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[The Little Chess Master from Yarmouk](#) ^[1]

The Little Chess Master from Yarmouk

Introduction

Image



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In the future, I want to become a doctor. I would like to go back to Damascus. When I do, I want everything to be as it used to be. I'd like to go back home, where there is no bombing nor shooting.

Huthayfa, 14, is a Palestine refugee from Syria. Like many Palestine refugees, Huthayfa and his family fled the war when the camp they lived in, in Yarmouk, was bombed.

Huthayfa and his family settled in Shatila, Lebanon. At first, they really struggled, living in poor conditions and in an overcrowded camp.

Huthayfa narrates his difficult beginnings: “Here, in this camp, it was the first time we washed with salty water. The electricity also goes off a lot. Life in Syria was much more beautiful.”

But Huthayfa is a determined teenager! Even though he lost valuable years of schooling as a consequence of the war, the bright and studious child is now back to school, thanks to Trust Fund supported UNRWA schools in Lebanon.

Huthayfa is determined and focused on making a change: “I took up third grade mid-way. It was a bit difficult in the beginning, but then I quickly coped. Everything went well. And now I’m in the seventh grade and I’m top of my class.”

Huthayfa is now a popular teenager, with a wide horizon of future opportunities opening up before him. He shares his time between his two passions: studying to become a doctor and playing chess.

He adds: “When we first came to Lebanon, we were beginners. We didn’t have friends; we only went from home to school and back. So, I started playing chess with my father a lot. After a while I improved. Then I won prizes and medals.”

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Video of PLaGaqba06xpi4YwDTwt0ljl_RPptPcjxx

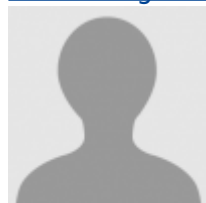
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Written by Anonymous (not verified) On the Wed, 17/10/2018 - 14:06

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