# Endings



By Najwa Juma



At the door of the shop
that sells endings
a large crowd gathered.
I stood waiting for my turn.
Everyone extended their hand
to buy an end.
Some wanted the end
of hunger,
others wanted the end
of cold,
a third group wanted an end
to homelessness,
while others wanted the end
of fear,
and many hands
Extended
to buy an end
to death.
As for me, I extended
my hand
to buy an end to
this life.

*Najwa Juma is a Palestinian activist, painter, and translator from Gaza who writes poetry in English. She has degrees in English literature and education, and she taught for 13 years before stopping in order to devote herself to writing full time. She is a member of the General Union of Palestinian Writers, a board member at the Palestinian Creativity Foundation (Mu'assasat al-Ibda' al-Filastini) where she heads the cultural creativity forum, and her writing is regularly featured in the Ramallah-based publication, Sawt Al-Nissa'.*

*Najwa Juma was in Stuttgart, Germany on a Jean-Jacques Rousseau Fellowship at the Akademie Schloss Solitude, an international and transdisciplinary artist residency, when Israel launched its genocidal assault on Gaza in October 2023. She has now applied for asylum in Germany and is trying to bring her children to safety following the leveling of their Gaza home. You can find a recent interview of Najwa Juma here.*

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