return and resist; hence, we support the people of Gaza in their resistance against this brutal aggression.

We support the people of Israel who have opposed military action, and we declare governments of countries that didn’t oppose war complicit in carrying out the massacre. We call on the UN and governments worldwide to take immediate steps to implement a comprehensive and legally binding military embargo on Israel, similar to that imposed on South Africa during apartheid.

We declare no bias and no association with Hamas.

Sincerely

Rahul Varma, playwright, artistic director, Teesri Duniya Theatre

Majdi Bou-Matar, artistic director, MT Space