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fireworks
you would have
to have lived
a different kind
of life**

*“No Explosions”
By Naomi Shihab Nye*

**“This Must End”: Israel Orders New Mass
Evacuation, Continuing Attacks
on Gaza Health System**

“A maelstrom of human misery, entirely manufactured, and much of the world [is] watching on in clear complicity...This must end. It should never have been allowed to happen.” — Dr. James Smith

The Israeli military has issued new evacuation orders for eastern Khan Younis and Rafah, where more than 250,000 Palestinians are seeking shelter following multiple previous forced displacements. Monday’s order prompted a flight from European Hospital, one of the few remaining partially functioning hospitals in Gaza, which has now shut down. “The situation is dire,” says Dr. James Smith, an emergency medical doctor who spent nearly two months treating patients in the Gaza Strip before returning to London in June. “We have an obligation as healthcare workers, as public health advocates, to state very clearly ... our demands not only for an immediate and sustained ceasefire, but an end to the Israeli occupation.”

In Gaza, an Israeli airstrike Tuesday afternoon on a building in Deir al-Balah inside an Israeli-declared safe zone killed at least a dozen people, including nine members of one family across three generations — grandparents, parents and children as young as 3 years old— this according to the Associated Press. Among those killed was Dr. Hossam

Hamdan, head of the burns and plastic surgery department at Nasser Hospital. The family had fled their home in the middle of the night, after the Israeli military ordered new evacuation orders for areas in southern Gaza, including eastern Rafah and Khan Younis, Gaza’s second-largest city.

The United Nations estimates up to a quarter of a million people live in the area covered by the evacuation order, which has triggered the third mass displacement of Palestinians in Gaza in as many months. Over a million people have fled Rafah since May following Israel’s invasion there, and tens of thousands have been displaced in the past week amidst a new Israeli offensive in the Shuja’iyya neighborhood in Gaza City.

Monday’s evacuation order also prompted a frantic flight from European Hospital in eastern Khan Younis, one of the few remaining partially functioning hospitals in Gaza. The facility shut down after thousands of medical staff, patients and displaced families seeking shelter on the hospital grounds evacuated overnight. The Red Cross said some families dragged patients in their hospital beds through the streets for up to six miles to reach safety.

More than 37,900 Palestinians have been killed and over 87,100 wounded in Gaza since October. There’s an unknown number of thousands dead in the rubble.

--Report on Democracy Now!, July 3, 2024

Go to this link to watch the entire show:

https://www.democracynow.org/2024/7/3/dr_james_smith_gaza_healthcare_ceasefire

New Haven Sunday Vigil for Peace and Justice
July 7, 2024

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