Palestinian Filmmakers Reflect on the Power of Storytelling and Resilience at Doha Film Festival 2026

Doha, Qatar; November 27, 2026: Palestinian filmmakers **Rashid Masharawi**, **Muayad Alayan**, and **Mohanad Yaqubi** discussed the realities of making cinema under occupation, the role of institutional backing, and how independent stories reach audiences at a press briefing during Doha Film Festival 2026.

Acclaimed Palestinian filmmaker **Rashid Masharawi**, producer of Rabab Khamis's documentary ***Sama*** said, "Cinema should not just a reaction, it should also be action. When obstacles arise, we find creative solutions and keep working because we make films out of true love for cinema. If we were liberated tomorrow, Palestinian cinema would not stop, since we still have millions of stories to tell."

Muayad Alayan, director and producer of ***Conversation with the Sea*** said, "We should not avoid talking about the cause but we also have the right to tell stories about all aspects of our lives, because cinema is here to unite us and show the fullness of who we are. Filming in our hometowns helps to establish real structures and distribution so that global solidarity can become sustainable and reach audiences in cinemas."

Mohanad Yaqubi, filmmaker and producer of ***Revolutionaries Never Die*** said, "Solidarity is our capital. When people support a Palestinian film, they do so out of genuine commitment rather than financial motivation and we have a responsibility to build on that momentum. We are seeing a new wave of independent Palestinian cinema that moves beyond traditional co-production constraints ,focused on the human experience. This proves there are many creative ways to make films and reach audiences worldwide."

Key Partners of Doha Film Festival include Katara, Media City Qatar | Film Committee and Visit Qatar. The event brought together filmmakers, audiences and industry voices from the region and beyond to honour original storytelling and important voices in film. For more information, visit www.dohafilm.com.

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