



Articles – Fatima Barnawi | The first female prisoner of the Palestinian revolution and the founder of the Palestinian Women's Police Force

Fatima Mohammad Ali Barnawi (1939 – November 3, 2022) was a Palestinian fighter of African descent who participated in the Palestinian resistance in the mid-1960s, a crucial period in the Palestinian cause. Fatima is known as the first Palestinian woman to organize a semi-military operation in Israel – an attempt to bomb a cinema in October 1967. She executed this operation with her sister Ehsan, who was about 5 years younger. Fatima was the first Palestinian female detainee in Israeli prisons and the founder of the Palestinian Women's Police in 1994 when the Palestinian National Authority was established, holding the rank of colonel

:Life

Fatima Barnawi was born in Jerusalem in 1939. Her experience with Israeli occupation began at the age of nine when she moved with her mother and family from Jerusalem to a refugee camp near Amman. Her father, Mohammad Ali Barnawi, fought in the 1936 Palestinian revolution alongside Hajj Amin al-Husseini, and remained in Palestine. Fatima worked as a practicing nurse at the Saudi Arabian Oil Company ARAMCO, but she was not allowed to administer injections to patients due to her skin color, despite being of Palestinian nationality

:Political Life

Among thirty–four Palestinian women interviewed by Amal Q'awar for her study "Daughters of Palestine," Fatima was one of four women who joined the resistance movement in its early stages as a fighter before becoming a political activist. The other three were Leila Khaled, Aisha Odeh, and .Rasmea Odeh

:Honors

In 2015, President Mahmoud Abbas awarded her the Military Star of Honor, and in 2020, Ambassador Diab Al–Louh, Palestine's Ambassador to Cairo and Permanent Representative to the .Arab League, presented her with a commemorative shield in recognition of her role in the struggle

:Her Death

Fatima Barnawi passed away at the Palestine Hospital, affiliated with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, on November 3, 2022. Later, on November 6, 2022, she was .buried in Gaza

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the founder of the Palestinian Women's Police Force**



Fatima Barnawi was tasked by the late President Yasser Arafat (the one on her left) with forming a Palestinian women's police force



A rare video of the trial of the Fedayeen Fatima Barnawi along with six Fedayeen from the Fatah movement. *The Lod I .Military Occupation Court, January 1968



The Guerilla Fighter Fatima Barnawi



This is how Fatima Barnawi, the Palestinian Fatah fighter of Nigerian descent, mocked the judges and the Israeli court after being sentenced to life imprisonment in 1968. Fatima, the first female prisoner from Fatah, attempted to bomb a Zionist cinema in Jerusalem with her sister Ehsan. She was released in a prisoner exchange deal in 1977 and was .deported from Palestine