

Mads Gilbert
Erik Fosse

Eyes in Gaza

Øyne i Gaza

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In the course of Israel's 22-day-long military offensive on the Gaza Strip, 1,400 Palestinians were killed: very few of them armed men, but mostly civilians, including more than four hundred children. More than 5.500 were injured, every second being a child less than 18 years old or a woman. The Palestinian community lay in ruins again. For a number of days, the Norwegian doctors Erik Fosse and Mads Gilbert were the only Western eyewitnesses to this death and destruction. Their sober reporting contributed to a change in attitudes, in large parts of the Western world, towards one of the most prolonged and complex conflicts of our time.

This book is about Fosse and Gilbert's trip to Gaza and their stay there from 31 December 2008 to 11 January 2009. Despite Israeli authorities having seen to systematically filtering and shutting out people from this conflict zone, NORWAC (Norwegian Aid Committee), succeeds in getting its envoys into the heart of Gaza City while all other aid organizations and Western journalists are left standing by the border. Through the doctors' authentic depictions of people they meet and situations that occur, they achieve a more nuanced version of Palestinian life.

This intensely relevant story mainly follows the chronology of the doctors' journey and work, with one chapter for each day. Eyes in Gaza is a revealing depiction of real events from what they experienced and witnessed during the conflict, and the authors at the same time draw on their knowledge and experience from thirty years of work in the Middle East.



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Mads Gilbert is a Norwegian doctor and solidarity worker. He is a specialist in anesthesiology and has been a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Tromsø since 1995.

Erik Fosse is a Norwegian doctor, a specialist in surgery and a professor of the University of Oslo.

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