

Story 7: The story of Amir's father

Story shared by: *Amir*

Representing: *Palestinian and lives in Belgrade.*

The Story:

This is the story of Amir's father. Amir learned about the story from various sources, mostly from his father while they were playing basketball or some other sport. He also learned parts of it from his mother and grandfather, as well as from old recordings.

Amir's father was part of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, working with teams that hunted down spies. Because they were a threat to Israel, they were arrested. Amir's father spent 12 years in a war prison. Two months before his arrest, Amir's mother became pregnant. She waited for his father for all 12 years, fighting to survive.

While in prison, Amir's father noticed that there were two types of people there: those who simply waited to be released and receive a government pension as prisoners and those who worked, read, and fought for themselves. He quickly realized he should join the latter group. In prison, he read a lot and learned many things. When he was released, he only had a high school diploma, but he had gained a lot of knowledge. At 32, he resumed his studies, later completing a master's and a PhD. Now, he works on Middle Eastern affairs, teaches at a university, and has become an expert on Israel's system. He was also a negotiator. He speaks Arabic, English, and Hebrew.

After all of this, Amir's father knows he made the right choice by joining the group in prison that focused on reading and working. Now, he lives a good and happy life with Amir's mother; they travel a lot and can afford everything they desire.